



GLOBEFORM**N**ews

GF 50 TO FOLLOW

MUTHMIR

February 21, 2015

US STAKES PREVIEW

THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

DUBAI TURF CONTENDER MSHAWISH IN FOCUS

DAYLIGHT ROBBERIES

CAREFUL WITH THE FUTURE BETS

STABELL VAULTS

AL CAPONE'S RACETRACK FIGHT

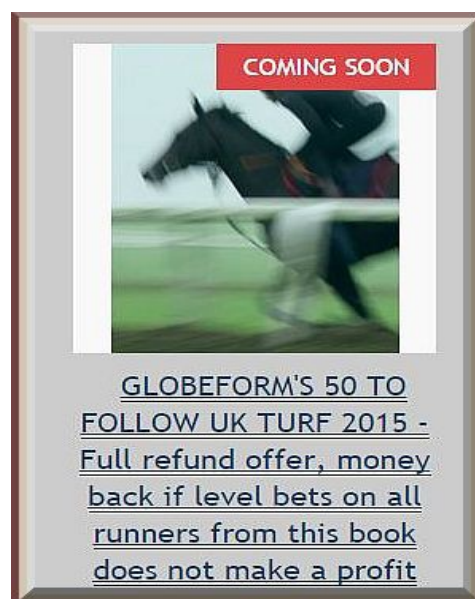
FROM GLOBEFORM'S 50 TO FOLLOW

MUHTMIR (Invincible Spirit) 5 b h

Trainer: William Haggas

This late developing sprinter may turn out to be one of the best sprinters this year. Muhtmir has yet to face top level competition but the way he won the 5.5-furlong Portland Handicap at Doncaster last September suggested he is well up to Group class. He stumbled quite badly shortly after the stalls opened, though recovered to get back into the race and travelled with great zest in midpack. Winning still seemed a lot to ask though, especially as he managed to find some trouble in running too. Paul Hanagan, enjoying such a fine season in the Hamdan silks, had to switch Muhtmir sharply approaching the furlong-marker before being able to deliver his challenge. The son of Invincible Spirit quickened up in great style and shot past the in-form Bogart for a convincing two-length win. Humidor was a close third. This was Muhtmir's third win from just eight career starts, and he is open to further improvement. A tilt at the Prix de l'Abbaye (G1) three weeks later was being considered, a plan abandoned in favour of a G3 at Ascot – where rain ruled Muhtmir out. He has been nominated to the Dubai Golden Shaheen (G1) and the Al Quoz Sprint (G1) at Meydan.

<http://www.globeform.info/50-to-follow>



GLOBEFORM RATINGS**FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH STAKES (G1)**

Gulfstream Park, 21 Feb 2015 - 8.5 furlongs Dirt (cloudy f'cast / fast ground expected)

Race 11

*Top ranked horse on 100, with others ranked
down in pounds (2lb = 1 length over this distance)*

Horses presented with sire, best Globeform, last placings, jockey, post position

100	FROSTED (Tapit)	GF 108p *	22122	I Ortiz Jr	6
99	UPSTART (Flatter)	GF 113p	11231	I L Ortiz	7
96	GORGEOUS BIRD (Unbridled's Song)	GF 104P	11	J Rosario	4
96	DANNY BOY (Harlan's Holiday)	GF 104	1428	C Lanerie	8
92	ITSAKNOCKOUT (Lemon Drop Kid)	GF 100p	11	L Saez	5
92	BLUEGRASS SINGER (Bluegrass Cat)	GF 102	23113	P Lopez	2
84	JUAN AND BINA (Indian Charlie)	GF 92	1254	J Castellano	1
83	FRAMMENTO (Midshipman)	GF 91	51426	J Velazquez	3

* Frosted: GF 108p in 2014 / GF 101p in 2015



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Mshawish (right) and Javier Castellano pips Slumber in the Gulfstream Park Turf Handicap. Photo: Coglianesse

MSHAWISH (GB) 5 b h Medaglia d'Oro

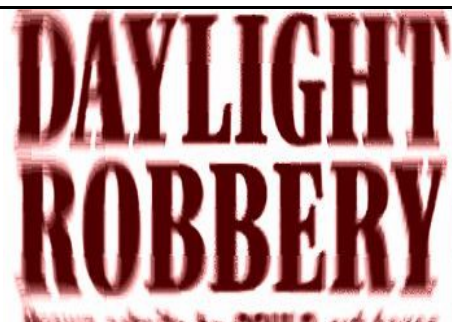
Trainer: Todd Pletcher

This handsome five-year-old was seen at Meydan last year, when he made his mark in this division by beating Trade Storm to win the Zabeel Mile (G3) and running a good race to take fourth in the Dubai Duty Free (G1) – this year renamed the Dubai Turf. So he is a familiar face, but what may not be so well known amongst local racing fans is that he has looked better than ever this winter, when showing excellent form for his new trainer Todd Pletcher. Mshawish took some time to acclimatise in the USA but he has definitely turned a corner in that respect, and his last two races – both at Gulfstream Park – were visually most impressive.

His Globeform 117 is not higher than what he achieved in Dubai, but the way he has won in Florida indicates that he is capable of much better these days. He bossed his rivals to win the Ft. Lauderdale (G2) in January, when beating Grand Tito by a neck, and he overcame serious traffic

problems to take the Gulfstream Park Turf Handicap (G1) in February. The latter contest, run over the same distance as the Dubai Turf, had drawn a strong field and the betting showed that people had most faith in Mshawish. He experienced a terrible race, pulling hard for his head in a slowly-run affair and getting blocked on the inside down the home stretch. Things did not look good, until very late in the show, when a small gap opened up – and Mshawish shot through it to get up for a narrow win. He beat Slumber by a nose.

This narrow margin flattered the runner-up, that's for sure. Mshawish was much the best on the day. Expect him to go close as he returns to Meydan. His sire, Medaglia d'Oro, ran second in the 2004 Dubai World Cup.



DON'T GET CONNED

Bookmakers have opened future books on the big races on Dubai World Cup night at Meydan next month. There may be some value there but be very careful and check the status of your fancy – as some of these guys try daylight robbery; listing horses that aren't even intended runners.

TEN SUCH NAMES stick out on the lists this week

SHARED BELIEF (8-1 World Cup) Not going to Dubai, Santa Anita Handicap next.

BAYERN (as low as 6-1 World Cup) Only just back in training after setback, unlikely runner.

LEA (10-1 World Cup) Very unlikely to travel to Dubai, owner stated after the Donn.

EPIPHANEIA (12-1 World Cup) Owners and trainer said "Sheema Classic is right race".

VERCINGETORIX (12-1 World Cup) Never been a DWC horse, going for the Dubai Turf.

MORENO (40-1 World Cup) Nominated, but not seen out since injured B Cup Classic.

PROTECTIONIST (10-1 Sheema Classic) Not going to Dubai, spring tasks in Australia.

BROWN PANTHER (12-1 Sheema Classic) Not nominated. Goes for Dubai Gold Cup.

CALIFORNIA CHROME (13-2 Dubai Turf) Goes for the Dubai World Cup.

SAFETY CHECK (12-1 Dubai Turf) Not nominated for this race, but for Godolphin Mile.

Please email editor@globeform.com if you have news on or wonder about running plans.

NEXT GLOBEFORM NEWS FEB 28
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Globeform's 50 to Follow



FROM LAST YEAR'S 50 TO FOLLOW

ALMERZEM - WON 13-2 (3 runs)
 ARAB DAWN - 3 WINS, 11-2, 3-1 and 9-4
 CHATEZ - 2 WINS, 10-1 and 7-2
 CANNOCK CHASE - 3-for-3; 3-1, 7-4, 6-4
 KARAKONTIE - 30-1 Breeders' Cup winner
 KINGSTON HILL - St Leger winner 10-1 a/post
 MANGE ALL - WON 10-1, Ascot handicap
 MISS FRANCE - 1,000 Guineas winner 10-1
 REEDCUTTER - 2 WINS, 7-1 and 9-2
 SUDDEN WONDER - 2 WINS, 8-1 and 7-1
 TERCEL - WON 9-2 first time out
 VENT DE FORCE - 3 WINS, 16-1, 4-1 and 2-1
 VOLUME - WON 4-1, 2nd Oaks 40-1 a/post
 WAHGAH - 2 WINS, 8-1 and 6-1
 plus several other winners through the season

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Breeders' Cup Mile: Globeform's Notebook horse Karakontie wins at 30-1 Photo: Breeders' Cup Inc.

	WIN	PLACE	SHOW
14 KARAKONTIE (JPN)	\$62.00	\$33.00	\$19.40
9 ANODIN (IRE)		\$12.60	\$7.20
8 TRADE STORM (GB)			\$12.80



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GLOBEFORM's PREMIER SERVICE DAYS TURF SEASON 2015

APRIL 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 24, 27

MAY 2, 3, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30

JUNE 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, (Royal Ascot: 16 - 20), 25, 26, 27 & 29

JULY 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 30

AUGUST 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29, 30

SEPTEMBER 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30

OCTOBER 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24 Breeders' Cup: Oct 30-31

100 racedays covered

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**FROM THE STABELL VAULTS,
PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED
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CHICAGOLAND RACING,

AL CAPONE,

**THE FIGHT FOR
THE GAMBLING BUCK**

By GEIR STABELL

When I first found myself in Chicago, back in the autumn of 1987, it was by pure coincidence. The first of many on my racing travels. I visited Hawthorne Racetrack in Stickney / Cicero on the south side of Chicago. I soon got to know the owner, Mr. Thomas Carey. That he and his wife Sue invited me to stay with them rather than in the cheap hotel I could just

about afford was probably no coincidence. The Careys are Irish Americans and, in running the oldest family owned racetrack in the States, genuine hospitality is a way of life.

I was there visiting, curiously observing US racing for the first time, and hoping to sell an article or two about my experiences when I returned back home. My first job as a racing journalist in the Windy City was another coincidence. One day Mr Carey came up to the press box to fetch me, "I think I have small job for you", he said. Back down in his office, Mr Carey introduced me to his racing secretary and handicapper, Mr. Frank Arsenault. Frank was as laid back and easy going as the Careys but he did give me a strange look as he glanced up from his handicapping sheets. I later heard that he had been a bit concerned, thinking I was after his job. Perhaps I should have been but I wasn't.

"We have the Hawthorne Derby here on Saturday", Carey said, "and a horse is coming over from Europe, I believe his name is Z-something, do you know this horse?"

I pretended to be effortlessly searching my brain, as one does in these situations, and said that "Yes of course, sure Mr Carey, I know the horse". He smiled and said, "you called me Tom over dinner at my house last night..."

Then he turned to the in-house form expert: "Frank, I think we should have Geir write a press release on this horse, and give an assessment, how do you assess a horse like that, by the way?" Frank didn't really answer that last question but he agreed that I could do the job. "The name of the horse is Zaizoom", he added and returned to looking busy.

“What do you know about this Zaizoom”, Carey wanted to know.

“He has been imported from England and I believe he won the Italian Derby back in May”, I replied.

“Is that right?”, Tom chuckled, “we have an Italian raider on the grounds, well we are used to those here.”

Mr. Carey was of course referring to a more famous Italian, the mafia boss Al Capone, whose interest in gambling and horseracing made lasting marks on the sport in the Chicago area.

I wrote my press release, gave Zaizoom a rating comparing him to the local runners, concluded that he would probably win the race, which he did, and returned to Chicago as a freelance journalist for their autumn racing every season for the next ten years. This was pre internet days and I specialised in providing information on horses visiting from, and imported from Europe. I also learnt more about Al Capone's involvement in racing. And, no, before you ask, there is no “Al Capone Memorial Stakes” staged at Hawthorne.

When you hear that the two racecourses in the area, Sportsman's Park and Hawthorne Park are just a stone throw apart, do not believe for one moment it is an exaggeration. The two tracks were literally built so close you could hear the sounds of farriers working from both tracks. But which track barns did the sound come from, Hawthorne or Sportsman's? When horses stable at Sportsman's raced at Hawthorne, they were simply led across to the other venue, a walk that would take no more than two to three minutes.

IF YOU CAN'T JOIN THEM, BEAT THEM

Sportsman's Park, operating horseracing from 1923 to 2003, was built so close to Hawthorne for a reason. The reason was a man called Al Capone. Capone first turned up on the scene when he was 21 years old and he controlled the Cicero and Stickney areas already at the young age of 25. His decision to run his illegal operations from Cicero and Stickney was quite simply since out there he could buy off most of the politicians and police forces. Something that was not so easy inside the Windy City itself. Despite the fact that Chicago's nickname as the windy city originates from the times when politics in Chicago were known to work somewhat differently to other big cities. It was well known that it was rather windy in the political circles. Today, most of us think of it because Chicagoland is such a flat landscape by the huge Michigan Lake and often very windy. Which is also true.

Working his way up to become the czar of organised crime in Cicero, Capone he soon set his eyes on Hawthorne racecourse. Several recollections of his life say that he did in fact control racing at Hawthorne, but official history on the Al Capone era has always been a bit flawed, since too many local historians were not interested in writing about Capone. When he was finally gone, they were more interested in closing that chapter.

In racing circles, the tales paint a picture which seems, if not totally accurate, somewhat plausible. Racing historians say that Al Capone tried to buy Hawthorne, or at least become a partner in the racecourse, but the owner Tom Carey Senior, originally a builder of Irish blood, was reluctant to sell to the mobster. Carey was determined to run the racecourse himself,

the fight for the gambling buck

though in fact he had become the owner of the course much against his own will in 1909. Carey had done extensive work for the founder of Hawthorne, but he was never paid. In the end he was handed the racecourse as payment. It was the track or nothing. The value of the settlement must have been debatable, as they did not have a licence to race. Carey managed to stage a race meeting without a licence, running a 16-day race meeting in 1916.

Legal racing did not reopen until six years later though, and that was also when Al Capone surfaced and wanted to take over. Being heavily involved in the illegal gambling in Chicago, he wanted to take charge of the legalised gambling as well. That made perfect sense. To Al Capone. For a change, he came to a closed door. Whereas his rise of power in the area had been going generally unopposed, he could not get his hands on the racecourse. Quite who controlled the actual races staged in Chicago in those days is another question, however. Many of the races were almost certainly controlled, or fixed, by Capone. There was always talk of “the fix”, and when Al Capone was involved the fix never went wrong.

Looking back on this era, it is not at all hard to understand why horseracing has been, and still is, struggling with a poor image in North America. To the man in the street, horseracing, gambling, criminals and dishonesty were pretty much synonymous words. We have all seen Robert Redford and Paul Newman in the brilliant film “The Sting” and to believe that the plot in this winner of seven *Oscar Awards*, including Best Film, was far from reality is naïve at best. It was set in 1936, when corruption and illegal gambling raced neck and neck in the Mid-West. There were con men everywhere, small and big, not least on the racetracks.

Even the publishers of tipping sheets in Chicago, two-paged A4 publications with previews and selections that are still very popular, were often crooked. "They never work for me", Al Capone allegedly said when challenged on the subject. And they probably never did. Tipping sheets giving out false information was undoubtedly too small a con for Al Capone. That he had inspired these guys, however, is more than likely. One con they pulled off was to print thousands of sheets after the sixth or seventh races had been run. Naturally, on these sheets, they had "tipped" just about every winner and exacta in the first seven races. Since the racedays had 10 to 12 races, it gave them time for a quick print-run and spreading of the false sheets. How? They simply got "runners" to jump on and off the trains and buses that would be taking horseplayers back home from the track – and leave the sheets on the seats they would be occupying. For the tipsters, this was an easier way to make money than backing their selections. Over the next few days, everybody wanted to buy THAT fantastic tipping sheet. Not Al Capone, however. He did not bother with reading any tipping sheet or studying the form. He was not interested in what the horseracing experts thought would win. He was interested in what horses he could make sure would win, or, in most cases, what horses he could make sure would not win. He liked to bet. Did he need the money? Probably not. Was he hooked on gambling? Probably not. His way of betting wasn't really gambling was it. So why go through all this trouble, to fix horseraces. Well, it did make money of course, and just as importantly, he enjoyed the feeling of being in control. That was all that mattered. And he didn't mind letting people understand that he was in control of the horseraces. So the answer to the question whether it was Capone or Carey who controlled racing at Hawthorne was purely a matter of definition – and most certainly dependent on who you asked.

\$300 BRIBE COST FIVE BUCKS

In his book *Capone, the Man and the Era*, author Lawrence Bergreen quotes Joe Berardi, a photographer working for the “Evening American” at the time. Berardi was covering the Hawthorne races, and to his surprise he found that Al Capone was himself at the track that day, accompanied by his usual squad of five to six bodyguards.

“Hey, Berardi, how you doin' today?”, Capone said when he saw the man with the camera, always keen to be friendly with members of the media of course. “I'm doing just fine”, Berardi replied.

“Why don't you bet on the six-horse in the next race”, Capone said.

Berardi looked at the tote board and could not believe Capone was being serious, as horse number six was showing at 99-1.

“Before I knew it, one of Capone's men came over to me and slipped a piece of paper into my jacket pocket”, Berardi recalled, “and when they walked away I looked at it. It was a \$5 win ticket on the six-horse. Well, horse number six broke out in front and stayed out in front, and I don't think anyone dared catch him. The goddamn horse won by a block....Capone didn't bribe me; he just put \$300 in my pocket.”

In other words, the horse had been bet down from 99-1 to 60-1 just before the start. No prizes for guessing who placed that gamble on the six-horse, a no-hoper who was allowed by the other jockeys to lead all the way... Oh, and don't forget Capone had just also paid just \$5 for a \$300 bribe. He was having a good day at the races.

GOING HEAD TO HEAD, SITTING BACK TO BACK

Al Capone and his friend and partner, the infamous attorney Edward J. O'Hare eventually gave up on acquiring Hawthorne racecourse, and we can safely assume that Thomas Carey Senior was himself a strong and powerful man. Carey's persistence paid off, as he eventually did get permission to conduct race meetings and a decade later Hawthorne had been turned into a highly profitable business, though Carey soon also found himself in direct competition with Capone and O'Hare.

They built their own racecourse north of Hawthorne, but it was a course for greyhound racing, called the Hawthorne Kennel Track. Soon after, greyhound racing was made illegal in Chicago. The authorities were not at all keen on gambling, and even less so when Al Capone got involved, and this was their way of giving the man broadside opposition on the gambling field.

One morning O'Hare was summoned to Al Capone's office.

“We shall move that Hawthorne Kennel track”, Capone said, “How about outside town, I mean somewhere way outside city borders?” He felt he had a simple solution to the new challenge, the new problem that had arisen from political corridors.

“No”, was O'Hare's blunt answer, “won't help us Al, a bill is about to be passed making greyhound racing illegal throughout the state of Illinois”.

It was never easy, but politicians in Illinois clearly did try their very best to stop Capone. And this time, they were one step ahead of him. Capone

wasn't used to that. The man who had been expelled from school at the age of fourteen for having hit a female teacher, and never went back, was in no way comfortable with being restricted by others.

Capone was furious about not winning the battle over the gambling dollar, and what he still wanted the most was Hawthorne Park. After all it was right in the middle of Stickney / Cicero, that was his patch, his backyard. Horseracing was about to take off, the future for racetrack owners was rosy. And this track was right next to one of his brothels, damn it. He was not happy about it.

“We buy the land next door”, he said to O'Hare one day, “we buy that worthless piece of land and build our own track. That's gonna show them!”

So they did. The two men purchased 79 acres of land right behind the Hawthorne grandstand and built Sportsman's Park, another thoroughbred racecourse. Talking about going into competition head-to-head. Then again, as the Americans would call it, the two racecourses were located back-to-back. Sportsman's Park also conducted harness racing, as does Hawthorne through the winter months today. The course was home to the famous Illinois Derby, inaugurated in 1923, a race that is today staged at Hawthorne and one of the most important prep races to the Kentucky Derby.

Sportsman's Park was even arena for speedway racing, and only one of two tracks in the USA to race both horses and speedway cars, alongside Dover International Speedway. The venue eventually closed in 2003, and Hawthorne went back to being the only racing venue in the area. Like it

had been before Al Capone came along. It has been a long haul. It took 80 years for things to return to normal for Hawthorne – and during these years the financial climate in thoroughbred racing had gone through several phases. The bottom line of these phases has, unfortunately, been a relatively consistent and marked decline.

The Carey family's course once staged the American Derby, the second most valuable race in the States, but it is now one of the lesser tracks on the North American circuit, with rather ordinary day to day racing and moderate purses. It was quite different in the good old days.

WAR-TIME, HORSERACING BOOM-TIME

Arlington Park, the premier racecourse in Illinois and best known for its Arlington Million day, and Hawthorne managed to stay open during the years of World War II. Racing and betting at the family owned venue thrived during these turbulent years. Tom Carey and his team were also forward thinking operators, often ahead of their time. They realised that consistent success was reliant on local support and introduced valuable races for Illinois bred and owned horses. These days, virtually every course in North America put on valuable stakes races restricted to state-bred horses.

Already in the 1940's, Hawthorne staged meetings with a \$1,000 minimum purses per race. Today, that would equate to about \$12,500. Hawthorne also recorded their first \$1 million raceday betting turnover as long ago as in 1943, and the following year the average daily turnover was a

staggering \$943,000. The average daily crowd was well over 14,000. To put these figures into perspective; the first \$1 million plus handle at Hawthorne was not achieved until in 1966 and it took all the way to 1992 before Hawthorne's average daily turnover exceeded \$2 million.

On Illinois Derby day in 2004, a record \$5,5 million was wagered at Hawthorne. That is a healthy figure, but in real money value it is only 50% of the daily average in 1943.

In today's world, the 1943 average of \$943,000 would be almost \$12 million. Was the horseracing business lucrative in Chicago in 1940's? I just think we can all agree it was.

Seeing these figures, one can understand why Al Capone wanted so desperately to get a slice of the action. Wanted it so much that he built a track next door to another.

Horseracing men and women in Chicago can today be proud of the fact that it is Hawthorne Park, not Sportsman's Park, that is still in operation.

GEIR W. STABELL





AL CAPONE, A TRUE AMERICAN

Contrary to popular belief, Al Capone (or Alphonse as was his real name) was not an Italian by birth. His father Gabriele Capone, a barber, and mother Teresina immigrated to North America in 1894 - from the small village Castellmarre di Stabia, some 16 miles south of Naples. Along with 43,000 other Italian immigrants that year, the Capones arrived with their two sons Vincenzo (who was renamed James) and Raffaele (he became Ralph). Teresina was pregnant at the time and soon after their arrival in the Land of Opportunity she and gave birth to Salvatore (Frank).

Most Italian immigrants ended up as basic labour workers, due to their lack of more sophisticated skills. This was not the case for Al Capone's father, as he was able to both read and write his native language. Settling in Brooklyn, New York, Gabriele found a job at a local grocery store and worked there until he was able to open his own barbershop. Gabriele and Teresina's fourth son, Alphonse Capone was born on January 17, 1899. The family expanded further with later arrivals Amadeo (John), Ermino (Mimi).
