

EARLY

BREEDERS' CUP™

BETTING GUIDE

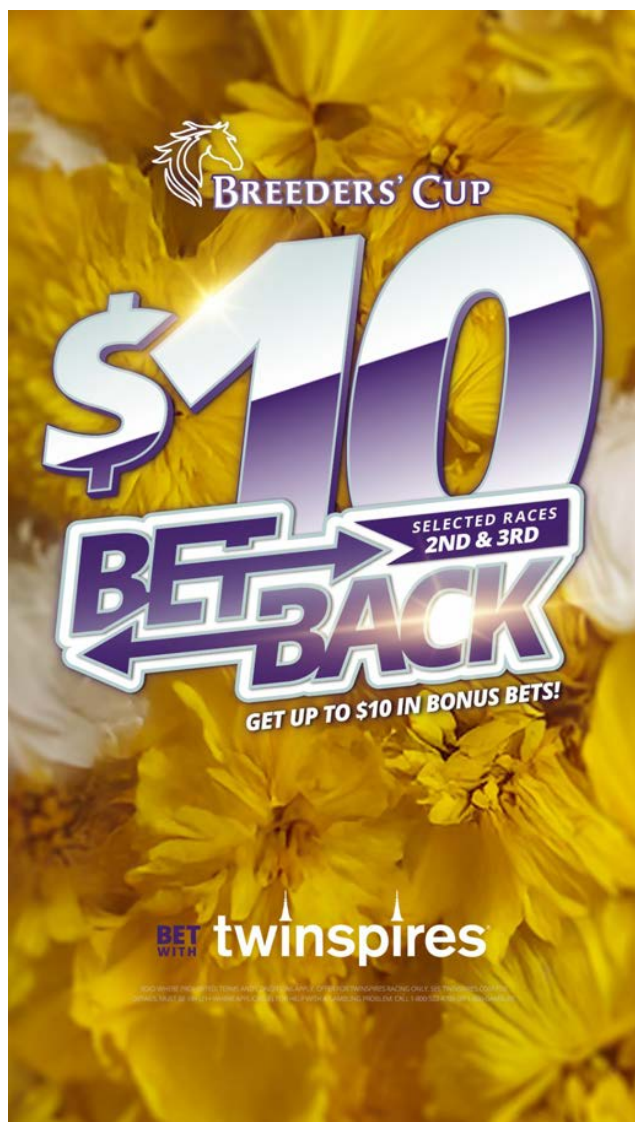
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BREEDERS' CUP
CHAMPIONSHIPS





BREEDERS' CUP™ BETTING GUIDE



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Watch for the full handicapping betting guide on Wednesday, October 29

BREEDERS' CUP RACE SCHEDULE

Friday, October 31, 2025

RACE	POST TIME	RACE NAME
Race 1	2:35 PM ET/11:35 AM PT	Pacific Shore S.
Race 2	3:10 PM ET/12:10 PM PT	Alliance Stakes
Race 3	3:45 PM ET/12:45 PM PT	Golden State Juvenile Fillies Stakes
Race 4	4:25 PM ET/1:25 PM PT	Senator Ken Maddy Stakes
Race 5	5:05 PM ET/2:05 PM PT	Golden State Juvenile Stakes
Race 6	5:45 PM ET/2:45 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (G1)
Race 7	6:25 PM ET/3:25 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillyes (G1)
Race 8	7:05 PM ET/4:05 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1)
Race 9	7:45 PM ET/4:45 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1)
Race 10	8:25 PM ET/5:25 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1)

Saturday, November 1, 2025

RACE	POST TIME	RACE NAME
Race 1	1:05 PM ET/10:05 AM PT	The Sunrise
Race 2	1:40 PM ET/10:40 AM PT	Ocean View S.
Race 3	2:15 PM ET/11:15 AM PT	Goldikova Stakes
Race 4	3:00 PM ET/12:00 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (G1)
Race 5	3:41 PM ET/12:41 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1)
Race 6	4:21 PM ET/1:21 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1)
Race 7	5:01 PM ET/2:01 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Turf (G1)
Race 8	5:41 PM ET/2:41 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Classic (G1)
Race 9	6:25 PM ET/3:25 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf
Race 10	7:05 PM ET/4:05 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1)
Race 11	7:45 PM ET/4:45 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Mile (G1)
Race 12	8:25 PM ET/5:25 PM PT	Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1)

*Race order and post times are subject to change.



DEL MAR AT A GLANCE

A look at the previous Del Mar meet.

AVG. WINNING ODDS: 5.52 – 1

FAVORITE WIN%: 42% **FAVORITE ITM%:** 72%

EXOTICS	PAYOFF
Pick 3	1,229.93
Pick 4	9,693.01
Pick 5	84,698.96
Pick 6	71,159.13
Daily Double	125.51
Exacta	99.03
Place Pick All	11,266.43
Quinella	51.63
Superfecta	5,033.55
Super High Five	22,297.64
Trifecta	744.41
Triple Trifecta	140.17
Super High Five	31,839.09



TRACK BIAS MEET (07/18 - 09/07)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.5fDirt	35	23%	E	Rail
6.5fDirt	22	36%	E	Outside
1 MileDirt	37	43%	E	Mid/Out
Turf Sprint	49	43%	E	Outside
Turf Routes	90	23%	E	Inside

TRACK BIAS WEEK (09/01 - 09/07)

Distance	# Race	% Wire	Best Style	Best Posts
5.5fDirt	6	33%	E	Rail
6.5fDirt	7	43%	E	Rail/Ins
1 MileDirt	5	60%	E	Rail
Turf Sprint	5	40%	E	Rail/Ins
Turf Routes	14	21%	P	Rail/Ins

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'24-'25 Win %
Eurton Peter	12	4	2	0	11.37	4	17%
Blacker Dan	5	2	0	0	27.64	1	20%

HOT JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'24-'25 Win %
Hernandez Juan J.	26	7	5	1	5.08	4	24%
Prat Flavien	6	3	0	1	4.07	2	23%

COLD TRAINERS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Winning Favorites	'24-'25 Win %
Puype Mike	10	0	1	1	15.33	1	15%

COLD JOCKEYS	Starts	Wins	Place	Show	Avg. Odds	Beaten Favorites	'24-'25 Win %
Frey Kyle	17	0	1	1	27.44	0	12%

EARLY LOOK AT STORYLINES FOR 2025 BREEDERS' CUP: MILESTONES, FUTURE STARS FRIDAY

by Kellie Reilly



The Breeders' Cup will announce pre-entries for the 2025 Championships on Oct. 22, and both Future Stars Friday and the spectacular Saturday card will be drawn on Oct. 27.

As we eagerly await the official fields for the Oct. 31-Nov. 1 extravaganza at Del Mar, the prime contenders and broad outlines are already coming into focus. At this stage, we can map out the early talking points and storylines to watch for the 14 Championship races.

BC MILESTONE WATCH

But first, let's note a few milestones regarding the Breeders' Cup as a whole.

Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien is currently tied with the late Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas for the all-time record of 20 Breeders' Cup wins. Hall of Famer Bob Baffert and Chad Brown are also in hot pursuit with 19 Breeders' Cup victories apiece. Next in the rankings come fellow Hall of Famers Bill Mott and Todd Pletcher (a Lukas protégé), each with 15 wins. All will have chances to increase their totals at Del Mar.

Moreover, O'Brien is closing in on breaking his own record for most Group 1 wins in a single season (28), set in 2017. As of this writing (Oct. 14), he has 22, with the prospect of adding more ahead of the Breeders' Cup.

O'Brien's Coolmore patrons have amassed 23 Breeders' Cup trophies, if you count all of their various partnerships. That number includes several horses based with U.S. trainers.

But rival global empire Godolphin holds the record of 20 wins for a single ownership entity. Also, Sheikh Mohammed al Maktoum was involved in five more winners outside of the Godolphin umbrella, giving him a total of 25. The Godolphin-versus-Coolmore angle will be in play over the course of the Championships.

Jockey Mike Smith has a greater margin as the record-holder in his category, with 27 Breeders' Cup wins. His nearest pursuer is another ageless Hall of Famer, Johnny Velazquez, whose tally stands at 21. But Irad Ortiz Jr. is on their trail with 20 wins so far. Ortiz has won the Bill Shoemaker Award, given annually to the leading rider at the Breeders' Cup, a record five times.

A battle is raging for the distinction of the all-time leading sire at the Championships. Into Mischief, Curlin, and Dubawi are currently tied with the late More Than Ready at eight wins apiece, and the three active sires have multiple chances to break the tie. We'll explore pedigree angles later in Breeders' Cup week.

FUTURE STARS FRIDAY

JUVENILE TURF SPRINT

After Wesley Ward won three in a row (2019-21), the Europeans have countered with three straight wins. Ward hopes to regain the podium with Schwarzenegger, but the international contingent promises to have strength in depth.

AMO Racing has gone awfully close here the past two years (and three of the last four), and Ipanema Queen (co-owned by Stonestreet) will try to break through. O'Brien, who has yet to make the exacta in this race, has long had Charles Darwin in the mix, although he hasn't been seen since his "Win and You're In" at Royal Ascot. According to Daily Racing Form, True Love is now entering calculations for the five-furlong dash.

JUVENILE FILLIES TURF

True Love was originally thought to be the main Ballydoyle protagonist in this spot. O'Brien has won two of the past three editions with fillies exiting the Cheveley Park (G1) – Meditate (2022) and Lake Victoria (2024) – and True Love fits that pattern. But his streaking Fillies Mile (G1) romper Precise might end up here instead.

Brown, a six-time winner of this race, enters with an uncharacteristically under-the-radar type in Deep Learning. She's run sneakily well in the historically key North American preps, the Natalma (G1) and Miss Grillo (G2). Pletcher's Time to Dream is eligible to rebound from her troubled third in the Jessamine (G2) to Imaginationthelady and Godolphin's Infinite Sky, who had a world of trouble herself at Keeneland.

EARLY LOOK AT STORYLINES FOR 2025 BREEDERS' CUP: MILESTONES, FUTURE STARS FRIDAY *(continued)*

by Kellie Reilly

JUVENILE FILLIES

Explora stamped herself as the one to beat with a devastating display in the Oak Leaf (G2) at Santa Anita. If she can give Baffert a third win in this race, she'd join exalted company in Hall of Famer Silverbulletday (1998) and two-time Eclipse Award champion Indian Blessing (2007).

Pletcher hasn't made it to the winner's circle here. To rectify that, Tommy Jo will need to answer the two-turn question more persuasively than she did in her Alcibiades (G1) elevation. Percy's Bar, the first-past-the-post in the Alcibiades, who was disqualified for bumping Tommy Jo, is on a mission to set the record straight.

JUVENILE

Early Kentucky Derby (G1) favoritism is up for grabs, along with the divisional Eclipse Award. Pletcher goes for his fifth Juvenile trophy with unbeaten Ted Noffey, who figures to be favored off romps in the Hopeful (G1) and Breeders' Futurity (G1). Like counterpart Tommy Jo in the fillies' division, Ted Noffey is a Spendthrift colorbearer by the farm's great patriarch, Into Mischief.

But six-time winner Baffert has no shortage of contenders, led by undefeated Del Mar Futurity (G1) hero Brant and runner-up Desert Gate, who's since run another good second to the Jeff Mullins-trained Intrepido in the American Pharoah (G1).

JUVENILE TURF

Can O'Brien win this race four years in a row, and for the eighth time overall? His past three winners all raced in France in their prior start, as did current flagbearer Puerto Rico, who fared better than Unquestionable (2023) and Henri Matisse (2024) when capturing the Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere (G1) on Arc Day. If Puerto Rico stays hot, he'd make it a three-peat for their late sire, Wootton Bassett.

But Godolphin trainer Charlie Appleby is a three-time winner himself, with Wild Desert his likeliest prospect after a rattling second to Argos in the Summer (G1). Pilgrim (G2) winner Bottas is just one of the Breeders' Cup hopefuls for Miguel Clement, who bids for a poignant career milestone after taking over from his late father, Christophe. The other prominent U.S. contender, Pletcher's Final Score, is 3-for-3 on turf with front-running scores in the With Anticipation (G3) and Bourbon (G2).



EARLY LOOK AT STORYLINES FOR 2025 BREEDERS' CUP: CHAMPIONSHIPS SATURDAY

by Kellie Reilly

For defending champion Sierra Leone to join Hall of Famer Tiznow as a two-time Classic (G1) hero, he'll have to beat not only the re-opposing placegetters from 2024, Fierceness and Japan's Forever Young. Also standing in his way is an exceptional group of three-year-olds, led by probable Classic favorite Sovereignty, archival Journalism, the still-developing Baeza, and Baffert's late-blooming Nevada Beach.

Sovereignty is already a historical rarity for sweeping the Kentucky Derby (G1), Belmont (G1), and Travers (G1). If the Bill Mott colt conquers older foes here, he would wrap up Horse of the Year honors for an unprecedented feat. No horse has won those three majors plus the Classic. The only other Derby/Belmont/Travers winner in the Breeders' Cup era, Thunder Gulch (1995), was injured and retired before the Classic.

Fierceness and Forever Young are likewise attempting unprecedented feats of their own. If Fierceness can go one better, he'd become the first Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) champion to win another Breeders' Cup race. A more palatable pace scenario than last year's Classic could be all he needs. Fierceness is one of four potential starters for Todd Pletcher, whose other leading light, Mindframe, must overcome a prep snafu that was no fault of his own.

Forever Young, agonizingly close when third in the 2024 Kentucky Derby, remains a top threat to give Japan its first Classic. He arrives arguably fresher than he was a year ago, and a better post position this time would help him to work out a more favorable trip. His trainer, Yoshito Yahagi, is the only Japanese horseman to win at the Breeders' Cup so far, scoring victories in two other races during the 2021 Championships at Del Mar.

TURF



If Minnie Hauk ships in for seven-time Turf (G1) winner Aidan O'Brien, the outstanding Coolmore filly may have to run a gauntlet of Godolphin rivals. At least Minnie Hauk exits the most historically productive race for the Turf, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1), where she was an excellent runner-up.

Godolphin globetrotter Rebel's Romance will try to become the first three-time Turf winner. The Charlie Appleby veteran would also make history as the first male to turn a Breeders' Cup triple, after queens Goldikova and Beholder.

Yet Godolphin might throw the proverbial kitchen sink at the Turf. John and Thady Gosden's Ombudsman, the world's top-rated horse, has been freshened after his high summer heroics, with a view toward doubling up in Saturday's Champion (G1) at Ascot and the Breeders' Cup. Also under consideration for Godolphin are Appleby's improving El Cordobes and Andre Fabre's Cualificar (an Arc also-ran).

The international bench goes even deeper, including Goliath and a few dark horses, making it difficult for a sparse home team to reverse the overwhelming trends in favor of the raiders.

DISTAFF



In the aftermath of Horse of the Year Thorpedo Anna's shocker in the Spinster (G1), and subsequent abdication, the burning question is who will step up to claim her Distaff (G1) crown.

Several older combatants have claims. Dorth Vader might have gutted Thorpedo Anna when forcing her all the way to the wire in the Personal Ensign (G1) last out. Rested since that Saratoga slugfest, Dorth Vader will try to avoid regressing herself.

Bob Baffert's streaking Seismic Beauty is the local hope after the defection of stablemate Cavalieri, while Spinster surprise Gin Gin and third-placer Scylla are also obvious players. Scylla is out of champion Close Hatches, the runner-up to Beholder in the 2013 Distaff.

At the same time, the Distaff should clarify the divisional picture among the three-year-old fillies, and Spinster near-misser Nitrogen is in pole position to clinch the title. Yet Gin Gin's red-hot trainer, Brendan Walsh, also has an ultra-progressive sophomore in Clicquot.

Although Argentine "Win and You're In" heroine Sarawak Rim appears up against it after changing hemispheres only recently, she furnishes an important storyline. She is the last hurrah for retiring trainer Ignacio Correas, who took over her conditioning when she arrived stateside. Correas has finely nurtured South American imports before, including 2019 Distaff winner Blue Prize, but over a much longer time frame to acclimate.

EARLY LOOK AT STORYLINES FOR 2025 BREEDERS' CUP: CHAMPIONSHIPS SATURDAY *(continued)*

by Kellie Reilly

MILE



Appleby had won three straight runnings of this race until Notable Speech was third as the favorite last year, succumbing to the now-retired More Than Looks and local star Johannes. Notable Speech returns as a stronger four-year-old, coming off a much more dynamic prep in the Woodbine Mile (G1), and is eligible to put up a stiffer fight this time around.

The potent Juddmonte operation could send top sophomore miler Field of Gold, pending his return in Saturday's Queen Elizabeth II (G1) on British Champions Day. Either way, Juddmonte will still have a key contender in fellow three-year-old Jonquil, who was an eye-catching fourth (despite a terrible post) in his U.S. debut in the Coolmore Turf Mile (G1).

The Mile promises to be the most internationally eclectic race of the Championships, with "Win and You're In" hopes from as far afield as South Africa (One Stripe) and Chile (Gran Oriente), as well as Japan and Europe. The foreign legion is still assembling, possibly including the French, and the Ballydoyle squad is to be determined following the withdrawal of Diego Velazquez.

The home team, which historically fares better in the Mile than the Turf, has several capable chances beyond Johannes. Formidable Man can fight Johannes for local bragging rights, with his 6-for-6 mark at Del Mar, and once-beaten Rhetorical proved his class in the Coolmore Turf Mile.

DIRT MILE



Lightly-raced but uber-talented Nysos might well have been in the Classic if not for a setback that ruled him out of the Pacific Classic (G1). Instead, the Baffert celebrity lands in the deepest-ever running of this race, featuring 2024 Kentucky Derby upsetter Mystik Dan, 2023 Breeders' Cup Classic romper White Abarrio, and 2024 Breeders' Cup Juvenile champion Citizen Bull. With such historically significant contenders, it's no wonder that the reigning titleholder, Full Serrano, could get overlooked again.

Mystik Dan isn't the first Derby winner to try the Dirt Mile (G1). Mine That Bird, the 2009 Derby stunner, was long off form when he was 10th in the Dirt Mile the following year. Mystik Dan fans can take heart that there's no parallel between them here.

Citizen Bull, a younger stablemate of Nysos, gives Baffert a one-two punch. There's also precedent for a reigning Juvenile champion to decamp to a spot other than the Classic. It's not a recipe for success, however, with the best results being Gilded Time's heroic third in the 1993 Sprint off a year-long layoff, and Midshipman's third in the 2009 Dirt Mile.

Midshipman turns up here, vicariously, as the sire of South American import Touch of Destiny. The first Uruguayan-bred to compete in the Breeders' Cup, he brings a perfect record into his U.S. premiere for trainer Michael McCarthy.

White Abarrio is breaking new ground in another way. He's the first Classic hero to attempt to win a different race in a subsequent renewal of the Championships.

If Full Serrano manages to fend off all comers, he'd emulate Goldencents (2013-2014) and Cody's Wish (2022-23) as repeat winners.

SPRINT



Defending champion Straight No Chaser attempts to equal the feat of repeat winners Midnight Lute (2007-08), Roy H (2017-18), and Elite Power (2022-23). But he'll have to rebound from his prep loss to Imagination, representing five-time Sprint winner Baffert, and Dr. Venkman. Last year's respective second and third, Bentornato and Mullikin, along with Wesley Ward's veteran Nakatomi, the third-placer from 2023, are all back in the fray.

An intriguing wildcard is Japanese-based sophomore American Stage, a stablemate of Classic contender Forever Young. Females used to factor in this race before getting a sprint of their own, and according to Daily Racing Form, Kopion has emerged as a fascinating possibility to roll back the clock.

EARLY LOOK AT STORYLINES FOR 2025 BREEDERS' CUP: CHAMPIONSHIPS SATURDAY *(continued)*

by Kellie Reilly

FILLY & MARE SPRINT



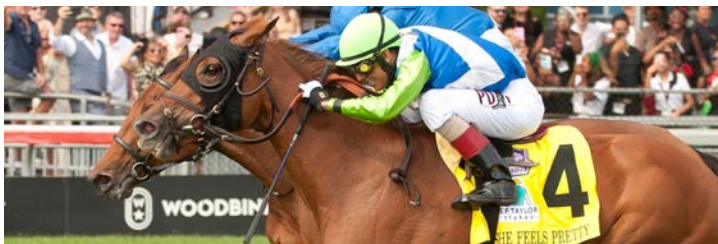
Kopion's potential rerouting to the Sprint would ease the path for her stablemate, Beholder's daughter Tamara, in the distaffers' version. Trained like her dam by Richard Mandella for Spendthrift Farm, the oft-sidelined Tamara instantly became a Breeders' Cup storyline when dominating her comeback. She'll try to put Beholder in the very exclusive club of Breeders' Cup winners who foaled a Breeders' Cup winner.

The original mother-child tandem was Personal Ensign (1988) and My Flag (1995), which established a three-generation sequence by producing Storm Flag Flying (2002). The others are Hollywood Wildcat (1993) and son War Chant (2000), and most recently, Shared Account (2010) and daughter Sharing (2019).

Baffert won't mind if Kopion changes targets, since his classy trio of Hope Road, Richi, and Splendor have all been beaten by her. Hope Road hopes to land the prize that eluded her dam, Marley's Freedom, who was fourth as the Baffert-trained favorite in 2018.

Contenders wanting to turn the page on last year's disappointments include Vahva (a lackluster eighth here) and Sweet Azteca (who missed the 2024 edition after a flop in her last prep). In contrast, Saffie Joseph Jr. hopes that history repeats, as his Haulin Ice stamped her ticket the same way that his 2024 upsetter, Soul of an Angel, did, in the Princess Rooney (G3).

FILLY & MARE TURF



Cinderella's Dream, an unlucky runner-up here a year ago, has had a revenge mission in her sights all season for Appleby. Unlike 2024, when she spent the heart of her campaign stateside, the Godolphin homebred has raced abroad this term with mixed results.

Stablemate Diamond Rain arrives on the upswing, after nearly catching She Feels Pretty in the E.P. Taylor (G1). That Woodbine

feature was the stepping stone of choice for 2024 Filly & Mare Turf (G1) heroine Moira. Moved from the fall to Aug. 16 this year, the E.P. Taylor could be the key piece of the North American form.

She Feels Pretty, a head away from a six-race winning spree, ranks as the leading U.S. contender for Cherie DeVaux. Her only loss this term came at the hands of now-retired Excellent Truth, who would have been a prime threat for four-time Filly & Mare Turf winner Brown. Yet the Brown barn is so well stocked that he immediately found a replacement in fellow Resolute acquisition Village Voice.

Although the Flower Bowl (G2) historically has served as the most informative domestic guide, it hasn't had the same degree of impact since its transfer to Saratoga four years ago. The Clement-trained Bellezza has the right profile to bring it back into the limelight.

A few of the international possibles competed over Arc weekend. See the Fire and Wemightakelongway were beaten narrowly in the Prix de l'Opera (G1), a pointer to this race, while Gezora was unplaced versus older males in the Arc itself.

TURF SPRINT



Motorious hopes that the third time's the charm in this race, after a stymied fifth as the favorite in 2023 and a near-miss second in 2024. Yet other angles abound.

Females have excelled here, and last year's close third, Ag Bullet, tops the list of distaffers aspiring to join the honor roll. The brilliant Shisospicy aims to make history as the first three-year-old filly to beat males in the Turf Sprint (G1).

Nobals, the 2023 upsetter, has run himself back into the picture. If he can emulate Mizdirection (2012-13) and Stormy Liberal (2017-18) as a two-time winner, Nobals would be the first in non-consecutive years.

Two of the past four winners were graduates of the prior year's Juvenile Turf Sprint (G1). Arizona Blaze, runner-up in the 2024 Juvenile Turf Sprint, is the leading alum to enhance the trend. He's also among the boatload of international contenders, including a Japanese delegation.

BRITISH CHAMPIONS DAY TO BREEDERS' CUP: KEY STATS FOR QUICK TURNAROUND

by Kellie Reilly

With British Champions Day at Ascot positioned fairly close to the Breeders' Cup, connections often opt for one major festival or the other. But some hardy souls do compete in both, and a few even manage to run very well on the quick turnaround.

British filly Pebbles (1985) remains the only horse to achieve a Champion (G1)/Breeders' Cup double, although her conquest came decades before the development of the Champions Day concept. She captured the 1 1/4-mile Champion at its ancient home, Newmarket, on Oct. 19, and on two weeks' rest, she famously darted up the Aqueduct rail to prevail in the Nov. 2 Turf (G1).

In 2011, the Champion was transferred to Ascot as the centerpiece of a new marquee day of racing. Several other long-established contests in different divisions were likewise grafted onto "British Champions Day."

Because British Champions Day provides a line of demarcation, so to speak, from the earlier era, we'll consider the stats and trends emerging since its 2011 inception.

One trainer in particular is happy to wheel horses right back into the Breeders' Cup – Aidan O'Brien. The prolific master of Ballydoyle has sent out *25* Breeders' Cup runners on the relatively short rest from Ascot. By contrast, Godolphin trainer Charlie Appleby and John Gosden have tried that gambit with only three runners apiece.

Of those 25 for O'Brien, *nine* finished in the top three in the Breeders' Cup, making for a 36% in-the-money rate. Two more rounded out the superfecta in fourth. But the percentage increases to 42.8% if you remove the dirt experimenters and include only his turf performers.

Of the nine from Ballydoyle who ran well enough for a top-three placing, the lone winner was Found (2015). Runner-up in the Champion at Ascot, the three-year-old filly moved forward to foil odds-on favorite Golden Horn in the Turf at Keeneland. Found followed the same itinerary in the fall of 2016, but she peaked to win the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) and wound up second in the Champion and third in the Turf at Santa Anita.

Fellow Ballydoyle distaffer Magical delivered top-tier efforts in defeat in both of her Breeders' Cup Turf appearances. As a sophomore, she beat elders in the 2018 British Champions Fillies & Mares (G1) before succumbing narrowly to the great Enable at Churchill Downs.

In 2019, Magical won the Champion over males, only to miss the Breeders' Cup due to a fever. Brought back as a five-year-old in 2020, Magical maintained her stellar form until well into the fall, when she was third in her Champion title defense and runner-up again in the Turf at Keeneland.

The other five O'Brien placegetters improved markedly from Ascot. Lancaster Bomber placed second in the 2017 Mile (G1) on his preferred ground at Del Mar, after bombing in 14th in the Queen Elizabeth II (G1) on soft going. Highland Reel, a distant third off a layoff in the Champion, was a much closer third when bidding to repeat in the 2017 Turf. Five years later, in 2022, Stone Age was taking a leap forward from a fifth in the Champion to finish runner-up in the Turf.

O'Brien's wildly improbable trifecta in the 2020 Mile included two rebounding from British Champions Day flops. Circus Maximus, 10th in the Queen Elizabeth II, and Lope Y Fernandez, seventh in the British Champions Sprint (G1), were a near-miss second and third, respectively, to 73-1 stablemate Order of Australia.

The Ballydoyle record is even more interesting if viewed through the prism of the actual turnaround time. Occasionally, there is a three-week gap between British Champions Day and the Breeders' Cup, but the typical spacing is just two weeks.

O'Brien is the only trainer to win or even place in the Breeders' Cup wheeling back from Champions Day on two weeks' rest. While Found's victory and Magical's 2018 Turf placing came in Kentucky, Lancaster Bomber and Highland Reel produced excellent efforts shipping all the way out to Del Mar.



BRITISH CHAMPIONS DAY TO BREEDERS' CUP: KEY STATS FOR QUICK TURNAROUND *(continued)*

by Kellie Reilly

Those four performances, from 15 Ballydoyle starters on the two-week turnaround, give O'Brien an in-the-money percentage of about 26.6%. If you eliminate three runners who were testing dirt, and stick to turf only, he's hitting the top three at 33%.

That stat could prove to be significant with the Nov. 1 Breeders' Cup at Del Mar positioned, as usual, two weeks after the Ascot festival on Oct. 18.

The other two trainers who won a Breeders' Cup race backing up from Ascot – the retired Sir Michael Stoute with Queen's Trust (2016) and Appleby with Modern Games (2022) – had the extra week's grace.

Queen's Trust had a nearly two-month break going into Ascot, where she finished third in the 1 1/2-mile British Champions Fillies & Mares on Oct. 15, 2016. Reverting in trip three weeks later for the 1 1/4-mile Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (G1), she inflicted heartbreak on fan favorite Lady Eli Nov. 5 at Santa Anita.

Modern Games similarly had three weeks to regroup from his runner-up effort in the Queen Elizabeth II, at a rain-affected Ascot, and justify favoritism in a firm-ground Mile at Keeneland on Nov. 5, 2022.

Kinross, third to Modern Games in that Mile, was himself making a quick reappearance. During a very busy second half of the season for trainer Ralph Beckett, Kinross had just scored in the British Champions Sprint, a mere 13 days after taking the Prix de la Foret (G1) on Arc Day.

The 2022 British Champions Sprint also factored in that year's Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1). Appleby's Creative Force, who had been third to Kinross at Ascot, was a barnstorming third over a 5 1/2-furlong trip short of his ideal at Keeneland. Stablemate Naval Crown was well beaten in both races, having gone off form at the end of his career.

Although Gosden has yet to succeed with his Breeders' Cup hopes wheeling back from British Champions Day, his trio that attempted it demands context. Turf star Roaring Lion, who extended his winning streak to four in the Queen Elizabeth II on Oct. 20, 2018, failed to handle dirt in the Nov. 3 Classic (G1) and eased home in last.

Gosden fielded two chances in the 2020 Turf at Keeneland, staged three weeks after the Ascot festivities. Lord North, a subpar last of 10 in the Champion, was a valiant fourth when stepping up to a 1 1/2-mile distance that was a shade too far for him. Stablemate Mehdaayih, a tiring fourth in the British Champions Fillies & Mares, reported home seventh versus males in the Turf. She ran to the level of her form at the time.

The 2025 Breeders' Cup promises to add more data points to this ongoing tale of two championships.



PRIX DE L'OPERA AS A STEPPING STONE TO BC FILLY & MARE TURF

by Kellie Reilly

While the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) historically has furnished major contenders for the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1), the Prix de l'Opera (G1) on Arc Day has become a pipeline to the Filly & Mare Turf (G1), especially in recent years.

That association could be strengthened in the Nov. 1 renewal of the Filly & Mare Turf, with a few Opera alumnae currently under consideration for a trip to Del Mar.

The about 1 1/4-mile Opera has furnished four Filly & Mare Turf winners, but interestingly, all had lost in France before rebounding stateside.

Midday set the precedent in 2009 for the late Sir Henry Cecil. Third in the Opera off a two-month break, the Juddmonte homebred moved forward to deliver a rail-skimming burst going 1 1/4 miles at Santa Anita.

The Opera proved to be the key race for the 2017 Filly & Mare Turf, serving up the Wuheida-Rhododendron exacta. The Charlie Appleby-trained Wuheida had finished a close fourth to Aidan O'Brien's Rhododendron on soft going in the Opera, but relished the firm turf at Del Mar – and took advantage of Rhododendron's being marooned in post 14 – to turn the tables in the Breeders' Cup.

It must be noted that 2017 presents a few anomalies. The Opera was held at Chantilly during the redevelopment of ParisLongchamp. The Filly & Mare Turf was contested at 1 1/8 miles that year (and 3-2 favorite Lady Eli was badly hampered in the chute). Moreover, Wuheida was originally going to wheel back from the Opera in the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1) at Keeneland, only to scratch.

The two most recent Opera graduates to win the Filly & Mare Turf both did so in the 1 3/16-mile version at Keeneland.

Audarya (2020) was coming off a third in the Opera to Tarnawa, who would star in that Breeders' Cup herself by landing the Turf. Trained by James Fanshawe, Audarya rallied to deny favorite Rushing Fall in a course-record 1:52.72.

Tuesday (2022), sixth on unsuitably soft ground in the Opera, thrived over Keeneland's firm turf to break Audarya's course record in 1:51.88. The O'Brien filly gained revenge on the respective second and third in the Opera, Above the Curve, and Nashwa, who closed belatedly. Favored Nashwa checked in a wide-trip fourth, and Above the Curve got up for seventh.

In addition to the quartet of winners, the Opera is responsible for five who placed in the Filly & Mare Turf. Three of them were Opera heroines who went close to turning the double.

Aside from Rhododendron, Nahrain (2011) and Wild Illusion (2018) finished second in 1 3/8-mile editions at Churchill Downs. The Roger

Varian-trained Nahrain, 4-for-4 after her photo-finish decision in the Opera, was outstayed by longshot Perfect Shirl. Appleby's Wild Illusion could not hold off champion Sistercharlie, who collared her by a neck.

The other two placed fillies took third. O'Brien's Yesterday (2003), who missed by a head in the Opera, rallied from well back for third to Islington at Santa Anita. Queen's Jewel (2015), ninth off a layoff in the Opera, improved to take third behind Stephanie's Kitten despite a troubled trip at Keeneland.

Eight of the nine Opera alumnae to factor in the Filly & Mare Turf – three of the four winners and all five placers – were sophomores. The lone exception is the four-year-old Audarya.

Audarya highlights a different angle worth noting, namely, sneaky contenders exiting the Opera. She returned \$37.60, while Wuheida furnished \$24.40. Even the well-known Tuesday offered some value by paying \$10.38. Yesterday (14.70-1) and Queen's Jewel (13.20-1) enhanced the exotics for bettors aware of their credentials.





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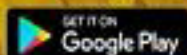
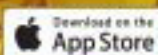
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