

Breeders' Cup 2025

Compendium

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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
- ✓ Trends picks
- ✓ Run style analysis / projected pace maps
- ✓ Links to race videos on the breederscup.com website
- ✓ Previous winners, post positions, tote odds and run styles
- ✓ Full runner by runner form previews
- ✓ Form contenders and verdicts

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

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	Ns 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 Pair	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 Arizona Blaze, 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: extremely tricky and I want a bit of a price about a horse with a setup. All the way or late late late have been the two ways of winning this. I'm hoping for Military Code to be the late late show.

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)

How the runners fit

Juvenile Fillies	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRF Morning Line	Odds Differential	Career Starts	Improved Beyer up in trip?	Layoff	Graded Stakes win/Frizette place?	Top Route Figure	90+ Beyer, or 80+ 1st 2 starts?	Best Beyer LTO?	Ran sharp LTO?	1R	2LR	3LR	4LR
Iron Orchard	Danny Gargan	1	11	3.50	3.67	3.67	9	7	133	3	N	27	G1 Frz	79	N	N	Y	3	4	4	
Bottle Of Rouge	Bob Baffert	2	9	3.50	3.00	3.00	4.5	5.5	78	3	Y	58	G1	76	N	N	Y	3	4	2	
Meaning	Michael McCarthy	3	4	4.00	4.00	4.00	13	16	80	1	NA	41	N	NA	N	Y	Y	4			1
Percy's Bar	Ben Colebrook	4	8	2.50	2.33	2.00	6.5	5.5	122	4	Y	28	G1	80	N	Y	Y	4	1	2	
Tommy Jo	Todd Pletcher	5	8	3.00	2.67	2.67	6	4.5	143	3	N	28	G1	85	N	N	Y	3	3	2	
La Ville Lumiere	Michael McCarthy	6	11	2.00	2.33	2.75	51	21	250	4	N	27	N	73	N	N	Y	2	2	3	4
Explora	Bob Baffert	7	10	3.00	3.33	3.33	4.5	3.5	140	3	N	27	G2	83	N	N	Y	2	4	4	
Super Corredora	John Sadler	8	10	4.00	3.33	3.33	17	16	107	3	Y	20	N	78	N	Y	Y	4	4	2	
La Wally	Mark Glatt	9	6	2.00	2.00	2.00	21	11	200	3	Y	27	2nd G2	76	N	Y	Y	2	2	2	

Pace:

The once raced Meaning led gate to wire for her debut win but this is deeper. Expect Super Corredora to challenge early along with, perhaps, Iron Orchard. The fancied Baffert pair have flashed speed in some of their races but also tactical versatility in others.

Key Trials:

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

Trends Contenders:

Explora, Tommy Jo

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.

Juvenile Fillies Form Contenders

This is a very tough race to call. I'm inclined to oppose the Baffert pair based on their prices and his near two-decade, nine single digit odds runners, drought in the Juvenile Fillies. Of the two, I'd side with Explora's more conventional prep and proven stamina; but she's short enough.

I feel the Frizette form of Iron Orchard has been underestimated. Sure, there was only a nose between the first two and the runner up had been beaten a mile by Tommy Jo and Percy's Bar in the Spinaway, but that horse, Rileytale, just couldn't go the seven-furlong lick there and looked like being tailed off last before finishing. She definitely appreciated the longer Frizette. Moreover, Iron Orchard was barely more than nudged and nudled home that day; she didn't look to have a very hard race.

And finally, it's the Frizette! All of the East Coast trainers target that race, and none of them bar the second got to within four and a half lengths of the winner. There were three Pletchers, two Saffie Josephs, a Brad Cox, a Kenny McPeck and a Shug McGaughey in behind.

There are similar ifs and buts about the Alcibiades form: Percy's Bar badly bumping Tommy Jo in mid-stretch. They're closely matched on what they've done so far and in the market.

Super Corredora and La Wally have small bits of a chance in what might not be a vintage renewal.

VERDICT: The over-priced one in an open-looking running could be Iron Orchard. She can track the pace and has shown she stays the trip. Lots of dangers at 5/1 or shorter but she's 8/1 and that seems big for an unbeaten-in-three Frizette winner.

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	DRP Morning Line	Odds Differential	M/G / Nat / Joss?	*Euro or US/Can	Layoff	Prior starts	Pigs up sprint to route?	Int+ winner?	Top 3 or within 1 SL LHO?	Top Figure (*RPR/ **Synth)	Top stakes finish?	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Ultimate Love	Michael Trombetta	1	4	1.50	1.33	1.33	17	9	200	N	US	34	3	NA	Y	Y	81	1st Lstd	2	1	1	
Queen Of Hawaii	Joseph O'Brien	2	6	2.50	2.00	2.00	15	13	117	N	Euro	62	3	Y	Y	1st G3	99*	1st G3	2	3	1	
Imaginationthe lady	Brendan Walsh	3	6	3.00	3.00	3.00	15	11	140	1st J	US	28	2	NA	Y	Y	73	1st G2	2	4		
Infinite Sky	Brad Cox	4	3	1.00	1.00	1.00	41	21	200	2nd J	US	28	3	NA	Y	Y	71	2nd G2	1	1	1	
Final Accord	Mark Casse	5	4	2.00	2.00	2.00	21	16	133	N	Can	29	2	NA	N	Y	79	1st G3	2	2		
Switch In Love	Yoshito Yahagi	6	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	21	21	100	N	Jpn	41	2	?	Y	Y	?	2nd	0	0	0	0
Celebrity Warrior	Todd Pletcher	7	7	3.50	3.50	3.50	51	31	167	N	US	34	2	NA	n	Y	74	2nd Lstd	4	3		
Brave Deb	Richard Mandella	8	7	3.50	3.50	3.50	17	21	80	N	US	26	2	NA	Y	Y	64	1st G3	3	4		
Time To Dream	Todd Pletcher	9	3	1.00	1.00	1.00	8	6	140	3rd J	US	28	3	NA	Y	Y	76	3rd G1	1	1	1	
Balantina	Donnacha O'Brien	10	9	2.00	1.67	2.25	34	31	110	N	Euro	69	5	n	N	N	93*	2nd G3	1	3	1	4
Ground Support	Kelsey Danner	11	7	3.50	3.50	3.50	15	16	93	1st MG	US	27	2	NA	Y	Y	78	1st G2	4	3		
Pacific Mission	Andrew Balding	12	7	3.00	2.33	2.33	26	16	167	N	Euro	50	3	Y	n	2nd G2	98*	2nd G2	3	3	1	
Precise	Aidan O'Brien	13	9	1.50	1.67	2.25	2.25	2.2	104	N	Euro	21	5	Y	Y	1st G1	114*	1st G1	1	2	2	4

Pace:

I haven't seen any of Switch In Love's Japanese races so she might lead for all I know. More likely is that Ground Support, under our own Adam Beschizza, attempts to reprise his Miss Grillo all the way success. Expect the usual glut of late runners, including the Europeans, clambering over each other for space off the home turn.

Key Trials:

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

Trends Contenders:

Ultimate Love, Ground Support

Juvenile Fillies Turf Form

There have been 17 renewals of the JFT to date, and five were won by fillies drawn in stalls 1-3, with another two each drawn 4 and 5 and a tenth exiting stall 6. 10/17 winners from the inside six stalls... but also two drawn 10, three drawn 11 and one drawn 12.

The three Del Mar renewals saw two winners leave stall 1 and the other win from 11!

One more draw-based stat – two actually: half (25/51) of the top three finishes came from stalls 1 to 5; and just one of the 29 horses drawn 13 or 14 made the top three.

Eight of the 17 winners were held up, while three raced midfield, four were prominent and two went pillar to post. So it's possible to win with any run style, though patiently ridden fillies have had the best of it. Probably not massively helpful, that. Let's get to it.

Drawn inside is the unbeaten-in-three **Ultimate Love**. She was a convincing winner of the Listed Selima Stakes last time, a platform used by 2019 winner Sharing at a similarly attractive price (14/1 on the US tote). She retains upside potential, is a strong traveller and will get a ground-saving trip. Johnny V does the steering.

JPOB sends **Queen Of Hawaii** and she has a kind draw in 2, though she's not been the quickest away. More concerning for me is that she's not been seen since August 30th (though she was a non-runner on the day for the Fillies' Mile on 10th October), and the

form of the G3 Curragh score has not worked out great. She did lengthen quite nicely there, but it was lengthening rather than quickening – and I want the latter in any Breeders' Cup turf race. It might be that she's here because of her US owners but, in any case, she's not the most compelling for me.

Imaginationthelady is two from two, including the Jessamine last time, a key prep for this. She got a great trip that day whereas the re-opposing second and third, Infinite Sky and Time To Dream had rough, tough passages. Although the winning margin was a snug-sounding length I'd not be at all confident of her finishing in front this time in spite of getting the best of the draw.

Infinite Sky veered inside leaving the stalls in the Jessamine and then took a fairly hefty bump, the upshot of which was that she found herself in last of the 11 runners more than eight lengths behind the leader at the first call. She showed a fair amount of sass and gusto (Sassandgusto (USA)) to rally from there and just edge second. Her effort can be marked up. Trainer Brad Cox won this in 2020 with the Jessamine scorer Aunt Pearl.

So, too, can that of the even money favourite that day, **Time To Dream**. Todd Pletcher's charge found herself with a lot to do in the straight and finished with plenty more to offer. She'll bring that extra to this party but will again be played late from a higher than ideal stall, 9.

Final Accord, stall 5, was run off her feet early in the 6f Matron Stakes but still managed to gun down the speed for a cosy win. She's not certain to see out the mile trip but will go through a longer race much more easily than sprint trips; if she has the stamina we know she has the gears.

I've not had a chance to watch the videos of **Switch In Love**, but what I can say is that trainer Yoshito Yahagi has to be respected. As well as the Classic and Kentucky Derby third Forever Young (who also has a Dubai World Cup to his name), he also saddled Marche Lorraine and Loves Only You, both fillies, to win Breeders' Cup races here at Del Mar in 2021. The form of her most recent race, second in a stakes race, has worked out well and she's a genuine wild card in this field.

Second in the Selima was **Celebrity Warrior**, but she had a perfect trip there from stall 1, leading until Ultimate Love breezed by. She doesn't look good enough. Likewise **Brave Deb** from stall 8. She's an unbeaten in two West Coast turf filly, but that cohort just aren't very good traditionally. They've never won the JFT and I don't see her bucking the trend.

Donnacha O'Brien saddles **Balantina** and she's drawn stall 10, not ideal. Her latest run was flat as a pancake but prior to that she was mightily unlucky to lose a head bobber on very quick ground with a filly, Green Spirit, who won a G2 on her next start and then got closest to Diamond Necklace in the G1 Prix Marcel Boussac on Arc weekend. It's possible she bounced in that subsequent clunk just 20 days later, and she now hasn't been seen on track for 69 days. Unsurprisingly she looked fit enough when jogging round the track Tuesday morning and she's a very big price.

Ground Support won the Miss Grillo, a race that has provided the JFT winner on six occasions. She was enterprisingly ridden by Adam Beschizza that day, making all and

quickenings well, but it didn't look a vintage renewal. Nevertheless, the Miss Grillo's legacy means she commands respect. Adam, Julia Feilden's nephew, keeps the ride and is searching for a maiden Breeders' Cup win.

Andrew Balding has a tough post to overcome with his filly, the appropriately named **Pacific Mission**. She was second in the May Hill Stakes when upped to a mile (good to soft) and had previously won a Kempton novice. Who knows what to make of that form in the context of a race like this, except, again, to say that it's a heck of a long way to come if you don't think you have a chance. It's possible this filly will be moving to a US trainer post-race but I haven't heard anything to that effect so that's wild speculation on my part, trying to figure out how she landed in here.

And then, finally, we get to the hot favourite, drawn 13 of 13. **Precise** has much the best form in the field, having won four in a row, the last two in Group 1s (Moyglare Stud and Fillies' Mile). Her profile is similar to that of Lake Victoria, last year's Ballydoyle-trained winner; she, too, won the Moyglare but then went to the Cheveley Park, also bringing back-to-back G1's to the Breeders' Cup disco.

But Lake Victoria was drawn in stall 1. None of the 15 fillies to exit stall 13 have finished even in the top four of the JFT and, while it's fair to say that none of them would have been anything like as demonstrably good as Precise, it's a bloody awful draw.

Juvenile Fillies Turf Form Contenders

So this is the problem: the best European filly in the race by a mile (15 spots on Racing Post Ratings) is drawn in the outer reaches of the galaxy and, worse, she's barely bigger than even money. She's a total class act and I hope she wins. But I simply cannot bet her at the price. Soumillon is not Ryan Moore, as I keep unfairly pointing out. It's not his fault. Wayne Lordan isn't either; nor is any other rider. But when you're being asked to play at cramped odds you have to go looking for reasons they *won't* win, not for those to support the bleedin' obvious.

So no, I'm going to look for some perceived value elsewhere and if she's able to win from there, fair play, *chapeau*, and big cigar.

The Jessamine third, Time To Dream, is half the price of the winner, Imaginationthelady, and almost six times the price of the second, Infinite Sky. The 40/1 on the last named, who encountered all kinds of turbulence in that Keeneland spin, is wrong. She can be backed for small money each way.

Ultimate Love looked very good when winning a minor Stakes race last time and has stall 1. She's 16/1.

And, because I haven't a clue really and she might bomb out totally, I'll have a small win bet on Switch In Love at 20/1.

VERDICT: If you think the best filly has a compromised setup, what do you do? Pass the race? Bet her and pray? Or row in with a few small darts at big prices? It's option C for

me, and I've bet Infinite Sky e/w at 40's, Ultimate Love e/w at 16's, and Switch In Love win only at 20's. All for little more than pocket change.

Fair play to Aidan's filly if she can Houdini her way out of that box.

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. Leparoux	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?	(Bullet 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.

Key Trials:

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

Trends Contenders:

Ted Noffey

Juvenile Form

A race that has for the last four years been split equally between Bob Baffert and Todd Pletcher and which the market implies will again go one of those two ways. This time, Pletcher saddles one to Baffert's two, but the single is the odds on fav, **Ted Noffey**.

Ted is unbeaten in three, most recently in the G1 Breeders' Futurity at Keeneland over this distance. His winning margin that day was close to three lengths, and in a seven

furlong G1 the time before it was more than eight lengths. He races handily and, in the Kee race, got a lovely transit to the outside of Litmus Test.

Behind them, hemmed in and crying out for daylight, was **Blackout Time**, who made his bid wider off the home turn and was finishing best in the last half furlong. I'm far from convinced he'd have beaten Ted with a clean trip; but he'd definitely have been closer. He'd previously won his maiden by... checks notes... nine and three-quarter lengths.

Ted Noffey has drawn the outside stall, 8, while Litmus Test is in 6 and Blackout Time has 2.

Litmus Test is one of the Baffert brace, and I can't find any obvious reason for him turning the form around with either of the duo that outpointed him last time. He was beaten a similar margin in the Del Mar Futurity (7f, G1) the time before and will have had to have improved a chunk.

Brant is the second Baffert runner. He's been off longer than ideal, though Bob is one man you'd trust with that; and he's unbeaten in two starts, the more recent being that Del Mar Futurity. It's hard to know whether he'll stay this longer trip: he made all last time (at odds of 1/10 in a G1!) but put up an even bigger speed figure on his debut over shorter. On the plus side, he's by Classic winner Gun Runner out of a mare by Dirt Mile winner Liam's Map, so that helps.

Connections of **Intrepido** were ruing their inside stall 1 draw, and well they might. From the 41 previous renewals of the Juvenile, only two horses won from box one. Three prevailed from stall 2, six from 3, six from 4 and six from 5; so you can see the task ahead for the inside horse.

Still, his American Pharoah Stakes (G1, this trip) win looks solid form. Stuck in a pocket, his rider had to take a pull rounding the home turn before getting in a bit of a bumping match with a rival entering the stretch. Once straightened up he quickly devoured the deficit and won going away. That draw is not ideal but he still has a live chance.

The Eddie Kenneally runner, **Comport**, was a slightly unlucky head second in the G3 Iroquois last time, the in-running comment concluding, "nailed". He races handily and might have suspect stamina, a combination which ought to find him out in such rarefied company.

Mr A.P. comes here on the back of a maiden win just two and a half weeks ago and it's a very big ask; while Civil Liberty has been well enough beaten by literally half the field.

Juvenile Form Contenders:

This looks a four-horse race and, with eight actually entered, there are three places to go at. Ted Noffey is the right favourite and might well win; he's just not a very attractive price from the outside post and with less than the official margin between him and Blackout Time.

Brant could be very good – the attractive grey certainly has a tall reputation having been sent off at 10/1 *on* in Grade 1 waters last time. The layoff would be a reservation were he trained by anyone but BB; as it is, it's enough for me to ignore his chance at a skinny enough 3/1. Still, he might very well win.

Intrepido was better than the bare form in bagging his G1 and he has a mile win on the main track here to his name also. Is he quite as good as the East Coasters though? I'm not sure.

In the end, it comes down to the prices, as it always does. I'm inclined to think the best piece of form is the Breeders' Futurity, but the American Pharoah has been at least as good a trial over the past decade, the two races almost exclusively proving Juvenile kingmakers in that time.

I can't bet Ted at a shade of odds on, so again I maybe throwing the winner baby out with the value bathwater as I split my stake win only between Intrepido and Blackout Time, both 6/1 at time of writing. It might be that Blackout Time drifts a little on the day.

VERDICT: In a very difficult race to bet, split a point evenly between 6/1 Intrepido and Blackout Time (US tote)... and probably watch Ted Noffey win. Sigh.

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

How the runners fit

Juvenile Turf	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRP Morning Line	Odds Differential	Sharp LTO?	Top Turf Figure (*RP Rating)	Days since run	Number of runs	Won at a mile+ turf?	US won Stakes AND 123 all Siles	EURO placed G1/2 LTO, or won ungraded LTO	Based	EURO 110+ RPR, or 106+ RPR LTO	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Heere's Johnny	Raymond Handal	1	7	1.50	2.00	1.75	34	16	220	Y	79	28	4	2ndx3	n	NA	NY	NA	1	2	3	1
Street Beast	Ben Colebrook	2	9	3.00	3.00	3.00	21	11	200	Y	81	54	3	Y	y	NA	Ky	NA	3	3	3	
Outfielder	Wesley Ward	3	12	4.00	4.00	4.00	9	11	80	Y	79	27	3	N	n	NA	Ky	NA	4	4	4	
Third Beer	Tim Yakteen	4	4	2.00	2.00	2.00	34	31	110	Y	70	26	2	Y	n	NA	SoCal	NA	2	2		
Let's Be Frank	Michael J. Maker	5	2	1.00	1.00	1.00	67	16	440	y	78	28	2	n	n	NA	NY	NA	1	1		
North Coast	Joseph O'Brien	6	14	3.50	3.33	3.50	26	31	83	N	107*	47	5	n	NA	N	Ire	107	3	4	3	4
Gordon Pass	William Walden	7	5	2.00	1.67	1.67	51	21	250	y	72	26	3	Y	n	NA	Ky	NA	1	3	1	
Stark Contrast	Michael McCarthy	8	5	1.50	1.67	1.67	21	31	67	Y	71	26	3	Y	Y	NA	SoCal	NA	2	1	2	
Argos	Riley Mott	9	6	2.50	2.00	2.00	17	7	267	Y	81	88	3	Y	Y	NA	Fl	NA	2	3	1	
Ardisia	Hugo Palmer	10	9	2.00	2.33	2.25	21	16	133	Y	106*	13	11	N	NA	N	UK	106ito	2	2	3	2
Turf Star	H. Graham Motion	11	7	2.50	2.33	2.33	26	31	83	Y	74	26	3	Y	n	NA	NY	NA	3	2	2	
Bottas	Miguel Clement	12	3	1.50	1.50	1.50	12	7	183	Y	80	28	2	Y	Y	NA	NY	NA	2	1		
Hey Nay Nay	John Sadler	13	10	3.00	3.33	3.33	17	9	200	Y	82	54	3	Y	Y	NA	SoCal	NA	2	4	4	
Gstaad	Aidan O'Brien	14	10	2.00	2.67	2.50	2.2	2.8	67	Y	117*	20	5	N	NA	2nd G1	Ire	117	2	2	4	2
Caro Buono	Leonard Powell	15	11	2.00	2.33	2.75	67	31	220	N	71	26	6	N	N	NA	SoCal	NA	3	1	3	4

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. Ech 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 for race videos.

Trends Contenders:

Gstaad

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.

Juvenile Turf Form Contenders

In stark contrast to the Juvenile Fillies Turf, this has been a Euro benefit since its inception – well almost; an American trainer (actually a French ex-pat) won the inaugural renewal. Since then, first John Gosden (two wins) and then Charlie Appleby (three) and Aidan O'Brien (seven) have dominated. The home team have added a meagre five Juvenile Turf titles to that first one.

VERDICT:

We all know the best horse in this race is Gstaad, but he has a shocking stall to overcome and a jockey who is not Ryan Moore. Christophe Soumillon is by no measure a poor rider, for all that he's had his critics since assuming the Ballydoyle first pilot role. He simply isn't Ryan Moore. And I feel it might take a Ryan ride to get Gstaad home in front from that post position. At any rate, odds on quotes are unexciting in the extreme. You have to let these sorts of propositions beat you. Well, I do.

Other fancied runners are also berthed in the double-digit boondocks, so I'm swinging wildly at a pair of huge priced inside stalls, win only. Watch them finish second and third!

They are *Heeere's Johnny* and *Let's Be Frank*. Johnny and Frank. To hear the commentator call the former home would be a thing of timeless beauty; more relevant is that, for very small stakes, these two represent over-priced – and in the case of Frank, unexposed – players with tactical speed and good post positions. They're sporting darts against the jolly and his car park-afflicted compadres.

Street Beast is also playable, and each way at that, at 16/1 especially if you can find someone offering four places.

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	DRP Morning Line	Odds Differential	Age	Top Figure	Days off?	G1 / Other stakes form	Position LTO	Sharp last race?	71 Record (R-1-2)	TCA / PTD 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
Splendora	Bob Baffert	2	12	3.50	3.00	3.00	12	9	138	4	100	61	2nd G2	1st Ltd	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

Pace:

Three habitual front-runners in Sweet Azteca, Richi and Haulin Ice. That should ensure a strong to very strong tempo and make stamina a key attribute.

Key Trials:

Go to breederscup.com for race videos.

Trends Contenders:

Hope Road

Filly & Mare Sprint Form

There have been some good winners of the Filly & Mare Sprint, none more so than repeaters Good Night Olive and Groupie Doll; and there have been some longshot bombs, headlined by 66/1 Bar Of Gold in 2017.

The speed rarely lasts out, Finest City in 2016 the only all the way winner, though otherwise there hasn't been a defining run style. When the pace is hot it has paid to swing at long prices as with last year's 20/1 winner Soul Of An Angel who came from a mile back to run them down close home.

Weirdly, 11 of the 18 winners were drawn 7 or wider. Perhaps this is testament to inside speed burning itself out and more patiently ridden horses running on by. The normal fast early zip allows more runners to find a position, with the race beginning in a chute at the far end of the back straight.

In the inside stall is **Zeitlos**, aged five and returning after a nondescript effort in the same race last year. She's had a couple of visits to the grass track this season, almost winning a G3 on one occasion, and she ran most recently in the Thoroughbred Club of America Stakes (TCA), a key trial, where she was third.

She'd won the TCA twelve months ago but it didn't get her competitive in the FM Sprint and I'm inclined to think that was her chance. She just never fired that day.

Splendora is in 2, a winner of four of her nine races and second in four more. She's often close to the early pace and may attempt to go forward from her inside draw, something

she did in her most recent start, a five length win in Stakes company. She was an easy winner two back as well so comes here in great fettle; and that last day score was a career best on the figures. She has proven stamina, dropping a furlong in distance today – but whether she has the speed of some in the field is debatable. She's three from three at Del Mar.

Vahva (3) is another returning from a lacklustre performance in the 2024 FM Sprint, and she too contested the TCA last time. Second there, she is expected to race handily but off the lead. She was sent off 3.8/1 in this last year but ran no better than 8th. She does have six wins at the distance, and another three places, from 12 tries, but I don't see this setting up for her.

Stall 4 will witness **Tamara**'s attempt at redemption after clunking in the BC Juvenile Fillies two years ago. She ran like a blatant non-stayer over that extended mile trip, and was then unsighted until rocking up in an optional claimer last November over six furlongs here at Del Mar. Sent off at 2/5, she was just denied the win by a nose.

And that was her again until four weeks ago and the G3 Chillingworth at Santa Anita (6.5f). Again sent off 2/5 by those fearless – and forgiving – punters, she got it done this time. She's by lightning juvenile Bolt d'Oro out of the wonder mare Beholder so great things have always been expected of her. She certainly has the class to match her pedigree but perhaps she's a little fragile and, maybe, whisper it, a bit gutless, too?

Fee Blanche was scratched by the vets so all other stalls move one spot closer to the rail. In 6 (5) is the likely favourite, **Sweet Azteca**, a win machine with seven golds from nine races. She's never gone seven furlongs but won a G1 over a mile and two G2s at 6½ f.

While she often leads in her races she is more versatile than that and, as might be the case here, can sit just off the sizzle when needed; but I do think her early pace might hinder rather than help in what looks a typically fast field of fillies and mares, many of them six-furlong specialists.

In 7 (6) is **Haulin Ice**, winner of ten of her 17 career starts, and five of her last six. That sequence includes the G3 Princess Rooney last time. However, her two most recent defeats were when unable to get the early lead, a highly plausible scenario this time around. Even if she does get to the front she's unlikely to have the class and stamina to stay there to the wire.

Another fleet filly is **Hope Road** in 8 (7). She won the Grade 1 Ballerina over 7f at Saratoga last time, pouncing off a searing early tempo and proving clear best by the finish. The Baffert-trained filly has been lights out in her recent work, has tactical versatility and could be sitting on a career best; she'll probably need to be.

Baffert, who also saddles Splendor, makes it three in the field courtesy of **Richi** from 9 (8). He won the FM Sprint with Gamine in 2020 and seems intent on another title. Richi hails from Chile where she ran nine times and won six of them including a Grade 1 over 7½ f, by six lengths!

It's always hard to predict how South American form will translate to the States but in the case of Richi the answer was 'very well'. She's been on the podium in all seven of her US

races, second and third in Grade 1's. Her best form, however, has come over an extended mile trip: could that be a plus if they go a million and wilt back into her lap? I presume she'll not have the requisite speed to contest early. Contender.

Widest of all in 10 (9) is the three-year-old **Praying**, winner of the TCA last time. She's still improving and showed toughness to outbattle Vahva and Zeitlos last time. I hesitate to crab the TCA form but those two vanquished foes ran moderately in this last year. She seems to be tactically versatile and perhaps will shun the early pace; that could leave her with something left to give when others are used up. But she just might not be good enough even if moving forward on her form to date.

Filly & Mare Sprint Form Contenders

This is very tricky. I'm sure I want to be against Tamara at the prices: I don't think she has the heart for this kind of battle. But I'm less confident I want to swerve Sweet Azteca even though she's only 2/1.

Honestly, I don't really like anything at the prices but this is a race, a bit like the Albert Bartlett at Cheltenham, where you can often throw out the form book and look for a horse that might get a setup it hasn't had all year: where the pace is much too fast and melts down allowing a plodder with uninspiring speed figures to grind on by.

I was kicking myself for missing Soul Of An Angel in that context last year – look at her form profile:

8 Soul of an Angel Own: C2 Racing Stable LLC Agave Racing Sta 12-1 Black, Lime Agave Plant, Lime Hoop On VAN DYKE D (—) 2024: (291 47 .16) TimeformUS Pace: Early 57 Late 120 21Sep24-10GP fst 7f C 23 :453 1:102 1:231 3+ @PrncsRny-G3 23Aug24-10Sar fst 1 1/8 C 463 1:102 1:36 1:49 4+ @PrsnlEns-G1 20Jly24-6Mth fst 1 1/8 S 252 :501 1:134 1:442 3+ @MPtchr-G3 8Jun24-7Sar fst 1 1/8 484 1:122 1:364 1:492 4+ @OPhipps-G1 4May24-10BAQ fst 1 23 :461 1:103 1:352 4+ @Ruffian-G2 Previously trained by James Gerald 2023: (56 3 5 6 0.05) 9Mar24-90P gd 1 1/8 @ 234 :481 1:124 1:452 4+ @Azeri-G2 17Feb24-11GP fst 1 1/8 @ 232 :47 1:112 1:45 4+ @RoylDlta-G3 28Jan24-6Tam fst 1 1/8 @ 253 :50 1:143 1:412 4+ @OC 32k/n2x-N 13Jan24-6Tam fst 1 1/8 24 :481 1:124 1:444 4+ @WaywrdLssB50k 30ec23-9GP fst 1 1/8 243 :474 1:119 1:40 3+ @Hcp 100000 29Sep23-4CD fst 1 1/8 241 :483 1:13 1:443 3+ @OC 100k/n3x-N 28Sep23-6CD fst 1 1/8 @ 241 :48 1:121 1:434 3+ @OC 100k/n3x-N WORKS: Oct21GP 4f fst :473 B 2/10 Oct15GP 3f fst :352 B 4/11 Sep14Sar tr.13f fst :36 B 3/10 Aug15Sar 4f fst :511 B 65/72 Aug8Sar 4f fst :50 B 112/175		Dk, b or br m. 5 (Feb) Sire: Atreides (Medaglia d'Oro) \$2,000 Dam: Factor One (The Factor) Br: Westbrook Stables LLC (Ky) Tr: Joseph S A Jr (—) 2024: (903 227 .25)		Life 40 5 7 5 \$672,675 98 2024 9 3 2 1 \$470,100 98 2023 13 1 2 1 \$146,425 88 Dmr 0 0 0 0 \$0 —		D.Fst 24 3 6 3 \$557,135 98 Wet(349) 3 1 0 0 \$77,600 88 Synth(276) 8 1 1 2 \$31,630 66 Turf(297) 5 0 0 0 \$6,310 73 Dst(300) 1 1 0 0 \$120,000 93	
124 21Sep24-10GP fst 7f 93 4/9 9 97 85 32 13 1 Van Dyke D 23Aug24-10Sar fst 1 1/8 81 2/5 513 514 59 38 310 1 Ortiz I Jr 20Jly24-6Mth fst 1 1/8 96 3/5 44 42 1nd 1nd 2nd Ortiz I Jr 8Jun24-7Sar fst 1 1/8 90 4/6 53 63 52 53 55 Ortiz I Jr 4May24-10BAQ fst 1 98 4/6 57 54 32 1nd 14 1 McCarthy T		79 1/8 75 1 74 87 63 65 Esquivel E 90 1/10 88 64 53 23 22 Lopez P 72 4/5 32 31 42 31 1nk Morelos J E 79 5/6 54 65 51 41 52 Morelos J E 65 5/8 87 89 89 89 811 Thomas A 76 5/6 32 32 21 31 46 Saez G 77 2/3 32 31 31 2 24 2 Williams A		123 2.20 89-14 SoulofanAngel1233 1/2 BethsDream1212 1/2 BttleCry1191 1/2 Slw st.3p.7p in,herded 120 8.40 83-10 Raging Sea120hd 1/2 Idiomtic12410 1/2 Soul of an Angel1205 1/2 Off beat slw, improved 124 5.30 80-20 Idiomtic124hd 1/2 Soul of an Angel1249 1/2 FrostyOToole118 1/2 3w bid, stretch duel 122 8.30 85-03 Rndomized124hd 1/2 Idiomtic1244 1/2 PrttyMischievous124no 1/2 Off bit slow,ins-2path 118 24.50 94-08 SoulofanAngel1184 1/2 Randomized124 1/2 Shidbuthi1203 1/2 Chased ins, drew clear		119f 41.20 77-17 Tiny Temper117nk 1/2 Misty Veil1211 1/2 Bellamore121 1/2 Swung 4w, mildly 120f 42.70 82-17 HonorDLoy1232 1/2 SoulofanAngel1203 1/2 Mrygutcontrry120 1/2 2p far,4p lane,ran on L119f 11.80 86-20 SoulofanAngel119nk 1/2 MirrdsRocky119 1/2 AdiosBby119nk 1/2 Chase 2p,duel,got bob 118f 17.60 82-22 OpusFortyTwo118 1/2 DrmConcrt118 1/2 MgcilLut118hd 1/2 Svd gnd,gnd,outfinished L118 27.60 81-17 Sand and Seal119 1/2 Sister Lou Ann123 1/2 Coco118nk 1/2 Stumbled start, 2-3wd L121f 18.15 77-22 SkratckKat123hd 1/2 IceOrchid123 1/2 JungleJuice1212 1/2 2-3wbtw.bid 2w1/4,wknd L122 2.19 82-15 Hrtyconstitution1224 1/2 SoulofanAngel1224 1/2 JunglJuc122 1/2 Stalk ins,up plc 3p1/4	

She was in my Saffie Joseph Jr. blind spot unfortunately. Nothing really fits that bill this year, though Zeitlos – I can't believe I'm writing this – is the closest to it. She got too involved in the over-fast tempo a year ago and will need to sit further back this time. If she does, she could pass some horses in the lane. But I couldn't say I even remotely fancy her to win.

VERDICT: Not a betting race for me. My only reasonably strong feelings are that Tamara is a place lay (if you like that sort of thing) and Sweet Azteca probably has to go close to winning. After that, I could make a small case for any of Splendora, Hope Road or Richi – maybe even Praying – but instead I've wasted pocket change on a no hoper called Zeitlos!

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	Irad 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

How the runners fit

Turf Sprint	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRF Morning Line	Odds Differential	Sharp last run?	Won/Pl Cr Stakes?	99+ Beyer (115* RPR) this season?	Top Dist Turf Beyer	Age	Based?	Layoff	5f Turf Record	Seasonal status	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Motorious	Phil d'Amato	1	6	1.50	1.67	1.50	5	4.5	114	Y	2xG3	98	103	7	SoCal	63	7-4-2	2	1	2	2	1
Reef Runner	David Fawkes	2	5	1.00	1.33	1.25	11	7	167	Y	G2	100	96	4	Fl	35	12-3-4	8	1	1	2	1
Arizona Blaze	Adrian Murray	3	14	3.00	3.33	3.50	6	6	100	Y	G1	121*	121*	3	Ire	48	9-4-2	8	3	3	4	4
Khaadem	Charlie Hills	4	8	1.50	2.33	2.00	17	11	160	Y	G2	116*	98*	9	UK	28	7-3-0	4	1	2	4	1
Bring Theband Home	Mark Casse	5	14	4.00	4.00	3.50	26	11	250	N	G2	109	96	5	Can	28	5-1-2	5	4	4	4	2
Governor Sam	Eric Foster	6	8	2.00	2.00	2.00	26	16	167	Y	G3	94	89	3	Ky	28	3-1-0	6	3	1	2	2
She's Quality	Jack Davison	7	9	2.50	2.67	2.25	13	21	60	y	3rd G1	114*	114*	4	Ire	27	14-3-4	7	3	2	3	1
Ag Bullet	Richard Baltas	8	14	3.50	3.33	3.50	6	5	125	Y	G1	101	101	5	SoCal	63	1-0-0	3	4	3	3	4
Bear River	Keith Desormeaux	9	14	3.50	3.33	3.50	17	21	80	Y	G2	103	90	4	SoCal	63	2-0-0	4	4	3	3	4
Shisospicy	Jose d'Angelo	10	15	4.00	3.67	3.75	15	7	233	Y	G2	92	86	3	Fl	57	1-1-0	6	4	4	3	4
Bucanero Fuerte	Adrian Murray	11	15	4.00	4.00	3.75	12	21	55	y	3rd G1	116*	116*	4	Ire	48	4-2-0	3	4	4	4	3
Invincible Papa	Daishi Ito	12	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	21	21	100	Y	G3	?	111*	4	Jpn	83	0-0-0	3	0	0	0	0
Puro Magic	Shogo Yasuda	13	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	21	21	100	n	G3	110*	109*	4	Jpn	34	1-1-0	4	0	0	0	0
Yellow Card	Michael McCarthy	14	11	3.00	3.00	2.75	26	16	167	Y	2nd G2	99	91	4	SoCal	35	3-2-1	3	3	3	3	2
No Nay Hudson	Wesley Ward	15	7	1.50	1.67	1.75	34	21	165	Y	G2	93	96/24	5	Ky	28	5-2-1	5	1	2	2	2
Incanto	George Weaver	16	10	1.50	2.00	2.50	67	31	220	n	N	88	88	3	Ky	34	5-1-1	8	1	2	3	4

Pace:

Rapid. Bring Theband Home, Shisospicy and maybe Bucanero Fuerte if he can live with them are expected to lead. Ag Bullet is very fast, too, and I don't know about the Japanese entries. Starlust came from the clouds last year and it sets up that way again, potentially.

Key Trials:

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

Trends Contenders:

Arizona Blaze

Turf Sprint Form

All of the double digit drawn winners were when the race was held at either Santa Anita (where the downhill Oak Tree course actually favours high numbers) or Keeneland, which is harder to explain. The three Del Mar 5f Turf Sprint winners exited stalls 3 (twice) and 4.

The Del Mar renewal 1-2-3 finish post positions were 3-1-4(-5) last year, 3-4-6(-2-5) on 2021, and 4-7-1(-11) in 2017. So that's eight of the nine podium finishers drawn in the bottom half of the field – and 11/12 top four finishers drawn 7 or lower. A high draw is a mountain to climb.

Run style is more fluid. Starlust and Stormy Liberal came from the clouds with ground-saving inside trips; the outstanding Golden Pal led all the way. This is a similar pattern to the Juvenile Turf Sprints, where those not quick enough to lead but hurried to hold a position have failed to win.

Motorious, now aged 7, has incredibly drawn the 1 box again. He was a neck second in the race last year from the same post position, and again arrives off a solid prep in the course and distance Green Flash (G3). In fact, having been hampered in the early yards

he was shuffled back to a daylight last; he then swung about seven wide into the straight before failing by an evaporating nose margin. He was probably five lengths the best horse there and, because first past the post **Reef Runner** was the instigator of the early bother, Motorious was justly awarded the race.

Next door, in 2, is none other than the Reef Runner, arriving here after a hat-trick of first under the wire (including that DQ), two at the flat five. He's usually unhurried early and that Green Flash shemozzle with Motorious was his sole Del Mar spin. But, as I say, he looked flattered by his proximity to Moto.

Adrian Murray sends **Arizona Blaze**, winner of a 5f G1 at the Curragh last time. He raced handily there and finished well, but he was further back when beating all bar Magnum Force in the Juvenile equivalent over course and distance here last year. That tactical versatility will stand him in good stead as will his proven handling of the sharp bend and firm turf.

In 4 is old war horse **Khaadem**, and he's been making hay in the States this season collecting \$270,000 for a 3rd and a win in Kentucky. Frankie Dettori rode both times and will do so again, but this drop back to a flying flat five is not in Khaadem's favour. True, he does finish late but he needed every yard of the additional half furlong at Keeneland to get the verdict on the line. I love him, but he doesn't fit here for me.

Bring Theband Home is the inside drawn speed angle, jumping from stall 5. He can easily run sub-21.5 first quarters as he did when winning back-to-back Saratoga 5.5f turf stakes; and he has the two best US speed figures in the field. But his Achilles heel was revealed last time at Woodbine when he got taken on for the lead before folding tamely. If he gets loose in front, he'll take them a very long way – there is speed to his outside, however.

Governor Sam, drawn 6, took them most of the way in the Juvenile Turf Sprint last year before fading into a one length third. He's been in reasonable form this year but has never posted a Beyer number bigger than 94 (Bring Theband Home has a 109 and a 105) and he will struggle to stay with the horse directly inside him beyond a quarter mile or so. Still, he could be a spoiler for that one.

Jack Davison's adventure with **She's Quality** continues, stall 7 offering some hope. Her problem is that she doesn't win very often: this season she's been second in each of the Palace House, Temple Stakes, Coral Charge and King George Qatar Stakes, and was third in the Abbaye and fourth in the Flying Five (behind Arizona Blaze). Unbelievably likeable filly but I can't quite see the fairytale ending. Colin Keane will give her every chance having won over track and trip in the juvenile equivalent a year ago.

We're into the stalls where ability is impeded by post position, starting with the rapid mare **Ag Bullet** in 8. Pronounced A-G Bullet apparently, she's licketty-split and has won her last two including the G1 Jaipur at Saratoga. She normally jumps alertly but has faster gate speed inside and out here. Still, she's versatile as she showed when only a neck behind Starlust in the race last year, finishing third in a brilliant finish that also involved the rattling home Motorious.

Bear River has box 9 and was an all the way winner over six furlongs in an ultra-valuable 6f sprint at Kentucky Downs last time. He picked up \$1.15m for scoring there and that's pretty much job done for the season. He does have early toe, including a 21 seconds dead first quarter, but won't be able to see it out against these.

We saw **Shisospicy** at Royal Ascot, though we certainly didn't see the best of her unfortunately. Jose d'Angelo's three-year-old filly danced to a three-length verdict in another of those "1.15 million bucks to the winner" Kentucky Downs bonanzas (why don't more Euro horses ship in?!) on her only post-Ascot start; and she was 3 for 3 on turf before travelling transatlantic. She, too, is fast early but that draw (10) and tons of pace contention – allied to not having punched a competitive speed figure – make her easy enough for me to oppose, for all that she might have a good bit more progression still after just eight lifetime starts (and only five on turf, four wins).

Adrian Murray and Amo Racing are doubly represented, their second string being the early speed horse **Bucanero Fuerte**. Yes, another early speed horse. He's not as good as his mate Arizona Blaze, but he'll be involved in what should be a frantic early dash, perhaps setting it up for AB. Local rider Umbi Rispoli knows the track well.

I cannot assimilate the Japanese form, but I can tell you that **Invincible Papa** has a horror draw and has never run over five furlongs. He does have pace when running over six and seven, but how that translates to a setup like this is anyone's guess. The car park hole is going to be very difficult to overcome in any case.

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: Back Motorious to win, and cry when he just fails to get up in time. Or stay loyal to 'our' team and back Arizona Blaze: the outcome could very well be the same!

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)

How the runners fit

Sprint	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRF Morning Line	Odds Differential	Age	Seasonal runs	Ran sharp 7f this year?	Career win %age	50%+ 1st or 2nd at 6f	6f wins this year	Bullet work?	Position LTO	G1/23 win in year	Based	Top Season Dirt Beyer	Top 6f Dirt Beyer (*FRP)	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Kopion	Richard Mandella	1	8	2.00	1.67	2.00	7	4.5	171	4	4	Y	56%	NA	0		2	G1	SoCal	110	NA	1	3	1	3
Banishing	David Jacobson	2	10	1.50	2.00	2.50	34	16	220	5	10	Y	38%	100%	1		3	G2	Ky	106	103 '24	2	1	3	4
Lovesick Blues	Librado Barocio	3	8	1.00	1.67	2.00	17	11	160	7	6	N	21%	71%	1		2	G1	SoCal	105	105	1	1	3	3
Patriot Spirit	Michael Campbell	4	14	4.00	3.33	3.50	17	31	83	4	5	Y	40%	33%	0	Y	1	G3	Ky	96	81 '24	4	4	2	4
Big City Lights	Richard Mandella	5	11	3.00	2.67	2.75	34	16	220	6	1	N	54%	100%	1	Y	1	Listed	SoCal	103	103	3	3	2	3
Dr. Venkman	Mark Glatt	6	8	2.00	2.00	2.00	15	7	233	5	5	Y	36%	60%	0		2	G2	SoCal	97	95	2	2	2	2
Imagination	Bob Baffert	7	11	3.00	2.67	2.75	5.5	16	30	4	2	Y	23%	100%	1	Y	1	G2	SoCal	97	97	2	4	2	3
Nakatomi	Wesley Ward	8	7	1.50	1.67	1.75	17	16	107	6	4	N	29%	47%	1		1	G2	Ky	97	105 '24	1	2	2	2
American Stage	Yoshito Yahagi	9	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	26	31	83	3	3	N	33%	80%	0		2	2nd G3	Jpn	103*	103*	0	0	0	0
Bentornato	Jose d'Angelo	10	14	3.00	3.33	3.50	5	3.5	160	4	1	N	60%	100%	1	Y	1	Listed	Fl	108	108	3	3	4	4
Mullikin	Rodolphe Brisset	11	12	3.00	3.00	3.00	12	16	73	5	4	N	33%	60%	0	Y	7	2nd G2	Ky	106	106	3	3	3	3
Straight No Chaser	Dan Blacker	12	12	2.50	3.00	3.00	9	9	100	6	3	N	54%	56%	1	Y	3	G2	SoCal	93	107 '23	4	1	4	3
Mad House	David van Winkle	13	16	4.00	4.00	4.00	26	31	83	3	9	N	44%	100%	3	Y	1	G2	Fl	93	93	4	4	4	4
Whatchatakinabout	Wesley Ward	14	9	2.00	2.00	2.25	41	31	133	4	5	N	40%	71%	2		3	G3	Ky	106	106	1	3	2	3
Valiant Force	Adrian Murray	15	11	3.50	3.00	2.75	51	31	167	4	9	N	24%	67%	1		1	N	Ire	NA	NA	3	4	2	2

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.

Key Trials:

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

Trends Contenders:

Kopion, Bentornato

Sprint Form

Stalls 1-6 have won 24 renewals, 7+ have 17. There has been a surprisingly even distribution of run styles, though the nine horses to make all came from a much smaller sample than the 13 which were held up. A slight edge, then, to inside drawn horses and early pace but a good horse can win from anywhere.

Stall 1 is occupied by the filly **Kopion**, who could have gone to the Filly & Mare Sprint but has instead gone big. She has three hugely appealing speed figures and hasn't been out of the first two in her last five starts, three of them wins. She's yet to race at six furlongs but has a first and second at a half furlong further. However, her best form is over seven and a mile making this cut back in trip a niggle. She is very good though, and has tactical speed to sit handily.

In 2, **Banishing** makes his first start for Chad Summers, of Mind Your Biscuits fame. That's a quirky trainer switch ahead of a gig like this with the previous trainer also being co-owner! Anyway, Banishing is another cutting back in trip but he is two for two at 6f. In fact, his form at less than a mile is 1211121, the defeats by a head and a neck and both on a sloppy track; on fast dirt at less than a mile, then, his form reads 11111. He can boast six triple-digit Beyers in his last 11 races, including both 6f wins, but he comes in off a bust ten-race season.

The seven-year-old **Lovesick Blues** is in stall 3, making his 43rd start. He's successfully mixed turf and dirt and recorded a fine 105 Beyer when closing to win over course and distance in the G1 Bing Crosby two starts ago. Although he was nearly 20/1 that day and notched a huge personal best, there appeared to no fluke about the win, traveling kindly off the pace and making one big run around the outside to gun down the leader. He's never been out of the first three in seven 6f dirt races.

One of the pace angles, **Patriot Spirit**, is in 4. He's won his last two, both at 7f, but has a sketchy overall record and nothing in a 15-race portfolio makes him a fit against this calibre of opposition.

There is a local hope in 5, **Big City Lights**, trained by Richard Mandella. In five Del Mar runs, he's competed exclusively at seven-eighths but he has won twice at six, both at Santa Anita, including most recently by almost eight lengths. Returned 1-9 fav, he was entitled to do as much in a field of only four; this is a different kettle of sprinters entirely. Still, he's won his last two starts by an aggregate of more than 16 lengths! On the flip side, he's been off for nearly ten months since... but has been working very well in the mornings.

Dr. Venkman launches from 6, the five-year-old having only raced 11 times to date. He's been 1-2 in nine of them and is four from six at Del Mar; but he's come up short both times when contesting Grade 1 and he's yet to win at the distance. He also doesn't have any competitive speed figures.

Bob Baffert saddles **Imagination** (stall 7), a distance winner last time out at Santa Anita. His last four runs have been his best, from 13 lifetime, but that still leaves him a tad shy of what's normally needed for a BC Sprint. Was off eight months before that last day win at the end of September. He could conceivably improve again for a trainer who's won this five times (though not since 2016).

Nakatomi (8) has run in the previous two renewals of the Sprint, finishing 3rd in 2023 and 6th last year. His best days may be behind him but he can run on against very rapid early fractions and he's been in the frame at 6f in 13 of 15 races. Of course, one of the two no shows was here twelve months ago.

I cannot tell you much about the Japanese horse, **American Stage**, except that he's drawn in 9 and is trained by Yahagi Yoshito, Forever Young's handler. Yoshito has saddled three runners at the Breeders' Cup, all here at Del Mar, and as well as FY's Classic third a year ago, his other two entries both won in 2017! As to his form, I've not really any idea: he was a close up second on a muddy track on his sole start since April and that was four weeks ago. It's a very small sample size but that trainer record...

In 10 is **Bentornato**, second in the race last year and only seen once since then. He all but won a year ago when drawn a little more favourably and made no mistake on his belated 2025 bow in mid-September. That was only Listed company but he bashed 'em by better than five at odds of around 7/4. He's improved his speed figures in each of his last four starts and, with only ten runs on the board, may not have stopped progressing yet. He looks to be the first of a clutch of early speed horses drawn wide.

Next to him, in 11, is **Mullikin**, favourite and placed third a year ago. He made a bold statement for this when running up in the Alfred G Vanderbilt (G2, 6f) at Saratoga two back, but then crashed out completely over a furlong further in the G1 Forego last time. He got involved in a four-way go for the lead on that occasion, getting the widest of it around the turn, and wilted in the lane. He'll have to have made a Lazarine recovery to get involved off that prep.

Last year, **Straight No Chaser** got stall 8 of 11 in the BC Sprint and ran home best of all. The champion has 12 this time, slightly trickier, but he also has pace contention all around. He was a length off the early fizz here in 2024 and will need that tactical versatility to work out a trip again this time. More concerning is that last year he came to this party off the back of a six length romp in the Santa Anita Sprint Championship whereas this time, using the same springboard, he could only muster a tired two length third. It should be noted that he'd been absent since Meydan in early April (had won the Saudi Sprint prior to that, also) so is entitled to come on plenty for that first race in almost six months. He will need to, though.

Two from the outside is **Mad House**, a three-year which has led at the first call in his last four races, and led at the line in each of them, too. That has seen him progress from maidens to a Grade 2, via allowance company, and he's won those four races by a collective 25 lengths. In spite of all that, his times have been modest in the context of a Championship event like this. He's won his last three, of four, six furlong races but this is a huge leap in quality from what he's faced to now.

And in the parking lot is **Whatchatalkinabout**, a Wesley Ward speedster. He's a dyed in the wool six furlong horse, with three wins and four places from seven attempts; but with one exception, five runs ago, he doesn't have the requisite speed to get involved, still less from such a distant view of the rail.

Sprint Form Contenders

I mean, this is difficult. It's not hard to see why they bet 4/1 the field. Bentornato has to enter calculations, having returned so flamboyantly last time; if he doesn't bounce off that huge run he's the one to beat.

But if he does, then I feel like Kopion and Imagination are both beatable. Straight No Chaser is perfectly entitled to jump forward from his first run in six months, and I expect him to. He took his six furlong game on the road after winning here a year ago and he could be about to come to the boil.

There are a few vaguely playable rags in here, all of which might blow out spectacularly – you pays your money, you takes your chance – and they're headed up by Lovesick Blues. A repeat of his Bing Crosby win, in what I feel might be similar circumstances, would be just about good enough. He's 16/1.

Even more wildly speculatively, have a think about American Stage, win only at 25/1 in a place. It's a total guess based on the trainer and could be hopeless.

So, too, Banishing on his return to three-quarters of a mile. He's two from two at the trip, has a bunch of numbers to get him with the leaders and will likely eschew the frantic early proceedings.

VERDICT: A candidate for most inscrutable race of the weekend, and stakes should be kept very much to the 'interest' level of investment – unless, of course, you have a stronger opinion than mine.

I've backed Bentornato already, and will probably have a couple of tiny plays on those big prices, just for kicks. I won't be expecting a return.

This might be a race to play some lottery ticket exactas and trifectas, again for minimum stakes.

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 9f 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	95	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

Pace:

The favourite, Seismic Beauty, will likely attempt to make all. And there doesn't look a huge amount of threat to her early primacy, with the possible exception of Scottish Lassie. Gin Gin led last time but doesn't normally, and Scylla is usually handy; but the jolly may control the tempo.

Key Trials:

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

Trends Contenders:

Seismic Beauty, Scottish Lassie

Distaff Form

There has been a good mix of run styles and winning post positions in the Distaff. Even in the three Del Mar renewals we've had a 'made all' winner from 2 and a 'held up' winner from 10. May the best filly or mare prevail.

Drawn against the paint is Mark Casse's Canadian raider, **Nitrogen**. She's a three-year-old veteran of 11 races, eight this year, and she's won all bar two in 2025. Interestingly, she's only run three times on dirt – the other eight on turf – through which she's steadily

incremented her numbers from 91 to 93 to 95. In that career best last time she was just denied by Gin Gin, that one having controlled the steady pace and Nitrogen flashing home late. She'd have won in another stride and a quicker tempo ought to offer every chance of a form reversal.

We have an inscrutable form line in stall 2, the impossible-to-say **Sarawak Rim** emerging from the Argentinian pampas (actually, from the Buenos Aires Hipodromo) via a WAYI in early May. She's won four of her five starts and who knows what they're worth? An Argentinian-bred won the Distaff in 2019, but Blue Prize had oodles of North American form prior to getting the flowers in this.

Stall 3 accommodates the unexposed three-year-old **Clicquot**, winner of her last four, of five, starts. The sequence includes a G3 and most recently the G1 Cotillion, a key Distaff prep. The clock says she's not fast enough but her form is progressive and has clear scope for a higher ceiling. She travelled well from off the pace in the Cotillion, offering hope she'll see out the extra half furlong; but she looked to pull herself up when hitting the front. She cruises through her races so if she can stay in her comfort zone off an expected faster pace, she's a definite player.

Five-year-old **Scylla** (surprise, surprise!) ran in the FM Sprint a year ago finishing a one length 4th. That fine effort has not been matched in terms of distance to the winner in five starts since, though a 1.25L 3rd in the G1 Spinster last time was as good as she's been. Her 9f record is a win and a place from two starts but she was beaten fairly unequivocally by Gin Gin and Nitrogen the last day.

In 5 is **Scottish Lassie**, fancied by me for the Juvenile Fillies twelve months ago, and quietly fancied by me in the Distaff now. It's possible she bounced, or maybe just needed the run after two months off, last time when a two length fourth in the Cotillion. Before that she'd won by 15 lengths – count 'em! – in the Coaching Club of America Oaks at Saratoga, and she had good fillies behind that day, in what was granted only a four-horse field. That was nine furlongs and her only other run at the distance, when third in the G1 Acorn Stakes, was on a sloppy track. She'll be taking on a bigger field than she's done to date and that's a question mark.

Japanese raider **Alice Verite** returns after finishing fourth of seven last year. This looks a deeper renewal, though it lacks the star power of the recently retired Thorpedo Anna. This season, like last, she's been racing exclusively on turf and had a lovely effort two races ago in the G1 Victoria Mile where she was a length fifth of 17. She was a lot flatter on her subsequent and final run before the Distaff, finishing mid-pack in a G3. She shouldn't be good enough.

Here's **Gin Gin**, mentioned in dispatches, in stall 7. She has two wins at the distance, including the Spinster and she's been right on the pace this season since switching to Brendan Walsh. Plenty more in this field want to assume that style which could compromise her prospects. In any case, she's been consistent but slightly below the level normally required to win what was once nauseatingly called 'The Ladies' Classic'



The favourite, **Seismic Beauty**, will emerge from 8. She's a Baffert filly with two Beyers that dominate her field. So far so good. As with all short priced favourites, you have to ask what can beat them rather than why are they favourite; in her case, the case against is simple: she's been crushing small fields from the front. This is not a small field and she will probably not get it all her own way on the front. She is expected to prove 'the speed of the speed' but to what degree earning that privilege will compromise her finish is the question. All that said, she's a very quick and classy - and progressive - filly.

Outside her, **Majestic Oops** is not especially quick, or classy, and is certainly not progressive after 32 lifetime starts. What she is though is an admirable race mare who almost always brings her A game. Alas, her A game is some of these fillies' C game. She can't win.

Gun Song has trap 10 and was a winner of the Beldame last time, over the Distaff trip. That's a solid G2 and she has another 9f win on her dance card; but none of her past performances - there are 16 of them - point to her being quick enough to contest the finish.

Chad Summers saddles **Dry Powder**, and she'll jump from 11. She's a three-year-old with only six races to her name, five of them creditable. She was a neck second to Clicquot in the Cotillion, before which she won a Listed race by more than four; but before that she was crushed by that Scottish Lassie romp. It's hard to explain why she ran so dull, and she's going to be in the early speed melting pot most likely. In spite of obvious scope to show more after so few starts, I doubt she'll be able to show it in this cauldron.

Two more, the first of which is **Dorth Vader**, drawn 12. She ran her best race last time when getting to within a nose of last year's Distaff winner, Thorpedo Anna, and in the race prior to that matched her previous best speed figure. The trip is fine for her, and she'll probably rate a little off the gallop. Against her is a less than fantastic win record: five from 17 lifetime, and just one from five this season, is not normally Championship-winning material.

In the outside post is **Regaled**, a longshot but not a no-hoper. She's a deep closer and might just get a setup if two or more lock horns on the front end. Her figures have steadily improved race to race for four spins in a row and she was most recently seen blitzing inferiors by more than six lengths in a Grade 3. The faster they go the better her chance of closing into the frame.

Distaff Form Contenders

A race that revolves around Seismic Beauty. If she can dominate the pace, she'll probably just win; but if she gets contested we don't know how she'll react. At around 2/1 I want to take her on though I'm not entirely sure with what.

Nitrogen is a very consistent filly, mostly on turf but with her top performance on dirt. It's a slightly odd profile but she has a good chance entirely reflected in a quote of 4/1.

Dorth Vader doesn't win frequently enough for my tastes though she's probably a pretty solid e/w bet if you like that sort of thing; but I don't think Gin Gin gets her setup.

Scottish Lassie has that one massive run and would be a threat to all if wheeling back to it but that seems a bit unlikely.

So the one I like most at the prices is Clicquot. She has a winning habit, loads of upside and won't get stuck into any pace pugilism. 14/1 is a very fair each way play in what is an open race with the possible exception of the jolly. If Seismic is the real deal we still have two chances to get paid a consolation on the place.

I'll definitely be taking a small interest in Regaled as well: the faster they go the more chance she'll have of getting involved. She's the sort of filly I like in the FM Sprint but, in the absence of any such proposition in that race, I'm treating Regaled as my surrogate deep closer bet!

VERDICT: Could be an open and shut case for Seismic Beauty, but she's going to have to show more than she's done to this point. Against her, Clicquot rates a sporting e/w alternative at 14/1. And Regaled is the Hail Mary play at 25/1, hopefully bigger somewhere on the day.

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*

How the runners fit

Turf	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRF Morning Line	Odds Differential	Age	Distance 1-2?	Seasonal starts	Layoff	Top Distance Beyer / RPR *	G1 win in Year/ Euro	Position LTO	Euro/US	1st Record	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Rebel's Romance	Charlie Appleby	1	12	3.50	3.33	3.00	4.3	3.5	132	7	Y	7	35	123*	2xG1	1	Euro	20-15-0	4	3	3	2
Goliath	Francis-Henri Graffard	2	14	3.50	3.33	3.50	10	9	113	5	Y	5	55	124*	G1	1	Euro	11-6-2	4	3	3	4
Amiloc	Ralph Beckett	3	9	3.00	2.33	2.25	17	11	160	3	Y	4	48	115*	2nd G1	2	Euro	1-1-0	3	3	1	2
Redistricting	Chad Brown	4	13	3.00	3.33	3.25	26	16	167	5	Y	5	35	101	2nd G1	2	US	1-0-1	3	3	4	3
Rebel Red	Cherie DeVaux	5	4	1.00	1.00	1.00	101	31	333	5	Y	7	35	104	2nd G1	5	US	4-0-1	1	1	1	1
Wimbledon Hawkeye	James Owen	6	8	2.00	2.00	2.00	21	21	100	3	Y	7	63	118*	Euro	1	Euro	3-0-2	2	2	2	2
Silawi	Hamad Al Jehani	7	14	4.00	4.00	3.50	34	31	110	5	Y	6	28	117*	G1	1	Euro	8-2-2	4	4	4	2
Minnie Hawk	Aidan O'Brien	8	11	2.50	2.67	2.75	2.1	2.6	69	3	Y	5	27	124*	3xG1	2	Euro	5-4-1	3	2	3	3
Gold Phoenix	Phil d'Amato	9	5	1.50	1.33	1.25	41	21	200	7	N	5	35	102 23	N	1	US	4-0-0	1	2	1	1
El Cordobes	Charlie Appleby	10	10	3.00	2.67	2.50	34	16	220	4	Y	8	35	121*	G1	3	Euro	6-3-1	3	3	2	2
Rashabar	Brian Meehan	11	11	2.50	3.00	2.75	41	21	200	3	N	6	28	111*	Euro	4	Euro	0-0-0	4	1	4	2
Tawny Port	Miguel Clement	12	5	1.00	1.00	1.25	51	31	167	6	Y	6	28	100	2nd G1	2	US	8-0-3	1	1	1	2
Hill Road	Chad Brown	13	5	1.00	1.33	1.25	101	31	333	3	N	6	28	NA	N	3	US	0-0-0	1	1	2	1
Ethical Diamond	Willie Mullins	14	9	2.00	2.00	2.25	26	31	83	5	Y	5	70	117*	Euro	1	Euro	3-2-0	2	2	2	3

Pace:

Euros Silawi and Rashabar are the probable pace angles, and perhaps Chad's Redistricting will join them. Typically, the winner has nothing to do with the early gallop though Minnie Hauk is usually not too far from the front end; she'll need to avoid crowding if taking that route.

Key Trials:

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

Trends Contenders:

Minnie Hauk, Goliath, Rebel's Romance, El Cordobes

Turf Form

Highland Reel is the only horse since 1998 to have made all in the Turf, and Buck's Boy in '98 was the only other to do it. Generally speaking, midfield or held is the dominant run style.

It's not a race for shocks, the biggest priced winner this century being 27/1 and the next biggest 17.3/1. The average US tote return this century is just over 7/1, so it's a playable each way race at least.

This year the Euro squad is vast – nine if you include Hamad Al Jehani, based in Qatar but with a Newmarket yard. It has a fairly obvious pecking order which, unsurprisingly, matches the betting lists.

Minnie Hauk is at the top, Aidan's filly having won five on the bounce – including the Cheshire, Irish, Yorkshire and actual Oaks – before an excellent second in the Arc. She'd had a nice rest before the Arc but still, it's been a long season and, more materially if you're tempted to play short, she looked to have a very hard race in France. Fast ground ought to be fine for her and she is a standout player; just not very attractive from an odds perspective.

Next in the market is **Rebel's Romance**. It's hard to overstate how enduringly brilliant this fellow is. Seeing him on the track, he's an absolute monster: 50% wider than most horses I've seen and all bulk. He's drawn on the rail, which isn't the issue on the turf track that it is on the dirt – Talismanic won the Turf here in 2017 from stall 1 – but Buick will still need to navigate a pretty deep field if he's to repeat his trends-busting win from a year ago. That day he became the first horse aged older than five to win the Turf; 68 had previously tried!

He's had another ridiculously good season, winning Group 2's at York and Royal Ascot and G1's in Germany and the States, and his ratings are as good as ever. But he's seven, and this is a hotter (arguably much hotter) renewal than last year.

Francis-Henri Graffard has also enjoyed a stellar 2025, **Goliath** contributing to that with wins in Paris and a G1 in Germany last time. He won the King George at Ascot last year and, on his day, is close to the top of the twelve-furlong tree. He's normally a prominent

racer, making all for that Baden-Baden score last time. He could prove tough to pass for all that such tactics are not normally successful.

Ralph Beckett sends **Amiloc**, a highly progressive three-year-old who started 2025 winning a conditions race before adding the Cocked Hat (Listed) and G2 King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot. Returning after a three-month break in the Irish St Leger (1m6f) he didn't seem to get home – or lacked match fitness – but still finished a fair second.

This is clearly another step up the ladder but he's not without hope if progressing off that Curragh effort. A pal of mine, and a good judge, fancies him quite a bit.

Another pal, also a fine form student, likes **Wimbledon Hawkeye**. Candidly, I'm struggling to see the case. He was nearly 4L behind Amiloc at Royal Ascot, 2L behind **El Cordobes** at Newmarket and was beaten again, in a Group 3, before plundering one of those Kentucky Downs treasure troves last time, all out to hang on over ten and a half furlongs. He didn't beat a horse there that would start shorter than 100/1 here. Like I say, though, he's a good judge – so I might have missed something!

Another I can't have is **Ethical Diamond**. It is clearly folly discounting anything Willie Mullins sends anywhere in the world under any code; and this lad has bolted up in two of the most competitive handicaps in the calendar, the Duke of Edinburgh at Royal Ascot and the Ebor at York.

He's not a million miles from the required level, probably needing to find seven pounds or so; and he showed a dazzling turn of foot at Ascot, closing out the last quarter mile up the hill in 23.24 off an even tempo. And again, off a slowish early pace, he ran the last two furlongs at York in 23.89 seconds. I'm almost talking myself into this..!

The shortest priced US runner is **Redistricting**, at 25/1. He was well beaten by Rebel's Romance last time and, though that form is fair enough, he's in deeper waters now.

It's double carpet the rest, and still they come! **El Cordobes** is a Charlie Appleby entry – already my ears are pricked up, he arrive with a 41% win rate at Breeders' Cup – and he was a Grade 1 scorer two back, in the Sword Dancer. Last time, behind Rebel's Romance – who took it up after half a mile and controlled the pace before sprinting away – he over-raced, fanned too wide off the home turn and made up ground on the second failing by a neck.

He has a clear verdict over Wimbledon Hawkeye earlier in the season and that makes him a small bit over-priced though he'd be a surprise winner, no doubt.

Silawi won the Canadian International last time, beating the re-opposing **Tawny Port**. That was a career best on his 26th start but still ten pounds or so shy of what's needed here.

There's another seven-year-old in the race, **Gold Phoenix** having run fourth a year ago where the ages of the first four were 6,5,6,6. That was unheard of and spoke of the weakness of the renewal. I don't really expect GP to get that close this time, though he's won his last two and is a bit of a Del Mar celebrity with five wins on the turf track here (0 from 4 at a mile and a half, though).

Tawny Port, **Hill Road** and **Rebel Red** don't belong with these, and nor probably does **Rashabar**. But the last named is trained by dual Breeders' Cup Turf-winning handler Brian Meehan. I couldn't fancy Red Rocks or Dangerous Midge either, so he's flummoxed me before. In fairness, both were more obvious than this chap whose career since winning the Coventry has been exclusively seconds and fourths; they include two G1 runners up gongs as a two-year-old, and fourth in the Irish 2000 Guineas and St James's Palace Stakes, both at a mile. Magician also took in those two mile G1's en route to a shock (to me) win in the Turf and Rashabar's pedigree has stamina on the dam side. I hope he runs very well because I like Meehan and admire connections of this horse who punch well above their relative buying power; but it's still a tall order.

Turf Form Contenders

This race defeats me annually. And I feel more conflicted than normal this time around. I know I want to let Minnie Hauk beat me – it's the price, you see – and I also have to let Rebel's Romance sink my battleship: in his case, it's age. There's every chance the winner emerges from that pair but this has strength in depth.

Goliath is capable but a little too in and out, while Amiloc is progressive but needs to find a fair bit. Both make some win only appeal.

Ethical Diamond and El Cordobes could be played 'underneath' in exactas and/or especially trifectas but don't look like win candidates; and the rest should not be good enough.

VERDICT: As usual I will be wrong with my suggestion in the Turf. It is weirdly inscrutable to me perennially. So I will play small stakes, win only, on Goliath and Amiloc at 9's and 14's respectively. They will, naturally, finish second and third behind Minnie Hauk or the Romantic Rebel...

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	(Bulldo/Stamina for layoff)	1-2-3 LTO	Best Distance Beyer (PPR)	US 3yo ran in 1+ Triple Crown race?	100 Dirt Record	Layoff	Based	100+ LTO Beyer, ^ if PG	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR	
																					LR	2LR	3LR	4LR	
Fierceness	Todd Pletcher	1	10	2.50	2.67	2.50	6	8	128	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	2-0-0	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!

Sierra Leone benefited from a wild early pace last year (44.96 for the first half mile) and, though Contrary Thinking will be the scolded cat, he's unlikely to take others with him which might mean we're looking at a more temperate pace. That could compromise his finishing effort against horses ahead of him and with a bit more left in the tank.

Fierceness has a few health niggles for this punter. I might be completely wrong on that but, even if I am, he's been beaten by Sierra Leone the last two times.

Forever Young was only third to the above pair last year, and it's hard to envisage he lands in front of both of them... and the three-year-olds.

Antiquarian has put up career bests on his last four starts and might be a tickle overpriced; it wouldn't surprise if he was best of the older horses. Or if he wasn't!

Mindframe has yet to race against the three-year-olds, hasn't had an actual race (with a jockey on top) since June, and probably isn't good enough anyway.

Sovereignty hasn't run against elders: if that cohort is stronger – and I think it probably was a good year, with a number training on at four – then he'll have his work cut out.

As likeable as Baeza is you have to be quite creative to envisage how he finishes in front of Sovereignty, even before assuming the threes are superior to the fours.

Ditto, though to a lesser degree, Journalism. His firm usurping at the hands of Fierceness is just about the sole shred of inter-generational form on offer, and is presents those with more experience with plenty of hope.

Nevada Beach will need to step up significantly to win, but after just four races that's not impossible. It's more likely he's neither good enough nor experienced enough, but he's at least a playable price.

VERDICT: This market offers very little obvious value/appeal.

For a long time I had this as Sovereignty's to lose, and I still largely feel that way. But the more I look at it, the deeper it feels. Sierra Leone can obviously win but his price is unexciting if the race sets up the way I think it will. Fierceness has a klaxon going off for me; but he'd not be a surprise winner.

Do I really think Forever Young can get the better of his nemeses this time? No, not really. I don't understand why Mindframe is 10/1, I'd have him twice those odds – but I might be wrong (obvs).

Journalism and Baeza need Sovereignty to flop and the threes to be ahead of the fours.

All of which leaves me looking at tiny interest plays on ***Antiquarian*** and ***Nevada Beach***, both at 20/1 or bigger. I don't especially think either will win, but both are unexposed and very square prices against better established form albeit with question marks against all of them.

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

Pace:

Unless one of the international raiders – Argine, Gran Oriente, One Stripe – goes on, this could be a muddle. It has just about the lowest pace projection of the entire meeting, and that might set up for chaos. Don't make your nap in this race!

Key Trials:

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

Trends Contenders:

Sahlan, Rhetorical

Mile Form

The three Del Mar renewals were won by stalls 2, 5 and 6. When More Than Looks won last year from trap 6, there were only ten runners; in the full fields here, 5 beat 4 in 2017 and 2 beat 1 in 2021. We have 13 currently slated to go to post. Go figure.

More generally, the average winning post position has been 6.8, which is almost bang in the middle.

Only the mighty Lure has won the Mile from the front, something he accomplished twice in succession in 1992/3 when we were all younger and more beautiful, and before some readers were even born!

Held up winners accounted for 22 of the 41, with midfield runners adding another 11; so that's 33/41 racing in the second half of the pack.

Time was when UK and Ireland hadn't won this since 1995; then Sir Michael Stoute cracked the code in 2018 when he brought dyed in the wool seven-furlong horse Expert Eye over. That ability to travel at 7f pace allied to a finishing kick was also a hallmark of the Charlie Appleby trio of Space Blues, Modern Games and Master of the Seas. The French had a very good record in the race with eight wins up to 2010, but they've come up dry since, not helped by some painful vet scratches in the days leading up the big races.

Stall 1 is occupied by former South African four-year-old **One Stripe**, winner of the G1 Cape Guineas in December and the G1 King's Plate in January. Transferred to Graham Motion, his first run in North America, behind Notable Speech in the Woodbine Mile, was underwhelming. He needs to bound forward on that showing, and there's no reason to think his Southern Hemisphere form is good enough in any case.

This will have been the target all season for **Notable Speech**, and if the draw is a factor then stall 2 offers no excuses. The 2024 2000 Guineas winner is a year older and stronger now, and camp confidence is high. Horses returning to the race do have a strong record, and the form of his nose second in the Prix Jacques le Marois is very good – as is that Woodbine win.

Francis-Henri Graffard has had an outstanding season, and he brings three to Del Mar, one of which is **Sahlan**, drawn 3. He's a lightly raced three-year-old who was a no show in the Poules d'Essai des Poulains (French 2000 Guineas) in May before finding his form

from late summer, first in a Deauville Group 3 and then in the Prix du Moulin at Longchamp. That race may be remembered for the hapless and luckless ride on Rosallion, but Sahlan was almost as quick over the last three furlongs (33.47 seconds vs 33.15 seconds, very rapid finishing kicks!)

The Lion In Winter (stall 4) was more forwardly placed than that pair but could only cover the final 3f in 33.98s. He's obviously always been held in high regard – favoured at times for both the 2000 Guineas and the Derby – but just hasn't delivered. It was another fine effort in defeat in the QEII Stakes at Ascot, where he was handy once more but couldn't quicken. That race was just a fortnight prior to this one.

Chad Brown is always to be respected in Breeders' Cup turf races (and dirt races, he saddled the Classic winner twelve months ago!), and he sends lightly-raced five-year-old ridgling **Program Trading**. There are not many ridglings in training, still fewer running in G1's. This one won a Grade 1 over nine furlongs here in December 2023 and followed that up with another G1 score in May 2024. He was then absent for more than a year after flopping in the Manhattan, presumably something seriously amiss that day.

Brown has got him back somewhere close to his best, a runner up slot in his comeback race followed by the same position in the G1 Keeneland Turf Mile. He finished well that day but couldn't quite catch **Rhetorical** who was better placed when the early speed collapsed. Stall 11 for the winner there means tables could be turned here.

Also in that race, and drawn 10 this time, was **Jonquil**. He was a pretty moderate ride, miles out of his ground and rattling home (final quarter mile in 22.48 compared with Program Trading's 22.79 and Rhetorical's 22.93) all too late. Colin Keane takes over this time looking to channel his Magnum Force spin from twelve months ago.

The Uruguayan entry **Gran Oriente** is impossible to fathom, for me at least. He was beaten in eight races straight before taking the WAYI G1 over ten furlongs last time. That was back in May and he's been unsighted since; an unlikely winner it's probably fair to say.

Johannes, drawn 7, is the other returner from a year ago. Second, one place in front of Notable Speech then, he's won two of his three starts since, both at Grade 2 level. In between wins he was bashed in a G1 but arrives here, as he did last year, off a one and a quarter length score in the City of Hope Stakes. He is again drawn 7, as he was last year, and perhaps he'll again finish second! A winner of nine of 15 lifetime, and five from seven at a mile, one second, he's a super consistent and very likeable horse.

Formidable Man was one I was ready to put a line through, but then I noticed he's six from six on the Del Mar lawns. Hmm. He's won six of his last eight races, including twice at G1 level, and knows his way home here with his eyes closed. A handy racer who stays nine furlongs, his draw in 8 is high enough.

I have to be honest and say I don't know how to rate some of these Japanese runners.

Argine won a nine-furlong G3 for fillies last time; how that translates to this is way beyond my intellectual capabilities. I feel like it's not good enough, though I'm less convinced her half length fourth in the G1 Victoria Mile is sub-par for this. I just don't

know. Stall 9 is unhelpful, that I am confident about. She's never before raced outside of Japan.

If **Jonquil** had drawn more kindly I'd have been a bit interested in his chance. He's that classic seven furlong horse I referenced earlier, and showed his late speed on North American soil in that Canadian race.

Second in the French 2000 behind Henri Matisse, he wasn't sighted twice before coming good in the G2 Celebration Mile at Goodwood. The connecting factor between those two strong efforts was fast ground. He'll get those conditions here, of course. I actually might be tempted into a small win wager!

Will Walden is an interesting character with a troubled journey to where he is today – [read about that here if you'd like](#). But he's making the training game his new addiction and in **Rhetorical** has a serious horse. Lightly raced, with just six runs to his name, Rhetorical has won five of them including that defeat of Program Trading and Jonquil last time. The romantic in me would love to see him win here; but the pragmatist cannot see him enjoying the charmed run of Keeneland from this wide post. Still, he remains progressive and if he could step forward again off the Kee race he'd be in with a shout.

The Canadian raider **Gas Me Up** needed a plum draw; instead he's been blown a raspberry one. He doesn't look anywhere near good enough.

And shock Sussex Stakes winner **Qirat** will cede territory to all with his furthest from the rail position. It might sound daft about a Group 1 winner but could he be in here to make the pace for Jonquil? After all, that was his job the day he shocked us all. He's run two very ordinary races since the Goodwood skinner, and he's not for me.

Mile Form Contenders

As hard a race to work out as there is all weekend. The sane thing to do would be to enjoy a beverage as the action unfolds... but you're not here for that, are you?!

Notable Speech is well drawn and his trainer is a master of Breeders' Cup turf races; but I was a bit disappointed with him last year, Buick working at him a long, long way from home. He just didn't travel like you need to on these tight ovals. He's a year stronger now but I don't find his price in any way appealing for all that he's eminently capable of winning.

Sahlan and The Lion In Winter are the same horse in the betting, both at 7/1 or so. I much prefer the French entry and think he's probably the each way bet in the race.

Formidable Man has a formidable record here but this is another level from that which he's faced hitherto. Rhetorical would be a brilliant story but he's not a bet. But Jonquil just might be.

VERDICT: Devilishly difficult and luck will play an outsized part in proceedings. Sahlan has a good draw, tactical speed and the Graffard stardust. He also has Barzalona in the plate, which is not always a plus. Still, I'll take a chance on him.

And I just have to have a sliver of Jonquil even though he has a lot on his plate from stall 10. If Colin Keane had ridden him last time he'd probably have won; and if he'd won there he'd be half his current quote here. 14/1 is pretty fair.

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	Kiaran 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

How the runners fit

Dirt Mile	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRF Morning Line	Odds Differential	Age	Seasonal runs	Layoff / (B)ullet work	Ran in G1/G2 LTO	100+ Beyer in Last 2?	Top Distance Beyer	LTO Position	Turnback in trip?	Graded Stakes win?	Mile dirt record? (R-1-2)	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Will Take It	Dallas Stewart	1	7	1.50	1.67	1.75	67	31	220	4	7	38/B	6th G3	97	97	6	N	N	4-2-0	1	2	2	2
Goal Oriented	Bob Baffert	2	13	3.00	3.00	3.25	9	7	133	3	5	42/B	3rd G1	101	NA	3	Y	N	NA	3	3	3	4
Nyos	Bob Baffert	3	10	3.00	2.67	2.50	2.63	2.6	102	4	3	98/B	1st G2	108	108	1	Y	Y	1-1-0	2	4	2	2
Mystik Dan	Kenny McPeck	4	8	2.00	2.00	2.00	9	7	133	4	6	35/B	1st G2	100	84	1	Y	Y	1-0-0	2	2	2	2
Tumbarumba	Brian Lynch	5	10	3.00	2.33	2.50	26	21	125	5	6	35	1st G3	93	97	1	N	C3	12-4-3	4	2	1	3
Full Serrano	John Sadler	6	15	4.00	3.67	3.75	4.5	4.5	100	6	2	35	2nd G1	98	104 '24	2	Y	G1 '24	9-6-3	4	4	3	4
Citizen Bull	Bob Baffert	7	13	3.00	3.33	3.25	11	11	100	3	5	62	1st Letd	98	98	1	N	N	2-2-0	4	2	4	3
Chancer McPatrick	Chad Brown	8	4	1.00	1.00	1.00	41	16	267	3	5	70/B	4th G1	96	92	4	N	N	1-1-0	1	1	1	1
Touch Of Destiny	Michael McCarthy	9	4	2.00	1.33	1.00	34	21	165	3	6	125/B	1st G3	?	?	1	N	C3	1-1-0	4	0	0	0
White Abarrio	Saffie Joseph Jr.	10	8	1.00	1.67	2.00	11	9	125	6	5	62/B	5th G1	103	106	5	Y	G1	5-1-0	1	1	3	3

Pace:

Defending champion Full Serrano could lead or at least be handy. Patriot Spirit, for which this is second preference, is also a perennial presser; so, too, is Citizen Bull. I haven't seen all of Touch of Destiny's Uruguayan runs, but he is another that might go on.

Key Trials:

Go to breederscup.com for race videos.

Trends Contenders:

Nysos

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.

Dirt Mile Form Contenders

I actually think Nysos is a big price at 6/4, and can see him going off odds-on assuming all goes well with Baffert's earlier runners on the card. I also like, and greatly respect, Full Serrano after his contribution to my damage limitation project a year ago. More importantly he's shown fine form again in 2025.

Goal Oriented is lightly raced and has been training well; and at bigger prices, Chancer McPatrick could run into the frame.

VERDICT: Nysos has looked tip top class and, if all is well with him after a minor injury scare a few weeks ago, and with his trainer's form in the earlier part of the weekend, he has to be the bet.

I'm always a little apprehensive when a trainer is mob-handed in a race; as I've written elsewhere, the adage "if you've got three for the race, you haven't got one" springs to mind. And Goal Oriented is in with a squeak, too.

But it's Nysos for me. I hope he shows how good he is.

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	Inspir	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	Wuheida (GB)	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, Inspir)
- ✓ 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)

How the runners fit

Filly/Mare Turf	TRAINER	Post Position	Pace Score	2 Pace Average	3 Pace Average	4 Pace Average	Odds	DRP Morning Line	Odds Differential	Sharp last race?	Breed	Seasonal runs?	Kee run / Euro?	G1 win in year US, G123 win Eur	Layoff	Top Figure (ePP)	US/import 1-2 LTO	Age	Distance turf form	LR	2LR	3LR	4LR
Mission Of Joy	Phil d'Amato	1	5	1.00	1.33	1.25	34	31	110	Y	US	6	N	G2	28	88	1st G2	5	0-0-0	1	1	2	1
Stellify	Brad Cox	2	16	4.00	4.00	4.00	21	31	67	Y	US	6	N	G3	56	95	1st G3	4	2-2-0	4	4	4	4
Atsila	Donnacha O'Brien	3	7	1.00	1.33	1.75	34	21	165	N	Ire	7	Euro	G3	28	111*	NA	3	0-0-0	1	1	2	3
Village Voice	Chad Brown	4	9	1.50	2.00	2.25	17	16	107	Y	US	1	N	G3	27	95	1st G3	5	1-1-0	1	2	3	3
Gezora	Francis-Henri Graffard	5	7	1.00	1.33	1.75	5.5	4.5	129	N	Fr	5	Euro	G1	27	118*	NA	3	0-0-0	1	1	2	3
Diamond Rain	Charlie Appleby	6	7	1.00	1.67	1.75	9	7	133	Y	UK	3	Euro	2nd G1	77	118*	NA	4	1-1-0	1	1	3	2
Be Your Best	Saffie Joseph Jr	7	14	3.50	3.67	3.50	34	31	110	y	US	5	Y	G1	63	98	3rd G2	5	3-1-0	4	3	4	3
Cathedral	Kevin Philipart de Foy	8	8	2.00	2.00	2.00	34	31	110	N	UK	5	Euro	2nd G3	28	107*	NA	3	0-0-0	2	2	2	2
Cinderella's Dream	Charlie Appleby	9	6	1.50	1.67	1.50	6	5.5	111	y	UK	5	Euro	G1	28	119*	NA	4	1-0-1	2	1	2	1
La Kika	Doug O'Neill	10	3	1.50	1.50	1.50	67	31	220	N	US	5	Peru	G1 Peru	34	?	N	4	0-0-0	2	1	?	?
Bedtime Story	Aidan O'Brien	11	6	1.00	1.00	1.50	15	13	117	n	Ire	7	Euro	2nd G1	14	115*	NA	3	0-0-0	1	1	1	3
Bellezza	Miguel Clement	12	7	1.00	1.67	1.75	34	21	165	Y	US	4	N	G2	63	97	1st G2	4	2-2-0	1	1	3	2
She Feels Pretty	Cherie DeVaux	13	9	2.00	2.33	2.25	6.5	4.5	157	Y	US	4	Kee '24	2xG1	77	104	1st G1	4	0-0-0	2	2	3	2
See The Fire	Andrew Balding	14	6	1.50	1.33	1.50	5.5	6	90	Y	UK	6	Euro	2nd G1	27	121*	NA	4	2-1-0	2	1	1	2

Pace:

Stellify is nailed on to go forward, but she might be challenged by Be Your Best. Not much else in terms of obvious pace so this could be on the fast side of even tempo. Late runners scrambling again in the stretch!

Key Trials:

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

Trends Contenders:

Cinderella's Dream, See The Fire

Filly & Mare Turf Form

Like the (Juvenile) Turf Sprints, this is one of the movable feast race distances at Breeders' Cup. Most often run over a mile and a quarter or, as it will be here, a mile and three, it has also been contested at nine and a half furlongs and, on BC's first trip to Del Mar, nine furlongs!

The two 11f renewals here saw winners from stalls 8 and 9 though none of the double-digit stalls made the first four. See The Fire has stall 14 😊

As with many Breeders' Cup races on the inner turf tracks, horses with late speed are favoured, with only one all the way winner and two prominent racers scoring from 26 renewals.

Mission Of Joy has the inside rail and will be patiently ridden. She's never gone this far, but she'd only gone 1m2f once in her life before finishing best of all to win the G2 Rodeo Drive at Santa Anita. She didn't look short of stamina there but that class level is probably two notches below the top Europeans. Still, she's sure to enjoy the firm conditions and it's a home game for her.

In 2 is the lightly raced four-year-old **Stellify**, who only made her debut this season. She took three attempts to break her maiden but has now won four in a row, progressing

through the grades to a G3 last out. She's one of only two pace angles in the race and is two-from-two at the trip. But she's up three grades here against Euro G1'ers (G'oners?)

Donnacha sends **Atsila**, and steps her up from a mile to three furlongs further for the first time. She's been ambitiously campaigned, to say the least, running in Group 1s the last five times, a length and a quarter third in the Matron the pick of those runs. She is not obviously bred for this longer terrain and she doesn't finish her races as though she's capable of quickening into contention here.

Chad Brown's small team comprising a number of big odds players on the grass, including **Village Voice**, drawn 4. Since 2012, only four renewals have gone to an American trainer, and they all went the way of Chad! [A Canadian and a Japanese have also broken the Euro stranglehold in that time].

Zagora, at 9.2/1, was the longest odds winner for Brown, while this mare is currently double those odds. But here's a thing. If you think the name sounds familiar it's because she was trained in Ireland by Jessica Harrington until the end of last season, closing out her time with a creditable fourth in the Champions Day Filly & Mares at Ascot. Since then, Village Voice has raced only once, four weeks ago in a G3 at Aqueduct at this distance. It wasn't a brilliant ride from Daire Davis though there was a lot of scrimmaging in front of him and she showed great attitude to close for the win; Flavien Prat is a pilot uplift now.

Gezora is a smart Graffard three-year-old filly. Winner of the G1 Prix de Diane (French Oaks) and second in the G1 Prix Vermeille she ran no sort of race from no sort of draw in the Arc (exited gate 13 and finished 13th, unlucky for her). She's miles better than that – the first four home in the Arc were drawn 2,1,3,5 – and she'll show as much here. Whether that's enough to win, I don't know, but she has a relatively easy race in the Arc and her prior form is top drawer. Crucially, she has a plum post position this time.

There's very little between Gezora and **Bedtime Story**, which finished in almost the exact same fractions as the former in both the Diane and the Vermeille. Unfortunately for Soumi and 'the lads', Bedtime Story has stall 11 to overcome. Still, she's not impossible and is a bit of value, draw notwithstanding.

Charlie Appleby is doubly represented, the first of them in stall order being **Diamond Rain** from 6. She's an unexposed four-year-old that won a couple of minor stakes in UK before shipping to Woodbine for the EP Taylor, Grade 1, last time. She was given a fair bit to do after the acceleration of **She Feels Pretty** gave that smart mare first run; but Diamond Rain closed all the way to the wire, eventually giving best by a head. She has a much better draw than her conqueror (13) this time and can reverse the form. Whether she can bring it to the pick of the Euros – notably her stablemate – is another question.

Stall 7 will be occupied by **Be Your Best**, a five-year-old mare that's been first or second at the first call in her last nine races. It's safe to say she'll be handy in the early go. She's had a good season, headlined by Gradel success in the Gamely at Santa Anita, but this is too hot for her.

I suspect it's probably too hot for **Cathedral** (8), too, though I'm pleased for Kevin Phillipart de Foy that he's here. She was 4th in that muddling Matron on Irish Champions

Weekend but whacked in the Sun Chariot. She did run well in the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot last season, but I don't give her much hope of a resurgence at this rarefied level.

My toughest beat last year was watching nap of the meeting **Cinderella's Dream** endure a tough trip and just fail to pass Moira. Being the true professional I am, I've just tortured myself by watching last year's race again; it wasn't a particularly bad ride from Will Buick, he just got trapped in a pocket from his inside draw and the gap didn't come quickly enough. Redemption is perfectly possible and it may be some comfort to know that Moira was drawn in 9, the same box from which Cinders will depart this year.

She's had a quiet enough season, but the fast ground and tight turns of Southern California are what she's been waiting for. Sure to be a player.

Trap 10 is Peruvian princess, **La Kika**. Nobody knows her level, least of all me, but it's unlikely to be within a stone of the top Europeans.

And so to the aforementioned Bedtime Story, drawn 11. I'd have given her a fair chance if she'd been drawn a few perches inside and she's still worth considering especially if bookies offer four places. She's not won in 2025 but that masks a series of very good efforts, including second (to Gezora) in the Diane and third (to Aventure and Gezora) in the Vermeille. She does have a kick and can get involved with a fair passage.

The former Ger Lyons inmate **Bellezza** is in 12. She's won a G3 and a G2 either side of top level podium finishes since transferring to Christophe Clement and, after his untimely death in May, to son Miguel. In her favour is that she's been unhurried in her US races and so may be able to work out a trip from that wide gate; but she wasn't of the calibre of the top Irish fillies last season. She may have improved, or she may be flattered by her North American form.

Still wider is **She Feels Pretty**, trained by Chad Brown's former assistant, Cherie DeVaux. This four-year-old filly is clearly the pick of the home team and was a head away from recording a Grade 1 hat-trick this summer. By Breeders' Cup Mile winner Karakontie, she has the same electric gear change but has yet to race at 1m3f and was running on fumes to hold off Diamond Rain over ten furlongs last time. She has big speed figures but an awful draw and suspect stamina; she's a lay for me as she'll likely be short on the US tote.

Not by any means for the first time this weekend, a fancied European entry has drawn the widest stall of all. This time it's **See The Fire**'s misfortune and, really, she has it all to do from there. Her form puts her in the frame here, second in the Opera (10f, G1) the most recent evidence of that. But she didn't quicken best, or even second best, at the end of that race, that being a key attribute in a race like this. Nobody has ridden better this season than Oisin Murphy but it will be a serious rabbit from a hat job if he can get her home in front. Frankie did something similar on Queen's Trust at Santa Anita from stall 11 in 2016, but I reckon this would be better even than that. Which is to say she's a very tenuous favourite in my book.

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: I'm dutching Gezora and Cinders, and might take a partial stake saver on Diamond Rain. If any of the fancied fillies from double-figure stalls win, they'll thoroughly deserve it. Their prices don't currently fully reflect the size of the task.