

Intl Tip Sheet XVI

Doncaster, Leopardstown and The Curragh

With 10 days remaining of the astronomical summer, we have two major festivals to close the season in the UK and Ireland. Doncaster in the North of England hosts the fifth final British Classic, the St Leger.

You get the routine now: The British Classics are held at Newmarket, Epsom and Doncaster, while the High Summer carnivals are held at Ascot, Goodwood and York.

It follows that the Doncaster festival always had a Belmont Stakes feel about it. A vociferous Northern crowd, and the occasional pursuit of a Triple Crown, the 1 Mile 2,000 Guineas, the 1 Mile 4 Furlong Derby and finally the stamina test in the 1 Mile 6 Furlong St Leger.

Camelot with all the great Hungarian Kinsceme bloodline getting turned over by Encke in 2012, a Godolphin horse trained by a man subsequently banned for substance infractions was the last time the race had that meaningful energy. A major factor in changing the day was the introduction of the Irish Champion Weekend on British St Leger weekend. Initially, the top jockeys rode both races, with the St Leger early on the card and the Irish Champions Stakes later on the

Leopardstown card. Dettori and Moore and co. would often dash to a waiting helicopter to get from Doncaster to suburban Dublin. Covid changed that. And the pursuit of the Triple Crown has fallen out of favour. Why bother when bigger pots of cash can be found everywhere from Nashville to Nakayama. Doncaster is now a weaker meeting, but there are bets to be had on their big day. We start there before switching the Irish Champions Weekend at Leopardstown and the Curragh on Sunday.

Doncaster

R1 08:15 EBF Maiden Stakes 1 Mile

The ante post Fav is the Appleby horse with Billy the Kid Loughnane aboard, but this is a bookie's guess. One cannot confidently punt a horse, but I would be torn between two horses yet to run, the Hannon Kingsman horse Kingspell, currently 12/1 and the Tony Bloom Baaeed horse with Sharmadal below, Bombora, currently 11/2. This race has a win and your in ticket to next year's St Leger, but Bloom's mission in his racing life is winning the Melbourne Cup and this could next year's 3 yr old for that mission. Expect him on the premises in this mile feature. Watch the market and play accordingly. Whichever of those is significantly cut in price is the play. Otherwise, best to just watch.

R2 08:45 G2 Champagne Stakes 7F

2 (5) Desert Castle 11/10 4 Stars

Desert Castle is the right Fav. Impressive first up at Newmarket winning by 3 L easing up, so ignore the Figs. Will improve from that. May tighten to odds on in the market, but no value. Billy the Kid retains the ride for Charlie Appleby. Frankel up top. Dubawi below. It's sort of competitive, but my sense is that the bookie sponsored TV tipsters touting others in this races have a hidden agenda.

R3 09:20 EST Portland Handicap 5 1/2 F

7 (21) Annaf 33/1 3 Stars

Annaf won this race three years ago. I have won big with him in the past. He has not won in a while, but he has been kept race fit. He is well weighted now here as a Group winner. I may reluctant to bet him over 6F, but this 5 1/2 distance is perfect for him. He will make his with 2 furlongs to go. The high draw is a benefit also at Doncaster when the going is good. I have played Each Way with 5 places on offer, what you would call, Win and Place, but you would only get 3 places, so bet accordingly.

R4 09:55 EST G2 Park Stakes 7F

1 (6) More Thunder 5/4 4 Stars

More Thunder was a respectable 2 1/2 L 5th in the G1 Prix Jacques le Marois last time at Deauville. He has not won in his last 5 outings, but all were tough. This 5 yr old is a lifetime 5/15 with 6 also in the money. This is G2 is his level. And no accident Tom Marquand stays in the UK when there were options in Dublin.

R5 10:35 EST G1 St Leger 1 Mile 6F

4 (9) Enceladus 5/2 4 Stars

2 (2) Alderman 33/1 3 Stars

The extra distance probably suits the Derby winner, Christmas Day, but I am much more keen on the current joint Fav, the Niarchos' 4 (9) Enceladus for Joseph o'Brien. 3/3 this year. Rising through the grades with a spanking good win in the G3 Gordon Stakes over 12F. Billy the Kid booked. The extra distance seems like it will suit.

I would also advise a little place play on 2 (2) Alderman 33/1. The horse had a late kick when finishing a strong 5th in the Derby. The extra two furlongs will suit. Softer going would help or so it seems, but there is a nice bit of Kingmambo on further down on the dam side. The conventional wisdom that he needs soft maybe mistaken and you'll get a better place price and Rossa Ryan to help you get a piece. He may even win. He is the perfect back wheel Tri horse, if that's how you want to play

it.

R6 11:15 EST Pertemps Handicap 1 Mile

6 (13) Cash 25/1 5 Stars

I am putting up a bomb here as my value play of the day, the appropriately named, Cash. Lightly raced 7 yr. Can remember him bolting home in his maiden 5 years ago. Hard to forget a grey cutting through. Good wide ish draw. Will avoid traffic. Aggressive jockey booked. Sylvester de Sousa grabs races by the scruff of the neck. Ignore his last race when he was hampered at the start. Jamie Spencer who rides a lot for David Simcock did not force it once his chance was gone. Spencer rode it to 2nd place at this meet over 2 F further last year. He left it too late then. A big Sharmadal tank of a horse, who needs to get revved up. Sylvester will do that early. Spencer rides in Canada on Saturday.

R7 11:48 EST PJ Towey Handicap 1 Mile 2 F

1 (5) Thunder Run 9/2 2 Stars

The Karl Burke has to lump upwards of 12 lbs over most of his rivals. This is why he is the luke warm 9/2 Morning Line Fav. He's a big horse. I think he can handle the extra weight. I could not find a light weight lurker who is better than him. If the horse is

south of 7/2 before the off, he's a bet.

Leopardstown

R1 08:35 EST Listed Ingabelle Stakes 7F

11 (9) Timeless Tales 15/8 5 Stars

Facile 18/1 maiden winner for Willie McCreery at Naas (the punter's graveyard) in a field of 15 last time in the O'Callaghan silks. The O'Brien representative was 8 1/2 L back. They will get closer today, but she's a smoking hot filly.

R2 09:10 EST Sovereign Path Handicap 7F

Super tough. Have not played it. Probably will not play it. There are 4 British raiders, the 4, 9, 13 and 14. The prize money is better in Ireland. I suspect one of those may prevail. 14 (2) Carnival of Light 33/1 is best value of those. She is priced high probably on the back of finishing 16th of 19 last time at York, but look closer and they finished in a bunch and was barely 3-4 lengths back from the winner. I like fillies in the autumn and Charlie Johnson has Soumillon booked.

R3 09:45 EST G1 Golden Fleece Stakes 9F

5 (1) Nola Soul 15/2 3 Stars

I have to believe the Berwick colt by Justify that was so impressive at Royal Ascot but a poor 4th is the play here. The Breeders Cup has to be the target and the wind up process begins here. I would expect him to shorten on the day. You might get 5/1. Tough, tough race. Play conservatively. The horse is head strong and needs to be played at exactly the right time by Heffernan.

R4 10:15 EST G3 Kitterman Stakes 1 Mile 4 F

2 (11) Purview 6/4 4 Stars

Purview for the soon to retire Dermot Weld - the man who made modern global racing the phenomenon it is. It is being aimed the Breeders Cup Turf and it's the likely winner, but Gary Barber and Team Valor have a nice horse rounding into form with the 11 (5) Thread of Gold 7/1. Purview is the most likely winner, but don't be afraid to take a place swing with Willie Mullins' latest middle distance graduate.

R5 10:55 EST G1 Matron Stakes

1 (9) Blue Bolt 10/11 4 Stars

3 (3) City of Memphis 11/1 4 Stars

We keep the Juddmonte theme going with Andrew Balding sending his best horse over to Ireland. She is all the rage. You've seen the big race Royal Ascot wins. I don't need to elaborate. That said, I will be having

a little Win swing on 3 (3) City of Memphis 11/1 for the upset. Not seen since May. Saved for a late Summer - Fall campaign. Watch out. This Paddy Twomey fully is 3/3 this year, winning G2 and G3s.

R6 11:25 EST G2 Solonaway Stakes 1 Mile

9 (10) Isaac Newton 7/2

Hard to believe one can get this far in the card without touting any O'Brien horse on Ireland's biggest weekend. Quddwah is the 2/1 Fav for this for the Crisfords and although that horse was impressive when last since in Meydan, that was a long time ago. I'll take my chances with the 3yr old 9 (10) Isaac Newton 7/2 to catch up with his elders here. Isaac was born in February. He is now closer to being a 4 yr old than 3 yr old.

R7 12 Noon G1 Irish Champions Stakes 1 Mile 2 F

Trifecta play

This is a terrific tear up of a race. 8 (4) Item and 1 (8) Almaqam gave 6 (3) Constitution River a clinic last time in the Juddmonte International at York. Constitution River did have a little stumble, but there was no real excuses. Ryan Moore will have gone back to the drawing board. All three will be right there again and that's probably your first 3 past the post.

That said, this is a deep and race there could be value in the Trifecta if either 7 (5) Hawk Mountain (2nd in the French Derby), 2 (1) Hotazhell (recent German G1 winner, 3 Lengths of ahead of Santagada, who I just saw win impressively at Baden Baden) and 5 (7) A Boy Named Susie (who was a strong closing 4th in the French Derby and a recent 5 L winner of a G3) all show up.

The jockey bookings are notable. British champion jockey Oisin Murphy gets the ride for Donacha O'Brien and Pierre Charles Boudot returns for his first Aiden O'Brien assignment since spending 5 years fighting a rape allegation. Hawk Mountain poor show in the Juddmonte has to be ignored. There had to be an excuse. One also should remember Christophe Soumillon maintains his relationship with recent Deauville G3 Winner 4 (7) Wimbledon Hawkeye. He could find his way into the places also. And let's not forget the 2025 Derby winner, 3 (6) Lambourn, who has showing form in recent defeats behind the likes of Calandagan.

So the play is to fiddle around with the top three in the market in a Trifecta. If you want to take a chance, perhaps use Hotazhell 40/1, A Boy Named Susie 8/1, Lambourn 50/1, Hawk Mountain 25/1 and Wimbledon Hawkeye 28/1 in the 2nd and 3rd slots. Follow the market

before you commit. The key is selecting 2 from the 5 stated above and then use underneath. You may be able to turn 30 bucks into 300 bucks, if you can get one of the principles out of the places.

R8 12:35 EST 1 M 5 F

15 (8) War Rooms 33/1 2 Stars

War Rooms is a great place play at the price. Classic entered as a 3 yr old.

R9 13:10 EST 8 1/2 F

10 (2) Malavelly 33/1 2 Stars

Another excellent place play. Back up in distance and the going stay good. Also classic entered as a 3 yr old.

Sunday

Curragh

R1 08:45 EST

17 (18) Sir Les Patterson 14/1

R2 09:15 EST

7 (15) Stars of State 8/11

R3 09:50 EST

7 (7) Sun Goddess 10/11

R4 10:25 EST G1 Flying Five Stakes

10 (10) Starlust 10/1

R5 11:00 EST G1 Vincent O'Brien St

4 (4) Giant Sequoia 7/2

R6 11:35 EST G1 Irish St Leger

5 (7) Scandinavia 4/9

R7 12:10 EST G2 Blandford Stakes

6 (9) Thundering On 6/4

Doncaster

R4 10:25 EST G3 Spectre Stakes

20 (16) Touleen 5/2

R5 10:40 EST Mallard Handicap

9 (6) All in You 7/1