GLOBEFORM PREVIEWS



DUBAI WORLD CUP DAY – 25 MARCH 2017

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Race 1 GLOBEFORM RATINGS GODOLPHIN MILE (G2) Meydan 25 Mar 2017 – 1600 m / 8 fur dirt

Post time: 15.45 local (-4 UK / -8 EST)

Horses presented with best Globeform past 24 months, sire, trainer, rider. Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 2lbs over this distance.

| 122 | SHARP AZTECA | Fr |
|-----|---------------|----|
| 118 | HEAVY METAL | E> |
| 116 | NORTH AMERICA | Dı |
| 113 | GIFTED MASTER | Ko |
| 112 | SECOND SUMMER | Su |
| 111 | LE BERNARDIN | Be |
| 110 | KAFUJI TAKE | Pr |
| 108 | ETIJAAH | Da |
| 107 | FARRIER | Ta |
| 105 | ROSS | Ac |
| 105 | TRIPLE NINE | Ec |
| 105 | FITZGERALD | El |
| 103 | STORMARDAL | Sł |

Freud Exceed And Excel Dubawi Kodiac Summer Bird Bernardini Precise End Daheer Tapit Acclamation Ecton Park Elusive Quality Shamardal

- Jorge Navarro S bin Ghadayer Satish Seemar Hugo Palmer Doug Watson Ali Rashid Al Rayhi Sachio Yukubo Douglas Watson Satish Seemar Peter Schiergen Young Kwan Kim Ahmad bin Harmash Ismail Mohammed
- Edgar Zayas Mickael Barzalona Richard Mullen Ryan Moore Pat Dobbs Tadhg O'Shea Yuichi Fukunga Jim Crowley Pat Cosgrave Andrea Atzeni Michael Rodd Colm O'Donoghue Adrie de Vries

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

SHARP AZTECA deserves to start favourite for the Godolphin Mile, a race that has been his target since his fine runner-up effort behind Golden Shaheen contender Mind Your Biscuits in the Malibu Stakes at Santa Anita on December 26. That contest, run over 7 furlongs (1400 m.), may have produced to World Cup night winners. Sharp Azteca – who was coming off an impressive 5 1/4-length win in the City of Laurel Stakes in November – went down by just half a length to Mind Your Biscuits, who had been a very good in the Breeders' Cup Sprint on his previous start. Sharp Azteca was given a 7-week break after this and he used last month's Gulfstream Park Handicap as his prep for a trip to Dubai. Tacking a mile over a fast track, he improved to GF 122 in Florida, where he outclassed a solid filed to win by 4 ½ lengths. Awesome Slew was second, the impressive Hal's Hope winner Tommy Macho checked in third and Awesome Banner (who had finished fifth in the Malibu) was fourth. Sharp Azteca raced in the first two all the way, kicked clear approaching the home straight and had the race wrapped up a few strides later. His running style will make him sited to Meydan.

HEAVY METAL, whose profile is quite similar to that of One Man Band – a 5yo that made unusual improvement at the 2016 Carnival and capped it off a by winning the Godolphin Mile – also has an excellent chance. The Salem bin Ghadayer trained 7yo is coming off two very solid wins over this course and distance. He took a handicap racing off 104 in February, when he went to the lead and ran on strongly to beat Nathr by almost four lengths while conceding 2kg (about 4lbs). Heavy Metal stepped up in class on Super Saturday and produced an even better performance to win the Burj Nahaar with incredible ease. Breaking from stall five, he was sent straight to the lead again, and never looked in any danger as he bossed the field from gate to wire. He held clear lead turning for home and raced with great zest all the way to the winning post. Mikael Barzalona had him geared down through the last half-furlong. The winning margin, 6 ½ lengths, could easily have been greater. German challenger **ROSS** (officially rated 104) ran on for second, doing half a length better than Alabaster. >>>

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NORTH AMERICA has won both his races this year – beating Heavy Metal on both occasions (though that was before the latter found his form) and is another interesting contender from the home team. A son of top class stallion Dubawi, he took the Firebreak Stakes over a mile in February. It seemed a competitive contest on paper but was anything but out on the course. North America sat behind the leader, Desert Force (finished eighth) from the outset, took over at the halfway stage and ran out an easy 7-length winner from 40-1 shot Ennobled Friend, with Lindo Amor more than three lengths further adrift in third. Heavy Metal (held up in midfield early on) was fourth. That Heavy Metal has done so well since puts North America in a good light but he may be flattered by these formlines. His wins in January / February could have been a case of early season form and it's worth nothing that Ennobled Friend and Lindo Amor were both badly beaten both on their preceding and subsequent starts. Still, North America was a game handicap winner on his previous outing, beating Heavy Metal by 1 ¼ lengths when conceding two pounds back in January, and he is hard to dismiss.

These three really do stand out and the Godolphin Mile is a good opportunity for exact players. Hitting the trifecta with just three horses on the ticket may be asking a lot too ask but a boxed exact with these three, strengthened by two more bets with Sharp Azteca on top, makes a lot of sense.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

- A: SHARP AZTECA B: HEAVY METAL
- C: NORTH AMERICA

Godolphin Mile 2016 ONE MAN BAND / Globeform 118 Trainer: Doug Watson / Jockey: Sam Hitchcott

Race 2 Arabian race – not covered

Opens May 1

GLOBEFORM'S KENTUCKY DERBY SPECIAL

NO CURE NO PAY DEAL - FULL REFUND IF NO PROFIT In-depth previews and detailed betting plans, Kentucky Derby Day, Churchill Downs, Saturday, May 6. Includes previews to the Kentucky Oaks on Friday and the two Guineas races at Newmarket (Saturday and Sunday).



All subscription fees refunded if our bets fail to make an overall profit.

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Race 3 GLOBEFORM RATINGS DUBAI GOLD CUP (G2) Meydan 25 Mar 2017 – 3200 m / 16 fur turf

Post time: 16.50 local

Horses presented with best Globeform past 24 months, sire, trainer, rider. Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 1lb over this distance.

| 119 118 114 117 117 117 114 112 | VAZIRABAD BIG ORANGE BEAUTIFUL ROMANCE <i>m</i> SHEIKHZAYEDROAD QUEST FOR MORE HEARTBREAK CITY TRIP TO PARIS KINGFISHER | Manduro Duke Of Marmalade New Approach Dubawi Teofilo Lando Champs Elysees Galileo | Alain de Royer-Dupre Michael Bell Saeed bin Suroor David Simcock Roger Charlton Anthony Martin Ed Dunlop Aidan O'Brien | Christophe Soumillon Frankie Dettori Oisin Murphy Martin Harley Jamie Spencer Joao Moreira Andrea Atzeni Ryan Moore |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| 109 108 107 | WALL OF FIRE BASATEEN REMBRANDT VAN RIJN | Canford Cliffs Teofilo Peintre Celebre | Hugo Palmer Doug Watson Salem bin Ghadayer | William Buick Dane O'Neill Mckael Barzalona |
| 107 | FAMOUS KID | Street Cry | Saeed bin Suroor | Silvestre De Sousa |
| 101 | ZAMAAM | Muhtathir | Erwan Charpy | Jim Crowley |
| ? | QUECHUA | Pure Prize | Ricardo Le Grange | Barend Vorster |

Sex weight allowance: Beautiful Romance; 2kg (4.4lbs), add four pounds to rating for direct comparison.

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

VAZIRABAD is likely to improve again this year and he looks the one to beat. He won this event in 2016 and his seasonal debut on February 23 was good enough to make him a confident election again. Not fully fit, compromised by the steady pace and racing over a trip that is too short for his liking, Vazirabad finished second to **BEAUTIFUL ROMANCE** in the Nad AI Sheba Trophy over 2800 metres. Stepping up to 3200 metres (about 2 miles), stripping fitter and likely to get a strong pace, Vazirabad should reverse the placings with the Godolphin mare and also prove too good for the rest. Last year, Vazirabad beat **BIG ORANGE** by a neck. He had been set back a bit by the shipping then, but travelled well this time and has settled in well at Meydan. Now five, the son of Manduro is expected to improve again this term. He won the prestigious Prix Royal-Oak at Saint-Cloud in France last autumn and has 9 wins from 14 starts to date.

BIG ORANGE was giving the winner four pounds when third, beaten just a head, behind **BEAUTIFUL ROMANCE** in the Zipping Classic over 2400 metres at Sandown / Australia last November, and he has a shot as he goes for the Dubai Gold Cup for a second time, having been beaten a neck by **VAZIRABAD** in the 2016 edition. Prior to the Zipping Classic, this massive gelding ran tenth in the Melbourne Cup (Beautiful Romance seventh) and back in July of last year Big Orange won the Princess of Wales's Stakes over 12 furlongs at Newmarket (by 2 ¹/₂ lengths from The Grey Gatsby) followed by another win in the 2-mile Goodwood Cup (by 1 ¹/₄ lengths from Pallasator). His Newmarket win is his best form to date but he does stay well and is among the leading contenders again.

BEAUTIFUL ROMANCE is going to be very popular with local fans and she is likely to make her presence felt. She is a big, late developing type and it would be no surprise to see her improve this season. A Group 2 winner at York on her seasonal debut last year, she finished her campaign with two good runs in Australia in November. She was a respectable eighth of 24 in the Melbourne Cup, finishing 8 lengths behind Almandin, and went on to win the Zipping Classic (by a short head from Almoonqith, with Big Orange a very close third).

SHEIKHZAYEDROAD (who beat Quest For More by half a length to win a G2 staying event at Ascot last year and ran respectably in fourth behind Beautiful Romance a month ago), **QUEST FOR MORE** (narrow winner over a below par Vazirabad in a French G1 event over 4100 metres prior to his second to Sheikhzayedroad) and **HEARTBREAK CITY** (went down by just a head to Almandin in last year's Melbourne Cup) are closely matched on form and all three are capable of finishing in the top three in this Gold Cup.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

- A: VAZIRABAD
- **B: BEAUTIFUL ROMANCE**
- C: SHEIKHZAYEDROAD, QUEST FOR MORE, HEARTBREAK CITY

Golden Shaheen 2016 VAZIRABAD / Globeform 117p Trainer: Alain de Royer-Dupre / Jockey: Christophe Soumillon

All betting plans will be posted on the website of Friday morning



2016 meeting: £260 starting bank. End of week balance: £1,866

www.globeform.info

Race 4 GLOBEFORM RATINGS THE UAE DERBY (G2) Meydan 25 Mar 2017 – 1900 m / 9.5 fur dirt

Post time: 17.25 local

Horses presented with best Globeform past 24 months, sire, trainer, rider. Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 2lbs over this distance.

Sex weight allowance: Nomorerichblondes, Midnight Ciara 2kg (4.4lb), add four pounds to rating for direct comparison with males.

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

LANCASTER BOMBER, a War Front son who has been nominated to the US Triple Crown Series by Aidan O'Brien, is a highly interesting contender in this Derby, that - somewhat baffling – gives the winner 100 points and a guaranteed berth in the Kentucky Derby. Should this event really be worth that much on the US Triple Crown trail? Anyway, back to Lancaster Bomber; he surprised the racing world by chasing his stable companion (and odds-on favourite) Churchill home at 66-1 in the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket last autumn. Lancaster Bomber, who was Churchill's pacemaker, rallied to take second, 1 ¼ lengths behind the winner and half a length in front of Blue Point. **THUNDER SNOW** was a neck further adrift in fourth. The form looked very smart when Rivet, who finished fifth, went on to win the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster two weeks later, and even better when Thunder Snow hacked up in the Criterium International at Saint-Cloud on his next start. Lancaster Bomber did his bit too, going on to a game second in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Santa Anita.

He came up against Oscar Performance, an unusually smart US turf juvenile, who was favoured by the speedy conditions. Lancaster Bomber had anything but a clean trip and he stayed on gamely from midpack to pass the winning post 1 ¼ lengths behind the winner, with the impressive Summer Stakes winner Good Samaritan a neck away in third. It was a strong renewal of the BC Juvenile Turf and Lancaster Bomber proved that his Dewhurst run was no fluke, and that he is an adaptable horse. Running a mile on very firm ground around Santa Anita is quite different to tackling 7 furlongs on good ground over a straight course at Newmarket. Will he act on the dirt? Well, O'Brien has plenty of young horses to choose from (and made five TC-nominees). He selected two sons of War Front, Lancaster Bomber and Spirit of Valor, to travel to Dubai and we can assume these two colts have passed a 'dirt test' at Ballydoyle. The highly successful stallion War Front is also the sire of O'Brien's 2013 Breeders' Cup Classic third Declaration of War, while his dam, Sun Shower, is best known for having produced top class turf miler Excelebration.

THUNDER SNOW is the big hope for the home side. He proved effective over the dirt track when slamming his rivals by upwards of 5 ³/₄ lengths in the UAE 2,000 Guineas last month. Going off at short odds, he grabbed the lead already at the halfway stage and won as he pleased. Bee Jersey filled second, 3 ³/₄ lengths ahead of Capezzano, with Qatar Man fourth, US import Han Sense fifth and Cosmo Charlie sixth. >>>

>>> The latter won the Al Bastakiya on Super Saturday, when Qatar Man was second and Capezzano ran third once more. It's impossible to see how any of these can give Thunder Snow a race on World Cup night. The Godolphin colt met much better opposition in Europe last year. He was a good second to War Decree in the Vintage Stakes at Goodwood in July (when inexperience found him out at the undulating course), beaten just a head when pushing Rivet all the way to the line in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster in September, then 2 ½ lengths behind champion juvenile Churchill when finishing fourth in the prestigious Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket, when **LANCASTER BOMBER** ran second, before cruising home by 5 lengths in the Criterium International at Saint-Cloud.

Thunder Snow, a big colt with plenty of scope, showed good stamina on soft ground in France and he outclassed South Seas (sixth in the Dewhurst) with some ease. Third home that day was the filly Promise To Be True (coming off a good second to Wuheida in the Prix Marcel Boussac). Thunder Snow's good juvenile form, combined with his proven stamina and the knowledge that he handles the dirt, makes him the obvious favourite for the UAE Derby, a race that could be his stepping stone into the Kentucky Derby. He is a half-brother to Ihtimal, a G2 winner who stayed 9.5 furlongs, the very useful mile winner Always Smile and First Victory, who won two of her four races including the 7-furlong Oh So Sharp Stakes (G3) as a juvenile. Their dam, Eastern Joy (Dubai Destination), won over 9 furlongs and is a half-sister to French Oaks winner West Wind.

MASTER PLAN, who represents Todd Pletcher's powerful Florida team, is another who might pose a threat to Godolphin's favourite. The son of Twirling Candy was visually impressive coming from what appeared an impossible position at the back of the field to beat Convict Pike by 2 ½ lengths in the OBS Championship Stakes over 8.5 furlongs in January, and he seems to be a performer on the upgrade. Master Plan had previously run second in the Pulpit Stakes at Gulfstream Park, beaten a length by his stable companion Tapwrit – who went on to finish second behind current Kentucky Derby favourite McCraken on his next start and was an easy winner of the Tampa Bay Derby two weeks ago. These formlines augur well for Master Plan, an \$850,000 breeze-up purchase who is a strong, attractive colt with scope. He must be considered.

EPICHARIS will be trying to give Japan back-to-back wins in the UAE Derby. This field is much stronger than the one Lani overcame last year but Epicharis looks a better horse than Lani and he probably has a fair chance. He hacked up by 12 lengths (not 30 lengths, as reported by some publications and sites) when beating Higashi Will Win in the Hokkaido Nisain Yushun over 1800 metres / dirt at Mombetsu last November, and was quite a solid – if not as flashy – winner of his seasonal debut this year. Epicharis won snugly by ³/₄ length from **ADIRATO** in the 15-runner Hyacinth Stakes, staged over 1600 metres / dirt at Tokyo racecourse in February. Epicharis, who sweated up and raced a bit keenly just off the pace that day, is a much better horse than Adirato and he has yet to lose after four outings. This is definitely a horse to take seriously.

HE RUNS AWAY won the Gran Premio Nacional over 2500 metres at Palermo last year (beating longshot Grand Soho by 4 lengths) but failed to follow up when favourite for the Gran Premio Carlos Pellegrini five weeks later (fourth, 1 ³/₄ I. behind Sixties Song – with **VETTORI KIN** well beaten back in ninth),

VETTORI KIN captured the Gran Premio Derby Paulista over 1 ½ miles on soft turf last autumn, a race he won by 3 ¼ lengths from Kit Kat Jet. Vettori Kin, who is 3-for-8 going into the UAE Derby, performed well below such form when ninth in the Gran Premio Carlos Pellegrini six weeks later. He had won a G3 event over a wet dirt track prior to taking the Derby Paulista. Like He Runs Away, this contender is hard to assess.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

- A: LANCASTER BOMBER
- **B: THUNDER SNOW, MASTER PLAN**
- **C: EPICHARIS**

Race 5 GLOBEFORM RATINGS THE AL QUOZ SPRINT (G1) Meydan 25 Mar 2017 – 1200 m / 6 fur turf (straight)

Post time: 18.00 local

Horses presented with best Globeform past 24 months, sire, trainer, rider. Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 3lbs over this distance.

124 ERTIJAAL (Ire) 119 LIMATO 117 JUNGLE CAT AMAZING KIDS 117 LONG ON VALUE 116 114 WASHINGTON DC 111 BACCARAT 111 THE RIGHT MAN 110 MEDICEAN MAN 110 **RICHARD'S BOY** 110 FINSBURY SQUARE 109 **FINAL VENTURE**

Oasis Dream Tagula Iffraaj Falkirk Value Plus Zoffany Dutch Art Lope de Vega Medicean Idiot Proof Siyouni Equiano

A Al Raihe Henry Candy Charlie Appleby John Size William Mott Aidan O'Brien Charlie Appleby D Guillemin Jeremy Gask Peter Miller Fabrice Chappet Paul Midgley Jim Crowley Harry Bentley William Buick Joao Moreira Joel Rosario Ryan Moore Colm O'Donoghue Fracois-Xavier Bertras Adrie de Vries Norberto Arroyo Christophe Soumillon Pat Dobbs

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

ERTIJAAL, runner-up to the Australian sprinter Buffering in this event last year, has improved a length or two this term and he will probably be hard to beat. There is an 'if' however, as the Al Quoz distance has been changed from 1000 metres to 1200 metres. The minimum trip definitely suits Ertijaal best. Rivals tend to close in a bit on him in the closing stages over 1000 metres – though he has never looked in any danger of being caught. He is very speedy but not a tearaway, and having to run another 200 metres should not affect the pecking order among the locals. Those he has beaten so far here in Dubai will find it hard to live with him again. Ertijaal won twice over 7 furlongs at Lingfield Park in England at three, and he took a 6-furlong handicap here at Meydan two years ago.

LIMATO is the obvious danger. Having run in the Breeders' Cup Mile last November (sixth to Tourist), he is set to revert to sprinting at Meydan, and the straight 1200-metres trip will suit him really well. Limato was one of the best sprinters in Europe last year. He won the 6-furlong July Cup at Newmarket (by 2 lengths from Suedois, with Royal Ascot heroine Quiet Reflection third) and the Prix de l'Abbaye over 1400 metres at Longchamp in October (odds-on fav, won easily by 3 lengths from longshot Karar, as Suedois filled third). In between these valuable wins, Limato ran second, beaten just a head, behind Mecca's Angel in the Nunthorpe Stakes over 5 furlongs at York. He is a game and genuine runner with a high cruising speed and fine turn of foot. A wicked early pace would favour Limato, as such a scenario will give him a chance of outstaying Ertijaal at the business end of the race.

JUNGLE CAT, fourth last year, was beaten almost three lengths when runner-up to Ertijaal two starts back (over 1000 metres) and advertised the form with a solid 2-length win from **BACCARAT** (who stayed on from well off the pace) over 1200 metres on Super Saturday. A very consistent and honest course specialist, Jungle Cat is favoured by the distance here and he is a clear third choice behind Ertijaal and Limato.

AMAZING KIDS – an experienced sprinter from Sha Tin in Hong Kong - ran up to his best when beating Golden Shaheen contender Not Listenin'tome by 1 ½ lengths at level weights in a G3 handicap over 1000 metres at Sha Tin in January. He finished a neck behind the same rival when they filled third and fourth in a G2 contest over 1200 metres three weeks later, a race won by Peniaphobia. The John Size trained gelding produced his best form last year when beaten a neck by Lucky Bubbles over 1200, and he is good enough to make his presence felt in the Al Quoz.

LONG ON VALUE is an interesting US contender. Capable of GF 116 at his best, he is an off-the-pace runner who might ideally want 7 furlongs, but he has decent form also over shorter than the Al Quoz trip and – given a strong early pace – could get up for a slice of the pot.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: ERTIJAAL

- **B: LIMATO**
- C: JUNGLE CAT

Al Quoz Sprint 2016 BUFFERING / Globeform 121 Trainer: Robert Heathcote / Jockey: Damian Brown

Opens May 1 GLOBEFORM'S KENTUCKY DERBY SPECIAL

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Race 6 GLOBEFORM RATINGS DUBAI GOLDEN SHAHEEN (G1) Meydan 25 Mar 2017 – 1200 m / 6 fur dirt

Post time: 18.35 local

Horses presented with best Globeform past 24 months, sire, trainer, rider. Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 3lbs over this distance.

124* **MUARRAB** 122p MIND YOUR BISCUITS 120 ST. JOE BAY 119** WILD DUDE STALLWALKIN' DUDE 118 118 NOT LISTENIN'TOME 117 REYNALDOTHEWIZARD 115 MORAWIJ COOL COWBOY 115 111 MY CATCH 110 DUNDONNELL 103 COMICAS 102 **HIGH ON LIFE** ...? **DIOS CORRIDA**

Oasis Dream Posse Saint Anddan Wildcat Heir City Place Dylan Thomas Speightstown Exceed And Excel Kodiak Kowboy Camacho First Defence Distorted Humor Invincible Spirit Kane Hekili

- Ali Rashid al Rayhi Chad Summers Peter Miller Michael Halford David Jacobsen John Moore Satish Seemar Dhruba Selvaratnam Doug Watson Doug Watson C Fownes Charlie Appleby Salem bin Ghadayer Yoshitada Takahashi
- Jim Crowley Joel Rosario Norberto Arroyo Joao Moreira Florent Geroux Tommy Berry Richard Mullen Chris Hayes Pat Dobbs Sam Hitchcott Christophe Soumillon William Buick tba Shane Foley

* Muarrab; GF 124 in March 2016 / GF 115 best performance this season. ** Wild Dude; GF 119 in May 2016 / GF 102 at his best in Dubai

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

MIND YOUR BISCUITS would ideally like a bit further than this 1200-metres (6 furlongs) trip but a strong pace, and the long home stretch at Meydan, should work in his favour and he will probably take all the beating. He finished by far the best when a close third to Drefong in the Breeders' Cup Sprint at Santa Anita last November, when he returned GF 122p and galloped out past his rivals shortly after passing the winning post. Such form will be enough to win the Golden Shaheen, and there is no reason to doubt that he can repeat it. He confirmed his class with a solid win over Sharp Azteca and Ten Blessings in the 7-furlong Malibu Stakes at Santa Anita in late December, and again with an excellent runner-up effort in the Gulfstream Park Sprint in Florida four weeks ago. Giving the winner six pounds, Mind Your Biscuits almost caught the front-running speedball Unified and lost by just a head. Jockey Joel Rosario was not hard on him and it was an excellent prep for a trip to Meydan. On form, Mind Your Biscuits has just one to fear, namely fellow American St. Joe Bay, and he is the obvious selection.

ST. JOE BAY has improved markedly since being switched to sprinting on dirt and he is coming off a career best effort at Santa Anita, where he won the Palos Verdes Stakes over 6 furlongs at Santa Anita, a race he took quite comfortably by 2 ¼ lengths from Moe Candy, with Ike Walker 4 ¼ lengths further adrift in third. These are not high class horses and the race had only four runners, but St. Joe Bay was so much the best. He shrugged off an early speed duel and finished the race strongly. He was impressive also in an allowance heat at Del Mar in December, when he powered home by 6 ½ lengths from The Gomper over 6.5 furlongs. In between these two wins, the 5-year-old shared the spoils with Solid Wager in the Midnight Lute, also at Santa Anita though staged over a sloppy track, which he did not handle too well. St. Joe Bay is a strong running, game and uncomplicated performer.

MUARRAB produced a top notch performance to win this race last year, when he was trained by Musabbeh Al Mheiri (who lost his licence due to a cobalt violation last month), but he has been rather disappointing in four starts at Meydan this winter. Having beaten X Y Jet by a neck in the 2016 Golden Shaheen, Muarrab was expected to continue his success in 16/17 and he went off a clear favourite when reappearing in a Listed event in December. My Catch beat him easily by 4 ³/₄ lengths. Then came another Listed contest, where he ran better but still lost, this time by half a length to **REYNALDOTHEWIZARD**. Group 3 starts in February and March resulted in new defeats; **COOL COWBOY** was a neck too good in the Al Shindagha Sprint and Muarrab's run in the Mahab Al Shimaal on Super Saturday was terrible. He was way below his previous best and finished sixth of nine, 9 ¹/₂ lengths behind upset winner **MORAWIJ**.

Note that Muarrab has changed trainers twice the past few weeks and is now with Ali Rashid Al Rayhi, having been with the now banned Musabbeh Al Mheiri up to his last start, when he was in the care of Maria Ritchie.

STALLWALKIN' DUDE, a very experience and tough New York sprinter, returned to his best form when beating Threefiveindia by 1 ½ lengths to take the 7-furlong Bold Ruler Handicap at Belmont Park last October, and he reproduced the form with a fine second in the Fall Highweight Handicap over 6 furlongs at Aqueduct in November (beaten a neck by Heaven's Runway when trying to give the winner 11lbs). The eight-year-old has since been third in the Toboggan at Aqueduct (suffered interference) and second in the General George at Laurel in February, when **IMPERIAL HINT** beat him by 2 ¼ lengths. Stallwalkin' Dude was spotting the winner 4lbs on that occasion. With 17 wins and 15 placed efforts from 50 races, Stallwalkin' Dude is well exposed – but do not underestimate him. He loves it when a fast pace develops, giving him the chance to roll past tiring foes at the finish.

REYNALDOTHEWIZARD, a remarkable 11-year-old and a great favourite with local racing fans, bounced back to yet another fine run in the Dubawi Stakes over this course and distance in January, when he came with his customary late charge to beat Muarrab by half a length, with Wild Dude well beaten in third. 'Reynaldo' has been carefully campaigned over the years and he was scratched from the Mahab Al Shimal on Super Saturday. He won the Golden Shaheen back in 2013, finished fourth in 2014 and filled the same place last year (sidelined in 2015).

NOT LISTENIN'TOME is a smart turf sprinter coming off three good efforts in defeat in Hong Kong (running a couple of lengths below his career best each time) and it's strange that he is not going for the Al Quoz (a race he finished a respectable eighth in last year). His best piece of form came when he beat Lucky Bubbles by half a length to win the Jockey Club Sprint over 1200 metres at Sha Tin last November.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

- A: MIND YOUR BISCUITS
- B: ST. JOE BAY
- C: IMPERIAL HINT, STALLWALKIN' DUDE

Golden Shaheen 2016 MUARRAB / Globeform 124 Trainer: M Al Muhairi / Jockey: Paul Hanagan

Race 7 GLOBEFORM RATINGS THE DUBAI TURF (G1) Meydan 25 Mar 2017 – 1800 m / 9 fur turf

Post time: 19.30 local

Horses presented with best Globeform past 24 months, sire, trainer, rider. Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 2lbs over this distance.

| 121 | RIBCHESTER | Iffraaj | Richard Fahey |
|-------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 120 | REAL STEEL | Deep Impact | Yoshito Yahagi |
| 118p | ZARAK | Dubawi | Alain de Royer-Dupre |
| 116* | VERY SPECIAL m | Lope De Vega | Saeed bin Suroor |
| 117 | MUTAKAYYEF | Sea The Stars | William Haggas |
| 116** | MONDIALISTE | Galileo | David O'Meara |
| 112 | VIVLOS f | Deep Impact | Yasuo Tomomichi |
| 115 | HESHEM | Footstepsinthesand | Christophe Ferland |
| 114 | DEAUVILLE | Galileo | Aidan Ó'Brien |
| 114 | DEBT COLLECTOR | Thorn Park | Cliff Brown |
| 110 | OPAL TIARA <i>f</i> | Thousand Words | Mick Channon |
| 113 | DECORATED KNIGHT | Galileo | Roger Charlton |
| 111 | COUGAR MOUNTAIN | Fastnet Rock | Aidan O'Brien |
| 109 | LONG ISLAND SOUND | War Front | Aidan O'Brien |

William Buick Christophe Lemaire Christophe Soumillon Silvestre De Sousa Jim Crowley Daniel Tudhope Joao Moreira Gregory Benoist Ryan Moore Michael Rodd Oisin Murphy Andrea Atzeni Donnacha O'Brien Seamie Heffernan

* Very Special; GF 116 in March, 2016 / GF 111 at her best since ** Mondialiste; GF 116 in Oct 2015 / GF 114 at his best since

Sex weight allowance: Opal Tiara, Very Special and Vivlos 2kg (4.4lb)

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

RIBCHESTER, sporting Godolphin's all blue silks but trained by Richard Fahey in England, is an interesting contender. He certainly has the class to make his presence felt here but this big colt seems best suited by racing over straight courses. Meydan is not a tricky course at all, with its sweeping turns it is very fair, but still; the Dubai Turf is run over quiet a different trip to the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket (where Ribchester was third last year), Jersey Stakes at Royal Ascot (which he won) and Prix Jacques le Marois at Deauville (where he won from fellow G1 winners Vadamos and Ervedya). That said, Ribchester was close to his best when beaten just a neck as a fast closing third behind The Gurkha and Galileo Gold in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood – and that really is a tricky course (right handed and undulating). He was most consistent as a three-year-old and he has the physique to go on at four.

REAL STEEL won this event in 2016 and, although his last two runs in Japan have been below par, he must be respected as he goes for a second win in the valuable contest. He chased the leader from the outset last year and hit the front with about 200 metres (one furlong) to go. The filly Euro Charline threw down a game challenge but Real Steel, ridden by Ryan Moore, held her at bay to win by half a length. It was a tough performance, particularly since it was gained from stall 14. Euro Charline broke from stall 10 while the local favourite Tryster had a much better draw in stall 2.He finished third, beaten 2 ½ lengths by Real Steel.

Yoshito Yahagi's star, who will be up against tougher rivals this time, ran a very good race in defeat when second to Japan's champion Maurice in the Tenno Sho Autumn at Tokyo racecourse in October, but his subsequent outings (3 ½ lengths fifth to Kitasan Black in the Japan Cup in November and 4 ½ lengths eighth to Neorealism in the Nakayama Kinen in February) were not so good. Don't write him off though; the 2400 metres of the Japan Cup is too far for Real Steel and he probably needed the race when coming off a three-month break in the Nakayama Kinen, a race he ran third in before winning at Meydan twelve months ago.

ZARAK, an impeccably bred son of champions Dubawi and Zarkava, was impressive when making his seasonal debut in the Dubai Millennium Stakes over 2000 metres (10 furlongs) here at Meydan in February. Confidently ridden by Soumillon, he looked all over the winner as soon as the field turned for home. Zarak was simply gliding effortlessly past his rivals as he won the race by 1 ³/₄ lengths from Earnshaw. Promising Run checked in third, 1 ¹/₂ lengths behind Earnshaw, while Sanshawes was a length further adrift in fourth place. The race was run at a moderate pace and Zarak's finishing kick told us that a drop down to 1800 metres would be much to his liking. That was no surprise of course, as he had been campaigned against some of the best milers in Europe last term. His win at Meydan, when he had at least a length in hand, produced his best Globeform rating to date. Zarak was not fully fit that day and improvement is expected. Another step up will make him a hard nut to crack in the Dubai Turf.

MUTAKAYYEF, who missed his intended prep race in England due to a bruised foot, was 2 ¼ lengths behind Sheema Classic contender Postponed when third in the Juddmonte International at York last season, when he also won the Summer Mile Stakes at Ascot (justified favouritism to beat Dutch Connection by 2 ¼ lengths) and ran third in the Woodbine Mile in Toronto (beaten ¾ length behind a below-par Tepin). Mutakayyef suffered interference close home in the International, when the winner squeezed him up against the rail (a move that would probably have triggered a disqualification in the US) and he is not that far off the best turf runners in Europe. Looking at his record (14 starts; 3-7-4) it is noticeable that, although he has never finished outside the top three, Mutakayyef has been runner-up seven times. Effective from 8 to 10 furlongs he should find the Dubai Turf distance ideal and trifecta players must include his number.

MONDIALISTE produced Globeform 116 twice in the autumn of 2015, but no more than GF 114 was needed for him to win last year's Arlington Million, and this will be a tough seasonal debut for the eight-year-old. He ran to GF 114 also when fourth to Miss Temple City in the Shadwell Turf Mile at Keeneland, but finished last when stepped up to 1 ½ miles in the Breeders' Cup Turf next time out (raced too freely).

VERY SPECIAL was disappointing when fifth of six behind Opal Tiara last month but she had made a satisfactory seasonal debut when beating the same rival to win the Cape Verdi back in January, and her best form in 2016 gives her a shot at finishing in the top three here. She beat eventual Dubai Turf runner-up Euro Charline by 2 ½ lengths to win the 2016 Balanchine, before running sixth in the Dubai Turf. Her second to Alice Springs in a G1 at Newmarket last July was also quite solid. It may be hard to imagine the Godolphin filly winning the Dubai Turf but it would not be an absolute shock if she did and 50-1 is way too big a price about Very Special. At that price, she's well worth a small each-way bet.

DECORATED KNIGHT may be popular with local fans but he picked up a cheap Group One when winning the Jebel Hatta over this distance on Super Saturday. He came from off a steady pace to get up for a neck win over the more prominently ridden Folkswood, with Muffri'Ha the same margin further back in third and Sanshaawes yet another neck thereafter in fourth. Unless the 5yo son of Galileo makes abnormal improvement, his level of form is not good enough to follow up in the Dubai Turf.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: ZARAK B: RIBCHESTER, REAL STEEL

C: MUTAKAYYEF

Dubai Turf 2016 REAL STEEL / Globeform 120 Trainer: Yoshito Yahagi / Jockey: Ryan Moore

Race 8 GLOBEFORM RATINGS DUBAI SHEEMA CLASSIC (G1) Meydan 25 Mar 2017 – 2400 m / 12 fur turf

Post time: 20.05 local

Horses presented with best Globeform past 24 months, sire, trainer, rider. Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 1,5lbs over this distance.

| 122 | HIGHLAND REEL | Galileo |
|-----|------------------|----------------|
| 122 | JACK HOBBS | Halling |
| 121 | POSTPONED | Dubawi |
| 116 | SEVENTH HEAVEN f | Galileo |
| 117 | SOUNDS OF EARTH | Neo Universe |
| 114 | PRIZE MONEY | Authorized |
| 112 | EARNSHAW | Medaglia d'Oro |

Aidan O'Brien John Gosden Roger Varian Aidan O'Brien Kenichi Fujioka Saeed bin Suroor Salem bin Ghadayer Ryan Moore William Buick Andrea Atzeni Seamie Heffernan Christophe Lemaire Adrie De Vries Mickael Barzalona

Sex weight allowance: Seventh Heaven 2kg (4.4lb)

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

HIGHLAND REEL, who normally sweats up quite badly before his races (without it having a negative effect), completed a remarkable season last year and he must be one of the toughest turf runners around these days. He made all to win the Breeders' Cup Turf at Santa Anita in November, after having been very busy throughout the season in Europe. Dictating the pace, he had too much in reserve when Flintshire (who was given rather a lot to do) tried to challenge down the home stretch, and came home by 1 ³/₄ lengths. His stable companion Found, who had beaten him when they filled the first two places in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Chantilly, was back in third at Santa Anita. Highland Reel set his own pace also as he won the (admittedly sub-standard) King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot and he an a good second to **POSTPONED** in the Juddmonte International Stakes at York. The Breeders' Cup Turf was his eighth run of the season, with the 'Sheema' being his first. Still, Highland Reel went for one more pot, in the Hong Kong Vase (which he won in 2015) but he was caught late by Satono Crown at Sha Tin. Postponed beat Highland Reel into fourth when they met here at Meydan twelve months ago but Highland Reel comes to Dubai a fresh horse this time and he has a good chance of revenge. Particularly since he may be the lone speed in this small field.

JACK HOBBS has been aimed specifically at this event, after having been restricted to just two runs in 2016, and he is a very interesting contender. This big, strong son of Halling was one of the top 3-year-olds in Europe two years ago, when he ran second to subsequent 'Arc' winner Golden Horn in the Epsom Derby before slamming Storm The Stars by 5 lengths to land the Irish Derby. Jack Hobbs, who has always looked like the type to progress with age, was also third in the Champion Stakes that year, behind Fascinating Rock and Found (on a day when the ground was probably too soft for him). His 4yo campaign was eagerly awaited but unfortunately we saw little of him last year. What we did see on his second run, however, was encouraging. He made a fine comeback after injury when third in the Champion Stakes at Ascot last September. Having been sidelined since pulled up on his seasonal debut at Newmarket in April, Jack Hobbs was beaten just 2 lengths and 1 ³/₄ lengths behind Almanzor and Found, two of the absolute best performers in Europe last year. He ran to GF 117+ in the process, indicating that he will be able to return to his best this term. The Gosden trainee worked well at Chelmsford racecourse in England two weeks prior to the big day and he must have a big chance in the Sheema Classic. He is a possible improver.

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POSTPONED was a smooth winner here last year, and it was the first of three Group One wins on the trot for the talented son of Dubawi. He beat Japan's contender Duramente (who lost a shoe prior to the race) readily by 2 lengths at Meydan, and went on to win the Coronation Cup and Juddmonte International in England. The Coronation, staged over 1 ½ miles on Derby day at Epsom in June, became easy pickings. Postponed sailed home 4 ½ lengths in front of the filly Found, who was 1 ¼ lengths better than Postponed's pacemaker Roseburg. Postponed bypassed Royal Ascot later that month and a slight setback ruled him out of the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes in July, a race won by Highland Reel. Postponed met Highland Reel when he returned to action in the International at York in August. Dropping down to 10.5 furlongs was no problem and he justified favouritism with a gritty 1 1/4-length verdict over the 'King George' winner. Dubai Turf contender Mutakayyef, who was hampered when Postponed edged right close home, filled third place. Postponed became favourite for the 'Arc' at Chantilly after this win but he disappointed in the French showpiece. While Found, Highland Reel and the stayer Order Of St George filled the first three places in a memorable sweep for Aidan O'Brien and his team at Ballydoyle, Postponed could manage only fifth, beaten 6 ½ lengths by the winner.

Roger Varian's star made his seasonal debut here at Meydan on Super Saturday, trying to win the Dubai City Of Gold again en route to the Sheema Classic but he was way below his best form and lost by neck to the race-fit Godolphin runner **PRIZE MONEY**. Much was made of how the slow pace worked against Postponed, and how he was boxed in at the top of the lane but truth be told; he did get his chance if good enough inside the final furlong, but failed to quicken and was really disappointing. Finishing less than a length in front of Emotionless and no more than two lengths ahead of the 105-rated Rembrandt Van Rijn is nowhere near what he was capable of last year. Another worry is how badly Postponed behaved when the stalls handlers were struggling to load him for the contest. He does look a dubious favourite for the Sheema, a race that has never been won back-to-back, and should be opposed.

SOUNDS OF EARTH ran the best race to date when second, beaten 2 ½ lengths by Kitasan Black, in last year's Japan Cup, having been fourth to the same rival in a G2 at Kyoto on his previous start. Ranked a notch or two below the very best in Japan, he can be no more than trifecta filler in this contest.

SEVENTH HEAVEN may have a better chance, as she has proved herself capable of Globeform 116 and gets a 4.4lbs sex allowance. That puts her right up with the top three on ratings, and it is worth bearing in mind how well fillies and mares have done in the Sheema Classic; Sun Classique (2008), Dar Re Mi (2010), Gentildonna (2014) and Dolniya (2015) all won this for the fairer sex.

PRIZE MONEY, who put up a couple of good performances in defeat in England last year, has improved this term and he managed to get the better of a below-par Postponed in the Dubai City of Gold. The moderate pace compromised him as much as the favourite, and he did well to come from the back to land the spoils. Interestingly, Globeform ratings show that his previous win (in a handicap) was a notch better (GF 114 – GF 112) and the City of Gold certainly was a bit of a false race. Nevertheless, Prize Money is in the form of his life and he could well make his presence felt once more. He would need to improve a few lengths to beat them all though.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: HIGHLAND REEL B: JACK HOBBS, POSTPONED

> Sheema Classic 2016 POSTPONED / Globeform 121 Trainer: Roger Varian / Jockey: Andrea Atzeni

Race 9 GLOBEFORM RATINGS DUBAI WORLD CUP (G1) Meydan 25 Mar 2017 – 2000 m / 10 fur dirt

Post time: 20.45 local

Projected runners presented with best Globeform past 24 months, sire, trainer, rider. Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 2lbs over this distance

| 139p | ARROGATE | Unbridled's Song |
|------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 122 | GUN RUNNER | Candy Ride |
| 121* | KEEN ICE | Curlin |
| 120 | HOPPERTUNITY | Any Given Saturday |
| 117 | MUBTAAHIJ | Dubawi |
| 115 | APOLLO KENTUCKY | Langfuhr |
| 115 | MOVE UP | Dubawi |
| 114p | NEOLITHIC | Harlan's Holiday |
| 114 | AWARDEE | Jungle Pocket |
| 114? | SPECIAL FIGHTER | Teofilo |
| 110 | FURIA CRUZADA <i>m</i> | Newfoundland |
| 112 | GOLD DREAM | Gold Allure |
| 112 | LONG RIVER | A. P. Indy |
| 110 | LANI | Tapit |

Bob Baffert Steve Asmussen Todd Pletcher Bob Baffert Mike de Kock Kenji Yamauchi Saeed bin Suroor Todd Pletcher Mikio Matsunaga Maria Ritchie Erwan Charpy Osamo Hirata Salem bin Ghadayer Mikio Matsunaga Mike Smith Florent Geroux Javier Castellano Flavien Prat Christophe Soumillon Christophe Lemaire Adrie de Vries John Velazquez Yutake Take Fernando Jara Antonio Fresu Joao Moreira Mickael Barzalona Ryan Moore

Sex weight allowance: Furia Cruzada 2kg (4.4lb), add four pounds to rating for direct comparison with males.

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

ARROGATE has almost ten lengths in hand based on Globeform ratings, and this should be another stroll to the winners' circle for the Baffert trainee. Having outstayed last year's Dubai World Cup winner California Chrome to win the Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita in November, he was simply toying with his rivals in the Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park in January – when California Chrome's off-day meant that Arrogate had nothing to fear. The scenario is pretty much the same here. There are some solid performers in the field, who deserve to take a shot, but they are all fairly exposed and unlikely to improve. We know what they are capable of. We still can't say for sure what Arrogate is capable of though, as he is still lightly raced and open to improvement. Most likely, he will break that magic 140-barrier this season.

GUN RUNNER looks set for an excellent 4yo campaign. Having run some very good races against the best of his generation last year, when he rounded his season off by finishing second in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at Santa Anita and winning the Clark Handicap at Churchill Downs (with Hoppertunity back in fourth place). Gun Runner's seasonal debut, in the 8.5-furlong Razorback Handicap at Oaklawn Park in February, represented even better form. Gun Runner delivered his best run to date straight off the bench, as he crushed the in-form Hawaakom to win by almost six lengths. He was giving the runner-up, who was coming off a win in the Louisiana Stakes, four pounds and it was an excellent performance. Gun Runner is second best on ratings and he must have a good chance of finishing in the top three – though there is one vital question; will he stay 1 ¼ miles in a truly run affair? Thus far, the son of Candy Ride he has looked more of a natural 8- to 9-furlong runner.

KEEN ICE is best known as the horse who managed to Triple Crown hero American Pharoah in the 2015 Travers Stakes, when he outstayed the heavy favourite and ran to GF 121 in the process. He has not been able to get near that level since. He has made good money on a couple of occasions though; staying on for third, 11 ¼ lengths behind Arrogate, in the Breeders' Cup Classic and fourth to Arrogate in the Pegasus World Cup (this time going down by 19 lengths). Stamina is Keen Ice's forte, so a hot pace may help him getting into the top four – but it's hard to see him posing much of a threat.

HOPPERTUNITY sticks out as the best candidate for exacta players. He was third in this event twelve months ago and his seasonal debut at Santa Anita suggested that he is better than ever now. He came form well off the pace to beat last Saturday's Essex Handicap winner Mor Spirit (also trained by Baffert) in the 8.5-furlong San Antonio Stakes at Santa Anita last month. That distance really is too short for Hoppertunity, who is a typical 10-furlong runner with stamina. He produced his career best rating (GF 120) when landing the Jockey Club Gold Cup over this distance at Belmont Park last October, beating Effinex by half a length (Mubtaahij was a well beaten fourth). A strongly run race will suit Hoppertunity at Meydan and he will probably come rolling past horses down the home stretch. His running style means that he won't be anywhere near Arrogate through the first mile, which is a good thing. Those that are will be paying the price at the finish.

MUBTAAHIJ beat Hoppertunity by a neck for second spot behind California Chrome last year, as they performed to GF 116 and GF 115 respectively. Mike de Kock managed to get him ready for the big day and he seems to be doing the same this time. Mubtaahij lost on his seasonal debut here at Meydan in Febuary (by 2 ½ lengths to Etijaah under top weight in a handicap) but he ran well enough to suggest that he can peak in the World Cup once more. The son of Dubawi was sent to the US after the 2016 season, and he ran a couple of decent races in defeat for trainer Kiaran McLaughlin but never found his best form.

NEOLITHIC is the potential improver in this field. A stable companion to Keen Ice, he finished 9 lengths ahead of that rival when they filled third and fourth in the 9-furlong Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park in January. Neolithic ran a tough race that day, as he was racing up with the pace throughout, and he hung gamely in there to round out the trifecta. Arrogate was far too good of course, as was runner-up Shaman Ghost, who won the Santa Anita Handicap on his next start. Neolithic had previously won an 8.5-furlong allowance heat at Gulfstream Park, beating Kismet's Heels very easily by 9 lengths. That race actually produced his best rating to date and Neolithic looks the type that will always do best at around a mile.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: ARROGATE

- **B: HOPPERTUNITY**
- C: GUN RUNNER, MUBTAAHIJ

Dubai World Cup 2016 CALIFORNIA CHROME / Globeform 124 Trainer: Art Sherman / Jockey: Victor Espinoza

All selections based on a fast dirt track and a turf course no worse than good. Please check the website for any changes on Friday morning, when betting plans will be posted.

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