

Globeform's Saratoga Service



Travers Weekend | Previews and ratings by Geir Stabell

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GLOBEFORM RANKING

H ALLEN JERKENS MEMORIAL S. (G1), 7 fur dirt, Saturday August 23

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2.5 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0p	1	PATCH ADAMS	122p	122p - 117p - 89	Cox / L Saez
0p	6	SMOKEN WICKED	122p	122p - 112p - 89	Stewart / Hernandez Jr
6p	5	VERIFIRE	116p	116p - 106p - ?p	Cox / Prat
7	8	MADAKET ROAD	115	115 - 108 - 101	Baffert / Velazquez
8p	3	BARNES	114p	0 - 114p - 111p	Baffert / J L Ortiz
9	4	CHANCER McPATRICK	113	113 - 108 - 102	Brown / I Ortiz Jr
12	7	CAPTAIN COOK	110	110 - 101+ 100	Pletcher / Santana Jr
16p	2	MIDLAND MONEY	106p	106p - ?p	Baffert / Rosario

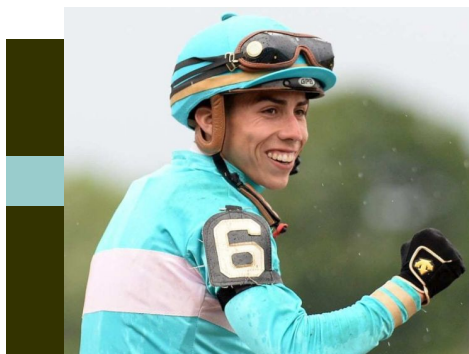
*Globeform rating with a "p" attached = this was the horse's best rating to date and the horse is likely to improve
Globeform rating with a "+" = this was not its best rating but the horse ran better than the rating suggests*

Most recent winners of the Jerkens Memorial

2024	DOMESTIC PRODUCT	GF 121	Chad Brown	Flavien Prat
2023	ONE IN VERMILLION *	GF 111 *	Esteban Martinez	Irada Ortiz Jr
2022	JACK CHRISTOPHER	GF 121	Chad Brown	Jose L Ortiz
2021	JACKIE'S WARRIOR	GF 128	Steve Asmussen	Joel Rosario
2020	ECHO TOWN	GF 120	Steve Asmussen	Ricardo Santana Jr

Average winning Globeform: 123

* 2023: New York Thunder injured and fell in clear lead 120 yards out; probably worth Globeform 125, which has been used for the average rating of recent winners



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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS




PATCH ADAMS was the clear leader on ratings in this division until **SMOKEN WICKED** took the Amsterdam Stakes, running to the same level Patch Adams reached with his impressive win in the Woody Stephens Stakes. One would think that with these two in the field the others might not have much of a chance but, although the most likely scenario is that one of them will be the winner, they do have rivals that can make this race a whole lot more interesting.

Patch Adams improved to **Globeform 122p** in the Woody Stephens, run over the same distance as the Jerkens in early June. Heavily backed in the ten-runner field, he was close to a fast pace throughout and he drew off at the finish to beat **MADAKET ROAD** by 2 1/2 lengths. Big Truzz, who had run second to Patch Adams in a strong allowance heat a month earlier, finished third. Madaket Road, coming off a runner-up effort in the Pat Day Mile, also improved, returning **Globeform 115**. He is one of three Bob Baffert trainees in the mix but probably not his best. This year's Woody Stephens was a high class renewal. Big Truzz has since been an impressive winner of the Ellis Park Derby, the fourth placed Citizen Bull was a Breeders' Cup winner last year, and further back were Pat Day Mile winner Macho Music and **CHANCER McPATRICK**, who captured the Curlin Stakes on his next outing. Patch Adams has been shaping like a very good sprinter ever since he broke his maiden by over ten lengths at Churchill Downs last year - but the way he won the Woody Stephens revealed that he has some stamina too; which will come handy here, as the race has tons of early speed. Drawn by the rail is hardly ideal but Saez managed to work out a good trip from post four last time and hopefully he can slot Patch Adams in just behind the lead. With so much speed to his outside he is obviously in danger of ending up in traffic problems. This has the look of an 'either or case'. With a clean trip the classy Patch Adams can prove to be the strongest at the business end - with a troubled trip he could end up being the best horse but still beaten.

SMOKEN WICKED was equally impressive when powering home in the 6.5-furlong Amsterdam Stakes here at Saratoga a month ago. His performance in that race was a bit of a surprise to many of us but clearly not to everyone. Exiting a second in the Maxfield Stakes at Churchill Downs, where he was beaten 2 3/4 lengths by **VERIFIRE** while conceding a bit of weight, Smoken Wicked was 11-4 second favorite (behind Macho Music) in the Amsterdam. He had raced too freely from the start in the Maxfield and was more settled in the Amsterdam. He was soon up with the pace, pressing Macho Music while traveling easily, and he kicked clear to win the race comfortably by 5 3/4 lengths from Gunmetal, with Gate to Wire third. Smoken Wicked had more up his sleeve as he passed the winning post and an extra half-furlong should be within his compass. He has a big chance in the Jerkens Memorial and **morning line 6-1** is a bit hard to understand. At that sort of odds, this horse simply must be backed.

VERIFIRE also comes into the reckoning, as he beat **SMOKEN WICKED** readily by 2 3/4 lengths in the Maxfield Stakes at Churchill Downs in late June. A barnmate to Patch Adams, this son of Authentic has won all of his three races to date, improving markedly from run to run. He was favorite for the 7-furlong Maxfield and he obliged with a game win, improving to **Globeform 116p**. Another step up and he is right up with the best in this division. His form was well advertised when Smoken Wicked won the Amsterdam, but the latter was not given a hard time by his rider in the closing stages of the Maxfield (he could have been closer) and, with **CAPTAIN COOK** only a length behind Smoken Wicked in third, it's open to debate how strong that race was. The fourth placed Retribution won a minor event at Parx next time out, but only by half a length from Fire Pit (who was beaten 11 lengths when third of four behind Neoequos in the Jersey Shore). So there are two ways of looking at Verifire's credentials; let's take the positive one. He is a rapidly improving colt who has yet to lose - and he is in with a chance. [Continues, page 4 >>>](#)

Saratoga Springs weather forecast

Fri 22	83°/56°		Mostly Sunny	☁ 7%	↙ NNE 6 mph
Sat 23	84°/62°		Mostly Sunny	☁ 8%	↑ S 11 mph
Sun 24	75°/62°		Scattered T-Storms	☁ 53%	↑ S 10 mph

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NYRA photo

Saratoga Jockey Standing after Sunday Aug 17

1	Irada Ortiz Jr	48 wins	22%
2	Jose L Ortiz	43 wins	21%
3	Flavien Prat	28 wins	19%
4	Ricardo Santana Jr	27 wins	16%
5	Joel Rosario	22 wins	19%

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GLOBEFORM RANKING

TRAVERS STAKES (G1), 10 fur dirt, Saturday August 23

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0p	4	SOVEREIGNTY	130p	125+ 130p - 127p	W Mott / Alvarado
7p	1	MAGNITUDE	123p	114+ 123p - 98	Asmussen / Curtis
23p	3	STRATEGIC FOCUS	107p	107 - 107p - ?p	Brown / Prat
23p	2	BRACKET BUSTER <i>GF 107 also in Apr '25</i>	107p	101 - 107p - 80	Oliver / L Saez
27	5	McAFEE	103	99 - 103 - 102	R Dutrow / Velazquez

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MADAKET ROAD improved to **Globeform 115** when second to Patch Adams in the Woody Stephens. He ran to GF 108 to fill the same place behind Macho Music in the Pat Day Mile and he could improve again - but Bob Baffert's best chance here probably lies with **BARNES**, the colt who created such headlines when winning the San Vicente Stakes over 7 furlongs at Santa Anita in January. Making only his second start, he flashed speed throughout and outclassed his four rivals, coming home hard held 5 1/2 lengths in front of Romenesque. Bullard, winner of the Bob Hope at two, ran third. Barnes earned GF 111p in the San Vicente but those he beat have done precious little to enhance the form; that task was left to him, and he did improve again when second in the 8.5-furlong San Felipe Stakes in March. Beaten 1 3/4 lengths + 4lbs by Journalism he performed to **Globeform 114p**. Then came the Santa Anita Derby - where Journalism impressed again and Barnes faded badly to be last of the five runners. He was beaten almost 20 lengths; something must have been amiss though he was back on the work tab six weeks later. This will be his first run back since the April 5 Santa Anita Derby.

CHANCER McPATRICK returned to winning form when beating So Sandy and Travers contender Strategic Focus in the 9-furlong Curlin Stakes at Saratoga a month ago. Giving them both 4lbs, he simply outstayed them to win by a head. Worth **Globeform 113**, it was his best run to date, 3lbs better than his win in the Hopeful Stakes over 7 furlongs last year. There's plenty of speed signed on here and that will suit Chancer McPatrick, who is a closer - nothing on his CV suggests that he is good enough to win this event but he could come rolling late and hit the board.

CONCLUSION: Pace and draw are vital factors in these sprints. With five early speed runners entered we can expect strong fractions. Patch Adams ran on so well in the closing stages of the Woody Stephens and, proven over course and distance, he is likely to keep going when others begin to tire. So the pace scenario should suit him - but the inside post can lead to problems. Smoken Wicked has a much better draw and if he is as good over this 7-furlong trip as he was over 6.5 furlongs he has a big chance. Stretching out should work but it's not a given. He was also strong at the finish last time out though. These will both have to be A-horses with Smoken Wicked likely to be the value bet. Verifire and Barnes have room for improvement and fit well in as B-horses, while Madaket Road's game run behind Patch Adams makes him a logical C-horse. The brave way to play the race is to use the two A-horses as 1st & 2nd or 1st & 3rd in Trifectas. Even using all the others this is only 24 lines - but the main ticket should be with the three underneath in the selections box.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	1 PATCH ADAMS, 6 SMOKEN WICKED
B	3 BARNES, 5 VERIFIRE
C	8 MADAKET ROAD

Patch Adams & Madaket Road / Woody Stephens: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYOn3w8XFt4>

Smoken Wicked / Amsterdam Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kywqDA0LIYs>

Verifire / Maxfield Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRAsZI4Kocg>

Barnes 2nd / San Felipe Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZSBWSboMIs>

Barnes / San Vicente Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PY29dZmzx-I>