

TEAM HHH, 2026
International Racing Tip Sheet XI
“Follow the Jockey”
Saturday, June 13th-14th
The Stradbroke and JJ Atkins, Eagle Farm
Prix de Diane, Chantilly
Takarazuka Kinen, Hanshin

Oaks day at Epsom last week was profitable. Opinions strong with clues to nudge players into good decisions. But Derby day was a dumpster fire. I should not have played the substandard Queensland Oaks card and conditions — or more to the point — the poor reporting of the deteriorating conditions wrecked Derby Day and the plays subsequently made. We move on.

The focus is not yet Royal Ascot. Brisbane hosts the last major card of season in Australia. The G2 Brisbane with clues for the Melbourne Cup, the G1 JJ Atkins for the 2 yr olds and the prestigious Stradbroke Handicap, one of Australia's great races. It has been raining, so it will be soft bordering on heavy. The rail is out 4 Meters. It will be the last Australian card on these pages for several months. And guess who rides in Brisbane, two days before he rocks up at Royal Ascot? The world's number 1 jockey, James McDonald! We also have the last big G1 of the Japanese Spring season before they largely hit the hay over their high Summer. That race is lit. And we have the Prix Diane card at Chantilly on Sunday. Nothing on the undercard appeals. Speaking of France, we have a live French import to kick off proceedings on Friday night, EST. I'll also throw in a selections for a provincial race in the UK on Saturday. Remember the weekend before Royal Ascot is not good quality racing, so bet accordingly.

R1 21:34 Friday. The Wayne Wilson Stakes Listed. 1 Mile

2 (4) Yellow Jersey

5 Stars

Qatar Racing have 2 (4) Yellow Jersey to Australia for the Melbourne Spring. This is a top Group horse running in a provincial listed contest. He was last up 3rd to Convergent and Dubai Honour at Paris Longchamp. Before that a strong winner of a conditions race at Deauville (when Oisín Murphy made the trip to France for one ride). Had the horse not trialed and had the ground been firm, I would advise caution, but the horse has form on soft, won his local trial with the jock motionless and gets a sweet draw. His price has tightened, but 6/4 is still good bet. Mark Zahra is booked. The intention is there.

R3 22:53 G2 Brisbane Cup 2 Miles

7 (1) Bella Montagna 13/10

5 Stars

Alacance squeezed out a win last time from a closing Bella Montagna. My selection was back 3rd that time. 7 (1) Bella Montagna has form on soft and gets a 3 Kg pull in the weights over Alacance from last time. That's serious weight in a 2 mile race. It's no wonder Bella Montagna that is 13/10 F. I looked at the others. Familiar names, but I am going with my eye from two weeks ago. The form horse and the best weighted.

R4 G3 Gunsynd Classic 1 Mile

10 (3) Within the Law 13/5

5 Stars

I tipped this Bjorn Baker horse at 20/1 two weeks ago. He rattled home for 3rd that day. He wins this providing the G1 lurker The Sixties gets a run in the Stradbroke. He may win anyway, particularly as the trainer is on the record as saying the horse is looking for soft. And as such I have played him at 13/5, though the price will get what UK books called a Rule 4 deduction if The Sixties who is 1st Emergency for The Stradbroke runs in the Big G1. Great draw, finally. And top jockey, Tommy Berry, rides.

R5 00:03 EST Hinkler Handicap Listed 6F

6 (6) Barber 10/1

2 Stars

Taking a stab here with a horse 2nd up that has soft ground Sydney form (in theory, superior to Brisbane form) and looked like he had more to give when fifth, first up. s.

R6 00:38 EST G2 Dane Ripper Stakes 6 1/2 F

13 (12) Poster Girl 12/1

4 Stars

The reflex bet would be the Waller / McDonald horse, Firestorm, but I am holding my nerve and playing a local horse that is 3rd up and came strong late over a furlong shorter (5 1/2 F) to land 3rd place at the cross town track, Doomben. The extra distance will suit and that distance will negate the draw enough to allow the horse to straighten up and seize the initiative. Irish jockey Martin Harley still in town. He has been there for a couple of years now. He is best aggressive. Not a soft hands rider. This set up suits his style.

R7 01:17 EST G1 JJ Atkins 1 Mile

4 (9) Tren Bolt

5 Stars

Think of this as the equivalent of the Champagne Stakes. The 2 yr olds going at it with their 3 yr old birthdays on the horizon and the potential to anoint a star in the years ahead. The other Waller, Stormy Marco is very, very interesting. He got blocked in running last time when I tipped him, finished 5th. He is drawn 2 and maybe worth a defensive dinar. But James McDonald is not already in London eating jellied eels with the cockneys because 4 (9) Tran Bolt 11/10 looks to be an extra gear beast who also handles soft. It's an important race to win and although McDonald maybe the World's best jockey, he's not going to let some other cat take the ride and maybe keep the ride down the line. I tipped Tren Bolt last time to win. The price will probably go odds on, so bet accordingly. I am betting the proverbial farm.

R8 01:57 G1 Stradbroke Handicap 7F

4 (17) Another Wil 12/1

3 Stars

One of the world's great betting races. Every major trainer from all the Australian jurisdictions are in town for this. The great Fangirl shows up for Waller and McDonald, a horse close to the breeding paddocks who has gone head with the best G1 horse and beaten them. She is not Fav, because she had a choppy season, starting late and not really stepping up since. She is 3rd up here. Ignore at your peril. You would include her in your Quaddie or your late Pick 4, no question, but a race like this demands you take a shot with a double figure price. And that for me is **4 (17) Another Wil at 12/1**. The horse has winning form over heavy. Ciaran Maher reaches for local jockey, Ryan Maloney. Draw would be tricky over 6 Furlongs, but an extra furlong coming down the crown of the track probably suits.

R9 02:30 EST G2 World Pool Q22 11 F

5 (2) Militarize 6/1

3 Stars

5 (2) Militarize is known as a miler, but has gone this distance before. He gets his conditions and gets McDonald. Pride of Jenny is the celebre horse in Australia. She goes hard early and holds them off, but there are big questions with hereon soft. I am betting Militarize to have a kick over the final furlong.

Chester

R2 09:10 EST Handicap

7 (4) Proud Nation 10/1

2 Stars

7 (4) Proud Nation 10/1 is a Sioux Nation colt that will be stronger for his return at Hamilton recently. Nice draw for the tight Chester track. A good place play on your ADW.

Sunday

Hanshin

R11 02:40 EST G1 Takarazuka Kinen 1 Mile 3F

1 (1) Danon Decile 10/1

3 Stars

Some of the best Middle Distance Japanese horses line up here This is really the best race anywhere in the world this month, Chantilly, Saratoga and Royal Ascot included. Croix do Nord would be my selection on all known metrics, but that Tenno Sho win last time may have stretched him. He barely hung on to win by a nose over the 2 miles. Museum Mile would my next default play, but the horse has not looked primed on the gallops this week. The horse was denied a run by the Vets in Dubai a few months ago. Damian Lane is riding in Japan and takes the ride, but that's not enough. Regaleira gets Lemaire, but I don't like playing mares this time of year. The value is the former Japanese Derby Winner, 1 (1) Danon Decile. The horse has been ticking over nicely on the training track and has been kept fresh for this. The horse is currently 10/1 on international markets. Tosaki rides. It's a great Each way bet.

Chantilly

10:05 EST G1 Prix de Diane 1 Mile 2 1/2 F

11 (10) Lilt 6/1

2 Stars

Diamond Necklace is 8/11 Fav for Aiden O'Brien with Ryan Moore in town for the ride. It seems straightforward except Dimaond Necklace has yet to go 2 1/2 furlongs further than a mile ever before. It just makes sense to look for value and the well bred **11 (10) Lilt 6/1** for William Haggas offers that. Lilt also has not gone beyond the mile, but was strong late last time. Haggas generally does not enter horses so the owner can have a jolly. The filly has serious G1 entries across the Summer including the Irish Oaks in July. This seems to be the race they feel they can win. Tom Marquand rides. It seems a logical value play given the quality of the field. More than half the field seems to have no chance. Reminder: Diamond Necklace is still going to be tough, so proceed cautiously and wait for the paddock report.