



Bradsell, Europe's best sprinter

BRADSELL was well below his best when beaten by 22-1 shot Makarova in the Prix de l'Abbaye over 5 furlongs at Longchamp in early October. The Abbaye is a unique race and we have seen upsets in it before, so that reversal should perhaps not be held against Bradsell, who has produced high class sprinting form in Europe this season. He tried hard at Longchamp (he always does) and the most likely explanation to why he was unable to run up to form was the ground. Very soft means *testing* in France and Bradsell's best has come on good to firm, good and good to soft ground. He beat the filly Believing readily both in the 5-furlong Nunthorpe Stakes at York and the Flying Five Stakes over the same distance at the Curragh. Believing was three parts of a length behind him at York and 1 1/4 lengths down in Ireland, when subsequent Abbaye winner Makarova ran third.

Bradsell is normally up with the pace throughout in his races, travelling with zest (he pulled a bit in the Nunthorpe) and he finishes his races off very gamely. He is a handy, well balanced colt but - as always - the question regarding a Euro sprinter coming to the US is how he will cope with going around a bend, something Bradsell has never done in any of his 12 races (6 wins and 4 placings). If he proves as good at Del Mar as he has been over the straight tracks, he will be the main danger to Cogburn. The Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint is going to be his last start before he retires to stud.

Nunthorpe Stakes

