



xb wager guide

OCTOBER 30 & OCTOBER 31, 2015 • KEENELAND



Bayern and Martin Garcia win the 2014 Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita Park

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Fellow Racing Fan,

Welcome to the 12th fantastic edition of Xpressbet's Free Breeders' Cup Wager Guide!

This has been a thrilling Thoroughbred racing season and, amazingly, there's still more to come. American Pharoah's powerful Triple Crown sweep was invigorating. Multiple **Breeders' Cup** event heroine Beholder's domination of males in the Pacific Classic at Del Mar and subsequent facile triumph in the Zenyatta at Santa Anita set the stage for a **Breeders' Cup Classic** for the ages.

Join **Xpressbet Friday, Oct. 30** and **Saturday, Oct. 31** for complete Breeders' Cup action.

Xpressbet is pleased to present this free **Wager Guide** to horseplayers as an aid toward mutual success. Inside you will find **Analysis, Main Contenders, Value Plays** and **\$100 Wagering Strategies** from top handicappers, writers and broadcasters. Also included are oodles of useful **Breeders' Cup Stats & Trends** and **Know This** nuggets you won't find anywhere else.

Make sure to return to **Xpressbet.com** for free daily online **Breeders' Cup Wager Guide updates (beginning Tuesday, Oct. 27)** and revised selections based on final entries, scratches, post-position draw, weather, etc.

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Xpressbet hopes your **2015 Breeders' Cup** wagering experience is fruitful and we look forward to serving as your advance deposit wagering account provider for **Breeders' Cup** and into the future.

Sincerely,
Ron Luniewski
President
Xpressbet

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Best of the Best

Below are the most interesting Breeders' Cup runners with expert comments.

Mike Battaglia – American Pharoah (Classic)

Like almost everyone else, I am looking forward to the Classic. One last time to see American Pharoah. And even with Beholder out, the Triple Crown winner still needs to overcome Tonalist, Honor Code, Keen Ice, Frosted and others.

Steve Byk – Limousine Liberal (Sprint)

I have a soft spot in my wallet and heart for Limousine Liberal who delivered my best single race score of the Saratoga season. He's back on a home track he loves, is sure to be a square price and will be the first to call on Runhappy and Private Zone should that pair duel to mutual detriment in the Sprint.

Jeff Siegel – Legatissimo (Filly & Mare Turf)

Three-year-old filly brings from Europe superior form in top class company, with her most-recent two victories - both by daylight - setting her far apart from her North American rivals.

Caton Bredar – Liam's Map (Dirt Mile)

I'm most excited about Liam's Map in the BC Dirt Mile as he's been one of the most consistent and exciting horses to watch all season. Rested and shortening up in distance again, I think we will see something special.

Dick Jerardi – American Pharoah (Classic)

I want to see American Pharoah against a stacked field at the classic distance in the Classic. If he wins, he becomes a forever horse. If he does not win, that Triple Crown is still forever.

Bob Neumeier – Tonalist (Classic)

I'm looking forward to the opportunity to wager on Tonalist at a fair price. The horse is remarkably consistent, credit to the job of trainer Christophe Clement. As a contrarian, I hope bettors plunge on American Pharaoh. That should elevate the odds on Tonalist in the Classic.

Bonus Stats & Trends

Here are some additional useful Breeders' Cup tidbits.

BC Wins by Active Jockeys

| Wins | Jockey |
|------|--------------------|
| 21 | Mike Smith |
| 13 | John Velazquez |
| 11 | Frankie Dettori |
| 10 | Gary Stevens |
| 10 | Corey Nakatani |
| 6 | Ryan Moore |
| 5 | Julien Leparoux |
| 5 | Kent Desormeaux |
| 5 | Cornelio Velasquez |

BC Wins by Active Trainers

| Wins | Trainer |
|------|--------------------|
| 20 | D. Wayne Lukas |
| 11 | Bob Baffert |
| 9 | Shug McGaughey |
| 9 | Bill Mott |
| 8 | Aidan O'Brien |
| 8 | Richard Mandella |
| 7 | Todd Pletcher |
| 6 | Neil Drysdale |
| 6 | Sir Michael Stoute |

Repeat Champions

Distaff: Bayakoa
Filly & Mare Turf: Ouija Board *
Mile: Goldikova (3 times), Da Hoss,*
 Lure, Miesque, Wise Dan
Turf: High Chaparral
Filly & Mare Sprint: Groupie Doll
Turf Sprint: Mizdirection
Classic: Tiznow
Sprint: Midnight Lute
Dirt Mile: Goldencents

*Won in non-successive years.



Exotic Wagering Chart

Breeders' Cup exotic wagers usually produce hefty payoffs.
Use this handy Exotic Wagering Chart to plan your attack.

EXACTA BOX: (\$1 Wager)

| | |
|------------------|------|
| 2 horse box..... | \$2 |
| 3 horse box..... | \$6 |
| 4 horse box..... | \$12 |
| 5 horse box..... | \$20 |
| 6 horse box..... | \$30 |
| 7 horse box..... | \$42 |
| 8 horse box..... | \$56 |

EXACTA WHEEL: (\$1 Wager)

One Horse with All

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 6 horse field..... | \$5 |
| 7 horse field..... | \$6 |
| 8 horse field..... | \$7 |
| 9 horse field..... | \$8 |
| 10 horse field..... | \$9 |

TRIFECTA BOX: (\$.50 Wager)

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| 3 Horse Box..... | \$3 |
| 4 Horse Box..... | \$12 |
| 5 Horse Box..... | \$30 |
| 6 Horse Box..... | \$60 |
| 7 Horse Box..... | \$105 |
| 8 Horse Box..... | \$168 |

TRIFECTA WHEEL: (\$.50 Wager)

One Horse with All with All

(Example: 1/All/All or All/1/All or All/All/1)

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| 7 Horse Field..... | \$15 |
| 8 Horse Field..... | \$21 |
| 9 Horse Field..... | \$28 |
| 10 Horse Field..... | \$36 |

One Horse with Two Horses with All

(Example: 1/2,3/All or 2,3/1/All or 1/All/2,3 or 2,3/All/1 or All/1/2,3 or All/2,3/1)

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 7 Horse Field..... | \$5 |
| 8 Horse Field..... | \$6 |
| 9 Horse Field..... | \$7 |
| 10 Horse Field..... | \$8 |

TRIFECTA KEY: (\$.50 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others..... \$3

(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)

1 Horse with 4 others..... \$6

(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)

1 Horse with 5 others..... \$10

(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

1 Horse with 6 others..... \$15

(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

1 Horse with 7 others..... \$21

(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

SUPERFECTA BOX: (\$.10 Wager)

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| 4 Horse Box..... | \$2.40 |
| 5 Horse Box..... | \$12 |
| 6 Horse Box..... | \$36 |

SUPERFECTA WHEEL: (\$.10 Wager)

One Horse with All with All with All

(Example: 1/All/All/All or All/1/All/All or All/All/1/All or All/ All/ All/1)

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| 7 Horse Field..... | \$12 |
| 8 Horse Field..... | \$21 |
| 9 Horse Field..... | \$33.60 |
| 10 Horse Field..... | \$50.40 |

One Horse with Two Horses with All with All

(Example: 1/2,3/All/All or 2,3/1/All/All or 1/All/All/2,3 or 2,3/All/All/1 or All/All/1/2,3 or All/All/2,3/1)

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| 7 Horse Field..... | \$4 |
| 8 Horse Field..... | \$6 |
| 9 Horse Field..... | \$8.40 |
| 10 Horse Field..... | \$11.20 |

SUPERFECTA KEY: (\$.10 Wager)

1 Horse with 3 others..... \$.60

(Example: 1/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4/2, 3, 4)

1 Horse with 4 others..... \$2.40

(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5/2, 3, 4, 5)

1 Horse with 5 others..... \$6

(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6/2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

1 Horse with 6 others..... \$12

(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

1 Horse with 7 others..... \$21

(Example: 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

Breeders' Cup

Juvenile Turf

\$1 Million - Grade 1



1 Mile Turf
START FINISH
Post 3:30 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu
Win, Place, Show,
Exacta, Trifecta,
Superfecta,
Double, Pick 3,
\$1.5 Million Pick 4

O'Brien Seeks Another Hit

by Jeff Siegel *XBTV.com*

ANALYSIS: Five of the first eight editions of the BC Juvenile Turf have been won by an import from Europe, two of which came from Aidan O'Brien's yard. The Irish-based trainer appears to have the goods once again this year with the unbeaten **HIT IT A BOMB**. The son of War Front won at first asking in a hot, 22-runner maiden at The Curragh and then waltzed home in a listed stakes over Dundalk's all-weather track earlier this month. Among North American-based runners, trainer Mark Casse will saddle two major players, undefeated **AIROFORCE** (winner of the G3 Bourbon) and **CONQUEST DADDYO** (winner of the G3 Summer). **HOLLYWOOD DON** is a stakes winner in California and has an excellent stalking style, while **AZAR** is an improving colt with big upside for star trainer, Todd Pletcher.

MAIN CONTENDERS: O'Brien has two in the field - he also sends out **SHOGUN** - but **HIT IT A BOMB** is clearly the better of the two and could be an important colt. No Breeders' Cup analysis would be complete without a look at the Chad Brown-trained entrants, **RAY'S THE BAR** and **CAMELOT KITTEN**. **RAY'S THE BAR** was a professional third in the G3 Pilgrim at Belmont, while **CAMELOT KITTEN**, himself a New York debut winner, closed fastest of all to be second behind **AIROFORCE** in the Bourbon and should do nothing but improve with added experience.

VALUE PLAYS: **HIT IT A BOMB** is the main play, but we also like the Brown pair very much, and both offer great value. We're expecting **HOLLYWOOD DON** to return to top form on turf.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$10 Win: **HIT IT A BOMB** (\$10)
- \$10 Exacta Box: **HIT IT A BOMB, HOLLYWOOD DON, CAMELOT KITTEN** (\$60)
- \$5 Exacta Box: **HIT IT A BOMB, CYMRIC, HOLLYWOOD DON** (\$30)

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 2007

Favorites: Win 13%

In-The-Money 63%

Average Winning Payoffs

\$2 Win: \$17.03

\$1 Exacta: \$99.81

\$1 Trifecta: \$974.21

\$1 Superfecta: \$9,464.73

2010 Juvenile Turf Highlight:

Americans horded the top five placings in the first Juvenile Turf at Churchill Downs, led by Todd Pletcher's Pluck, winner of Woodbine's Summer Stakes.

KNOW THIS

Jockeys Frankie Dettori (3) and Ryan Moore (2) have won five of the last seven Juvenile Turfs.

Four straight Juvenile Turf winners had raced in Europe at least once prior to Breeders' Cup, including globetrotter Hootenanny a year ago for Wesley Ward.

The Juvenile Turf has had 12-14 starters in each renewal.

Juvenile Turf favorites have lost five straight since Pounced tallied in 2009 as the 2-1 choice.

Only once in eight editions has the Juvenile Turf \$1 exacta paid more than \$100.

Jeff's
Picks

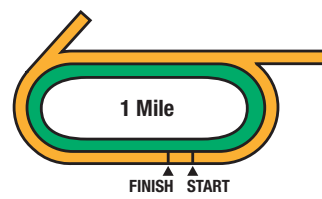
- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. HIT IT A BOMB | 2. CAMELOT KITTEN |
| 3. HOLLYWOOD DON | 4. CYMRIC |

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Las Vegas Breeders' Cup

Dirt Mile

\$1 Million - Grade 1



Post 4:10 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu

Win, Place, Show, Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Double, Pick 3, Pick 4

Pace Tricky for Heavy Favorite

by Dick Jerardi *Philadelphia Daily News & Daily Racing Form*

ANALYSIS: There are two distinct ways to approach this challenge. First, simply concede the race to favorite **LIAM'S MAP**, who dominates with Beyer Speed Figures of 114, 113 and 112 in three of his last four races, and then spend all your time searching for horses that could fill out the exotics. Second, you could conclude that there may be as many as six very fast horses and consider the possibility of a pace meltdown where the favorite is off the ticket. Or, you could do both; as I may end up doing. Play some **LIAM'S MAP** on top in exotics and then play some exotic tickets with several high-priced closers together. It gives you two ways to get in position to cash, depending on how the race is run. And, it is not at all obvious how this race will be run.

MAIN CONTENDERS: **LIAM'S MAP** would have been one of the top five choices in a loaded Classic so, after his brilliant summer, he is absolutely the most logical winner. **LEA**, who opted for this race over the Turf Mile, is a perfect 3-for-3 at the distance and should have first run if the speed doesn't hold. **VALID** has been in the top three in 21 of 27 dirt starts, with an amazing 15 triple-digit Beyers at tracks in Florida, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania. **BRADESTER** does not always fire, but one of his really good races could be good enough. **TAPITURE** was an excellent second to two-time winner Goldencents in this race last year, but has not come anywhere close to that form in 2015.

VALUE PLAYS: If too many of these speed horses go too fast too soon while battling with others, **RED VINE** could be the beneficiary at a square price. After a decent, but underwhelming, career on the grass, this horse has blown up this year on dirt with four consecutive triple-digit Beyers.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$60 Exacta: **LIAM'S MAP** over **RED VINE** (\$60)
- \$20 Exacta Box: **RED VINE** and **VALID** (\$40)

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 2007**Favorites:** Win 13%

In-The-Money 25%

Average Winning Payoffs**\$2 Win:** \$25.90**\$1 Exacta:** \$137.23**\$1 Trifecta:** \$1,414.10**\$1 Superfecta:** \$10,321.30**2011 Dirt Mile Highlight:**

Sophomores Caleb's Posse and Preakness winner Shackleford ran away from elders and finished 1-2 at Churchill Downs.

KNOW THIS

Goldencents' popular win last year at 3-5 snapped a six-year skid where Dirt Mile favorites were out of the money.

At least one 3-year-old has finished in the Dirt Mile trifecta in each of the last seven years.

In its eight renewals, only Furthest Land ('09) has won this race after capturing his final prep race.

The only Dirt Mile held around two turns outside of Santa Anita came in the 2007 inaugural edition at Monmouth Park. Churchill Downs' 2010 and 2011 editions were around one turn.

The Dirt Mile's \$25.90 average winning mutuel is the second-highest of any BC division. The Classic (\$27.76) leads the way.

Dick's
Picks1. LIAM'S MAP
3. VALID2. RED VINE
4. LEA

your way to play

Juvenile Fillies Turf

\$1 Million - Grade 1



Post 4:50 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu
Win, Place, Show,
Exacta, Trifecta,
Superfecta,
Pick 3, Double

Illuminate Will Light Up the Board

by Caton Bredar *Horseplayernow.com*

ANALYSIS: In seven runnings, the Juvenile Fillies Turf has proven a bit more predictable than the average toddler. Surprisingly, no California-based runner has been able to win this event, despite a frequent home-course advantage. Winners have come from just about every place else, including Europe, Kentucky and, including last year's winner and ultimate champion Lady Eli, from New York.

MAIN CONTENDERS: Irish-bred **ILLUMINATE** has won all but one start, and one of them was a Group 2 vs. 17 rivals. This filly carries her course with her, having won over three different racetracks, and while she's untested over 6 furlongs, she gives every indication the extra ground won't be a hindrance. **ALICE SPRINGS** invades from the UK with a recent win as a prohibitive favorite for BC veteran Aidan O'Brien. **HARMONIZE** is 2-for-3 and really seems to be blossoming for Hall of Famer Bill Mott.

VALUE PLAYS: **CATCH A GLIMPSE** won the Grade 2 Natalma at Woodbine with ease despite racing greenly in the stretch, showing a great turn of foot over good ground after leading throughout the mile event. The only loss for **RUBY NOTION** came in her second start at Ascot. The Wesley Ward runner has otherwise done everything right and is reminiscent of Ward's runner-up last year, Sunset Glow. **GLIDING BY** made a huge move to win her lone start despite a slow beginning.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$10 Win: **CATCH A GLIMPSE** (\$10)
- \$1 Trifecta Box: **ILLUMINATE, ALICE SPRINGS, CATCH A GLIMPSE** and **HARMONIZE** (\$24)
- \$5 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **ILLUMINATE** with **ALICE SPRINGS** and **CATCH A GLIMPSE** with **ALICE SPRINGS, CATCH A GLIMPSE, HARMONIZE, RUBY NOTION, GLIDING BY, MIRAGE** and **SAPPHIRE KITTEN** (\$60)
- \$1 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **ILLUMINATE** with **HARMONIZE** with **ALICE SPRINGS, CATCH A GLIMPSE, RUBY NOTION, GLIDING BY, MIRAGE** and **SAPPHIRE KITTEN** (\$6)

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 2008

Favorites: Win 14%

In-The-Money 43%

Average Winning Payoffs

\$2 Win: \$19.51

\$1 Exacta: \$74.97

\$1 Trifecta: \$961.37

\$1 Superfecta: \$11,228.66

2010 Juv. Fillies Turf Highlight:

Trainer Todd Pletcher's More Than Real gave the barn a 2-year-old grass race sweep at Churchill Downs, after a win by stablemate Pluck in the Juvenile Turf.

KNOW THIS

The Americans have held serve by winning five of seven editions of this race.

Belmont's Miss Grillo Stakes has produced a Juvenile Fillies Turf exacta finisher in six of the last seven renewals.

Trainer Chad Brown has two wins and two seconds in five editions of this race.

The pacesetter has held on for a piece of the superfecta in five of seven renewals of this race, but never has won.

The \$1 superfecta average in the Juvenile Fillies Turf is a whopping \$11,228.66 – largest of any Friday BC race and second-largest of any BC turf event (Mile is largest).

Caton's
Picks

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. ILLUMINATE | 2. ALICE SPRINGS |
| 3. CATCH A GLIMPSE | 4. HARMONIZE |

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Longines Breeders' Cup

Distaff

\$2 Million - Grade 1



1 1/8 Miles
START FINISH
Post 5:35 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu

Win, Place, Show,
Exacta, Trifecta,
Superfecta,
Distaff/Classic
Double,
Super High-5

Demise of Distaff Champ Overbown

by Jennie Rees *Louisville Courier-Journal*

ANALYSIS: With champion mares **BEHOLDER** and **UNTAPABLE** (who misses the race with a fever) out of the picture, this race is extremely wide open. **SHEER DRAMA** and **WEDDING TOAST** are the co-favorites, but both 5-year-old mares have questions.

MAIN CONTENDERS: With 2014 Distaff winner, **UNTAPABLE**, out of the picture, **WEDDING TOAST**, **SHEER DRAMA** and **GOT LUCKY** move to the top of the list. **WEDDING TOAST** has won three straight with ease at Belmont Park, including the Grade 1 Ogden Phipps (over **UNTAPABLE**) and the Beldame (over the classy 3-year-old **CURALINA**). Both were on an unchallenged lead. However, she's proven she doesn't need to be in front. The question is if **WEDDING TOAST** will be as effective away from Belmont, and not racing around one turn, though she has won around two turns. Perhaps notably, her last defeat came in Keeneland's Grade 1 Madison in April. **SHEER DRAMA** saw her stock soar after taking the Grade 1 Delaware Handicap over Distaff contender **FRIVOLOUS** and Saratoga's Personal Ensign over **GOT LUCKY** and **UNTAPABLE**. Keep in mind that the Spinster on dirt (throw out the Polytrack era) remains the No. 1 producer of Distaff winners, and now the Breeders' Cup moves to Keeneland.

VALUE PLAYS: **FRIVOLOUS**, who beat **SHEER DRAMA** in Churchill's Fleur de Lis and was a rallying fourth in the Spinster, can win at a big price. **GOT LUCKY** is just getting better.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$10 Exacta Part-Wheel: **GOT LUCKY** with **STOPCHARGINGMARIA**, **FRIVOLOUS**, **I'M A CHATTERBOX**, **CURALINA**, **WEDDING TOAST** and **SHEER DRAMA** (\$60)
- \$20 Distaff-Classic Double: **GOT LUCKY** with **FROSTED** (\$20)
- \$10 Distaff-Classic Double: **GOT LUCKY** with **AMERICAN PHAROAH** and **KEEN ICE** (\$20)

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 1984

Favorites: Win 45%

In-The-Money 58%

Average Winning Payoffs

\$2 Win: \$17.04

\$1 Exacta: \$60.63

\$1 Trifecta: \$779.03

\$1 Superfecta: \$3,257.13

2011 Distaff Highlight:

Royal Delta gave trainer Bill Mott back-to-back Distaff wins at Churchill Downs following stablemate Unrivaled Belle a year prior. Royal Delta also delivered Mott a Distaff three-peat the following year at Santa Anita.

KNOW THIS

Four straight and 19 of 30 Distaff winners have been 5-2 or less.

Of the five largest upsets in Distaff history, three have occurred in Kentucky-hosted events at Churchill Downs.

3-year-old fillies have hit the Distaff exacta five straight years.

The Distaff has been won on the front end only once in the past 11 years (Royal Delta, 2012).

Jockey Mike Smith has the most BC race wins at 21, including the BC Classic and Distaff a record eight times combined. Only eight other jockeys have won eight or more total Breeders' Cup races.

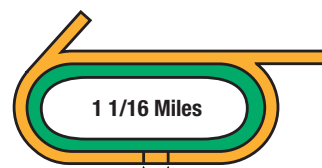
Jennie's
Picks

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. GOT LUCKY | 2. FRIVOLOUS |
| 3. I'M A CHATTERBOX | 4. WEDDING TOAST |

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14 Hands Winery Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies

\$2 Million - Grade 1



1 1/16 Miles
START FINISH
Post 12:05 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu
Win, Place, Show,
Exacta, Trifecta,
Superfecta,
Double, Pick 3,
\$1.5 Million Pick 4

Songbird in Perfect Tune

by Mike Battaglia *Keeneland Morning Line Maker*

ANALYSIS: It looks like we will have a solid favorite this year in **SONGBIRD**. She is unbeaten and untested in three career starts and has shown improvement in every one. A lot depends on the draw, but there doesn't seem to be much early speed in here and with veteran Mike Smith aboard she should be able to control the pace. **RACHEL'S VALENTINA** also is unbeaten, but never has been around two turns and the late runners will be compromised by the lack of early speed.

MAIN CONTENDERS: **SONGBIRD** definitely is the one to beat. She seems to be as good as most, if not all, the boys this year. If she takes to the Keeneland surface, she could turn this one into a romp. **NICKNAME** is another one who is on the upswing. She, too, has yet to run around two turns, but the way she drew off in the Frizette was an indication that she could handle the added distance. **RACHEL'S VALENTINA** deserves respect and has the potential to be a good one, while **DOTHRAKI QUEEN** has the benefit of a race over the Keeneland surface.

VALUE PLAYS: **LAND OVER SEA** has chased Songbird in her last two races. She was soundly beaten in both, but she will be a much bigger price and is a must-use in the exotics. **NEMORALIA** caught a sloppy track for her first start in the US and could show improvement with that one under her belt.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$20 Exacta Part-Wheel: **SONGBIRD** with **NICKNAME** and **LAND OVER SEA** (\$40)
- \$10 Trifecta Key: **SONGBIRD** over **NICKNAME**, **LAND OVER SEA** and **RACHEL'S VALENTINA** (\$60)

Xpressbet Breeders' Cup Wager Guide free daily online updates with revised Analysis, Picks and Wagering Strategies begin Tuesday, October 27.

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 1984

Favorites: Win 55%

In-The-Money 77%

Average Winning Payoffs

\$2 Win: \$21.06

\$1 Exacta: \$103.65

\$1 Trifecta: \$1,408.63

\$1 Superfecta: \$10,795.95

1994 Juvenile Fillies Highlight:

Stablemates Flanders and Serena's Song battled to a photo finish at Churchill Downs. The victory was one of a record six wins in the Juvenile Fillies for trainer D. Wayne Lukas.

KNOW THIS

The once-chalky Juvenile Fillies has had just one favorite score in the last six years, with back-to-back winners paying \$66 and \$125.

26 out of 30 Juvenile Fillies winners finished first or second in final preps. However, the last two winners of the race finished out of the money in their pre-BC starts.

In eight Juvenile Fillies at Churchill Downs only once has the winner exited a prep in California – 1991 Pleasant Stage.

Seven of the last 10 Juvenile Fillies winners used a front-running (5 winners) or pace-pressing (2 winners) style.

Mike's
Picks

1. **SONGBIRD**
3. **NICKNAME**

2. **LAND OVER SEA**
4. **RACHEL'S VALENTINA**

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Breeders' Cup

Turf Sprint

\$1 Million - Grade 1



Post 12:45 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu

Win, Place, Show, Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Double, Pick 3

Trying the Trifecta

by Jennie Rees *Louisville Courier-Journal*

ANALYSIS: Few Breeders' Cup events will change more dramatically between locales than the Turf Sprint, which the past three years has been held at 6 ½ furlongs on Santa Anita's downhill course. Bobby's Kitten won last year. At Keeneland, however, it will be 5 1/2 furlongs. With all the talk about this being the Breeders' Cup of the fillies with Beholder in the Classic and Tepin in the Mile, little has been mentioned about this race, where **LADY SHIPMAN**, the runner-up in Keeneland's Buffalo Trace Franklin County, has been installed as the 5/2 favorite. Females do well in this race, often at big prices. Winning on the lead is tough in this spot, with the edge to horses who stalk or come from off the pace.

MAIN CONTENDERS: **PURE SENSATION** won Parx's Turf Monster and is 3-for-3 sprinting on grass. **UNDRAFTED** closed late to finish third last year. He won Ascot's Group 1 Diamond Jubilee this summer and resumed racing with a second at Kentucky Downs going one mile. Defending champ **BOBBY'S KITTEN** has not run well in only two races this year. **THE GREAT WAR** was second two weeks ago in the Nearctic at Woodbine and top international jockey, Ryan Moore, has the mount.

VALUE PLAYS: You know one of trainer Wesley Ward's horses is going to be tough, and it could be **GREEN MASK**, a close fourth in the Kentucky Downs Turf Dash in his first start since the March 28 Al Quoz Sprint in Dubai, where he was third. He's working brilliantly. **CHANNEL MARKER** can be hit-and-miss, but will be a huge price and flying late.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$.50 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **PURE SENSATION, THE GREAT WAR** and **GREEN MASK** with **PURE SENSATION, THE GREAT WAR, GREEN MASK, MONGOLIAN SATURDAY, NO SILENT, UNDRAFTED, LADY SHIPMAN, CHANNEL MARKER** and **MARCHMAN** with **PURE SENSATION, THE GREAT WAR, GREEN MASK, MONGOLIAN SATURDAY, NO SILENT, UNDRAFTED, LADY SHIPMAN, CHANNEL MARKER** and **MARCHMAN** (\$84)
- \$16 Win: **PURE SENSATION** (\$16)

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 2008

Favorites: Win 43%

In-The-Money 71%

Average Winning Payoffs

\$2 Win: \$20.83**\$1 Exacta:** \$105.87**\$1 Trifecta:** \$1,325.41**\$1 Superfecta:** \$10,488.64

2011 Turf Sprint Highlight:

The Steve Asmussen-trained Regally Ready made it back-to-back Turf Sprint triumphs for Churchill Downs-based horses. Chamberlain Bridge won the prior year for Bret Calhoun.

KNOW THIS

No Europeans attempted the two Turf Sprint events held at Churchill Downs at 5 furlongs.

Turf Sprint pacesetters finished first (Regally Ready, 2011) and second (Central City, 2010) the two times this race was held at 5 furlongs.

The Turf Sprint favorite has been in the exacta in five out of the last six years, including No Nay Never's runner-up finish last year.

The last six Turf Sprint winners have been 7-1 or less.

The \$1 trifecta in the Turf Sprint has topped \$775 just once in eight renewals.

Jennie's
Picks

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. PURE SENSATION | 2. GREEN MASK |
| 3. CHANNEL MARKER | 4. THE GREAT WAR |

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Race
5

SATURDAY

Breeders' Cup

Filly & Mare Sprint

\$1 Million - Grade 1



Wagering Menu
Win, Place, Show,
Exacta, Trifecta,
Superfecta,
Double, Pick 3

Post 1:25 pm Eastern

McLaughlin Homecoming Party

by Mike Battaglia *Keeneland Morning Line Maker*

ANALYSIS: In direct contrast to the Juvenile Fillies, this race looks to be a wide-open affair. Probable favorite **CAVORTING** is very good, though fair to debate the quality of the 3-year-olds she has been beating. **LA VERDAD** rides a six-race win streak, but just ran - and won - last weekend at Belmont. The quick turnaround is a big ask. The seven-furlong distance could be a problem for quite a few of these runners - so it might be a good idea to find one who can come from off of the pace.

MAIN CONTENDERS: **CAVORTING** fits the bill as a late runner. She won the Test at this same seven-furlong distance and Lexington's own Kieran McLaughlin has been hot the entire Keeneland meet. **SUPER MAJESTY** has been winning on the lead, but looks like she might be capable of rating. She has been in Kentucky since September and is training sharply at Keeneland. **JUDY THE BEAUTY** has been one of the top female sprinters in the country for the past two years. She seems to have lost a step, but trainer Wesley Ward says she is ready for a big effort.

VALUE PLAYS: **SUPER MAJESTY** will likely be overlooked in the wagering, but this 3-year-old filly is game and if trainer Jerry Hollendorfer runs her in the Breeders' Cup, you can be sure she is in top shape. She is capable of upsetting. **WAVELL AVENUE** ran late to finish second to **LA VERDAD** and is in the capable hands of Chad Brown. Good exacta play.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$15 Exacta Box: **CAVORTING, SUPER MAJESTY** and **WAVELL AVENUE** (\$90)
- \$10 Win: **SUPER MAJESTY**

Xpressbet Breeders' Cup Wager Guide
Stats & Trends and **Know This** information provided by
Jeremy Plonk (Horseplayernow.com).

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 2007

Favorites: Win 38%

In-The-Money 75%

Average Winning Payoffs

\$2 Win: \$14.45

\$1 Exacta: \$57.51

\$1 Trifecta: \$665.65

\$1 Superfecta: \$4,685.49

2010 F&M Sprint Highlight:

Dubai Majesty at 8-1 provided one of two upset wins at Churchill Downs for locally based trainer Bret Calhoun, who also annexed the same-day Turf Sprint at 6-1 with Chamberlain Bridge.

KNOW THIS

The \$14.45 average \$2 win mutuel in F&M Sprint is lowest of any Breeders' Cup division.

Five of the last seven winners of the F&M Sprint were 3-1 or less - including three straight favorites.

Keeneland's Thoroughbred Club of America Stakes produced five straight winners of this race until the streak was snapped last year when Got Lucky finished second.

The F&M Sprint's early pacesetters have a combined 8: 0-0-1 record in this race all-time.

A deep closer hasn't won the F&M Sprint since Ventura in 2008 when the race was first run at 7 furlongs.

Mike's
Picks

1. CAVORTING

3. WAVELL AVENUE

2. SUPER MAJESTY

4. TARIS

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Race
6

SATURDAY

Breeders' Cup

Filly & Mare Turf

\$2 Million - Grade 1



Post 2:10 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu
Win, Place, Show,
Exacta, Trifecta,
Superfecta,
Double, Pick 3,
\$2 Million Pick 6

Irish Filly Ready to Meet Elders

by Caton Bredar Horseplayernow.com

ANALYSIS: Last year broke a strong European trend in this race as Chad Brown's Dayatthespa stole the show on the front over her fast-closing stablemate Stephanie's Kitten. That's as domestic an exacta as you're likely to ever find. And with a trio of contenders pre-entered, Chad Brown could again have something to say.

MAIN CONTENDERS: Irish-bred and campaigned **LEGATISSIMO** has been favored in her last four Group 1 starts overseas. Although only 3, the filly has run well at a mile to a mile and one-half, and is able to handle everything from firm to soft footing. **DACITA** put together an impressive resume in her native Chile before coming to Chad Brown, for whom she won her US debut in powerful fashion at Saratoga, beating top filly Tepin in the process. **MISS FRANCE** invades for Andre Fabre and exits a series of runner-up efforts.

VALUE PLAYS: Irish-bred **PHOTO CALL** won her last two in workmanlike fashion. Classic-bred filly owns a win on the Keeneland course and has tactical speed in a race generally lacking much early pace. **SECRET GESTURE** ran credible in last year's Cup, seems better this year and should appreciate the Keeneland course. **HARD NOT TO LIKE** suffered a rough trip off the layoff in the Grade 1 Rodeo Drive as favorite.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$10 Win: **LEGATISSIMO** (\$10)
- \$2 Trifecta Box: **LEGGATISSIMO, DACITA, HARD NOT TO LIKE, MISS FRANCE** (\$48)
- \$2 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **LEGGATISSIMO, DACITA** over **LEGGATISSIMO, DACITA** over **HARD NOT TO LIKE, MISS FRANCE, PHOTO CALL, SECRET GESTURE,** and **BAWINA** (\$20)
- \$1 Trifecta Part-Wheel: **HARD NOT TO LIKE, MISS FRANCE** over **HARD NOT TO LIKE, MISS FRANCE** over **LEGGATISSIMO, DACITA, PHOTO CALL, SECRET GESTURE** and **BAWINA**.(\$10)
- \$1 Exacta Box: **LEGGATISSIMO, PHOTO CALL, SECRET GESTURE, HARD NOT TO LIKE** (\$12)

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 1999

Favorites: Win 25%

In-The-Money 75%

Average Winning Payoffs

\$2 Win: \$21.63

\$1 Exacta: \$84.48

\$1 Trifecta: \$793.84

\$1 Superfecta: \$6,961.51

2000 Filly & Mare Turf Highlight:

Perfect Sting gave Stronach Stables a second win on the card. Macho Uno also won the Juvenile at Churchill Downs.

KNOW THIS

Trainer Chad Brown and jockey Javier Castellano have teamed to win this race twice in the past three years.

10 of 16 F&M Turf winners paid \$10 or more to win.

Five of the last six F&M Turf winners employed a front-running or pace-pressing style.

Foreign-bred runners have earned eight of 12 trifecta placings in the F&M Turf over the past four years.

Horses prepped in California are 0-for-35 all-time in the Filly & Mare Turf, with only three in-the-money finishes.

Favorites are 1-for-8 in this race since 2006. Dank scored as the 2013 public choice.

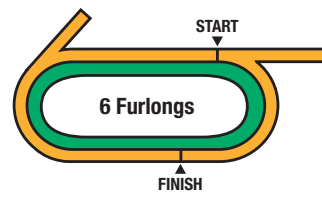
Caton's
Picks

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. LEGGATISSIMO | 2. DACITA |
| 3. HARD NOT TO LIKE | 4. MISS FRANCE |

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Breeders' Cup Sprint

\$1.5 Million - Grade 1



Wagering Menu
Win, Place, Show, Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Double, Pick 3,

Post 2:50 pm Eastern

What You Need... Is Speed

by Dick Jerardi *Philadelphia Daily News & Daily Racing Form*

ANALYSIS: This race is absolutely loaded with early speed, but I would caution against expecting any kind of a meltdown. What typically happens is that one or two of the speed horses clear the others, run the chasers out of the race and keep going. The goal here is to find the speed of the speed. There are no shortage of choices but, unfortunately, the break is hard to anticipate and the trips harder to predict. Still, try to visualize which of these speed horses is the fastest out of the gate and frame your plays accordingly.

MAIN CONTENDERS: **RUNHAPPY** is an absolute freak. Go back and watch the colt's first start last December 28 in race 9 at Turfway Park. It is quite amazing. The horse is unbeaten sprinting and none of the races has been close. It's hard not to love **PRIVATE ZONE**, but he has not been training as well lately and his best races are at 7 furlongs, not 6. He may not be able to keep up with this heat and will be a short price. **FAVORITE TALE** has been prepped all year for this race, but got a very late curve ball when he had to leave his Parx base due to a quarantine and train on a private farm in Pennsylvania and then at Delaware Park before heading for Kentucky when his van broke down on the way. This horse, like so many of the others, comes out of the gate in full flight. **STALLWALKIN' DUDE** ran a brilliant race against Rock Fall in the Vosburgh so he is not without a chance.

VALUE PLAYS: **FAVORITE TALE** may get overlooked in the wagering because most of his best races have been at Parx. If he somehow clears this field or gets a nice stalking trip, look out. Getting champion jockey Javier Castellano to ride for the first time absolutely does not hurt.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$50 Exacta Part-Wheel: **RUNHAPPY** with **FAVORITE TALE** and **STALLWALKIN' DUDE** (\$100)

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 1984

Favorites: Win 23%

In-The-Money 42%

Average Winning Payoffs

\$2 Win: \$21.95

\$1 Exacta: \$157.33

\$1 Trifecta: \$1,485.15

\$1 Superfecta: \$18,058.02

1991 Sprint Highlight:

Sheikh Albadou registered the biggest upset in the division's history with his 26-1 shocker at Churchill Downs. He remains the only European shipper to take the Sprint.

KNOW THIS

24 straight Sprints since 1990 have had at least one California-based horse in the trifecta.

The average Sprint winner the last six years has delivered a whopping \$26 mutuel payoff.

The last six editions of the Sprint have been decided by a combined total of 3-1/4 lengths.

Sprint favorites are only 1-for-7 in the exacta since Midnight Lute delivered as chalk in 2007.

The \$1 trifecta in the Sprint has paid \$1,000 or more 13 times in 21 total years.

Dick's Picks

1. RUNHAPPY
2. STALLWALKIN' DUDE
3. FAVORITE TALE
4. BIG MACHER

Breeders' Cup

Mile

\$2 Million - Grade 1



1 Mile Turf
START FINISH
Post 3:30 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu
Win, Place, Show,
Exacta, Trifecta,
Superfecta,
Double, Pick 3,
\$3 Million Pick 4

Euro-mania 2015

by Bob Neumeier *NBC Sports*

ANALYSIS: One of the wonders of the Breeders' Cup is the international flavor the event provides. The Mile is a case in point where top-notch runners compete on the grass. Europeans dominate under these conditions. By and large, they grow up and run with this surface in mind. Unless a North American runner stands out, our focus should be placed on runners from Europe. But competing on turf at any level is a tricky exercise. Post position is crucial. At the one-mile distance, I do not want any of my runners breaking from outside posts, anywhere from 9 on out is suspect. Traffic jams are a major concern on the grass, where 'trips' are important. Thus, European runners like **ESOTERIQUE**, **KARAKONTIE** and **TIME TEST** had the misfortune of drawing outside, while **TEPIN** breaks from Post 7.

MAIN CONTENDERS: It is difficult to separate the best coming to Keeneland from across the sea. It's easy to mention runners from Europe like **MONDIALISTE**, **ESOTERIQUE**, defending champ **KARAKONTIE**, **MAKE BELIEVE**, **TIME TEST**, etc. That **MONDIALISTE** (as a Group 3 winner at York) went on to win the Grade 1 Woodbine Mile suggests that Europe should bring runners superior to him, and therefore, should be considered more favorably. But as a handicapper, that's dangerous territory. So guesswork becomes the main idea.

VALUE PLAYS: Until we see the odds board, it's almost impossible to surmise who might be worth a look at a price. Among the North Americans, **TEPIN** looks to get bet quite heavily. So, too, the top group from Europe. Perhaps the best play is to combine all four key factors: a European; a good post; an up-close running style; and a reasonable price.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

As I mentioned in the Value Plays section, my strategy will focus on a runner that fits the four criteria and hope. As far as a horizontal wager, I will use several Europeans, as well as **TEPIN**, and hope to somehow stay alive in my tickets.

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 1984

Favorites: Win 36%

In-The-Money 52%

Average Winning Payoffs

\$2 Win: \$22.87

\$1 Exacta: \$159.06

\$1 Trifecta: \$1,758.30

\$1 Superfecta: \$19,283.66

2011 Mile Highlight:

Longest shot on the board Court Vision at 64-1 upended defending champion Goldikova in her Churchill Downs title defense. It marked the sixth time in eight CD-held Miles that the Americans captured the win.

KNOW THIS

European-based invaders swept last year's Mile trifecta for the first time in the event's history. Americans had swept the previous two Mile trifectas.

In the last nine years the topsyturvy Mile has seen five winners pay \$5 or less – and three pay \$50 or more.

Seven of the last eight Miles have had a Woodbine Mile alumnus in the trifecta, including three winners.

Eight fillies/mares have won the Mile, the most of any open Breeders' Cup division.

**Bob's
Picks**

1. MAKE BELIEVE
3. MONDIALISTE

2. ESOTERIQUE
4. TEPIN

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Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup

Juvenile

\$2 Million - Grade 1



Post 4:10 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu
Win, Place, Show,
Exacta, Trifecta,
Superfecta,
Double, Pick 3,
Pick 4

Bravo, Joe Bravo

by Bob Neumeier *NBC Sports*

ANALYSIS: In the history of the Breeders' Cup, jockey Joe Bravo has only had eight mounts. This is an abnormally low amount considering that Bravo wins a fair amount of races, especially when fans least expect it. But 2015 could be a banner Bravo year, when the journeyman accepts six BC mounts, including "live" runners like Sheer Drama, Big Blue Kitten, Watsdachances and Juvenile contender **GREENPOINTCRUSADER**. The latter is a handsomely-bred 2-year-old who won the Champagne Stakes at Belmont despite a tardy start. Although the Belmont race was won on a sloppy quagmire, the progeny suggests **GREENPOINTCRUSADER** can run on anything-dirt, turf, rocks and broken glass. **RIKER** and **NYQUIST** will be on or near the lead, so the pace should be fair to one and all.

MAIN CONTENDERS: **GREENPOINTCRUSADER** deserves to be the post-time favorite based on his NY score. He has impeccable breeding and should relish the two turns at Keeneland. Since handicappers love trouble lines, he will be bet heavily in this race. **BRODY'S CAUSE** deserves respect based on his lovely, off-the-pace score on the home BC track at Keeneland. He looked most professional, but jockey Corey Lanerie is up-and-down. **NYQUIST** will run on or near the lead, and his sheer guts helped him stave off a late run by **SWIPE** for the Desormeaux clan in the Frontrunner Stakes at Santa Anita.

VALUE PLAYS: The odds on **UNBRIDLED OUTLAW** should be interesting. He was the victim of heavy traffic at Churchill and did well to finish third in the Iroquois Stakes. Let's see how the bettors play this guy. **CONQUEST BIG E** just broke his maiden at Keeneland, but did so effortlessly. As a son of Tapit, he could be any kind.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$100 Win: **BRODY'S CAUSE** (\$100)

Xpressbet Breeders' Cup Wager Guide free daily online updates with revised Analysis, Picks and Wagering Strategies begin Tuesday, October 27.

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 1984**Favorites:** Win 36%

In-The-Money 71%

Average Winning Payoffs**\$2 Win:** \$17.50**\$1 Exacta:** \$87.45**\$1 Trifecta:** \$620.75**\$1 Superfecta:** \$7,425.49**2006 Juvenile Highlight:**

Street Sense romped to a record 10-length margin of victory at Churchill Downs before becoming the first and only Juvenile winner to claim the Kentucky Derby.

KNOW THIS

A year ago runner-up Carpe Diem became the ninth straight Juvenile favorite to finish in the exacta.

Single-digit odds runners have accounted for two-thirds of Juvenile trifecta spots since 1997.

Since Hansen wired the 2011 Juvenile, the last three pacesetters in this race have combined to beat two horses.

California-based horses have lost the last five Juveniles held in Kentucky at Churchill Downs.

Post position 4 has the most Breeders' Cup victories all-time (34) regardless of distance, surface or venue.

**Bob's
Picks**

1. **BRODY'S CAUSE**
2. **GREENPOINTCRUSADER**
3. **UNBRIDLED OUTLAW**
4. **CONQUEST BIG E**

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Longines Breeders' Cup

Turf
\$3 Million - Grade 1

Post 4:50 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu

Win, Place, Show,
Exacta, Trifecta,
Superfecta,
Double, Pick 3

Euros Claim Green Again

by Jeff Siegel *XBTv.com*

ANALYSIS: The Breeders' Cup Turf has been won by a fresh-off-the-plane European-based runner 14 times in the past 20 years, but none of those top-class imports appeared as dominant on paper as **GOLDEN HORN** does for this year's renewal. A winner of seven of eight career starts and never better than in victory in the Group 1 Prix de l'arc de Triomphe, **GOLDEN HORN** has been called by jockey Frankie Dettori as the best horse he's ever ridden. Yes, similar accolades accompanied Dancing Brave prior to his thoroughly disappointing BC Turf appearance back in 1986, so there's always the slim possibility that **GOLDEN HORN** may flop as well. But we wouldn't bet on it.

MAIN CONTENDERS: Rolling exotics players (doubles, pick 3s) should consider **GOLDEN HORN** as a single, while possibly backing up with **FOUND**. The 3-year-old filly shows several Group 1 placings and was second to **GOLDEN HORN** in the Group 1 Irish Champions last month. Meanwhile, the US-based **THE PIZZA MAN**, **BIG BLUE KITTEN** and **TWILIGHT ECLIPSE** are admirable performers.

VALUE PLAYS: **THE PIZZA MAN** had an excellent prep under his belt at Keeneland, a closing second in the Grade 1 Shadwell Turf Mile earlier this month. So perhaps he's the one US-based runner that probably should be included somewhere. But this should not be a race that requires a spread strategy.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$20 Trifecta Key: **GOLDEN HORN** over **FOUND** and **THE PIZZA MAN** (\$40)
- \$5 Exacta Box: **GOLDEN HORN** and **FOUND** and **THE PIZZA MAN** (\$30)
- \$10 Exacta Part-Wheel: **GOLDEN HORN** over **FOUND**, **THE PIZZA MAN** and **BIG BLUE KITTEN** (\$30)

Xpressbet Breeders' Cup Wager Guide free daily online updates with revised Analysis, Picks and Wagering Strategies begin Tuesday, October 27.

STATS & TRENDS**Division Debut:** 1984**Favorites:** Win 29%

In-The-Money 61%

Average Winning Payoffs**\$2 Win:** \$21.48**\$1 Exacta:** \$82.50**\$1 Trifecta:** \$609.53**\$1 Superfecta:** \$8,396.08**2011 Turf Highlight:**

St. Nicholas Abbey gave the Europeans four straight Turf scores in Cups at Churchill Downs. Joseph O'Brien, 18, became the youngest jockey to win a BC event.

KNOW THIS

Five consecutive Turf favorites have lost at 2-1 or less.

In the past decade, Europeans own a 20-10 edge over Americans in Turf trifecta placings.

16 straight Turfs have had at least one foreign-bred runner in the trifecta, dating back to a US-bred sweep in 1998.

No horse has wired the Turf since Buck's Boy in 1998. The last three pacesetters in this race have combined to beat just one horse.

European invaders have won 12 of the last 16 Turf renewals.

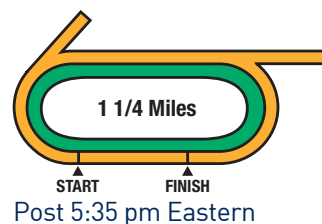
Manila (1986) and Prized (1989) remain the only US-based sophomores to win the Turf.

Jeff's
Picks1. GOLDEN HORN
3. THE PIZZA MAN2. FOUND
4. BIG BLUE KITTEN

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Breeders' Cup Classic

\$5 Million - Grade 1



Post 5:35 pm Eastern

Wagering Menu
Win, Place, Show,
Exacta, Trifecta,
Superfecta,
Double,
Super High-5

Elements Set for Epic Classic

by Steve Byk *At the Races - Sirius/XM*

ANALYSIS: While the Cup's feature race took a hit with the scratch of superstar mare, **BEHOLDER**, horseplayers and racing fans can still anticipate an epic showdown between the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years, **AMERICAN PHAROAH**, older stalwarts, **TONALIST** and **HONOR CODE**, and up-and-coming sophomore challengers, **KEEN ICE** and **FROSTED**. Add in the international flare of Aidan O'Brien's multiple Group 1 winner, **GLENEAGLES**, and the pieces remain in place for an epic confrontation at Keeneland on Halloween.

MAIN CONTENDERS: After the Travers miscue, Bob Baffert has carefully refocused **AMERICAN PHAROAH** for his final career start and appears to have him back to the razor's edge based on his last serious work at Santa Anita. He will set as comfortable a pace as he and Victor Espinoza are allowed and will be required to repel challenges throughout the second half of the 10-furlong event. The defection of **BEHOLDER** will put the onus of keeping **PHAROAH** honest up front on the lightly-raced **SMOOTH ROLLER**, and may also impact the way jockeys John Velazquez (**TONALIST**), Joel Rosario (**FROSTED**) and Irad Ortiz (**KEEN ICE**) approach the race. All three break inside of **AMERICAN PHAROAH** and are likely now forced to alter their approach to the race with a key pace presence out of the picture.

VALUE PLAYS: It is hard to believe that a horse as accomplished as **TONALIST** would be the value in this spot, but Christophe Clement's 4yo son of Tapit is the right player around which to build your Classic bets. He has been better and more consistent as an older horse than he was as a sophomore and is less pace dependent than the capable and primed **HONOR CODE**.

WAGERING STRATEGIES (\$100):

- \$3 Trifecta Part Wheel: **TONALIST, AMERICAN PHAROAH** with **TONALIST, AMERICAN PHAROAH, HONOR CODE, FROSTED, KEEN ICE** with **TONALIST, AMERICAN PHAROAH, HONOR CODE, FROSTED, KEEN ICE** (\$72)
- \$20 Win: **TONALIST** (\$20)
- \$4 Exacta: **HONOR CODE, AMERICAN PHAROAH** with **TONALIST** (\$8)

STATS & TRENDS

Division Debut: 1984

Favorites: Win 26%

In-The-Money 58%

Average Winning Payoffs

\$2 Win: \$27.76

\$1 Exacta: \$107.87

\$1 Trifecta: \$1,737.94

\$1 Superfecta: \$44,784.48

1988 Classic Highlight:

Alysheba at Churchill Downs became the second of four consecutive Kentucky Derby winners to capture the Classic – following Ferdinand and preceding Sunday Silence and Unbridled.

KNOW THIS:

Classic favorites have finished out of the money four straight years.

Bayern's \$14 mutuel last year marked the eighth time in the last nine years the Classic winner has paid double-digits.

Three-year-olds finished first through sixth in last year's Classic.

Europeans Toast of New York (second) and Declaration of War (third) hit the Classic board in the past 2 years. Two Euros have won the Classic all time: Arcangues ('93) and Raven's Pass ('08).

Eight consecutive Kentucky Derby winners to race in the Breeders' Cup Classic at age 3 have lost.

Steve's
Picks

1. TONALIST

3. HONOR CODE

2. AMERICAN PHAROAH

4. KEEN ICE

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