

# OptixEQ Looks at the 2020 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1)

## By Frank R. Scatoni



### INTRO

There were two million reasons to enter this year's running of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1), yet only seven sophomores have been signed up to greet the starter in this event—but don't let the short field fool you: this race is loaded with talent. In fact, four of the seven fillies in here have yet to taste defeat, making this one of the more interesting races on the day. Throw in the fact that there are some serious questions to answer for the 9/5 morning-line favorite (#7 PRINCESS NOOR), and you're looking at an exciting, and potentially profitable, race!

During this analysis, I will be using specific features from **OptixPLOT2020**, but just so you know what the entire platform looks like, here is the **OptixPLOT2020** page for the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) contested at 8.5-furlongs on the main track:

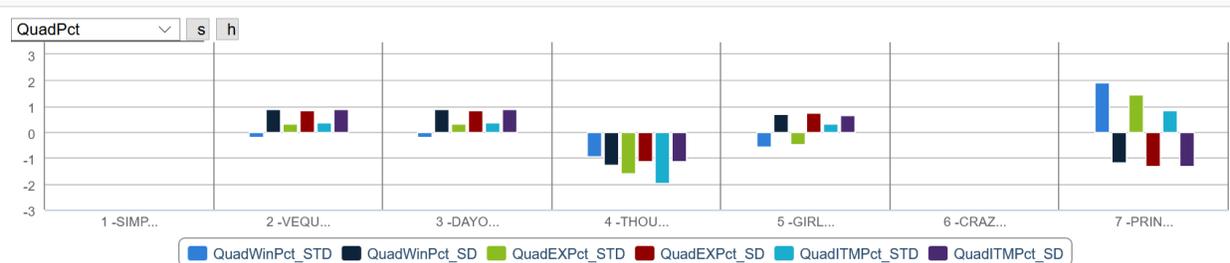
The screenshot displays the OptixPLOT2020 interface for the KEE 2020-11-06 Race 8, a \$2,000,000 8.5f Route Dirt Grade I stakes/handicap (G1/JuVFI-G1) for 2-year-old fillies. It includes a 'Speeds' graph, a 'QuadPct' table, and two performance plots: 'FactorPlot-STANDARD' and 'FactorPlot-SURFDIST'.

PN	Horse	ML	DL	Surf	Dist	Prior Race/Class	Prior Race/Class	OHG	WFD	Fin	SPRANOTES	QUALALERTS	AB
1	<b>SIMPLY RAVISHING</b> J. SAEZ LUIS T. MOPEEK KENNETH G	7.5	10	D	HTC (B SF) SPR (F) RTE (B SF)	KEE_2020-10-02_09 SAK_2020-08-02_23 SAK_2020-08-02_21	Acklrad-G1 PGLDPRWAL33X Met Sp Wt	B+	B+	1	LOOSE CLOD	1 (101)	EP
2	<b>VEQUIST</b> J. ROSSANO JOEL T. HIND ROBERT E	8	27	D	RTE (B) SPR (F) ESPR (4 SF)	BEL_2020-10-20_05 SAR_2020-09-08_08 PFC_2020-07-20_27	Frontier-G1 Sprawley-G1 Met Sp Wt	B	B+	2	POCKET CLOD	2 (17-181)	P
3	<b>DAYOUTOFTHEOFFICE</b> J. ALVARADO JUANIC T. HAMM TIMOTHY E	2.5	27	D	HTC (B SF) SPR (F) OPR (4 SF)	BEL_2020-10-20_05 SAR_2020-07-18_08 OPF_2020-05-15_02	Frontier-G1 Sofly+G23 Met Sp Wt	B+	B+	1	BOS	2 (17-10)	EP
4	<b>THOUGHTFULLY</b> J. SANTANA RICARDO JR T. BARBOUSSEN VIKTORIN M	20	35	D	RTE (B SF) SPR (5 SF) SPR (5 SF)	KEE_2020-10-02_09 SAR_2020-09-12_09 CFL_2020-06-11_20	Acklrad-G1 Adriatic-G2 Met Sp Wt	C+	B+	4		1 (101)	P
5	<b>GIRL DADDY</b> J. SALAM JOSEPH T. ROMANO DALE	8	64	D	HTC (B) SPR (F)	CDL_2020-09-12_10 RUP_2020-07-24_08	Proxima-G3 Met Sp Wt	B+	B+	1		1 (101)	P
6	<b>CRAZY BEAUTIFUL</b> J. HEIRMANDEZ B J JR T. MOPEEK KENNETH G	20	35	D	RTE (B SF) HTC (B) SPR (F)	KEE_2020-10-02_09 CDL_2020-09-12_10 RUP_2020-08-02_08	Acklrad-G1 Proxima-G3 Coburn+H300N	B	B+	2	TRAFFIC TRAILING IN ROOM BTL TRAFFIC ROOM TRAILING CLOSE	1 (101)	PC
7	<b>PRINCESS NOOR</b> J. ESPINOZA V T. BAFFERT BOB	1.8	41	D	HTC (B SF) SPR (F) SPR (5 SF)	SA_2020-09-26_09 DMR_2020-09-05_09 DMR_2020-08-22_01	Cherry-G2 DM Debi-G1 Met Sp Wt	B	B+	1	WEAK TRAFFIC MOVE OTHER GREEN CLOSE NO LANE BAREY LEAD CLOSE NO PUSH	1 (101)	EP

### QuadPct

Before we look at the field, let's first examine the **QuadPct**, since it's extremely important to understand how the field stacks up against each other in terms of where the winners typically come from on this track and at this distance. **QuadPct**, which can be found in the sliding V-Bar on the upper-right part of the **OptixPLOT2020** platform, shows the relative strength of each horse's position on both the "Standard" and "Surface/Distance" Plots. Using "0" as the base-line, you can quickly assess which runners plot favorably relative to their competition (i.e., the higher the bar is above "0", the stronger the position). 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 Juvenile Fillies (G1):



Most of the horses, with the exception of the long shot #4 THOUGHTFULLY, have either favorable or neutral positions, so I’m not going to lean too heavily on this data for this race, especially since we are dealing with lightly raced horses who are still capable of adapting to various pace scenarios and incorporating new run styles so early in their careers.

### OptixPLOT2020

Here is the **OptixPLOT2020** for this race. We’ve got a **red PlotFit**, which means there is some positional change from the “Standard” to the “Surface/Distance” Plots, so we will have to do some deeper digging when analyzing the race shape—but this is very common in races with young horses, since we have limited data to work with. What is interesting to me is that we have a moderate “**sun**” **Contention** and a moderate “029” **SpeedRate**, so I am anticipating a fairly run race. That said, I will lean toward a slightly faster **SpeedRate** in my analysis, since three of the main contenders in this race have similar **EP** early/presser run styles, and I can see a world in which none of those horses will want to concede an easy lead to her main rivals. Because of that, I’m going to anticipate a decent early pace and look for someone who can track early in a comfortable spot and then come on with a decent stretch run.

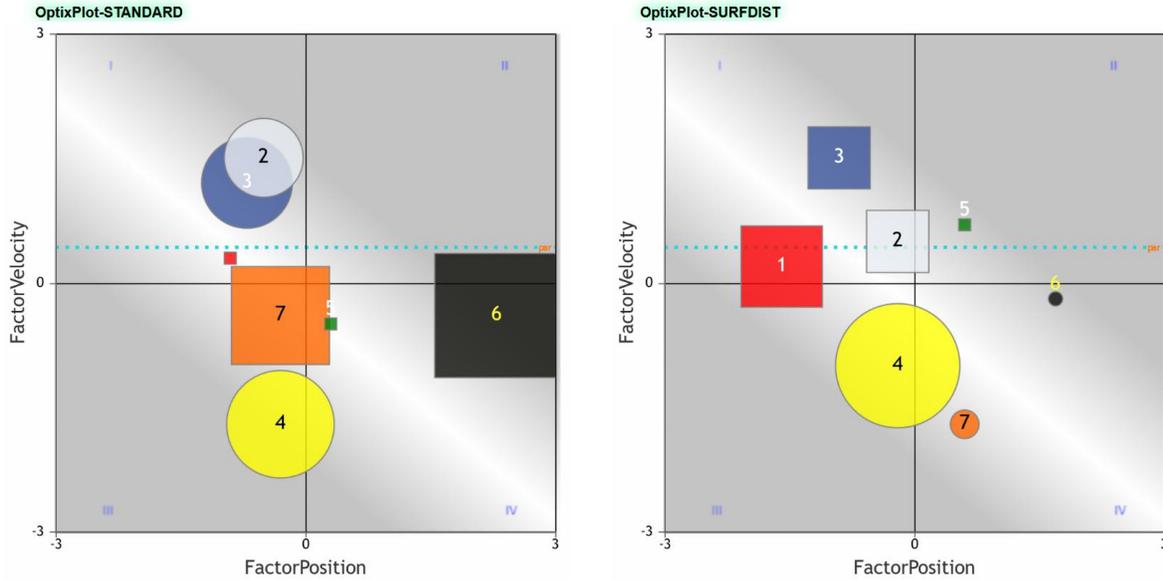
OptixPLOT2020™  
 KEE 2020-11-06 Race 8 \$2,000,000 8.5f Route  
 Dirt  
 Grade I stakes/handicap(BCJuvFil-G1) 2 year olds  
 Only - Fillies  
 PlotFit ● Contention ☀ SpeedRate ☂ 029

optixRPM™	E	EP	P	PC	C	optixFIGRANGE™
		1 3 7	2 4 5	6		97-91

Here is the **OptixRPM** above, which I mentioned earlier when talking about run styles. The **OptixRPM** categorizes each horse’s run style and gives a **positive**, **negative**, or **neutral** designation based on the horse’s Plot position. Three contenders (1,3,7) like to be on or near the lead, and three others (2,4,5) like to press the pace (“P”). There is only one horse who is at her best when tracking from off the pace, and that is #6 CRAZY BEAUTIFUL, who can either press or close, depending on how fast they go early. Also note that long shot #4 THOUGHTFULLY is coded in red, which means she does not plot well given her usual run style, making her a very unlikely winner considering all of her other negatives.

You’ll also see an **OptixFIGRANGE** here, which projects the winning figure for the race as being **97-91**, 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 definitely some repositioning between Plots with some horses changing from squares to circles as well, but what’s important is that the race shape still looks relatively the same with all the same horses (1,2,3) in Quadrant 1. Also, even though #7 PRINCESS NOOR changes Plot position, I expect her trip to look more like the Standard Plot here, since I’m sure she will gun hard from the outside post to challenge the early pace. The reason she plots so poorly on the Surface/Distance Plot is that she was stuck behind horses in her only route try, and they went really slow up front—so you can expect her to be in the vanguard today right up alongside #1 SIMPLY RAVISHING and possibly two others.

### 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.

Past 3 Runlines													
PN	Horse	ML	DSL	Surf	Dist	Prior RaceKeys	Prior RaceClass	oNg	oFIG	Fin	optixNOTES	OptixALERTS	RS
1	<b>SIMPLY RAVISHING</b> J: SAEZ LUIS T: MCPEEK KENNETH G	2.5	35	D TD T	RTE (8.5f) SPR (7f) RTE (8.5f)	KEE_2020-10-02_09 SAR_2020-09-03_03 SAR_2020-08-02_01	Alciblad-G1 PGJohnnL100k Md Sp Wt	B+ B+ B-	93 97 74	1 1 1	: LONE : :	1[RW1.]	EP
2	<b>VEQUIST</b> J: ROSARIO JOEL T: REID ROBERT E	8	27	D D D	RTE (8f) SPR (7f) SSPR(4.5f)	BEL_2020-10-10_05 SAR_2020-09-06_09 PRX_2020-07-29_07	Frizette-G1 Spinaway-G1 Md Sp Wt	B B+ .	95 93 79	2 1 2	: POCKET : SLOG :	2[OF3.NT.]	P
3	<b>DAYOUTOFTHEOFFICE</b> J: ALVARADO JUNIOR T: HAMM TIMOTHY E	2.5	27	D D D	RTE (8f) SPR (8f) SSPR(4.5f)	BEL_2020-10-10_05 SAR_2020-07-16_08 GP_2020-05-14_02	Frizette-G1 Schynlv-G3 Md Sp Wt	B+ B+ B	97 87 84	1 1 1	: : : BOS	2[NT 2LO.]	EP
4	<b>THOUGHTFULLY</b> J: SANTANA RICARDO JR T: ASMUSSEN STEVEN M	20	35	D D D	RTE (8.5f) SPR (8.5f) SPR (8.5f)	KEE_2020-10-02_09 SAR_2020-08-12_09 CD_2020-06-11_02	Alciblad-G1 Adironck-G2 Md Sp Wt	C+ B B+	78 84 78	4 1 1	: : : GALLOP+	1[2LO.]	P
5	<b>GIRL DADDY</b> J: TALAMO JOSEPH T: ROMANS DALE	6	64	D D	RTE (8f) SPR (8f)	CD_2020-08-03_10 ELP_2020-07-24_06	Pocahnts-G3 Md Sp Wt	B+ B+	96 79	1 1	: :	1[NT.]	P
6	<b>CRAZY BEAUTIFUL</b> J: HERNANDEZ B J JR T: MCPEEK KENNETH G	20	35	D D D	RTE (8.5f) RTE (8f) SPR (7f)	KEE_2020-10-02_09 CD_2020-09-03_10 ELP_2020-08-09_06	Alciblad-G1 Pocahnts-G3 DebutanteB100k	B- B B+	85 84 86	2 1 1	: TRAFFIC TROUBLE- ROOM BTL : TRAFFIC ROOM TROUBLE CLOSE	1[GW2.]	PC
7	<b>PRINCESS NOOR</b> J: ESPINOZA V T: BAFFERT BOB	1.8	41	D D D	RTE (8.5f) SPR (7f) SPR (5.5f)	SA_2020-09-26_03 DMR_2020-09-06_09 DMR_2020-08-22_01	Chndlr-G2 DMrDeb-G1 Md Sp Wt	B B+ B+	83 92 84	1 1 1	: WEAK TACTIC-MOVE OTHER : GREEN CLOSE NO_LINE : EASY_LEAD CLOSE_NO_PUSH	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 SIMPLY RAVISHING (5/2)**, one of two Kenny McPeek-trained fillies, is a perfect 3-for-3, including a sharp win over this track and distance in the Alcibiades (G1) when she made a **LONE** lead and never looked back, leveling out nicely into the lane and widening throughout the stretch. Before that, she showed good early speed in her previous two races, so she likes to be forwardly placed. She doesn't look like she needs the lead, but being stuck down at the rail kind of forces her hand: she will have to get out of the gate and establish good forward position early, and that extra effort might compromise her chances with a few other early/presser types to her outside, especially PRINCESS NOOR, who will likely gun hard from the outside post. You have to respect her **OptixFIGS** and those **B+** letter-grades in her last two races—and I like that she's a square in Quadrant 1 on both Plots (unlike her other Quadrant 1 foes)—but she's unlikely to be a **LONE** frontrunner today, and that's enough to make this very talented runner just a little bit vulnerable today.

**#2 VEQUIST (8/1)** was the 4/5 favorite in the Frizette (G1) last time going a one-turn mile at Belmont, coming off a very sharp win in the 7-furlong Spinaway (G1) before that. She got a **POCKET** trip and ran a valiant second, but she was no match for the winner (**#3 DAYOUTOFTHEOFFICE**), who got the jump on her and easily held sway. This gal earned a **B** in that race, while the winner earned a **B+**, so improvement will be necessary for this one to get the win today. I do like that she gets to move one off the rail today, but her nemesis (and others) will be outside of her, so she's probably looking at another inside pocket trip stalking the pace, which isn't the best place to be in a dirt race. One thing that I do like, however, is how hard she tried last time, digging in all the way to the wire even though she was never going to catch the winner. That kind of tenacity will surely help her today while getting an extra half-furlong to play with—but will it be enough?

**#3 DAYOUTOFTHEOFFICE (5/2)** is a perfect 3-for-3, having earned **B+** letter-grades in each of her recent graded-stakes wins. She's coming off a perfect stalking win in the Frizette (G1), where she beat VEQUIST fairly easily (though that one did have a "POCKET" trip while this gal stalked comfortably on the outside). Her **97 OptixFIG** from the Frizette (G1) is tied for tops in the field with SIMPLY RAVISHING, and you have to think this gal is capable of moving forward again today after taking off most of the summer while pointing to this race. Her Frizette (G1) prep was a perfect set-up for this, but she's not going to get as comfortable a trip as she did last time, since there is speed at the rail and speed to her outside, so I can see her either stalking in between horses or stalking behind horses, and that could soften her up a bit. We will also see if she can be as effective around two turns for the first time.

**#4 THOUGHTFULLY (20/1)** looked really good in her first two races while sprinting, but she wasn't able to make an impact in the Alcibiades (G1) when stretching out for the first time and losing to both SIMPLY RAVISHING and CRAZY BEAUTIFUL. She was 4/1 that day and did have to break from the rail, so I suppose you can be a little forgiving of that effort, but there are some serious questions she needs to answer given some of the glaring negatives she has here in Optix as a **red** RPM and a big circle from off the pace on both Plots. She also hasn't run fast enough in the **OptixFIG** range. On the plus side, she was bet to favoritism in her first two starts, so there was always some ability and precociousness here—but she will have to show more today.

**#5 GIRL DADDY (6/1)** is a perfect 2-for-2, but both of her races have come around one turn, so we'll see how she does today going two turns for the first time and coming off a two-month layoff, since trainer Dale Romans opted to train up to this race. I like that she earned **B+** letter-grades in each of her two starts, so she is certainly talented, and I also like that **96 OptixFIG** in the Pocahontas (G3), so if she's matured at all in the last two months, the sky is the limit for her. She's a small square on both Plots, which isn't too bad, especially when you consider her Quadrant 2 position on the Surface/Distance Plot, which means she can just track the frontrunners in a good spot and then try to power on through the lane to get up for the win. She has some questions to answer, but she looks like decent value in a race where the public is going to be split between the top few choices (and will probably overbet the morning-line favorite).

**#6 CRAZY BEAUTIFUL (20/1)** should not be 20/1 in here. She's been favored in all four of her starts, and even though she was recently beaten by a few of these, I can easily make excuses for her runner-up performances. Two back in the Pocahontas (G3), she ran a **BTL** better-than-looked effort after a **TRAFFIC** trip where she lacked **ROOM** at a critical point in the race, losing to GIRL DADDY. That trouble moved her to favoritism last time in the Alcibiades (G1), where she was no match for the "LONE" winner SIMPLY RAVISHING, who carved out easy fractions and was never challenged at any point in the race. This gal, more of a presser/closer type, was forced to chase the pace early and then just ran on evenly through the lane in her first try around two turns. I can't see SIMPLY RAVISHING getting an easy lead today, so if there is any kind of early pace, this gal can settle into stride, track the frontrunners, and then make her middle move to see if she can challenge the others when it matters most. Sure, she will need to run a career best, since she's never run a "B+" before like some of the others, but her **93 OptixFIG** isn't too far off the top few in here, and I really like that she's a huge square on the Standard Plot.

**#7 PRINCESS NOOR (9/5)** is a tough nut to crack despite her perfect 3-for-3 record with all three wins coming in facile fashion. First off, she wasn't beating much—but that's not her fault. Secondly, she's never really had to show an extra gear in the lane, so it's hard to say just how good she is even though she won all three of her races so easily. There's also the fact that her best **OptixFIG** of **92** is among the slowest of the top contenders. Sure, you can argue that she was never extended and is capable of running much faster, but you really don't know for sure until a horse has been tested. What I do like, however, is that she didn't get the smoothest of trips last time yet still did what she needed to do, crushing four other foes in the Chandelier (G1) at 1/5. She was stuck inside with a jock who wanted no part of being down at the rail, so the first half of the race was an adventure. Once she angled out into the clear, however, the race was over. She gets a nice comfortable post from out here, and she has enough natural speed and an aggressive jock to angle over and put the heat on SIMPLY RAVISHING, while a few others stalk (and hopefully push) the pace. I'm very interested to see how this gal runs today, since there is clearly a ton of ability here (though some immaturity as well), but 9/5 doesn't excite me in the least.

## CONCLUSION

Look, the logical horses are all perfectly fine in here, and you don't need me to tout their ability, but I want to envision a scenario where a price horse can win. I'm hoping SIMPLY RAVISHING and PRINCESS NOOR hook up while DAYOUTOFTHEOFFICE and VEQUIST get uncomfortable trips either between or behind those two horses while part of a decent early pace. I'm then looking for **#5 GIRL DADDY** and **#6 CRAZY BEAUTIFUL** to track those four and come on with a late run. They might not be good enough to beat their more flashy rivals, but they are both honest horses with positive **OPTIX** attributes who should run their race—and they will definitely offer good value in a short field.