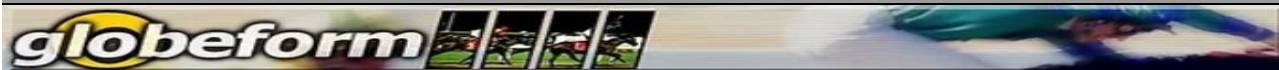


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GLOBEFORM RANKING

MINESHAFT STAKES (G3), 8.5 furlongs dirt, Fair Grounds, Feb 15

Horses ranked in pounds (0.45kg). 1 length = 2 pounds over this distance

Rank	No.	Name of horse	Globeform	GF most recent runs	Trainer / Jockey
From right to left (most recent first)					
0	3	TUSCAN SKY	115	90 - 111 - 0 - 115	Pletcher / I Ortiz Jr
2	5	CATCHING FREEDOM	113	104 112+ 113	B Cox / Prat
7 / 13	1	WARRIOR JOHNY <i>GF 112 in July '24</i> <i>Also entered Fair Grounds S.</i>	112 / 106	106 - ?+ 100	Bauer / Torres
8	7	BATTEN DOWN <i>GF 111 in June '24</i>	111	105 - ?+ 104	W Mott / Gaffalione
10	8	KOMOREBINO OMOIDE	109	106 - 109 - 104	Diodoro / Melancon
11	2	HEROIC MOVE	108	101 - 100+ 92 - 108	Diodoro / Hernandez
11p	6	MAYCOCKS BAY	104p	97 - 104p - ?p	Stidham / Curtis
16p	4	HALL OF FAME	99p	?+ 99p - 0	Asmussen / J L Ortiz

Most recent winners of the Mineshaft

2024	MONEY SUPPLY	GF 114	Joe Sharp	Tyler Gaffalione
2023	PIONEER OF MEDINA	GF 112	Todd Pletcher	Luis Saez
2022	OLYMPIAD	GF 115	William Mott	Junior Alvarado
2021	MAXFIELD	GF 117+	Brendan Walsh	Florent Geroux
2020	SILVER DUST	GF 113	Bret Calhoun	Brian Hernandez Jr

Average winning Globeform: 114.2

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GLOBEFORM ANALYSIS

TUSCAN SKY has the best performance in the book here but he has been so inconsistent; in fact as soon as he has run a good race one could expect a bad one next time out. The son of Vino Rosso looked seriously good when he won the Pegasus Stakes over 8.5 furlongs at Monmouth Park last June. Slamming the subsequent Dwyer Stakes and Jerkens Memorial winner Domestic Product by almost seven lengths (admittedly in receipt of 4lbs), Tuscan Sky improved to **Globeform 115** in that event, which was his fourth career start and also coming after a layoff since an unplaced effort in the Wood Memorial ten weeks earlier. He was on the lead for most of the way and drew right off for an impressive win.

The Pegasus is a race where we have seen some upsets over the years and when Tuscan Sky flopped in the Haskell Stakes, while Domestic Product did so incredibly well afterwards, it might have seemed like we had seen another edition of the race where the form was a bit false. Tuscan Sky did bounce back though; not quite up to his Pegasus form but his second to Generous Tipper in the Discovery Stakes at Aqueduct in November was a good performance. Spotting the winner 2lbs, he went down by 3/4 length and he was 2 1/2 lengths better than the third placed Copper Tax, who won the Richard Small Stakes at Laurel Park next time out (as the 2/5 fav.). Based on these two performances, Tuscan Sky went off favorite for the Harlan's Holiday Stakes at Gulfstream Park in December, but he threw in another clunker. He dropped right out after having been in a stalking position and finished second last in the eight-runner field.

What can we expect from Tuscan Sky this time? He wins this race on his best form and his second best form could also be good enough, so one can argue that he should be the favorite or second favorite (morning line is not out at the time of writing) but he is not a horse one would be happy to back at a short price. He started his career with two wins over wet tracks, so any rain might be to his advantage.

CATCHING FREEDOM is the likely favorite for the Mineshaft. His career best, **Globeform 113**, falls a bit below Tuscan Sky's best, but it was earned in the Kentucky Derby and it was the middle leg of his three solid performances on the bounce last spring. Catching Freedom's form is much more reliable but here we are dealing with a horse that hasn't raced since June, when he looked rather flat and ran below form to come home in fourth of six in the Ohio Derby, beaten 3 lengths behind **BATTEN DOWN**, who took the race going gate to wire. Catching Freedom lacked energy at the finish and he was probably in need of a break at that stage of his career. Which is what he was given. The son of Constitution was at his best when fourth, beaten just 1 3/4 lengths behind Mystik Dan, in the Kentucky Derby. He came from off the pace at Churchill Downs, much like he had done also when winning the 9.5-furlong Louisiana Derby at the Fair Grounds six weeks prior, and he was ridden off the pace again in the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico, where he stayed on gamely to take third behind Seize the Grey and Mystik Dan, beaten 2 1/4 lengths by the winner. A stronger pace would have suited him better on that occasion and that's probably what he will get in the Mineshaft. There's plenty of speed signed on here (4 of the 8 runners are possible leaders) and if Catching Freedom is fit he must have a good chance. Trainer Brad Cox has a tremendous record with layoff runners like this and he has been enjoying a strong meet so far.

WARRIOR JOHNY - also entered for the Fair Grounds Stakes on turf - sits high on the ranking thanks to his 4-length win over Listed winner Salute the Stars in a strong allowance race over 9 furlongs at Saratoga last summer (**Globeform 112**), but he has had six starts since without reproducing that level of form. He was, however, better than in five of those races when he filled third behind Saudi Crown and Kinetic in the Tenacious Stakes last time out, so perhaps he is about to regain top form. Saudi Crown is a high class performer with wins in the Pennsylvania Derby and Louisiana Stakes on his CV and Kinetic took the McArthur Stakes at Oaklawn Park on his subsequent start. Warrior Johnny ran to GF 106 in the Tenacious. That won't make him a player here but 112 puts him in with a chance of hitting the board; though he really needs that sort of a run; given that he is set to concede 4lbs to four of his rivals, including Catching Freedom and Tuscan Sky. Down to wear blinkers for the first time on Saturday, Warrior Johnny does not have profile of a horse likely to improve. >>>

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BATTEN DOWN is one of the front runners in this race; perhaps he will be *the* front runner, like when he won the 9-furlong Ohio Derby at Thistledown last June. Exiting a maiden win (also gained by going to the lead), the Bill Mott trainee was backed down to 3-1 second favorite the Ohio Derby and he obliged by 1 3/4 lengths. Gould's Gold finished second, ahead of Copper Tax and **CATCHING FREEDOM**, who was the 2/5 favorite. Batten Down got loose on the lead; the race panned out perfectly for him and not so well for Catching Freedom - who did not run to form. Batten Down next went for the Dwyer Stakes (a tiring third well behind Fierceness), then the Travers Stakes (set early pace, tired, remote fifth to Fierceness) before he had his sights lowered in the Bourbon Fleet Stakes at Churchill Downs in September, a race he won easily as the 1/2 favorite. Back up in class in the Discovery at Aqueduct, he once more faded after leading early and he checked in fourth, 5 1/2 lengths behind Generous Tipper, who beat **TUSCAN SKY** by 3/4 length. The question now must be; did Batten Down tire in those races simply because he wasn't good enough or was it partly because he was not happy on the lead after all, despite what happened in the Ohio Derby? His pace wasn't slow in the Ohio Derby, he raced with great zest, so one would think Batten Downs earned his position but the race had just six runners and the two that hit the board behind him were not exactly stars. It may be that he moved up to a 'cheap' **Globeform 111** at Thistledown. Either way, it will be interesting to see how they decide to ride him here.

KOMOREBINO OMOIDO (2nd to Hit Show in the Louisiana and showing consistent form) and **HEROIC MOVE** (who peaked when he split Hit Show and Komorebino Omoido in a G3 back in August) are both in with a chance of hitting the board, as is the more interesting **MAYCOCKS BAY**, who is open to improvement. He ran much better when winning an allowance race at the Fair Grounds in December (after a break) than when he was fourth in the Louisiana Stakes. He pulled hard early, was stuck wide with no cover and he may also have disliked the sloppy ground in the Louisiana. Yes, Maycocks Bay has a win in the slop but that was in a Parx maiden on his second start. Young horses often run hard regardless of conditions but later on decide that they don't really care for such tracks (or very firm or heavy if it's on turf). This is also why juveniles shipping in from turf racing in Europe sometimes fire in their first try on dirt.

CONCLUSION: This race is a sort of a prep for the New Orleans Classic on March 22, and it's likely that the connections of some of these eight - if not all of them - have that race as a target. Thus, we can't expect the likes of Catching Freedom and Tuscan Sky to be fully tuned up after breaks, but using those two should suffice in horizontal wagers. They have a few lengths in hand on the rest and it's likely that one of them turns up to run a good race, quite possibly both. They have both run well over wet tracks, so even the weather does not offer any help in trying to split the two, but logic says Catching Freedom should be the A-horse. His number ticks lots of boxes. Maycocks Bay is an interesting longshot with a bit of upside.

GLOBEFORM SELECTIONS

A	5 CATCHING FREEDOM
B	3 TUSCAN SKY
C	6 MAYCOCKS BAY, 7 BATTEN DOWN

Catching Freedom 4th / Kentucky Derby: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5Yb-2xEMzg&t=3s>

Catching Freedom / Louisiana Derby: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALhqECGHkS0&t=209s>

Tuscan Sky / Pegasus Stakes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3S_2wibB2k&t=164s

Batten Down / Ohio Derby: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QPspv6KCmQ>

Komorebino 2nd / Maycocks Bay 4th / Louisiana Stakes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCtVzEjqr3s>