

Note that you can also “show” or “hide” different categories, and that the data includes win percentage, exacta percentage, and in-the-money percentage, so you can really utilize this information when structuring your vertical wagers. Before I even look at the Plot, I like to have this data available to give me a good sense of which horses should really garner my attention.

Here is the **QuadPct** for this year’s 2020 Breeders’ Cup Classic (G1):



As you can see, #9 AUTHENTIC and #10 MAXIMUM SECURITY have an advantage based on their Plot positions, but it should be noted that the data present is only for the Standard Plot. Keeneland doesn’t run enough 10-furlong dirt races for proper analysis of the Surface/Distance **QuadPct** stat, so the information is incomplete, and I’m not going to rely too heavily on what’s presented here, though it is nice to know how these horses stack up on the Standard Plot from a positional perspective.

OptixPLOT2020

Here is the **OptixPLOT2020** for this race. We’ve got a **green PlotFit**, which means it is highly interpretable with all horses plotting neatly along the white diagonal band. That said, it should be noted that there is some positional and geometrical changes from Standard to Surface/Distance, but that’s again due to a lack of sufficient data at the 10-furlong distance, since most of these horses have only run this far a few times.

As for the early pace, we have a moderate “**sun**” **Contention** with several horses in Quadrant 1, and a fairly quick “050” **SpeedRate**, so I am anticipating a fairly run race with an honest pace. Let’s just hope we have a fair race track without any biases today.

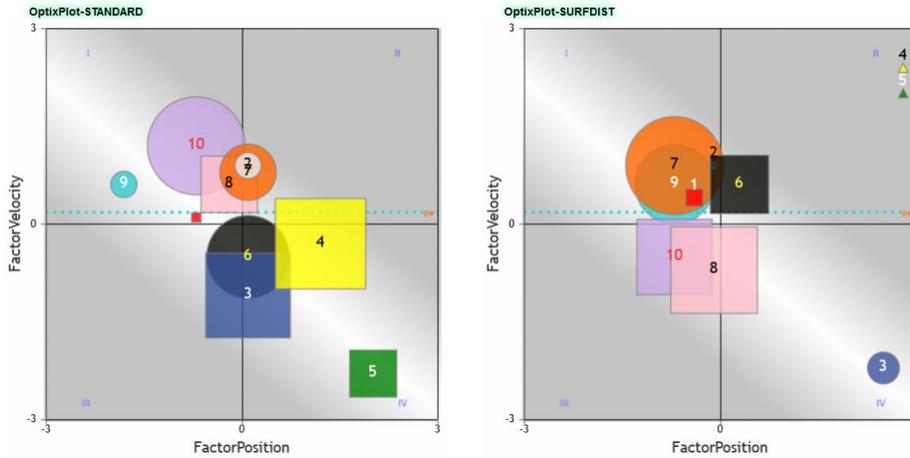
OptixPLOT2020™ interface showing race details: KEE 2020-11-07 Race 12 \$6,000,000 10f I_Route Dirt, Grade I stakes/handicap(BCClas-G1) 3 year olds and Up -. Analysis tools include PlotFit (green), Contention (sun), SpeedRate (050), and OptixGRID 2017.

optixRPM™	E	EP	P	PC	C	optixFIGRANGE™
		4 6 7 9 10		1 2 3 5 8		111-105

Here is the **OptixRPM** above, which categorizes each horse’s run style and gives a **positive**, **negative**, or **neutral** designation based on the horse’s Plot position. It’s interesting to see that we have a grouping of Early/Presser types and a grouping of Presser/Closer types, which means that this field is pretty versatile and can adapt and run well regardless of the pace scenario—which makes this very much a jockeys’ race.

You’ll also see an **OptixFIGRANGE** here, which projects the winning figure for the race as being **111-105**, so you want to find horses who have either run in that range or project to.

Now let's look at the Plot itself:



OptixPLOT2020 shows both the “Standard” and “Surface/Distance” Plots side-by-side, so you can easily see which horses change position based on the various factors used to create the Plot. There is some repositioning between Plots with some horses also changing from squares to circles, and we will talk about that in the horse-by-horse analysis. We also have #4 TOM’S D’ETAT and #5 TITLE READY falling off the Surface/Distance Plot because the former ran this distance only once a long time ago in his second career start, and the latter has never raced this far. Because of all that, I’m going to rely mostly on the Standard Plot, especially since these are horses with a large body of work with a lot of data we can extrapolate good info from.

PAST 3 RUNLINES

You can access full past-performance data by clicking the “**OptixGRID**” button in the header, but it’s nice to have the most recent form-cycle information readily available right here in the **OptixPLOT2020** page. The fields for the “**Past 3 Runlines**” are pretty self-explanatory, but do note that there is additional trip-note information and key “alert” data available by hovering your cursor over the “**OptixNOTES**” and “**OptixALERTS**” fields while using the **OptixPLOT2020** interface.

PN	Horse	ML	DSL	Surf	Dist	Prior RaceKeys	Prior RaceClass	oNg	oFIG	Flr	optixNOTES	OptixALERTS	RS
1	TACITUS J. ORTIZ JOSE L T. MOTT WILLIAM I	20	28	D D D	RTE (10f) RTE (10f) RTE (10f)	BEL_2020-10-10_09 SAR_2020-09-05_11 BEL_2020-07-04_11	JkyClbGG-G1 Woodward-G1 Suburn-G2	B- B- B+	103 104 105	3 2 1	EASY LEAD PERFECT PERFECT WEAK	4 RW1 RW2 RW3 3LO	PC
2	TIZ THE LAW J. FRANCO MANUEL T. TAGG BARCLAY	3	63	D D D	RTE (10f) RTE (10f) RTE (9f)	CD_2020-09-05_14 SAR_2020-08-08_11 BEL_2020-06-20_10	KyDerby-G1 Travers-G1 Belmont-G1	B A- B+	107 111 102	2 1 1	PERFECT PERFECT NO_LINE NO_PUSH	2 RW1 RW2	PC
3	BY MY STANDARDS J. SAEZ GABRIEL T. CALHOUN WILLIAM BRET	10	64	D D D	RTE (8.5f) RTE (9f) RTE (9f)	CD_2020-09-04_10 SAR_2020-08-01_09 CD_2020-06-27_10	Alysheba-G2 Whitney-G1 SFoster-G2	B B- B	101 99 103	1 2 2	STRETCH?		PC
4	TOM'S D'ETAT J. ROSARIO JOEL T. STALL ALBERT M	6	98	D D D	RTE (9f) RTE (9f) RTE (9f)	SAR_2020-08-01_09 CD_2020-06-27_10 OP_2020-04-11_09	Whitney-G1 SFoster-G2 OkwenMleB150k	B A- B+	98 108 103	3 1 1	X_FLOW SLOG WIDE PERFECT FLOW TACTIC+ MOVE WEATHER	2 RW2 RW3	EP
5	TITLE READY J. LANERIE C J T. STEWART DALLAS	30	28	D D D	RTE (9f) RTE (8.5f) RTE (8.5f)	KEE_2020-10-10_08 CD_2020-09-04_10 KEE_2020-07-10_05	Fayette-G2 Alysheba-G2 OCIm 80000n3x	B- C+ B	92 95 98	3 5 1	FLOW CLOSE	2 TG30 3LO	PC
6	HIGHER POWER J. PRAT FLAVIEN T. SADLER JOHN W	20	77	D D D	RTE (10f) RTE (8.5f) RTE (10f)	DMR_2020-08-22_10 DMR_2020-07-25_10 SA_2020-06-06_10	PacificCl-G1 SnDiegoH-G2 GoldCup-G1	C+ B- B	100 88 101	4 3 2	TACTIC- WIDE TACTIC- WIDE		EP
7	GLOBAL CAMPAIGN J. CASTELLANO J J T. HOUGH STANLEY M	20	63	D D D	RTE (10f) RTE (9f) RTE (8f)	SAR_2020-09-05_11 MTH_2020-07-18_10 CD_2020-05-23_09	WoodwardH-G1 MTHCup-G3 BlameB100k	B B+ C+	106 104 90	1 1 1	NO LEAD EASY LEAD PRESSED DUEL GRIT BIAS SLOG TRAFFIC WIDE	2 RW2 NT	EP
8	IMPROBABLE J. ORTIZ IRAID JR T. BAFFERT BOB	2.5	42	D D D	RTE (9f) RTE (9f) RTE (10f)	SA_2020-09-26_10 SAR_2020-08-01_09 SA_2020-06-06_10	AwsmAg-G1 Whitney-G1 GoldCup-G1	B+ B+ B+	104 101 104	1 1 1	FREE MOVE CLOSE FLOW OTHER GATE FLOW PERFECT NO_PUSH PERFECT	4 RW2 RW3 NT 2LO	PC
9	AUTHENTIC J. VELAZQUEZ J R T. BAFFERT BOB	6	35	D D D	RTE (8.5f) RTE (10f) RTE (9f)	DM_2020-10-03_11 CD_2020-09-05_14 MTH_2020-07-18_12	Preslme-G1 KyDerby-G1 Haskell-G1	B+ B+ B	109 108 103	2 1 1	PRERACE+ DUEL SLOG EASY LEAD GRIT BIAS	4 RW2 RW3 NT 3LO	EP
10	MAXIMUM SECURITY J. SAEZ LUIS T. BAFFERT BOB	3.5	42	D D D	RTE (9f) RTE (10f) RTE (8.5f)	SA_2020-09-26_10 DMR_2020-08-22_10 DMR_2020-07-25_10	AwsmAg-G1 PacificCl-G1 SnDiegoH-G2	B- B B+	99 106 95	2 1 1	FLOW HARD	1 RW3	EP

Horse-by-Horse Analysis Using OptixPLOT2020

Note: for more detailed trip-note information where applicable, you can go to [OptixGRID](#)—which provides lifetime past-performance data for each horse in the race—and click on the [Extended Comments](#).

#1 TACITUS (20/1) takes a lot of stick because he's never really lived up to his full potential, but you don't earn more than \$2.9 million dollars unless you're a pretty darn good racehorse. He's one of the few in here who doesn't have a Grade 1 win, so he'll have to buck that trend, and he has finished behind a few of these several times already. That said, he's never been off the board at today's distance (in six tries), and he should get a good ground-saving trip just tracking the pace; then we'll see if he can finally get himself a Grade 1. He's not impossible and he's certainly usable in your exotics at this big number, but he will need a career best based on his last three races, where you see a lot of red keywords in his runlines, including **EASY_LEAD** and two **PERFECT** comments. He also enters this off two B- efforts, so he will need to do considerably better against this group, especially since his career-best **OptixFIG** is at the very low end of the range, **105**.

#2 TIZ THE LAW (3/1) has won six of eight races, including three Grade 1s while racing exclusively against 3-year-olds. It's time to try the big boys today after failing to get by **AUTHENTIC** in the Kentucky Derby (G1), where he just couldn't outgame that foe, who was able to get away with an uncontested early lead. I can forgive that race, especially if you look at the fact that his only two defeats came at Churchill Downs, so I expect him to be primed and ready to run his best race today while coming off a two-month freshening. He's another one who has two **PERFECT** comments in his last three races, but I won't hold that against him because good horses make good trips for themselves. He owns the best **OptixFIG** in the field at **111**, and you have to admire that **A-** in the Travers (G1) two back. That said, he is a small circle in Quadrant 1, so while he'll likely get a good forwardly placed trip again today, he'll have to show more starch in the lane—but I do expect him to run a big race today.

#3 BY MY STANDARDS (10/1) looks a slight cut below the top few in here, having lost to some of them earlier in the year, but he does have an interesting note out of his last race, which was a nice victory in the 8.5-furlong Alysheba (G2), where he earned a **STRETCH?** projection and elicited this comment from the **Optix** expert: "He has developed into a serious racehorse." So based on those two positives, can we project enough improvement for a horse who recently seems a little slower than the rest? He does have a **107** to run back to, so he's not too far off in that regard—but he is going to find himself farther off the pace than he is used to today, so I'm not sure he's going to be quite good enough to get there in the end.

#4 TOM'S D'ETAT (6/1) was on an absolute tear earlier in the year until he stumbled at the start of the Whitney (G1) and was left with too much to do against **IMPROBABLE** and **BY MY STANDARDS** in a race that had a glacial pace. It should be noted, however, that he was favored that day, just as he was in several of his previous races. In other words, he is a serious racehorse who will have every chance to show his best stuff today after freshening up and being pointed to this race. Because of his lack of recency, he has kind of been the forgotten horse, lost in all the hoopla surrounding the Baffert horses and the sophomore campaigners. I also like where he sits on the Plot as a big square who will be able to track a quick pace from a good position—and you can see by the size of his square just how good his finishing ability is. We shall see if this old boy can excel at 10-furlongs, since he hasn't gone this far since the second race of his career, but he's in good hands, and nothing in his 9-furlong races suggests to me that he

can't get an extra furlong today. That **108 OptixFIG** and **A-** race two back also jump off the page. He looks like the value play to me.

#5 TITLE READY (30/1) looks in deep today based on how far back he is on the **OptixPLOT** and his relatively low **OptixFIGS** coming into the race. **BY MY STANDARDS** has him squarely on form, and it looks like he will need to improve dramatically to not only get the measure of that foe but also foes who are even better.

#6 HIGHER POWER (20/1) won the Pacific Classic (G1) in 2019, and he looked like he would be a major threat in that year's Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), but he was bet like a lobster (9/1) and just ran an even third. His form this year isn't nearly as good, so he's going to have to put forth a career-best to have a say today. I don't like that he's a big circle on the Standard Plot, though he does look better on Surface/Distance mainly because of that one big race at Del Mar. He also doesn't seem fast enough on **OptixFIGS**, and he's going to need to do better than his last two efforts that saw him earn a **B-** and a **C+**, respectively.

#7 GLOBAL CAMPAIGN (20/1) looked good at the end of the summer when he cruised to victory in the Woodward (G1) going today's 10-furlongs, but let's face it: he made the lead in a five-horse field, set a slow pace, and never looked back. The same thing happened in his race before that, making an **EASY_LEAD** in the Monmouth Cup (G3) and wiring that field as well at a shorter distance. I can't see him wiring this field today, and even if he stalks the pace in a good spot, will he have enough finishing power as a big circle on the Plot? Unlikely. He's also a little bit on the slow end (**106**) of the **OptixFIG** range, so he'll really need to run out of his shoes today.

#8 IMPROBABLE (5/2), the first of three Bafferts, is an apt name for a horse who looked like an "improbable" winner at 10-furlongs just a year ago, but this 4-year-old has really blossomed into a serious racehorse, winning three Grade 1s in a row, including a 10-furlong victory in the Gold Cup (G1) back in June. He followed that win up with victories in the Whitney (G1) and Awesome Again (G1), where he beat a bunch of horses who show up today. He earned **B+** grades in all three of those starts, and he tallied up three 100+ **OptixFIGS** in a row—but interestingly enough, the fastest he's ever run is **104**, which puts him below the **OptixFIG** range for this race. Hmmm! It should also be noted that he got a perfect set-up last time when he came from off the pace in a race that favored closers (**FLOW**), and he got absolute **PERFECT** trips in his two wins before that. Look, he probably is deserving of favoritism based on those last three races and the fact that he does Plot nicely as a decent square in a good position, but there is a small amount of reasonable doubt here to want to take him at 5/2 or possibly less.

#9 AUTHENTIC (6/1), the second Baffert entrant, won the Kentucky Derby (G1) in September in frontrunning fashion, making an **EASY_LEAD** and having enough in the tank to fend off **TIZ THE LAW** in an exciting stretch run. Before that, he rode a **BIAS** to win the Haskell (G1), so it looks like this speedster needs a little bit of extra help to run his best, since if you look at his prep race for this, the Preakness (G1), you'll see that he had no excuse while losing to a filly. No surprise, he's a circle in Quadrant 1, and I have to think he's going to be the pacesetter in here looking to set the table for the other two Baffert runners. I'm having a hard time seeing him wire this quality field, but his last two **OptixFIGS** are very good (**109 & 108**), and you know he'll be in front turning for home.

#10 MAXIMUM SECURITY (7/2) would be the favorite in this race if he didn't run a dud in the Awesome Again (G1) when **IMPROBABLE** ran by him like he was standing still. But was it really a

dud? Well, he chased a pretty fast pace before weakening and looking like a tired horse—yet he was still game enough to hold second despite the fact that around the turn, it looked like he was going to finish dead last (or not finish at all). That showed me a lot of heart and class—but it was still a subpar performance from what we are used to seeing from this guy, so I have to wonder if he’s just tailing off after an amazing two years of racing that saw him capture multiple Grade 1s all over the country (and in Saudi Arabia), earning \$12 million in the process. After all, he did have to work **HARD** for his San Diego (G2) victory three back, and then he was never challenged in the Pacific Classic (G1) when he wired the field in a speed-favoring setting (**FLOW**). He faced adversity last time, and he came up short. So what can we expect today? Well, he doesn’t look great on the Standard Plot as a big balloon in Quadrant 1, so I’m not crazy about that. I also don’t like that he has declining letter-grades of **B+**, **B**, **B-** in his last three starts. I think you have to take him on given those negatives, but would it shock you if Baffert waved his magic wand and had this guy run off the screen today?

CONCLUSION

It’s always tough taking on a Baffert in a race of this magnitude, and it’s even harder trying to take on one of his three-headed monsters! He’s got #9 **AUTHENTIC** to set the table; #10 **MAXIMUM SECURITY** to stalk; and #8 **IMPROBABLE** to track from off the pace. Gee, it must be nice having such an embarrassment of riches! Still, I’m going to take him on with #4 **TOM’S D’ETAT**, who projects a nice tracking trip and who has been consistently good and fast this past year. Plus, he should offer very good value in here. And don’t laugh: I’m going to use #1 **TACITUS** in my exotics!