

# OSCAR'S 2008 BC MILE GREEN SHEET

**LIVE FROM SANTA ANITA... IT'S SATURDAY AFTERNOON!**



Ok folks, here's your pop quiz for today: She's young, very good looking, tough, talented, feisty, is a proven winner against the boys, enjoys running, and has the experience to be the leader at the finish. They say that imitation is the highest form of flattery, and now someone is trying to look, sound, and act just like her.

**Name this lady and her impersonator and I'll pay for your dinner at the finest restaurant in Wasilla, Alaska!**

What did you say, Sarah Palin and Tina Fey? Nope.

Look again at the last ten words in the second sentence in the first paragraph. Sure doesn't fit Palin, but it does fit the great filly Miesque who twice defeated the boys in the BC Mile. (Ok, there's another difference between Miesque and Palin. Miesque got her passport when she was two and logged loads of international frequent flyer miles during her career. Her international experience was extensive and very well documented.)

Now I have to admit that Tina Fey does a great impersonation. She sounds more like Palin than Palin. But Miesque's impersonator is pretty good herself. Her name is **Goldikova**, a 3 year old bay filly by Anabaa-Born Gold, by Blushing Groom, who enters this year's BC Mile fresh from defeating colts, including the highly regarded Henrythenavigator, in the Group I Prix Du Moulin De Longchamp. She has raced eight times with five wins; two of them against older horses. Two of her losses (a second and a third) were to Zarkava, the best grass filly in the world today! No disgrace there.

Say, do you know what the difference is between Zarkava and Curlin? Lipstick!

Goldikova has definitely been battle tested internationally against some of the top horses of both sexes, having defeated the French Classic winner Darjina (twice) and the British Classic winner Natagora (twice), as well as the aforementioned Henrythenavigator (who will challenge Curlin in the BC Classic).

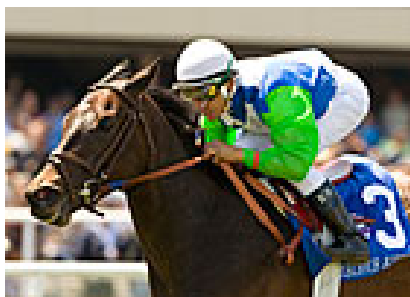
In another interesting comparison with Miesque, Goldikova is trained by Freddy Head, who was aboard Miesque in both of her BC Mile victories and could become the first winning BC jockey to train a BC winner! You could say Goldikova got a "Head start" in learning a thing or two about beating the boys going a mile!

Goldikova likes to either stalk or run in mid pack, and with Daytona and Thorn Song battling up front and Kip Deville and Precious Kitten not far behind, my guess is that Peslier will keep her covered up in mid pack until the far turn. She quickens easily and quickly and has a devastating late kick. As both a 3 year-old and a filly, she will carry 7pounds less than the older males and 4 pounds less than the older female, Precious Kitten. Her mid pack position and push button acceleration should allow her to get first run on the closers Shakis and Whatsthescript, and carrying 7 fewer pounds may just make the difference in her holding them safe at the wire.

Raven's Pass would probably have beaten her, but he opted to go in the Classic. Consequently I think Goldikova is a lock (ok, you can call her a "Goldi Lock") in this race and is easily my best bet of the day. There is always the question of how she will handle the tighter turns, high temperature, and very firm turf at Santa Anita, however, she is very athletic and versatile and I believe she will get the job done.

Ok, now that we've got "Goldilock", we need the 3 bears to complete a superfecta porridge. (Ah, if only Bear Now was in this race, I might really be able to give you a hunch bet.)

## PRECIOUS KITTEN



One of the horses that Goldikova will be facing on Saturday is an older mare with a lot more experience. No, that's not Hillary Clinton, that's Precious Kitten. (Watch how you say that name. I just said it too fast after reading that last sentence and it came out "Precious Clinton"! Of course if you had a horse named Precious Clinton and she ducked out down the stretch you'd have a built in excuse. She was ducking for cover from sniper fire!)

Precious Kitten has won 8 of 23 races, but she failed in her biggest test (2007 BC Filly & Mare Turf). The comment line reads "*eliminated at the 3/4 pole*". (Now that really does remind me of Hillary!)

This 5 year-old Bobby Frankel trainee had a sensational year in 2007, but has only one win in four attempts this year. She is 6 for 6 in the exacta at a mile, with one win and five places. She has good tactical speed, almost always saves ground, (which she should be able to do easily from post 3), and if she can repeat the 108 Beyer that she ran in the 1 1/8 mile Gamely (GI) where she got a perfect stalking trip, she will hit the board at a square price. She has the class to contend, and certainly the course and distance should be no problem. Her problem could be pace. If she stays too close to Daytona and Thorn Song she will get cooked and have no late kick, but if she stays too far back she may be left with too much to do, and will not be able to match the closing kicks of Goldikova, Shakis, and Whatsthescript.

## KIP DEVILLE



Last year's BC Mile winner is lightly raced this year having started only three times with two solid wins and a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish. The trouble is the 5<sup>th</sup> place finish was his last race, the Woodbine mile, where he hung in the stretch like yesterday's laundry. Was it the yielding turf? Well he certainly handled soft turf at Monmouth in the BC Mile last fall without any problems, getting his second win from three tries on soft sod. He also finished a good second to Shakespeare at Woodbine on firm turf. So maybe it's Woodbine's soft turf he doesn't care for. Or maybe he's just not the horse he once was. He is 2 for 2 on firm turf at Santa Anita, and that is the type of course he will find on Saturday. If he had won his last or been a hard-trying second or third I would respect him a lot more here. However, he lost by a backpedaling 5 lengths and that worries me. Mixed signals here. He has the class; and neither the course nor the distance will be a problem. The question with Kip Deville is whether he has already peaked like the fall colors in northern New England.

## THORN SONG



If it wasn't for Daytona, Thorn Song might be my key in the trifecta with Goldikova. He is 3 for 4 at a mile and his only loss was a 3<sup>rd</sup> to Kip Deville and Einstein in last year's GI Makers Mark. He only knows one way to run and that is to "go to the front and improve his position". However, with Daytona popping the clutch as he usually does, and with Kip Deville and perhaps Precious Kitten keeping him within shouting distance, it is very unlikely that he will get the uncontested and relaxed lead he needs to win.

Thorn Song breaks from post 10, five posts outside Daytona, the other speed. It's hard to say whether Daytona will let him have the lead and stalk, or get over to the rail and try to establish the lead himself. My guess is that he will opt to stalk Thorn Song, but be close enough to keep the pressure on him. The result may be that both will run fast enough to cancel out each other's chances of relaxing.

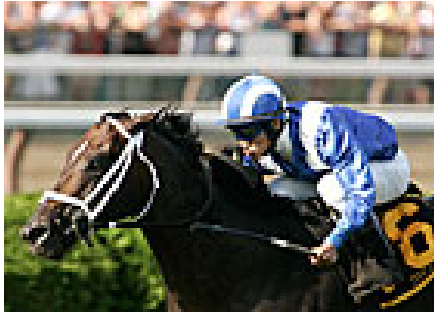
This race will set up for a closer, but it's possible one of the speeds / stalkers will hang on for a piece. Will it be Thorn Song, Daytona, Kip Deville, or Precious Kitten? Thorn Song has the class and the distance will not be a problem. The question with him is pace.

## DAYTONA



Daytona is the other speed in the race. He is 2 for 3 at the distance and 3 for 3 at Santa Anita. However, he has been drubbed soundly by Whatsthescript in his last two races where he failed to hit the board. For a horse with multiple wins at 1 1/8 miles to stop as badly as he did in his last race at only a mile is puzzling and worrisome. If he was Shakis's age I would say maybe he has lost a step, but he's only 4. Maybe he just didn't like the Del Mar turf. Or maybe he's gone off form. Santa Anita's firm turf certainly moves him up, but he will have to stare down Thorn Song and still have something left to hold off the others. Going into this race off a 4<sup>th</sup> and a 6<sup>th</sup> is not really what you want to see. I think he will be a pace factor and that's about all.

## SHAKIS



One would think that a speed duel between Thorn Song and Daytona would set it up perfectly for this 8 year-old closer, and if this were the BC Mile and an Eighth, I would withdraw the \$25.98 that I have left in my 401(k) and put it on his nose. (It still may be a better bet than the stock market.) A mile is just too short for his powerful stretch run to be the most effective, although he could certainly finish in the trifecta and definitely should be a key if you are brave enough to try the superfecta. He was flying at the end of the Shadwell Turf Mile and nailed War Monger for second on the

wire. The problem was that Thorn Song was already long gone. Thorn Song will not get the perfect relaxed trip he got in the Shadwell Turf Mile, so it's possible that Shakis will pass him this time. The problem is, will he be able to catch Goldikova who will most certainly get the jump on him? There is no question as to his class or his ability to handle the course. The problem with Shakis is that the distance is not ideal.

## WHATSTHESCRIPT



Whatsthescript is a rarity for a U.S. based horse – he's a mile specialist on turf! He is 4 for 5 at the distance, and 2 for 3 at Santa Anita, but he will be running against far and away the best field he has ever faced. That's not Storm Military that he has to run down this time! He is basically a Grade 2 / Grade 3 horse and will have to take his game to another level on Saturday. It's hard to think that he can out close Shakis and also catch Goldikova, however, if he runs the 1:32.2 mile he ran in the Delmar Mile in August, he could be right there with the big boys...and girls! He is coming off a

62 day layoff. Now he has won of similar long layoffs in the past but never against the quality of the horses that he will face on Saturday. There is no question about his ability to handle the course or the distance. The question with him is can he handle this level of competition?

## HOW THE RACE WILL BE RUN

This race shapes up as a battle between Thorn Song and Daytona, with Precious Kitten and Kip Deville in fairly close attendance. Goldikova will be down along the rail and covered up behind them, accompanied by Bold Chieftain. War Monger will be a bit behind those two and Awesome Gem, Whatsthescript, and Shakis will bring up the rear, probably in that order. I have no idea where US Ranger will be, but I doubt he will be a major factor.

They will remain that way down the backstretch and around the far turn and should enter the stretch with Thorn Song and Daytona still locked in battle. Kip Deville, Precious Kitten, and Goldikova will begin to quicken now and Shakis, Awesome Gen, and Whatsthescript will begin to roll form way back.

Coming to the eighth pole it will look like anybody's race, but Daytona will begin to fade. Thorn Song will still be running hard but he will be passed by Goldikova who will go on to win.

The second and third spots will be filled by Shakis and Kip Deville (in either order), with Whatsthescript, Thorn Song and Precious Kitten battling for fourth.

## HOW TO BET

Call it a gut feeling, but I think **Shakis** will hit the board somewhere. Unless he looks awful in the paddock or post parade, I will be keying him with **Goldikova** in a trifecta box. I'm think of hitting the **all button** for the third horse because if Shakis is anywhere near his ML of 10-1 and hits the board with Goldikova (ML 3-1) and a surprise like US Ranger or Awesome Gem hits the board at 20-1, the trifecta will be huge.

**Playing a \$1 trifecta box with Goldikova, Shakis and the 5 others most likely to hit the board will cost \$30.**

**For another \$24 you can buy an insurance policy adding those horses that you've left out. If one of them should win, that insurance policy will pay off big time. (Incidentally, life insurance policies do not pay off for suicide. So if one of those longshots wins with Goldikova and Shakis underneath, and you didn't spend the additional \$24, your beneficiary will not be able to collect your life insurance after you jump off the bridge!)**

***NOTE: Because of the large number of BC races, I've focused on the one race where I think I have the best chance to make money.***

***Best of luck to you on Saturday.***



**I began this Green Sheet with some comparisons between Sarah Palin and Miesque.**

**I'll conclude with just a few more differences:**

- Miesque was never a hockey mare. Her kids played a different game.
- She never accepted money for a bridle path to nowhere.
- Her tack didn't cost anywhere near \$150,000.
- She cannot see Russia from her stall at Longchamp.
- Not one of her daughters ever had an unplanned pregnancy!