

Breeders' Cup Rankings

By MIKE WATCHMAKER

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Classic contenders

3-year-olds & up, 1 1/4 miles. Purse: \$5 million.

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Bernardini	T. Albertrani	8-5
Now boasts four straight Beyer Figures between 113 and 117; wow!			
2	Discreet Cat	S. bin Suroor	7-2
As long as there's a shot of him running, he'll be ranked near the top			
3	Sun King	N. Zito	12-1
Ran against speed bias in Woodward; nose behind Invasor in Whitney			
4	Invasor	K. McLaughlin	8-1
Talented, but it's hard to love him now due to his poorly timed illness			
5	Lava Man	D. O'Neill	5-1
Only reason why he isn't rated higher is the uncertainty over shipping			
6	George Washington	A. O'Brien	12-1
Distance a question, and after the Dylan Thomas debacle, so is dirt			
7	Shirocco	A. Fabre	15-1
Though this is a possible target, he's more likely to run in the Turf			
8	David Junior	B. Meehan	15-1
Considered a 1 1/4-mile specialist, that's why this Euro is eying this			
9	Brother Derek	D. Hendricks	20-1
His second to Lava Man in the Goodwood was his best race in a while			
10	Strong Contender	J. Ward Jr.	20-1
Liked his Super Derby win; can still improve; then again, he'll have to			

Juvenile contenders

2-year-old colts & geldings, 1 1/16 miles. Purse: \$2 million.

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Principle Secret	C. Paasch	4-1
Game 2nd in Norfolk after setting fast pace; this division is wide open			
2	Great Hunter	D. O'Neill	5-1
Was it Polytrack, or the two turns that triggered his Kee breakthrough?			
3	Circular Quay	T. Pletcher	7-2
Won't get too down on him for Polytrack loss, but he still disappointed			
4	Stormello	W. Cumin	6-1
Not sure where it came from, but his Norfolk win was a strong effort			
5	Nobiz Like Shobiz	B. Tagg	12-1
Impressive, double-digit margin romp going a mile in his career debut			
6	King of the Roxy	T. Pletcher	6-1
His win in the Belmont Futurity was workmanlike, at the very best			
7	C P West	N. Zito	10-1
Eligible to improve off second in Bel. Futurity, but is iffy for this race			
8	Scat Daddy	T. Pletcher	12-1
No match for Circular Quay in Hopeful, but might be capable of better			
9	Got the Last Laugh	W. Mott	15-1
Like the step forward he took at Arlington; must continue that trend			
10	Straight Faced	S. DiMauro	15-1
His Calder form is flawless, but this is a significant step up for him			

Mile contenders

3-year-olds & up, 1 mile (turf). Purse: \$2 million.

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	ODDS
1	George Washington	A. O'Brien	9-5
Impressive QE II winner is now also a potential starter in the Classic			
2	Araafa	J. Nosedda	5-1
Second in QE II, but upset George Washington in Irish 2000 Guineas			
3	Aragorn	N. Drysdale	7-2
Most recent win wasn't great, even if he wasn't primed for a peak race			
4	Court Masterpiece	E. Dunlop	12-1
Third finisher in QE II might go to Hong Kong instead of coming here			
5	Gorella	P. Biancone	8-1
First signaled how good she is when an unlucky third in this last year			
6	Aussie Rules	A. O'Brien	12-1
His Shadwell Mile win had to be a big boost for European hopes here			
7	Librettist	S. bin Suroor	12-1
Physical ailments after his poor QE II weren't as bad as first thought			
8	Miesque's Approval	M. Wolfson	15-1
Mediocre fourth in the Shadwell Mile suggests his form has plateaued			
9	Echo of Light	S. bin Suroor	15-1
Won last two over lesser, but his European form appears a cut below			
10	Ad Valorem	A. O'Brien	20-1
Not as good as the other two O'Brien horses listed; not a stiff, either			

Distaff contenders

3-year-olds & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/8 miles. Purse: \$2 million.

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Fleet Indian	T. Pletcher	9-5
As if she wasn't already dangerous enough, now she rates and wins			
2	Balletto	T. Albertrani	6-1
Got the contested pace she needs, ran top one to a photo in Beldame			
3	Pine Island	C. McGaughey	5-1
Now the best 3yo filly; barn won this last year with a lesser performer			
4	Spun Sugar	T. Pletcher	6-1
Not willing to take her loss in the Polytrack-Spinster as a true indicator			
5	Healthy Addiction	J. Sadler	8-1
On another win streak, but her Lady's Secret Beyer fig was very low			
6	Happy Ticket	A. Leggio Jr.	10-1
As with Spun Sugar, best not to take her Spinster loss at face value			
7	Pool Land	T. Pletcher	15-1
Ruffian winner helps strengthen Pletcher's powerful hand in this race			
8	Round Pond	M. Matz	20-1
She has a right to improve off her third in the Beldame; she needs to			
9	Asi Siembre	P. Biancone	15-1
It's up to her to prove that her Spinster win wasn't a Polytrack fluke			
10	Bushfire	E. Kenneally	20-1
Despite having three Gr. 1 wins, she has yet to run reasonably fast			

Juvenile Fillies contenders

2-year-old fillies, 1 1/16 miles. Purse: \$2 million.

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Cash Included	C. Dollase	3-1
Her decisive Oak Leaf win, though an eye-opener, was totally for real			
2	Point Ashley	B. Baffert	5-2
Whether primed for the Oak Leaf or not, she was merely second best			
3	Dreaming of Anna	W. Catalano	4-1
The question here is if she can transfer her fine turf stakes form to dirt			
4	Untouched Talent	J. Bonde	8-1
Second in the Alcibiades while going against a Polytrack closer's bias			
5	Bel Air Beauty	F. Brothers	15-1
Upset the Alcibiades at 47-1; let's see her validate that on a dirt track			
6	Meadow Breeze	C. Deville	20-1
Was a complete surprise, but dead game, when she took the Matron			
7	Featherbed	T. Pletcher	15-1
Set a fast pace under pressure when beaten a head in the Matron			
8	Appealing Zophie	S. Biasi	15-1
Tired after setting Alcibiades pace; won't hold that loss against her			
9	Cotton Blossom	T. Pletcher	10-1
Must get considerably faster soon; yet to crack an 80 Beyer Figure			
10	Octave	T. Pletcher	15-1
Was part of that three-way photo in Matron, her fastest race so far			

Sprint contenders

3-year-olds & up, 6 furlongs. Purse: \$2 million.

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Bordonaro	W. Spawr	3-1
Terrific winning the Ancient Title, but he's unlikely to be supplemented			
2	Henny Hughes	K. McLaughlin	2-1
Vosburgh winner will be a very heavy favorite if Bordonaro doesn't run			
3	Siren Lure	A. Sherman	6-1
Has won six of his last seven starts; wonder if he prefers 7 furlongs			
4	Pomero	M. Wolfson	8-1
Questions here are, does he prefer Saratoga, as well as 7 furlongs?			
5	War Front	H. A. Jenkins	10-1
In excellent form, but there always seems to be one better than him			
6	Dubai Escapade	E. Harty	12-1
Connections should consider this given how she won the Ballerina			
7	Too Much Bling	B. Baffert	12-1
Like Henny Hughes, he's a talented 3-year-old who certainly belongs			
8	Thor's Echo	D. O'Neill	15-1
His second to Bordonaro in the Ancient Title was very good; intriguing			
9	Attila's Storm	R. Schosberg	15-1
Certainly has a right to improve on his third in Vosburgh off long layoff			
10	Kelly's Landing	E. Kenneally	20-1
Polytrack issues aside, his Phoenix win was not fast enough for this			

Turf contenders

3-year-olds & up, 1 1/2 miles (turf). Purse: \$3 million.

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Shirocco	A. Fabre	7-2
Last year's Turf winner suffered first defeat of year in dull Arc effort			
2	English Channel	T. Pletcher	9-2
Beat little, but his Joe Hirsch Turf Classic win signaled a return to form			
3	Cacique	R. Frankel	5-1
Showed a particularly powerful late kick when he won the Man o' War			
4	Dylan Thomas	A. O'Brien	6-1
At the very least, he'll be thrilled to get back on turf after Gold Cup flop			
5	The Tin Man	R. Mandella	5-1
Tougher than expected win last time; still perfect in the U.S. this year			
6	David Junior	B. Meehan	8-1
Classic is his distinct preference, but this remains a potential option			
7	Red Rocks	B. Meehan	12-1
Factor if he can run back to his second to Arc winner Rail Link in July			
8	T. H. Approval	E. India	12-1
Has never been this good; then again, he's never been in better form			
9	Better Talk Now	H. G. Motion	20-1
Now that the Melbourne Cup is out; this race is back on old pro's radar			
10	Go Deputy	T. Pletcher	20-1
More likely to compete in the Canadian International than this event			

Filly & Mare Turf contenders

3-year-olds & up, Fillies & Mares, 1 3/8 miles (turf). Purse: \$2 million.

RANK	HORSE	TRAINER	ODDS
1	Ouija Board	E. Dunlop	2-1
The 2004 winner is in better form than when second in this last year			
2	Wait a While	T. Pletcher	3-1
Her Yellow Ribbon score was tremendous; can give Ouija Board fits			
3	Gorella	P. Biancone	5-1
Wonder if Wait a While's Yellow Ribbon will tip her toward the Mile			
4	Honey Ryder	T. Pletcher	8-1
Got back on the beam in Flower Bowl, but still seems a notch below			
5	Film Maker	H. G. Motion	12-1
Very little between her and Honey Ryder, except for racing luck			
6	Alexandrova	A. O'Brien	10-1
Winner of three Gr. 1 Oaks this year disappointed last time in Paris			
7	Satwa Queen	J. de Roualle	12-1
All her races this year were good, but not as good as Ouija Board's			
8	Germance	J. Rouget	15-1
Once-beaten French Gr. 1 winner is pointing to the QE Cup at Kee			
9	Magnificent Song	T. Pletcher	20-1
Much improved 3-year-old is still a second-stringer to Wait a While			
10	Angara	W. Mott	20-1
Her dull fourth in the Flower Bowl might be a sign of declining form			

The top 10 contenders for each of the eight Breeders' Cup races are ranked by Mike Watchmaker, who set the odds and wrote the comments. Actual Breeders' Cup fields will have up to 14 starters.