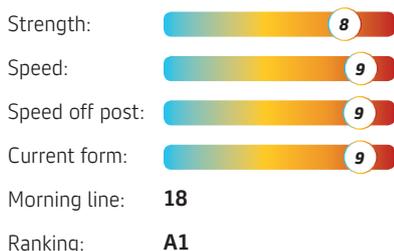


## 1. DON FANUCCI ZET

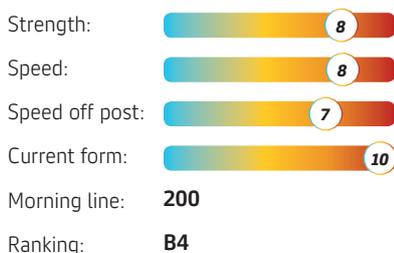


Won this 2021 and won his heat last year before breaking stride in the final. Major contender.

Gender:	Horse
Age:	7
Trainer:	Daniel Redén
Driver:	Örjan Kihlström
Life:	42 23-7-5
Record pace:	1.08,9a
Prize money:	14 251 718 SEK
Winning %:	55%
Greatest victory:	Elitloppet 2021, Solvalla

Won his elimination heat last year from the widest post but today he will start from the inner. That is the same post he broke stride from in the final last year. He won Elitloppet 2021 in 1'08"9. Will this seemingly good draw be a hazard to his chances? The form is probably good, but he hasn't won a major race since July. That was Hugo Åberg's Memorial where DFZ defended the inner and then won cozily in 1'09"9 beating Önas Prince, Stoletheshow and Vernissage Grif. Örjan Kihlström in the bike is the best Sweden has to offer, last year collecting over 57 million SEK in purses.

## 3. STOLETHESHOW

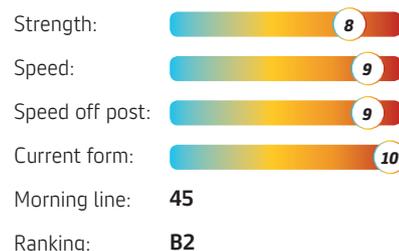


Won the Finlandia-Ajo from first over. Has never been better. World-class driver and good draw.

Gender:	Horse
Age:	8
Trainer:	Frode Hamre
Driver:	Dexter Dunn
Life:	73 23-20-8
Record pace:	1.10,0a
Prize money:	9 957 443 SEK
Winning %:	32%
Greatest victory:	Finlandia-Ajo 2023, Vermo

Norwegian bred horse that has made 73 starts and won 23. His record over the distance is 1'10"0 and he has won in 1'10"4. Comes from a win in the Finlandia-Ajo from first over. Was truly magnificent in the stretch. One of the greatest drivers in the world, Dexter Dunn, has accepted to take the reins and he might improve the tactical speed of Stoletheshow who is good behind the gate, but perhaps not as fast as some of the others. Stoletheshow will have to improve substantially to be a major player in this race, but given the form and DD in the bike, there is a chance of that improvement.

## 2. ÖNAS PRINCE

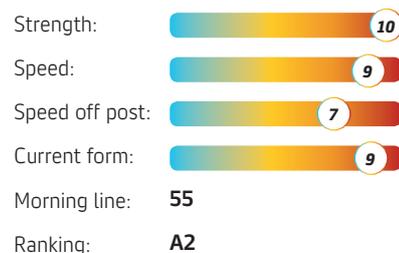


Got some early pace. Perfectly drawn in the #2 spot. Must show that he is as classy as the favorites.

Gender:	Horse
Age:	6
Trainer:	Per Nordström
Driver:	Per Nordström
Life:	42 27-1-4
Record pace:	1.09,2a
Prize money:	10 473 832 SEK
Winning %:	64%
Greatest victory:	Breeders' Crown Final 2021, Eskilstuna

Önas Prince has tallied up 27 wins but only one-second place in 42 starts overall. That is precisely what you are looking for in a racehorse. He is unbeaten in three starts this year and won Copenhagen Cup in 1'10"2! He was third in his elimination race last year but broke stride in the final. He was the runner-up in the Swedish Derby, beaten only by the majestic Calgary Games, but beating San Moteur in the process. From a perfect draw, he looks poised to reach the final. Despite all his wins he still must prove himself at this level. This race is very much better than Copenhagen Cup.

## 4. ETONNANT

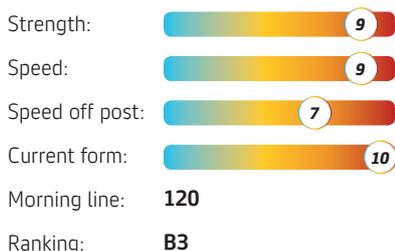


Defending champion. Won despite breaking stride last year. Comes in top form with a good draw.

Gender:	Horse
Age:	9
Trainer:	Richard Westerink
Driver:	Anthony Barrier
Life:	88 23-17-6
Record pace:	1.09,1a
Prize money:	25 151 767 SEK
Winning %:	26%
Greatest victory:	Elitloppet 2022, Solvalla

His sire, Timoko, won Elitloppet, 2014 and 2017. Last year Etonnant followed in his father's hoof steps. This brilliant horse will have to keep trotting if he is going to repeat. He doesn't look like a horse for a sharp 1000-meter track like Solvalla, but he doesn't have to prove himself as the defending champ. In France, Etonnant has shown strength when winning the Prix de Paris over 4 kilometers. Some think he is lacking speed, but the clock has shown him finishing a race in 1'07"6 the last 500. That this superstar isn't the favorite says everything about the quality of Elitloppet 2023.

## 5. VERNISSAGE GRIF

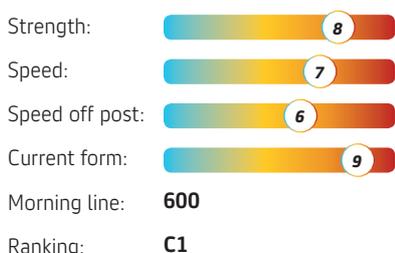


Fast horse. Very good going two heats. Didn't make it to the final last year. Can do better this year.

Gender:	<b>Horse</b>
Age:	<b>9</b>
Trainer:	<b>Alessandro Gocciadoro</b>
Driver:	<b>Alessandro Gocciadoro</b>
Life:	<b>122 39-19-10</b>
Record pace:	<b>1.09,2a</b>
Prize money:	<b>17 206 013 SEK</b>
Winning %:	<b>32%</b>
Greatest victory:	<b>Premio Lotteria 2023, Napoli</b>

Vernissage Grif was very impressive when winning the Gran Premio della Lotteria (Gr.1) last time out clocking 1'09"6 / 1600 m. Didn't make it to the final in Elitloppet last year. Comes in much better form this year and is not to be underestimated carrying his trainer, Alessandro Gocciadoro, on the bike. The impressive chestnut is not totally reliable when it comes to keeping his stride. His father came from wins in the Lotteria to win Elitloppet both in 2001 and 2002. If he gets a good position from post #5, he will have a good chance of advancing to the final.

## 7. JUST BELIEVE

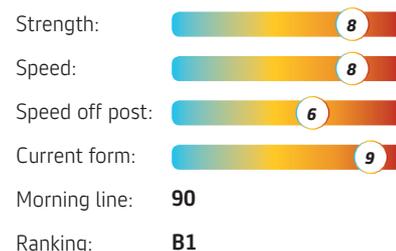


Australian invader. Very versatile horse and handles two heats. The jack in the box in this race.

Gender:	<b>Gelding</b>
Age:	<b>8</b>
Trainer:	<b>Jessie Anne Tubbs</b>
Driver:	<b>Greg Ross Sugars</b>
Life:	<b>57 18-10-8</b>
Record pace:	<b>1.10,2a</b>
Prize money:	<b>4 641 540 SEK</b>
Winning %:	<b>32%</b>
Greatest victory:	<b>The Great Southern Star 2023, Melton</b>

Won a two-heat Group 1 race in Australia in February Driven by the legend Greg Sugars. Just Believe has got 18 wins and 18 placings from 57 starts so far in his career and clearly knows where the finish line is at. Just Believe showed fantastic strength when winning the Inter Dominion from first over and clearly doesn't need any racing luck, he is well capable of doing his own race but there must be a question mark regarding his speed. He has got everything to prove from a wide draw behind the car. Wouldn't travel to the other side of the world if his connections didn't truly believe in him.

## 6. GO ON BOY

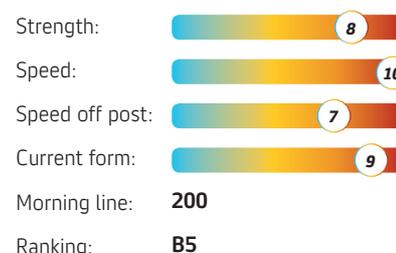


French raider. Late closer, but what a closer! The first heat will only be about reaching the final.

Gender:	<b>Horse</b>
Age:	<b>7</b>
Trainer:	<b>Romain Derieux</b>
Driver:	<b>Romain Derieux</b>
Life:	<b>38 13-4-3</b>
Record pace:	<b>1.09,2a</b>
Prize money:	<b>5 257 413 SEK</b>
Winning %:	<b>34%</b>
Greatest victory:	<b>Prix de Washington 2021, Enghien</b>

French horse who piled up wins down at Cagnes-sur-Mer early in his career. As a 3-year-old he trotted 1'11"6 behind the car over 2100 meters at Vincennes. Two years later he trotted 1'09"6 over 1600 meters at Enghien. He is a little delicate and will break stride sometimes. He was away for most of 2022, but 2023 he has shown that he can compete with the stars. In the Prix de l'Atlantique (Gr.1) he trotted the last 1000 in 1'08"0 and the last 500 in 1'07"3. He still couldn't catch Etonnant, but it was an extremely impressive performance. Romain Derieux won Elitloppet 2019 with Dijon.

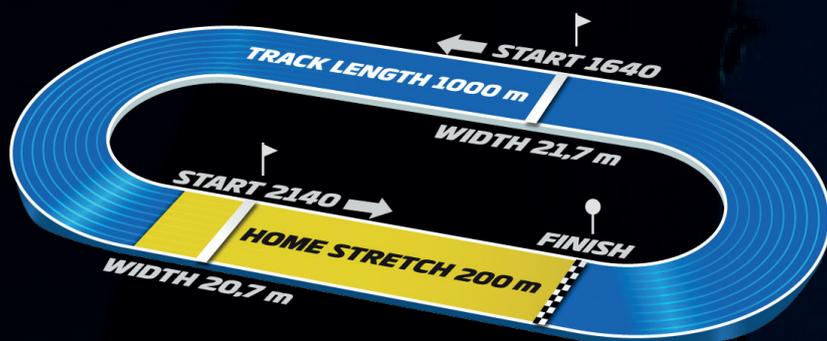
## 8. BROTHER BILL



Good sprinter. Impressive comeback race. Up against it from the worst post.

Gender:	<b>Gelding</b>
Age:	<b>7</b>
Trainer:	<b>Timo Nurmos</b>
Driver:	<b>Magnus A Djuse</b>
Life:	<b>41 13-10-5</b>
Record pace:	<b>1.09,1a</b>
Prize money:	<b>8 311 000 SEK</b>
Winning %:	<b>32%</b>
Greatest victory:	<b>Breeders' Crown 2019, Eskilstuna</b>

Brother Bill goes back to Nevele Pride and Super Bowl in just three generations. He is very fast but has yet to clock a winning time below 1'10"0. He has not got the same early speed as some of his competitors, but he is a very good closer and was extremely impressive when he defeated Hail Mary despite racing from third over having to pass horses going very wide in the last turn. That was in Frances Bulwark's race (Gr.2) and he won clocking 1'11"0 / 2140 m. Will need some luck in running from the wide draw, but since he doesn't need to race prominently, he has a chance of reaching the final.

**RACETRACK INFO****SOLVALLA (S)**

Track length: 1000 m  
 Home stretch: 200 m  
 Home stretch width: 20,7 m  
 Back stretch width: 21,7 m  
 Open stretch: No

**STARTLIST**

NR	HORSE	DRIVER	TRAINER	MLO
1.	<b>DON FANUCCI ZET</b>	ÖRJAN KIHLMSTRÖM	DANIEL REDÉN	18 4/5
2.	<b>ÖNAS PRINCE</b>	PER NORDSTRÖM	PER NORDSTRÖM	45 7/2
3.	<b>STOLETHESHOW</b>	DEXTER DUNN	FRODE HAMRE	200 19/1
4.	<b>ETONNANT</b>	ANTHONY BARRIER	RICHARD WESTERINK	55 9/2
5.	<b>VERNISSAGE GRIF</b>	ALESSANDRO GOCCIADORO	ALESSANDRO GOCCIADORO	120 11/1
6.	<b>GO ON BOY</b>	ROMAIN DÉRIEUX	ROMAIN DÉRIEUX	90 8/1
7.	<b>JUST BELIEVE</b>	GREG ROSS SUGARS	JESSIE ANNE TUBBS	600 59/1
8.	<b>BROTHER BILL</b>	MAGNUS A DJUSE	TIMO NURMOS	200 19/1

**RANKING: A: 1-4 B: 6-2-5-3-8 C: 7**

