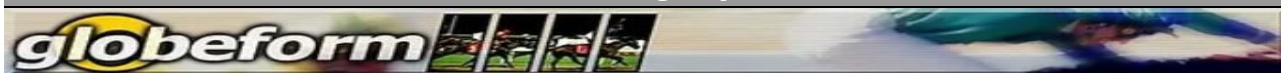


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GULFSTREAM PARK

GLOBEFORM RANKING

SILKS RUN STAKES (LR) 5 fur Turf, Gulfstream Park, March 8

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 3 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0	7	EAMONN <i>GF 112 in Apr '24</i>	112	0 - 95 - 91+ 107	Orseno / Zayas
2	6	CAPTURE THE LION	108	108 - 99 - 97	Joseph Jr / Gonzalez
2	2	BIZ BIZ BUZZ	108	103 - 108 - 105	D'Angelo / Lopez
3 / 12	5	SOUPER QUEST	109 / 100	100 - 100 - 109	M Casse / Jaramillo
4	4	REEF RUNNER	110	100 - 110 - 108	Fawkes / Vasquez
11	3	FOXTROTANNA <i>GF 99 in Sep '24</i>	99	97 - 85 - 90	Wojczynski / Panici
0	4	COPPOLA	114	114 - 112 - 107	Romans / L Saez

Most recent winners of the Silks Run

2024	COPPOLA	GF 113	Dale Romans	Edgar Zayas
2023	BIG INVASION	GF 113+	Christophe Clement	Joel Rosario
2022	YES I AM FREE	GF 110	Laura Cazares	Emisael Jaramillo
2021	CAROTARI	GF 110	Brian Lynch	Julien Leparoux
2020	CAROTARI	GF 109	Brian Lynch	Emisael Jaramillo

Average winning Globeform: 111

This may not seem to be a good betting race at first glance, as the fast starting Coppola is likely to be odds-on, and also likely to be hard to beat, but perhaps it is an event we can make some money from after all. Turf sprints often offer a bit of value in the payoffs; why that is is not a question that triggers an obvious answer but it could simply be because not many players take these races seriously; they don't analyze the turf sprints properly, so to speak. This is just a theory, not a statement based on research and facts. It's somewhat hard to 'research' the minds of average horse players, so let's stick to the horses.

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

COPPOLA has been in tremendous form this winter and he is now coming off a solid win in the Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint in January, like this contest staged over 5 furlongs on (probably) a firm turf course. The Dale Romans trainee had won the Janus Stakes a month earlier, going gate to wire after an explosive start that put his rivals up against within a few strides after the stalls opened. He did the same in the Gulfstream Park Sprint; broke running, opened up an early lead and kept going to the wire. **CAPTURE THE LION** (receiving 4lbs) was a game second 3/4 length behind, while **REEF RUNNER** (same weight as Coppola) was a neck further adrift in third place. The weights will be the same here so the chances are that Coppola beats these rivals once more. Let's take a look at what happened six weeks ago;

Capture the Lion was about four lengths behind Coppola going around the bend, when Reef Runner - who was pushed along early on - sat further back and was forced wide. They both closed in on Coppola, who saved ground all the way, coming down the lane. They galloped out past the winner after the winning post - but so did others and that may not mean much. It's a shame the Silks Road isn't 5.5 or 6 furlong. Then we really would have a case for taking Coppola on. Still, the value in this sprint would be to get him beaten and it's not impossible that he will be. Yes, he is the most likely winner but he is also a horse coming off two hard races and note his post position. He is in stall one. Another fast break from that starting point and it could be game over, but Coppola was drawn wide both in the Janus and in the GP Turf Sprint. Does he prefer to be wide through the first furlong? Maybe. The two times he was drawn low (stall 3 in the Turf Sprint at Churchill and stall 2 in allowance company at the same venue) he ran to GF 107, compared to **Globeform 114** in the GP Turf Sprint. Now, those races were over 5.5 furlongs and he has been in much better form of late, so using the inside post as a reason to go against him could well be folly. The two reasons to play against him are; a) that he will have to run hard for a third time here and that ratings show that he is by no means 'miles clear', and b) that there is a chance he will be facing pace pressure - making him vulnerable to a closer.

The two horses that might provide some pace pressure are **SOUPER QUEST** and, to a lesser extent, **FOXTROTANNA**. The latter is not good enough to be a top three candidate but he has run fast early on in some of his races. He was part of the early speed when third in an allowance heat over 6.5 furlongs at Kentucky Downs last year; the first two quarters went by in 44.78 and six furlongs was run in 1.07.99. Two days later, the outstanding sprinter Cogburn ran to Globeform 126 when winning a G2 over 6 furlongs at the same course. He ran the first two quarters in 44.14 and his final time was 1.07.68. That race had a 114-foot run-up, while the allowance race had a 45-foot run-up. It seems that Foxtrotanna's race (won by Implementation) had a really fast pace - but this was Kentucky Downs, a unconventional course. Souper Quest, on the other hand, has been flashing serious early speed at places like Saratoga, Keeneland, Monmouth Park, Tampa Bay Downs and here at Gulfstream Park, so he is the most interesting one. Based on his win in the Harvey Pack Stakes, when he beat Our Shot in a photo, he is good enough to hit the board in the Silks Run - but a speed duel against Coppola would probably make a top three placing hard to reach.

Coppola did the GP Turf Sprint / Silks Run double last year, another reason to expect him to be long odds-on this Saturday. He won by half a length when beating Panther Island in the first leg, and ran even better when following up in the Silks Run Stakes. He was then a bit in and out through the summer months but made a steady climb back up and regained winning form by beating Arzak by 2 lengths in the Janus Stakes in December. Arzak, who was off the bridle in mid-pack early, stayed on and was arguably just as good as Coppola that day. **REEF RUNNER** finished third from well off the pace, beaten a length after a bumpy start. That was Reef Runner's best performance to date as he improved to **Globeform 110**, but another bumpy start and a bit off a dull effort saw him finishing only fourth in the Turf Dash at Tampa Bay Downs a month later. Perhaps he did not like the course; he does like Gulfstream Park (2-2-2 from 6 runs).

Make a note of the little know 4yo gelding **Rouki**, the winner the Turf Dash at Tampa Bay; he is a good turf sprinter who will probably have a crack at graded stakes company soon. He ran to Globeform 110.

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EAMONN is joint top ranked based on his good third behind Arzak and Mischief Magic in the 5.5-furlong Shakertown Stakes at Keeneland last April. He came with a good run from well off the pace and was beaten only a length there, running to a career best **Globeform 112**. His preceding run was a third placed finish behind **COPPOLA** in the Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint; in that event beaten a length while conceding 2lbs. Judged on these performances Eamonn would be a strong win candidate here but he was not able to follow up through the rest on 2024. He ran to GF 107 to be fourth in the Van Clief Stakes at Colonial Downs in August, only to run way below such form in three subsequent starts. He has had a 19-week break now and it's impossible to know what to expect from Eamonn. Being 5-3-2 from 14 runs at Gulfstream he is a bit of a course specialist. He produced GF 111 as he came off a similar break to take third in the 2023 Janus Stakes, so we know he can run well straight off the bench. His trainer has a poor record with such starters (and also in stakes events) but this is one of his best horses. Eamonn is a deep closer who wants a strong pace.

BIZ BIZ BUZZ, claimed from Mike Maker to join Jose d'Angelo (who has a good record in turf sprints) after running second to XY Speed in a good allowance race on Feb 28, will probably be a big price; but don't dismiss him completely. He improved to **Globeform 108** when beating XY Speed in a similar contest two starts back and, with 118lbs on his back, he is quite well in at the weights in the Silks Run.

CONCLUSION: Backing odds-on favorites makes no sense; use them as keys in horizontals, yes, but when placing win bets we should never stand to lose more than we stand to win. Such horse can be used on top in Trifecta plans with a few lines only - but in this case that's not an option; as ratings tell us that five of his six rivals are in with a chance of hitting the board. So let's take a shot at 'something' beating Coppola; it's hard to say which one has the best chance of doing so - which means a Tri plan where we key Coppola in second is the way to go. If pressed to pick one to beat Coppola it's Capture the Lion. He might improve again.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	6 CAPTURE THE LION
B	7 EAMONN
C	4 REEF RUNNER

Coppola / Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint (R5 11 min.): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01DfQELaCQg&t=135s>
Capture the Lion 2nd, Reef Runner 3rd

Coppola / Janus Stakes (R8 / 17.30 min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuz29Dt3T2g>
Reef Runner 3rd

Eamonn 3rd / Shakertown Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyYMI3ME4dU>