



### Notable Speech, Guineas winner trying to make history

**NOTABLE SPEECH** represents the team that provided the three most recent winners of the Breeders' Cup Mile, including Space Blues here at Del Mar in 2021. Notable Speech is a different type of horse though. A typical miler, he is better than Space Blues was, but - while Space Blues was coming off a recent win - Notable Speech is trying to bounce back from a well below par effort last time out. That was in early September, and he has thus had a near two-month break leading up to the Breeders' Cup. European bookmakers have made him their clear favorite for some time. Based on his best form, an exciting win in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket in May, that's correct. Based on how Notable Speech ran last time we saw him in action, when he was a badly beaten sixth behind Tribalist in the Prix du Moulin at Longchamp, having him as a clear favorite is wrong. Based on his poor run at Royal Ascot it is even more wrong, and based on his winning run in between those losses, in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, it is, shall we say 'debatable'.

He was brilliant in the 2,000 Guineas (run over a straight mile), he bounced badly at Royal Ascot, then fired right back with a win in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood (a right handed, undulating track) before flopping again at Longchamp (right handed with a long straight).

Notable Speech had raced twice already this year when going for the Guineas and he looked extremely fit at Goodwood, where he, somewhat bizarrely, turned up with a clipped coat. He beat Maljoom by 1 1/2 lengths and Maljoom could manage only sixth, beaten more than ten lengths, behind BC Classic contender City Of Troy in the Juddmonte International Stakes next time out. Henry Longfellow, who ran fourth at Goodwood, was also well beaten in the aforementioned Moulin, and it's clear that Notable Speech did not need to be at his best to win at Goodwood. Yes, he won, and he won well, but the opposition wasn't strong. He is best judged on his Guineas form, when he was held up for an impressive late kick that took him past very good milers in a manner making them look ordinary. They were not. His runner-up, Rosallion, was also fully fit and ready and he won the Irish 2,000 Guineas on his next start, beating Haatem, who ran third at Newmarket. The Irish Guineas result was a massive boost to Notable Speech's form, and he was a hot favorite when he met Rosallion again in the St. James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot in June. Rosallion ran another fine race, winning it by a neck from Henry Longfellow, while Notable Speech was pretty flat; beaten over a furlong out he finished seventh, trailing by 6 lengths. That was some turnaround, compared to his easy 1 1/2-length win over Rosallion at Newmarket.

Can Notable Speech win the Breeders' Cup Mile? Of course he can, but only if he is back to his best. Not only that; there's another 'if' here; will this colt be as effective around two turns at Del Mar in November as he was over the straight Rowley Mile course in Newmarket in May? Doing the 2,000 Guineas / Breeders' Cup Mile double isn't exactly easy, as history tells us. Interestingly, no winner of the English 2,000 Guineas has gone on to win a Breeders' Cup Mile. So Notable Speech is up against an ominous stat here.

### 2,000 Guineas

