

Breeders' Cup 2025

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Introduction

Howdy! And welcome once again, this time to the 2025 Breeders' Cup Compendium, a collection of information designed to fast track your awareness of the various facets required for a successful and enjoyable Breeders' Cup wagering expedition.



For the fourth time, and second in a row, the Breeders' Cup will be hosted by Del Mar, near San Diego in southern California. It's a quirky tight bullring of a circuit and aspirants need to be agile, classy and sometimes a little bit lucky to prevail.

This guide has lots of information for each race, as follows:

- ✓ Race trends
- ✓ Trends grid showing how contenders match up
- ✓ Run style analysis / projected pace maps
- ✓ Links to race videos on the breederscup.com website

It is, of course, up to you how you use the info presented.

However you decide to use this report, please bet responsibly (duh!) and remember that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, especially in pursuit of a late night weekend winner ;-)

All that said, I hope the information within these covers provides for profit as well as fun.

Right, let's get to it!

Matt Bisogno

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Notes, Abbreviations and US Racing Parlance

Some shorthand has been used within this document, as follows:

*****= a Racing Post Rating, rather than a Beyer speed figure (US rating). The comparison, which is not exact, is that RPR is roughly 12-15 points higher than Beyer

s= ran within four lengths of the leader

t= turf run / **d**= dirt run

2 or 3 in 'G1 winner? Column' = 2nd or 3rd in a Grade/Group 1

'Bullet' workouts are the fastest timed workouts of the day at a specific track/distance

SoCal: Southern California / **Ky**: Kentucky / **NY**: New York / **FL**: Florida / **Mw**: Midwest / **Can**: Canada / **UK**: UK / **Ire**: Ireland / **Fr**: France

Ran sharp = A reference to finishing 1st, 2nd or 3rd, or within 4 lengths of the winner, used in the (sadly no longer published) BC bible, *Crushing the Cup*

Figs = figures, i.e. Beyer or RPR

LTO = Last Time Out, **PP** = Post Position, or draw

Wire = a confirmed front runner / **Stalk** = a prominent racer / **Rally** = a closer, or late runner, normally held up in the early part of the race

Also Eligible / AE: In preference order, only get a run if others in the main order do not.

WAYI = "Win And You're In", automatic qualifying berths for winners of specific races.

Run Style (RS):

LR = Last Run, **2LR** = 2nd Last Run, **3LR** = 3rd Last Run, **4LR** = 4th Last Run

Run Style Scores:

US Runners

4 – LED or less than ½ length from the lead;

3 – ½ L to 1 ½ lengths from the lead;

2 – 1 ¾ L – 3 ¼ lengths from the lead;

1 – 3 ½ lengths-plus from the lead.

European Runners

Taken from in-running comments as follows:

4 – Led; pressed leader, etc

3 – Prominent; close up; chased leader, etc

2 – Midfield; in touch, etc

1 – Held up; waited with; in rear, etc

FRIDAY

9.45pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (5f, Turf)

Past Winners

Track	Dist	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	5f	11/01/2024	Magnum Force (IRE)	Ger Lyons	Colin Keane	3	1	12.5	109	Result
Santa Anita	5f	11/03/2023	Big Evs (IRE)	Michael Appleby	Tom Marquand	4	4	3.2	111	Result
Keeneland	5.5f	11/04/2022	Mischief Magic (IRE)	Charles Appleby	William Buick	5	1	6.92	118	Result
Del Mar	5f	11/05/2021	Twilight Gleaming (IRE)	Wesley A. Ward	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	6	4	5.2	100	Result
Keeneland	5.5f	11/06/2020	Golden Pal	Wesley A. Ward	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	13	4	0.8	105	Result
Santa Anita	5f	11/01/2019	Four Wheel Drive	Wesley A. Ward	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	9	4	1.5	111	Result
Churchill	5.5f	11/02/2018	Bulletin	Todd A. Pletcher	Javier Castellano	5	4	4.3	110	Result

Key Trends (6 BC renewals to date)

A newish race, which was run for the first time on the undercard in 2017 and achieved full Breeders' Cup status a year later. Naturally, at this stage trends are thin, so caution is strongly advised.

- ✓ 2017 (undercard) at Del Mar: Euro 1234
- ✓ 2018 US 123 (1st/2nd from wire), 2019 US 1234 (1st/2nd from wire), 2020 US 12 Euro 34 (1st from wire)
- ✓ 2021 US 1345 (1st from wire), 2022 Euro 1245 (1st 2 in last trio early), 2023 Euro 123, 2024 Euro 124567 (!)
- ✓ Wes Ward won '19, '20, '21 - overall form: 200 in 2018; 149 in 2019; 1500 in 2020; 135 in 2021; 8 in 2022; no entry in 2023, 24 – *he's back in 2025!*
- ✓ First 2 winners unbeaten (1 & 2 prior starts), 2020 winner won LTO/form 221, 2021 winner won LTO/form 2121
- ✓ 2022 winner 31114 (G1 4th), '23 winner 21101 (2111 vs 2yo's), '24 winner 2123 (G2 3rd)
- ✓ '18-'21 winners made all; '22 winner last to first; '23 winner pressed leader; '24 winner last to first
- ✓ All 4 US winners '18-'21 made all; Eu '17 undercard, '22 & '24 winners last to first
- ✓ Winners LTO: '18 1st Listed; '19 1st G3; '20 1st Listed; '21 1st Listed; '22 4th G1 Middle Park; '23 1st Flying Childers; '24 1st Flying Childers 3rd
- ✓ Best two Euros: '18 3rd/4th; '19 5th/7th; '20 3rd/4th; '21 2nd/6th; '22 1st/2nd; '23 1st/2nd; '24 1st/2nd
- ✓ *Run over 5f in 2025*

How the runners fit

Juv Turf Sprint	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DR Morning Line	Odds Differential	Based?	Top Beyer (RRP/ Synthetic)	Best turf form	Career record	Non-US running track form?	Won LTO?	Form string: 1-2 all starts?	St turf form	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Brussels	Aidan O'Brien	1	11	3.00	2.67	2.75	9	9	100	Ire	108*	2nd G1	6-1-3	1-0-1	Na 2nd	142422	2	3	3	2	3
Military Code	Charlie Appleby	2	6	1.50	1.33	1.50	11	13	83	UK	99*	2nd Letd	6-2-2	0-0-0	2nd Letd	110272	11272	1	2	1	2
Royal Testament	George Weaver	3	10	3.00	3.00	2.50	41	13	333	NY	80	2nd G3	4-2-1	NA	2nd G3	6112	61	2	4	3	1
Aspect Island	James Owen	4	13	3.50	3.67	3.25	21	21	100	UK	106*	3rd G3	5-1-1	1-0-1	N	89213	3	3	4	4	2
Obliteration	Steve Asmussen	5	13	3.00	3.00	3.25	26	16	167	NY	76	2nd Letd	5-2-3	NA	2nd Letd	11222	NA	3	3	3	4
Intricate Spirit	Miguel Clement	6	10	3.50	3.33	3.33	17	13	133	NY	82	1st G3	3-2-1	NA	Y	121	NA	3	4	3	
Mission Central	Aidan O'Brien	7	14	3.00	3.33	3.50	11	21	50	Ire	108*	1st G3	5-3-0	1-0-0	Y	51161	6	3	3	4	4
Havana Anna	Donnacha O'Brien	8	12	3.00	3.00	3.00	9	7	133	Ire	108*	2nd G1	6-2-3	0-0-0	2nd G1	321122	112	3	3	3	3
True Love	Aidan O'Brien	9	12	2.50	2.67	3.00	4.3	4.5	94	Ire	112*	1st G1	6-3-3	0-0-0	Y	221121	21	3	2	3	4
Cy Fair	George Weaver	10	7	2.00	2.33	2.33	13	7	200	NY	82	1st Letd	3-2-1	NA	Y	121	1	1	3	3	
Schwarzenegger	Wesley Ward	11	8	4.00	4.00	4.00	8	6	140	Ky	77	1st Letd	2-1-1	NA	Y	21	NA	4	4		
Lennu	Patrick Biancone	12	12	2.50	2.67	3.00	13	9	150	Fl	85	3rd G2	5-4-0	NA	Y	11311	131	2	3	3	4
Later Than Planned	Phil d'Amato	13	6	1.50	1.33	1.50	34	21	165	SoCal	73	1st Letd	4-2-1	NA	Y	2171	1	1	2	1	2
Should've	Wesley Ward	14	8	4.00	4.00	4.00	41	31	133	Ky	76	3rd G3	2-1-0	NA	N	13	NA	4	4		
Bobrovsky	Dale Romans	15	13	2.50	3.00	3.25	41	16	267	Ky	81	1st Letd	4-2-1	NA	N	2114	NA	3	2	4	4
Rogue Legend	Wesley Ward	16	10	1.50	2.00	2.50	34	31	110	Ky	74	3rd Letd	6-2-0	NA	N	211333	2113	2	1	3	4
Bacio	Wesley Ward	17	7	3.50	3.50	3.50	41	16	267	Ky	72	2nd Letd	2-1-1	NA	2nd Letd	12	2	4	3		

Pace:

The Wesley Ward pair, Schwarzenegger and Outfielder, have led at the first call in all of their races to date; so too the Ward also eligible, Should've. Expect the European hand to be played later, a tactic that was successful last year for Magnum Force. That said, either or both of Aspect Island and Mission Central might try to be handy – I doubt they'll have the early zip of the home team.

Video Form:

Go to [breederscup.com](https://www.breederscup.com) for race videos.

Trends Contenders:

True Love, Havana Anna

Juvenile Turf Sprint Form

The winning post positions since this race was inception were, oldest to most recent, 5/9/13/6/5/4/3. At Del Mar, the winners exited stalls 6 and 3 in maximum 12 runner fields. The winner from stall 13 was the exceptional Golden Pal over Keeneland's slightly longer five-and-a-half-furlong track. My point? It's tough to win from wide.

Pace wise, five of the seven winners were on the early lead while the other two Magnum Force and Mischief Magic came from downtown to pounce late. Horses that were not on the speed or out the back early have yet to win, albeit from a small sample.

Last year, Magnum Force and Valiant Force both passed the long-time leader Governor Sam in the final half furlong. Expect the early leader to again take them deep, maybe all the way, and be susceptible to late runners.

OK, scene set, let's look at the field. Aidan runs three of the twelve, with Christophe Soumillon opting for inside drawn **Brussels**, largely on account of not being able to make the weight on the filly True Love. I guess it's kind of meant to be that the Belgian rider should partner this horse, and I'm trying desperately – and, *claro*, failing – to

suggest he'll have to sprout wings to win. All Brussels puns out of the way, his form profile is quirky. A veteran of six races, he only dropped back to the minimum on the most recent of that sextet, when a nose second in the G3 Cornwallis Stakes at Newmarket (**Aspect Island** ¾L further back in third).

He showed very good gate speed and was able to sit just behind the pace setter before finishing off well, but not quite as well as the Charlie Appleby-trained Beckford's Folly. That Appleby left that one at home and is instead represented by **Military Code**, in stall 2, is a hint to that one's chance. Brussels was previously second in the Group 1 Middle Park Stakes, over six furlongs, and there's little doubting his class. I do question whether he ideally wants five around a turn, however.

Aidan won this with Declaration of Peace when it was on the under card, but has never claimed it as an actual Breeders' Cup race. Appleby, however, has. Both Appleby's in fact, but Mick has stayed at home this year. Charlie saddles the aforementioned Military Code, a winner of the first two of his six starts, and second twice since. Most recently, he was a little slow to break before finishing to good effect on the speed-favouring Knavesmire; it could be argued he should have won that race but it was still a bold effort. But the winner, Revival Power, went on to score in the Flying Childers, itself historically a good trial for the Juvenile Turf Sprint, next time.

Military Code has the European run style and late finish that can be agony or ecstasy to watch, and his trainer knows which type of horse to bring: he's 41% lifetime at the Breeders' Cup (11 from 27). In Charlie we trust?

George Weaver trained the late fading Governor Sam last year and has two rolls of the dice this time. In stall three is the filly **Royal Testament**, winner of the middle two of her four starts and a little unlucky last time out; there, in a 6f G3, she was a little awkward from the gate, travelled wider than idea around the turn and ran on well without threatening to win. The drop back to five will help but she's unlikely to have the gate speed of some of those wider drawn or the finish of the likes of Military Code.

Aspect Island, for James Owen, departs stall 4 and made the jump from handicaps – where he was a 7½L winner on his penultimate start – to Pattern company when that close up third in the Cornwallis. He was actually in front for a stride or two, and the easier turning five might help him get home. He's not an impossible winner... unless he tries to go toe to toe with American sizzle early.

Next from the rail, in 5, is **Obliteration**, second to **Schwarzenegger** in the Listed Indian Summer Stakes, a Wes Ward favoured prep for this. 'Arnie' went gate to wire over that half furlong longer trip, but Obliteration – checked in his run at a key moment – did very well to rally and almost get up. I don't understand why Obliteration is three times the price of Schwarzenegger: there is nothing between them in my book.

Intricate Spirit won the WAYI Futurity, G3, at Aqueduct last time. Taken on for the lead, he showed tactical versatility to take back and then rally around his pace rival before finishing off well over the six furlongs there. The time was fast; this will be quicker again!

Aidan's third choice, according to the betting at least, **Mission Central** is in stall 7. A winner of three of his most recent four starts, including that abomination on the Champions Day card, he was well beaten in the Flying Childers as the blemish in that sequence. Unhappily, that Donny burn up has been the key Euro trial for this and his winning form is all at six furlongs while his losing form is all at the JTS trip of five furlongs.

Donnacha, son of Aidan, runs **Havana Anna**, a classy filly drawn 8. She was good enough to run second in the G1 Cheveley Park last time and, prior to that, was just a nose off winning a Longchamp G3. In the Cheveley Park, six furlongs, she was run down late by dad's re-opposing **True Love**. The drop back to five, at which Havana Anna was that French *nez* away from being unbeaten in three should be fine for this strong-traveling filly.

She has True Love drawn next door in 9. The classiest filly in the race, she won the 5f Queen Mary – from 22 rivals – and then that Newmarket G1, beating Puerto Rico five lengths in between times. I do have a slight reservation about the drop in trip for her, and her draw, although she too travelled extremely well at HQ last time, and she's two from two on good to firm. Maybe she just wins.

George Weaver's main hope here is **Cy Fair**, although he's been done no favours by double digit berth in 10. Normally ridden handy, he again jumped alertly last time out in a Listed race at Woodbine (5f); but, a little short of room though by no means hemmed in, his rider took him to the back of the field five or so lengths from the front. He then made a smooth circumnavigation of his rivals and ran away from them near the line in a visually impressive performance backed up by the clock. With double pace outside of him, jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. will have a decision to make about how to ride this. Few better men for the job.

The car park posts go to **Schwarzenegger** in 11 and **Lennilu** in 12. Wesley Ward's colt has been very fast from the gate in both runs to date, eventually fading late on debut before winning the Indian Summer. He seemingly only has one way of running and Johnny Velazquez will attempt to reprise the Golden Pal 'wire to wire from wide' performance of that man Irad. It's a tall order.

Pat Biancone, I'm told, is unperturbed by Lennilu's outside stall. His filly is certainly fleet, as she showed when leading for much of the Queen Mary before being run down by True Love. Since then she allowed a rival quarter horse fractions in front of her before whizzing by from a furlong out in a very quick time. She looks like she'll get running room thanks to 'Arnie' probably barrelling forward but there has to be a chance of a wide trip from that outside stall. Tricky.

Juvenile Turf Sprint Form Contenders

This is very open indeed. There's no doubting the class of True Love, but she has an awkward if not insurmountable post and is dropping back to the minimum for the first time since June. There's a price I'd love to bet her at, but 3/1 or so is not it. Still, she's a very obvious win candidate.

Aspect Island has a draw to be close to the speed but it's perhaps unlikely he's got the legs of Schwarzenegger – which of us does? – and that might compromise his prospects.

There's just a ton of horses in here that typically race prominently but not necessarily on the speed; that could make for congestion and tough luck in transit. Wesley's winner is expected to be in front of any such traffic jam, but I'm betting that a horse comes fast and late to chin him.

And my fancy is Charlie's Military Code. Yes, he'll need the luck of the Irish, figuratively speaking, and yes, he might not be good enough – he's achieved less than True Love, Havana Anna, Brussels and maybe Mission Central and Aspect Island. But I think this race sets up perfectly for him, granted a good trip (not granted to any of them!)

Importantly, I like his price of around 10/1. I can see Havana Anna going close from a kind draw, too. Schwarzenegger to round out the trifecta.

VERDICT:

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10.25pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (1m½f, Dirt)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/01/2024	Immersive	Brad H. Cox	Manuel Franco	3	1	2	100	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2023	Just F Y I	William I. Mott	Junior Alvarado	12	3	7	95	Result
Keeneland	11/04/2022	Wonder Wheel	Mark E. Casse	Tyler Gaffalione	5	1	6.5	88	Result
Del Mar	11/05/2021	Echo Zulu	Steven M. Asmussen	Joel Rosario	6	4	0.8	99	Result
Keeneland	11/06/2020	Vequist	Robert E. Reid, Jr.	Joel Rosario	2	3	6.6	99	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2019	British Idiom	Brad H. Cox	Javier Castellano	4	2	2.7	86	Result
Churchill	11/02/2018	Jaywalk	John C. Servis	Joel Rosario	7	4	5.5	100	Result
Del Mar	11/04/2017	Caledonia Road	Ralph E. Nicks	Mike E. Smith	12	1	17.3	101	Result
Santa Anita	11/05/2016	Champagne Room	Peter Eurton	Mario Gutierrez	6	3	33.6	92	Result
Keeneland	10/31/2015	Songbird	Jerry Hollendorfer	Mike E. Smith	10	4	0.6	112	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2014	Take Charge Brandi	D. Wayne Lukas	Victor Espinoza	6	4	61.7	95	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2013	Ria Antonia	Jeremiah C. Englehart	Javier Castellano	5	1	32.3	93	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2012	Beholder	Richard E. Mandella	Garrett K. Gomez	1	4	3.9	104	Result
Churchill	11/04/2011	My Miss Aurelia	Steven M. Asmussen	Corey S. Nakatani	9	3	2.1	101	Result
Churchill	11/05/2010	Awesome Feather	Stanley I. Gold	Jeffrey Sanchez	3	2	4.2	97	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/2009	She Be Wild	Wayne M. Catalano	Julien R. Leparoux	8	2	7.4	100	Result
Santa Anita	10/24/2008	Stardom Bound	Christopher S. Paasch	Mike E. Smith	10	1	1.6	105	Result
Monmouth	10/27/2007	Indian Blessing	Bob Baffert	Garrett K. Gomez	4	4	1.7	105	Result
Churchill	11/04/2006	Dreaming of Anna	Wayne M. Catalano	Rene R. Douglas	1	4	2.6	104	Result
Belmont	10/29/2005	Folklore	D. Wayne Lukas	Edgar S. Prado	1	4	2.35	94	Result
Lone Star	10/30/2004	Sweet Catomine	Julio C. Canani	Corey S. Nakatani	9	1	2.3	112	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2003	Halfbridled	Richard E. Mandella	Julie A. Krone	14	1	2.3	116	Result
Arlington	10/26/2002	Storm Flag Flying	Claude R. McGaughey III	John R. Velazquez	3	2	0.8	105	Result
Belmont	10/27/2001	Tempera	Eoin G. Harty	David Romero Flores	9	3	11.9	116	Result
Churchill	11/04/2000	Caressing	David R. Vance	John R. Velazquez	6	2	47	99	Result
Gulfstream	11/06/1999	Cash Run	D. Wayne Lukas	Jerry D. Bailey	1	4	32.5	99	Result
Churchill	11/07/1998	Silverbulletday	Bob Baffert	Gary L. Stevens	5	1	0.8	108	Result
Hollywood	11/08/1997	Countess Diana	Patrick B. Byrne	Shane J. Sellers	8	3	2	101	Result
Woodbine	10/26/1996	Storm Song	Nicholas P. Zito	Craig Perret	4	1	1.6	98	Result
Belmont	10/28/1995	My Flag	Claude R. McGaughey III	Jerry D. Bailey	8	1	3.5	107	Result
Churchill	11/05/1994	Flanders	D. Wayne Lukas	Pat Day	2	4	0.4	97	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/1993	Phone Chatter	Richard E. Mandella	Laffit A. Pincay, Jr.	6	1	2.3	101	Result
Gulfstream	10/31/1992	Eliza	Alex L. Hassinger, Jr.	Patrick A. Valenzuela	9	3	1.2	108	Result
Churchill	11/02/1991	Pleasant Stage	Christopher Speckert	Eddie J. Delahoussaye	14	1	5.8	N/A	Result
Belmont	10/27/1990	Meadow Star	LeRoy S. Jolley	Jose A. Santos	9	1	0.2	N/A	Result
Gulfstream	11/04/1989	Go for Wand	William Badgett, Jr.	Randy P. Romero	4	2	2.5	N/A	Result
Churchill	11/05/1988	Open Mind	D. Wayne Lukas	Angel Cordero, Jr.	8	1	0.7	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/21/1987	Epitome	Philip M. Hauswald	Pat Day	6	1	30.4	N/A	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/1986	Brave Raj	Melvin F. Stute	Patrick A. Valenzuela	4	1	4	N/A	Result
Aqueduct	11/02/1985	Twilight Ridge	D. Wayne Lukas	Jorge Velasquez	1	1	0.6	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/10/1984	Outstandingly	Frank Martin, Sr.	Walter A. Guerra	8	1	22.8	N/A	Result

Key Trends (41 renewals to date)

- ✓ 19 of the last 23 had 3-5 career starts (exceptions, 2 starts, '07, '17, '19, '23)
- ✓ Last 23, career runs: 2-4/3-9/4-7/5+-3
- ✓ Layoff: 34/41 were running within 30 days; 38/41 5 weeks off or less
- ✓ 34/41 (83%) had a Grade 1, 2 or 3 win, from c.60% of the runners. 3/7 non-qualifiers placed in Frizette (incl. '17 winner)
- ✓ 24/30 improved Beyer when racing 7f+ for 1st time (excludes pre-Beyer BC's and winners with no 7f+ form)
- ✓ 90+ Beyer = very strong, 80+ 1 or 2 starts = strong [90+ Beyers quite rare these days]
- ✓ 38/41 were top 4 or less than 4L behind the winner last time out
- ✓ Favourite is 20/41 (49%)
- ✓ Look beyond the obvious when trials were slow, consider lightly raced improvers
- ✓ 24/41 (59%) had NOT won at the distance. '22 & '24 winners had
- ✓ Baffert not won since 2007 (from 9 runners, all bar one single figure odds, no runner in '23)
- ✓ Last 12: 6 Frizette (4 1st, 2 2nd), 4 Alcibiades (all won), 2 Chandelier/Oak Leaf (not since 2016)

Juvenile Fillies Form

This looks a super competitive, if not obviously top quality, renewal. Prior to her most recent start, **Tommy Jo** was an overwhelming favourite. The Todd Pletcher runner had looked all class in romping away with her maiden and then dazzling in the Grade 1 Spinaway, bagging that 7f prize with more than six lengths to spare over the reopposing **Percy's Bar**.

That pair locked antlers (not literally, horses don't have antlers!) again in the G1 Alcibiades over the same mile and a sixteenth distance as the Juvenile Fillies. This time, Percy's Bar led Tommy Jo, sent off 4/9 favourite, all the way... but veered violently across the jolly in the lane and was disqualified, the placings reversed.

There's no argument that the stewards called it correctly, but this was an underwhelming effort from the Pletcher filly who may not have appreciated the longer trip, or may just not have progressed – or perhaps she bounced – from her big effort the time before. Regardless of how you infer that, it was a disappointing effort and she comes here with a fair bit to prove.

Percy's Bar, for her part, looks a talented filly. She had won her first two, including the Listed Debutante Stakes, prior to getting duffed up in the Spinaway; and that may have been an off day given how she served it to Tommy Jo at Keeneland.

Meanwhile, in California, Bob Baffert was unleashing a pair of fleet fillies. **Bottle Of Rouge** broke her maiden at the second time of asking before scoring in Grade 1 company on her third start, in the 7f Del Mar Deb. There, she came from a couple of lengths further back to take the measure of **Explora**, the other Baffert entry, with the patiently ridden **La Wally** a strong closing third.

Explora and La Wally then rematched in the G2 Oak Leaf over the extended mile. This time, Explora enjoyed a clear cut verdict over her foe. She'd been the odds on favourite

when second to her barn mate in the Del Mar Deb so perhaps just had an off day there; she'd run massive over the same track on debut so could have bounced, too. It certainly wasn't the track that did for her.

If either of the two Bafferts are to win – and keep in mind he's had nine beaten fillies in the race, all at single figure odds, since his last Juvenile Fillies crown in 2007 – I prefer the proven stayer Explora. She has much the quicker speed figures, too.

Arguably *the* key prep for this is the Frizette, a mile Grade 1 run at Aqueduct (usually Belmont but that track is undergoing renovation work). Six of the last dozen winners exited that race – four won it, two ran second – compared with four winners from the Alcibiades (all won that) and two from the Oak Leaf (Chandelier as was) – though that race hasn't thrown the winner of this one since Champagne Room's 33/1 shock in 2016: she was 4th in the Chandelier and I still don't know how she won the Juvenile Fillies!

Anyhoo, **Iron Orchard** won the Frizette, beating **Rileytale**. The daughter of 2020 Classic winner, Authentic, is unbeaten in three. She only prevailed by a nose in that Grade 1 but was value for a little more; she has to be a player.

La Ville Lumiere has the Champagne Room profile for trainer Michael McCarthy: four races and a well enough beaten placed effort last time in the Oak Leaf/Chandelier. But her two prior starts were on grass and her numbers are all slow, relatively at least.

McCarthy also saddles the once raced debut winner **Meaning**. She cruised to a facile verdict at Los Alamitos over six and a half furlongs, and has a pedigree (Gun Runner out of Into Mischief mare) to go a mile-plus. She also looks a big rangy filly based on the race video; but she lacks experience and the form of that maiden has not worked out great, albeit that the only filly to run within six lengths of her has yet to race since.

And the field is completed by another daughter of the tough as nails Classic winner Gun Runner, **Super Corredora**. On the minus side, she took three attempts to break her maiden, which happened on her most recent outing, so she's untested in Pattern company. A small plus is that she showed much her best form when stretched out to a mile, blitzing her field by more than eight lengths. She seemed much more at home with the steadier tempo of that mile race, travelling kindly throughout. This, clearly, is a big jump in class.

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11.05pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (1m, Turf)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/01/2024	Lake Victoria	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	1	2	0.70	114	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2023	Hard To Justify	Chad C. Brown	Flavien Prat	12	3	9.10	101	Result
Keeneland	11/04/2022	Meditate (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	10	1	2.04	112	Result
Del Mar	11/05/2021	Pizza Bianca	Christophe Clement	Jose L. Ortiz	1	1	9.90	105	Result
Keeneland	11/06/2020	Aunt Pearl (IRE)	Brad H. Cox	Florent Geroux	5	4	2.60	101	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2019	Sharing	H. Graham Motion	Manuel Franco	11	3	13.80	104	Result
Churchill	11/02/2018	Newspaperofrecord (IRE)	Chad C. Brown	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	6	4	0.60	115	Result
Del Mar	11/03/2017	Rushing Fall	Chad C. Brown	Javier Castellano	11	1	3.00	108	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2016	New Money Honey	Chad C. Brown	Javier Castellano	3	1	6.50	105	Result
Keeneland	10/30/2015	Catch a Glimpse	Mark E. Casse	Florent Geroux	3	3	6.40	104	Result
Santa Anita	10/31/2014	Lady Eli	Chad C. Brown	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	4	2	2.40	112	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2013	Chriselliam (IRE)	Charlie Hills	Richard Hughes	8	1	6.90	103	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2012	Flotilla (FR)	Mikel Delzangles	Christophe Lemaire	4	1	11.40	96	Result
Churchill	11/04/2011	Stephanie's Kitten	Wayne M. Catalano	John R. Velazquez	5	2	6.10	100	Result
Churchill	11/05/2010	More Than Real	Todd A. Pletcher	Garrett K. Gomez	11	1	13.60	103	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/2009	Tapitsfly	Dale L. Romans	Robby Albarado	10	3	9.80	103	Result
Santa Anita	10/24/2008	Maram	Chad C. Brown	Jose Lezcano	3	1	11.10	105	Result

Key Trends (17 renewals to date)

- ✓ **US 13 Euro 4**
- ✓ 10/13 US winners ran in Miss Grillo or Natalma, '17/'20 winners exited Jessamine, '19 winner minor Stakes
- ✓ 16/17 finished top 3 or within 1.5L of the winner last time out (exception ran in Miss Grillo)
- ✓ 14/17 won at 1m+ (exceptions all Eu: Flotilla, 1.5L behind in G1; Meditate unraced beyond 7f, 2nd G1; Lake Victoria likewise, won 7f G1)
- ✓ 17/17 finished top 3, or within 1.5L of the winner, in a Stakes race
- ✓ Frontrunners 3, Prominent 7, Late runners 7
- ✓ Layoff: 3wks-2 / 4wks-4 / 5wks-6 / 6wks-2 / 7wks-3 ('21 winner off 47 days, '22 winner off 41 days)
- ✓ Prior Runs: US winners 2-9; 3-2; 4-1; 5-0; 6-1 / Euro winners 4-2; 5-1; 6-1
- ✓ 80+ Beyer – 10/13 recorded 80+ (2 others had only 2 starts) / Euro RPR's 114, 106, 110, 116
- ✓ 4/4 Euro winners ran in G1 races LTO (1st, 1.5L 4th, 3/4L 2nd, 1st) - Euro^ = G1 LTO
- ✓ Chad Brown has trained **SIX** JFT winners (5 in California)
- ✓ 5 of Chad's 6 won the Ms Grillo, most recently with Hard To Justify in 2023
- ✓ All US exacta: 5/14 (US 1-3 in '21, 2-3 in '22, 1-3 in '23)
- ✓ West Coast has **NEVER** won the JFT

How the runners fit

Juvenile Fillies Turf	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRF Morning Line	Odds Differential	Mts G / Nat / Jss?	*Euro or US/Can	Layoff	Prior starts	Pigs up sprint to route?	Int+ winner?	Top 3 or within 1 BL LHO?	Top Figure (*RPR/ **Synth)	Top stakes finish?						LR	2LR	3LR	4LR																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								

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11.45pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Juvenile (1m½f, Dirt)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/01/2024	Citizen Bull	Bob Baffert	Martin Garcia	6	4	15.90	106	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2023	Fierceness	Todd A. Pletcher	John R. Velazquez	7	3	16.50	110	Result
Keeneland	11/04/2022	Forte	Todd A. Pletcher	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	4	2	5.02	105	Result
Del Mar	11/05/2021	Corniche	Bob Baffert	Mike E. Smith	11	4	1.40	95	Result
Keeneland	11/06/2020	Essential Quality	Brad H. Cox	Luis Saez	5	1	3.70	101	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2019	Storm the Court	Peter Eurton	Flavien Prat	4	4	45.90	106	Result
Churchill	11/02/2018	Game Winner	Bob Baffert	Joel Rosario	9	1	1.00	100	Result
Del Mar	11/04/2017	Good Magic	Chad C. Brown	Jose L. Ortiz	6	2	11.50	109	Result
Santa Anita	11/05/2016	Classic Empire	Mark E. Casse	Julien R. Lepraux	5	3	4.50	116	Result
Keeneland	10/31/2015	Nyquist	Doug F. O'Neill	Mario Gutierrez	12	2	4.70	102	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2014	Texas Red	J. Keith Desormeaux	Kent J. Desormeaux	5	1	13.90	106	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2013	New Year's Day	Bob Baffert	Martin Garcia	4	2	10.50	98	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2012	Shanghai Bobby	Todd A. Pletcher	Rosie Napravnik	4	3	1.30	86	Result
Churchill	11/05/2011	Hansen	Michael J. Maker	Ramon A. Dominguez	5	4	7.10	110	Result
Churchill	11/06/2010	Uncle Mo	Todd A. Pletcher	John R. Velazquez	7	2	1.40	123	Result
Santa Anita	11/07/2009	Vale of York (IRE)	Saeed bin Suroor	Ahmad Ajtebi	7	1	30.60	107	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2008	Midshipman	Bob Baffert	Garrett K. Gomez	10	3	3.60	109	Result
Monmouth	10/27/2007	War Pass	Nicholas P. Zito	Cornelio H. Velasquez	2	4	2.20	123	Result
Churchill	11/04/2006	Street Sense	Carl A. Nafzger	Calvin H. Borel	1	1	15.20	115	Result
Belmont	10/29/2005	Stevie Wonderboy	Doug F. O'Neill	Garrett K. Gomez	12	1	4.50	115	Result
Lone Star	10/30/2004	Wilko	Jeremy Nosedo	Lanfranco Dettori	8	2	28.30	108	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2003	Action This Day	Richard E. Mandella	David Romero Flores	2	1	26.80	108	Result
Arlington	10/26/2002	Vindication	Bob Baffert	Mike E. Smith	6	4	4.10	110	Result
Belmont	10/27/2001	Johannesburg	Aidan P. O'Brien	Michael J. Kinane	3	2	7.20	108	Result
Churchill	11/04/2000	Macho Uno	Joseph F. Orseno	Jerry D. Bailey	4	2	6.30	112	Result
Gulfstream	11/06/1999	Anees	Alex L. Hassinger, Jr.	Gary L. Stevens	9	1	30.30	108	Result
Churchill	11/07/1998	Answer Lively	Bobby C. Barnett	Jerry D. Bailey	4	3	2.70	105	Result
Hollywood	11/08/1997	Favorite Trick	Patrick B. Byrne	Pat Day	3	3	1.20	107	Result
Woodbine	10/26/1996	Boston Harbor	D. Wayne Lukas	Jerry D. Bailey	2	4	2.40	100	Result
Belmont	10/28/1995	Unbridled's Song	James T. Ryerson	Mike E. Smith	8	2	5.20	107	Result
Churchill	11/05/1994	Timber Country	D. Wayne Lukas	Pat Day	7	1	2.40	104	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/1993	Brocco	Randy Winick	Gary L. Stevens	5	1	3.00	102	Result
Gulfstream	10/31/1992	Gilded Time	Darrell Vienna	Chris J. McCarron	3	1	2.00	103	Result
Churchill	11/02/1991	Arazi	Francois Boutin	Patrick A. Valenzuela	14	1	2.10	N/A	Result
Belmont	10/27/1990	Fly So Free	Flint S. Schulhofer	Jose A. Santos	3	2	1.40	N/A	Result
Gulfstream	11/04/1989	Rhythm	Claude R. McGaughey III	Craig Perret	3	2	2.60	N/A	Result
Churchill	11/05/1988	Is It True	D. Wayne Lukas	Laffit A. Pincay, Jr.	1	4	9.20	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/21/1987	Success Express	D. Wayne Lukas	Jose A. Santos	11	4	4.10	N/A	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/1986	Capote	D. Wayne Lukas	Laffit A. Pincay, Jr.	3	4	2.40	N/A	Result
Aqueduct	11/02/1985	Tasso	Neil D. Drysdale	Laffit A. Pincay, Jr.	7	1	5.60	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/10/1984	Chief's Crown	Roger Laurin	Donald MacBeth	5	1	0.70	N/A	Result

Key Trends (41 renewals so far)

- ✓ 38/41 ran 123 or within 4L of the winner last time out ('23 winner did NOT)
- ✓ Prior runs of US winners since 2000: 2-8 (incl 7 since 2010)/ 3-9 / 4-5 [3 Euro winners all 5+ runs]
- ✓ Look for solid workouts, especially off a longer (35+ day) layoff
- ✓ Uncoupled entries won in 2010, 2013, 2015, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (Baffert 1-2-4!)
- ✓ 21 of the last 32 winners posted a new Beyer top LTO ('23 winner did NOT)
- ✓ 19 of last 29 winners improved their Beyer racing at 7f+ for the first time ('23, '24 winners did NOT)
- ✓ Y/N - Previous runs, not what is declared for BC
- ✓ (s) Synthetic track
- ✓ Baffert won 5 times, Pletcher 3, O'Neill 2
- ✓ 35/40 last ran within 5 weeks
- ✓ Since 2014: American Pharoah/Frontrunner/Norfolk 6 (4 1st, 2 3rd), Breeders' Futurity 3 (3 1st), Champagne 2 (1 2nd, 1 7th (on sloppy track))

* '23 winner *Fierceness* clunked on a sloppy track LTO, making his trends failure more forgivable. He was an uncoupled Pletcher entry, also.

How the runners fit

Juvenile	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRF Morning Line	Odds Differential	Lifetime Starts	Sharp LTO	Improved Beyer up in trip?	LTO Beyer Best?	(Bulleted AND (S)amma drills	Layoff	Based	Top 7f+ Figure	Stakes win/big price?	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Intrepido	Jeff Mullins	1	8	3.50	2.67	2.67	7	9	75	3	Y	Y	Y		27	SoCal	87	G1	3	4	1	
Blackout Time	Kenny McPeck	2	9	3.50	3.00	3.00	8	6	140	3	y	Y	Y		27	Ky	93	2nd G1	3	4	2	
Mr A.P.	Vladimir Cerin	3	7	2.50	2.33	2.33	67	31	220	3	Y	N	N		18	SoCal	81	66/1	2	3	2	
Comport	Eddie Kenneally	4	13	3.50	3.33	3.25	34	31	110	4	Y	y	N	B	48	Ky	80	33/1	4	3	3	3
Civil Liberty	Doug O'Neill	5	9	2.50	3.00	3.00	67	31	220	3	N	N	N		27	SoCal	82	66/1	3	2	4	
Litmus Test	Bob Baffert	6	9	3.00	3.00	3.00	34	16	220	3	y	Y	Y	S	27	SoCal	89	33/1	4	2	3	
Brant	Bob Baffert	7	7	3.50	3.50	3.50	4.3	3.5	132	2	Y	N	N	B/S	64	SoCal	91	G1	4	3		
Ted Noffey	Todd Pletcher	8	8	3.00	2.67	2.67	2	1.8	125	3	Y	Y	N		27	NY	98	2xG1	3	3	2	

Pace:

Unusually for a juvenile dirt race there isn't a signed on need the lead type. However, three of the field – Brant, Comport and Litmus Test – led at the first call last time out so it's reasonable to expect a good honest gallop, and potentially a fast one. You'll need your fancy to see out the mile and half a furlong trip.

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12.25am GMT: Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (1m, Turf)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/01/2024	Henri Matisse	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	12	1	3.9	116	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2023	Unquestionable	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	7	2	1.5	109	Result
Keeneland	11/04/2022	Victoria Road (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	1	2	5.57	106	Result
Del Mar	11/05/2021	Modern Games* (IRE)	Charles Appleby	William Buick	1	2	1.00	111	Result
Keeneland	11/06/2020	Fire At Will	Michael J. Maker	Ricardo Santana, Jr.	7	3	30.20	105	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2019	Structor	Chad C. Brown	Jose L. Ortiz	2	1	5.30	99	Result
Churchill	11/02/2018	Line of Duty (IRE)	Charles Appleby	William Buick	5	2	3.50	104	Result
Del Mar	11/03/2017	Mendelssohn	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	1	3	4.80	109	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2016	Oscar Performance	Brian A. Lynch	Jose L. Ortiz	13	3	6.60	113	Result
Keeneland	10/30/2015	Hit It a Bomb	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	14	1	7.20	107	Result
Santa Anita	10/31/2014	Hootenanny	Wesley A. Ward	Lanfranco Dettori	5	1	6.00	98	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2013	Outstrip (GB)	Charles Appleby	Mike E. Smith	4	1	6.00	109	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2012	George Vancouver	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	3	1	9.30	103	Result
Churchill	11/05/2011	Wrote (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	4	1	11.60	110	Result
Churchill	11/06/2010	Pluck	Todd A. Pletcher	Garrett K. Gomez	12	1	6.40	101	Result
Santa Anita	11/07/2009	Pounced	John H. M. Gosden	Lanfranco Dettori	4	3	2.40	88	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2008	Donativum (GB)	John H. M. Gosden	Lanfranco Dettori	4	1	5.80	100	Result
Monmouth	10/26/2007	Nownownow	Francois Parisel	Julien R. Leparoux	7	1	12.60	97	Result

*Modern Games ran for purse money only, was favoured before scratching for betting purposes

Key Trends (18 renewals to date)

- ✓ Euro 12 (APO'B 7, C Appleby 3, Gosden 2) US 6 - **Respect EVERYTHING APO'B runs in this**
- ✓ 2-7 runs (16/18 had 2 to 5 runs - Prior Starts: 2-2/3-3/4-6/5-5/6-1/7-1)
- ✓ 5/6 US won at 1m+, only 4/11 Euro won at 1m
- ✓ 1st-3rd Fav combined only 11 from 54 - 39% winners outside top 3 in betting
- ✓ 17/18 Top 3 LTO or within 2L of winner (ran sharp). '24 winner btn 2.75L in G1 (unsuitably soft)
- ✓ 0 Front Runner winners (9 CLOSERS, 6 PROMINENT, 3 MIDFIELD)
- ✓ 9 of the 12 Euro winners plus Hootenanny recorded RPR of 110+; exceptions 108 LTO, 105 LTO, 106 LTO
- ✓ 12/12 Euro winners placed in G1/2 LTO, or won lesser stakes
- ✓ 6 of last 9 Euro winners either placed in Dewhurst LTO or won G3 LTO ('18, '21, '22); '24 winner 5th in Lagardere
- ✓ 6/6 US winners had won a Stakes and were placed 123 in all Stakes runs
- ✓ Euro winners 20-48 days absent; US 20, 34, 34, 35, 49, 68 days absent
- ✓ Eu winners last race: 5 France (3 JLL 2 Conde), 6 Newmarket (3 Dew, 1 Somerville, 1 Royal Lodge, 1 sales race), 1 Dundalk
- ✓ Pilgrim Stakes considered a key prep: got 1st win in '16, 2nd win in '19, 3rd win in '20
- ✓ Pre '25 renewal: Euro 12/18 (67%) from 67 (28%) runners

MP - Middle Park; Dew - Dewhurst; JLL - Jean-Luc Lagardere; RL - Royal Lodge; Bou - Bourbon; Pil - Pilgrim; ZB - Zuma Beach; Sum - Summer

Pace:

If the Amo Racing/Wesley Ward runner Outfielder turns up here, there's a good chance he leads. If he doesn't, it's a lot less clear where the pace comes from. The most likely candidate might be Hey Nay Nay, or perhaps Andrew Balding's Humidity or Joseph's

North Coast. Each has led but none is certain to go forward in a race normally won by a horse closing late.

Key Trials:

Go to [breederscup.com](https://www.breederscup.com) for race videos.

Juvenile Turf Form

A full field will go to post for the Juvenile Turf and Team Europe, if such a thing exists, will be well represented both numerically and in terms of market position.

Favoured, heavily so, is **Gstaad** for that man Aidan O'Brien. His domination of this particular race is near total, having saddled half of the winners in the last 14 renewals, and each of the last three. His sole representative is a triple Group 1 runner up, each time by less than a length, and that form towers over this field.

However, he's going a mile for the first time which isn't a gimme on pedigree; and he's drawn the wide outside stall, 14. And, forgive me, but Christophe Soumillon is not Ryan Moore. Hit It A Bomb, under Ryan for Aidan in 2015, remains the only winner from the outside post. There have been only four winners from double digit stalls in a race that invariably gets a full field of 14 starters. As well as HIAB, Aidan and Ryan also pulled the rabbit from the hat with Henri Matisse.

Soumi has just one Breeders' Cup winner, in the Turf atop Shirocco twenty years ago, and has only had ten rides at the meeting. He is a top class jockey but his lack of familiarity is a concern.

There are only two further European runners this time, Hugo Palmer's **Ardisia** and Joseph O'Brien's North Coast. Ardisia will be having her 12th (!) start of the season in search of her sixth win. The five victories came in novice company twice, handicaps twice, and in the Listed 2YO Trophy at Redcar. He was also second in the valuable Champions Day Conditions event.

All eleven starts have been over five or six furlongs and, by Ardad, he's not necessarily bred to stay a mile. He should probably be bigger than 20/1 and I reckon he'll be at least double that on the US 'nanny', not that I'd be tempted even then.

North Coast ran as though something was a miss in the G1 National Stakes last time (Gstaad a head second) but had showed immense promise on his previous start when bolting up in the G3 Tyros Stakes over a trip just shy of this mile. He made all that day, as he did for his other win; but that's a very difficult thing to do in Breeders' Cup turf races.

The other eleven are all North American entries, headed perhaps by **Outfielder**, a Wesley Ward-trained and Amo Racing-owned son of Speightstown. A turf maiden winner on debut, Outfielder then travelled to France for the Prix Morny where he wasn't disgraced in fourth (Gstaad second), before returning to the States and a dirt allowance race, which he won. That was six furlongs and all bar one of the US winners of the Juvenile Turf had won over at least a mile; the exception was the Wesley Ward-trained Morny-contesting Hootenanny. Still, I don't especially fancy him (though a pal, who is a good judge, does).

14 of the 18 JT winners were drawn 7 or lower, and all bar three of those (11) were drawn five or lower. A good trip from a good draw is the dream ticket. Outfielder has stall 3 and so he has his chance. Two other fancied runners, **Bottas** and **Hey Nay Nay**, are drawn 12 and 13 respectively. Of course, they can win from there, but it may be a value move to look for one of those lower drawn bigger priced horses... It's also worth noting that no West Coast-based runner has ever won the Juvenile Turf, which has to be another knock for Hey Nay Nay. Again, a Leftie will win it one day but it's not the value play against the New Yorkers. Bottas at least has that, and his Pilgrim score, in his favour.

Street Beast has cashed in on the extremely fat Kentucky Downs purses this summer, winning an allowance and a Listed which collectively accrued over \$700,000 for his connections. That most recent score, over a mile, was by seven lengths; in it, he showed great gate speed, took a prominent position and then catapulted away from his field in the final furlong. He has stall 2 here.

Argos, drawn 9, won the Grade 1 Summer Stakes at Woodbine, Canada, last time. He came from five lengths and change back to score there, beating the Buick-ridden favourite Wild Desert which was given an Everest-size mountain to climb (and very nearly scaled it).

Stall 1 will be inhabited by the four race maiden **Heeere's Johnny**, only a head behind Bottas when second in the Pilgrim. Given he has the inside post and his vanquisher from Aqueduct has trap 12, there's a reasonable chance he'll reverse placings. He's 33/1.

Similar comments apply to Pilgrim third **Let's Be Frank**, who has a length to find but is drawn in 5. He too is a maiden, though from only two starts, and made a big step forward first to second race. Another similar leap would put him right in the shake up. He's 50/1.

Stark Contrast is another Californian entry and, on that basis, is not for me; he is two from two on turf, mind, including in the G3 Zuma Beach. Unfortunately for him that race has proved to be an awful trial for this one heretofore. The second there, **Third Beer**, has drawn better (stall 4 vs stall 8) but I still don't like that form line.

Turf Star is in box 11, a hardship, and was beaten in the Bourbon last time without any obvious excuses.

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SATURDAY

7.00pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (7f, Dirt)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/02/2024	Soul Of An Angel	Saffie Joseph, Jr.	Drayden van Dyke	7	1	19.80	111	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2023	Goodnight Olive	Chad C. Brown	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	1	2	1.10	100	Result
Keeneland	11/05/2022	Goodnight Olive	Chad C. Brown	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	8	2	1.85	106	Result
Del Mar	11/06/2021	Ce Ce	Michael W. McCarthy	Victor Espinoza	3	2	6.20	105	Result
Keeneland	11/07/2020	Gamine	Bob Baffert	John R. Velazquez	2	3	1.10	121	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2019	Covfefe	Brad H. Cox	Joel Rosario	1	2	1.50	112	Result
Churchill	11/03/2018	Shamrock Rose	Mark E. Casse	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	14	1	25.90	106	Result
Del Mar	11/04/2017	Bar of Gold	John C. Kimmel	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	5	1	66.70	110	Result
Santa Anita	11/05/2016	Finest City	Ian Kruljac	Mike E. Smith	12	4	8.70	110	Result
Keeneland	10/31/2015	Wavell Avenue	Chad C. Brown	Joel Rosario	7	1	10.00	108	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2014	Judy the Beauty	Wesley A. Ward	Mike E. Smith	7	2	3.10	98	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2013	Groupie Doll	William B. Bradley	Rajiv Maragh	11	2	3.00	115	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2012	Groupie Doll	William B. Bradley	Rajiv Maragh	9	2	0.70	121	Result
Churchill	11/04/2011	Musical Romance	William A. Kaplan	Juan C. Leyva	5	3	20.20	106	Result
Churchill	11/05/2010	Dubai Majesty	W. Bret Calhoun	Jamie Theriot	12	3	8.60	109	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/2009	Informed Decision	Jonathan E. Sheppard	Julien R. Leparoux	7	3	3.40	112	Result
Santa Anita	10/24/2008	Ventura	Robert J. Frankel	Garrett K. Gomez	11	1	2.80	115	Result
Monmouth	10/26/2007	Maryfield	Doug F. O'Neill	Elvis Trujillo	4	1	8.00	98	Result

Key Trends (18 renewals so far)

- ✓ Winner's age: 644544554453335455
- ✓ 3yo's 3 from 48 to date; '18 winner 3yo, 20/1; '19 1st/2nd only two 3yo's in the field; '20 winner Gamine 3yo; '22 2nd & 3rd 3yo's
- ✓ 3yo's won 0 of first 11, then won 3 in a row, then none since 2020 (well btn, incl fav, in '24)
- ✓ 17/18 finished in the top 3, or within 3L of the winner, last time (not '17 winner)
- ✓ 15/18 won at 7f; 8/18 2+ wins at 7f ('24 winner was 1/1 at 7f)
- ✓ 13/18 won or were 2nd in a G1 ('17 winner 2nd 7f G1 2 yrs ago, '18 winner 1st G2 LTO only 7f start, '21 winner won G1 a yr ago)
- ✓ TCA at Keeneland is a key prep (albeit over 6f)
- ✓ PID Masters (6 1/2f) also key race – Gal In A Rush came from some way back to win going away.
- ✓ Surface switch (synth or turf to dirt) : 7/18 winners; '18 winner 1stx2 on synths prior to final prep on dirt
- ✓ 12/18 had career form on synth and/or turf (10/18 synth, 11/18 turf)
- ✓ Fav 7/18, 2nd fav 2/18, 3rd fav 1/18. 8/18 4th or lower in the betting
- ✓ 9/18 were off 6 weeks or more; 8/18 off 4 or 5 weeks; only 1/18 rested less than four weeks

How the runners fit

Filly/Mare Sprint	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRF Morning Line	Odds Differential	Age	Top Figure	Days off?	G1 / Other stakes form	Position LTO	Sharp last race?	7f Record (R-1-2)	TCA / PID Masters/ Surface switch?	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Zeitlos	Steve Asmussen	1	4	1.00	1.00	1.00	34	21	165	5	97	28	3rd G2	3rd G2	Y	3-0-0	3rd TCA	1	1	1	1
Splendor	Bob Baffert	2	12	3.50	3.00	3.00	12	9	138	4	100	61	2nd G2	1st Letc	Y	2-0-1	N	4	3	2	3
Vahva	Cherie DeVaux	3	11	3.00	3.00	2.75	17	13	133	5	99	28	G2	2nd G2	y	12-6-3	2nd TCA	3	3	3	2
Tamara	Richard Mandella	4	12	2.50	3.00	3.00	6	4.5	143	4	95	28	G3	1st G3	Y	1-1-0	N	3	2	4	3
Fee Blanche	Terunobu Fujita	5	0	0.00	0.00	0.00			100	4	2	35	G2	1st G2	Y	1-1-0	N	0	0	0	0
Sweet Azteca	Richard Baltas	6	16	4.00	4.00	4.00	3	3	100	5	102	69	G2	1st G3	Y	0-0-0	N	4	4	4	4
Haulin Ice	Saffie Joseph Jr.	7	14	3.00	3.33	3.50	21	21	100	4	101	42	2xG3	1st G2	Y	6-2-1	N	4	2	4	4
Hope Road	Bob Baffert	8	12	2.50	2.67	3.00	6.5	5	138	4	104	70	G1	1st G1	Y	5-1-2	N	3	2	3	4
Richi	Bob Baffert	9	14	3.00	3.33	3.50	9	5	200	5	102	34	G2	2nd G2	Y	2-1-0	N	4	2	4	4
Praying	Robert Medina	10	12	2.50	2.67	3.00	21	21	100	3	90	28	G2	1st G2	Y	0-0-0	1st TCA	3	2	3	4

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7.41pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (5f, Turf)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Dist	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/02/2024	5f	Starlust	Ralph Beckett	Rossa Ryan	3	1	33.60	112	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2023	5f	Nobals	Larry Rivelli	Gerardo Corrales	6	2	12.00	108	Result
Keeneland	11/05/2022	5.5f	Caravel	Brad H. Cox	Tyler Gaffalione	10	4	42.89	121	Result
Del Mar	11/06/2021	5f	Golden Pal	Wesley A. Ward	Irada Ortiz, Jr.	3	4	2.50	126	Result
Keeneland	11/07/2020	5.5f	Glass Slippers (GB)	Kevin A. Ryan	Tom Eaves	6	1	10.20	118	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2019	5f	Belvoir Bay (GB)	Peter Miller	Javier Castellano	12	4	14.80	120	Result
Churchill	11/03/2018	5.5f	Stormy Liberal	Peter Miller	Drayden Van Dyke	9	2	7.00	116	Result
Del Mar	11/04/2017	5f	Stormy Liberal	Peter Miller	Joel Rosario	4	1	30.20	124	Result
Santa Anita	11/05/2016	6.5f	Obviously (IRE)	Philip D'Amato	Flavien Prat	2	4	3.80	115	Result
Keeneland	10/31/2015	5.5f	Mongolian Saturday	Enebish Ganbat	Florent Geroux	14	3	15.90	122	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2014	6.5f	Bobby's Kitten	Chad C. Brown	Joel Rosario	6	1	7.20	116	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2013	6.5f	Mizdirection	Mike Puype	Mike E. Smith	11	1	2.70	102	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2012	6.5f	Mizdirection	Mike Puype	Mike E. Smith	11	1	6.90	109	Result
Churchill	11/05/2011	5f	Regally Ready	Steven M. Asmussen	Corey S. Nakatani	8	3	2.30	122	Result
Churchill	11/06/2010	5f	Chamberlain Bridge	W. Bret Calhoun	Jamie Theriot	1	1	6.90	116	Result
Santa Anita	11/07/2009	6.5f	California Flag	Brian J. Koriner	Joseph Talamo	3	4	3.40	116	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2008	6.5f	Desert Code	David E. Hofmans	Richard Migliore	9	1	36.50	116	Result

Key Trends (17 renewals so far)

- ✓ 12/17 distance winners (material when run at 5.5f or 6.5f, less so at 5f - '22 winner 7/11 at 5.5f, paid \$42.89; '23 winner 3/6, paid \$12)
- ✓ Age 3-3; 4-6; 5-4; 6-3; 8-1 (all largely in line with representation)
- ✓ 15/17 winners were top 3 or within 3L of the winner last time out
- ✓ 14/17 had 99+ Beyer or 115+ RPR; 17/17 96+ Beyer or 115+ RPR
- ✓ 15/17 had 4+ starts in year
- ✓ 15/17 had a 27+ day layoff
- ✓ 17/17 placed in Graded Stakes (12/17 WON Graded Stakes)
- ✓ Europeans 2 from 27 so far (Glass Slippers in 2020, 2nd-3rd-4th in 2022; 3rd/4th in 2023; 1st/4th in '24)
- ✓ Favourite is 5/17
- ✓ Peter Miller won the three renewals between 2017 and 2019 (including 2x exacta)
- ✓ Wesley Ward only BC Turf Sprint win was in 2021, from 16 runners to date
- ✓ **Y/N** - Previous runs, not what is declared for BC
- ✓ **CT** - Class turnback, as deployed by Bobby's Kitten 2014

Turf Sprint Form Contenders

It might be churlish to discount half of the field on account of their starting stall but that is what I'm doing. It's just very hard to run further – or faster early – and be competitive on a lightning quick tight turning five like this, as previous renewals have demonstrated.

There is a stack of pace, which Bring Theband Home may dominate; but Cogburn, comfortably the best turf sprinter in the US last year, bounded clear only to tie up dramatically in the lane.

No, this looks tailor made for an inside late runner and, obviously, a heart-breaking wager as the line comes just too soon!

In that context, I offer the unimaginative Motorious, whose form looks as good as ever and who knows his way home better than all of them round here. I think he'll be quite a short favourite on the day, which makes 7/2 playable enough.

It wouldn't surprise me at all if Arizona Blaze was the main danger; he's had a terrific season and a pace meltdown over five furlongs looks ideal. They're the front two in the betting but they deserve to be.

VERDICT:

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8.21pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Sprint (6f, Dirt)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/02/2024	Straight No Chaser	Dan Blacker	John R. Velazquez	8	3	6.10	114	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2023	Elite Power	William I. Mott	Irada Ortiz, Jr.	7	2	1.70	119	Result
Keeneland	11/05/2022	Elite Power	William I. Mott	Irada Ortiz, Jr.	6	1	5.55	111	Result
Del Mar	11/06/2021	Aloha West	Wayne M. Catalano	Jose L. Ortiz	5	1	11.30	111	Result
Keeneland	11/07/2020	Whitmore	Ron Moquett	Irada Ortiz, Jr.	7	1	18.40	108	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2019	Mitole	Steven M. Asmussen	Ricardo Santana, Jr.	4	2	1.80	120	Result
Churchill	11/03/2018	Roy H	Peter Miller	Paco Lopez	9	2	2.70	122	Result
Del Mar	11/04/2017	Roy H	Peter Miller	Kent J. Desormeaux	8	3	4.90	128	Result
Santa Anita	11/05/2016	Drefong	Bob Baffert	Martin Garcia	2	4	3.90	118	Result
Keeneland	10/31/2015	Runhappy	Maria Borell	Edgar S. Prado	5	3	1.60	119	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2014	Work All Week	Roger A. Brueggemann	Florent Geroux	13	3	19.10	108	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2013	Secret Circle	Bob Baffert	Martin Garcia	9	2	2.50	116	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2012	Trinniberg	Shivananda Parbhoo	Willie Martinez	9	3	13.70	116	Result
Churchill	11/05/2011	Amazombie	William Spawr	Mike E. Smith	7	1	7.90	115	Result
Churchill	11/06/2010	Big Drama	David Fawkes	Eibar Coa	1	4	5.20	113	Result
Santa Anita	11/07/2009	Dancing in Silks	Carla Gaines	Joel Rosario	6	1	25.30	122	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2008	Midnight Lute	Bob Baffert	Garrett K. Gomez	3	1	2.70	115	Result
Monmouth	10/27/2007	Midnight Lute	Bob Baffert	Garrett K. Gomez	2	1	2.50	114	Result
Churchill	11/04/2006	Thor's Echo	Doug F. O'Neill	Corey S. Nakatani	1	3	15.60	120	Result
Belmont	10/29/2005	Silver Train	Richard E. Dutrow, Jr.	Edgar S. Prado	3	2	11.90	121	Result
Lone Star	10/30/2004	Speightstown	Todd A. Pletcher	John R. Velazquez	2	3	3.70	114	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2003	Cajun Beat	Steve Margolis	Cornelio H. Velasquez	11	3	22.80	127	Result
Arlington	10/26/2002	Orientate	D. Wayne Lukas	Jerry D. Bailey	10	3	2.70	122	Result
Belmont	10/27/2001	Squirtle Squirt	Robert J. Frankel	Jerry D. Bailey	3	3	9.60	126	Result
Churchill	11/04/2000	Kona Gold	Bruce Headley	Alex O. Solis	10	2	1.70	120	Result
Gulfstream	11/06/1999	Artax	Louis Albertrani	Jorge F. Chavez	5	4	3.70	123	Result
Churchill	11/07/1998	Reraise	Craig Dollase	Corey S. Nakatani	3	4	3.80	114	Result
Hollywood	11/08/1997	Elmhurst	Jenine Sahadi	Corey S. Nakatani	5	1	16.60	119	Result
Woodbine	10/26/1996	Lit de Justice	Jenine Sahadi	Corey S. Nakatani	5	1	4.00	121	Result
Belmont	10/28/1995	Desert Stormer	Frank G. Lyons	Kent J. Desormeaux	4	4	14.50	122	Result
Churchill	11/05/1994	Cherokee Run	Frank A. Alexander	Mike E. Smith	11	2	2.80	119	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/1993	Cardmania	Derek Meredith	Eddie J. Delahoussaye	5	1	5.30	112	Result
Gulfstream	10/31/1992	Thirty Sews	Bob Baffert	Eddie J. Delahoussaye	8	2	18.70	119	Result
Churchill	11/02/1991	Sheikh Albadou (GB)	Alexander A. Scott	Pat Eddery	9	1	26.30	N/A	Result
Belmont	10/27/1990	Safely Kept	Alan E. Goldberg	Craig Perret	4	4	12.20	N/A	Result
Gulfstream	11/04/1989	Dancing Spree	Claude R. McGaughey III	Angel Cordero, Jr.	2	1	16.60	N/A	Result
Churchill	11/05/1988	Gulch	D. Wayne Lukas	Angel Cordero, Jr.	10	1	5.80	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/21/1987	Very Subtle	Melvin F. Stute	Patrick A. Valenzuela	11	4	16.40	N/A	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/1986	Smile	Fliat S. Schulhofer	Jacinto Vasquez	1	4	11.00	N/A	Result
Aqueduct	11/02/1985	Precisionist	Leland Ross Fenstermaker	Chris J. McCarron	3	3	3.40	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/10/1984	Eillo	Budd Lepman	Craig Perret	5	4	1.30	N/A	Result

Key Trends (41 renewals to date)

- ✓ 2007+, the BC Sprint winners came into the race with a combined 115/223 lifetime win record (51.6%)
- ✓ 32 of last 33 winners had at least 50% 1-2 strike rate at 6f
- ✓ 38/41 won a G1-3 that season
- ✓ 1+ 6f wins AND ran sharp 7f last 12 months a solid recent angle ('22 & '23 winners nailed this)
- ✓ 24 of last 32 had 2+ 6f wins that season ('24 winner only ran 2x in season)
- ✓ 17 of last 27 winners were 50%+ lifetime winners
- ✓ 17 of last 21 winners had 6 or fewer seasonal starts
- ✓ 23 of last 31 winners showed a bullet workout
- ✓ 30 of last 33 winners notched at least 103 Beyer in same season ('21 winner 102, '22 winner 101)
- ✓ Bob Baffert 5 wins, Bill Mott 2, Peter Miller 2
- ✓ 3 back to back winners since 2007/8 (Midnight Lute, Roy H, Elite Power)

Pace:

Not as blistering as it sometimes is, on paper at least. Still, Mad House and Patriot Spirit will go forward; perhaps also defending champ, Straight No Chaser. He raced a length off the lead last year and may adopt similar tactics if he can this time. Still, with a full field in prospect and that early zip battle, it could be a long way down the straight for some.

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9.01pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Distaff (1m1f, Dirt)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/02/2024	Thorpedo Anna	Kenneth G. McPeck	Brian Hernandez, Jr.	2	4	0.40	111	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2023	Idiomatic	Brad H. Cox	Florent Geroux	2	3	1.80	108	Result
Keeneland	11/05/2022	Malathaat	Todd A. Pletcher	John R. Velazquez	1	1	2.88	117	Result
Del Mar	11/06/2021	Marche Lorraine (JPN)	Yoshito Yahagi	Oisin Murphy	10	1	49.90	113	Result
Keeneland	11/07/2020	Monomoy Girl	Brad H. Cox	Florent Geroux	10	2	1.00	113	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2019	Blue Prize (ARG)	Ignacio Correas, IV	Joe Bravo	11	1	8.90	112	Result
Churchill	11/03/2018	Monomoy Girl	Brad H. Cox	Florent Geroux	11	3	1.80	116	Result
Del Mar	11/03/2017	Forever Unbridled	Dallas Stewart	John R. Velazquez	6	1	3.70	113	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2016	Beholder	Richard E. Mandella	Gary L. Stevens	8	2	3.30	114	Result
Keeneland	10/30/2015	Stopchargingmaria	Todd A. Pletcher	Javier Castellano	4	2	7.10	105	Result
Santa Anita	10/31/2014	Untapable	Steven M. Asmussen	Rosie Napravnik	10	2	1.60	114	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2013	Beholder	Richard E. Mandella	Gary L. Stevens	5	3	2.80	117	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2012	Royal Delta	William I. Mott	Mike E. Smith	6	4	1.70	117	Result
Churchill	11/04/2011	Royal Delta	William I. Mott	Jose Lezcano	6	2	2.20	119	Result
Churchill	11/05/2010	Unrivaled Belle	William I. Mott	Kent J. Desormeaux	8	1	7.50	115	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/2009	Life Is Sweet	John A. Shirreffs	Garrett K. Gomez	2	1	8.10	120	Result
Santa Anita	10/24/2008	Zenyatta	John A. Shirreffs	Mike E. Smith	1	1	0.50	114	Result
Monmouth	10/27/2007	Ginger Punch	Robert J. Frankel	Rafael Bejarano	4	3	4.50	111	Result
Churchill	11/04/2006	Round Pond	Michael R. Matz	Edgar S. Prado	1	2	13.90	115	Result
Belmont	10/29/2005	Pleasant Home	Claude R. McGaughey III	Cornelio H. Velasquez	11	1	30.75	115	Result
Lone Star	10/30/2004	Ashado	Todd A. Pletcher	John R. Velazquez	1	3	2.00	115	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2003	Adoration	David E. Hofmans	Patrick A. Valenzuela	2	4	40.70	110	Result
Arlington	10/26/2002	Azeri	Laura De Seroux	Mike E. Smith	4	4	1.80	114	Result
Belmont	10/27/2001	Unbridled Elaine	Dallas Stewart	Pat Day	5	1	12.30	108	Result
Churchill	11/04/2000	Spain	D. Wayne Lukas	Victor Espinoza	4	2	55.90	111	Result
Gulfstream	11/06/1999	Beautiful Pleasure	John T. Ward, Jr.	Jorge F. Chavez	5	4	3.00	118	Result
Churchill	11/07/1998	Escena	William I. Mott	Gary L. Stevens	7	4	3.00	119	Result
Hollywood	11/08/1997	Ajina	William I. Mott	Mike E. Smith	1	2	4.80	114	Result
Woodbine	10/26/1996	Jewel Princess	Wallace A. Dollase	Corey S. Nakatani	1	1	2.40	120	Result
Belmont	10/28/1995	Inside Information	Claude R. McGaughey III	Mike E. Smith	1	3	0.80	116	Result
Churchill	11/05/1994	One Dreamer	Thomas F. Proctor	Gary L. Stevens	4	4	47.10	107	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/1993	Hollywood Wildcat	Neil D. Drysdale	Eddie J. Delahoussaye	6	4	1.30	113	Result
Gulfstream	10/31/1992	Paseana (ARG)	Ronald L. McAnally	Chris J. McCarron	14	2	2.70	118	Result
Churchill	11/02/1991	Dance Smartly	James E. Day	Pat Day	10	1	0.50	N/A	Result
Belmont	10/27/1990	Bayakoa (ARG)	Ronald L. McAnally	Laffit A. Pincay, Jr.	4	4	1.10	N/A	Result
Gulfstream	11/04/1989	Bayakoa (ARG)	Ronald L. McAnally	Laffit A. Pincay, Jr.	1	4	0.70	N/A	Result
Churchill	11/05/1988	Personal Ensign	Claude R. McGaughey III	Randy P. Romero	6	1	0.50	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/21/1987	Sacahuista	D. Wayne Lukas	Randy P. Romero	5	4	2.90	N/A	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/1986	Lady's Secret	D. Wayne Lukas	Pat Day	5	4	0.50	N/A	Result
Aqueduct	11/02/1985	Life's Magic	D. Wayne Lukas	Angel Cordero, Jr.	6	1	0.40	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/10/1984	Princess Rooney	Neil D. Drysdale	Eddie J. Delahoussaye	4	4	0.70	N/A	Result

Key Trends (41 renewals to date)

- ✓ 32/41 won by 3 or 4yo's ('19 winner 6yo, '20 winner 5yo though missed entire 4yo season, '21 winner 5yo!)
- ✓ 19/41 won by 4yo's (including 12 of the last 23)
- ✓ 40/41 finished top 3 or within 4L of winner last time out
- ✓ 26 of the last 34 winners ran 5-8 times in the year
- ✓ 31/37 1m1f Distaff winners had won at the distance already
- ✓ Layoff: 31/41 35 days or less ('20 winner off 64 days, '21 winner 86 days, '24 winner 42 days)
- ✓ 29/37 1m1f Distaff winners had won a Grade 1 in same year
- ✓ The favourite is 18/41 (44% SR)
- ✓ 37/41 had recorded a Beyer of 100+ ('21 winner no Beyer, top RPR of just 99)

How the runners fit

Distaff	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRF Morning Line	Odds Differential	Age	Seasonal runs	Sharp LTO?	<35 days LTO/bullet (B)?	9f Record (R-1-2)	Top of Beyer (*RPR)	Top Beyer (*RPR)	Won/Sharp G1 in year?	Based	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Nitrogen	Mark Casse	1	11	3.00	2.67	2.75	5	5	100	3	8	Y	27	1-0-1	95	96	G1	Can	3	3	2	3
Sarawak Rim	Ignacio Correias	2	2	1.00	0.67	0.50	26	13	208	4	2	Y	184	1-1-0	?	?	G1	Arg	2	0	0	0
Clicquot	Brendan Walsh	3	12	2.50	2.67	3.00	17	11	160	3	5	Y	42	0-0-0	NA	92	G1	Ky	2	3	3	4
Scylla	Bill Mott	4	9	3.50	2.67	2.25	17	16	107	5	5	Y	27	2-1-0	93	97	2nd G1	NY	3	4	1	1
Scottish Lassie	Jorge Abreu	5	13	3.00	3.00	3.25	13	13	100	3	4	y	42/B	2-1-0	99	99	G1	NY	2	4	3	4
Alice Verite	Kazuya Nakatake	6	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	26	21	125	5	4	N	90	1-0-0	90	90	N	Jpn	0	0	0	0
Gin Gin	Brendan Walsh	7	12	3.00	3.00	3.00	13	13	100	4	5	Y	27	5-2-0	95	96	G1	Ky	4	2	3	3
Seismic Beauty	Bob Baffert	8	15	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.25	2.8	125	4	5	Y	91/B	1-1-0	104	110	G1	SoCal	4	4	4	3
Majestic Oops	Dan Ward	9	10	2.00	2.00	2.50	67	31	220	5	10	N	34	2-0-1	76	96	y	NJ	2	2	2	4
Gun Song	Mark Hennig	10	10	2.50	2.67	2.50	26	31	83	4	5	Y	36	5-2-1	89	93/94	G2	NY	3	2	3	2
Dry Powder	Chad Summers	11	10	3.00	2.33	2.50	21	21	100	3	6	Y	42	1-0-0	67	91	2nd G1	NY	3	3	1	3
Dorth Vader	George Weaver	12	10	2.50	2.33	2.50	8	5	175	5	5	Y	70/B	3-1-1	100	100	G1	Fl	2	3	2	3
Regaled	D. Whitworth Beckman	13	4	1.00	1.00	1.00	26	31	83	4	6	Y	34	4-1-0	94	94	G3	NJ	1	1	1	1

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9.41pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Turf (1m4f, Turf)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/02/2024	Rebel's Romance (IRE)	Charles Appleby	William Buick	11	2	1.90	125	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2023	Auguste Rodin	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	4	1	2.50	117	Result
Keeneland	11/05/2022	Rebel's Romance (IRE)	Charles Appleby	James Doyle	5	1	5.96	127	Result
Del Mar	11/06/2021	Yibir (GB)	Charles Appleby	William Buick	8	1	8.50	118	Result
Keeneland	11/07/2020	Tarnawa (IRE)	Dermot K. Weld	Colin Keane	3	1	4.70	126	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2019	Bricks and Mortar	Chad C. Brown	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	9	1	1.00	121	Result
Churchill	11/03/2018	Enable (GB)	John H. M. Gosden	Lanfranco Dettori	2	1	0.80	133	Result
Del Mar	11/04/2017	Talismanic (GB)	Andre Fabre	Mickael Barzalona	1	1	14.10	126	Result
Santa Anita	11/05/2016	Highland Reel (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Seamie Heffernan	12	4	3.80	125	Result
Keeneland	10/31/2015	Found (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	9	1	6.40	116	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2014	Main Sequence	H. Graham Motion	John R. Velazquez	11	1	6.20	132	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2013	Magician (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	11	1	12.50	121	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2012	Little Mike	Dale L. Romans	Ramon A. Dominguez	7	2	17.30	123	Result
Churchill	11/05/2011	St Nicholas Abbey (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	1	2	6.80	126	Result
Churchill	11/06/2010	Dangerous Midge	Brian Meehan	Lanfranco Dettori	7	3	8.50	121	Result
Santa Anita	11/07/2009	Conduit (IRE)	Sir Michael R. Stoute	Ryan L. Moore	2	1	0.90	122	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2008	Conduit (IRE)	Sir Michael R. Stoute	Ryan L. Moore	9	1	5.80	127	Result
Monmouth	10/27/2007	English Channel	Todd A. Pletcher	John R. Velazquez	6	2	3.00	126	Result
Churchill	11/04/2006	Red Rocks (IRE)	Brian Meehan	Lanfranco Dettori	9	1	10.80	123	Result
Belmont	10/29/2005	Shirocco (GER)	Andre Fabre	Christophe Soumillon	2	2	8.80	120	Result
Lone Star	10/30/2004	Better Talk Now	H. Graham Motion	Ramon A. Dominguez	5	1	27.90	119	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2003	High Chaparral (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Michael J. Kinane	3	2	4.90	122	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2003	Johar	Richard E. Mandella	Alex O. Solis	9	1	14.20	122	Result
Arlington	10/26/2002	High Chaparral (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Michael J. Kinane	5	1	0.90	125	Result
Belmont	10/27/2001	Fantastic Light	Saeed bin Suroor	Lanfranco Dettori	2	2	1.40	119	Result
Churchill	11/04/2000	Kalanisi (IRE)	Sir Michael R. Stoute	John Patrick Murtagh	1	1	4.60	116	Result
Gulfstream	11/06/1999	Daylami (IRE)	Saeed bin Suroor	Lanfranco Dettori	3	1	1.60	110	Result
Churchill	11/07/1998	Buck's Boy	P. Noel Hickey	Shane J. Sellers	2	4	3.60	114	Result
Hollywood	11/08/1997	Chief Bearhart	Mark R. Frostad	Jose A. Santos	5	1	1.90	119	Result
Woodbine	10/26/1996	Pilsudski (IRE)	Sir Michael R. Stoute	Walter R. Swinburn	9	1	13.70	122	Result
Belmont	10/28/1995	Northern Spur (IRE)	Ronald L. McAnally	Chris J. McCarron	12	3	3.95	124	Result
Churchill	11/05/1994	Tikkanen	Jonathan E. Pease	Mike E. Smith	9	1	16.60	132	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/1993	Kotashaan (FR)	Richard E. Mandella	Kent J. Desormeaux	13	1	1.50	123	Result
Gulfstream	10/31/1992	Fraise	William I. Mott	Patrick A. Valenzuela	7	1	14.00	117	Result
Churchill	11/02/1991	Miss Alleged	Pascal F. Bary	Eric Legrix	12	2	42.10	N/A	Result
Belmont	10/27/1990	In the Wings (GB)	Andre Fabre	Gary L. Stevens	2	1	1.90	N/A	Result
Gulfstream	11/04/1989	Prized	Neil D. Drysdale	Eddie J. Delahoussaye	8	2	8.80	N/A	Result
Churchill	11/05/1988	Great Communicator	Thad D. Ackel	Ray Sibille	1	4	12.40	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/21/1987	Theatrical (IRE)	William I. Mott	Pat Day	12	1	1.80	N/A	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/1986	Manila	LeRoy S. Jolley	Jose A. Santos	2	2	8.80	N/A	Result
Aqueduct	11/02/1985	Pebbles (GB)	Clive E. Brittain	Pat Eddery	13	1	2.20	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/10/1984	Lashkari (GB)	Alain de Royer-Dupre	Yves Saint-Martin	2	1	53.40	N/A	Result

Key Trends (41 renewals to date, one dead heat = 42 winners)

- ✓ 29/30 winners to have raced at the distance had been at least 2nd (Found in 2015 the exception)
- ✓ Layoff: US 35 days or less ('19 winner off 3 months); Euro any
- ✓ 41/42 aged 3-5yo; 6yo+ 1/69
- ✓ Euro 3yo's 9; US 3yo's 2 (last one in 1989)
- ✓ 33/42 won G1 that season (8/9 exceptions were Euro, & averaged 12.5/1). US *MUST* have won G1 same season
- ✓ 12/27 Euro winners last ran in the Arc (rarely the 'obvious' one, though Enable doubled up in '18)
- ✓ Arc winners are 1/7 in same season (Enable first horse to do the double)
- ✓ 8 US winners ran in Joe Hirsch, six of them winning that key prep (War Like Goddess won 2023)
- ✓ 28/31 since '94 had 3-8 season starts - 3-5; 4 or 5-9; 6 to 8-14
- ✓ 6 of last 13 had 6-8 seasonal runs, though mares Enable won off just 2 runs in '18 & Tarnawa off 3 in '20 (RR 5 runs in '24)
- ✓ Every winner to have had at least two 1m4f runs either won or was 100% ITM at the distance
- ✓ Europe 20.5 US 5.5 since 1999 (1 DH, 2xUS winners trained by Graham Motion, Englishman)
- ✓ APO'B 7 wins; Sir Michael Stoute 4; Fabre, Appleby 3 each; Motion, bin Suroor, Meehan, Mott 2 each
- ✓ European-trained horses have won the Turf a staggering 27 times prior to the 2025 renewal, emphasizing the transatlantic nature of the race as well as how it plays to the stamina strengths of the overseas runners
- ✓ Two horses - High Chaparral and Conduit - have won multiple editions of the Turf. High Chaparral's second win was the only dead heat to date in Breeders' Cup history
- ✓ Aidan O'Brien has won the Breeders' Cup Turf seven times, more than any other trainer
- ✓ *Rebel's Romance became the first horse aged six or older to win the Breeders' Cup Turf. Prior to the 2025 renewal, that's from 69 runners*

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10.25pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Classic (1m2f, Dirt)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/02/2024	Sierra Leone	Chad C. Brown	Flavien Prat	11	1	6.90	116	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2023	White Abarrio	Richard Dutrow, Jr.	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	2	2	2.60	116	Result
Keeneland	11/05/2022	Flightline	John W. Sadler	Flavien Prat	4	3	0.44	129	Result
Del Mar	11/06/2021	Knicks Go	Brad H. Cox	Joel Rosario	4	4	3.20	119	Result
Keeneland	11/07/2020	Authentic	Bob Baffert	John R. Velazquez	9	4	4.20	116	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2019	Vino Rosso	Todd A. Pletcher	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	10	2	4.60	117	Result
Churchill	11/03/2018	Accelerate	John W. Sadler	Joel Rosario	14	2	2.70	115	Result
Del Mar	11/04/2017	Gun Runner	Steven M. Asmussen	Florent Geroux	5	4	2.40	130	Result
Santa Anita	11/05/2016	Arrogate	Bob Baffert	Mike E. Smith	9	2	1.70	124	Result
Keeneland	10/31/2015	American Pharoah	Bob Baffert	Victor Espinoza	4	4	0.70	119	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2014	Bayern	Bob Baffert	Martin Garcia	7	4	6.10	113	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2013	Mucho Macho Man	Katherine Ritvo	Gary L. Stevens	6	2	4.00	119	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2012	Fort Larned	Ian R. Wilkes	Brian Joseph Hernandez, Jr.	4	4	9.40	122	Result
Churchill	11/05/2011	Drosselmeyer	William I. Mott	Mike E. Smith	2	1	14.80	117	Result
Churchill	11/06/2010	Blame	Albert M. Stall, Jr.	Garrett K. Gomez	5	1	5.20	119	Result
Santa Anita	11/07/2009	Zenyatta	John A. Shirreffs	Mike E. Smith	4	1	2.80	126	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2008	Raven's Pass	John H. M. Gosden	Lanfranco Dettori	8	1	13.50	122	Result
Monmouth	10/27/2007	Curlin	Steven M. Asmussen	Robby Albarado	4	1	4.40	118	Result
Churchill	11/04/2006	Invasor (ARG)	Kieran P. McLaughlin	Fernando Jara	11	1	6.70	123	Result
Belmont	10/29/2005	Saint Liam	Richard E. Dutrow, Jr.	Jerry D. Bailey	12	1	2.40	124	Result
Lone Star	10/30/2004	Ghostzapper	Robert J. Frankel	Javier Castellano	1	4	2.50	126	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2003	Pleasantly Perfect	Richard E. Mandella	Alex O. Solis	2	1	14.20	119	Result
Arlington	10/26/2002	Volponi	Philip G. Johnson	Jose A. Santos	2	2	43.50	128	Result
Belmont	10/27/2001	Tiznow	Jay M. Robbins	Chris J. McCarron	10	2	6.90	123	Result
Churchill	11/04/2000	Tiznow	Jay M. Robbins	Chris J. McCarron	12	4	9.20	123	Result
Gulfstream	11/06/1999	Cat Thief	D. Wayne Lukas	Pat Day	6	4	19.60	120	Result
Churchill	11/07/1998	Awesome Again	Patrick B. Byrne	Pat Day	3	1	4.70	123	Result
Hollywood	11/08/1997	Skip Away	Hubert Hine	Mike E. Smith	1	3	1.80	136	Result
Woodbine	10/26/1996	Alphabet Soup	David E. Hofmans	Chris J. McCarron	12	2	19.85	119	Result
Belmont	10/28/1995	Cigar	William I. Mott	Jerry D. Bailey	10	2	0.70	126	Result
Churchill	11/05/1994	Concern	Richard W. Small	Jerry D. Bailey	11	1	7.50	133	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/1993	Arcangues	Andre Fabre	Jerry D. Bailey	12	1	133.60	126	Result
Gulfstream	10/31/1992	A.P. Indy	Neil D. Drysdale	Eddie J. Delahoussaye	4	2	2.10	126	Result
Churchill	11/02/1991	Black Tie Affair (IRE)	Ernie T. Poulos	Jerry D. Bailey	8	4	4.00	N/A	Result
Belmont	10/27/1990	Unbridled	Carl A. Nafzger	Pat Day	14	1	6.60	N/A	Result
Gulfstream	11/04/1989	Sunday Silence	Charles E. Whittingham	Chris J. McCarron	8	1	2.00	N/A	Result
Churchill	11/05/1988	Alysheba	Jack C. Van Berg	Chris J. McCarron	5	1	1.50	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/21/1987	Ferdinand	Charles E. Whittingham	William Shoemaker	6	1	1.00	N/A	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/1986	Skywalker	Michael C. Whittingham	Laffit A. Pincay, Jr.	3	4	10.10	N/A	Result
Aqueduct	11/02/1985	Proud Truth	John M. Veitch	Jorge Velasquez	6	1	7.40	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/10/1984	Wild Again	Vincent A. Timpony	Pat Day	2	4	31.30	N/A	Result

Key Trends (41 renewals so far)

- ✓ 22 of the last 23 Classic winners had 3-8 runs that season ('22 winner Flightline only 2 starts - machine!!)
- ✓ 40/41 ran 1-2-3 LTO (24 x 1st; 9 x 2nd; 6 x 3rd)
- ✓ 37/41 won a G1 that season
- ✓ 41/41 aged 3-5 (6yo+ 0/37) – 3yo 14 wins; 4yo 17 wins; 5yo 10 wins
- ✓ 12/14 40+ day layoffs posted Bullet and/or Stamina works since last run ('24 winner Sierra Leone did not)
- ✓ 11/14 3yo winners ran in at least one Triple Crown race (1 exception was a Euro)
- ✓ 24 of the last 29 posted 100+ Beyer last time but below previous best ('19, '20, '22, '23, '24 new or equal Beyer top LTO)
- ✓ 5 of last 6 winners posted new or equal Beyer PB figure last time
- ✓ Where no distance form, check breeding for stamina credentials
- ✓ Bob Baffert 4, John Sadler 2, Steve Asmussen 2, Bill Mott 2

How the runners fit

Classic	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRF Morning Line	Odds Differential	Age	G1 win in year?	Seasonal runs	(Bullet/Stamina for layoff)	1-2-3 LTO	Best Distance Beyer (CRP)	US 3yo ran in 1+ Triple Crown race?	100 Dirt Record	Top Figure	Layoff	Based	pg				
																						100+ ITO Beyer, ^ if	LR	2LR	3LR
Fierceness	Todd Pletcher	1	10	2.50	2.67	2.50	6	5	125	4	G1	4	B	1	111	NA	4-2-1	111	63	NY	107	3	2	3	2
Baeza	John Shirreffs	2	7	2.00	2.00	1.75	17	16	107	3	G1	7	S	1	102	2TC	3-0-0	105	42	SoCal	105*	1	3	2	1
Nevada Beach	Bob Baffert	3	10	2.00	2.33	2.50	26	21	125	3	G1	4	S	1	NA	N	0-0-0	101	35	SoCal	101*	1	3	3	3
Contrary Thinking	Chad Brown	4	14	4.00	4.00	3.50	151	51	300	5	N	5		7	91	NA	1-0-0	86	62	NY	91	4	4	4	2
Forever Young	Yoshito Yahagi	5	6	1.00	2.00	1.50	9	7	133	4	G1	3		1	109	NA	6-3-0	109	31	Jpn	?	0	2	4	0
Sovereignty	Bill Mott	6	9	2.50	2.67	2.25	2.75	2.2	146	3	3xG1	6	B	1	115	2TC	3-3-0	115	70	NY	115*	2	3	3	1
Sierra Leone	Chad Brown	7	4	1.00	1.00	1.00	6	9	63	4	G1	4	B	2	112	NA	5-1-2	109	62	NY	106	1	1	1	1
Mindframe	Todd Pletcher	8	7	3.00	2.50	2.33	11	11	100	4	2xG1	4	B	DNF	101	NA	2-0-1	105	62	NY	NA	-	3	2	2
Journalism	Michael McCarthy	9	7	1.00	1.67	1.75	13	11	120	3	3xG1	7	B	2	105	3TC	4-1-3	108	63	SoCal	102	1	1	3	2
Antiquarian	Todd Pletcher	10	11	2.00	2.33	2.75	21	15	143	4	G1	4	B	1	108	NA	4-1-1	108	62	NY	108*	1	3	3	4

Pace:

This is definitely not loaded with speed. The outsider and no hoper, Contrary Thinking, is a very likely early leader based on recent evidence, with the close ups expected to include Antiquarian, Nevada Beach, Fierceness and perhaps Sovereignty. Sierra Leone is almost always played late though might be handier if this gets tactical.

Key Trials:

Go to [breederscup.com](https://www.breederscup.com) for race videos.

Trends Contenders:

Sovereignty, Fierceness

Classic Form

The three-year-olds are headed by **Sovereignty**, winner of his last four including two legs – Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes – of the Triple Crown; he didn't contest the Preakness. More recently, he's added a G2 and then the mid-season 3yo championship, the Travers Stakes.

He won the 19-runner Ky Derby by a length and a half, the Belmont by three and the Travers by, count 'em, ten lengths! He is a legit champ in the classic generation and he's put up some monster speed figures, but... he's yet to face older rivals.

Here, there are three highly credible four-year-olds in Fierceness, Forever Young and defending Classic champ, Sierra Leone.

Fierceness got closest to Sierra Leone a year ago when they both represented the 3yo crop and, candidly, showed the older horses as the moderate collective they were. This season has been a mixed bag for the Pletcher-trained Repole-owned top notcher. He clunked in the G1 Whitney (9f) before waltzing by Journalism in the G1 Pacific Classic over course and distance. That's an important form line because it pitted one of the best three-year-olds against elders, something which has not happened a lot this campaign.

Collateral form is for wimps, largely, but in this case it helps to contextualise the threes against the fours and up. Journalism was three and a quarter lengths behind Fierceness in the Pac Classic and three in hock to Sovereignty in the Belmont. The suggestion, which is somewhat tenuous, is that there may not be that much between the age categories.

An alternative reading is that Journalism doesn't quite get the mile and a quarter, having lost ground from the final call to the line in each of his three ten-furlong attempts. Either way, Fierceness hasn't run since then, 30th August, and I have a further reservation about him which we'll get to shortly.

Sierra Leone looks sure to be involved once more, the Chad Brown-trained Coolmore/Peter Brandt ownership stallion prospect having enjoyed a light campaign clearly geared around retention of his Breeders' Cup title. A pipe opening defeat was followed by a decent effort in the G1 Stephen Foster where he made a big mid-race move before looking to flatten out and then closing again at the death.

He was then sent to Saratoga and the Whitney (G1). A lot happened. First, **Contrary Thinking**, the complete rag in the Classic field, showed why he's entered: running in the Peter Brandt (co-owner of Sierra Leone) colours, he charged up to contest the pace – in so doing he acted as a front-end spoiler. That will be his job again here, and woe betide any horse crazy enough to lock up with him in the first half mile.

The second point of note was the classy mid-race move by Fierceness, who sauntered into the lead on the home turn before stopping as though amiss. And finally, there was the last to first victory of Sierra Leone, comfortably even at this furlong shorter trip.

The champ had one more race after the Whitney, in the Jockey Club Gold Cup (10f, G1). Mindframe took a bump from a veering rival out of the stalls and decamped his jockey, before Contrary Thinking went tearing ahead once more. He was spent with more than three furlongs to go and, notably, no rival went with him on the front: he essentially served no purpose in the race.

Antiquarian was well positioned throughout and a fair and square winner, while Sierra Leone rattled home as ever, but had too much to do on this occasion. Too much to do was a feature of his three-year-old campaign prior to the 2024 Classic so if you like him, keep in mind it might be a very frustrating wager!

Let's talk about those other two four-year-olds. **Mindframe** had amassed an unbeaten season, three for three, in a Grade 2 and a brace of Churchill Downs Grade 1's before that ignoble unship last time. The merit of that hat-trick, in the context of the Classic at

least, has to be questioned. Yes, he produced a solid number in winning the Stephen Foster, but he had the run of the race against what looked like an under-cooked Sierra Leone. If his rider could have stayed aboard (no blame attached from here) it would have been very interesting to see how the rematch played out; we'll need to wait for Saturday night now, without a dress rehearsal to frame opinions.

Mindframe races handily and is not certain – to my eye, at least – to get the Classic trip.

The trip should be less of a concern with **Antiquarian** after his JCGC defeat of Sierra Leone last time, but that was a first win from four attempts over as far. Saying that, he'd have won in another stride on his penultimate run over the same course and distance so he sees it out well enough. He's a prominent racer generally and will presumably ignore the quarter horse circus act from Contrary Thinking, so may be one of those to get first run on the defender.

~~Todd Pletcher runs four (!) in this. As well as Antiquarian, Mindframe and Fierceness, he also saddles **Locked**, tamed in third behind Antiquarian two back before turning the tables on that one's head vanquisher, Phileas Fogg, in the nine-furlong Woodward (G2) last time. He has only one number that puts him in the frame in this strong-looking Classic, that being a demolition job in the Santa Anita Handicap back in early March. The time was great but the form, eight months later, looks middling. It's impossible not to respect Pletcher, but if you're running four, maybe you don't have any...? [Locked has been withdrawn]~~

There is one further four-year-old in the field and, bar the '24 winner, he's the most interesting to me. Step forward Japanese raider, **Forever Young**. This lad has excellent globe-trotting form: last season he collected the Saudi Derby and UAE Derby before narrowly and unluckily missing by a head in the Kentucky Derby. I felt they should have appealed the verdict but, in any case, it was a huge effort. After a trip back to Japan and a workaday score in a Stakes race he was back for the Classic, giving best only to Sierra Leone and Fierceness.

This term, he picked up the uber-valuable Saudi Cup, ran third in the Dubai World Cup and then, like last year, prepped at the beginning of October in a minor Stakes at home. He's a big game player and is a podium candidate once more.

Meanwhile, back to the classic cohort. We've met Sovereignty already but have yet to fully acquaint with the two chaps that have made him what he is, **Journalism** and Baeza.

The former was referenced in Fierceness despatches and has played the best supporting actor role three times in 2025. As well as silver in the Pacific Classic, he filled the same position in both the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes, taking in the rump of Sovereignty each time. Betwixt and between that triple second he interspersed a couple of wins, notably in the other Triple Crown leg, the Preakness.

In six consecutive Grade 1's – the Santa Anita Derby and Haskell Invitational make up the sextet – he's run 121212. He is, then, a model of consistency and class. But, as mentioned earlier, does he quite see out the ten furlong range?

Baeza is a firm favourite of mine. He, too, has been on the Triple Crown premises all season, taking the bronze medal in both the Ky Derby and the Belmont. He looked a tad unfortunate in the Durrby – it's that sort of race – but had fewer excuses when bashed by Sovereignty in the Belmont. Baeza got closer, within a length, to Sovereignty in the Jim Dandy and gained a deserved G1 win in the Pennsylvania Derby last time out. He, too, has put up very consistent figures this term but, like Sovereignty, is yet to face elders.

And that leaves the only three-year-old to have raced against elders twice, **Nevada Beach**. He is trained by Bob Baffert, the one trainer who gets a pass with his three-year-olds swerving the Triple Crown trail. That said, they usually take in the Travers en route to the Classic; this fella has progressed from a maiden special weight to a Listed second to a Listed win to, most recently, Grade 1 glory in the 1m1f Goodwood at Santa Anita.

His sectionals in the Goodwood, where he saw off 2024 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile winner Full Serrano – sent off 1-2 on the day, were fastest in the field at each of the last four calls and he looks a solid stayer; he'll need to be, stepping up in distance as well as quality and quantity of opposition.

Classic Form Contenders

Although some of this year's races are arguably a notch below standard, the Classic is just that: a classic matchup between the top three-year-olds and the three best older horses in training. But they all have something to prove. So here's why each runner *won't* win the Classic!

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11.05pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Mile (1m, Turf)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/02/2024	More Than Looks	Cherie DeVaux	Jose Ortiz	6	1	6.90	123	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2023	Master Of The Seas (RE)	Charles Appleby	William Buick	13	1	3.30	116	Result
Keeneland	11/05/2022	Modern Games (IRE)	Charles Appleby	William Buick	4	1	1.38	120	Result
Del Mar	11/06/2021	Space Blues (IRE)	Charles Appleby	William Buick	2	2	2.10	120	Result
Keeneland	11/07/2020	Order of Australia (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Pierre-Charles Boudot	14	2	73.20	115	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2019	Uni (GB)	Chad C. Brown	Joel Rosario	9	1	3.60	121	Result
Churchill	11/03/2018	Expert Eye (GB)	Sir Michael R. Stoute	Lanfranco Dettori	6	1	5.90	122	Result
Del Mar	11/04/2017	World Approval	Mark E. Casse	John R. Velazquez	5	2	2.70	122	Result
Santa Anita	11/05/2016	Tourist	William I. Mott	Joel Rosario	5	1	12.40	128	Result
Keeneland	10/31/2015	Tepin	Mark E. Casse	Julien R. Leparoux	7	3	4.90	125	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2014	Karakontie (JPN)	Jonathan E. Pease	Stephane Pasquier	14	1	30.00	121	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2013	Wise Dan	Charles LoPresti	Jose Lezcano	8	1	0.80	119	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2012	Wise Dan	Charles LoPresti	John R. Velazquez	2	3	1.80	123	Result
Churchill	11/05/2011	Court Vision	Dale L. Romans	Robby Albarado	9	1	64.80	113	Result
Churchill	11/06/2010	Goldikova (IRE)	Freddie Head	Olivier Peslier	10	1	1.30	120	Result
Santa Anita	11/07/2009	Goldikova (IRE)	Freddie Head	Olivier Peslier	11	1	1.40	123	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2008	Goldikova (IRE)	Freddie Head	Olivier Peslier	4	3	1.80	113	Result
Monmouth	10/27/2007	Kip Deville	Richard E. Dutrow, Jr.	Cornelio H. Velasquez	7	3	8.20	120	Result
Churchill	11/04/2006	Miesque's Approval	Martin D. Wolfson	Eddie Castro	10	1	24.30	116	Result
Belmont	10/29/2005	Artie Schiller	James A. Jerkens	Garrett K. Gomez	2	2	5.60	119	Result
Lone Star	10/30/2004	Singletary	Don Chatlos	David Romero Flores	10	2	16.50	125	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2003	Six Perfections (FR)	Pascal F. Bary	Jerry D. Bailey	12	1	5.30	118	Result
Arlington	10/26/2002	Domedriver (IRE)	Pascal F. Bary	Thierry Thulliez	5	1	26.00	123	Result
Belmont	10/27/2001	Val Royal (FR)	Julio C. Canani	Jose Valdivia, Jr.	11	1	5.10	119	Result
Churchill	11/04/2000	War Chant	Neil D. Drysdale	Gary L. Stevens	11	1	3.50	114	Result
Gulfstream	11/06/1999	Silic (FR)	Julio C. Canani	Corey S. Nakatani	12	1	7.20	124	Result
Churchill	11/07/1998	Da Hoss	Michael W. Dickinson	John R. Velazquez	2	1	11.60	116	Result
Hollywood	11/08/1997	Spinning World	Jonathan E. Pease	Cash B. Asmussen	3	2	2.10	117	Result
Woodbine	10/26/1996	Da Hoss	Michael W. Dickinson	Gary L. Stevens	8	1	8.45	117	Result
Belmont	10/28/1995	Ridgewood Pearl (GB)	John M. Oxx	John Patrick Murtagh	2	3	2.55	121	Result
Churchill	11/05/1994	Barathea (IRE)	Luca M. Cumani	Lanfranco Dettori	1	2	10.40	125	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/1993	Lure	Claude R. McGaughey III	Mike E. Smith	12	4	1.30	118	Result
Gulfstream	10/31/1992	Lure	Claude R. McGaughey III	Mike E. Smith	1	4	5.40	119	Result
Churchill	11/02/1991	Opening Verse	Richard J. Lundy	Patrick A. Valenzuela	4	2	26.70	N/A	Result
Belmont	10/27/1990	Royal Academy	Michael V. O'Brien	Lester Piggott	1	1	2.80	N/A	Result
Gulfstream	11/04/1989	Steinlen (GB)	D. Wayne Lukas	Jose A. Santos	2	2	1.80	N/A	Result
Churchill	11/05/1988	Miesque	Francois Boutin	Freddie Head	8	1	2.00	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/21/1987	Miesque	Francois Boutin	Freddie Head	4	2	3.60	N/A	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/1986	Last Tycoon (IRE)	Robert Collet	Yves Saint-Martin	7	3	35.90	N/A	Result
Aqueduct	11/02/1985	Cozzene	Jan H. Nerud	Walter A. Guerra	5	2	3.60	N/A	Result
Hollywood	11/10/1984	Royal Heroine (IRE)	John H. M. Gosden	Fernando Toro	10	1	1.70	N/A	Result

Key Trends (41 renewals to date)

- ✓ 21 of last 23 winners had 4-6 seasonal starts ('24 winner only raced 2x in season)
- ✓ 19 of last 23 winners had 2+ mile turf wins (exceptions all Euros)
- ✓ Repeat winners common (Miesque, Lure, Da Hoss, Goldikova, Wise Dan)
- ✓ 17 of the last 29 were US winners; 7 French-trained (UK/Ire back in biz, after long blank: wins in '18, '20, '21, '22, '23)
- ✓ 10/12 3yo winners were Euros (4 fillies); 12/15 5yo+ winners were US (exception Goldikova #3, and 2x C Appleby)
- ✓ Euro G1 win important (Expert Eye, Order of Australia no G1 win), US any Graded win
- ✓ 28 of the last 31 ran 123 last time, or finished within 4L of the winner
- ✓ Career record at 1m of BC Mile winners since 2002: Runs 157, 1st 90 (57%), 2nd 38 (24%)
- ✓ Thus, the last 23 BC Mile winners had a collective 81% 1-2 record at the distance
- ✓ Only 1 front runner has been 1st or 2nd since 2000 (Smooth Like Strait, 2nd in 2021); Lure (1992,1993) only winning front-runner
- ✓ Charlie Appleby won in '21, '22, '23 - 3rd in '24
- ✓ 7 winners since 2005 had run in the race the previous year, incl 64/1 Court Vision, 12/1 Tourist and '24 winner More Than Looks

How the runners fit

Mile	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRP Morning Line	Odds Differential	G1 win Euro / Graded win US	Seasonal runs	Sharp last run?	UK-Ire/French / US	Turf mile win?	60%+ 1-2 turf mile SR	Age	Top Distance Beyer/ RPR*	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
One Stripe	Graham Motion	1	2	0.50	0.67	0.50	51	31	167	G1 Saf	3	N	US/Saf	3	75%	4	91	1	0	1	0
Notable Speech	Charlie Appleby	2	7	1.00	1.67	1.75	3.25	3.5	90	G1	5	Y	UK	3	44%	4	123*	1	1	3	2
Sahlan	Francis-Henri Graffard	3	5	1.50	1.33	1.25	7.5	7	108	G1	5	Y	Fr	2	60%	3	117*	2	1	1	1
The Lion In Winter	Aidan O'Brien	4	11	2.50	3.00	2.75	8	7	117	2nd G1	6	Y	Ire	0	33%	3	117*	2	3	4	2
Program Trading	Chad Brown	5	9	1.50	2.00	2.25	17	11	160	2nd G1	2	Y	US	0	100%	5	99	1	2	3	3
Gran Oriente	Jose Alvarez	6	1	0.50	0.33	0.25	67	31	220	G1 Chi	5	Y	Chi	0	0%	4	?	1	0	0	0
Johannes	Tim Yakteen	7	8	1.50	2.00	2.00	12	9	138	G2	2	Y	US	5	86%	5	103 '24	2	1	3	2
Formidable Man	Michael McCarthy	8	8	2.50	2.00	2.00	13	11	120	G1	5	Y	US	4	71%	4	98	2	3	1	2
Argine	Mitsumasa Nakauchida	9	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	21	21	100	G3	3	Y	Jpn	2	57%	5	116*	0	0	0	0
Jonquil	Andrew Balding	10	8	2.00	2.00	2.00	15	11	140	G2	6	y	UK	1	67%	3	117*	1	3	2	2
Rhetorical	Will Walden	11	9	1.50	2.00	2.25	10	6	180	G1	4	Y	US	2	100%	4	101	2	1	3	3
Gas Me Up	Kevin Attard	12	5	1.50	1.33	1.25	51	31	167	G2	4	y	Can	2	40%	5	94	2	1	1	1
Qirat	Ralph Beckett	13	12	2.50	3.00	3.00	41	21	200	G1	5	N	UK	1	33%	4	114*	2	3	4	3

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11.45pm GMT: Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (1m, Dirt)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/02/2024	Full Serrano	John Sadler	Joel Rosario	3	3	13.40	117	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2023	Cody's Wish	William I. Mott	Junior Alvarado	2	1	0.80	116	Result
Keeneland	11/05/2022	Cody's Wish	William I. Mott	Junior Alvarado	6	1	2.16	116	Result
Del Mar	11/06/2021	Life Is Good	Todd A. Pletcher	Irada Ortiz, Jr.	5	4	0.70	119	Result
Keeneland	11/07/2020	Knicks Go	Brad H. Cox	Joel Rosario	5	4	1.80	114	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2019	Spun to Run	Juan Carlos Guerrero	Irada Ortiz, Jr.	3	4	9.10	116	Result
Churchill	11/03/2018	City of Light	Michael W. McCarthy	Javier Castellano	1	4	2.60	126	Result
Del Mar	11/03/2017	Battle of Midway	Jerry Hollendorfer	Flavien Prat	9	2	14.20	133	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2016	Tamarkuz	Kieran P. McLaughlin	Mike E. Smith	8	1	11.90	115	Result
Keeneland	10/30/2015	Liam's Map	Todd A. Pletcher	Javier Castellano	3	2	0.50	125	Result
Santa Anita	10/31/2014	Goldencents	Leandro Mora	Rafael Bejarano	1	4	0.70	125	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2013	Goldencents	Doug F. O'Neill	Rafael Bejarano	11	4	3.80	113	Result
Santa Anita	11/03/2012	Tapizar	Steven M. Asmussen	Corey S. Nakatani	8	3	15.30	109	Result
Churchill	11/05/2011	Caleb's Posse	Donnie K. Von Hemel	Rajiv Maragh	8	1	6.80	122	Result
Churchill	11/06/2010	Dakota Phone	Jerry Hollendorfer	Joel Rosario	1	1	37.70	105	Result
Santa Anita	11/07/2009	Furthest Land	Michael J. Maker	Julien R. Leparoux	2	2	21.30	117	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2008	Albertus Maximus	Vladimir Cerin	Garrett K. Gomez	7	1	6.30	116	Result
Monmouth	10/26/2007	Corinthian	James A. Jerkens	Kent J. Desormeaux	7	1	3.70	124	Result

Key Trends (18 renewals to date)

- ✓ 17/18 notched at least one 100+ Beyer in their last two races ('24 winner Full Serrano 99 LTO on only his 2nd US start)
- ✓ 15/18 ran in a Grade 1 or 2 last time out
- ✓ Seasonal run breakdown for winners: 2-1/3-2/4-6/5-1/6-2/7-1/8-2/9-2/10-1
- ✓ # of seasonal runs since 2012: 5-8-4-3-3-9-4-7-2-4-4-4-4
- ✓ Layoff: 13/18 27-42 days ('18 winner 70 days, '19 winner 20 days, '22 winner 70 days, '24 winner 63 days)
- ✓ 9/18 'turned back' in distance (4/9 exceptions were Goldencents & Cody's Wish)
- ✓ Top 3 favourites: Fav 6/18; 2nd fav 3/18; 3rd fav 1/18 [8/18 outside top 3 in betting]
- ✓ Age 3-5/4-9/5-3/6-1 = 14/18 aged 3 or 4yo (1 exception was repeat winner, Cody's Wish)
- ✓ 16/18 had won a Graded Stakes in career
- ✓ 13/18 had won at a mile
- ✓ Baffert 0/12 in Dirt Mile. 2 wins each for Mott, Hollendorfer and Pletcher

Dirt Mile Form

There's not much of a draw bias to speak of, mainly because the Dirt Mile rarely fills: in its 18 renewals the average field size was a little less than 10. Ten go to post this time.

Still, eight of the 18 Dirt Mile winners jumped from boxes 1-3 and another two from stall 5. It's not massively out of line with representation.

In contrast to turf races, a third of the 18 DM winners did so from the front; seven came from the back of the pack, and the other five from somewhere in between. It is the leaders who have out-performed representation here.

Will Take It has the inside post, but he just doesn't belong here. Beaten six-plus lengths in each of his three attempts at Graded level, he's fared well this year in optional claimers; they're a world away from this.

In 2 is the first of three Bob Baffert entries, the lightly raced three-year-old **Goal Oriented**. He had a crack at the Preakness after a maiden and optional claimer at the start of his career, finishing a fair fourth that day. He's since run third in the Grade 1's Haskell and Penn Derby, both at nine furlongs. I'm a fan of horses 'turning back' in trip so that's a plus for me. This lad has been shooting bullets in his work all over the place in the lead up to the race and comes in ready to deliver a big one.

To his outside is **Nysos**, who is indeed a very nice 'oss. Four years old, he's had only six races over three seasons so has clearly had some challenges. He's a neck away from a perfect record so far, that sole defeat coming in the 7f Grade 1 Churchill Downs Stakes on his first run of the year. That was a cracking performance, off a 15 month layoff and on a soup of a track where he missed the kick; and he's looked all class since, albeit in small fields of inferior rivals.

Baffert has been quoted as saying he wishes Nysos was entered for the Classic, but he's proven at this mile range, will let the early speedsters do their thing and has every chance of blowing them away in the straight.

Mystik Dan is the same age as Nysos but has 16 lifetime starts to his name, and five wins. He's been beaten in eight of his nine Grade 1 attempts but, notably, the win was in last year's Kentucky Derby where he saw off Sierra Leone and Forever Young in a messy but undoubtedly high-class finish. He's since run some good races in defeat, all at beyond this mile. His form stacks up with many in this field and he has place chances if bagging a good position early.

In 5 is **Tumbarumba**, a five-year-old veteran of 24 races and seven wins, including his last two. They were in minor stakes and this is too hot for a fella without a triple-digit Beyer number in his career.

Full Serrano is the defending champion and he did me a massive favour last year! He had a long layoff prior to his comeback run – and win – in an optional claimer at the beginning of September. A seven-length verdict there was only what was expected as the 1-10 favourite, and he achieved plenty more in defeat on his next and most recent start when runner up in the G1 Goodwood.

Drawn in 6 here, he has lots of speed and can hang tough; but there's more early dash on paper than there was last year. Now aged six, he's bidding to do what only Cody's Wish and Goldencents did before and win the Dirt Mile back-to-back.

Citizen Bull was also a Breeders' Cup winner last year, in the Juvenile, and after an abortive non-staying tilt at the Triple Crown trail in the spring he dropped right back to seven furlongs but was outmatched at that range in a G1. That was early June, and we've seen him only once since, in a course and distance Listed race which he won by more than five lengths. Turns out he's a miler, go figure!

That wasn't much of a race to be fair, just three going to post, and the Bull was soon clear and in no danger as the 2/5 fav. Speed figure wise, it was a joint career top and took him to two from two at Del Mar, both at the mile (or mile and sixteenth); but this is tougher.

Chad runs **Chancer McPatrick**, who has stall 8. He won his only mile race, in the G1 Champagne as a juvenile last season, and has alternated between seven and nine furlong races since. His most recent effort, in a 7f G1 was better than first glance. Completely outpaced off a blistering half mile, he rallied into fading rivals to get within 3½L of the winner. He clearly needed more road, which he'll get today. Small place chance.

In 9 is a Uruguayan horse called **Touch Of Destiny**. He's won all six of his races in his homeland, the last three by miles. Who knows how good he might be? I'm sorely tempted to have a fiver on to find out... His track works in California have been very good at least.

2023 Classic winner **White Abarrio** is in the outside stall. It's fair to say I'm not a fan of his trainer, Saffie Joseph Jr., or of the rules that have allowed him to cheat with impunity in the past. That's not a comment that applies only to him, of course, or even to US racing; there are bad apples in all barrels. Nevertheless, I have a jaundiced eye when considering this – admittedly very handsome – horse.

Now six, he was good in Gulfstream in the spring but time has looked against him since then for all that his Whitney run two back was at least credible. His best races definitely put him in the mix, but I have to let him – and his trainer – beat me.

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12.25am GMT: Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (1m3f, Turf)

Past Winners

Track	Date	Dist	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	PP	RS	Odds	SR	Chart
Del Mar	11/02/2024	11f	Moir	Kevin Attard	Flavien Prat	9	1	5.80	117	Result
Santa Anita	11/04/2023	10f	Inspiral (GB)	John H. M. Gosden	Lanfranco Dettori	6	1	2.50	121	Result
Keeneland	11/05/2022	9.5f	Tuesday (IRE)	Aidan P. O'Brien	Ryan L. Moore	5	1	4.19	122	Result
Del Mar	11/06/2021	11f	Loves Only You (JPN)	Yoshito Yahagi	Yuga Kawada	8	2	4.30	120	Result
Keeneland	11/07/2020	9.5f	Audarya (FR)	J. R. Fanshawe	Pierre-Charles Boudot	11	1	17.80	120	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2019	10f	Iridessa (IRE)	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	Wayne Lordan	1	1	13.20	120	Result
Churchill	11/03/2018	11f	Sistercharlie (IRE)	Chad C. Brown	John R. Velazquez	6	1	3.30	116	Result
Del Mar	11/04/2017	9f	Wuheid	Charles Appleby	William Buick	5	3	11.20	123	Result
Santa Anita	11/05/2016	10f	Queen's Trust (GB)	Sir Michael R. Stoute	Lanfranco Dettori	11	1	8.00	120	Result
Keeneland	10/31/2015	9.5f	Stephanie's Kitten	Chad C. Brown	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	9	1	7.80	118	Result
Santa Anita	11/01/2014	10f	Dayatthespa	Chad C. Brown	Javier Castellano	4	1	5.50	113	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2013	10f	Dank (GB)	Sir Michael R. Stoute	Ryan L. Moore	1	3	1.50	117	Result
Santa Anita	11/02/2012	10f	Zagora (FR)	Chad C. Brown	Javier Castellano	2	2	9.20	108	Result
Churchill	11/04/2011	11f	Perfect Shirl	Roger L. Attfield	John R. Velazquez	7	1	27.80	115	Result
Churchill	11/05/2010	11f	Shared Account	H. Graham Motion	Edgar S. Prado	5	2	46.00	115	Result
Santa Anita	11/06/2009	10f	Midday (GB)	Henry Cecil	Tom Queally	6	2	2.30	118	Result
Santa Anita	10/24/2008	10f	Forever Together	Jonathan E. Sheppard	Julien R. Leparoux	3	1	4.90	107	Result
Monmouth	10/27/2007	11f	Lahudood (GB)	Kieran P. McLaughlin	Alan Garcia	5	2	11.70	119	Result
Churchill	11/04/2006	11f	Ouija Board (GB)	Edward A.L. Dunlop	Lanfranco Dettori	2	2	1.40	126	Result
Belmont	10/29/2005	10f	Intercontinental (GB)	Robert J. Frankel	Rafael Bejarano	10	4	15.10	116	Result
Lone Star	10/30/2004	11f	Ouija Board (GB)	Edward A.L. Dunlop	Kieren Fallon	5	1	0.90	123	Result
Santa Anita	10/25/2003	10f	Islington (IRE)	Sir Michael R. Stoute	Kieren Fallon	4	2	2.90	121	Result
Arlington	10/26/2002	10f	Starine (FR)	Robert J. Frankel	John R. Velazquez	11	1	13.20	120	Result
Belmont	10/27/2001	10f	Banks Hill (GB)	Andre Fabre	Olivier Peslier	5	2	6.00	120	Result
Churchill	11/04/2000	11f	Perfect Sting	Joseph F. Orseno	Jerry D. Bailey	8	1	5.00	111	Result
Gulfstream	11/06/1999	11f	Soaring Softly	James J. Toner	Jerry D. Bailey	12	1	3.60	113	Result

Key Trends (26 renewals to date)

- ✓ US/import 12 Europe 12 Japan 1 (2021) Canada 1 (2024)
- ✓ 9/9 US/Can winners 1st/2nd LTO; 3/4 ex-Euro imports 1st LTO; 2/12 Euro 1st LTO! (inc '23 winner, Inspiral)
- ✓ Layoff: US/import 10/12 35 days or less; Euro, anything goes!; Japan win off 65 days, Canada win off 49 days
- ✓ Age: 3-8 (all Euro, incl '16, '17, '19, '22 winners); 4-11; 5-6 (inc '21 Japan & '24 Canada winners); 6+-1
- ✓ Since 2007, Euro 3yo: 5, US: 8, Euro 4yo+: 3, Japan 1, Canada 1
- ✓ Since 2016, 6/9 winners were UK/Ire (and 1 Jpn, 1 US, 1 Can)
- ✓ 22/26 - 4-7 runs this season (3 had 3 starts, Tuesday '22 had 8 starts!)
- ✓ 9 of 12 US winners had a race at Keeneland that season
- ✓ Since 2012, Chad Brown 4, Europe 7 (all 11/1 or shorter), Japan 1, Canada 1
- ✓ No US trainer except Chad Brown has won this since 2011!
- ✓ 4 wins for Chad Brown (first win for APOB in '22 at the 18th attempt, currently 1 from 20)

Filly & Mare Turf Form Contenders

There might be a bit of value here. If you feel, as I do, that wide is tough, then you can take out (at the prices) See The Fire, She Feels Pretty, and Bedtime Story, all drawn 11+.

Of course, any of them *could* win, but they've been set more of a task than simply being the best filly or mare in the field.

More kindly berthed are the Appleby pair of Cinderella's Dream (9) and Diamond Rain (6), and Gezora in 5. I think they are the trio on which to focus.

Picking between them is not easy. Cinders is a year older and Buick will be desperate to redeem himself; the fact he's chosen her over Diamond Rain nods to the perceived pecking order. Billy Loughnane gets a great opportunity on the latter filly and it'd be another superb story if 'The Kid' could win one.

But it's not a storyline I want to wager, unless she drifts a bit from current odds.

No, I make it a coin toss between Cinderella's Dream and Gezora, and I'm happy to be bet both at roughly 5/1 each (2/1 dutched). That should offer two to shout at down the stretch and insure against one getting in a traffic pickle; which doesn't preclude both getting caught in the same jam. Such are Breeders' Cup races on the sod!

VERDICT:

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