

OptixEQ Looks at the 2020 Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) By Ron Ricciuti



INTRO

A group of ten with 35 Graded Stakes Wins between them will vie for honors in the \$4,000,000 Breeders' Cup Turf, Saturday's penultimate BC race. The 2018 and 2019 runners up (MAGICAL and UNITED) are back to see if they can capture the gold this year and ARKLOW and CHANNEL MAKER have returned for their third tries this race. The returnees will be joined by 4 European shippers making their first journeys stateside (TARNAWA, MOGUL, MEHDAAYIH and LORD NORTH) and 1 recently resurgent turf distance specialist RED KING. When I first looked at this field, I immediately thought about how to display the varying class and form levels for each contender. The goal is to help us separate the contenders from the pretenders.

OptixPLOT

The **PLOT** for the race has a **RED** fit as it only includes the 4 US based runners and will not be used for this preview.

Past 3 Runlines

PN	Horse	ML	DSL	Surf	Dist	Prior RaceKeys	Prior RaceClass	oNg	oFIG	Fin	optixNOTES	OptixALERTS	RS
1	ARKLOW J: GEROUX FLORENT T: COX BRAD H	5	56	T	RTE (12f) RTE (11f) RTE (12f)	KD_2020-09-12_10 MTH_2020-07-18_11 KEE_2020-07-12_09	KyTurfCp-G3 UnitdNtn-G1 Elkhorn-G2	B C+ C+	102 93 94	1 4 6	: NO_COVER MOVE TACTIC+ : WEAK : X_FLOW WIDE	2[RW1.NT.]	PC
2	MAGICAL_IRE J: MOORE RYAN L T: O'BRIEN AIDAN P	2.5	21	T	RTE (10f) RTE (10f) RTE (10.3f)	ASC_20-10-17_05 LEP_20-09-12_05 YRK_20-08-19_04	Qpc Chmpn S-G1 Irsh Chmpn-G1 Juddmnt Int-G1	B- B B-		3 1 2	: COVER TRAFFIC : GRIT		
3	TARNAWA_IRE J: SOUMILLON C T: WELD DERMOT K	6	34	T	RTE (9.9f) RTE (11.9f) RTE (12f)	LCH_20-10-04_04 LCH_20-09-13_05 CRK_20-08-08_08	fl'pr Lngns-G1 fQatar Vrmil-G1 fIrsh Sstln-G3	B+ B+ B+		1 1 1	: CLOSE X_FLOW : BURST : CLOSE		
4	MEHDAAYIH_GB J: ROSARIO JOEL T: GOSDEN JOHN H	30	21	T	RTE (12f) RTE (10f)	ASC_20-10-17_03 ASC_20-06-17_04	fQPC Brsh C-G1 Prnc Of Wts-G1	B- C+		4 6	: SHUFFLE MOVE WIDE NO_COVER SHORTER? : COVER OTHER	2[.TG30.2LO.]	
5	DONJAH_GER J: LECOEUVRE CLEMENT T: GREWE HENK	30	55	T	RTE (11.9f) RTE (11.9f) RTE (11.9f)	*BD_20-09-13_07 *KL_20-08-15_05 *HM_20-07-11_08	Lngns Grssr-G1 Europa-G1 Pfrdwtn.d-G2	C+ B C+		4 1 4	: WARM WIDE MOVE : COVER : SAVED		
6	LORD NORTH_IRE J: DETTORI LANFRANCO T: GOSDEN JOHN H	8	21	T	RTE (10f) RTE (10.3f) RTE (10f)	ASC_20-10-17_05 YRK_20-08-19_04 ASC_20-06-17_04	Qpc Chmpn S-G1 Juddmnt Int-G1 Prnc Of Wts-G1	C B- B+		10 3 1	: NO_FINISH : TACTIC+ PLODDY : CLOSE	3[RW1.RW2.2LO.]	
7	UNITED J: PRAT FLAVIEN T: MANDELLA RICHARD E	8	42	T	RTE (10f) RTE (11f) RTE (9f)	SA_2020-09-26_09 DMR_2020-08-22_07 DMR_2020-07-26_08	JHnyTfC-G2 DelMarH-G2 EdfRead-G2	B B B	97 96 101	1 2 1	: LONE FLOW : PLODDY : PERFECT	2[RW1.RW3.]	PC
8	RED KING J: RISPOLI UMBERTO T: D'AMATO PHILIP	20	77	T	RTE (11f) RTE (14f) RTE (8f)	DMR_2020-08-22_07 SA_2020-06-21_06 SA_2020-05-24_06	DelMarH-G2 SnJnCpo-G3 OCIm 4000n1x	B B+ B	96 92 81	1 1 1	: NASAL_S TACTIC+ MOVE : PERFECT CLOSE HOT : TACTIC+ OTHER	4[RW1.RW2.RW3.NT.]	PC
9	CHANNEL MAKER_ON J: FRANCO MANUEL T: MOTT WILLIAM I	5	35	T IT IT	RTE (12f) RTE (12f) RTE (11f)	BEL_2020-10-03_07 SAR_2020-08-29_09 SAR_2020-08-01_11	TfClscvl-G1 SwdDncr-G1 BwlInGrn-G2	B B B	101 105 94	1 1 3	: LONE : TROUBLE	1[RW2.]	EP
10	MOGUL_GB J: BOUDOT PIERRE-CHARLES T: O'BRIEN AIDAN P	4	55	T	RTE (11.9f) RTE (11.9f) RTE (12f)	LCH_20-09-13_04 YRK_20-08-19_03 GWD_20-07-30_04	Juddmnt Prs-G1 Sky Bt Grt-G2 Jhn Prc Rcn-G3	B+ B- B		1 3 1	: COVER CLOSE TACTIC+ : PLODDY : SPACED GRIT	1[RW1.]	

OptixGRID

One of the advantages of OptixGRID is the ability to use its' sorting and filtering features to zero in on performances run under conditions similar to what horses will encounter in today's race.

As I want to focus on class and form, I filtered the GRID to show only the 35 graded stakes wins achieved by today's entrants.

PN	HorseName	RaceDate	DLR	Track	Surf	Dist	Cond	RaceClass	Age	Sex	SB	Fin	OFR	oFIG	oNg	optixNOTES™	Projections	xN	WO	PP	ST	1C	2C	Str	Fin	
1	Arklow	20200912	56	KD ¹⁰	⊕	RTE (12f)	??	KyTurfCp-G3	6			1	97-91	102	⊕	B NO_COVER MOVE TACTIC+		0								1 1/4
1	Arklow	20191005	28	BEL ⁹	⊕	RTE (12f)	Firm	TfClscly-G1	5			1	104-98	104	⊕	B- BLANKET NO_COVER		0								1 1/2
1	Arklow	20180908	34	KD ¹⁰	⊕	RTE (12f)	Good	KyTurfCp-G3	4			1	100-94	105	⊕	B TACTIC+		0								1 1/2
1	Arklow	20170506	27	CD ⁹	⊕	RTE (8.5f)	Good	AmerTurf-G2	3	C		1	93-87	99	⊕	B+ NO_COVER WIDE	STRETCH?	0								1
2	Magical (ire)	20200912	24	LEP ⁵	⊕	RTE (10f)	TF	Irsh Chmpn-G1				1	-	-	⊕	B GRIT		0								1 1/2
2	Magical (ire)	20200726	28	CGH ³	⊕	RTE (10f)	TF	Tttrlls Gl-G1				1	-	-	⊕	B FLOW		0								2 1/2
2	Magical (ire)	20200628	253	CGH ⁵	⊕	RTE (10f)	TF	fAlwsmyh Prt-G1				1	-	-	⊕			0								1 1/4
2	Magical (ire)	20191019	13	ASC ⁵	⊕	RTE (10f)	SF	Qpc Chmpn S-G1				1	-	-	⊕	B PERFECT GRIT		0								1 1/2
2	Magical (ire)	20190914	23	LEP ⁵	⊕	RTE (10f)	TF	OPC Irsh Ch-G1				1	-	-	⊕	B TACTIC+		0								2 1/2
1	Tarnawa (ire)	20201004	21	LCH ⁵	⊕	RTE (9.9f)	HY	fl'pr Lngns-G1				1	-	-	⊕	B+ CLOSE X_FLOW		0								1 1/2
1	Tarnawa (ire)	20200913	36	LCH ⁵	⊕	RTE (11.9f)	TF	fQatar Vrmll-G1				1	-	-	⊕	B+ BURST		0								1 3/4
1	Tarnawa (ire)	20200808	294	CRK ⁸	⊕	RTE (12f)	TF	frsh Stlln-G3				1	-	-	⊕	B+ CLOSE		0								1 1/4
1	Tarnawa (ire)	20190915	29	CGH ⁵	⊕	RTE (10f)	TF	fMyglr Jwls-G2				1	-	-	⊕			0								1 1/2
1	Tarnawa (ire)	20190817	78	CRK ⁷	⊕	RTE (12f)	YL	frsh Stlln-G3				1	-	-	⊕			0								2 1/2
1	Tarnawa (ire)	20190511	13	NAS ⁴	⊕	RTE (10f)	TF	frsh Ntnl S-G3				1	-	-	⊕			0								1 1/2
4	Mehdaayih (gb)	20190630	30	STC ⁵	⊕	RTE (11.9f)	SF	fMalleret-G2				1	-	-	⊕			0								2
5	Donjah (ger)	20200815	35	*KL ⁵	⊕	RTE (11.9f)	SF	Europa-G1				1	-	-	⊕	B COVER		0								1 1/4
5	Donjah (ger)	20191020	28	*ML ³	⊕	RTE (11.9f)	HY	Gm Jcky Cl-G2				1	-	-	⊕			0								1 1/2
5	Donjah (ger)	20181104	21	*KR ⁶	⊕	RTE (8.5f)	TF	Grsr G.J.-G3				1	-	-	⊕			0								1 1/2
6	Lord North (ire)	20200617	10	ASC ⁴	⊕	RTE (10f)	TF	Prnc Of Wls-G1				1	-	-	⊕	B+ CLOSE		0								1 3/4
6	Lord North (ire)	20200607	218	HAY ⁴	⊕	RTE (10.2f)	SF	Btwy Brgrd-G3				1	-	-	⊕			0								1
7	United	20200926	35	SA ⁹	⊕	RTE (10f)	Firm	JHnryTfC-G2	5			1	101-95	97	⊕	B LONE FLOW		0								1 1/2
7	United	20200726	64	DMR ⁸	⊕	RTE (9f)	Firm	EdRead-G2	5			1	96-90	101	⊕	B PERFECT		0								1 1/2
7	United	20200523	112	SA ⁸	⊕	RTE (10f)	Firm	CWhighm-G2	5			1	106-100	93	⊕	B PERFECT FREE FLOW		0								1 no
7	United	20200201	62	SA ⁷	⊕	RTE (10f)	Firm	SnMarcos-G2	5			1	106-100	96	⊕	B TACTIC+ WIDE		0								1 1/2
8	Red King	20200822	62	DMR ⁷	⊕	RTE (11f)	Firm	DelMarH-G2	6			1	101-95	96	⊕	B NASAL_S TACTIC+ MOVE		0								1 hd
8	Red King	20200621	28	SA ⁹	⊕	RTE (14f)	Firm	SnJnCpo-G3	6			1	87-81	92	⊕	B+ PERFECT CLOSE HOT		0								1 1/2
9	Channel Maker	20201003	35	BEL ⁷	⊕	RTE (12f)	Firm	TfClscly-G1	6			1	95-89	101	⊕	B		0								2 1/2
9	Channel Maker	20200829	28	SAR ⁹	⊕	RTE (12f)	??	SwdDncr-G1	6			1	104-98	105	⊕	B LONE		0								5 1/2
9	Channel Maker	20190511	70	BEL ¹⁰	⊕	RTE (11f)	Firm	ManOWar-G1	5			1	91-85	103	⊕	B TACTIC+		0								1 1/2
9	Channel Maker	20180929	35	BEL ⁸	⊕	RTE (12f)	??	TfClscly-G1	4			1	97-91	101	⊕	B+ PRESSED DUEL OTHER		0								1 1/2
9	Channel Maker	20180728	49	SAR ⁹	⊕	RTE (11f)	??	BwInGm-G2	4			1	97-91	98	⊕	B-		0								2 1/2
10	Mogul (gb)	20200913	25	LCH ⁴	⊕	RTE (11.9f)	TF	Juddmt Prs-G1				1	-	-	⊕	B+ COVER CLOSE TACTIC+		0								1 1/2
10	Mogul (gb)	20200730	26	GWD ⁴	⊕	RTE (12f)	TF	Jhn Prc Rcn-G3				1	-	-	⊕	B SPACED GRIT		0								1 1/2
10	Mogul (gb)	20190914	15	LEP ³	⊕	RTE (8f)	TF	KPMG Chmpns-G2				1	-	-	⊕			0								1 1/2

The following table summarizes the information above further and I added Racing Post ratings (last 3 starting with most recent and best) as these are available for both US and European runners.

Name (Age/Sex)	Grade 1 Wins	Graded Stakes Wins	G1 Distance Wins	Graded Distance Wins	RPR_1	RPR_2	RPR_3	RPR Best
ARKLOW (6H)	1	4	1	3	109	93	103	113
MAGICAL (5M)	5	5	0	0	117	120	122	124
TARNAWA (4F)	2	6	1	3	116	116	113	116
MEHDAAYIH (4F)	0	1	0	1	110	111	112	115
DONJAH (4F)	1	3	1	2	110	109	100	110
LORD NORTH (4G)	1	2	0	0	98	123	126	126
UNITED (5G)	0	4	0	0	113	112	113	114
RED KING (6H)	0	2	0	0	106	105	N/A	106
CHANNEL MAKER (6G)	4	5	3	3	115	114	113	118
MOGUL (3C)	1	3	1	2	122	109	109	122

(PP#) HORSE NAME (ML ODDS) [projected run style]

(1) ARKLOW (5/1) [P]

Will surpass \$2.5 million in career earnings as soon as he breaks from the gate in this race. Won the Kentucky Turf Cup G3 at Kentucky Downs over a demanding course last out. He added blinkers for the first time that day and was a little more forwardly placed than in his previous efforts this year. He has been working with blinkers since and has stepped it up in the mornings. Has a chance to win but might need some of the European contenders to falter to claim that spot. Tied for most graded wins at the distance amongst this group. RPR figures are a little light compared to others so demand at least 8/1 on that end. Use underneath in exotics.

(2) MAGICAL_IRE (5/2) [PC]

Last seen in the US in the 2018 running of this race. She ran on the front end that day and got run down at the wire by superstar ENABLE. Moore might try to take the race to this field in similar fashion or at the very least to keep CHANNEL MAKER honest. The 5 time Grade 1 winner is the class of this field but she has yet to win at today's 12F distance. For that reason she does not offer value at ML odds. Use underneath in exotics.

(3) TARNAWA_IRE (6/1) [PC]

Has been perfect in 2020 really coming into her own as a 4yo. Won the premier race in France for fillies and mares when she took the Prix de l'Opera Gr.1 on The Arc undercard. Boasts the most graded wins (6) in this group. Three of which came at this distance. She has won on soft and good (firm) ground so surface concerns are negligible. Win contender and a must use in exotics.

(4) MEHDAAYIH_GB (20/1) [P]

Appears overmatched in this spot. Not much in the way of high-class performances. Relatively low RPR. Toss.

(5) DONJAH_GER (30/1) [C]

Has done her winning in German and Italian Group races so it is hard to see how she matches up against the other European entrants. RPR figures look light comparatively. Her OptixNOTES profile for this year's campaign (below) does not inspire confidence. Toss.

5	Donjah (ger)	20200913	29	*BD ⁷	⊕	RTE (11.9f) SF	Lngns Grsr-G1			4	-	⊕ C+	WARM WIDE MOVE
5	Donjah (ger)	20200815	35	*KL ⁵	⊕	RTE (11.9f) SF	Europa-G1			1	-	⊕ B	COVER
5	Donjah (ger)	20200711	251	*HM ⁸	⊕	RTE (11.9f) SF	Pfrdwtn.d-G2			4	-	⊕ C+	SAVED

(6) LORD NORTH_IRE (8/1) [PC]

Would really need a reversal in form to compete in this spot. He is also stretching out to 12F for the first time in his career. Declining RPR trend and uninspiring OptixNOTES profile. Toss.

6	Lord North (ire)	20201017	59	ASC ⁵	⊕	RTE (10f) SF	Qpc Chmpn S-G1			10	-	⊕ C	NO_FINISH
6	Lord North (ire)	20200819	63	YRK ⁴	⊕	RTE (10.3f) TF	Juddmnt Int-G1			3	-	⊕ B-	TACTIC+ PLODDY
6	Lord North (ire)	20200617	10	ASC ⁴	⊕	RTE (10f) TF	Prnc Of Wls-G1			1	-	⊕ B+	CLOSE

(7) UNITED (8/1) [PC]

Finished 2nd in last year's edition missing by a head to BRICKS and MORTAR. He is certainly competitive enough, but this is not his best distance. Has a lot of **PERFECT and TACTIC+** NOTES labels in his winning efforts. Prefer others on top but use underneath in exotics.

(8) RED KING (20/1) [PC]

Beat UNITED earlier this year in The Del Mar Handicap G2 and has won his last 3 but taking on a field like this is a tall order given his age and class profile. Toss.

(9) CHANNEL MAKER_ON (5/1) [EP]

Is the class amongst the US entrants by virtue of his last two wire to wire wins in The G1 Turf Classic Invitational and G1 Sword Dancer. Chance to control things on the front end again today if MAGICAL and UNITED fail to provide company. His previous attempts at this prize have been less than awe inspiring. Like ARKLOW, his ML odds would need to go north of 8/1 to provide value in the top spot. Use underneath in exotics.

Channel Maker	20191102	28	SA ¹¹	⊕	RTE (12f) Firm	BCTurf-G1	5		12	110-104	94	+	C	NO_COVER WIDE
Channel Maker	20181103	35	CD ¹⁰	⊕	RTE (12f) Good	BCTurf-G1	4		11	99-93	67	+	C	

(10) MOGUL_GB (4/1) [P]

His impressive last out win in the Grand Prix de Paris Gr.1 confirmed his class as the 2nd and 3rd place finishers (IN SWOOP and GOLD TRIP) came back to run 2nd and 4th in The Arc. Six time BC Turf winning trainer O'Brien opted to pass on that contest with him due to soft ground. His last out RPR tops this field and as a 3YO colt he has room to move forward off that effort. Would obviously rather have Ryan Moore (4 BC Turf wins) in the irons but Boudot provided a stellar ride last time. Win and exotics key.

CONCLUSION

MOGUL is preferred over **TARNAWA** on top. Key them in the top 2 spots of exotics.

ARKLOW, MAGICAL, UNITED, and CHANNEL MAKER to fill out the slots underneath.