



Breeders' Cup Classic



Purse:	\$5 Million
Distance:	1¼ miles (Dirt)
Age:	3 Year Old & Up

TOP CONTENDERS

American Pharoah - The Triple Crown winner comes in off a two-month layoff after a hard fought loss in the G1 Travers to Keen Ice and needed a little time off. The BC Classic will be his 1st race against older horses. Won the G1 Kentucky Derby and lost the G1 Travers at this 1¼ mile distance. Has been working sharp as usual at Santa Anita.

Beholder - Won the Pacific Classic over her male counterparts at this 1¼ mile distance easily, but that field wasn't on the same class level as this BC. Ran the highest Beyer Speed Figure of the year with a 113 in the Pacific Classic. Hasn't shipped well in the past and after shipping from California into Keeneland early to prep on Oct. 19th, she spiked a slight fever, which is obviously concerning coming into the biggest race of her career.

Honor Code - Prepped for the BC Classic at a mile in the Kelso getting 3rd over a sloppy Belmont track. Has never raced at this 1¼ mile distance. His two-turn, distance experience is questionable and he is pace dependent with his closing tactics. He has been training "lights out" at Belmont with a huge work on Oct. 19th.

Tonalist - Only horse in field to run in the 2014 BC Classic and ran a sneaky good 5th closing late last year. All of his Grade 1 wins have come at Belmont Park so he'll have to show he can win shipping. One of the only horses in the field truly proven at the 1¼ mile distance. His G1 Jockey Club Gold Cup in his last win shows he's in form, but was in the slop at his favorite track. If he runs with or without blinkers and how close he will be to the pace are the key questions.

VALUE PLAYS & LONGSHOTS

Smooth Roller - Grade 1 winner after his impressive win in the Awesome Again with perfect trip, but it was over a questionable field. BC Classic is definitely a step up in class. Got a 111 Beyer and had a great gallop out in the Awesome Again. He's the mystery horse in the field lightly raced with only 4 career starts.

Frosted - Went back to his mid-pack to closing tactics in the G2 Pennsylvania Derby with Joel Rosario back in the saddle to win impressively. This will be his 1st time racing against elders. Has shown he can be closer to the pace, if needed. He's been training over polytrack in Saratoga for Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin.

Keen Ice - Kept improving every race this year and finally won his 2nd career race on the biggest stage in the G1 Travers upsetting American Pharoah. This will be his 1st time racing against older horses. He'll need to get the jump on Honor Code to close before him, but has been closer to the pace in his past few races.

Gleneagles - Trainer Aidan O'Brien will bring this 3 year old in from Europe for his 1st race in the US. He won three straight Group 1 races this year before his loss in the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth II on Oct. 17th. Has never raced on the dirt or over a mile.

Others: **Hard Aces** (Qualified in Santa Anita Gold Cup, 6th in both Pacific Classic & Awesome Again), **Effinex** (hasn't impressed in last 2 after beating Tonalist in G2 Suburban), **Hoppertunity** (always a threat to hit the board)

- Pace:**
- **Early Speed:** American Pharoah, Beholder
 - **Stalkers:** Smooth Roller
 - **Closers:** Honor Code, Keen Ice, Tonalist, Gleneagles, Effinex, Hard Aces

American Pharoah may have it his own way on the front end, as he has the best early speed in the field. **Beholder** and **Smooth Roller** will both press the pace. **Keen Ice** was closer to the pace in the Travers and **Honor Code** also prepped in the Kelso closer to the pace. **Tonalist** has been closer to the pace in the past, but those tries were with blinkers on.

The Play:

- If **Tonalist** stalks the pace and be close to the frontrunner then he is the win play at anything about 6/1 odds.
- Taking **American Pharoah** at low odds off a two month layoff and facing elders for the 1st time is definitely a tough play. Still the pace scenario is definitely in his favor if he isn't pressed early.
- **Smooth Roller** at anything above 15/1 odds is a good longshot play and is definitely the mystery horse in the field. He can be an exotics play that can pay off.

Staff Picks:

	Ruck	Saratoga Slim	Bobby Souza	Aaron	Jared	CONSENSUS	Points
Win		Tonalist					
Place		American Pharoah					
Show		Smooth Roller					