



BREEDERS' CUP BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires**™

BREEDERS' CUP

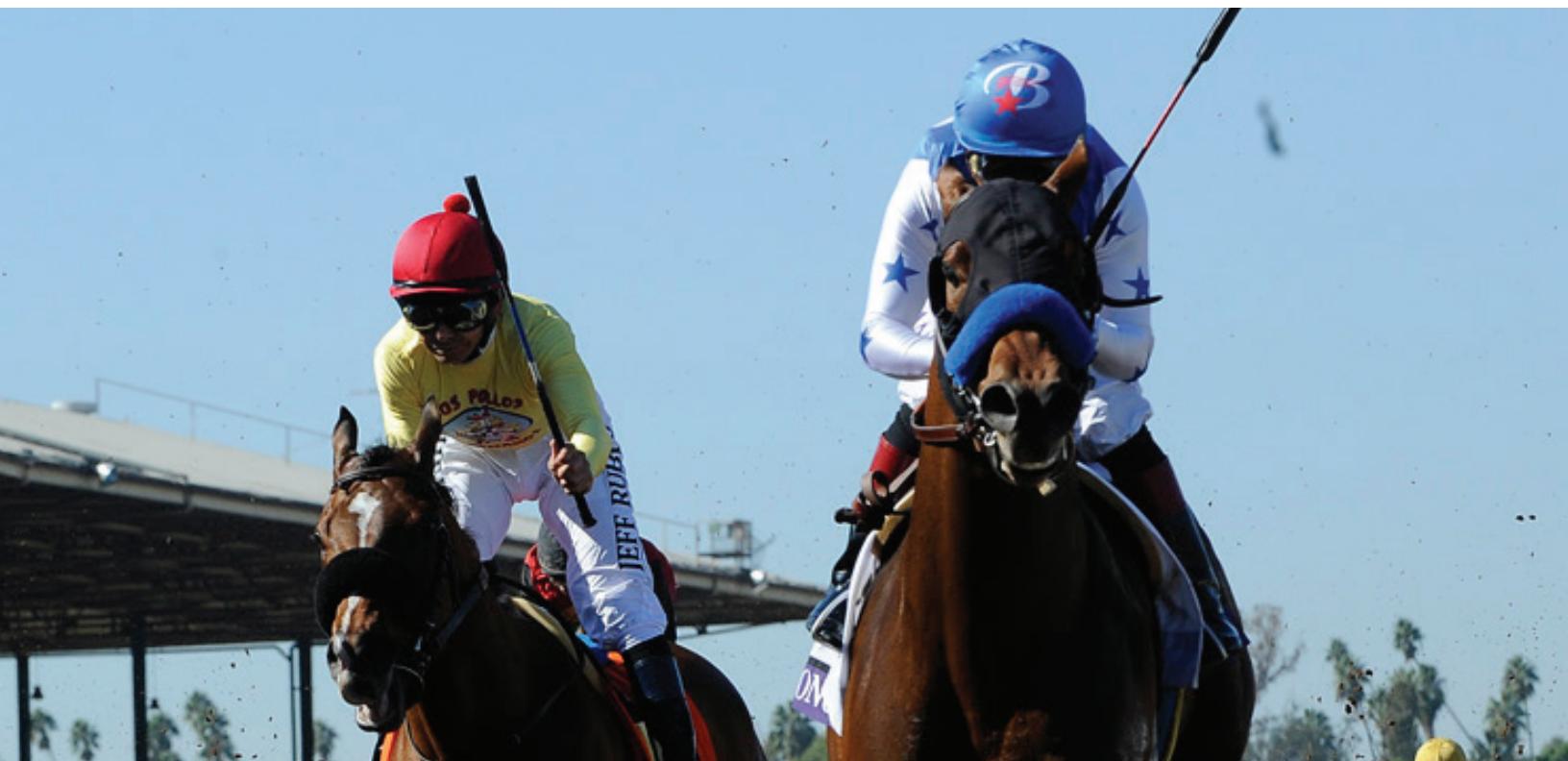
BREEDERS' CUP RACE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Race Name	Purse	Distance/Surface	Eligibility	Time Zone: ET/CT/PT	TV Station
Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf	\$1,000,000	1 Mile on Turf	2-year-old females	5:25/4:25/2:25	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup Las Vegas Dirt Mile	\$1,000,000	1 Mile on Dirt	3-year-olds & up	6:05/5:05/3:05	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf	\$1,000,000	1 Mile on Turf	2-year-olds	6:50/5:50/3:50	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup Longines Distaff	\$2,000,000	1 1/8 Miles on Dirt	3-year-olds & up females	7:35/6:35/4:35	NBC Sports

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Race Name	Purse	Distance/Surface	Eligibility	Time Zone: ET/CT/PT	TV Station
Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies	\$2,000,000	1 1/16 Miles on Dirt	2-year-old females	3:00/2:00/12:00	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint	\$1,000,000	5 furlongs on Turf	3-year-olds & up	3:37/2:37/12:37	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint	\$1,000,000	7 Furlongs on Dirt	3-year-olds & up females	4:14/3:14/1:14	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf	\$2,000,000	1 1/8 Miles on Turf	3-year-olds & up females	5:00/4:00/2:00	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup TwinSpires Sprint	\$1,500,000	6 Furlongs on Dirt	3-year-olds & up	5:37/4:37/2:37	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup Mile	\$2,000,000	1 Mile on Turf	3-year-olds & up	6:19/5:19/3:19	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup Sentient Jet Juvenile	\$2,000,000	1 1/16 Miles on Dirt	2-year-olds	6:58/5:58/3:58	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup Longines Turf	\$4,000,000	1 1/2 Miles on Turf	3-year-olds & up	7:37/6:37/4:37	NBC Sports
Breeders' Cup Classic	\$6,000,000	1 1/4 Miles on Dirt	3-year-olds & up	8:35/7:35/5:35	NBC Sports



AT A GLANCE

A look at the previous full Del Mar meet: July 19, 2017 through September 4, 2017.

AVG. WINNING ODDS: 5.82 - 1

FAVORITE WIN%: 27% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 64%

EXOTICS	PAYOUT
Quinella	48.24
Exacta	95.22
Daily Double	104.68
Trifecta	674.46
Pick 3	845.43
Superfecta	4,358.08
Pick 6	36,040.47
Pick 4	7,213.66
Pick 5	32,773.07
Pick 6 Jackpot	138,466.56
Place Pick All	8,310.97
Super High Five	15,630.05



TRACK BIAS MEET (07/19 - 09/04)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	46	43%	E	Mid/Out
6.5fDirt	35	51%	E	Outside
1 MileDirt	49	18%	E	Middle
1 1/16mDirt	4	50%	E	Rail/Ins
Turf Sprint	25	32%	S	Rail/Ins
Turf Routes	95	13%	P	Inside

TRACK BIAS WEEK (08/29 - 09/04)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
6.0fDirt	13	46%	E	Middle
6.5fDirt	4	50%	E	Rail/Ins
1 MileDirt	8	13%	E/P	Ins/Mid
1 1/16mDirt	1	100%	E	Middle
Turf Sprint	5	80%	E	Rail/Ins
Turf Routes	16	13%	P	Middle

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
McCarthy Michael W.	14	5	1	1	11.03	2	15%
Bonde Jeff	6	3	0	0	7.00	0	18%

HOT JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Talamo Joseph	29	8	2	4	11.37	0	14%
Prat Flavien	25	7	4	4	4.68	4	20%
Elliott Stewart	11	3	1	1	22.67	0	11%

COLD TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Brocklebank John	10	0	1	2	18.89	1	14%
Palma Hector O.	10	0	1	1	21.23	0	13%

COLD JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'16-'17 Win %
Pedroza Martin A.	20	0	2	3	22.26	0	12%
Werner Laura	10	0	0	1	64.78	1	9%

HOW TO READ ULTIMATE PAST PERFORMANCES

TWINSPiRES CUSTOMERS GET FREE BRISNET PPs FOR TRACKS THEY WAGER ON

The Brisnet.com Ultimate PPs are the most detailed past performance product on the market and include speed ratings, pace figures, exclusive Prime Power and Class ratings, detailed jockey and trainer statistics, and pedigree information. Start using Ultimate PPs and discover why Brisnet.com is the handicapper's edge.

- 1 BRIS Pace and Speed Pars
- 2 Jockey Stats
- 3 Trainer Stats
- 4 Dam Stats
- 5 Sire Stats
- 6 Sales Stats
- 7 Horse's Pedigree, Sales & Breeding Information
- 8 BRIS Prime Power Rating
- 9 Run Style Stats
- 10 BRIS Pedigree Rating
- 11 Medication, Equipment, and Weight the Horse Will Carry
- 13 Horse's Lifetime Start Information
- 12 Owner & Jockey Silks
- 14 Positive and Negative Comments
- 15 Date of Race, Track, and Race Number
- 16 Surface, Distance, and Track Conditions
- 17 Fractional Times of Leader, Final Time, and Age Designation
- 18 BRIS Race Rating and Class Rating
- 19 Race Type
- 20 BRIS Pace and Speed Ratings
- 21 Post Position, Placement Throughout Race, and Finish
- 22 Jockey and Weight
- 23 Medication, Equipment, and Odds
- 24 Top Finishers, Comment, and Number of Starters
- 26 Workouts
- 25 BRIS Race Shapes



BET ANYWHERE



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EXPERT PICKS FOR BREEDERS' CUP

We've assembled an expert team of handicappers to give their top picks for all races of both Breeders' Cup days.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 Del Mar



BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES TURF	4 Madeline	2 Happily	2 Happily	10 September	2 Happily
	2 Streamline	11 Rushing Fall	10 September	2 Happily	11 Rushing Fall
	11 Rushing Fall	10 September	8 Significant Form	11 Rushing Fall	7 Capla Temptress
BREEDERS' CUP LAS VEGAS DIRT MILE	3 Sharp Azteca	8 Accelerate	3 Sharp Azteca	8 Accelerate	5 Awesome Slew
	6 Mor Spirit	3 Sharp Azteca	6 Mor Spirit	5 Awesome Slew	10 Practical Joke
	5 Awesome Slew	10 Practical Joke	9 Battle of Midway	10 Practical Joke	3 Sharp Azteca
BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE TURF	16 Publius Syrus	6 Masar	1 Mendelssohn	2 Untamed Domain	11 Snapper Sinclair
	13 My Boy Jack	4 Catholic Boy	5 Beckford	5 Beckford	6 Masar
	7 James Garfield	9 Encumbered	6 Masar	6 Masar	7 James Garfield
BREEDERS' CUP LONGINES DISTAFF	5 Elate	6 Forever Unbridled	7 Paradise Woods	5 Elate	5 Elate
	4 Abel Tasman	7 Paradise Woods	6 Forever Unbridled	6 Forever Unbridled	7 Paradise Woods
	6 Forever Unbridled	5 Elate	2 Stellar Wind	2 Stellar Wind	2 Stellar Wind

An advertisement for the Breeders' Cup Bet Back. It features a dark blue background with a horse racing scene. The text "BREEDERS' CUP BET BACK" is prominently displayed in large white and blue letters. Below it, "ALL BREEDERS' CUP RACES!" is written in white. At the bottom, the website "www.twinspires.com/offers" is shown. The Twinspires logo is in the top right corner of the ad area.

EXPERT PICKS FOR BREEDERS' CUP

We've assembled an expert team of handicappers to give their top picks for all races of both Breeders' Cup days.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 Del Mar



BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES	4 Gio Game 11 Wonder Gadot 5 Blonde Bomber	12 Caledonia Road 1 Heavenly Love 7 Moonshine Memories	1 Heavenly Love 7 Moonshine Memories 9 Princess Warrior	11 Wonder Gadot 3 Princess Warrior 7 Moonshine Memories	1 Heavenly Love 3 Princess Warrior 13 Separationofpowers
BREEDERS' CUP TURF SPRINT	1 Disco Partner 11 Bucchero 4 Stormy Liberal	3 Lady Aurelia 6 Marsha 1 Disco Partner	3 Lady Aurelia 10 Hogy 8 Cotai Glory	3 Lady Aurelia 6 Marsha 12 Pure Sensation	3 Lady Aurelia 6 Marsha 12 Pure Sensation
BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE SPRINT	11 Unique Bella 9 Finley'sluckycharm 14 Ami's Mesa	4 Finest City 9 Finley'sluckycharm 11 Unique Bella	11 Unique Bella 10 Highway Star 5 Bar of Gold	11 Unique Bella 12 Skye Diamonds 1 Carina Mia	7 By the Moon 11 Unique Bella 10 Highway Star
BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE TURF	15 Kitten's Roar 6 Cambodia 7 Dacita	9 Lady Eli 8 Grand Jete 7 Dacita	9 Lady Eli 7 Dacita 14 Rhododendron	9 Lady Eli 5 Wuheida 14 Rhododendron	9 Lady Eli 6 Cambodia 5 Wuheida
BREEDERS' CUP TWINSPIRES SPRINT	10 Imperial Hint 7 Takaful 8 Roy H	2 Drefong 10 Imperial Hint 7 Takaful	10 Imperial Hint 2 Drefong 7 Takaful	2 Drefong 10 Imperial Hint 6 Mind Your Buscuits	10 Imperial Hint 8 Roy H 2 Drefong
BREEDERS' CUP MILE	8 Suedois 2 Heart to Heart 5 World Approval	5 World Approval 10 Ribchester 11 Ballagh Rocks	8 Suedois 10 Ribchester 5 World Approval	6 Zelzal 5 World Approval 10 Ribchester	6 Zelzal 4 Lancaster Bomber 5 World Approval
BREEDERS' CUP SENTIENT JET JUVENILE	11 Bolt d'Oro 6 Good Magic 2 Solomini	11 Bolt d'Oro 5 Free Drop Billy 2 Solomini	11 Bolt d'Oro 5 Free Drop Billy 6 Good Magic	11 Bolt d'Oro 6 Good Magic 5 Free Drop Billy	11 Bolt d'Oro 1 U S Navy Flag 12 Hollywood Star
BREEDERS' CUP LONGINES TURF	5 Ulysses 3 Highland Reel 7 Itsinthepost	3 Highland Reel 5 Ulysses 4 Decorated Knight	3 Highland Reel 5 Ulysses 8 Decorated Knight	5 Ulysses 3 Highland Reel 13 Sadler's Joy	5 Ulysses 3 Highland Reel 13 Sadler's Joy
BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC	1 Arrogate 8 West Coast 10 Pavel	8 West Coast 5 Gun Runner 1 Arrogate	1 Arrogate 5 Gun Runner 8 West Coast	1 Arrogate 5 Gun Runner 8 West Coast	8 West Coast 5 Gun Runner 1 Arrogate



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TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



BREEDERS' CUP DISTAFF

1 1/8-Miles
PURSE \$2,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Champagne Room	15-1
2	Stellar Wind	5-2
3	Mopotism	30-1
4	Abel Tasman	4-1
5	Elate	3-1
6	Forever Unbridled	4-1
7	Paradise Woods	9-2
8	Romantic Vision	15-1

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One of my edicts as a horseplayer is not to bet horses as the favorite whose marquee performance as a racehorse isn't a win.

Stellar Wind fits this description in this year's Breeders' Cup Distaff, as the multiple Grade 1 winner is the morning line favorite in one of the most competitive races of Breeders' Cup weekend with champion older female and champion three-year-old filly likely on the line.

Sure, Stellar Wind has defeated Beholder, but it was a second in the 2015 Distaff that earned her champion three-year-old filly honors. Stopchargingmaria won that Distaff, and she'd probably be no better than fifth choice in this year's renewal.

Mix in Stellar Wind skipping the Zenyatta Stakes and some lackluster workouts into this, and she's definitely a play against in this spot.

That leaves Forever Unbridled as the clear choice among older females. She defeated Songbird last out and ran admirably behind Beholder and Songbird in last year's Distaff. If there were a head to head wager among top older females, I'd prefer Forever Unbridled to Stellar Wind.

But for the most part, we bet to win, and the value on the win end looks to be on Elate, who sports the field's best last-out Speed Rating and top Class Rating on the Brisnet.com scales with the added benefit to backers of being one of the top workers according to local observers.

Abel Tasman is the only other one who will figure for me, as the top-ranked Prime Power horse who should be rolling with our other preferences Forever Unbridled and Elate.

Make no mistake, though, Elate is the top tab.

\$20 WIN & PLACE
5 (\$40)
\$10 EXACTA KEY BOX
5 over 4,6 (\$40)
\$5 EXACTA BOX
5,4,6 (\$30)
\$1 TRIFECTA WHEEL
5 over 4,6 over all (\$12)
4,6 over 5 over all (\$12)
\$1 TRIFECTA PART WHEEL
4,5,6 over 4,5,6 over all (\$30)
\$.50 TRIFECTA PART WHEEL
4,5,6 over 1,3,7,8 over 4,5,6 (\$15)
\$.50 TRIFECTA PART WHEEL
1,3,4,5,6,7,8 over 4,5,6 over 4,5,6 (\$15)

SATURDAY RACECARD OVERVIEW

by James Scully

Arrogate appeared well on his way to making a successful title defense in the \$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic when opening 2017 with smashing wins in the Pegasus Cup Invitational (G1) and Dubai World Cup (G1), but the landscape changed dramatically following a pair of setbacks at Del Mar this summer.

His vulnerability resulted in **Gun Runner** being installed as 9-5 morning line Classic favorite and the Steve Asmussen-trained colt will certainly take some beating following a trio of outstanding wins in the Stephen Foster (G1), Whitney (G1) and Woodward (G1), scoring by a combined 22 1/4 lengths. The 4-year-old son of Candy Ride is winless from three previous attempts at 1 1/4 miles, but Gun Runner appears much stronger presently and must be viewed as a serious threat to overwhelm the competition with his talents.

After going off form with a dismal fourth as the 1-20 favorite in the July 22 San Diego (G2), Arrogate returned four weeks later with an improved second in the Pacific Classic (G1). Bob Baffert and Mike Smith are confident the 4-year-old Unbridled's Song colt is rounding back into top shape based upon morning exercises but the stalker was done no favors when receiving Post 1 at Monday's draw. Arrogate is listed as the early 2-1 second choice.

If Arrogate does come up short, Baffert still has a chance to derail Gun Runner with three other quality Classic entrants: Pacific Classic victor **Collected**, Travers (G1) and Pennsylvania Derby (G1) hero **West Coast** and Awesome Again (G1) winner **Mubtaahij**.

The \$4 million Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) precedes the Classic and **Ulysses** and **Highland Reel** highlight deep six-horse international contingent. European-based runners have captured the seven of the last nine editions of the 1 1/2-mile race.

Fourth in last year's Turf as a 3-year-old, Ulysses appears much-improved at age 4 for four-time Turf winner Sir Michael Stoute, recording Group 1 wins in the Juddmonte International and Eclipse in recent months, and the son of Galileo exits a third to superstar Enable in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1). Highland Reel will make a title defense for Aidan O'Brien, who leads all conditioners with six Turf wins, and disregard any bad performance overseas on soft ground; the classy 5-year-old prefers firmer conditions. He'll be forwardly-placed from the start with Ryan Moore.

Other Turf runners of interest include **Beach Patrol**, the leading American-based entrant following wins in the Arlington Million (G1) and Joe Hirsch Turf Classic (G1); and Grade 1 winners **Oscar Performance** and **Sadler's Joy**.

Horseplayers will have options in a contentious 14-horse edition of the \$2 million Mile (G1). Four-time Group 1 winner Ribchester heads a strong international cast that includes notables Roly Poly and Lancaster Bomber, and World Approval is a candidate to hold his own against all challengers after discovering his forte at eight furlongs for Mark Casse, recording excellent triumphs in the Fourstardave (G1) and Woodbine Mile (G1) in the last two appearances.

Bolt d'Oro will put his unbeaten record on the line against 11 rivals in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) and it will be no surprise to see him bet down significantly from his 9-5 morning line price following a tour-de-force performance in the FrontRunner (G1) at Santa Anita.

The \$2 million Juvenile Fillies (G1) has a much more wide-open feel than its male counterpart, with leading contenders including last-out prep winners **Heavenly Love**, **Moonshine Memories** and **Separationofpwers**.

Drefong is back for a title defense against nine foes in the \$1.5 million TwinSpires Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1), with Santa Anita Sprint Championship (G1) victor **Roy H** and Mid-Atlantic star **Imperial Hint** among his main opponents.

Unique Bella is an imposing presence in the \$1 million Filly & Mare Sprint (G1). Listed as 9-5 favorite among 14 runners, the gray daughter of leading sire Tapit was redirected to one-turn events after being sidelined for seven months earlier this year and the talented sophomore miss is expected to point toward the Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) next season. She will square off against a cast of elders including **Finley'sluckycharm**, **Paulassilverlining** and **Skye Diamonds**.

Lady Eli will be one of the day's strongest favorites when she makes her career finale in the \$2 million Filly & Mare Turf (G1). A nose second in the 2016 edition, the Chad Brown-trained mare figures to appreciate the cut back to a 1 1/8-mile distance at Del Mar and is an overwhelming 5-2 choice on the morning line among 14 runners. Multiple Group 1 scorer **Rhododendron** probably has the best chance at an upset for Coolmore/O'Brien and **Queen's Trust** is back for a title defense but has dropped all five starts this year.

Lady Aurelia showed her class overseas this year, recording a convincing tally in the King's Stand (G1) at Royal Ascot and a nose second in the Nunthorpe (G1) at York, and the front-running sophomore filly is the one to beat in the \$1 million Turf Sprint (G1). Her foes include Nunthorpe winner **Marsha** and **Disco Partner**, who established a new world record winning the Jaipur (G3) at Belmont Park in June.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC

1 1/4-Miles
PURSE \$6,000,000

POST	HORSE	ML ODDS
1	Arrogate	2-1
2	War Decree	30-1
3	Win The Space	30-1
4	War Story	30-1
5	Gun Runner	9-5
6	Mubtaahij (IRE)	12-1
7	Churchill (IRE)	15-1
8	West Coast	6-1
9	Gunnevera	30-1
10	Pavel	20-1
11	Collected	6-1

TOP PICKS
8 West Coast
5 Gun Runner
1 Arrogate
\$20 WIN
8 (\$20)
\$10 EXACTAS
8 over 1,5,11 (\$30)
\$1 TRIFECTA PART-WHEEL
5,8 over 1,5,8,11 over 1,5,8,10,11 (\$18)

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Unless your predictive powers are keen and suggest a serious regression by one or more of the leading candidates, the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) on paper figures to be dominated by the top four betting choices.

Some would argue you could narrow it down even more – to just Gun Runner and Arrogate. Will the former's graceful yet relatively unchallenging series of preps have him ready to land the knockout blow against the toughest group he's faced all year over a distance he's not yet won at? Will the defending champion return to the very best form we saw last year and over the winter following two sub-par efforts over this very track?

At short odds, we'll say no to both and go with the progressive three-year-old West Coast on top. The youngest of Bob Baffert's triumvirate, he looks to make it four in a row in this race for the Hall of Fame conditioner following successes by fellow sophomores Bayern, American Pharoah, and Arrogate.

Collected is the enigma of the quartet. Vastly improved this year and winner of the track-and-distance Pacific Classic (G1), he could be good enough to win or might find the early pressure too much to sustain.

Need a trifecta/superfecta kicker? Pavel is light on experience, but appears to have a bright future ahead of him.

CONTINENTAL IMPACT ON BREEDERS' CUP

by Alastair Bull

With so much prizemoney at stake, it was no surprise that the Breeders' Cup was an instant success with North American owners and trainers.

What was perhaps a surprise was how quickly the rest of the world took to it.

Foreign horses headed across the Atlantic from the very first Breeders' Cup in 1984, and emerged with an exacta, with Lashkari defeating fellow French galloper All Along in the Breeders' Cup Turf.

The foreign contingent at the Breeders' Cup has overwhelmingly been from Europe, with the number of European starters each year normally hitting double figures.

Turf is the mainstay of European racing, and as such it's not surprising 48 of the 55 European triumphs have been on grass. The only turf race they are yet to win is the Turf Sprint, possibly because their sprinters race almost exclusively on a straight course rather than around a turn.

When assessing their chances in these races, it's best to consider if they've been targeting the Breeders' Cup or tackling it as an afterthought, and to consider how they are likely to do on tighter U.S. tracks; it may be more difficult for back runners.

European-trained horses have, however, also made their mark on dirt. Four winners of the Juvenile were trained in Europe, while they have won the Sprint once and the Classic twice.

Two of these successes (Raven's Pass in the Classic and Vale of York in the Juvenile) came on a Polytrack surface, which records show turf horses do better on than pure dirt tracks. Many of the others, however, were running for the first time on dirt.

If they are U.S.-bred, or if they have a pedigree with plenty of dirt runners, they probably have more chance. All three of the Juvenile winners on dirt were bred in the U.S., as was Giant's Causeway (Storm Cat), a close second in the Classic in 2000. Also have a look at their galloping action.

Though Europeans have taken to the Breeders' Cup in high numbers, horses from jurisdictions outside Europe and North America have run much less frequently.

Though South American-bred horses like Bayakoa, Paseana, and Invasor have won at the Breeders' Cup, the only South American-trained winner was Calidoscopio in the now-discontinued Breeders' Cup Marathon.

About a dozen Asian horses have raced at the Breeders' Cup, mostly from Japan. None of them have won, though the Japanese-bred, European-trained Karakontie won the Mile in 2014. Given they have won at the top level in Europe, however, their time will likely come.

Horses from Australia and New Zealand that have started had all been switched to Northern Hemisphere stables. Their best effort came from Strawberry Road, the 1985 Turf runner-up. African horses have also been difficult to attract.

Turf racing is generally the only major options for horses from these continents, and all these countries have rich prizes available at home around Breeders' Cup time, like the Melbourne Cup carnival, Hong Kong International meet, and Japan Cup.

The most likely horses to come are either horses switched to northern hemisphere stables, or colts whose dual hemisphere stallion potential could be boosted by a Breeders' Cup success.



HISTORICAL TRENDS BREEDERS' CUP DISTAFF

by Alastair Bull

Through most of its history, the main contestants in the Breeders' Cup Distaff have used traditional lead-ups as their final prep for the big event.

But in 2017, in common with a growing trend in other races, that may not happen.

Two horses expected to be near the top of the market for the 1 1/8-mile Distaff Nov. 3 won't have run at all in September or October. In fact, they've run just five times between them all year.

Stellar Wind, unbeaten in three starts this year, hasn't run since the Clement L. Hirsch Stakes (G1) at Del Mar July 30. Forever Unbridled has had two starts for two wins in 2017, with her most recent victory being the Personal Ensign (G1) at Saratoga Aug. 26.

In the past, if you want to find the winner of the Distaff, you needed to watch four key races: the Cotillion Stakes (G1) for 3-year-old fillies at Parx six weeks before the big race, the Zenyatta Stakes (G1, formerly the Lady's Secret Stakes) at Santa Anita five weeks beforehand, the Beldame Stakes (G1) at Belmont Park on the same weekend as the Zenyatta, and the Spinster Stakes (G1) at Keeneland four weeks beforehand.

In the 33-year history of the Distaff, 29 winners ran in one of these four races. Ten used the Beldame as their final prep, 10 used the Spinster, seven used the Zenyatta, and two ran in the Cotillion. All four, especially the Cotillion, have also produced numerous fillies that finished second or third in the Distaff.

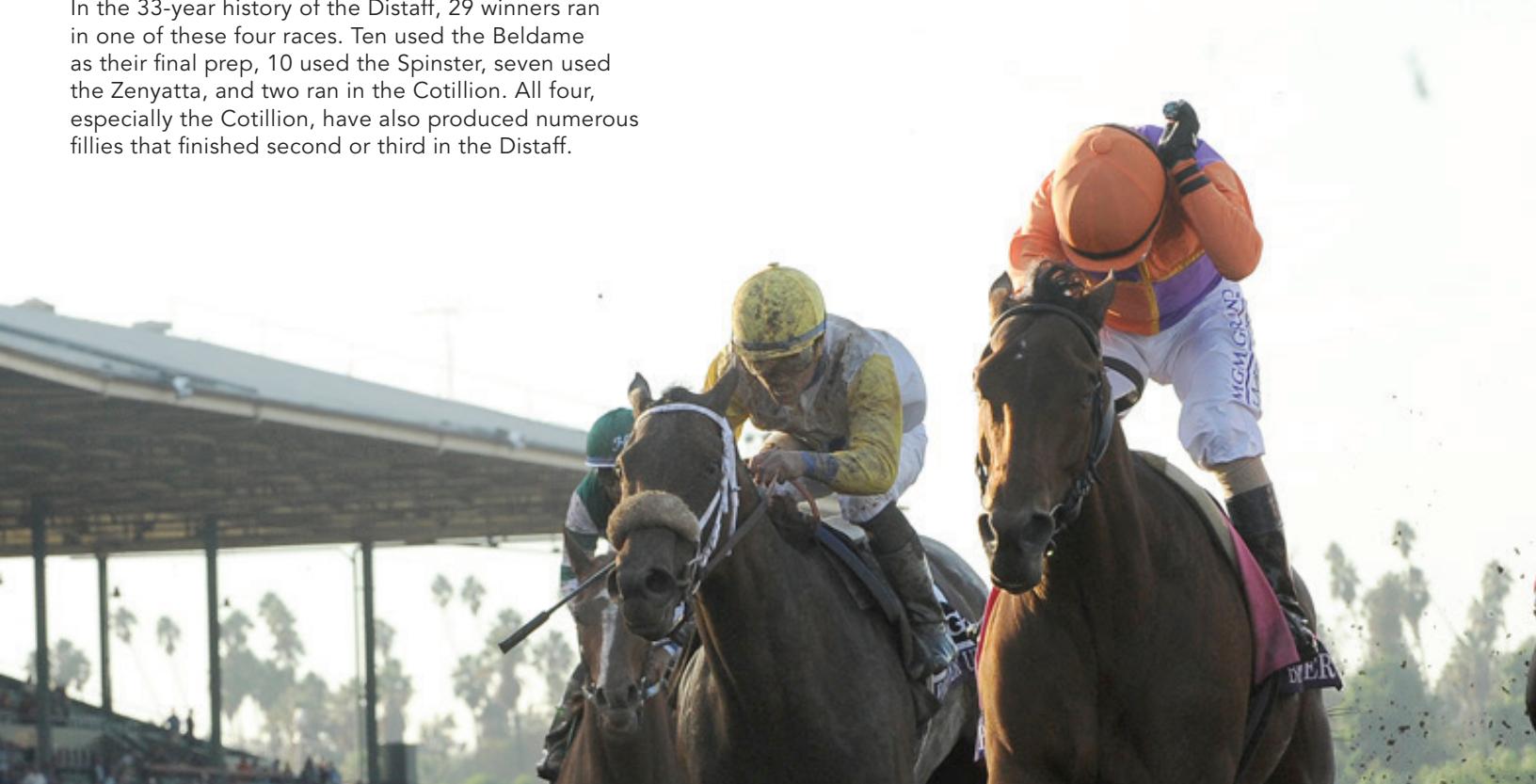
The Distaff winner didn't necessarily win these lead-ups – of those 29, 15 were beaten – but they usually ran well.

However, after Bob Baffert gave both American Pharoah (2015) and Arrogate (2016) a nine-week gap from racing prior to winning the past two editions of the Breeders' Cup Classic, it appears other trainers are considering the same approach.

The same year American Pharoah won the Classic, that year's Distaff winner Stopchargingmaria hadn't run since the Personal Ensign in late August. Trainer Todd Pletcher said the decision not to race her in between was vital, as she raced best on the fresh side. Only Escena (1998) among Distaff winners had taken that path before.

Most of the candidates for the Distaff did use traditional lead-ups, especially the 3-year-old fillies. It Tiz Well and Abel Tasman filled the exacta in the Cotillion, Elate won the Beldame, and Paradise Woods the Zenyatta. Any one of them could easily win.

However, it's more than likely that punters will need to start watching a little earlier in the year in future when trying to decide how to play the Distaff.



HISTORICAL TRENDS BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT

by Vance Hanson

Three-year-olds have generally been overpowered by their older counterparts in the TwinSpires Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1). In the first 33 editions of the race, only nine sophomores came out on top, one of which was a filly in the days prior to the founding of the Filly & Mare Sprint (G1).

However, three of those nine have scored within the last five years. Trinniberg was the longest-priced of the trio, upsetting at 13-1 in 2013. Two years ago, Runhappy scored a popular victory at Keeneland as the 8-5 favorite, while last year Drefong turned back a challenge from the favored Masochistic to win at nearly 4-1.

Drefong is back to defend his title at Del Mar and is widely considered the likely favorite. Fellow older rivals Roy H, Mind Your Biscuits, Ransom the Moon, and Whitmore also figure to attract significant play.

For those wondering whether a three-year-old can make it four out of last six in the TwinSpires Sprint will have to rely on just two logical threats: Takaful and American Pastime.

Takaful is the more appealing of the two on paper. By Bernardini and out of a Distorted Humor mare, owner Godolphin and trainer Kiaran McLaughlin can hardly be faulted for taking a swing at some early classic preps. However, the colt demonstrated fairly quickly a distaste for two-turn racing.

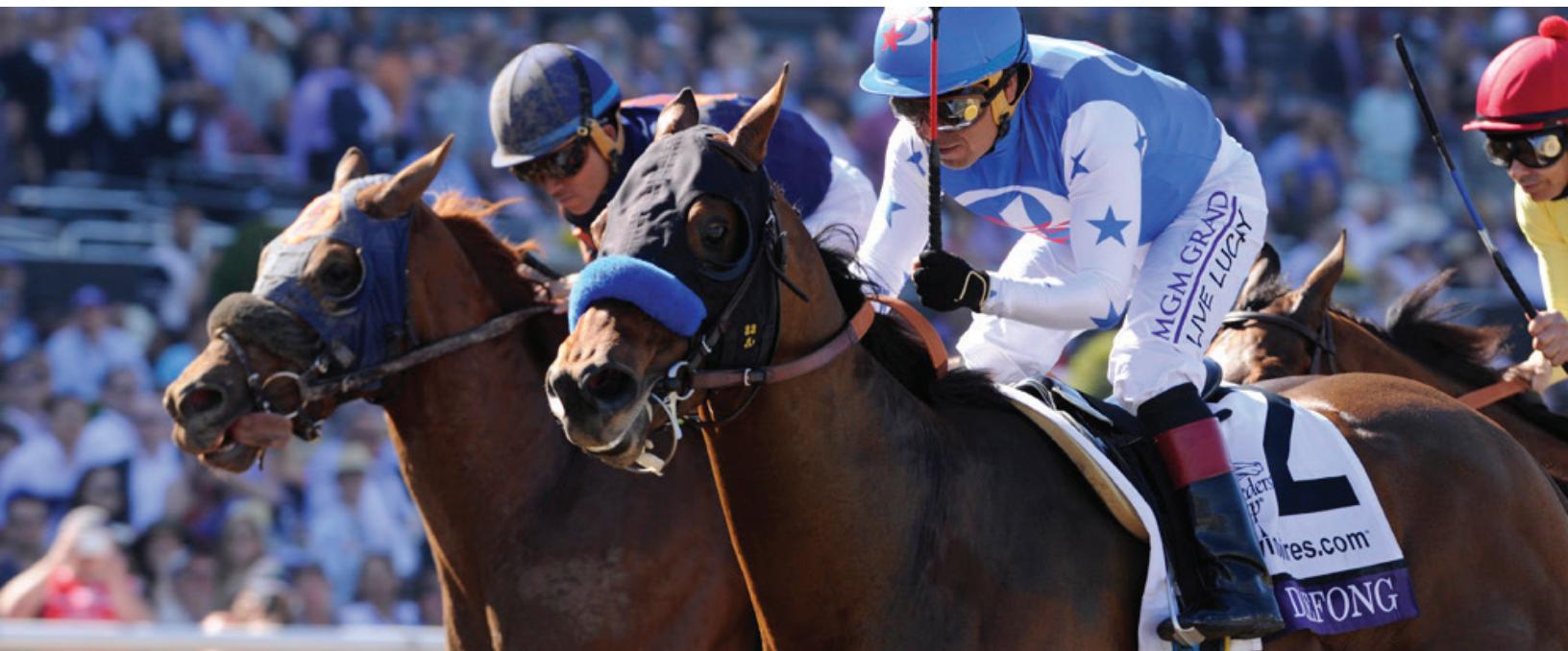
Around one turn, Takaful has been a bull. In addition to an eight-length romp in his debut, Takaful has rolled against allowance company at Saratoga, finished a strong second to the more seasoned Practical Joke in the H. Allen Jerkens (G1), and bested older rivals in the Vosburgh (G1).

As historically significant as the Vosburgh is, it continues to be a rather negative final prep for the Sprint. Only one horse has won both races, that being Artax in 1999, 15 years after the Breeders' Cup came along. The trimming of the Vosburgh from seven furlongs to six in 2004 has not yet reversed that trend.

American Pastime figures to be one of the longer shots in the field, but is seemingly peaking at the right time. In contrast to Takaful, the son of Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) winner Tapizar is locally based with trainer Bob Hess.

Two-for-three at the beginning of the Del Mar summer meet, American Pastime defeated older rivals in a second-level allowance in August and comes off a solid second to Coal Front in the Gallant Bob (G3) at Parx.

Coal Front was unfortunately injured exiting the Gallant Bob (incidentally Trinniberg's final prep), and undoubtedly would have added fuel to the Sprint pace. American Pastime is a mid-pack closer and would need help up front in addition to forward progression to score the upset.



HISTORICAL TRENDS BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE

by James Scully

The Breeders' Cup Juvenile serves as the biggest race for 2-year-olds in North America and often determines the winter book favorite for the Kentucky Derby. Del Mar is preparing for its debut as a Breeders' Cup host site but this will be the fifth time in six years the 1 1/16-mile Juvenile is being held Southern California.

California-based runners have captured three of the last five editions but that includes Nyquist, who shipped to Keeneland to take the 2015 Juvenile after prepping in the FrontRunner (G1). Shippers have held their own of late in the Golden State, winning two of the last four Juveniles at Santa Anita. In fact, the top three at Santa Anita last year were all exiting different venues East of the Mississippi: Classic Empire (Keeneland)-Not This Time (Churchill Downs)-Practical Joke (Belmont Park).

Final prep for the last 15 Juvenile winners:

Last Prep	# Wins
California	6
Kentucky	4
New York	3
Overseas	2

Coolmore/Aidan O'Brien will have a European-based entrant in the 2017 Juvenile and overseas raiders have accounted for a total of three wins in the Juvenile: Wilko (2004), Johannesburg (2001) and Arazi (1991).

Overall, favorites have won at a 33% win clip (11-for-33) but a closer examination reveals the chalk connecting in eight of the first 15 runnings. Beating the shortest-priced runner has been doable since the turn of the century, with only three favorites prevailing over the last 18 years (Shanghai Bobby, Uncle Mo and War Pass).

Remarkably, the first 15 Juvenile winners were all less than 10-1. And six of the last 10 conquerors paid less than \$12 with the last pair, Classic Empire and Nyquist, leaving the starting gate as the second choice in the wagering.

It's not been a race known for massive upsets but the Juvenile has featured some fireworks, most notably 30-1 winners Vale of York (2009) and Anees (1999). Action This Day and Wilko went back-to-back at 26-1 and 28-1 in 2003-04 and Street Sense made it three bombs in four years when scoring at 15-1 in 2006.

High-profile trainers have dominated the Juvenile over the last 15 years. Here are the winning conditioners since 2005: Doug O'Neill-Carl Nafzger-Nick Zito-Bob Baffert-Saeed Bin Suroor-Todd Pletcher-Mike Maker-Todd Pletcher-Bob Baffert-Keith Desormeaux-Doug O'Neill-Mark Casse.

All are Triple Crown race winners except for Casse, who finished a head second with Classic Empire in this year's Preakness; Maker, a perennially leading trainer on the Kentucky circuit; and Suroor, who trains primarily overseas for Godolphin.

When it comes to jockeys, past success has not been an indicator. The last eight Juvenile scorers, and 13 of the last 14, were ridden by first-time winners.

Here are the last 14 winning jockeys:

Jockey	Horse	Year
Julien Leparoux	Classic Empire	2016
Mario Gutierrez	Nyquist	2015
Kent Desormeaux	Texas Red	2014
Martin Garcia	New Year's Day	2013
Rosie Napravnik	Shanghai Bobby	2012
Ramon Dominguez	Hansen	2011
John Velazquez	Uncle Mo	2010
Ahmed Ajtebi	Vale of York	2009
Garrett Gomez	Midshipman	2008
Cornelio Velasquez	War Pass	2007
Calvin Borel	Street Sense	2006
Garrett Gomez	Stevie Wonderboy	2005
Frankie Dettori	Wilko	2004
David Flores	Action This Day	2003



HISTORICAL TRENDS BREEDERS' CUP MILE

by Kellie Reilly

The 33-year history of the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) falls into two distinct periods, with a transition phase, and in recent years, two preps have arisen as leading indicators.

European shippers thrived in the first 12 runnings, winning six. And of the six editions won by North American-based runners in that time frame, three went to horses who'd begun their careers in Europe. The only Mile winners of purely domestic background were Cozzene (1985) and Lure (1992-93).

But the pattern began to shift around the time of Da Hoss, who took his first Mile in 1996 and famously returned to regain his title in 1998. In between, he was arguably flattered in absentia when France's Spinning World, the 1996 runner-up, prevailed in 1997.

In the 18 renewals following Da Hoss's second score, the North Americans have successfully repelled the invaders 12 times. Two of those U.S.-based winners were imports (Silic in 1999 and Val Royal in 2001), but 10 were completely homegrown. Of the six European wins, all came courtesy of the French, and Goldikova single-handedly accounted for three (2008-2010). Were it not for that extraordinary lady, the North American tally would have been even higher.

Keeneland and Woodbine have emerged as the most productive venues. Although you can go back as far as Steinlen (1989) and Opening Verse (1991) to find Mile winners coming out of the race now known as the Shadwell Turf Mile (G1), the Keeneland feature has assumed greater relevance over the past decade. Miesque's Approval (2006), Wise Dan (2012-13), and Tourist (2016) all tuned up in the Shadwell.

Interestingly, four of those six were coming off Keeneland losses (the exceptions being Steinlen and Wise Dan in 2012). So you're statistically better off not winning the Shadwell, a trend that will encourage fans of Heart to Heart and Ballagh Rocks this year. And it gives pause for Shadwell winner Suedois, who's simultaneously trying to become only the second British-trained Mile hero after Barathea (1994).

Wise Dan also beefs up the stats for the Woodbine Mile (G1), which he won in 2012-13 on the way to the Shadwell. Two other Mile winners prepped at Woodbine before going straight to the Breeders' Cup, Kip Deville (2007) and Court Vision (2011). Both had lost, but Kip Deville performed better (second) than longshot Court Vision (seventh in his title defense). The Woodbine Mile figures to be a key race again in 2017, with likely favorite World Approval trying to turn the double.

Note that the Woodbine Mile has also been a prolific source of horses placing in the BC Mile. Woodbine alumni served up the exacta in both 2011 (Court Vision over Turallure) and 2013 (Wise Dan over Za Approval), and the reigning Woodbine Mile winner has placed in the past three runnings (Trade Storm in 2014, Mondialiste in 2015, and Tepin in 2016). To put it more broadly, a Woodbine Mile participant has won or placed in nine of the last 10 editions of the BC Mile, and a Shadwell runner has won or placed in eight of the last 11.



HISTORICAL TRENDS BREEDERS' CUP TURF

by Kellie Reilly

In the history of the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1), one race has stood out as the key pointer: the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1).

This makes sense intuitively. Since the international scene typically boasts greater strength in depth than the American turf division, it stands to reason that Europe's fall championship should have a significant bearing on the Turf over a similar 1 1/2-mile trip.

The historical trends back up the general idea. Since 1990, when In the Wings became the first to use the Arc as a springboard to Turf glory, 10 more have followed the same route. The interesting twist is that no reigning Arc winner has turned the double in the Breeders' Cup Turf.

Instead, most were coming off solid efforts in defeat in the Arc, just as In the Wings did when improving upon his fourth at Longchamp. The 2016 Turf neatly illustrates the point: Highland Reel, second in the Arc, gained revenge on Arc-winning stablemate (and defending Turf champ) Found at Santa Anita.

Other Turf heroes fitting this profile are Pilsudski (1996), who was the Arc runner-up; High Chaparral, third prior to each of his Turf scores in 2002 and 2003; Shirocco (2005), fourth; and Conduit, fourth en route to his Turf repeat in 2009. (Conduit had won the 2008 St Leger [G1] before his first Turf trophy.) St Nicholas Abbey (2011) was fifth in the Arc, yet didn't miss second by much in a blanket finish for the minor placings.

But horses well beaten in the Arc are not to be overlooked in the Turf. Daylami (1999) is a case in point, roaring back to form at Gulfstream Park after an uncharacteristic ninth on an Arc staged over heavy going. Miss Alleged (1991) and Found (2015), also up the course in the Arc in their respective years, squeezed in another race ahead of the Breeders' Cup. Miss Alleged finished fifth in the Budweiser International (G1) at Laurel on the way to upsetting the Turf at Churchill at odds of 42-1, while Found was second in the Champion (G1) at Ascot and wheeled back for Keeneland.

So what does this mean for this year's edition of the Turf at Del Mar? Highland Reel won't have the same potent trend line in his title defense, having skipped the Arc this time. That is particularly notable for an Aidan O'Brien trainee. Of O'Brien's six Turf winners, five had competed in the Arc that fall, the others being High Chaparral, St Nicholas Abbey, and Found. O'Brien's only 2017 Turf contender coming off the Arc is the filly Seventh Heaven (14th). But Highland Reel did

get in a strong prep run in the October 21 Champion, where he ran a better-than-appears third on ground too soft for him.

The Turf contender who fits the paradigm to a tee is Ulysses, the third-place finisher to star filly Enable in the October 1 Arc. Moreover, he's trained by Sir Michael Stoute, who sent out the aforementioned Pilsudski and Conduit among his total of four Turf wins.

Although only fourth to Highland Reel in the 2016 Turf, Ulysses can point to precedents of horses winning in a subsequent tilt – e.g., Theatrical (1987), Great Communicator (1988), Chief Bearhart (1997), Buck's Boy (1998), Fantastic Light (2001), and English Channel (2007).

The next-most productive race for the Turf is Belmont Park's Joe Hirsch Turf Classic Invitational (G1). Six Turf Classic winners went on to prevail in the Breeders' Cup, and two who lost the Joe Hirsch rebounded in the Turf, making for a total of eight.

If that's encouraging for Turf Classic romper Beach Patrol, there is a cautionary note deriving from his previous score in the Arlington Million (G1). Only one Million winner has added the Turf – Little Mike (2012). On the other hand, Beach Patrol has already achieved a rare historic accomplishment, joining John Henry (1984), Sulamani (2003), and Cape Blanco (2011) as winners of both the Million and Joe Hirsch in the same season. Of that trio, Sulamani was the only one to try the Breeders' Cup, winding up fifth at Santa Anita. Beach Patrol is therefore attempting an unprecedented triple.



HISTORICAL TRENDS BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC

by Ed DeRosa

If there's an intersection of philosophy and statistics it might be at the finish line of racetracks, as divining and distilling results often comes down to a question of whether it's talent or trends that helped a horse find the finish line first.

Take the Breeders' Cup Classic, for instance. Is it a trend worth betting that a three-year-old has won the last three editions? Or is it the talent of their Racing Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert that's worth crediting Bayern (2014), American Pharoan (2015), and Arrogate (2016) for their victories?

When it comes to predictive numbers in horse racing, age can be one of them, but I don't side with that narrative when it comes to America's richest race.

The two numbers I do trust in are the Brisnet.com Speed and Prime Power ratings. Not shockingly, the Classic is the Breeders' Cup's top performing race with an average winning Speed Rating of 112.5 (4.4 points more than the Sprint, which has five other races within 4.4 points of it) and an average Prime Power figure for the winner of 155.7—easily tops among dirt races (Prime Power is typically higher in turf races than dirt).

Six of the last 10 U.S.-based winners of the Classic (Prime Power is not available on international contenders such as 2009 winner Raven's Pass) had a Prime Power rating of at least 155. For this year's race, that puts Arrogate, Gun Runner, and West Coast easily ahead of the rest of the field.

Eight of the last 11 Breeders' Cup Classic winners registered at least a 110 Speed Rating. Only Collected and Gun Runner matched (or exceeded) that number last out, but Arrogate and West Coast have both achieved it previously and in 1 1/4-mile races to boot.

What's interesting about Baffert winning the last three Classics is that they've come with three different jockeys. Martin Garcia won aboard Bayern, Victor Espinoza on American Pharoah, and Mike Smith up on Arrogate. Smith has placed in 7 of the past 9 Classics with wins on Zenyatta (2009), Drosselmeyer (2011), and Arrogate (2016); only Zenyatta was favored.

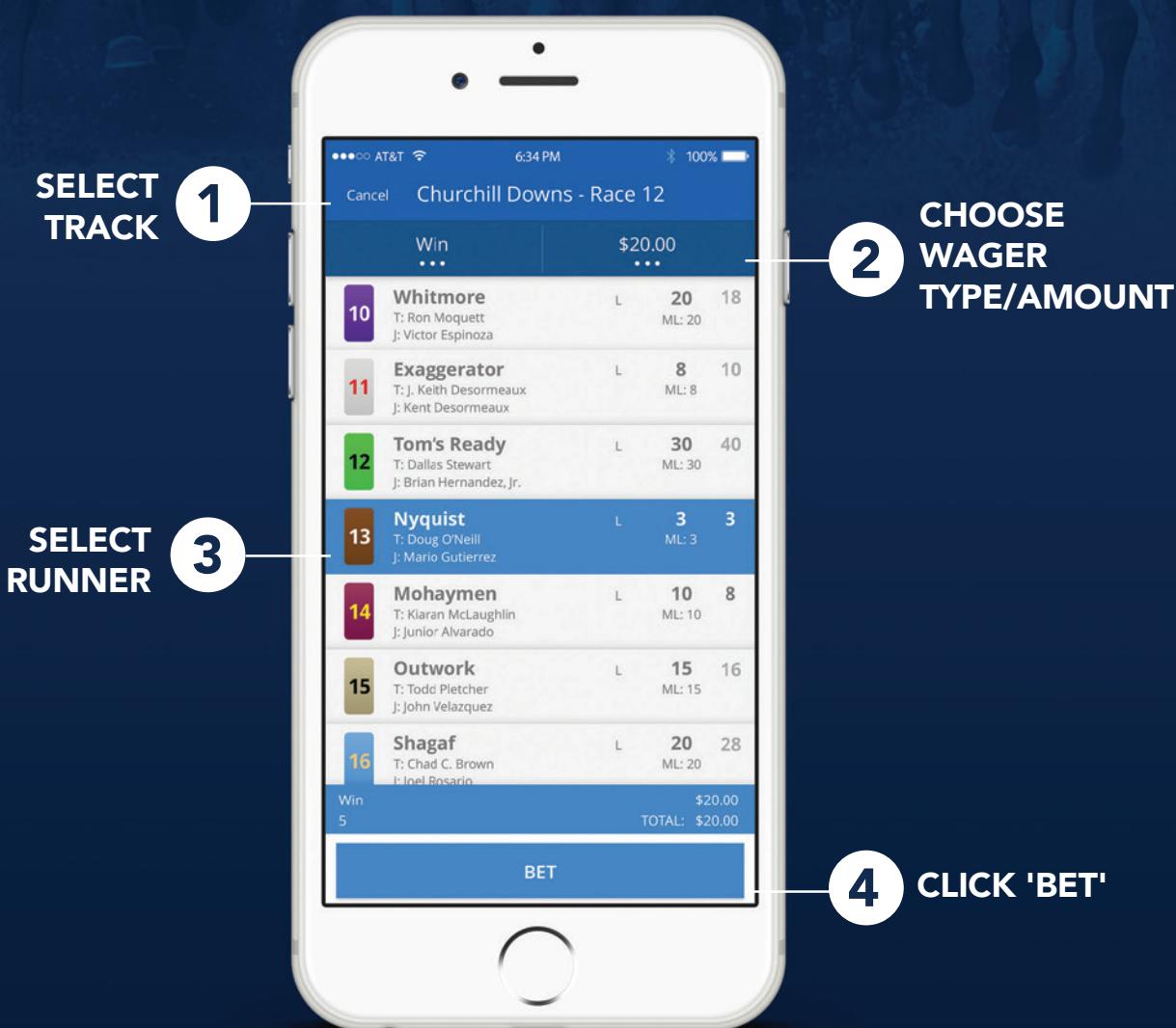
Of the 11 jockeys in the Classic only Smith, Garcia, and Javier Castellano have won the Classic with Castellano's having come 13 years ago aboard Ghostzapper, though he has finished third in back-to-back years with Honor Code behind American Pharoan and Keen Ice behind Arrogate.



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