

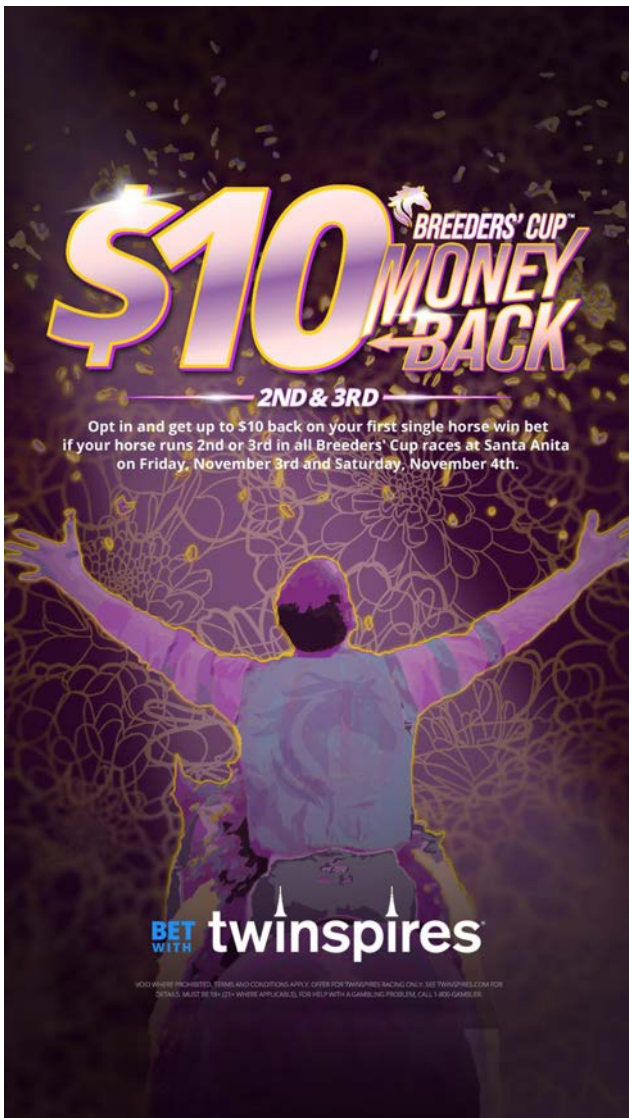
BREEDERS' CUP™ BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires**





BREEDERS' CUP™ BETTING GUIDE



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BREEDERS' CUP RACE & WAGER MENU

Friday, November 3rd, 2023

RACE	TIME		WAGERING								
1	11:30		WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3	Pick 5	
2	12:05		WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3	Pick 4	
3	12:40		WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3		
4	1:15		WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3	Pick 6	
5	2:00	Juvenile Turf Sprint	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3	Pick 5	\$3 All Turf P3
6	2:40	Juvenile Fillies	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	SPDD	Pick 3	Pick 4
7	3:20	Juvenile Fillies Turf	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD		Pick 3	Pick 4
8	4:00	Juvenile	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	SPDD	Pick 3	
9	4:40	Juvenile Turf	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	SPDD		
10	5:10		WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5				

Saturday, November 4th, 2023

RACE	TIME		WAGERING								
1	10:10		WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3	Pick 5	
2	10:50		WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3	Pick 4	
3	11:30	Dirt Mile	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3	Pick 5	
4	12:10	Filly & Mare Turf	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3	Pick 4	All Turf P4
5	12:50	Filly & Mare Sprint	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3	Pick 4	All Dirt P4
6	1:30	Mile	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	Pick 3	Pick 4	Pick 6
7	2:10	Distaff	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD	SPDD	Pick 3	Pick 5
8	2:50	Turf	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD		Pick 3	Pick 4
9	3:40	Classic	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD		Pick 3	Pick 4
10	4:25	Turf Sprint	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD		Pick 3	
11	5:00	Sprint	WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5	DD			
12	5:30		WPS	EX	TRI	SUPER	H-5				



SANTA ANITA AT A GLANCE

A look at the previous Santa Anita meet.

AVG. WINNING ODDS: 4.86 - 1

FAVORITE WIN%: 38% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 78%

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Exacta	58.25
Daily Double	65.75
Trifecta	357.51
Pick 3	397.30
Superfecta	1,845.02
Pick 6	39,085.79
Pick 4	2,592.45
Pick 5	14,213.92
Super High Five	7,759.66



TRACK BIAS MEET (09/29 - 10/29)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	22	45%	E	Rail/Ins
6.5fDirt	14	43%	E	Rail/Ins
1 MileDirt	23	30%	E/P	Mid/Out
DnTf Sprint	7	14%	P	Middle
Turf Sprint	27	33%	E	Outside
DnTf Routes	2	50%	E	Middle
Turf Routes	35	23%	E/P	Mid/Out

TRACK BIAS WEEK (10/23 - 10/29)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	3	33%	E/P	Rail/Ins
6.5fDirt	3	67%	E	Inside
1 MileDirt	6	17%	E/P	Mid/Out
DnTf Sprint	3	33%	E/P	Middle
Turf Sprint	4	50%	E	Inside
DnTf Routes	0	0%	-	na
Turf Routes	7	14%	S	Mid/Out

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'22-'23 Win %
McCarthy Michael W.	9	4	0	0	8.27	1	16%
Koriner Brian J.	7	3	0	1	2.66	2	14%
Saavedra Anthony K.	4	2	1	0	7.33	0	5%
Hess, Jr. Robert B.	5	2	0	0	4.84	0	12%
Yakteen Tim	5	2	0	1	3.96	1	16%
Gallagher Patrick	6	2	0	1	16.33	0	10%

HOT JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'22-'23 Win %
Hernandez Juan J.	14	5	2	3	3.04	2	25%
Rispoli Umberto	12	4	1	2	4.73	1	17%

COLD JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'22-'23 Win %
Pereira Tiago Josue	10	0	1	2	4.94	2	13%

MEET THE CONTENDERS

BREEDERS' CUP™ JUVENILE

1	 <small>Coady Photography</small>	THE WINE STEWARD  PRO: NY-bred stepped up nicely to give Locked all he could handle in Breeders' Futurity (G1). CON: Will need to find a bit more to turn the tables on that rival and others.
2	 <small>Benoit Photography</small>	PRINCE OF MONACO  PRO: Undefeated colt turned in a standout performance in the Best Pal (G3) two back. CON: Del Mar Futurity (G1) score more workmanlike; stamina test here.
3	 <small>Benoit Photography</small>	WINE ME UP  PRO: Solid try in American Pharoah (G1) and bred to be even better as distances increase. CON: Enters this as third in the Baffert-trained pecking order.
4	 <small>Coady Photography</small>	TIMBERLAKE  PRO: Rebounded well from upset loss to win the Champagne (G1) easily. CON: Benefited from slop and fast pace last time; lost modest Hopeful (G1) renewal.
5		ECORO NEO  PRO: Bred to be at his best routing on the dirt. CON: Still a maiden after two losses in Japan.
6	 <small>Adam Coglianese Photography</small>	LOCKED  PRO: Enters with a profile like that of former stablemate Forte, who won this last year. CON: Doesn't stand out over the locals, who have experience over the SA strip.
7		CUBAN THUNDER  PRO: Battle tested against some of Europe's best, though to no great effect. CON: Unplaced in three of four since breaking maiden going 6f on turf
8	 <small>Adam Coglianese Photography</small>	GENERAL PARTNER  PRO: A clear second in the Champagne after setting a solid pace. CON: Might prove more formidable around one turn, rather than two.
9	 <small>Adam Coglianese/Susie Raisher Photography</small>	FIERCENESS  PRO: Stellar debut at Saratoga and surely better than what he showed in Champagne. CON: Mud might have exaggerated actual ability first out; untested on a fast surface.
10	 <small>Benoit Photography</small>	MUTH  PRO: Appreciated stretchout to 1 1/16m in winning the American Pharoah. CON: No match for Prince of Monaco in their one prior meeting.
11	 <small>Benoit Photography</small>	NOTED  PRO: Multi-surface talent won his only start going long on dirt, the Sapling at Monmouth. CON: Relatively light in the speed figure department.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE

1 1/16 Mile

PURSE \$2,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	The Wine Steward	8-1
2	Prince of Monaco	4-1
3	Wine Me Up	15-1
4	Timberlake	4-1
5	Ecoro Neo	30-1
6	Locked	7-2
7	Cuban Thunder (IRE)	30-1
8	General Partner	8-1
9	Fierceness	6-1
10	Muth	4-1
11	Noted	20-1

TOP PICKS

#10 Muth

#3 Wine Me Up

#6 Locked

#1 The Wine Steward

WAGERS

\$20 win and place: #10 Muth

\$5 exacta key box: 10 with 1,3,6

\$.50-cent trifecta: 3,10 with 1,3,6,10 with all

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A fine field of 11 two-year-olds will vie in Friday's \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Santa Anita (G1). In addition to the race's major purse and the importance towards determining championship honors at the end of the season, the 1 1/16-mile endeavor on the dirt will also reward the top-five finishers with qualifying points (30-15-9-6-3) on the 2024 Road to the Kentucky Derby challenge series.

#1 THE WINE STEWARD (8-1): The Mike Maker pupil is 3-for-4 with his lone setback coming when a close second in the Breeders' Futurity (G1) on Oct. 7. The \$340,000 son of Vino Rosso is perfectly drawn on the rail for his toughest test to date, and I give the Empire State-bred colt a chance at a fair price from off of the early pace. Luis Saez will ride.

#2 PRINCE OF MONACO (4-1): Unbeaten Bob Baffert trainee skipped the local prep in order to be fresh for this endeavor. The Del Mar Futurity (G1) star is a question mark going two turns at this stage of his development, but he drew well and is obviously good enough to upend this cast on his best day. Regular pilot Flavien Prat will be up.

#3 WINE ME UP (15-1): Vino Rosso colt handled the move to two turns well last time when runner-up in the American Pharoah S. (G1), and I consider him to be a live longshot for Baffert. The \$300,000 chestnut has a lot of room for improvement with just two races to his credit, and the colt has trained well all season on this strip. Ramon Vazquez retains the mount.

#4 TIMBERLAKE (4-1): Impressive Champagne S. (G1) victor from the Brad Cox barn ran a lifetime best at Aqueduct in advance of Friday. Second in the Hopeful S. (G1) two prior, the \$350,000 son of Into Mischief will be stalking the pace from the early going and will be well positioned at the top of the lane with Florent Geroux in the silks.

#5 ECORO NEO (30-1): The Japanese import is a maiden and a wild card in the field, but he does hail from the mighty Mori shedrow. It might be wise to consider him in his U.S. debut. The \$300,000 Bernardini colt is bred to route on the main oval, and the Kentucky-bred could be almost any kind at a big number. Yuga Kawada will guide the juvenile.

#6 LOCKED (7-2): The morning-line choice from the Todd Pletcher shedrow has surely looked the part in his last pair of assignments, led by a fine tally in the Breeders' Futurity S. (G1) at Keeneland in preparation for this event. The chestnut son of Gun Runner has good route experience, he has finished with fine energy in each of his three races, and the one to beat also lands in a field with a lot of early pace in the fold. Jose Ortiz will be in the stirrups.

#7 CUBAN THUNDER (30-1): The Irish-bred makes his first start on the dirt and would be a major surprise in the event. The Profitable colt has been outrun in each of his trio of graded stakes to date, and it is difficult for me to envision him taking down this field at huge odds.

#8 GENERAL PARTNER (8-1): The Speightstown colt was a sharp maiden winner in his second career try, which preceded a runner-up performance in the Champagne S. (G1) last time out. The \$250,000 weanling purchase might appreciate the move to two turns, and he wouldn't be a major surprise with a forward move in the event under the guidance of Manny Franco.

#9 FIERCENESS (6-1): The Pletcher pupil was a sensational debut winner on Aug. 25 at Saratoga, but the bay showed little when finishing 20 lengths back in the subsequent Champagne S. (G1) over a sloppy, sealed oval at Aqueduct most recently. The City of Light homebred did put in a solid half-mile drill leading up to Friday, and he will be a major contender with a repeat of his unveiling. John Velazquez has the call.

#10 MUTH (4-1): The Baffert charge did everything right when dominating the American Pharoah S. (G1) on the course and at the trip last time out. The \$2 million son of Good Magic has speed combined with a turn of foot, and if the top prospect can navigate a sensible trip from the post slot, then he will be formidable in the stretch. Regular pilot Juan Hernandez will be in the irons.

#11 NOTED (20-1): The Pletcher pupil draws widest of all but has been in excellent form this campaign, which includes a nose second in the grassy Bourbon S. (G2) in his latest appearance. The talented son of Cairo Prince was victorious in the Sapling S. at Monmouth Park in his lone dirt try, and he will need a big step forward off of that event to challenge late on this occasion. Irad Ortiz Jr. will take the reins.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC

1 1/4 Mile

PURSE \$6,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Arcangelo	SCR
2	Zandon	12-1
3	White Abarrio	4-1
4	Missed The Cut	30-1
5	Derma Sotogake	20-1
6	Saudi Crown	12-1
7	Clapton	20-1
8	Ushba Tesoro	4-1
9	Senor Buscador	30-1
10	Dreamlike	30-1
11	Bright Future	10-1
12	Arabian Knight	3-1
13	Proxy	12-1

TOP PICKS

- #6 Saudi Crown
- #1 Arcangelo
- #2 Zandon
- #8 Ushba Tesoro

WAGERS

\$30 exacta: 6 with 1,2

\$30 exacta box: 1,6

\$.50-cent superfecta: 1,6 with 1,2,6,8 with 1,2,6,8 with all

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A top-notch field of 13 will travel 1 1/4 miles on the Santa Anita main oval in Saturday's lucrative, \$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic S. (G1). The feature of the sensational two-day extravaganza attracted top sophomores and elders, as well as a pair of international contenders, in what will undoubtedly be a thrilling event.

#1 ARCANGELO (7-2): Belmont S. (G1) and Travers S. (G1) star has reeled off a quartet of tallies in succession and will look to lock up potential Horse of the Year honors with a victory in the event. The Jena Antonucci trainee is well placed on the rail for his local bow, and the son of Arrogate is a must-use with regular pilot Javier Castellano in the silks.

#2 ZANDON (12-1): The Chad Brown trainee is one of the more consistent horses in training since his unveiling, and the Upstart four-year-old has done so while facing top competition in virtually every lifetime outing. The Grade 1 winner has displayed improved tactical speed this campaign, and the post slot near the rail seems ideal for the win contender, as well. The recent Woodward S. (G2) romper picks up Frankie Dettori.

#3 WHITE ABARRIO (4-1): Multiple Grade 1 victor aired in the Whitney S. (G1) at Saratoga last time out and will be a formidable foe with anything resembling that performance. The Richard Dutrow trainee has surely never been better and will be well acclimated to Santa Anita as he's been here since September. Irad Ortiz Jr. retains the ride atop the Race Day colt.

#4 MISSED THE CUT (30-1): Outsider from the John Sadler shedrow romped in the Tokyo City (G3) at 1 1/2 miles on the strip in his most recent showing, but the son of Quality Road faces an infinitely more difficult assignment on Saturday. The four-year-old colt will have Luis Saez in the stirrups.

#5 DERMA SOTOGAKE (20-1): Group 2 victor finished evenly while sixth in the Kentucky Derby (G1) and makes his second U.S. start in the Classic. The Mind Your Biscuits chestnut is a tough read being off for so long, and I have a feeling that he is biting off more than he can chew off the shelf. I do like the presence of Christophe Lemaire in the irons, however.

#6 SAUDI CROWN (12-1): Upset pick is a pair of noses from being unblemished from five career outings to date for Brad Cox. The Always Dreaming sophomore has blazing early speed that he has proven to be capable of carrying a route of ground, and I expect him to love the Santa Anita surface in his first local appearance, too. Florent Geroux will send the Kentucky-bred from the opening bell.

#7 CLAPTON (20-1): The peaking four-year-old rallied to take the Lukas Classic S. (G2) in his latest venture for Chad Summers. The Brethren colt lacks the early speed to keep touch in the early going, but the Florida-bred has a big turn of foot and will benefit from an expected swift pace in the early going. Tyler Gaffalione riding adds to his appeal.

#8 USHBA TESORO (4-1): The Takagi trainee has run off to six wins in succession, led by a superb tally in the Dubai World Cup (G1) in March. The six-year-old son of Orfevre was a cozy winner in his final prep for the Classic on Sept. 27, and I consider him to be a top-four must-use on Saturday with Yuga Kawada in the silks once again.

#9 SENOR BUSCADOR (30-1): The San Diego H. (G2) hero was a fast-closing third in the Awesome Again S. (G1) on the oval most recently, which followed his solid fourth-place result in the Pacific Classic S. (G1). The Mineshaft five-year-old has never been better, and he could find his way onto the board if not left with too much to do inside the final furlong.

#10 DREAMLIKE (30-1): The Todd Pletcher pupil is a very talented maiden winner last seen closing for a clear second in the Pennsylvania Derby (G1). The Gun Runner colt responded to the removal of blinkers in his latest offering, and I would not be shocked to see him fill some lower rungs of the exotics with Jose Ortiz taking the reins.

#11 BRIGHT FUTURE (10-1): Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) hero has never been better and has a sure exotics chance with a move forward for Pletcher. The chestnut son of Curlin has not been ultra-consistent to this stage of his development, but he possesses speed and class and could be dangerous at a price beneath John Velazquez.

#12 ARABIAN KNIGHT (3-1): Fleet Bob Baffert charge led throughout in posting a game victory in the Pacific Classic (G1) at Del Mar in his latest venture. The \$2.3 million purchase is 3-for-4 in his lifetime with obvious room for improvement being lightly raced, and the son of Uncle Mo has trained well over the local oval in advance of his first run at Santa Anita. Flavien Prat retains the mount.

#13 PROXY (12-1): The Godolphin homebred drew widest of all in the feature but has appeal from off the pace for conditioner Michael Stidham. The well-bred five-year-old owns a considerable turn of foot, and the son of Tapit was a neck second in the Santa Anita H. (G1) here in March, as well. Regular rider Joel Rosario has the call.

UNDER THE RADAR BREEDERS' CUP CONTENDERS: FRIDAY

by John Mucciolo

A handful of Breeders' Cup events will take place on Friday at Santa Anita, with each of the tilts featuring two-year-old runners. Below are a few horses that might not be well fancied at post time, but will nonetheless present value in the deep fields.

RACE 5 - BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE TURF SPRINT (G1)

Jessica Harrington's #5 Givemethebeatboys (15-1) has never been worse than fourth in his lifetime and exits a pair of Group 1 tries where the Irish-bred finished third and fourth. The ~\$1.4 million purchase has flashed speed in the past and might appreciate the firm going of the Santa Anita lawn under jockey Shane Foley.

RACE 6 - BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES (G1)

While Richard Mandella's #7 Tamara (4-5) will be imposing with her best effort, I am quite fond of the improving #11 Life Talk (20-1), one of three in the affair for conditioner Todd Pletcher. The Gun Runner filly looked the part in a dominant maiden win at Saratoga two back, while her recent Frizette (G1) third over Aqueduct's sloppy strip figures to serve as a fine prep race for this tilt. I think the \$335,000 yearling purchase will thrive while traveling two turns for the initial time beneath Irad Ortiz Jr.

RACE 7 - BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES TURF (G1)

It will be especially difficult for Bill Mott's #7 Gala Brand (12-1) to go last-to-first against a field of this quality and depth, but the bargain \$30,000 purchase possesses a fine late kick and will be a prime exotics contender at a nice price. The Kentucky-bred chestnut, who defeated the boys in the With Anticipation (G3) at Saratoga two back, seems set for a big performance with Jose Ortiz retaining the ride.

RACE 8 - BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE (G1)

Bob Baffert's #3 Wine Me Up (15-1) is Grade 1-placed on the oval following his second in the American Pharoah (G1) at 1 1/16 miles in his second career outing. The Vino Rosso colt is bred to run long and will likely improve in his second route endeavor. The Kentucky-bred will potentially be leading the field on the back side at a big price with Ramon Vazquez in the stirrups.

RACE 9 - BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE TURF (G1)

I believe the European contingent will be difficult to overcome in the final stakes race of the afternoon, but I see #14 Carson's Run (6-1) as the top domestic hope for conditioner Christophe Clement. The Cupid colt was visually impressive when dominating the Summer (G1) at Woodbine most recently, and he might get a bit overlooked in the race while being assigned the widest post of all in the cast. He will be doing his best work late with regular pilot Dylan Davis in the irons.



2023 BREEDERS' CUP POST DRAW ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS

by Keeler Johnson

Post positions for the 2023 Breeders' Cup were drawn on Monday evening, finalizing the fields for the 14 championship races across Friday and Saturday at Santa Anita.



The Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) is the feature event on an action-packed Saturday card, and the post position draw produced some tough luck for last year's Clark (G1) hero #13 Proxy (12-1), who risks a wide trip from the outside post.

In between, runaway Whitney (G1) winner #3 White Abarrio (4-1) may find himself racing farther off the pace than in the Whitney after drawing inside of speedier rivals like Pennsylvania Derby (G1) winner #6 Saudi Crown (12-1) and Pacific Classic (G1) winner #12 Arabian Knight (3-1). The latter colt has led after half a mile in each of his first four starts and figures to come out of the gate running from post 12, which should ensure an honest pace.



The Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) is a lengthy 1 1/2-mile contest in which post positions shouldn't play a major factor, even in the 13-horse field. Favored European raiders #9 Mostahdaf (5-2), #5 Auguste Rodin (3-1), and #11 King of Steel (4-1) have all drawn well.

In the Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1), several talented speed horses are set to face off for the first time. Favored #4 Idiomatic (5-2) arguably got the worst of the draw while landing inside of fellow pace players #5 Adare Manor (4-1) and #8 Randomized (6-1). On the other hand, assuming Idiomatic breaks cleanly, a ground-saving trip on the front end may be in the offing.

The Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) drew a full 14-horse field, and #14 Master of the Seas (7-2) had the misfortune to land post 14 after breaking from the rail when winning the Woodbine Mile (G1) and finishing second in the Coolmore Turf Mile (G1). He'll need some luck to work out a winning trip, especially after key rivals #6 Mawj (4-1) and #10 Songline (5-2) landed favorable posts.

#1 Goodnight Olive (6-5), reigning winner of the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (G1), must start from the rail in her title defense. But with only nine horses in the field, post positions shouldn't influence the outcome to any great degree.



The Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (G1) starts on a turn, which could potentially compromise the wide-drawn European raiders #11 Lumiere Rock (12-1) and #12 State Occasion (20-1) while lending an advantage to last year's Filly & Mare Turf runner-up #1 In Italian (4-1), a pure pacesetter who should have no trouble securing the lead from the rail post.

The Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) drew only nine horses and shouldn't produce any hard-luck stories based on post positions. Defending Dirt Mile winner #3 Cody's Wish (9-5) landed post 3 and should work out a fine trip even if he breaks slowly, as has become his tendency.

Nor should post positions play a major role in the outcome of the Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1), which attracted nine horses. Almost everyone drew well for their running style, including reigning Sprint winner #8 Elite Power (9-5) in post 8.

2023 BREEDERS' CUP POST DRAW ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS *(continued)*

by Keeler Johnson

This stands in contrast to the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1), which drew an overflow field of 16 horses including four also-eligible entrants. #3 Caravel (5-1) wired the 2022 Turf Sprint, but hasn't shown as much early speed in recent starts and risks getting buried in traffic while breaking from post 3 with pacesetters like #5 Live In The Dream (9-2), #7 Nobals (6-1), #11 Jasper Krone (12-1) to her outside.

On Breeders' Cup Friday, the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (G1) kicks things off with a 15-horse field including three also-eligible entrants. Here's the problem: speedy Queen Mary (G2) winner #1 Crimson Advocate (4-1), her two-time stakes-winning stablemate #2 No Nay Mets (4-1), and the group stakes-winning European raiders #3 Tiger Belle (15-1), #4 Big Evs (3-1), and #5 Givemethebeatboys (15-1) have all shown pacesetting speed, and they've landed the five inside post positions. Throw in the speedy Speakeasy winner #11 Slider (8-1) farther outside, and a wild rush for early supremacy could be on the horizon.



In the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1), runaway Del Mar Debutante (G1) winner #7 Tamara (4-5) drew post 7, right in the middle of a 13-horse field. She got the best luck of the draw, whereas Alcibiades (G1) winner #1 Candied (4-1) must avoid traffic from the rail and Frizette (G1) heroine #12 Just F Y I (8-1) risks a wide trip from post 12.

A total of 16 horses, including two also-eligibles, have entered the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1). Cheveley Park (G1) winner #6 Porta Fortuna (5-1) should have every chance for a clean trip from post 6, as should stretch-running Natalma (G1) winner #11 She Feels Pretty (4-1) in post 11. The main question is how fast unbeaten Surfer Girl (G3) winner #13 Dreamfyre (15-1)—who has set the pace in all three of her starts—will have to run to secure the lead from post 13. If she guns for the front, it could speed up the Juvenile Fillies Turf tempo.



In the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), unbeaten #2 Prince of Monaco (4-1) might have hoped for a wider draw than post 2, though he won the Del Mar Futurity (G1) after saving ground from the rail post and remains a formidable contender. That said, fellow Grade 1 winners #4 Timberlake (4-1), #6 Locked (7-2), and #10 Muth (4-1) arguably got the best of the draw.

The Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1) drew a full field of 14. Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien has won the race a record five times, and his three entrants #2 River Tiber (3-1), #8 Unquestionable (4-1), and #12 Mountain Bear (12-1) all drew well enough, though Mountain Bear is a bit wide. The unluckiest participant might be #14 Carson's Run (6-1), who is marooned in the far outside post after breaking from post 2 when winning the Summer (G1).



BREEDERS' CUP INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING REPORT: SATURDAY

by Vance Hanson

Although the representation is surprisingly light in the Mile (G1), one of the deepest European contingents in some time will be involved in both the Turf (G1) and Filly and Mare Turf (G1) on Saturday's Breeders' Cup program at Santa Anita.

Here is a rundown of the European candidates in those races, as well as others on the card.

BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE (G1)

For those bettors looking to take a stand against last year's winner and likely favorite Cody's Wish, #7 Algiers (6-1) is an intriguing alternative.



After spending the early part of his career running on turf in France, the Irish-bred has turned into a completely different animal since joining the yard of Simon and Ed Crisford, for whom he has won three times in six attempts on dirt. These include dominating scores in the first two rounds of the Al Maktoum Challenge (both G2) at Meydan last winter. He followed that with an excellent second behind Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) prospect Ushba Tesoro in the Dubai World Cup (G1).

After a wet track nixed an intended start in the Woodward (G2) at Aqueduct, Algiers was rerouted to Canada for his sole Breeders' Cup prep in the Durham Cup (G3) at Woodbine. He was only beaten a half-length there and figures to improve for the run in the Dirt Mile, where his positional speed could be an asset in a race that seemingly lacks a lot of pace.

BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE TURF (G1)

Although North America fields a strong home team (e.g. In Italian, Didia, Fev Rover), the handful of European contenders includes the probable top two betting choices.

The invading group is headed by #6 Inspiral (5-2), one of Europe's top milers over the last two seasons. Among her four Group 1 wins were back-to-back renewals of the Prix Jacques Le Marois (G1) at Deauville.

The latter of those two, on Aug. 13, came at the expense of Big Rock, who recently thrashed a stellar field in the Queen Elizabeth II (G1) at Ascot. Inspiral didn't have to be anywhere near as good to win last month's Sun Chariot (G1) at Newmarket against fellow fillies and mares, but dominated regardless.

Why is she here, rather than in the Mile later in the card? Co-trainer John Gosden, whose familiarity with the Southern California circuit dates to when he was based there in the 1980s, is more than familiar with what it takes to win at 1 1/4 miles over the course. He is seemingly confident an additional two furlongs would suit this daughter of Frankel to a tee, much more than the mile over this tighter configuration. He might very well be right, though contrarians are unlikely to be happy with the price, given her lack of distance experience.

A logical alternative is the dual Group 1 winner #2 Warm Heart (3-1), who beat older rivals, albeit narrowly, in both the Yorkshire Oaks (G1) and Prix Vermeille (G1) in her last two starts. They were characteristic wins for the daughter of Galileo, who enjoys a closely-fought scrap and whose only real comfortable stakes win this term occurred in the Ribblesdale (G2) at Royal Ascot.

All three of Warm Heart's Group wins have come over 1 1/2 miles, but her win in a classic trial at Newbury over the capable Bluestocking back in May showed she can be effective over 1 1/4 miles. She has run her best on firmer surfaces.

#11 Lumiere Rock (12-1) has more notable placings than wins this term, but is an honest and dependable sort over 1 1/4 miles. She has some form to find on Warm Heart, who beat her 2 1/2 lengths in the Ribblesdale, but has improved of late by taking the Blandford (G2) over older rivals by three lengths and finishing third in the Prix de l'Opera (G1). Although she has more speed than the top pair, expect Lumiere Rock to assume a pressing or stalking role with In Italian and others leading the charge.

Although beaten only two lengths in the Prix de l'Opera, #12 State Occasion (20-1) has never won a group stakes. #3 With the Moonlight (20-1) has never finished worse than second in five previous jaunts to North America, but has fallen short against American contenders In Italian, Fev Rover, and McKulick in the past.

Although the three-year-old French filly #7 Lindy (12-1) has been based in the U.S. with Brendan Walsh for several months now, she's worth mentioning in this discussion. Lindy has started twice since being imported, winning a one-mile allowance at Kentucky Downs and then closing fast to finish a half-length behind the classic-winning Mawj in the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1) at Keeneland over 1 1/8 miles. The extra furlong on Saturday should suit.

How classy is she compared to Inspiral and Warm Heart? Arguably a cut or two below on bare form. She vainly chased France's top filly,

BREEDERS' CUP INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING REPORT: SATURDAY *(continued)*

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Blue Rose Cen, three times during the spring, with two of those being good efforts and the other a dud when she uncharacteristically set the pace in the Prix de Diane (G1). That was perhaps the quickest ground Lindy has run over, so there's a chance the firmer going at Santa Anita might not entirely suit. Nonetheless, she remains with upside.

BREEDERS' CUP MILE (G1)

Following last week's withdrawal of likely favorite Paddington, it's Team Godolphin that will provide the major European contenders for the Mile.



North American fans are already familiar with #14 Master of The Seas (7-2). Scratched at the gate from the 2021 Mile at Del Mar, Master of The Seas reappears in career-best form. After an authoritative victory in the Summer Mile (G2) at Ascot in mid-July, the son of Dubawi shipped to Canada and convincingly won the Woodbine Mile (G1) over 2022 Breeders' Cup Mile runner-up Shirl's Speight. Last time, Master of The Seas beat all save Up to the Mark, who turned in a tremendous performance following a four-month layoff to win by a nose in the Coolmore Turf Mile (G1) at Keeneland.

The primary knocks against Master of The Seas are two-fold. First, he's never been considered among the elite milers in Europe. Second, his winning margin in the Woodbine Mile was perhaps flattered by the lack of depth in the field. This will prove a sterner test, and as the Keeneland race shows he's potentially vulnerable to the right horse.

Whether fellow Godolphin colorbearer #6 Mawj (4-1) is that one remains to be seen. A three-year-old filly, she earned a signature win in May with an upset score over the highly-rated Tahiyra in the 1000 Guineas (G1) at Newmarket. Sidelined until last month, Mawj reappeared in the aforementioned Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup at Keeneland. She showed her class, and plenty of guts, to make all over a distance she had never tried to win by a diminishing margin over Lindy.(7-2). Scratched at the gate from the 2021 Mile at Del Mar, Master of The Seas reappears in career-best form. After an authoritative victory in the Summer Mile (G2) at Ascot in mid-July, the son of Dubawi shipped to Canada and convincingly won the

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Several prominent three-year-old fillies have won this event, including superstars Miesque, Ridgewood Pearl, Six Perfections, and Goldikova. One thing they all had in common was a Group 1 win against older males ahead of their Mile triumphs. However, Mawj doesn't have that going for her, thus a career-best effort is likely needed.

The French filly #11 Kelina (6-1), on the other hand, recently toppled Kinross (last year's Mile third) in the Prix de la Foret (G1) as a 27-1 longshot. Her previous form obviously didn't indicate such an effort was forthcoming, though a combination of faster ground and a rough trip for Kinross aided in her victory. However, her relative class doesn't seem to stack up with either Master of The Seas or Mawj.

BREEDERS' CUP TURF (G1)

Dual classic winner #5 Auguste Rodin (3-1) has been pointed toward this race for some time, and when he's on his game he's very good. We saw his very best in the Epsom Derby (G1) and Irish Champion (G1), and to a lesser extent in the Irish Derby (G1). However, he's also run some inscrutably bad races this season in the 2000 Guineas (G1) and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (G1). The theory he was undone by soft conditions in both doesn't quite hold water, given his efforts on testing ground as a two-year-old.

Ground conditions are unlikely to be a factor in the Turf, but the fact he is prone to running below par on occasion gives some cause for pause at the price, especially with such capable opposition.

The physically massive #11 King of Steel (4-1) has been outfinished by Auguste Rodin in two of their three meetings, but was conceding relative experience and recency when falling short by only a half-length in the Epsom Derby in his season debut. He subsequently

BREEDERS' CUP INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING REPORT: SATURDAY *(continued)*

by Vance Hanson



defeated eventual St Leger (G1) winner Continuous in the King Edward VII (G2) at Royal Ascot, and then finished a good third in the King George behind the older Hukum and Westover on a day when Auguste Rodin simply failed to show.

Over a Leopardstown course Auguste Rodin had prior winning experience over, King of Steel fell a length short of his rival in the Irish Champion. But distance might have also come into play. Although connections felt King of Steel would be effective over 1 1/4 miles in the latter half of the season, his form at Epsom and Ascot last spring perhaps suggested 1 1/2 miles would actually be more suitable. Even his win in the 1 1/4-mile Champion (G1) last out could be seen as a more demanding test of stamina than the distance would imply, given the soft ground.

The main concern is that King of Steel is wheeling back on two weeks of rest following the Champion, and the presence of the worldly-popular Frankie Dettori is sure to depress his price some as well. Regardless, this is one talented colt and quite the eye-ful.

#9 Mostahdaf (5-2) is like fellow Gosden trainee Inspiral in one respect. He's a specialist at a shorter distance (in his case 1 1/4 miles) who might find getting an extra two furlongs easier to do over this course than elsewhere. He's run three outstanding races over the shorter trip this term, including a four-length romp in the Prince of Wales's (G1) and a one-length score over Paddington in the Juddmonte International (G1), in which he seized early control in a paceless affair.

Mostahdaf has won over 1 1/2 miles before, albeit against lesser on synthetic. In his last attempt at the trip, in the Dubai Sheema Classic (G1), he ran into Japanese superstar Equinox, who won comfortably over eventual Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) runner-up Westover. Mostahdaf languished seven lengths behind. Nonetheless, his top-level successes at Ascot and York were highly rated and he was installed the 5-2 morning line favorite for this.

After two modest runs to kick off his four-year-old campaign, #2 Onesto (8-1) ran a surprisingly good third in the Arc behind Ace Impact and Westover, missing second to the latter by a nose. It was a clear forward progression from his three-year-old form, which

was highlighted by a win in the Grand Prix de Paris (G1) and a second in the Irish Champion. Although not the most consistent performer, Onesto might offer overlaid odds and is a fresher horse than his two younger rivals.

#4 Bolshoi Ballet (15-1) is a two-time Grade 1 winner in the U.S., most recently taking the Aug. 26 Sword Dancer (G1) at Saratoga by more than four lengths. However, the veteran might prefer more cut in the ground than he will get here, and has been campaigned far below Group/Grade 1 level back home with limited success.

The enigmatic seven-year-old #7 Broome (30-1) was beaten a mere half-length by Yibir in this race two years ago, but would be a major surprise judged on his overall form over the past couple of seasons.

BREEDERS' CUP TURF SPRINT (G1)

#5 Live In The Dream (9-2) is one of those rare European sprinters who is as fast out of the gate as his American counterparts. A surprise winner of the Nunthorpe (G1) over the highly-regarded Highfield Princess in August, he showed his speed in his U.S. debut in the Oct. 7 Woodford (G2) at Keeneland, where he battled for the lead through a sub-:21 first quarter and a half-mile in :43 and change. The early exertion, as well as the 5 1/2-furlong distance, left Live In The Dream wanting late, but his fourth-place finish was still an effort that reportedly pleased his connections. paceless affair.

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BREEDERS' CUP INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING REPORT: FRIDAY

by Keeler Johnson

International participation during Breeders' Cup Friday has come up strong. Horses representing England, Ireland, France, and Japan are among the entries. Only the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) is lacking international representation; Friday's other four Breeders' Cup races have all drawn multiple foreign raiders. Let's meet the international contenders:

BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE TURF SPRINT (G1)

A large European contingent has been entered in the Juvenile Turf Sprint. Half a dozen runners have made the trip to Santa Anita.

#5 Givemethebeatboys (15-1), third in the Phoenix (G1) and fourth in the Middle Park (G1), boasts arguably the best form lines among the Europeans. But he's never run shorter than six furlongs and may find a fast five furlongs around a bend at Santa Anita too sharp. The same can be said of Middle Park fifth-place finisher #6 Starlust (20-1), and the Aidan O'Brien-trained filly #8 Cherry Blossom (12-1)—exiting a fourth-place run in the Cheveley Park (G1)—has also done her best work over six furlongs.

This stands in contrast to #3 Big Evs (3-1), a five-furlong specialist with wins in the Flying Childers (G2) and Molecomb (G3) on his record. The only time he's finished out of the exacta in five starts came when facing older horses in the Nunthorpe (G1).

Prix d'Arenberg (G3) heroine #3 Tiger Belle (15-1) and Royal Ascot's Norfolk (G2) winner #10 Valiant Force (12-1) have likewise secured their signature wins sprinting five furlongs, and both offer some intrigue in the Breeders' Cup.

#14 Asean (20-1) is second on the also-eligible list; if she draws in, she'll be a longshot off a 10th-place finish in the Cornwallis (G3).

BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES TURF (G1)

Five European raiders are entered in the Juvenile Fillies Turf. Hands-down the most accomplished is #6 Porta Fortuna (5-1), winner of the Cheveley Park (G1) and placed in the Phoenix (G1) and Moyglare Stud (G1). But she's been racing over straight courses and has done her best work in six-furlong sprints; there's no guarantee she'll relish racing one mile around two tight turns at Santa Anita.

At least Staffordstown Stud (G3) winner #5 Content (15-1), from the barn of Aidan O'Brien, handled a mild left-hand turn when breaking her maiden at Leopardstown. Rockfel (G2) heroine #9 Carla's Way (6-1) negotiated a very mild right-hand turn when finishing second in the Fillies (G3) at Goodwood, but a previous eighth-place finish against Porta Fortuna in the Albany (G3) at Royal Ascot leaves Carla's Way with form to find against the Cheveley Park winner.

French raiders #14 Les Pavots (8-1) and #4 Laulne (15-1) complete the international group. Les Pavots looks like the better of the pair after beating Laulne by three lengths in the seven-furlong Prix du Calvados (G2) at Deauville, after which she ran third in the one-



mile Prix Marcel-Boussac (G1) at ParisLongchamp. Les Pavots is accustomed to racing over soft and even heavy ground, but as a daughter of 2014 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1) runner-up No Nay Never, she could potentially enjoy firm turf at Santa Anita. It helps that she's won around a turn at Vichy.

BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE (G1)

International participation in this Road to the Kentucky Derby qualifier is slim, with only two horses slated to face the starter.

From Ireland comes #7 Cuban Thunder (30-1), a maiden winner sprinting six furlongs at York during the spring. But he was subsequently beaten by double-digit margins in the Coventry (G2), Superlative (G2), and Vincent O'Brien (G1) before finishing third in the easier Star Appeal S. on synthetic, so Cuban Thunder has yet to show he can compete against this caliber of competition.

The same goes for #5 Ecoro Neo (30-1), the lone Japanese representative on Breeders' Cup Friday. He's a maiden after finishing 12th in his debut racing 1 1/4 miles on turf and second in a six-furlong dirt sprint. Ecoro Neo closed strongly in the latter race and has upside for improvement, but he'll need a meaningful step forward to beat the strong North American home team in the Juvenile.

BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE TURF (G1)

Somewhat surprisingly, only three international raiders have entered the Juvenile Turf. They are #2 River Tiber (3-1), #8 Unquestionable (4-1), and #12 Mountain Bear (12-1), and all are conditioned by five-time Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf-winning trainer Aidan O'Brien.

They might be strongly outnumbered by the North American home team, but the O'Brien runners comprise a formidable trio. Two have already run well against top-tier competition: Unquestionable exits a sharp runner-up finish in the seven-furlong Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere (G1) at ParisLongchamp, while River Tiber boasts thirds in the Prix Morny (G1) and Middle Park (G1) sprinting six furlongs. Both have shown tactical speed and have every chance to work out winning trips at Santa Anita.

But the less heralded Mountain Bear can't be counted out of the mix. He won the seven-furlong Star Appeal S. racing around a left-handed turn on synthetic at Dundalk, and it's worth noting O'Brien's Hit It a Bomb won the 2015 Star Appeal as a precursor to nabbing the Juvenile Turf.

FINDING VULNERABLE FAVORITES IN THE 2023 BREEDERS' CUP

by Vance Hanson

Before diving into this year's list of seemingly vulnerable Breeders' Cup favorites, a bit of transparency. The record in this department has not been stellar the last couple of years. After going 3-for-5 in 2020, I misjudged the scenes in 2021 and 2022 with a 1-for-3 record both years.

Sometimes right, sometimes wrong. That's horse racing. The fundamental usefulness of finding and standing against vulnerable favorites remains. They reduce outlay and boost the value of the tickets you do cash.

Here, then, are several horses I'll be looking to beat on Breeders' Cup weekend. All figure to go off favored or attract significant play.



SONGLINE: BREEDERS' CUP MILE (G1)

The withdrawal of Paddington from this race not only reduced the favoritism this Japan-based mare.

There's nothing much to dislike about Songline's form, other than it's hard to know how well it truly stacks up. She's been the top miler in her native land this year, capturing the Victoria Mile (G1) against mares and then a second straight Yasuda Kinen (G1) against males. She barely missed winning her nine-furlong prep for this in early October.

You have to go back to February 2022 to get a better read on her relative talents. At that time, in a 6 1/2-furlong Group 3 on the Saudi Cup undercard, she just lasted by a neck over a fast-closing Casa Creed, who she meets again here but he often has trouble reproducing his best outside New York (Saratoga especially).

A mare who tends to burst on the scene late, the primary fear is the possibility of traffic in this congested field and over a course with a much tighter configuration than she is used to running on. Attrition gives her a strong chance, but there are simply too many unknowns for me to accept a short price.

AUGUSTE RODIN: BREEDERS' CUP TURF (G1)

The four-time Group 1 winner will get the course conditions he undoubtedly prefers, and his class is undeniable. Still, it's hard to make sense of his poor efforts in both the 2000 Guineas (G1) and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (G1). Both were held in contesting conditions he won't find at Santa Anita, but how do you square those no-shows with his apparent handling of even heavier ground in the 2022 Futurity Trophy (G1) at Doncaster?

The bottom line is that this colt, perhaps, is a little quirky. One deserving of all the respect, mind you, but not necessarily one to depend on as the logical favorite. He's finished ahead of King of Steel in two of their three previous encounters, though I think that rival enters this showdown in a much stronger place than he was at either Epsom or Leopardstown, where Auguste Rodin finished first. The older Mostahdaf is another serious rival who looms a big chance. I'll be leaning on those alternatives over this colt at the odds.



ARABIAN KNIGHT: BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC (G1)

This three-year-old colt's inherent talent is widely respected on the Southern California circuit. Although he was able to gut out a victory in the 1 1/4-mile Pacific Classic (G1), where his only serious rival on paper was fellow sophomore Geaux Rocket Ride, he'll seemingly have a much tougher assignment here, with more speed signed on and far more depth of talent to outstay.

This was probably the stable's best classic hope last winter before he was sidelined, and his form over the summer validates that they really had something. There's definitely better coming from him, but there's seemingly so little separating the top players that accepting yet another miserly price on him doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

2023 BREEDERS' CUP CONTENDERS WORTH CONSIDERING AT A PRICE

by Vance Hanson

In what I consider a surprising occurrence, my longshot focus for this year's Breeders' Cup leans more heavily on the dirt races than the turf ones. That probably has much to do with depth of the foreign contingent in this year's grass events, where quality price plays might be harder to come by.

Here are four longshots worth taking a look at to potentially upset, or boost vertical exotics plays, over the two-day fixture.

BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE (G1)

Despite a horrific stakes debut as an odds-on choice in the Champagne (G1), owner Mike Repole and trainer Todd Pletcher are showing confidence in Fierceness, who turned in one of the more stellar debut performances during the Saratoga meet when scoring by more than 11 lengths in the slop while beating a pair of impressive next-out winners.



It was quite a comedown in the Champagne, in which he never recovered after a poor start and was not persevered with late. On the positive side, we know he is capable of much better, he will get a fast surface for the first time, and he comes from a good family that includes the graded stakes winners (and useful sires) Outwork and Cairo Prince.

BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE (G1)

I'm having a bit of trouble figuring out what to do with Cody's Wish. He is by far the most talented and most accomplished horse in the field, and is a sure single if he runs back to his springtime form. On the other hand, he doesn't seem to be coming into this title defense as fast as he was a year ago.

At any rate, we'll get a better read on this year's Dubai World Cup (G1) form (with possible implications on the Breeders' Cup Classic [G1]) after watching Algiers in this spot. The World Cup runner-up was clearly the best Dubai-based older horse last winter, and belatedly got in a useful prep for this at Woodbine in the Durham Cup (G3), where he was beaten only a half-length over a synthetic surface.

The gelding is far more effective on dirt, and anything close to his World Cup or Al Maktoum Challenge form would make him highly competitive.



BREEDERS' CUP DISTAFF (G1)

This is the third Distaff go-around for Clairiere, who in the last couple of seasons has displayed a pattern of running well in the spring, dipping in the summer, and returning with a vengeance in the fall. She basically lost this race (and the division championship) a year ago by two noses against a field with more depth than this renewal.

I find her last two efforts generally forgivable. At a tactical disadvantage against Nest in the Shuvee (G2) two back, she then encountered slop for the first time in the Personal Ensign (G1), where Idiomatic had everything her own way. That rival could see additional pace pressure here, thus benefiting the likes of this mare.

BREEDERS' CUP TURF SPRINT (G1)

A decent segment of the betting public are likely to give defending titlist Caravel the benefit of the doubt for her two recent losses over ground softer than she likes. They're unlikely to extend the same amount to Roses for Debra, but that would be wrong.

Although she has yet to face this class of horse, Roses for Debra has enjoyed outstanding form since joining the Christophe Clement stable. After reeling off four straight against fillies and mares in dominating style, Roses for Debra met males for the first time in the Turf Monster (G3) at Parx. In truly bottomless ground, far worse than the official yielding (they wound up transferring the rest of the scheduled grass races to the main track), Roses for Debra fell short by five lengths. But that wasn't truly indicative of her talents, and in this wide open affair I'll be giving her a long look at a big price.

BREEDERS' CUP TRENDS: DIRT RACES

by John Mucciolo

The Breeders' Cup World Championships is nearly upon us, as The Great Race Place will play host to an incredible two days of racing on Nov. 3 and 4. There have been five editions held at Santa Anita dating back to 2012, and the picturesque venue is one of the best locations to host the Championships, in my opinion. Below are a few things to consider when handicapping the dirt races over the weekend.

BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE

Since 2010, six California-based youngsters have come out on top in the event, which includes three of the five held in Arcadia as of late. New Year's Day (2013), Texas Red (2014), and Storm the Court (2019) were the victors. With that said, I will pay extra attention to the two-year-olds that have raced in the Golden State in 2023.

BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES

A pair of California girls were victorious in the contest over the past five runnings, with the mighty Beholder (2012) and Champagne Room (2016) coming out on top. On the whole, however, the winners of the affair have been fair to all types of runners from different regions of the country. Having a measure of early speed is advantageous, but not a necessity.

BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE

The Golden State has been represented by five winners of the demanding race since 2010, with Goldencents carrying the local flag on two occasions at Santa Anita in 2013 and 2014. Speed has been a good thing for the majority of recent winners of the Dirt Mile, but the stunning late run produced by 2016 star Tamarkuz shows that horses can rally from well back and succeed in the tilt on this surface, as well.

BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT

Following a four-year run from 2006-2009 with California-based runners taking down the dash, surprisingly only four West Coasters have eclipsed the heat since 2010. Two of those, however, did so at Santa Anita with Secret Circle (2013) and Drefong (2016) earning the glory. The perception that California has the "fastest" sprint runners is a bit overstated, in my view.

BREEDERS' CUP FILLY AND MARE SPRINT

The tally registered by Ian Kruljac trainee Finest City in 2016 is the lone victory in the race by a locally-based lass in the last five local runnings. This event has produced some unexpected results, and I haven't noticed a recipe for success in the dash for the ladies, except that late-running types often make a lot of noise in the fray. I will not be scared to use deep closers in the Filly and Mare Sprint.

BREEDERS' CUP DISTAFF

The legendary Beholder is the lone California-based distaffer to capture this affair since 2010, which was quite surprising to me after

researching it. She did so on two occasions (2013 and 2016) with both coming on this surface, and I will have a hard time backing the locals with any measure of confidence in the race.

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC

Bob Baffert saddled 2014 hero Bayern and 2016 victor Arrogate to wins in the marquee event on this course, and a total of six Golden Staters have taken down the lucrative purse in the Classic dating back to Bayern's coup. Having early speed translates well to success when going 1 1/4 miles on the Santa Anita main surface.



HOW MUCH OF A CONNECTION DOES THE BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES HAVE TO THE KENTUCKY OAKS?

by Ashley Anderson

Dating back to the inaugural running of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) in 1984, just two horses have returned off victories in the race to win the Kentucky Oaks (G1) the following season.

The two horses to accomplish the Juvenile Fillies/Kentucky Oaks double are the D. Wayne Lukas-trained Open Mind (winner of the 1989 Oaks) and Bob Baffert pupil Silverbulletday, the 1999 Oaks heroine.

There was nearly a third runner to join the exclusive list, but the first-place finisher in the inaugural Juvenile Fillies in 1984, Fran's Valentine, was disqualified and placed 10th.

The following season, the California-bred opened her three-year-old campaign with a win in the Las Virgenes (G3) at Santa Anita, followed by a victory in the Santa Susana (G1), now known as the Santa Anita Oaks. She next came home fifth in the Ashland (G2) at Keeneland before her triumph in the Kentucky Oaks.

KENTUCKY OAKS WINNERS JUVENILE FILLIES FINISH

Fran's Valentine (1985)	1st, DQ'd to 10th
Open Mind (1989)	1st
Lite Light (1991)	12th
Sardula (1994)	2nd
Silverbulletday (1999)	1st
Ashado (2004)	2nd
Blind Luck (2010)	3rd
Untapable (2014)	8th
Serengeti Empress (2019)	7th

FEW JUVENILE FILLIES WINNERS HAVE RACED IN THE KENTUCKY OAKS

Since Silverbulletday scored the Juvenile Fillies/Oaks double, just seven Juvenile Fillies winners have gone on to even race in the Kentucky Oaks.

The 1999 hero of the Juvenile Fillies, Cash Run, finished 13th of 14 in the 2000 Oaks, while 2006 Juvenile Fillies victress Dreaming of Anna was sixth in the Oaks the next season.

In 2012, three-time Breeders' Cup champ Beholder was just barely denied the Juvenile Fillies/Oaks double when she was beaten a half-length by 39-1 longshot Princess of Sylmar. Beholder went on to win 12 of her next 13 starts; the exception being a fourth in the 2014 Ogden Phipps (G1).

Dating back to 2013, just four Juvenile Fillies winners have competed in the Kentucky Oaks, with 2021 Juvenile Fillies champion Echo Zulu performing best of those four in the Oaks with a fourth-place finish. The other three Juvenile Fillies winners to race in the Oaks over the last decade are Ria Antonia (sixth in the 2014 Oaks), Jaywalk (sixth but disqualified to 13th in the 2019 Oaks), and Wonder Wheel (ninth in the 2023 Oaks).

SERENGETI EMPRESS THE LAST JUVENILE FILLIES ALSO-RAN TO WIN THE OAKS

As for Kentucky Oaks winners who had previously raced in the Juvenile Fillies but did not win the Breeders' Cup event, 1991 Oaks winner Lite Light was 12th in the two-year-old race, 1994 Oaks heroine Sardula was second by a head in the Juvenile Fillies, and 2004 Oaks winner Ashado was second by 2 1/2 lengths to post-time favorite Halfbridled at two as well.

In 2009, Blind Luck came home third as the favorite in the Juvenile Fillies, 2014 Oaks winner Untapable was eighth in the Juvenile Fillies, and Serengeti Empress finished seventh in the 2018 running of the Breeders' Cup event.

While there has not been much cross-over between the winner of the Juvenile Fillies and the eventual Kentucky Oaks champ, the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies has a significant connection to the Eclipse Award for two-year-old female. All but four of the horses who visited the winner's circle in the Juvenile Fillies have gone on to collect American Champion Two-Year-Old Filly honors.

Maybe this year we'll see a filly buck the trend, but chances are the winner of Churchill Downs' prestigious race for three-year-old fillies will come from another prep along the Road to the Kentucky Oaks.



2023 BREEDERS' CUP TRAINER AND JOCKEY TRENDS

by Ashley Anderson

The 40th Breeders' Cup World Championships will return to Santa Anita for a record-extending 11th time in the history of the event, where a number of legendary trainers and jockeys will look to further their mark on the prestigious two-day festival.

Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas will not be represented at Santa Anita on Nov. 3 and 4, but currently he's the record holder for most Breeders' Cup victories by a trainer, with 20.



BAFFERT CLOSING IN ON LUKAS' BREEDERS' CUP RECORD

Lukas' post at No. 1 may be in danger, however, with Bob Baffert nearing Lukas' total, and he's pre-entered into seven different Breeders' Cup races, with multiple entries in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, as well. Heading into this year's Breeders' Cup, Baffert owns 18 wins, and his more than \$39 million in earnings is another Breeders' Cup record for a trainer. He's also the leader in victories in the Breeders' Cup Classic, with four, and is tied with Lukas, with five titles apiece, in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. At Santa Anita, Baffert has won two of the last three Classics held at the track.

Third in total Breeders' Cup victories is Chad Brown and Aidan O'Brien, with 16 each. Brown's barn will be well-represented at the 2023 Breeders' Cup, particularly in the Filly & Mare Turf, where he pre-entered three runners — multiple graded stakes winner Gina Romantica, last year's second-place finisher in the race In Italian, and recent Waya (G3) hero McKulick.

BROWN, O'BRIEN OWN THE TURF

Brown has already won the Filly & Mare Turf a record four times, while O'Brien has been particularly dominant in the Turf and Juvenile Turf with a record six victories in each.

O'Brien, who visited the winner's circle three times at last year's Breeders' Cup, pre-entered 13 horses this year, the most by any trainer.

MIKE SMITH LOOKS FOR 28TH BREEDERS' CUP WIN

When it comes to the leading riders at the Breeders' Cup, Mike Smith is in a class of his own. The 2018 Triple Crown-winning jockey has earned 27 Breeders' Cup victories throughout his career, eight more than the next-leading rider, John Velazquez. Smith has also collected more than



\$38 million in earnings, another Breeders' Cup record. If he can win with Geaux Rocket Ride in this year's Classic, he'll tie Jerry Bailey and Chris McCarron for most wins (five) in the race.

Four-time Eclipse Award winner Irad Ortiz Jr. is next in line with 17 total Breeders' Cup victories. Ortiz won three Breeders' Cup races in 2022 aboard Forte (Juvenile), Goodnight Olive (Filly & Mare Sprint), and Elite Power (Sprint) and was runner-up with Pleasant Passage in the Juvenile Fillies Turf, but failed to secure the Bill Shoemaker Award for the first time since 2017.

Given annually to the top jockey at the Breeders' Cup, four-time winner Ortiz was unseated by Ryan Moore in 2022, after Moore won with Tuesday in the Filly & Mare Turf, Victoria Road in the Juvenile Turf, Meditate in the Juvenile Fillies Turf, and he finished second with Stone Age (Turf), Emaraaty Ana (Turf Sprint), and Dramatised (Juvenile Turf Sprint).

WOMEN IN THE BREEDERS' CUP

The Breeders' Cup Classic could produce a unique piece of history at Santa Anita in 2023, as Jena Antonucci looks to become the second female trainer to win the marquee Breeders' Cup race. Antonucci already etched her name in history in 2023 when she became the first female trainer to win a Triple Crown race with Belmont (G1) winner Arcangelo, the likely favorite in the Classic. The first female to win the Breeders' Cup Classic was Kathy Ritvo in 2013 with Mucho Macho Man. Overall, six female trainers have won Breeders' Cup races.

There has been a short list of women who have won Breeders' Cup races as a jockey. In 2003, Julie Krone was the first woman to achieve Breeders' Cup glory in the 2003 Juvenile Fillies aboard Halfbridled. Later in 2012, Rosie Napravnik became the second female rider to win at the Breeders' Cup with Shanghai Bobby in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. She won again in 2014 with Untapable in the Distaff.

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC PREVIEW; RANKING CONTENDERS BY CATEGORY

by James Scully

The \$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic serves as the centerpiece of the two-day, 14-race Breeders' Cup World Championship, and a large field is shaping up for the 1 1/4-mile race at Santa Anita on Nov. 4. Let's rank the contenders into four categories.

TOP WIN CANDIDATES

ARABIAN KNIGHT

Winner of the Pacific Classic (G1), Arabian Knight will have to be caught for four-time Classic winner Bob Baffert. The once-beaten frontrunner possesses formidable speed and a home-court advantage, but Arabian Knight didn't finish fast when stretching to 1 1/4 miles last time. He'll need the right trip on front end.



USHBA TESORO

After closing boldly to win the Dubai World Cup (G1) convincingly, Ushba Tesoro received six months off, tuning up for the Classic with a sharp win in Japan in late September. No horse has won the Dubai World Cup and Classic in the same season, and Ushba Tesoro's connections may have the right strategy to peak at Santa Anita. A winner in seven of eight starts since switching to dirt, Ushba Tesoro is the most accomplished Japanese dirt horse to ship stateside, and the classy six-year-old will look to come rolling late in the Classic.

UPSET CANDIDATES

PROXY

Grade 1 winner Proxy got a start over the track, finishing a close second in March's Santa Anita H. (G1), the same strategy employed by 2019 Classic winner Vino Rosso. His dull eighth in July's Stephen Foster (G1) raised concerns, but Proxy turned things around with a sharp Grade 3 tally and a nose second in the Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1). He must avoid leaving himself too much to do from off the pace, but Proxy is in with a chance if he receives the proper stalking trip.

SAUDI CROWN

A debut maiden winner in April, Saudi Crown ran well finishing a close second in his first two stakes attempts, breaking through with a frontrunning score in the Pennsylvania Derby (G1). The speedy gray colt must deal with Arabian Knight and stretch out to 10 furlongs if connections opt for Classic over Dirt Mile (G1), but Saudi Crown's increasing Brisnet Speed ratings (104-106-108) can't be dismissed.



WHITE ABARRIO

White Abarrio stepped up with a 6 1/4-length romp in the Whitney (G1), his first win outside Gulfstream Park, and he's come on since being transferred to Rick Dutrow in late spring. A challenging stretch out to 1 1/4 miles awaits – White Abarrio finished up the track in his lone attempt beyond nine furlongs – but his recent Brisnet Speed ratings are on par with top contenders.

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC PREVIEW; RANKING CONTENDERS BY CATEGORY *(continued)*

by James Scully

MINOR AWARD CONSIDERATION

BRIGHT FUTURE

Improving four-year-old exits game win in Jockey Club Gold Cup, appreciates 10 furlongs but Bright Future must revert to stalking tactics after favorable up-close trips.

CLAPTON

Distance and class questions loom large for dedicated late runner, but Clapton has been on the upswing in recent starts, displaying a fine kick upsetting the Lukas Classic (G2) last out.



MAGE

Kentucky Derby winner possesses a late kick, and Mage ran well finishing second in the Haskell two back, but he must find more after a dull last-place effort in the Travers.

ZANDON

Zandon recorded three consecutive seconds, and placed in seven of his previous eight starts (all graded stakes), before handling a soft field in the Woodward (G2). He's won or placed in four previous starts outside of New York, and Zandon's in-the-money consistency



warrants attention.

OUTSIDERS

EMBLEM ROAD

A surprise winner of last year's Saudi Cup (G1), Emblem Road hasn't started since a third in the Dubai World Cup, and he would likely find the Classic waters too deep.

IL MIRACOLO

Grade 3 winner rallied for third in the Pennsylvania Derby (G1) last out, but Il Miracolo doesn't appear fast enough to make an impact in the Classic.



SEÑOR BUSCADOR

Middle-distance specialist passed rivals recording a non-threatening third in the Awesome Again (G1) and a fourth in the Pacific Classic (G1), but Señor Buscador showed his affinity for less ground winning the 1 1/16-mile San Diego (G2) three back. Dirt Mile probably a better fit.

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