




GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS - CALIFORNIA CHROME



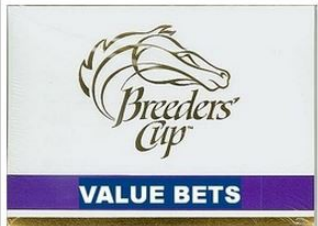
CALIFORNIA CHROME, the Kentucky Derby (G1) winner who added the Preakness Stakes (G1) to his impressive resume but had to settle for fourth place in the Belmont Stakes (G1), is an intriguing Classic contender. He was faultless through the first half of the year, when he also captured the Santa Anita Derby (G1) in his final prep for Churchill Downs, but his time at the top of the podium may have passed. Then again, we should be careful with writing off previous champions. Look what happened with Treve in the Prix de 'Arc at Longchamp. Two dull efforts and her popularity faded to the extent that she went off at 15-1 at Longchamp. Only to hit back with a solid win. Might California Chrome pull off a similar trick? Not impossible. After all, Santa Anita is a track he likes, perhaps more than any other track he has raced over, and he does have the capacity to beat most of these rivals - if he is back to his best. His Derby win may have looked a bit better than it actually was at the time though, as runner-up Commanding Curve has done precious little to write home about since. Ride On Curlin got to within California Chrome in the Preakness, having been much further back at Churchill Downs. Ride On Curlin has been sidelined since he was eased in the Belmont, so we have little to go on through him. Anyway, California Chrome was visually most impressive when winning three Grade Ones on the bounce in the spring, and he should not be underestimated. Despite the fact that he looked rather one paced and nothing like his old self when finishing sixth of eight behind Bayern in the Pennsylvania Derby (G2) in September.

*Home advantage counts for a lot in racing, something Chrome fans will appreciate. **Globeform 124***

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