
GLOBEFORM RACECARD



Courageous Cat – North American challenger for the Dubai Duty Free, winning the Canadian Turf at Gulfstream Park – a perfect prep for his trip to Dubai.

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DUBAI WORLD CUP

Dubai World Cup day

Meydan, Saturday 27 March 2010

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Dubai World Cup 2010

Meydan: The Dubai World Cup (G1), staged on Saturday, is shaping up to be a highly competitive race.

No clear favourite has emerged, and the betting lists have **Gio Ponti**, trained by Christophe Clement, and **Twice Over**, representing Henry Cecil, at the top of their markets at around 5-1.

This duo ran second and third to the mighty Zenyatta in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) at Santa Anita, and they could both improve again this year. The French trained **Vision d'Etat**, last seen in action when landing the Hong Kong Cup (G1) at Sha Tin in December, is also on offer at the same price, as the betting market confirms this to be a wide open affair.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 4 GIO PONTI

B: 2 GITANO HERNANDO

C: 6 VISION D'ETAT, 11 TWICE OVER



Photo (c) Stefano Grassol

Mastery - Frankie Dettori's ride in the Dubai World Cup at Meydan.

Worth noting: *"The way races have been run at Meydan, you really need to get the trip" – Frankie Dettori.*

Globeform ratings, rating profiles and in-depth horse by horse analysis to the Dubai World Cup on the following pages.

Race 8

GLOBEFORM RATINGS DUBAI WORLD CUP (G1)

Meydan 27 March 2010 – 2000m / 10 fur. Tapeta

Runners presented with best Globeform ratings, sire,
GF ratings achieved in last three starts (l-to-r), jockey, draw

A “p” after the rating indicates improvement expected.

Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds (lb). 1 length = 2lb over this distance

126 – GIO PONTI (Tale of The Cat)	112p – 126 – 115p / R Dominguez	(4)
123 – VISION D’ETAT (Chichicastenango)	117p – 116 – 123 / O Peslier	(6)
123 – TWICE OVER (Observatory)	115p – 118p – 123 / T Queally	(11)
122 – RICHARD’S KID (Lemon Drop Kid)	113p – 116 – 115p / G Gomez	(10)
118 – RED DESIRE (Manhattan Cafe) <i>filly</i>	118p – 118p – 114p / C Soumillon	(3)
118 – CROWDED HOUSE (Rainbow Quest)	118 in `08 // 110p – 114p / J Velazquez	(9)
117 – GITANO HERNANDO (Hernando)	113p – 117p – 115P / K Fallon	(2)
117 – GLORIA DE CAMPEAO (Impression)	100 – 115 – 117 / T Pereira	(5)
116 – MASTERY (Sulamani)	109 – 116 – 111 / L Dettori	(12)
115 – ALLYBAR (King’s Best)	?p – 114p – 115p / A Ajtebi	(1)
115 – FURTHEST LAND (Smart Strike)	115 – 0 – 113 / J Leparoux	(8)
115 – MR BROCK (Fort Wood)	105 – 113 – 115 / R Moore	(13)
114 – LIZARD’S DESIRE (Lizard Island)	113 – 111p – 114 / K Shea	(7)
...? – AMOUR DE POBRE (Stuka)	? - ?p - ? / A Gryder	(14)

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS



4 - GIO PONTI, taking the highest Globeform rating into the Dubai World Cup, was the top turf runner in North America last year, when he landed four Grade 1 events on the bounce before running below expectations to finish second as odds-on favourite in the Turf Classic (G1) over 12 furlongs at Belmont Park (on heavy ground), and somewhat above expectations when runner-up to the fantastic mare Zenyatta in the Breeders’ Cup Classic (G1) over 10 furlongs over the Pro-Ride surface at Santa Anita. Producing Globeform 126 in the process, the son of Tale of The Cat checked in a length behind Zenyatta and 1 ¼ length in front of Twice Over, who he will meet again in Dubai. Gio Ponti is effective from a mile to a mile and a quarter and he is a thoroughly game and genuine performer. He has had one run this year, beaten in a photo finish by Kareljian in the Tampa Bay Breeders’ Cup Stakes in Florida. The slow pace did not suit him that day, and Gio Ponti – who was not given a hard race - needed the run. It was no more than a starting point to the a new campaign, and he ran well enough to suggest that he has retained all his ability. Indeed, the five-year-old may be improving still. If he is, Gio Ponti is the one they have to beat in this year’s Dubai World Cup.



6 - VISION D'ETAT will be making his first start since winning in the Hong Kong Cup (G1) over 2000 metres on turf at Sha Tin in December. He beat the local favourite Collection in good style by $\frac{3}{4}$ length in Hong Kong, with Dubai Duty Free favourite Presvis 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths further adrift in third place.

This big win was no surprise, as Vision d'Etat had solid form in the book in Europe. He won the 2008 Prix du Jockey-Club (G1) at Chantilly (French Derby) and back in June last year, the son of Chichicastenango was successful at Royal Ascot in England, winning the 10-furlong Prince Of Wales's Stakes (G1) from Tartan Bearer and Never On Sunday (Twice Over finished fourth). He also won the Prix Ganay (G1) in France in the spring, beating Loup Breton (winner of the San Marcos at Santa Anita this year) and the German G1 winner Alderflug by just under a length. Vision d'Etat is at his best over the World Cup distance, and he comes here with a good chance. All his runs have been on turf but he is clearly an adaptable horse – having shown top class form at three very different venues in three different countries, and he is one of the most accomplished horses in this year's World Cup.



11 - TWICE OVER, representing Henry Cecil's yard in England, finished third in last year's Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) at Santa Anita, just over a length behind the runner-up Gio Ponti. All being well, these two will meet again at Meydan on March 27. Twice Over, like Gio Ponti now also five, had previously landed the prestigious Champion Stakes (G1) over a straight turf course at Newmarket. He came from off the pace to lead two furlongs out that day, then ran on gamely under pressure to beat Mawatheeque by half a length. The dual Oaks winner Sariska was third, beaten another length. At the Breeders' Cup, Twice Over was racing in midfield early, before staying on in the straight to take third – without ever threatening to win the big race. Not that anybody else managed to do that, when Zenyatta got going. Twice Over is an imposing horse. He has been classy since day one of his career, winning his two races as a juvenile, but he has also been steadily improving all the time and could well turn out to be even better this year. The World Cup will be his first start of the year but Twice Over has had a 'racecourse gallop' in England in February and he looked really well as he cruised past his smart stable companion Tranquil Tiger, who won the Winter Derby (G3) in England a couple of weeks later. He is one to consider.



10 - RICHARD'S KID served up one of the biggest shocks of 2009 when he won the Pacific Classic (G1) at Del Mar in California last September. Going off at 24-1, the son of Lemon Drop Kid was among the backmarkers early on, but he found a super stride around the home turn, and came five wide with a winning run to get up for a neck verdict over Einstein, with Rail Trip beaten a length in third. Richard's Kid's rider Mike Smith lost his whip, the Baffert trainee was coming off a photo loss to Unusual Suspect in the 12-furlong Cougar (turf), yet he was capable of beating a pair of solid Grade One winners in a tight finish. This horse became a G1 runner when the synthetic tracks arrived. It was his sixth career win, with the previous having been gained in a minor stakes event at Laurel Park, where he defeated Bullsby by a length (when also racing from off the pace).

His Pacific Classic win represented incredible improvement in form, and it would be easy to dismiss it as a one-off, but Richard's Kid performed really well in the top grade once more when third behind fellow Dubai World Cup contender Gitano Hernando and Colonel John in the Goodwood Stakes (G1) at Santa Anita a month later. That was his prep for the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) at the same venue in early November, when Richard's Kid was at the back early and could only progress to sixth, 5 ½ lengths behind the unbeaten wonder girl Zenyatta. This was another respectable effort but nowhere near his Pacific Classic form. Richard's Kid returned to action at Santa Anita on February 7, coming out best in an excitingly crowded finish to the San Antonio Handicap (G2) over 9 furlongs. He beat Dakota Phone by a head, with the ex-English Philatelist just another head back in third and Pick Six, Mast Track and Furthest Land hard on their heels in fourth, fifth and sixth place.

No more than just over a length separated the first six home in the San Antonio and the form was not all that great. On the plus side; Richard's Kid was conceding weight all round and the runner-up Dakota Phone gave the form a slight boost by taking third behind Misremembered in the Santa Anita Handicap (G1) on his subsequent start. On his best form, Richard's Kid holds a winning chance in the Dubai World Cup, and he is a horse who loves racing over synthetic surfaces, but he seems to lack that little bit extra it take to lift the Cup.



2 - GITANO HERNANDO is an interesting runner. He is a lightly raced, highly talented performer. A set back ruled him out of a trip to the US and a crack at the Belmont Stakes last summer, and the break seems to have been a blessing in disguise for the Marco Botti trainee. Gitano Hernando came back fresh in the autumn and landed the Goodwood Stakes at Santa Anita, beating Colonel John by a neck after a tough battle close home. The idea of a trip to the Breeders' Cup was soon shelved, as his connections announced that they would give him more time to develop and take aim at the Dubai World Cup. And here we are. Gitano Hernando is now ready for what will be by far the biggest test in his young racing life. He was given a prep run in Listed company at Lingfield Park in England in February, and won the race convincingly by 4 ½ lengths from the second favourite, Suits Me (a smart performer who had the benefit of a previous run – and franked the form by running a close second in the G3 Winter Derby next time out). Gitano Hernando has won 5 of his 8 races to date and there is certainly more to come. A good draw and Kieren Fallon are two nice plus points.



3 - RED DESIRE caused a bit of an upset when winning the Maktoum Challenge Round III (G2) on Super Thursday, the last important prep race for the World Cup. The Japanese trained filly came with a striding run down the home straight, to get up for a narrow, yet decisive, win over Gloria de Campeao, who had landed the first round of the Maktoum Series. Mr Brock, Allybar and Lizard's Desire, all three also on course for the World Cup, came home in third, fourth and fifth. No more than 1 ¼ lengths covered the first five home and when casting a glance on this result one might think any of the five can prove best on the big night. Those who witnessed the race, probably all have another take on matters. Red Desire only won by ¼ length but she was clearly the best and it is difficult to see any other the others coming out of that race turning the form around. Red Desire is a progressive sort who can do even better.

She finished third in last year's Japan Cup (G1), 1 ½ lengths behind the champion Vodka. She improved with every run as a three-year-old, from finishing second both in the Japanese 1,000 Guineas (G1) and Japanese Oaks (G1) in the spring, to winning the Shuka Sho (G1) over 2000 metres in October, and taking third in the Japan Cup. Red Desire beat none other than Conduit for that place (he was below his best but it was still a good achievement for a 3yo filly). She has finished in the top three in all of her races to date.



9 - CROWDED HOUSE is a horse that promised so much as a juvenile but has yet to fulfil the dreams of his connections. After an eye-catching run at Newmarket in his first season, when finishing well for second to the subsequent Breeders' Cup winner Donativum in a valuable sales race, he did capture a big one next time out; the one-mile Racing Post Trophy (G1) at Doncaster. Even more was expected. Landing that race often makes a colt winter favourite for the Derby at Epsom the following year, and win he did in some style.

Then, as the new season unfolded, it was soon evident that Crowded House would be struggling to follow up as a three-year-old. A dull effort when unplaced in the Dante Stakes (G2) at York was his preparation for Epsom, where Crowded House ran 'respectably' no more. He passed the winning post in sixth place, beaten just over eight lengths by the brilliant winner Sea The Stars. That was it for the season. Crowded House was not seen again in 2009. His trainer announced that the colt would be given a long rest, and brought back for a trip to Dubai. He has made it here, he raced twice at the Carnival, and the Dubai World Cup will be his biggest test ever. Crowded House has been backed a bit with bookmakers in England over the past few weeks (from 25-1 to 16-1), despite the fact that his two runs at Meydan resulted in defeats. They were good runs in defeat, however, as Crowded House finished really well on both occasions. Besides, he was beaten by a couple of very smart performers. Alexandros, a runner in the Duty Free, beat him by 3 ½ lengths in the Al Rashayida (G3) over 1800 metres (9 fur.) on turf on February 4, and fellow DWC contender Allybar proved half a length too good in the Al Maktoum Challenge II (G3), run over 2000 metres over the Tapeta surface two weeks later.

A test of stamina is almost certainly what Crowded House needs to be seen to best effect. Later in the season we will probably be seeing him over 1 ½ miles on turf in England. He is a runner who might improve, and his chances in the World Cup depend on the early pace of the race. If they go fast through the first half of the contest, look for this flashy chestnut to pass horses with his strong finish in the straight. Should the early pace be moderate, he won't find it so easy to make an impact. Either way, Crowded House needs to improve by about three to four lengths to win this. ***Globeform 118 in 2008 - GF 114p in 2010***



5 - GLORIA DE CAMPEAO, runner-up in the World Cup last year (albeit beaten a long way), gained a gutsy win in the Maktoum Challenge Round I (G3) in January, and ran another solid race when beaten just a neck by the fast finishing Red Desire in the Al Maktoum Challenge Round III (G2) on Super Thursday. That was over the full World Cup distance and stamina is not a problem for this Brazilian import. He outstayed his rivals at the end of a strongly run race over over a mile in the first round of the Al Maktoum Series, when winning by half a length from Forgotten Voice (who runs in the Godolphin Mile). His spring form last year was also very good. After taking second, 14 lengths behind Well Armed in the Dubai World Cup (G1) twelve months ago, Gloria de Campeao went on to take the Singapore International Cup (G1), beating Presvis by a neck over 1 ¼ miles on turf. That was his career best effort but he seems just as effective over the new Tapeta surface, and Gloria de Campeao can be expected to run a good race once more – though winning this is probably beyond him.



12 - MASTERY took the Derby Italiano (G1) for Godolphin last May (beat Turati 1 1/5 lengths) and he came good again in the St. Leger Stakes (G1) in England in September. Stamina made the difference that day as Mastery beat his more fancied stable companion Kite Wood after a great battle through the last furlong of the 1 3/4-mile classic. He won by 3/4 length, and this success set him up for a trip to California and a crack at the Breeders' Cup Marathon at Santa-Anita (run over the Pro-Ride track). Mastery failed to show his absolute best there, but ran a game race for third, 2 1/4 lengths behind the winner Man Of Iron. He has come in as a surprise runner for trainer Saeed bin Suroor in this World Cup, probably as a result of Cavalryman switching to the Sheema Classic. This will be a tough seasonal debut for Mastery, as he meets better rivals than ever before, runs over a trip that is a bit too short for him, and has to overcome a wide post.



1 - ALLYBAR has run three good races at Meydan this winter, most notably when coming out best in the Al Maktoum Challenge Round II (G2) in February. Having taken advantage of a slow pace and heavily favourable weights to beat Duty Free contender Presvis in a three-runner race in January, Allybar followed up in fine style to deny Crowded House in the Maktoum Challenge II, contested over 1900 metres. Unlike in his previous race, when Allybar was leading all the way, he was ridden patiently at the back on the 12-runner field, and came with a steady run to get the lead 200 metres from the winning post. Crowded House finished well from the back but Allybar held on to beat him by half a length. Trained by Andre Fabre in France last year, Allybar is showing improved form these days, and he put up another good performance in the Maktoum Challenge Round III (G2) on Super Thursday, when he was a bit short of room and probably unlucky not to get better than fourth behind Red Desire, Gloria de Campeao and Mr Brock. He proved capable of running 2000 metres that day, and Allybar could get a nice slice of the World Cup purse. If there is to be a surprise from one of the longshots he could be the one to provide it.



8 - FURTHEST LAND enjoyed his finest hour when scoring an upset win in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at Santa Anita last November, peaking at just the right time to get the better of Ready's Echo and Midshipman. Furthest Land will need to improve considerably, even on that form, to have a chance in the World Cup – and his two runs this year have been uninspiring.



13 - MR BROCK and



7 - LIZARD'S DESIRE, both trained by Mike de Kock and both seeking their third win here at Meydan, are solid performers who operate really well at this track, but their level of form is not quite up to winning the World Cup. They finished third and fifth respectively, behind Red Desire, when prepping in the Al Maktoum Challenge Round III (G2).



14 - AMOUR DE POBRE is an outsider taking his chance for Saudi Arabia. Not qualified for a Globeform rating, this horse has been pegged in at 113 by the UAE handicapper, after winning a Grade 2 over 2500 metres by 5 1/2 lengths from Muller in January.

Race 2

Al Quoz Sprint: California Flag on straightway



Photo (c) Benoit

California Flag Breeders' Cup winner ready for Meydan.

The **Al Quoz Sprint (G3)**, staged over a straight turf course, poses a new challenge to last year's Breeders' Cup winner **California Flag**, as he meets a solid bunch of speedsters in the desert.

Drawn in seven, he will break right next to the English trained contender **War Artist**, an impressive winner already this year at Meydan.

GLOBEFORM RATINGS

THE AL QUOZ SPRINT (G2)

Meydan 27 March 2010 – 1200m / 6 fur. Turf (straight)

Runners presented with best Globeform ratings, sire, jockey, draw

Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds. One length = 3lb over this distance.

121 - CALIFORNIA FLAG (Avenue of Flags)	J Talamo	(8)
118 - WAR ARTIST (Orpen)	O Peslier	(9)
118 - ALL SILENT (Belong To Me)	C Brown	(4)
116 - FINJAAN (Royal Applause)	R Hills	(11)
116 - JOY AND FUN (Cullen)	B Doyle	(6)
115 - MARIOL (Munir)	C-P Lemaire	(1)
115 - OUR GIANT (Giant's Causeway)	K Shea	(5)
114 - SIROCCO BREEZE (Green Desert)	L Dettori	(3)
113 - TERRIFIC CHALLENGE (Royal Academy)	R Mullen	(15)
111 - FRAVASHI (Falbrav)	A Ajtebi	(7)
111 - JUDD STREET (Compton Place)	K Fallon	(16)
111 - STAR CROWNED (Kingmambo)	R Ffrench	(14)
110 - ASSET (Marju)	T Durcan	(2)
110 - DOHASA (Bold Fact)	P Smullen	(13)
107 - SIR GERRY (Carson City)	R Moore	(12)
106 - PRINCE SHAUN (Acclamation)	T O'Shea	(10)

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

CALIFORNIA FLAG is the best turf sprinter seen in North America for many years. The top speed merchants mainly operate over dirt tracks or synthetic tracks in the US, but here we have a really sharp one who prefers the lawn. The way he won the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1) at Santa Anita in California last November suggests that he can handle some of the best turf sprinters in the world. California Flag has developed into a serious racehorse over the past year, and he made virtually all to beat a solid field at Santa Anita – where leading from start to finish over 6.5 furlongs (1300 metres) at the downhill turf course is almost unheard of. But California Flag did just that, and he had all his opponents in trouble as soon as he turned for home. The filly Gotta Have Her, another course specialist coming into the race in top form, ran on for second without ever being a serious threat. Cannonball, who had shown excellent form at Royal Ascot in the summer, had to settle for third, 2 ½ lengths behind California Flag, who earned a career best Globeform 121 in the process. He failed to produce the same level of form when fifth to the local champion Sacred Kingdom in the Hong Kong Sprint (G1) at Sha Tin (right handed) in December, but California Flag was beaten less than two lengths and it was another creditable effort.

His blistering early speed, combined with his ability to keep going right to the winning post over this distance, could make the US runner a tough nut to crack in the Al Quoz Sprint. One worry; He has to adapt to racing on a straight course, as opposed to the US style of racing around a bend in sprints. Negotiating a bend is always an advantage for fast starters, as they can get to the inside and save ground, while others will be forced to go wide. That edge will not be there working in California Flag's favour on World Cup night.

WAR ARTIST was one of the best sprinters in Europe last year, when he won the Goldene Peitsche (G2) at Baden-Baden in Germany and the Prix du Petit Couvert (G3) at Longchamp in France, before running third behind Total Gallery and Fleeting Spirit in the Prix de l'Abbaye (G1) at Longchamp on the day of the Prix de l'Arc. War Artist looked as good as ever in his first start at Meydan, as he beat Godolphin's favourite Gayego (Golden Shaheen runner) by 2 ¾ lengths in the Al Shindagha Sprint (G3) over 6 furlongs on the Tapeta track. Gayego did not have the best of runs that day but he would not have beaten War Artist in any case. The Australian bred son of Orpen took command with just over 300 metres to run, swiftly opened up a clear lead and finished the race off in great style. If he reproduces that form in the Al Quoz Sprint, well then he will be hard to beat. Thought to be at his very best over a straight turf course, there is no reason to doubt that he will run a race like that again. If you ignore his latest run, that is. Was it a sudden lack of form, or was it something else that affected his run in the Al Shimaal (G3) on Super Thursday? War Artist was a strong favourite for the final prep for the big sprints on DWC night but, after racing in about fifth / sixth early on, he did not respond as we know he can when his rider asked him to quicken at the finish. He came home in fifth, beaten by Desert Party, Mutheeb, Sir Gerry and Prince Shaun. Of these, only Desert Party had previously shown form as good as War Artist's. The English sprinter ran well below his best, simple as that, sometimes horses do... He can bounce back in the Al Quoz.

MARIOL, a veteran sprinter with 7 wins from 47 career starts, will represent French trainer Robert Collet's stables in the Al Quoz Sprint (G3). This straight turf dash should become popular with European trainers, and Mariol is the sole runner from France this time. He is not considered among the very best sprinters in Europe but he was beaten only half a length when second to King's Apostle in the Prix Maurice de Gheest (G1) over 1300 metres (straight) at Deauville last summer. Going off at 50-1, he belied those odds to beat Lesson In Humility, Varenar and Sayif in a tight finish for the runner-up spot. Three weeks later, Mariol obliged as the clear favourite in a G3 contest over the same course (with Contest second), but he was unplaced behind big race winners Sayif (at Ascot) and Varenar (at Longchamp) on his subsequent outings in 2009. Mariol is a consistent sort, he has finished in the first three in nearly half of his races, and he has shown winning form at four different tracks in France, from 1000 to 1400 metres. He looks an interesting longshot, while shippers like **ALL SILENT** and **FINJAAN** are also interesting. In particular Finjaan, who impressed when landing a big sprint over the downhill course at Goodwood in England last summer, makes a lot of appeal. He is a likely improver and certainly one to include in any Trifecta plans.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 8 CALIFORNIA FLAG, 9 WAR ARTIST

B: 1 MARIOL, 4 ALL SILENT, 11 FINJAAN



Photo (c) Stefano Grasso

Firebreak winning the 2004 Godolphin Mile - in all blue silks

Race 3

Godolphin Mile: Another all blue exacta?

Godolphin sent out the first two finishers in the race they sponsor, the **Godolphin Mile (G2)**, at Nad Al Sheba last year, and Sheikh Mohammed's strong team could well repeat the feat this weekend, with **Desert Party**, ridden by Frankie Dettori, and **Skysurfers**, who gets Ted Durcan on board, joint top on our ratings - though they were both handed a tricky draw.

GLOBEFORM RATINGS

GODOLPHIN MILE (G2)

Meydan 27 March 2010 – 1600m / 8 fur. Tapeta

A "p" after the rating indicates improvement expected.

Runners presented with best Globeform, sire, GF ratings achieved in last three races (l-to-r), jockey, draw. GF ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 3lb over this distance.

118 - DESERT PARTY (Street Cry)	118p – 0 - 118p	L Dettori (11)
118 - SKYSURFERS (E Dubai)	?P – 118p – 104	T Durcan (12)
115 - CAT JUNIOR (Storm Cat)	99 – 92 – 114	J Spencer (2)
115 - SUMMIT SURGE (Noverre)	106p – 112 – 115	K Fallon (13)
114 - FORGOTTEN VOICE (Danehill Dancer)	0 – 114p – 104	R Moore (10)
114 - KALAHARI GOLD (Trans Island)	104 – 112 – 114	R Hills (1)
114 - CALMING INFLUENCE (King's Best)	97 – 114 – 110	A Ajtebi (4)
113 - VESUVE (Green Tune)	107 – 113 – 105	W Smith (8)
...? - GLORIOUS NOAH (Precise End)	?p – ?p – 0	S Kobayashi (5)
111 - GREEN COAST (Green Desert)	100 – 111 – 111	T O'Shea (14)
110 - LUCKY FIND (Rich Man's Gold)	102 – 106 – 110	K Shea (6)
109 - LE DRAKKAR (Anabaa)	104 – 109 – 100	C Sanchez (3)
109 - CONSUL GENERAL (Selkirk)	109 – 104 – 102	A Gryder (7)
108 - JET EXPRESS (Jet Master)	90 – 105 – 108	R Ffrench (9)

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS / Godolphin Mile

GODOLPHIN's two contenders for this fared both badly at the post position draw, as Desert Party ended up in gate 11, with Skysurfers one lane further out. These starting points are far from ideal but they are clearly the two best horses. One of them should get a clean run, and bring home the sponsorship money.

DESERT PARTY steps back up in distance after his impressive comeback in the big sprint race on Super Thursday and if Skysurfers lines up as well these two could very well provide another 1-2 in the race for the sponsors. Godolphin's all blue silks dominated the finish of the Godolphin Mile at Nad al Sheba twelve months ago, when Frankie Dettori rode Two Step Salsa to victory over Gayego, partnered by Ted Durcan. This time, Frankie will be on Desert Party, and this combination is sure to start favourite. The four-year-old son of Dubai World Cup winner Street Cry ran out a solid conqueror of the consistent yardstick Mutheeb in the Al Shimaal (G3) over 1200 metres just over three weeks ago. Still not at peak fitness, Desert Party won that race on pure class. It was his first start since disappointing in the Kentucky Derby (G1) at Churchill Downs last May. A horse with good tactical speed, plus stamina for a mile plus, Desert Party proved sharp enough to win a G3 sprint, and he looks set for an excellent season. This colt could really be going places in 2010. His talent has never been a big secret though, as he won a G2 event in the USA as a juvenile and was one of the top three-year-olds at Nad Al Sheba last year, when he took the UAE 2,000 Guineas (G3) over a mile (beating Regal Ransom 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths) and ran second in the UAE Derby (G2) over 9 furlongs (0,5 l. behind Regal Ransom).

SKYSURFERS was as disappointing on his second start at Meydan, as he had been impressive on his first, when he outclassed Eagle Mountain, an established Group One runner, over the Godolphin Mile course and distance in February. This was Skysurfer's second lifetime outing and he ran to a level of form rarely seen by horses with so little experience. His name entered the Dubai World Cup discussions after this procession, but trainer Saeed bin Suroor wisely decided to keep the unexperienced colt a lower grade and a shorter trip. Skysurfers was expected to follow up when he next ran in the Burj Nahaar (G3), again tackling 1600 metres on the Tapeta surface, on Super Thursday.

CAT JUNIOR, another Godolphin Mile contender, won that race by leading the whole way, while Skysurfers looked nothing like the horse we had seen the previous month and trailed in fifth, beaten a little over four lengths by the winner, a horse who had been fifth and almost seven lengths behind him in two weeks earlier. The form was turned completely 'upside down'. Cat Junior had form in the book to beat most of the runners that day, but Skysurfers was far more likely to improve. Something he did not. The defeat can probably be put down to lack of experience. The race will have taught him a lot, and there is no reason to doubt that Skysurfers can deliver a top class performance in the near future. He has a good chance again, especially from his good draw (2).

Godolphin Mile continued...

FORGOTTEN VOICE is an interesting runner in the Godolphin Mile. A bit of a 'nervy sort' he is one who can produce high class for one day, only to disappoint next time. Racing fans at Meydan have already seen both sides to this Royal Ascot winner. He finished really well when second to Gloria de Campeao (World Cup runner) in the Al Maktoum Challenge Round I (G3) on January 28. Forgotten Voice, a five-year-old with 4 wins from 11 starts, was making his first appearance since behind badly beaten in the Champion Stakes (G1) at Newmarket last October. He came from off the pace, and passed all but one, to be go down by just half a length by Gloria de Campeao (who had been up with the pace throughout). Sticking to a mile, Forgotten Voice next took aim at the Burj Nahaar (G3) but, much like Skysurfers, he was below par in that event. Never better placed than in the middle of the 14-runner field, he was a bit one paced in the home straight and finished seventh. That was not his true form at all, and don't write him off on the big night. He does have the ability to make an impact, provided he feels right on the big day.

SUMMIT SURGE ran right up to his best in defeat (under a tough weight) last time out and also holds a decent chance – though he has also been drawn wide.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 11 DESERT PARTY, 12 SKYSURFERS

B: 2 CAT JUNIOR, 10 FORGOTTEN VOICE, 13 SUMMIT SURGE

Worth noting:

*Godolphin's two horses have wide draws,
one of them will probably overcome it and win.*



Mendip winning the Al Bastakiya on Super Thursday © www.stefanograsso.it

Race 4 / UAE Derby: Godolphin vs. De Kock

MENDIP, Godolphin's unbeaten contender, will probably be the favourite in the UAE Derby, after his impressive win in the Al Bastakiya on Super Thursday, though Mike de Kock's star **Musir** will also get a lot of attention in this classic.

GLOBEFORM RATINGS - UAE DERBY (G1)

Meydan 27 March 2010 – 1900m / 9.5 fur. Tapeta

Runners presented with best Globeform rating, sire, jockey, draw
A "p" after the rating indicates improvement expected.

Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds (lb). One length equals 2lb over this distance.

115p - MENDIP (Harlan's Holiday)	L Dettori	(5)
111p - RAIHANA (Elusive Quality) <i>filly</i>	K Shea	(3)
113p - MUSIR (Redoute's Choice)	C Soumillon	(9)
108p - UNCLE TOM (First American)	K Fallon	(8)
107p - SIYAADAH (Shamardal) <i>filly</i>	A Gryder	(6)
106p - FROZEN POWER (Oasis Dream)	A Ajtebi	(7)
106p - ENAK (Orpen)	T Durcan	(2)
103 - SOLID CHOICE (Redoute's Choice)	K Latham	(11)
102p - DELLA BARBA (Della Francesca)	O Peslier	(4)
102 - OROVESO (Fahim)	T Pereira	(1)
..?p - MAKAAANAH (Race Leader)	J Barria	(9)
102 - TIMELY JAZZ (Noverre)	P-A Graaberg	(12)
100 - MR CRAZY BOY (Numerous)	C Brown	(13)
..97 - IZAAJ (Giant's Causeway)	W Supple	(10)

Fillies get a 2kg (4lb) sex allowance – please add 4lb to their ratings for direct comparison with the males.

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

MENDIP, Godolphin's unbeaten contender, will probably be the favourite in the UAE Derby, after his impressive win in the Al Bastakiya on Super Thursday, though Mike de Kock's star Musir will also get a lot of attention in this classic. These two colts have both built up a large fan base in a short space of time in Dubai. Mendip stepped up from 1400 metres (7 furlongs) when running in the Al Bastakiya three weeks before World Cup night. The way he won on his previous start gave no guarantees of staying 9 furlongs but he ran on strongly at the end of the Al Bastakiya and seemed to possess stamina to go with his brilliant speed. The slow pace in that race may have made the bare result a bit deceptive, however, and perhaps Mendip didn't really have to stay the trip to win like he did. He was simply different class to his rivals, quickening right away for a comfortable 6 ¼-length win over Della Barba (who had been 4 ½ lengths behind Musir in the UAE 2000 Guineas). Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Vale Of York (running below form) was fifth and Uncle Tom, beaten just half a length by Mendip over 1400 metres in February, finished back in seventh. The latter, a true stayer, was particularly unsuited by the slow pace in the Al Bastakiya, where Mendip was always close to the pace and had by far the best run of the principals. That said, he did look something out of the ordinary as he put the race to bed early in the straight it will take a good horse to beat Mendip in the UAE Derby.

MUSIR has also gained two impressive wins at the Carnival, beating Godolphin's ex-English runner Frozen Power each time. He held a quarter-length advantage when they filled the first two places in the 2000 Guineas Trial on February 4, and extended his superiority to 3 ¼ lengths as they stepped up to a mile in the UAE 2000 Guineas (G3) two weeks later. Musir's form was given a nice boost when Frozen Power landed the Meydan Classic earlier this month (Timely Jazz second). Musir, trained by Mike de Kock for his owner/breeder Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, won two of his three races in South Africa last year, when he shot to the top of his division by beating Straight Forward with ease for a popular win in the Golden Horseshoe (G1) at Greyville in July. Musir's only defeat to date came on his second outing, when he was beaten by his stable-companion Solid Choice (who was fourth in this year's UAE 2000 Guineas). He has a powerful turn of foot, and his Guineas run indicated that he would love a step up in distance. Musir holds a big chance in this Derby.

RAIHANA produced a good Globeform rating when winning the UAE Oaks (LR) over this course and distance in February, and she appeared to have more stamina that day than what could be expected following her run in the UAE 1,000 Guineas (LR) - where she faded to third, well behind Siyaadah, and looked more like a speedy miler. Quite where to place these two fillies against the males is hard to say, and it is still also open to debate how much stamina Raihana actually possesses. The Oaks was slowly-run and that favoured her as much as it compromised **SIYAADAH**. The latter had come from well off the pace with a strong finish to win the 1,000 Guineas two weeks earlier, and it is quite possible that she will turn the tables on Raihana in the Derby. Beating the likes of Mendip and Musir will be an altogether different matter.

UAE Derby continued...

UNCLE TOM is the best longshot. He finished so well when taking second to Mendip over 1400 metres two starts back, and it was disappointing to see him struggle in the Al Bastakiya. As Mendip won that race, over 400 metres further, is such style it would be reasonable to expect Uncle Tom in the first three. But he could only manage seventh, 7 ½ lengths behind the winner. The added distance should work in his favour, but Uncle Tom was badly compromised by the lack of pace on Super Thursday, and he must not be written off quite yet. Uncle Tom's Brazilian form reads very well. He came from off the pace when winning a G1 over 1600 metres on turf at Gavea in June. Racing on good ground, Uncle Tom beat Oroveso by 1 ¼ lengths that day. Oroveso is now also trained by Pascal Bary. Oroveso could manage only sixth in the Guineas but he was a good third to Musir in the Guineas Trial and filled the same place behind Frozen Power in the Meydan Classic. These formlines all say that Uncle Tom is good enough to be competitive with the best in this Derby – and a true test of stamina will suit him. Stepping up to 1900 metres (9.5 fur.) is definitely going to help. As are the services of Kieren Fallon. His style will really suit this horse.

ENAK is an interesting 'odds booster' for those who want to go deep with Trifecta or Superfecta tickets. Unbeaten in Argentina last year, when a three-race streak was topped with success in the Gran Criterium (G1) over a mile on turf at San Isidro, he progressed well from his first to his second start at the Carnival, and came home a game third behind Mendip and Della Barba in the Al Bastakiya. Enak is sure to improve again and he could well be one to note also for big races later in the season.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 5 MENDIP

B: 9 MUSIR

C: 2 ENAK, 3 RAIHANA, 6 SIYAADAH, 8 UNCLE TOM

Worth noting: Mendip has been nominated to the US Triple Crown Series, but he also holds an entry for the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket in England (run on Kentucky Derby day).



Race 5

Dubai Golden Shaheen: Gayego looks tough

Ten horses are set to go to post for this year's Dubai Golden Shaheen (G1).

Among them is the fastest horse in Singapore, **Rocket Man**, alongside the likes of Goldolphin's **Gayego**, the North American challenger **Kinsale King** and Australia's hope **Eagle Falls**. Two English trained horses are will also be in the mix.

GLOBEFORM RATINGS

DUBAI GOLDEN SHAHEEN (G1)

Meydan 27 March 2010 – 1200m / 6 fur. Tapeta

A "p" after the rating indicates improvement expected.

Runners presented with best Globeform, sire, GF ratings achieved in last three races (l-to-r), jockey, draw

GF ratings are expressed in pounds. 1 length = 3lb over this distance.

120 - GAYEGO (Gilded Time)	118p – 118p – 112p	L Dettori	(8)
119 - ROCKET MAN (Viscount)	119 – 118 – ?p	R Fradd	(6)
118 - BENBAUN (Stravinsky)	118 – 106 – 105	P Smullen	(3)
118 - REGAL PARADE (Pivotal)	113 – 111 – 118	A Nicholls	(9)
116 - KINSALE KING (Yankee Victor)	110p – 114p – 116p	G Gomez	(7)
116 - LAUREL GUERRERIO (King Halo)	116 – 0 – 0	S Fujita	(4)
116 - ONE WORLD (Daneshill Dancer)	118 – 115 – 110	D Beadman	(1)
115 - EAGLE FALLS (Hussonet)	0 – 115 – 115	C Brown	(2)
115 - FORCE FREEZE (Forest Camp)	101 – 115 – 0	T O'Shea	(5)
113 - MUTHEEB (Danzig)	113 – 112 – 113	R Hills	(10)

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

GAYEGO was under consideration for the Golden Shaheen last year, after he had run right up to his career best to win the final prep for the big sprint, the Al Shimaal (G3) over the same course and distance. Having shown excellent form over longer distances in the USA as a three-year-old, Gayego was selected instead as one of two Godolphin runners in the Godolphin Mile (G1). Only his stable companion Two Step Salsa beat him in that event, as Gayego came from the back of the field to take second place, 2 ¼ lengths behind the winner. Gayego, winner of the 2008 Arkansas Derby (G2) before joining Saeed bin Suroor's team, was given a rest after the Godolphin Mile, and shipped back to the US.

He resurfaced in a sprint at the prestigious Saratoga meeting outside New York in August, and won the race despite a troubled start. That run set him up for a crack at one of the best sprint races in California, the Ancient Title Stakes (G1) over 6 furlongs at Santa Anita in October. This contest has always been a good pointer to the Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1), so when Gayego won the Ancient Title, beating Crown of Thorns by 1 ¼ lengths, he immediately became one of the favourites for the championship race, staged at the same venue in early November. He only fell a neck short of victory at the Breeders' Cup, but remarkably that was only good enough to take fourth. The outsider Dancing in Silks won the race by a nose over Crown of Thorns, with Cost of Freedom and Gayego a head behind in third and fourth. Gayego made a strong move by the inside rail close home, but it was a bit too late. He looked an unlucky loser. With five runs and \$656,600 in earnings for the year, his season was over.

His seasonal debut came in the Al Shindagha Sprint (G3) here at Meydan in February, and was one of the biggest favourites on the day, but had to give up the chase of War Artist – who got 'first run' on Gayego as they turned for home and beat him by 2 ¾ lengths. Gayego found himself a bit too far back early on, and it should also be noted that he was carrying 1kg (2lb) more than War Artist, but the latter was very sharp on the day and would probably have won under any circumstances. While War Artist goes for the Al Quoz Sprint on World Cup night, Gayego runs in the Golden Shaheen. It is quite possible that the race these two dominated back in February holds the key to finding the winners of both sprints on Saturday.

ROCKET MAN, an Australian bred contender representing Singapore, must be taken seriously in this edition of the Golden Shaheen.

Simply untouchable in local company over 1200 metres at Kranji, he is coming off a facile 4 ½-length at that venue in February, and if he produces his best over the Tapeta he will play a major part on Saturday. Rocket Man, trained by Patrick Shaw beat Switchblade with ease last month, running the distance in 1:11.27 over the Polytrack (similar to Tapeta). He was just touched off in last year's Krisflyer International (G1), when Hong Kong's top sprinter Sacred Kingdom proved a neck too good over 1200m on the turf (race time 1:07.80). Sacred Kingdom is one of the best turf sprinters in the world, and he landed the Hong Kong Sprint (G1) at Sha Tin last December. In the Krisflyer, Rocket Man beat well known speed merchants like Diabolical (third) and Takeover Target (eighth) and his form stands up well to inspection. Of course, he held home court advantage when defeating these horses, but Rocket Man has won 8 of his 9 races and he clearly is a bit special. He normally runs up with the early speed and is a thoroughly game and genuine performer – as demonstrated when he fought back against Sacred Kingdom. Rocket Man has won on firm, good and soft ground.

Golden Shaheen continued...

KINSALE KING will be representing the US in this year's edition of the **Dubai Golden Shaheen (G1)**, and this lightly raced five-year-old must have a good chance in the \$2 million sprint. Winner of 4 of his 7 races, this gelding has had his problems over the years but everything has fallen right for him since he joined trainer Carl O'Callaghan last year. Kinsale King has won both his races for O'Callaghan, and he ran a very likeable race to win the Palos Verdes Handicap (G2) over 6 furlongs at Santa Anita in January. After racing comfortably right behind the early leader Eaton's Gift (who set a sharp pace and faded to last), Kinsale King took over as they entered the stretch and proved strong under pressure. He held on to beat Ventana by half a length, with the Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Dancing in Silks (see Gayego) back in third. Kinsale King's winning time was 1.08:8, just a few ticks slower than last year's Breeders' Cup Sprint, and he is probably capable of winning at Group One level. He is a quick starter but nicely relaxed in his races, something that is a great asset in a sprinter. One worry; Kinsale King races with bandages on all four legs.

FORCE FREEZE, trained by Doug Watson, was well beaten behind Desert Party when finishing eighth in the Al Shimaal (G3), but if there is to be a surprise in the Golden Shaheen, he could be it. He is a tough and genuine sprinter, and his win over Star Crowned (who won his next race) over this course and distance in early February was quite impressive. Force Freeze was giving weight to Star Crowned and beat him convincingly by 1 ½ lengths. It was his sixth career win, and he has raced only 11 times, so his strike rate is pretty good. He ran fifth in the Golden Shaheen last year, the competition is not going to be quite as strong this time, and Force Freeze could sneak into a place.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

- A: 8 GAYEGO**
- B: 7 KINSALE KING**
- C: 6 ROCKET MAN**

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*Worth noting: Three of the best horses have
been drawn together in stalls 6, 7 and 8...*

.....

Race 6

Duty Free: Presvis, Good Ba Ba, Couageous Cat



Photo (c) HKJC

Presvis - just getting up for a win in the Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Sha Tin in Hong Kong last year.

Presvis, such an impressive winner on Super Thursday, is the most likely favourite in the **Dubai Duty Free (G1)**, run over 1800 metres on the turf course on World Cup night.

Having finished second to **Gladiatorus** in this event last year, he now faces tough opposition from Hong Kong, in the shape of champion miler **Good Ba Ba**, the US, represented by Bill Mott's **Courageous Cat**, Todd Pletcher's **Take the Points** and Jim Cassidy's **The Usual Q.T.**, as well from a couple of smart Godolphin runners.

GLOBEFORM RATINGS DUBAI DUTY FREE (G1)

Meydan 27 March 2010 – 1800m / 9 fur. Turf

A "p" after the rating indicates improvement expected.

Runners presented with best Globeform rating, sire,
GF rating achieved in last three starts (l-to-r), jockey, draw

Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds (lb). 1 length = 2lb over this distance

123 – GOOD BA BA (Lear Fan)	120 – 117p – 115	W Marwing	(2)
122 – PRESVIS (Sakhee)	116 – ?p – 122	C Lemaire	(15)
119 – COURAGEOUS CAT (Storm Cat)	109p – 119p – 114p	G Gomez	(5)
115 – LAHALEEB (Redback) <i>filly</i>	? – 115 – 109	J Egan	(13)
118 – JUSTENUFFHUMOR (Distorted Humor)	118 – 110p – 111	T Durcan	(3)
117 – TAKE THE POINTS (Even the Score)	114 – 105 – 117p	E Prado	(10)
117 – CONFRONT (Nayef)	112p – 116 – 117p	R Moore	(12)
117 – ALEXANDROS (Kingmambo)	114 – 116p – 114	L Dettori	(11)
117 – BANKABLE (Medicean)	113 – 114 – 114	K Shea	(8)
117 – IMBONGI (Russian Revival)	112p – 117 – 117	C Soumillon	(1)
117 – SNAAFY (Kingmambo)	117 – 104 – 108	R Hills	(14)
115 – THE USUAL Q.T. (Unusual Heat)	115p – 114p – 0	V Espinoza	(9)
114 – IBN BATTUTA (Seeking the Gold)	?p – 114 – 111	W Smith	(4)
112 – TAM LIN (Selkirk)	107 – 108 – 112	W Supple	(6)
111 – AL SHEMALI (Medicean)	100 – 106 – 111	R Ffrench	(7)
108 – CALVADOS BLUES (Lando)	107 – 107 – 108	A Ajtebi	(16)

Lahaleeb: 2kg (4lb) sex allowance – add 4lb to her rating for direct comparison with males.

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

COURAGEOUS CAT surprised most experts at last year's Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita. He had won three of his six previous races, including the Hall of Fame Stakes (G2) over 9 furlongs at Saratoga, but he had also been beaten by two horses when running in a Grade One restricted to three-year-olds four weeks before the Breeders' Cup. Taking on some of the best milers in the world was a big step up in class. With this record, the Bill Mott trainee went off at 22-1 as he went for the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1). There must have been a talent there hidden all along though, for Courageous Cat ran a cracking good race in the BC Mile, beating all but the 'impossible' French girl Goldikova, who lifted the big prize for a second time. She was simply much too good, as she swept past them all for another win, but the margin was only half a length back to Courageous Cat as they passed the winning post. He had been well ridden, sitting just a few lengths off the pace, and he was strong at the finish. He finished a length in front of the third placed Justenuffhumor (another Duty Free contender) and well known names like Court Vision and Delegator also came home behind him. All these three, all older horses, were previous Grade One winner. It should not take long before Courageous Cat becomes one too – and as he has a perfect post position in stall 5, he becomes our selection here. There is a lot to like about this horse: Probable improvement, good draw, top jockey in Garrett Gomez. English bookmakers offer **14-1**, and that is way too big.

He opened his 2010 campaign in the Canadian Turf Stakes (G3) at Gulfstream Park in Florida on February 20, meeting nine rivals over a mile. Courageous Cat was made odds-on favourite and his fans collected. On paper, it may look as a slightly disappointing performance, as he beat the 25-1 chance Cherokee Artist by no more than a head, but his runner-up had the benefit of two previous runs this winter, Courageous Cat was giving him 4lb, and he won with a bit in hand. Jet Propulsion, having produced his career best to take the Sunshine Millions Turf three weeks earlier, took third, beaten 1 ½ length. This will be Courageous Cat's third outing at the highest level. He went down by ¾ length when third in last year's Jamaica Handicap at Belmont Park, a race won by Dubai World Cup contender Take the Points. Based on ratings, Courageous Cat is now a better horse than Take the Points, and he has an obvious chance in the Duty Free. He broke his maiden on soft ground but is at his best when the going is on the firm side.

PRESVIS is a horse that could have gone for the Dubai World Cup, but his trainer Luca Cumani feels that the gelding is much better on turf than over a synthetic track, and he will instead try to win the Duty Free – having finished fast to take second behind Gladiatorus in this event last year. Presvis had his final prep run in the Jebel Hatta (G2) over the same 1800 metres as the Duty Free on Super Thursday. Carrying top weight, he was conceding 2.5kg (5lbs) to Alexandros, an easy winner already at the Carnival and made favourite for the Jebel Hatta. Matching strides with Alexandros at these terms seemed a tough task but Presvis, as always flying from a position at the back of the field, managed to get past Alexandros in time. Not only did he beat him, he passed the Godolphin horse with such momentum in the closing stages that a 1 ½-length gap opened up by the time they had passed the winning post. This was his sixth win from 16 starts and Presvis has only twice finished worse than third. Three of his six wins have come in Dubai, as Presvis won twice at Nad Al Sheba last year, before his good run in the Duty Free, where he had to overcome the dreaded wide post (16 of 16). Gladiatorus broke from post two and enjoyed a dream run. He was much the best but Presvis could have been closer – he went down by 3 ¼ lengths (Alexandros 2 lengths behind him in third). A month later, he travelled to Sha Tin in Hong Kong, and ran a terrific race to beat the local champion Viva Pataca by a length to win the Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1), run over 2000 metres on a soft turf course. Presvis, who is barred from G1 races in England since he is a gelding, has such a solid CV, he seems as good as ever at age six, and he deserves to be the favourite for this year's Duty Free – though a wide post is the worry once more. Presvis will be dropping in behind in any case, so post 15 may not be as bad as it would for others but the danger of losing ground is there for all to see.

Dubai Duty Free continued...

GOOD BA BA, the top miler in Hong Kong over the past three years, comes here on the back of two defeats at home this winter, but there is no denying this eight-year-old's class and he must be respected. Post 2 looks good. When he beat his market rival Happy Zero in last year's Hong Kong Mile (G1) it was Good Ba Ba's third consecutive win in the event – a truly remarkable achievement. This horse really has been something special at Sha Tin, and with 10 wins from 23 lifetime starts his earnings currently stand at an impressive US\$7,6 million. More than enough to scare the connections of any rival. That said, on his two previous trips for races abroad, Good Ba Ba has run well below his true form.

Good Ba Ba got first run on Happy Zero, who was the odds-on favourite, when winning his third Hong Kong Mile three months ago, and he held on to win by half a length. Happy Zero found a great stride as they entered the home straight, and he looked seriously dangerous, but Good Ba Ba had something left and he just would not be denied. Fellow Duty Free contenders Confront (sixth) and Alexandros (seventh) were readily beaten but not far behind. The 2009 HK Mile was quite a closely run affair, with about three and a half lengths covering the first eleven past the post! Good Ba Ba had run out a facile 2 ½-length win over Able One in the 2008 edition of the biggest mile race in Hong Kong. Good Ba Ba, quite a lightly built and racy gelding, returned Globeform 123 that day, and he may well run to that level again – but his two runs in 2010 have been a bit below his best. He finished a head and a neck behind Fellowship and Thumbs Up in the Stewards' Cup (G1) in January (a race he won in 2009, beating Fellowship), and he had to settle for fourth in the Hong Kong Gold Cup (G1) in February, beaten 2 ¼ lengths behind Collection.

Two trips outside Hong Kong, for the valuable Yasuda Kinen (G1) in 2007 and 2008, resulted in disappointments, as Good Ba Ba was unplaced on both occasions. Whether it was the travelling, the timing (June, at the end of the Hong Kong season) or simply a lack of form that caused these two results, is impossible to say. He is an intriguing contender for the Duty Free. He will be one of the best turf runners on show at Meydan on March 27 but Good Ba Ba is also a horse trying to bounce back to form.

LAHALEEB peaked late in the season as a three-year-old, to win the E P Taylor Stakes (G1) at Woodbine in Canada, where she beat another English shipper, Rainbow View. The win was a bit of a surprise but not a huge shock, as Lahaleeb had been knocking on the door at the highest level on a couple of occasions earlier in the season. She was a good second to Again in the 1,000 Guineas (G1) at The Curragh, after having been unplaced in the 1,000 Guineas (G1) at Newmarket on her previous start. Lahaleeb was sold from trainer Mick Channon's yard in England at the Newmarket December Sales, and she made her UAE debut in the Jebel Hatta (G2) on March 4, finishing sixth, just over four lengths behind Presvis. Rather a lightly framed filly, she not guaranteed to train on as an older horse.

JUSTENUFFHUMOR has run well below his best on two starts at Meydan and, good as he was in the USA last year, he is hard to get excited about right now. Still, his connections throw him in at the deep end here and he cannot be written off entirely. He could manage only sixth, 4 lengths behind Bankable, in the Al Fahidi Fort (G2) over a mile in February, and finished fifth to Presvis in the Jebel Hatta (G2) three weeks ago (failed to let himself down in the straight). He ran his best race last season, when trained by Kieran McLaughlin, to take third behind Goldikova in the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1). Justenuffhumor had won six races on the bounce earlier in the season, but going into the Breeders' Cup he was coming off a dull run in the Shadwell Turf Mile (G1) at Keeneland – where the soft ground did not suit him.

Dubai Duty Free continued...

But for running erratically on his most recent start, Todd Pletcher's hope **TAKE THE POINTS** would come here as a winner of three North American Grade One events. As things stand, the grey colt has two wins at the top level, though he was clearly the best horse also when going for a third, in the Gulfstream Park Turf Handicap (G1) in Florida last month. Take the Points, ridden by Edgar Prado, was making his first start of the year he looked better than ever. Unfortunately, he also failed to keep a straight line at the finish, and hampered one of his five rivals quite badly. US racing rules are strict and a disqualification was inevitable. Victory thus fell to Court Vision, who had passed the post 1 ½ lengths behind Take the Points. **Pletcher** must have had mixed feelings about the race – though the good news was that his four-year-old had produced a high class performance after a long break. Take the Points had not raced since finishing seventh to The Usual Q.T. (another Duty Free contender) in the Hollywood Derby (G1) in November. He was well fancied for that event, as he had landed the Secretariat Stakes (G1) at Arlington Park in Chicago and the Jamaica Handicap (G1) at Belmont Park in New York on his two previous starts. The verdict was just a head on both occasions, and Take the Points was favoured by the weights when beating the ex-Irish runner Black Bear Island in the 10-furlong Secretariat. His win in the Jamaica, where he was the one having to concede weight, was markedly better. Take the Points won that race, staged over 9 furlongs on a firm turf course, from Straight Story and Courageous Cat. The latter went on to run a great race for second behind champion miler Goldikova in the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) and he won well on his first start this year – getting ready for a crack at the Dubai Duty Free and another run against Take the Points.

ALEXANDROS is probably Godolphin's best hope in the Duty Free. His stable companion Justenuffhumor is every bit as good, if not better, when on song but he has been disappointing so far here at Meydan. Alexandros has done nothing wrong. Okay, he was beaten by Presvis in the Jebel Hatta (G2) on Super Thursday, the final trial for this race, but when Presvis runs to his best not many can beat him. Alexandros was genuine in defeat, beaten 1 ½ lengths. Can he turn the form around? Not impossible, though not easy either. It may depend a bit on the draw, i.e. which position at the stalls these horses get. If Presvis ends up in a high draw, like last year, then perhaps he's vulnerable, though the main worry for the Alexandros camp is the weight. He was carrying 2.5kg less than Presvis last time and now has to meet the favourite at level weights. 2.5kg equals about 2 ½ lengths over this distance. Still, if you want to go against Presvis, Alexandros is an excellent option. He was a good runner-up in the Lockinge Stakes (G1) over a straight mile at Newbury in England last year, and he won with almost 'ridiculous ease' when making his seasonal debut in the Al Rashidiya (G3) early in February. Sent off a warm favourite, the 5yo son of Kingmambo cruised home to win by 3 ½ lengths from Dubai World Cup hope Crowded House, who stayed on well from off the pace. That race was certainly run to suit Alexandros, and he looked really well in himself, but the form is solid enough. Crowded House came back to run second behind Allybar in the Maktoum Challenge II, giving the form a nice boost.

IMBONGI runs for the powerful Mike de Kock team and he has had three runs at Meydan this winter. A thoroughly game and genuine performer, Imbongi has taken a couple of steps forward in each of his races and he comes here in top form. He is well known to Dubai racing fans, as well as fans in his native South Africa and in England, where he landed the Criterion Stakes (G3) last summer. Racing over 7 furlongs (straight) at Newmarket, Imbongi and jockey Kevin Shea struck the front 400 metres from the winning post and their rivals were soon in trouble. Imbongi ran on well to win by 1 ¼ lengths from Godolphin's contender Hunttdown. This was Imbongi's first starts since finishing a close sixth to Sight Winner in the Champions Mile (G1) at Sha Tin in Hong Kong two months earlier. Two weeks after his win at Newmarket, he stepped back up in class at Ascot, contesting the Summer Mile (G2). Victory proved only a length beyond him that day, as Imbongi passed the post in third, beaten only by

Dubai Duty Free continued...

the G1 winner Aqlaam and Confront (who he meets again in the Duty Free). Imbongi's form this year has been just as good. He ran second to Barbecue Eddie when carrying top weight in a handicap over 1400 metres on his reappearance, then just touched off in a tight photofinish against another Duty Free contender, Bankable, in the Al Fahidi Fort (G2) two weeks later (Ibn Battuta a close third), before justifying favouritism in the Zabeel Mile (G2) on his most recent start. Imbongi won the Zabeel by squeezing through a gap by the inside rail in the closing stages, demonstrating yet again what an absolute 'pro' he is. He beat Kalahari Gold by $\frac{1}{4}$ length while conceding 1kg (2lb). He may not be one of the high profile names going into the Duty Free, but Imbongi has a lot going for him and he should not be underrated.

CONFRONT needs to improve to take a hand, but this horse is just the type to keep on climbing the ladder as an older horse. Being very big he has been slow to mature. Sir Michael Stoute has entered him for the Tattersalls Gold Cup (G1) at The Curragh in Ireland on May 23, a race where absolute top performers turn out every year, so he must have faith in Confront. He's definitely one to note for the Trifecta players.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A: 5 COURAGEOUS CAT

B: 15 PRESVIS

C: 2 GOOD BA BA, 10 TAKE THE POINTS, 11 ALEXANDROS, 12 CONFRONT

.....
*Worth noting: Confront has been entered for
an even tougher race than this in Ireland in May.*
.....



Race 6

Sheema Classic: Boys in blue with four runners

Four of the runners in this year's **Dubai Sheema Classic (G1)** are from the powerful Godolphin operation, including last year's winner **Eastern Anthem**.

'The boys in blue' will be mob-handed into this turf contest, as they also have Super Thursday winner **Campanologist**, the lightly raced improver **Anmar** and last year's Prix de l'Arc third **Cavalryman** lined up.



Photo (c) Stefano Grasso

Spanish Moon - beaten in a photo last year, has another crack at the Sheema Classic.

.....
Worth noting: This looks by far the most open race of the day.

GLOBEFORM RATINGS DUBAI SHEEMA CLASSIC (G1)

Meydan 27 March 2010 – 2410m / 12 fur. Turf

A "p" after the rating indicates improvement expected.

Runners presented with best Globeform rating, sire, GF rating achieved in last three starts (l-tp-r), jockey, draw

Globeform ratings are expressed in pounds (lb). 1 length = 1,5lb over this distance

124 - YOUMZAIN (Sinndar)	114 – 124 – 0	K Fallon	(7)
123 - CAVALRYMAN (Halling)	119p – 123p – 110p	L Dettori	(16)
118 - BUENA VISTA (Special Week) <i>filly</i>	114 – 114 – 116p	O Peslier	(10)
118 - DAR RE MI (Singspiel) <i>mare</i>	118 – 118 – 118	W Buick	(14)
120 - QUIJANO (Acatenango)	PU – 116p – 105	A Starke	(5)
120 - EASTERN ANTHEM (Singspiel)	112 – 114 – 117	A Ajtebi	(3)
119 - SPANISH MOON (El Prado)	119 – 114 – 119	R Moore	(13)
119 - GOLDEN SWORD (High Chaparral)	110 – 0 – 112p	C Soumillon	(8)
118 - PREVIOUS PASSION (Royal Anthem)	115 – 118 – 117	E Trujillo	(9)
117 - JUKEBOX JURY (Montjeu)	114 – 117 – 117	R Ffrench	(1)
115 - CAMPANOLOGIST (Kingmambo)	114 – 0 – 115	T Durcan	(15)
115 - MOURILYAN (Desert Prince)	113p – 115 – 114	K Shea	(12)
114 - PAN RIVER (Red Bishop)	?p – 111 – 114p	S Kaya	(4)
113 - ANMAR (Rahy)	?p – 113p – 109p	R Hills	(3)
109 - DEEM <i>filly</i> (Dalakhani)	? – ? – 109	J Leparoux	(11)
110 - POMPEYANO (Rainbow Quest)	101 – 105 – 110	R Mullen	(6)

Fillies and mares get a 2kg (4lb) sex allowance, add 4lb to ratings for direct comparison.

GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

YOUMZAIN is the highest rated horse in the Sheema Classic field, with Globeform 124 to his name, and he is a horse with a truly remarkable record; but for the presence of champions Dylan Thomas, Zarkava and Sea The Stars over the past four years, Youmzain would have been the winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) three times! His connections have seen him run second in Europe's biggest race on three occasions, in 2007, 2008 and last year, when he was 2 lengths behind the brilliant Sea The Stars, but had top class performers Cavalryman, Conduit, Dar Re Mi and Fame and Glory in his wake. Youmzain was making his 26th start and he was as good as we have ever seen him. On the back of this strong run, he went to Sha Tin as one of the favourites for the Hong Kong Vase (G1) in December, but Youmzain had lost his form by then and he beat only three of his twelve rivals. Youmzain, who has won Group Ones in France and Germany and been placed four times at the highest level in England, stays in training as a seven-year-old, reportedly for one last attempt at winning the Arc, a race his father Sinnard took in great style ten years ago. The Sheema Classic will be Youmzain's first run of the year, and his fourth appearance in this event. His best result when the race was staged at Nad Al Sheba was his third to Vengeance of Rain three years ago and he finished fourth, 2 ½ lengths behind Eastern Anthem last year.

CAVALRYMAN put up his career best performance when returning *Globeform 123p* in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) at Longchamp in Paris last autumn, and further improvement is expected from this runner. He goes for the Dubai Sheema Classic (G1) on World Cup night.

Keeping on well at the end of the 2400 metres contest, he took third behind the outstanding champion Sea The Stars and Youmzain (who also runs in the Sheema Classic), with dual Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) winner Conduit back in fourth place. It was a strong renewal of the 'Arc' and Cavalryman came out second best of seven three-year-olds in the race. It was his eighth career start, and his sixth of the campaign.

He had previously landed the Prix Foy (G2), a recognised prep for the championship race, beating Carthage readily by half a length. That was Cavalryman's third straight win, as he also won a Listed event at Saint Cloud (by 6 lengths from Cirrus des Aigles) and the valuable Grand Prix de Paris (G1) - smoothly by 1 ½ lengths from Age Of Aquarius - in the summer.

From beginning his sophomore season by running third to Allybar (World Cup contender) in a Listed race at Saint-Cloud in March, the son of Halling climbed steadily towards the top in 2009.

Cavalryman was trained by Andre Fabre last term and joined Godolphin in the autumn. He made his first start for the 'boys in blue' in the Maktoum Challenge III (G2) on Super Thursday at Meydan earlier this month, and put in a respectable effort to finish seventh, 3 lengths behind the Japanese trained World Cup contender Red Desire. That was not far from his best, but the run should move him forward and it was good enough to expect Cavalryman in with a winning chance in the big turf race on World Cup night. As his best European form came over further than the World Cup trip, switching Cavalryman to the 12-furlong Sheema Classic makes a lot of sense. He should be one of the favourites in the Sheema.



William Buick – rides *Dar Re Mi*
for his new boss John Gosden
© Globeform

DAR RE MI, one of the best fillies in Europe last year, is not unaccustomed to running against the boys. Lady Lloyd Webber's pride was last seen in action when running a game third in the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) at Santa Anita last October, beaten only by Conduit and Presious Passion, who is also pointing to the Sheema Classic. Passing the post less than two lengths behind the winner, Dar Re Mi was 1 ¼ lengths in front of another Sheema contender, Spanish Moon. This was yet another fine run by the daughter of the 1997 Dubai World Cup winner Singspiel, coming five weeks after she had been fifth to Sea The Stars in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) at Longchamp. On that occasion, Dar Re Mi was beaten 3 ½ lengths by the outstanding winner but she was only a length behind the fourth placed Conduit. Dar Re Mi had previously put together three solid races on the bounce in Grade Ones against her own sex; winning the Pretty Polly (G1) in Ireland and Yorkshire Oaks (G1) in England – defeating top 3yo filly Sariska – before passing the post first in the Prix Vermeille (G1) in France (disqualified for minor interference). Dar Re Mi is such a game and consistent runner. She has gained five wins (at five different courses) from 15 starts, and her good 'Arc' performance is the only time she has finished worse than third. She gets a 2kg weight concession (4lb) against the boys, and something that brings her high on our ranking. The wide draw is a concern but it is not as big a handicap here as in the Duty Free.

BUENA VISTA runs for Japan, and this four-year-old filly has an excellent record in her homeland. Having gained 6 wins from 11 starts and been placed second or third five times, she is a model of consistency, and she is open to further improvement. Buena Vista outran the boys in her most recent start, when beating Jaguar Mail by half a length in the Kyoto Kinen Stakes (G2) over 2200 meters in February. Jaguar Mail was an excellent third to Doctor Dino in the 2008 Hong Kong Vase (G1) at Sha Tin, and he finished a close fourth to Daryakana in the same event last December, so this is quite solid form. If Buena Vista can step up another notch, and there is no reason to doubt that she can, she will be very serious contender. Her draw (10) gives her rider options, and there is a lot to like about this combination. Last year, the daughter of Japan Cup winner Special Week won the Japanese 1,000 Guineas (G1) and the Japanese Oaks (G1), chased home by Dubai World Cup contender Red Desire each time, and she was also second past the post (behind Red Desire) in the Shuka Sho (G1) at Kyoto (demoted for having caused interference). Furthermore, Buena Vista was placed in two other Group Ones in 2009, most notably when second to Dream Journey in the prestigious Arima Kinen (G1) over 2500 metres at Nakayama in December. Set to be ridden by the top class jockey Olivier Peslier, Buena Vista has a chance of getting to the Meydan winners' circle and, in what is a wide open race, she becomes our selection. Our *narrow* selection, that is...

EASTERN ANTHEM was a surprise winner of this event at Nad Al Sheba 12 months ago, when coming from way back to just catch Spanish Moon and Purple Moon and win in a triple photo. He has not produced such form on any of his other starts, though his final start in Europe last term was a respectable effort – as he was beaten a nose by **JUKEBOX JURY** in a G1 contest over 2400 metres in Germany. Like Jukebox Jury, Eastern Anthem has to be seen as one of the longshots here.

QUIJANO was beaten over eight lengths when unplaced behind Campanologist on Super Thursday but this German challenger can bounce back and he looks one of the best longshots on Dubai World Cup night. He is eight years old now and often seen as one of the veterans, but Quijano did not race as a juvenile and he had only one ace at three, so he is still a horse with plenty of mileage left in him. Quijano made an impressive seasonal debut to finish third, a length behind Halicarnassus, over the Sheema Classic course and distance in February, when he was facing a tough task at the weights and also seemed compromised by the lack of early pace. Returning GF 115p, Quijano was clearly the best horse in the contest. Quijano's top weight put him up against it once more in the Dubai City of Gold (G2) three weeks ago, though he ran a bit 'flat' anyway and it was not the weights that beat him. He simply failed to fire on the day, but that could be a blessing in disguise, as he did not have a hard race and thus comes here quite fresh. His class is well known to followers of international racing. Last year, Quijano ran good races in defeat in North American Grade Ones; coming home third behind World Cup contender Gio Ponti at Belmont Park and second to Marsh Side at Woodbine. He has won 14 of his 33 races and he is 66% in the top three to date. This money-spinning globetrotter can never be ruled out.

SPANISH MOON was just touched off in the Dubai Sheema Classic (G1) last year, caught in the final jump and beaten a nose by Eastern Anthem, with Purple Moon just as close up in third. He didn't get the trophy but it was nevertheless Spanish Moon's breakthrough into the top league. The Khalid Abdullah owned and Sir Michael Stoute trained runner suffered a similar fate on his final outing in 2009, as the French filly Daryakana just got up to beat him in a photo finish to the Hong Kong Vase (G1) at Sha Tin in December. This race closed out a highly profitable season for Spanish Moon, who is a 12-furlong expert (2400 m.). Top level success was no more than he deserved of course, and it came in the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud (G1) in Paris last June, when he raced prominently throughout to beat Alpine Rose and Youmzain readily. He followed up with another success in France in the Prix Foy (G2) at Longchamp in September. In this race, a traditional 'Arc' trial, Spanish Moon controlled a moderate pace and had too much left when Vision d'Etat attacked close home. He kept on for a ¾-length win over Vision d'Etat, who later on won the Hong Kong Cup (G1) and is now a contender for the Dubai World Cup (G1). With solid form like this, and better possibly still to come, Spanish Moon is a leading contender for the Sheema Classic.

GOLDEN SWORD, who ran solid races for fifth (2 lengths behind Sea The Stars) in the Epsom Derby (G1) and second (5 lengths behind Fame And Glory) in the Irish Derby (G1) last term – when trained by Aidan o'Brien – showed clear signs of a return to form on his most recent start. Positively ridden, he went down by just ¾ length when third behind **CAMPANOLOGIST** in the Dubai City of Gold (G2). Golden Sword could well reverse the form with that rival, as well as with the runner-up **PAN RIVER**, and perhaps he is a bit of a 'dark horse' in this field.

PREVIOUS PASSION is one of the best turf performers in the USA and he is a horse that has been improving with age. The Marty Hartman trained veteran is at his best when allowed to get an uncontested lead. He ran the race of his life when trying to go all the way in front in last year's Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) at Santa Anita. Conduit, winning the race for a second time, proved too good as he quickened up in the home straight, but Previous Passion kept on gamely under pressure and held second. Beaten only half a length by the winner, he had Dar Re Mi and Spanish Moon behind in third and fourth. After a break, he surfaced in the McKnight Handicap (G2) at Calder in Florida in late December, but Previous Passion had lost his form by then and could manage only fifth behind Cloudy's Knight. Two months later, he made his 2010 debut and was back in winning form, beating the ex-Irish performer Winchester by 1 ½ lengths for back-to-back wins in furlong Mac Diarmida Stakes (G3) at Gulfstream Park. Carrying top weight, Previous Passion and his regular partner Elvis Trujillo led the race from start to finish and the signs were that the seven-year-old is every bit as good this year. Last summer, he landed the United Nations Stakes (G1) at Monmouth Park by 2 lengths from Lauro (having won the race also in '08). Interestingly, the United Nations and Mac Diarmida are both contested at 11 furlongs, which is Previous Passion's best distance. On bare form, Previous Passion has a good shot at landing the Sheema, but will he be allowed a 'soft lead' at Meydan?

ANMAR makes appeal as a possible 'upsetter'. This lightly raced colt looked potentially top class on his seasonal debut but was badly ridden in the City of Gold (G2) on Super Thursday (given far too much to do). The Godolphin colt could hardly have been more impressive when landing a handicap over 2200 metres (11 fur.) here at Meydan in February. Ridden by Ajtebi, he came from what had seemed a totally hopeless position at the back of the field, to power past his rivals one by one in the stretch. He got up in the final strides to win the race by 1 ¾ lengths from stable companion Emirates Champion (who won next time out). Anmar was much the best, he is almost certainly capable of improving again and at around **25-1** he is a good each-way / across the board option.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

- A: 10 BUENA VISTA
B: 7 YOUMZAIN, 16 CAVALRYMAN
C: 3 ANMAR, 5 QUIJANO, 14 DAR RE MI

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Please note that all Globeform betting plans will be posted in separate article on the web-site on Friday afternoon.
