

14 TRENDS TO KNOW

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE
2021 BREEDERS' CUP
WAGERING GUIDE



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FUTURE STARS FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 5

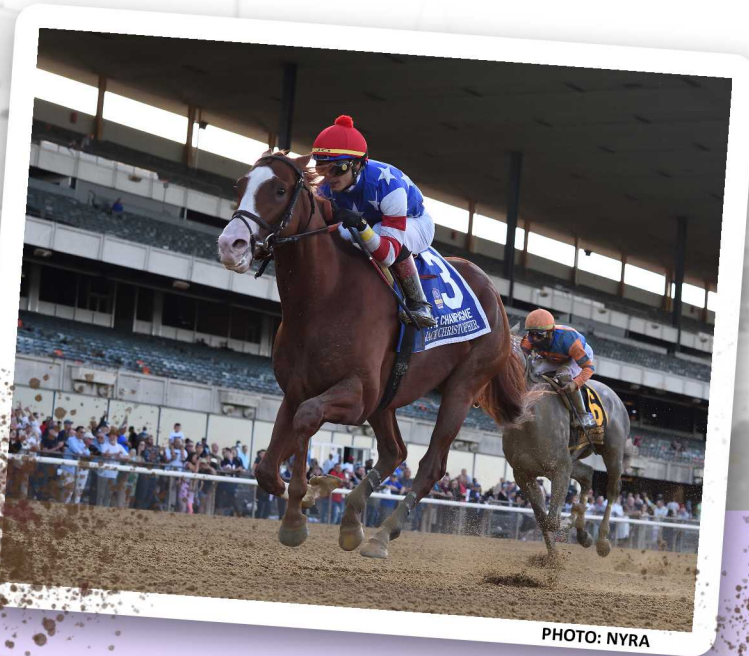


PHOTO: NYRA

TVG JUVENILE

This race may be the most productive Kentucky Derby prep race in recent history. Plain and simple, the winner of this race will become one of the classier horses in the crop. In fact, the last six TVG Juvenile winners (Essential Quality, Storm the Court, Game Winner, Good Magic, Classic Empire, and Nyquist) each made it to the Kentucky Derby starting gate the following year. Only ONE of those horses went off the TVG Juvenile favorite (Game Winner).

Takeaway: Don't bet class. Bet future class.



PHOTO: NYRA

JUVENILE TURF

Even though European-based horses won the Juvenile Turf 10 times in the history of the race (14 total), a 71% clip, Americans won this race three of the last five years (Fire At Will, Structor, and Oscar Performance), and none were favored.

Takeaway: The American who seems mostly likely to fit this year's profile is Annapolis for trainer Todd Pletcher. If going the American route, he's your horse.

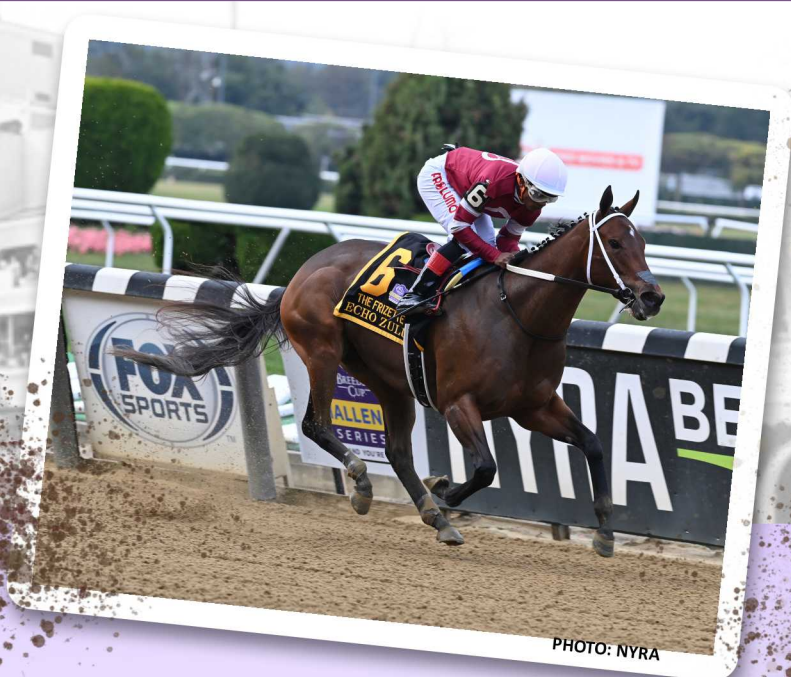


PHOTO: NYRA

JUVENILE FILLIES

The favorite curse continued in last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies as we saw heavy favorite Princess Noor falter terribly. Just once in the last nine years (11%), and just three times in the last 12 years (25%), has the post-time favorite won the Juvenile Fillies (Songbird in 2015, My Miss Aurelia in 2011, and Awesome Feather in 2010). Steve Asmussen will saddle the likely favorite Echo Zulu in this year's running.

Takeaway: *UPSET ALERT! Likely one of the heavier favorites of the day, Gun Runner filly Echo Zulu, will roll in here with an unbeaten record. This may be the race to beat her.*



PHOTO: MICHAEL BURNS PHOTO

JUVENILE FILLIES TURF

You won't expect this one. American-based trainers truly dominate the Juvenile Fillies Turf, winning 11 of its 13 runnings (85%). The likes of Chad Brown, Brad Cox, and Christophe Clement may have runners this year. But what American-based horse can you depend on? Therein lies the problem. However, if the Natalma winner - European-based filly Wild Beauty (GB) - shows up here, then you should get a price on an American.

Takeaway: *Find a moderately-priced American-based runner and pair her with the likely favorite Wild Beauty. Boom.*

JUVENILE TURF SPRINT

In a race that is only a few years old (debuting in 2018 at Churchill Downs), a MAJOR trend has already developed: American speed horses at short prices. The only three winners of the Juvenile Turf Sprint (Bulletin, Four Wheel Drive, and Golden Pal) were based in the United States, won gate to wire, and took a lot of money at the windows. And we might even have a secondary trend developing here as well: Wesley Ward. The trainer has now won this race 2 of the 3 years, including the last two.

Takeaway: Guess what? Wesley Ward's American-based speedster Averly Jane will be the likely favorite of this year's running. Say. No. More.

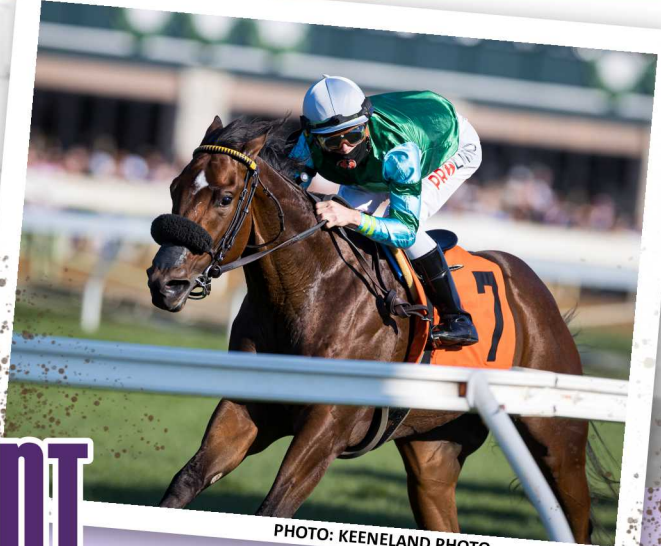


PHOTO: KEENELAND PHOTO

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6



PHOTO: ERNIE BELMONTE

LONGINES CLASSIC

Fun fact: the favorite only won the Longines Classic twice in the past 11 years (18%). Another fun fact: the average odds of the Longines Classic winner is close to 5/1 over that same time period. Plain and simple, Class wins the Classic. With the likes of Essential Quality, Hot Rod Charlie, Knicks Go, and Medina Spirit all oozing class, what do you do? Did you know in a race primarily aimed at older horses, 3-year-olds have won the Classic 4 times in the last 7 years? Did you also know all 4 were trained by Bob Baffert? (Bayern, American Pharoah, Arrogate, and Authentic)

Takeaway: Bob Baffert trains a 3-year-old in this year's Breeders' Cup Classic who will not be the favorite. I'm not saying. I'm just saying.

LONGINES TURF



PHOTO: COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

European-based horses won the Longines Turf 11 of the last 13 years (85%): Conduit (IRE) (2x), Magician (IRE), Found (IRE), Highland Reel (IRE), Talismanic (GB), Enable (GB), and Tarnawa (IRE). They just win. If defending champion Tarnawa returns, she will be tough and has a trend to back her.

Takeaway: Perhaps the one horse in Tarnawa's way is Chad Brown's Domestic Spending (GB), once believed to be the favorite here. If you don't like chalk, then this may be your horse. It's worth noting that Brown won this race in 2019 with Bricks and Mortar.



PHOTO: ERNIE BELMONTE

LONGINES DISTAFF

It's no coincidence that two of the biggest races at the Breeders' Cup World Championships are consistently won by logical horses. Class wins big races. The last horse to win the Longines Distaff at double-digit odds was Round Pond, who was 13/1 in 2006. In the 14 years since, the winner's average odds have been 4/1, with the likes of Zenyatta, Royal Delta (2x), Beholder, Untapable, and Monomoy Girl (2x) winning in that span. Even when Blue Prize upset Midnight Bisou in 2019 at 9/1, she was still single-digit odds. Class. Class. Class.

Takeaway: Letruska will no doubt be the heavy favorite to win the Longines Distaff, so if playing against her, make it a logical horse under 10/1 odds. You have options.



PHOTO: KEENELAND PHOTO

FANDUEL MILE

After Goldikova (IRE) won her THIRD STRAIGHT Breeders' Cup Fanduel Mile, American-based horses went on a tear, winning six of the next seven runnings. However, that reign appears to have ended; European-bred horses won the last three years.

Takeaway: Two years ago, Chad Brown saddled the winning British-bred Uni, who began her career overseas and showed that she was the best of both worlds. Could he do it this year with British-bred Blowout?



PHOTO: NYRA

QATAR RACING SPRINT

This trend gets driven home every year: just two horses (Reraise in 1998 and Big Drama in 2010) in the last 23 years won the Sprint gate to wire. Last year, the legendary Whitmore came from off the pace. Two years ago, we saw Shancelot blaze early before Mitole came from off the pace. Bottom line, speed is cheap in the Sprint, so bet off-the-pace runners.

Takeaway: All-world Jackie's Warrior will be the headline here. He's shown speed, but he's also shown an ability to sit off the speed. Expect the field to test him early, so he could sit off and continue this trend of domination in the Sprint.

MAKER'S MARK FILLY & MARE TURF



PHOTO: NYRA

This stat keeps getting better: in the past nine years, either Chad Brown or an international trainer won the Maker's Mark Filly & Mare Turf. Last year, we nailed European-based Audarya (FR) at 18/1 partly because of this angle. With potential favorite War Like Goddess being neither Chad Brown or international, what's the play?

Takeaway: Chad Brown will likely have both My Sister Nat (FR) and Pocket Square (GB) entered here. Take a swing with a CB or an international horse who's at least 10/1 and make it back-to-back big scores in this race.



PHOTO: NYRA

BIG ASS FANS DIRT MILE

The favorite only won the Big Ass Fans Dirt Mile three times in the race's 14 years (21%): Goldencents, Liam's Map, and Knicks Go. However, a new trend is emerging: in the past three runnings, speed has been gold! City of Light, Spun to Run, and Knicks Go were all speed, all the way. These horses never saw another horse in front of them.

Takeaway: Enter stage left. Let us introduce to you Life Is Good, one of the fastest horses in training. Speed remains dominant.

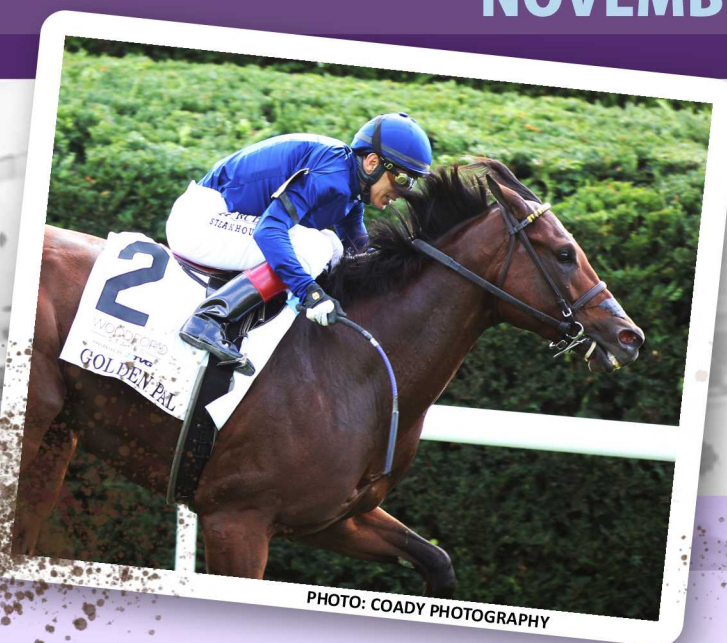


PHOTO: COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

TURF SPRINT

It takes an exceptionally-good speed horse to win gate to wire in the Turf Sprint. After all, it's happened just four times in 13 years (31%). It's also worth noting that favorites win the Turf Sprint at a clip just south of 40%. So what's this mean? Let's ask Golden Pal.

Takeaway: Golden Pal possesses deadly early speed, but he will likely be the favorite and also won last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint. He seems fast enough to overcome the bias against speed horses.

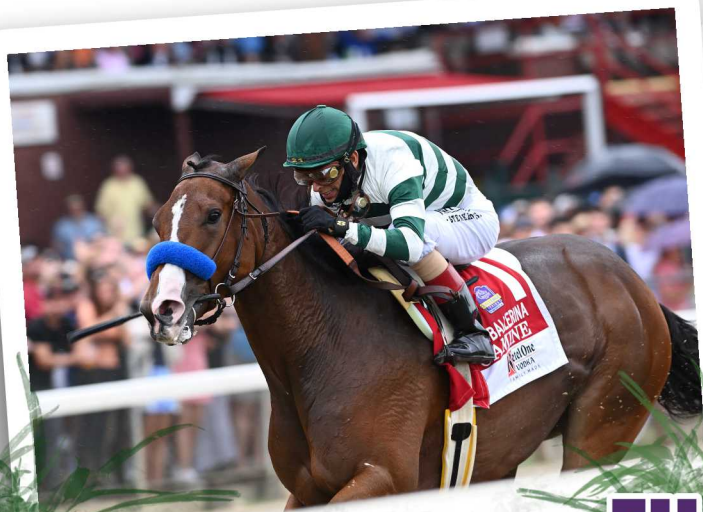


PHOTO: NYRA

FILLY & MARE SPRINT

Last year, we wrote: "In the 13-year existence of the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint, a horse has not won gate to wire." That held true because the speedster Serengeti Empress actually set the early fractions, and Gamine ran her down to win impressively. Enter 2021. Gamine is set to do it again, and don't be surprised if Bella Sofia and Edgeway try taking it to her early.

Takeaway: Gamine will be a massive favorite, so if playing against her, swing for the fences with a come-from-behind runner. The last time the Breeders' Cup was at Del Mar, Bar of Gold rallied to post an upset at 67/1!