

VSIN PRO

BREEDERS' CUP

BETTING GUIDE

PRO EDITION



DRAMA AT DEL MAR

BREEDERS' CUP WEEKEND BACK IN CALIFORNIA

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- RACE PREVIEWS FOR BREEDERS' CUP WEEKEND
- BEST BETS FROM EXPERT HANDICAPPERS

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BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE (G1)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 • RACE 9

PREVIEW BY JEREMY PLONK

The Juvenile, one of the original seven Breeders' Cup races and the very first championship division settled in the 1984 inaugural event, historically feels as much about tomorrow as it is today. Its winner immediately becomes the winter talk for the Kentucky Derby the following spring. But only Street Sense (2007) and Nyquist (2016) pulled off the career-defining double over the past four decades. So before we dive too much into tomorrow, let's see where these horses have been ... and how that could get them to the winner's circle on Friday.

The 2024 Juvenile contenders spread to five regional pockets: Kentucky, New York, California, Japan and Ireland. Five of the 10 entrants are unbeaten and the field boasts a cumulative record of 17 wins from 24 starts. There's not a lot of commonality and even less in terms of disappointing performances.

The Kentuckians head west with a powerful lineup. East Avenue, who drew the rail and has won wire-to-wire in both career starts, ran the best race in the division this year when dominating Saratoga's Hopeful runner-up Ferocious in Keeneland's Breeders Futurity. Jockey Tyler Gaffalione exits a leading rider title at the recently concluded Keeneland stand amongst a "Who's Who" of top American pilots. But before East Avenue announced his candidacy in October, it was Jonathan's Way who showed his heels to the Iroquois Stakes field at Churchill Downs in September. He comes into the Juvenile freshened on purpose, and his sire Vekoma's first crop of runners has been out of this world.

Chancer McPatrick has been New York's finest, winning all three starts, including the Hopeful at Saratoga and the Champagne at Aqueduct. His trainer Chad Brown won the Juvenile in 2017 when it was held at Del Mar with Good Magic, who also prepped in the Champagne. But one of the few common lines we can draw between these 2024 regional runners is Hopeful half-length runner-up Ferocious, who then was soundly defeated vs. East Avenue by 5-1/4 lengths when he changed venues. That's not a direct knock on Chancer McPatrick, but it's some measuring stick in a race tough to separate.

Trainer Bob Baffert boasts five Juvenile victories (including 2021 when the event was last held at Del Mar), and if he's to break the race's all-time record with a sixth, he might not even have a feel for which of his trio of California-based colts rates best. Getaway Car won Del Mar's 6-1/2 furlong Best Pal in August; Gaming (a son of 2018 Juvenile winner Game Winner) scored the 7-furlong Del Mar Futurity in September; and then Citizen Bull bounced back from his Del Mar Futurity third to win the 1-1/16 miles American Pharoah Stakes at Santa Anita over the same distance they'll battle on Saturday. Give me Citizen Bull among the Baffert trio off a strong workout October 26 that signals his readiness and proven success at the distance. His American Pharoah Stakes prep win came in a race that has produced five of the last 10 Juvenile winners.

The Juvenile infrequently produces an international headline with four winners in its 40 years. Shin Believe, a debut winner over 1-1/8 miles in August in Japan, may be best-equipped among the trio of global challengers. He's got a better distance pedigree than Ecor Azel, his stablemate for Hideyuki Mori, and superstar veteran jockey Yutaka Take takes the mount on the former. Irish shipper Hill Road is by US dirt sire Quality Road, but has raced only on grass and was well beaten in his lone stakes try at home.

BEST BETS

#6 CITIZEN BULL

#1 EAST AVENUE

#5 JONATHAN'S WAY

#10 CHANCER MCPATRICK

BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE (G1)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 • RACE 9

	HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	ODDS
1	East Avenue	Tyler Gaffalione	Brendan P. Walsh	5/2
2	Getaway Car	Juan J. Hernandez	Bob Baffert	20/1
3	Hill Road	Umberto Rispoli	Adrian Murray	30/1
4	Ferocious	Javier Castellano	Gustavo Delgado	6/1
5	Jonathan's Way	Joel Rosario	Philip A. Bauer	9/2
6	Citizen Bull	Martin Garcia	Bob Baffert	10/1
7	Gaming	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	Bob Baffert	8/1
8	Shin Believe	Yutaka Take	Hideyuki Mori	10/1
9	Ecoro Azel	Akira Sugawara	Hideyuki Mori	30/1
10	Chancer McPatrick	Flavien Prat	Chad C. Brown	3/1

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BREEDERS' CUP DISTAFF (G1)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • RACE 6

PREVIEW BY ADAM BURKE

There were questions as to whether or not trainer Kenny McPeck would point Thorpedo Anna to the Breeders' Cup Classic and run her against the boys once again, but he has opted for the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Distaff. She'll look to hold off nine other challengers at 1 ½ miles with a 4:21 p.m. ET post time on Saturday.

The hope was that we'd see a battle between Thorpedo Anna (4-5 morning line favorite) and Idiomatic, who was last year's Distaff champ, but she retired about a week before the race. That leaves Raging Sea (7-2) from the 6 post and Awesome Result (4-1) from Japan as the top contenders.

Awesome Result is a perfect 7-for-7 and she drew the 9 post for this one. She's been a closer on the other side of the Pacific and is undoubtedly a strong horse, but the speed and pace of this race could be problematic, as she's faced lesser competition and horses that couldn't get out in front far enough to hold her off.

Raging Sea is a 4-year-old filly by way of Curlin and Stormy Welcome and she has had three huge performances in a row with wins in the G2 Beldame, G1 Personal Ensign at Saratoga (beat Idiomatic), and G2 Shuvee. Like Thorpedo Anna, she's coming west for the first time, with all of her starts in New York or Kentucky. She's won six of her last seven and was third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies two years ago.

Chad Brown, who is a three-time runner-up in the Distaff, has one of his favorite riders in the mount with Flavien Prat on Raging Sea. She had a bit of a hangover with a speed figure drop after besting Idiomatic, but she's the top challenger to Thorpedo Anna bar none. It is also worth pointing out that Raging Sea has won five times in six races at 1 ½ miles, coming up short in the G1 Ogden Phipps with a fourth-place finish back in June.

Candied from the Todd Pletcher barn has the rail post as she wraps up what has been a disappointing, yet somewhat prosperous, year. She's been runner-up twice in G1 efforts after finishing third to Just F Y I and Jody's Pride in last year's Juvenile Fillies romp at Santa Anita. While she's hit the board in four straight, the speed figures just haven't been there. She's making money and has the chance to factor in exotics here, but it feels like Irad Ortiz Jr. won't have enough horsepower for the elusive Distaff victory, as he's 0-for-7 so far.

All in all, this race, as most of them have seemed to be during her 3-year-old campaign, is Thorpedo Anna's to lose. Her only 2024 defeat was by a narrow margin in the G1 Travers to Fierceness, but she was excellent in that mile and a quarter race. Maybe a little bit of fatigue hit with a close win in the Cotillion in September at Parx, as she only won by a neck as an overwhelming favorite, but she was on less than a month of rest for the first time this year. When she's had over a month, she's won the Kentucky Oaks, Acorn Stakes, Coaching Club American Oaks, and had that second-place effort in the Travers with a big speed number.

This is actually her longest layoff of the season and her workouts have looked crisp and clear. McPeck has never won a Breeders' Cup race. It sure seems fitting for it to be this one and with this horse.

Are there any interesting long shots here? Probably not, but Alice Verite (30-1) is the other Japanese import and she's making her dirt debut in the Distaff. She's hit the board 15 times in 20 career starts and should have no problem with the distance, having run at a mile and a quarter throughout the year. She's likely to run up front early and endurance isn't an issue. She could attend the party in trifectas and superfectas.

Sugar Fish (20-1) for Tyler Baze and Jeff Mullins is the other long shot with life. Unlike most of the others, the SoCal-based filly didn't have to be shipped. She's won three of four, but the distant sixth-place finish in the G1 Clement L. Hirsch with top females like Adare Manor and Scylla isn't a good sign for this race. She's run well at Santa Anita, but has looked uncomfortable in two Del Mar starts.

I'll say Thorpedo Anna does her thing, with Raging Sea second and surprise Alice Verite third. Sugar Fish fills out the super.

BEST BETS

#2 THORPEDO ANNA

#6 RAGING SEA

#4 ALICE VERITE

#5 SUGAR FISH

BREEDERS' CUP DISTAFF (G1)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • RACE 6

	HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Candied	Irado Ortiz, Jr.	Todd A. Pletcher	15/1
2	Thorpedo Anna	Brian Joseph Hernandez, Jr.	Kenneth G. McPeck	4/5
3	Batucada	Ricardo Santana, Jr.	Saffie A. Joseph, Jr.	20/1
4	Alice Verite	Kyle Frey	Kazuya Nakatake	30/1
5	Sugar Fish	Tyler Baze	Jeff Mullins	20/1
6	Raging Sea	Flavien Prat	Chad C. Brown	7/2
7	Honor D Lady	Tyler Gaffalione	Saffie A. Joseph, Jr.	30/1
8	Miss New York	Umberto Rispoli	Jorge Delgado	20/1
9	Awesome Result	Yutaka Take	Yasutoshi Ikee	4/1
10	Che Evasora	Tiago Josue Pereira	Philip D'Amato	30/1

BREEDERS' CUP TURF (GIT)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 · RACE 7

PREVIEW BY MIKE SOMICH

While many consider the Breeders' Cup Classic to be the biggest race of the weekend, across the pond, the European contingent would tell you it's the Turf, a one mile and half trip to decide the best turf horse in the world. That's especially apparent when you look at past winners of the race. In eight of the last nine runnings, a European has won this, with five of those wins going to top trainers Aidan O'Brien or Charlie Appleby.

THE FAVORITE

Based on the past, it's no surprise that the favorite is the Appleby trainee #11 Rebel's Romance, 5/2 on the morning line, who won this race at Keeneland in 2022. His 2023 campaign did not go as planned, which caused him to miss this race last year, but 2024 has been all systems go while racking up over \$6 million in earnings worldwide while facing top competition at every stop. He's a very deserving favorite who has won four of five starts this year, and while the post isn't ideal, he has more than enough talent to overcome it.

THE CONTENDERS

French champion, #5 Jayarebe, is the most logical contender. He's a three-year-old who consistently improved throughout the season, but will need to continue to do so to win today. He is a faster European horse early so the US racing style should suit him well.

#2 Emily Upjohn looks to be the fourth filly or mare to win this race in the last nine years. She's consistently run against the best lady turfers in Europe this season, but has not picked up a win. Top jock Frankie Dettori picks up the mount and knows her well. He's ridden her six times resulting in four of her five career wins including the Group 1 Coronation Cup last season. The biggest threat may very well come from across the Pacific.

Japanese invader #3 Shahyar ran third in this race last year and followed an identical path to this spot. He seems to be in better form this year and ran second to Rebel's Romance at Meydan. The biggest knock on him is he has not won a race since March of 2022.

Best chance for America this year is #6 Far Bridge, who has been phenomenal since returning to the Clement barn in early 2024. He enters off of back-to-back wins in Grade 1 races but has not been tested against the best in the world. No horse from either race is entered today.

THE LONGSHOTS

There are two O'Brien trainees in this spot that I like as a price. #10 Wingspan is an up-and-coming three-year-old who is regally bred to compete at this level of racing. She faced the best in ladies in Europe last time out running a solid second in her first effort at Group 1 company. She will need to improve, but she has early speed and the 15-1 price is enticing.

#4 Luxembourg is another of the Europeans with speed. He's run against the best all year in 10 starts and has won at this top level of racing. He's won two of those starts, including one at this distance, and he reunites with jockey Ryan Moore who has won this race five times.

Local favorite #12 Gold Phoenix looks to be the best U.S.-based long shot here. He absolutely loves Del Mar, where he's racked up half his career victories and won four of his six starts. Expect Gold Phoenix to do his best running late which very well may benefit him here as there looks to be quite a bit of speed. He ran fourth in this race last year so you know he can handle the company and now he gets them on his home track.

THE PICKS

It's tough to go against Rebel's Romance in this spot especially since all of the horses who I have listed as main competitors have major knocks. Rebel's Romance beat Shahyar in their only meeting, Emily Upjohn has not won since June of last year, and Jayarebe and Far Bridge have never faced a field close to this good. While there are similar knocks on Wingspan as Emily Upjohn and Jayarebe, at least I am getting the right price at 12-1. Luxembourg also looks interesting at his 12-1 price. However, he will have to turn the tables on Rebel's Romance as well if he prevails. All in all, it's too hard to not back the favorite here as the best win contender.

BEST BETS

WIN – REBEL'S ROMANCE – ONLY BET AT 5/2 OR BETTER

EXACTAS – 11 OVER 4 AND 10

TRIPLE – 4 AND 11 OVER 4, 5, 10 AND 11 OVER 4, 5, 10, 11 AND 12

PICKS – 11-4-10-5

BREEDERS' CUP TURF (G1T)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • RACE 7

	HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Rousham Park	Christophe Lemaire	Hiroyasu Tanaka	20/1
2	Emily Upjohn	Lanfranco Dettori	John H. M. Gosden	5/1
3	Shahryar	Cristian Demuro	Hideaki Fujiwara	10/1
4	Luxembourg	Ryan L. Moore	Aidan P. O'Brien	12/1
5	Jayarebe	Sean M. Levey	Brian Meehan	4/1
6	Far Bridge	Joel Rosario	Christophe Clement	6/1
7	Grand Sonata	Tyler Gaffalione	Todd A. Pletcher	20/1
8	Cabo Spirit	Abel Cedillo	George Papaprodromou	30/1
9	El Encinal	Armando Ayuso	Francisco Garcia	30/1
10	Wingspan	Wayne Lordan	Aidan P. O'Brien	15/1
11	Rebel's Romance	William Buick	Charles Appleby	5/2
12	Gold Phoenix	Kyle Frey	Philip D'Amato	15/1
13	There Goes Harvard	John R. Velazquez	Michael W. McCarthy	30/1

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC (G1)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 · RACE 8

PREVIEW BY ED SEHON

If only finding the winner of the 2024 Breeders' Cup Classic was as easy as playing "Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Uncle Mo". Trust me folks, finding the winner of this year's race is tougher than eating grits with a fork.

With no Mo in this year's Classic field, Mr. Ed begins with research, conducting an all-night study of past performance charts of all 16 entrants, paying particular attention to the post position, owner, breeder, trainer, jockey, speed figures, career earnings, most suitable distance for each contestant, class, and the morning line. Then he divides the contestants into two distinct groups: NO WAY & ALL THE WAY.

NO WAY

These are horses Mr. Ed believes have little, if any, chance of winning: #4 MIXTO, #8 PYRENEES, #5 SENOR BUSCADOR, #7 USHBA TESORO, #12 ARTHUR'S RIDE, #2 HIGHLAND FALLS, and #14 NEXT.

ALL THE WAY

Before sharing my projected Classic winner and three other top finishers, here's a closer look at seven talented starters whom he believes have the mixture of key handicapping elements to go ALL THE WAY!

#3 CITY OF TROY (5-2 morning line): Expected post time favorite has won six of seven starts (all on grass) and banked more than \$3 million. Britisher Aiden O'Brien, considered by many the top conditioner in Europe, says the sophomore is the best horse he has ever trained. Jockey Ryan Moore is at the top of his game. If import can transfer his turf talent to California soil, he's sure to be in the mix from start to finish.

#1 FOREVER YOUNG (6-1): Talented Japanese import, also winner of six, came east in May to compete in Run for Roses, finishing third. Then, returned to homeland in early October to capture the prestigious 1¼-mile Japan Dirt Classic. Trainer-jockey combo unchanged since Kentucky Derby. He's sharp enough to be THE one.

#11 SIERRA LEONE (12-1): He's yet to run up to his full potential. The \$2.3 million Kentucky-bred colt has met every challenge on his road to BC Classic — except win. He's trained by arguably the top high-class trainer in the country, Chad Brown. He's never finished out of the money in seven consecutive graded stakes. Regular rider, French native Florent Geroux, will have this deep closer ready to roll in stretch. Son of a Gun (Runner).

#9 FIERCENESS (3-1): When this guy fires, there's no one faster. His last two, with speed figures of 111 & 103, respectively, winning Jim Dandy and Travers, both at Saratoga, attest to his sizzling speed. Having banked more than \$2.3 million, he's been a cash cow for owner Mike Repole, trainer Todd Pletcher and jockey John Velazquez. If he breaks cleanly and Johnny hits the gas pedal, he may never be headed. Lean and mean.

#6 DERMA SOTOGAKE (20-1): Came to the U.S. in 2023 to compete in the Kentucky Derby (6th) and the BC Classic at Santa Anita (2nd), connections claim they have "been here and done that" — and are poised to win this year. The four-year-old has amassed a \$3.4 million bankroll, while capturing 4-of-13 vs. first-class international fields. Of the 19 horses Japan has sent east for the BC Championships, this guy is above all others.

#13 NEWGATE (20-1): He's the best of Baffert. West Coast super trainer sends out \$850K son of Into Mischief, who has posted a pair of very fast works at Santa Anita in preparation for BC Classic. Ridden by the legendary Frankie Dettori. Never ignore Baffert on his home track. Colt broke his maiden over this oval.

#10 TAPIT TRICE (30-1): Hall of Famer trainer Todd Pletcher's lesser-known entrant along with #6 FIERCENESS (profile above) has won half his 12 races en route to the BBC. Ridden by popular NY-circuit leading jockey Irad Ortiz Jr., four-year-old has raced against top-quality fields up and down the East Coast, banking more than \$1.7 million. His signature win came in the G2 Woodward Stakes last month at Aqueduct. He may be peaking at just the right time. Easy to like.

After doing all his homework and weighing all the important factors, Mr. Ed narrowed his win choices down to four. At one time or another, up until the copy deadline Tuesday afternoon, I had made a case for all of them. That's the reason my biggest wager is a four-horse Exacta Box. Any one of these international stars could finish first or fourth.

BEST BETS

#11 SIERRA LEONE (MR. ED'S CLASSIC WINNER)

#3 CITY OF TROY

#9 FIERCENESS

#1 FOREVER YOUNG

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC (G1)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • RACE 8

	HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Forever Young	Ryusei Sakai	Yoshito Yahagi	6/1
2	Highland Falls	Luis Saez	Brad H. Cox	20/1
3	City of Troy	Ryan L. Moore	Aidan P. O'Brien	5/2
4	Mixto	Kyle Frey	Doug F. O'Neill	30/1
5	Senor Buscador	Joel Rosario	Todd W. Fincher	30/1
6	Derma Sotogake	Christophe Lemaire	Hidetaka Otonashi	20/1
7	Ushba Tesoro	Yuga Kawada	Noboru Takagi	12/1
8	Pyrenees	Brian Joseph Hernandez, Jr.	Cherie DeVaux	30/1
9	Fierceness	John R. Velazquez	Todd A. Pletcher	3/1
10	Tapit Trice	Irado Ortiz, Jr.	Todd A. Pletcher	30/1
11	Sierra Leone	Flavien Prat	Chad C. Brown	12/1
12	Arthur's Ride	Junior Alvarado	William I. Mott	15/1
13	Newgate	Lanfranco Dettori	Bob Baffert	20/1
14	Next	Luan Machado	William D. Cowans	8/1
15	Rattle N Roll	Jose L. Ortiz	Kenneth G. McPeck	30/1

VSIN EXPERT BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC

**BEST
BETS**

JEREMY PLONK

14-3-1-11

#14 Next

Freakishly dominant against weaker competition, he's got the ability to cruise at a high speed and still turn it on late. Projected to sit a few lengths off the lead and should get a perfect spot from the far outside post to avoid any early traffic. If Next kicks in the afterburners on the far turn, he may not look back in search of eight wins in a row.

#3 City of Troy

When the world's most successful racehorse trainer, Aidan O'Brien, says this is the best horse he's ever trained, you listen. He won the Epsom Derby against the top three-year-olds in England and then beat Europe's top older horses in a Juddmonte International performance that was set up to simulate American racing with his presence on the front end that day. Traveling over a dirt surface is the X-factor, but he's sired by US Triple Crown winner Justify bred for it.

#1 Forever Young

Strong case can be made that this should be your 2024 Kentucky Derby winner after a nightmare trip saw him come up two noses short when third at Churchill Downs. Forever Young hasn't done much since, winning a single dirt start back home in Japan, but don't question trainer Yoshito Yahagi's methods. His three career American starts netted two Breeders' Cup victories at Del Mar in 2021 and this colt's narrow loss in the Kentucky Derby. Not too shabby.

#11 Sierra Leone

Consistent rallies have made him a dependable three-year-old, finishing top-3 in the Kentucky Derby, Belmont Stakes and Travers, all at the Classic's 1-1/4 miles distance. His inability to run straight in the stretch has cost him on multiple occasions, so his projection in the pecking order is difficult to put on top. Sire Gun Runner won the 2017 Classic when held at Del Mar with a vastly different running style.

MIKE SOMICH

1-3-9-7

(FOREVER YOUNG, CITY OF TROY, FIERCENESS, USHBA TESORO)

This is Fierceness vs. the Invaders. Most notably, City of Troy, who has arguably been the best horse in Europe since June. The biggest knock on him is his lack of dirt form; he's never touched it, and the breeding on the Dam side, but the fact that Aidan O'Brien chose this spot over the BC Turf speaks volumes. If Fierceness can run back to his Travers he will be very tough, but consistency has always been his issue. The three Japanese horses are all live here. Forever Young grew up in his time off since the Derby and looks like a much more mature horse. Derma Sotogake, who ran second in this race last year, and Ushba Tesoro should not be counted out either.

ED SEHON

\$100 to WIN on 11 Sierra Leone (\$100)
\$50 to PLACE (\$50) on 11 Sierra Leone (\$50)
\$10 EXACTA BOXES of 1 Forever Young, 3 City of Troy, 9 Fierceness, 11 Sierra Leone (\$120)
TOTAL WAGERS: \$270

ADAM BURKE

12-1-7-11

Even though the odds favor City of Troy and Fierceness as the top horses in the Classic, it sure feels like there are a handful or more that have a chance to win, with some at better prices than others. 12 Arthur's Ride is the one I like the most. He won on a muddy track at Saratoga in the G1 Whitney and spent a lot of energy, so I'm willing to overlook the Jockey Club Gold Cup performance. With the extra downtime, I could see a big speed figure and a signature win.

1 Forever Young is the other one I like here. The rail post isn't a major problem as a deep closer and he probably should have won the Kentucky Derby. He's won every other race and distance doesn't seem like a problem here. With a good, but not great pace likely coming thanks to the number of closers, I think he should be there at the end.

Throw 7 Fierceness and 11 Sierra Leone in there to fill out the super for me.

DAVE TULEY

12-9-1, LONG SHOT 5

(ARTHUR'S RIDE, FIERCENESS, FOREVER YOUNG; SENOR BUSCADOR)

Arthur's Ride could be the top speed of the speed horses and steal this race, as that is not too uncommon in these big races. There are plenty of contender runners capable of going to the lead in this field, but after Arthur's Ride went wire-to-wire at the Classic distance of a mile and a quarter distance back in June and he set the pace in Saratoga's Grade 1 Whitney and Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup before giving up the lead. Elsewhere in this VSIN Breeders' Cup Betting Guide, I previewed the BC Dirt Mile and that might have been a perfect spot for him, but I'm trusting the fact trainer William Mott put him here, as he must think this 4-year-old son of Tapit has a decent shot at the upset. If Mott had another starter here, the thought would be he was just entering Arthur's Ride as a "rabbit", but that's not the case so "full speed ahead!"

CONSENSUS TARGETS

(Number of handicappers targeting a horse)

1 - 5

11 - 3

5 - 1

3 - 3

7 - 2

14 - 1

9 - 3

12 - 2

HORSES NOT USED

2
4
6
8
10
13
15

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BREEDERS' CUP MILE (GIT)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • RACE 11

PREVIEW BY MIKE SOMICH

Much like the Turf, the Mile has been owned by European horses with wins in the last six races. However, one of those six was U.S.-based Uni, trained by Chad Brown. The last three runnings have been swept by trainer Aidan O'Brien and Jockey William Buick with Charley Appleby winning the race four years ago.

THE FAVORITE

It's no shock that the favorite is the Aidan O'Brien-trained, William Buick-ridden #6 Notable Speech as they try to go for four in a row. Notable Speech is a three-year-old, who actually considered the road to the Kentucky Derby before focusing on this race. He's run seven times in his life, all this year, all at a mile, with five victories in those starts. His last two races have been against older horses and include a win in the Sussex stakes, a strong Group 1 race in Europe. He will be one of the higher priced favorites of the weekend at 7-2.

THE CONTENDERS

This race is loaded with contenders. Fillies #1 Ramatuelle and #7 Porta Fortuna both took similar paths to the Breeders' Cup and have the talent to win. Porta Fortuna has beaten Ramatuelle twice, but both were very close. Each had one prep off the layoff heading into this start, both impressive wins, with Ramatuelle beating the boys in a Grade 1 stakes. The main difference is their records at a mile. Porta Fortuna is three of five with two seconds while Ramatuelle has finished third in two efforts.

#12 Carl Spackler will look to make it four wins in a row for US-based trainer Chad Brown. While he is US-based, he's European-bred much like Uni. The post is less than ideal for a horse who wants to be on or near the lead and has plenty of speed to his inside. His last two wins have been impressive, but the waters get a lot deeper here.

West Coast champion #9 Johannes enters the race on a four-race win streak and is undefeated at today's distance. He's improved through his four-year-old season and loves California, where he's undefeated on the turf in seven starts. He's the U.S.'s best shot to break the Euro dominance.

It's rare that I make it through five horses and haven't mentioned my top pick, but here we are. #4 Diego Velazquez is the "other" Aiden O'Brien who has greatly improved late in his three-year-old season. He was originally being pointed to the Turf, but cut back in distance after a weak effort at one mile and a half at Ascot in June. Since then, he is 2-for-2, including a win at this mile distance over older horses. All the makings are here for a career effort and the price is right at 8-1.

THE LONGSHOTS

With contention running so deep at the top — five horses are under 10-1 — it's tougher here to find viable longshots, but there are definitely a couple worth mentioning. #2 Chili Flag seems to be improving with age like many Chad Brown mares do. The mile is her preferred distance and the 20-1 price is the second-highest of her career. She's never been higher than 4.9-1 at a mile. Yes, this is the toughest field she will face, but she drew well for her closing style and there will be pace on. Irad Ortiz Jr. will be aboard and he has guided her to all four of her wins on US soil. It may be tough for her to get to the wire first, but she is an exotics threat.

#8 More Than Looks will also be breaking at the highest price of her career. She's run two very good second-place finishes in her two starts this year, losing to Carl Spackler in both races. However, both of those races lacked the pace, so her trip projects to be much better today with her rolling late. She ran a solid sixth in this race last year from the 12 post so the draw is much better for her today.

THE PICKS

While I respect Notable Speech, I am going with Diego Velazquez on top here. His effort at a mile last time out showed he is more than capable of handling the shorter distance and the fact that O'Brien ships in here despite having the favorite is a vote of confidence. Of the fillies, I like Porta Fortuna more. She is more accomplished at the distance and has more early speed which should help. Americans Johannes and More Than Looks will also make my tickets.

BEST BETS

WIN – DIEGO VELAZQUEZ

EXACTAS – BOX 4 AND 6

TRIPLE – 4 AND 6 OVER 4, 5, 7 AND 8 OVER 4, 5, 6, 7 AND 9

PICKS – 4-6-7-8

BREEDERS' CUP MILE (G1T)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • RACE 11

	HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Ramatuelle	Aurelien Lemaitre	Christopher Head	5/1
2	Chili Flag	Irado Ortiz, Jr.	Chad C. Brown	20/1
3	Geoglyph	Takeshi Yokoyama	Tetsuya Kimura	20/1
4	Diego Velazquez	Ryan L. Moore	Aidan P. O'Brien	8/1
5	Goliad	Flavien Prat	Richard E. Mandella	20/1
6	Notable Speech	William Buick	Charles Appleby	7/2
7	Porta Fortuna	Tom Marquand	Donnacha O'Brien	4/1
8	More Than Looks	Jose L. Ortiz	Cherie DeVaux	20/1
9	Johannes	Umberto Rispoli	Tim Yakteen	9/2
10	Win for the Money	Patrick Husbands	Mark E. Casse	30/1
11	Ten Happy Rose	Akihide Tsumura	Daisuke Takayanagi	30/1
12	Carl Spackler	Tyler Gaffalione	Chad C. Brown	6/1

BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE (GIT)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • RACE 12

PREVIEW BY DAVE TULEY

The Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile is always an interesting handicapping puzzle to solve.

This one-mile race on dirt wasn't part of the original Breeders' Cup lineup when the event debuted in 1984. Instead, it was added when the number of races expanded in 2007.

Because it's a route race and run on dirt, even casual horse racing fans will recognize several of the Dirt Mile contestants as it usually features horses that have run in Triple Crown races in recent years but might not have been able to get the "Classic" distance of a mile and a quarter and instead their connections opt for this shorter version. A perfect example of the above is Seize the Gray, who won this year's Preakness, the second jewel of the Triple Crown, at a mile and a sixteenth.

On Monday, the Dirt Mile drew a full field of 14. Let's look at this year's contenders in what should be a wide-open race.

#9 Domestic Product (7-2) was installed as the morning-line favorite coming off of back-to-back wins in the Grade 3 Dwyer at his mile distance in July at the Belmont-at-Aqueduct meet and the Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens at seven furlongs in August at Saratoga. The Chad Brown trainee came from well off the pace in the Jerkens and should have plenty of pace to run at in the Dirt Mile.

#14 Skippy Longstocking (4-1) is the second choice and fits well here. He finished third in the Dirt Mile last year at Santa Anita and has three graded stakes victories this year, though he did fail as the odds-on favorite in the Grade 2 Woodward at the Belmont-at-Aqueduct meet in his most recent start on Sept. 28.

#10 Muth (9-2) is trained by Bob Baffert and could be considered the "horse-for-the-course" with a 2-1-1-0 record at Del Mar, including winning the \$125,000 Shared Belief Stakes on Sept. 1 at this exact distance. He came up short as the 3-2 favorite in the Grade 2 California Crown at Santa Anita on Sept. 28 or he might have been favored here.

#1 Saudi Crown (5-1) could be the pacesetter after going wire-to-wire at this mile distance in an ungraded stakes race at Ellis Park on Aug. 11 after returning to the states from Dubai, but the feeling here is that there are at least five other horses that could be gunning for the lead and they could all compromise each other's chances: #2 T O Saint Denis (30-1), #3 Full Serrano (15-1), #11 Cagliostro (30-1) and #13 Pipeline (30-1). You'll note that the first two will break just to the right of Saudi Crown with the latter two long shots gunning from the far outside. This could be a "run each other into the ground" pace.

#6 Seize the Grey (10-1) was mentioned in the intro as this year's wire-to-wire Preakness winner and comes into the Dirt Mile with another wire-to-wire victory in the Grade 1 Pennsylvania Derby on Sept. 21 at a mile and an eighth. The D. Wayne Lukas trainee also has a win at a mile in the Grade 2 Pat Day Mile at Churchill back on Derby Day.

#12 Mufasa (12-1) comes in off of two straight wins in an optional claiming race at Colonial Downs on Aug. 12 but then stepped up to win the Grade 3 Vosburgh at the Belmont-at-Aqueduct meet on Sept. 28. This five-year-old has done most of his racing in Chile, but is 10-for-13 lifetime, so he knows how to find the winner's circle. In fact, he's my value play in the race as long as he stays in double digits, which should be the case with this wide-open race.

Live longshots? I've said all along this is a wide-open race, and anything can happen in the Breeders' Cup because a lot of very talented horses get overlooked and go off at odds that you won't see on them at any other time. I'm mostly looking at #2 T O Saint Denis (30-1) and #13 Pipeline (30-1) although both will likely be part of that rush to the lead I discussed in the Saudi Crown paragraph, but I give the edge to Pipeline even though his only wins this year haven't been in stakes races. He fits here and could pull the shocker.

BEST BETS

1-2-3-LONGSHOT PICKS IN BC DIRT MILE

#12 MUFASA (12-1)

#10 MUTH (9-2)

#9 DOMESTIC PRODUCT (7-2)

#13 PIPELINE (30-1)

BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE (G1T)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • RACE 12

	HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Saudi Crown	Florent Geroux	Brad H. Cox	5/1
2	T O Saint Denis	Ryusei Sakai	Daisuke Takayanagi	30/1
3	Full Serrano	Joel Rosario	John W. Sadler	15/1
4	Katonah	Lanfranco Dettori	Doug F. O'Neill	30/1
5	Three Technique	Rafael Bejarano	Jason G. Cook	30/1
6	Seize the Grey	Jaime A. Torres	D. Wayne Lukas	10/1
7	Tumbarumba	Luis Saez	Brian A. Lynch	30/1
8	Post Time	Sheldon Russell	Brittany T. Russell	12/1
9	Domestic Product	Flavien Prat	Chad C. Brown	7/2
10	Muth	Juan J. Hernandez	Bob Baffert	9/2
11	Cagliostro	Jose L. Ortiz	Cherie DeVaux	30/1
12	Mufasa	Tyler Gaffalione	Ignacio Correas IV	12/1
13	Pipeline	John R. Velazquez	Cherie DeVaux	30/1
14	Skippylongstocking	Irado Ortiz, Jr.	Saffie A. Joseph, Jr.	4/1