

TEAM HHH
International Racing Tip Sheet #8
June 7th, 2025
Eagle Farm, Greyville, Epsom

The Derby takes centre stage. Heavy rain is forecast, so the firm ground Spring form book can be thrown out of the window. The Oaks was won on Friday by Aiden O'Brien and Ryan Moore. I have a mea culpa: I had intended to submit the tip sheet ahead of the Oaks card, but had some American acquaintances in town I was obliged to show around yesterday. I got a chit for a round of Golf in Houston in return. And of course my value horse for today Oaks Friday romped home at 28/1. Howard has the receipts as he got a heads up a few minutes before the race. I only wish I had asked him to send out one off tip alert. Maybe future such plays or plays adjusting for changeable conditions or other late knowledge can be texted out in future. This year's Tip Sheet will be looked back at as prototype. A way to get folks familiar with the overseas offering and the characters and connections involved and hopefully catch a few winners. It will be involve and improve, I hope.

Eagle Farm

We start at Eagle Farm where last week's Queensland Derby card was abandoned because the tropical rain impeded the jockey's vision. We now get a 10 race hybrid card which includes the Queensland Derby and Oaks. The track has dried to a Good 5. James McDonald in town for his last big Australian Group rides before Royal Ascot. I'll try to be brief.

R4 22:53 EST Friday

4 (5) Cannonball 20/1. Get 3 kgs weight relief from key rivals. Tony Gollan, a local trainer good with sprinters has booked Irish jockey Martin Harley. Harley is less finesse, more strength type of rider, which is what Cannonball needs. Horse is drawn sweet in 5 for this 6 furlong Gr2 affair. Horse hit traffic in his past two runs this preparation, but came home strong each time. VALUE

R7 00:35 EST Saturday The Gr1 Kingsford Smith Cup 6 1/2 furlongs.

10 (13) Joliestar 13/10 I took on Joliestar on last week's card because I was expecting heavy. She is the obvious selection now over the better surface. James McDonald rides. But I have already played another Tony Gollan inmate in place parlay, the **5 (6) Zarastro 20/1** who was also held up at crucial stage last time and will be value with Angela Jones up. I have also played **6 (12) Payline 16/1** who was unlucky 3rd in the Doomben 10,000 last time. Maybe play those two to place.

R8 01:13 EST The Gr1 Queensland Oaks. One eye's are immediately drawn to the Chris Waller James McDonald Combo, Movin Out, but it is odd to see the horse at the random price of 15/2. The luke warm market leaders are Philia (unbeaten in her last four) and Benagil (winner of the Australasian Oaks in Adelaide two back). I prefer the Kris Lees trained **5 (8) You Wahng 20/1** who was 3rd in the ATC Oaks at Randwick two back. Bumped at start and looked the winner two furlongs out only to

fade over the final half a furlong. Gets a tongue tie and I am betting Lees has put more stamina into her legs along the Newcastle beaches. Tommy Berry rides.

R9 01:52 EST The Gr1 Queensland Derby. Chris Waller runs a filly Belle Detelle here. This promises to be a messy race and I am not she cannot the traffic. I was against the 2nd place finisher in South Australian Derby, Stataurio, last week when the course was heavy. **3 (5) Stataurio** is the 6/1 Fav and is good value at that price. He will get an easy position and has to be a play. His rider will ensure he will closer than he was at Adelaide. That said, I cannot get past **7 (22) Politely Dun 20/1** as a place play. I tipped Politely Dun last week and would tip him to win if it were softer.

Greyville, South Africa

Your morning will start with a competitive card at Greyville as Africa's best horses jostle for a place in the Durban July about a month away.

R5 09:25 EST 1 (1) Educator 11/10 is a strong selection in this 2 yr filly contest. Classic bound and value at anything above Even money.

R6 10:05 EST (8) Whispering Death is good price of 7/2. I was torn between the two Mike DeKock runners, but the Oppenheimer horse down from Johannesburg gets the nod. Gavin Lerena is a world class jockey and can be the difference in a tight race.

R7 The Gr1 Gold Challenge over a mile is a great race. I recall Variety Club winning this twice about a decade ago. And maybe only Goldikova and Wise Dan have been better milers anywhere in the world this century. There may be not a horse as great as Variety Club's in this race, but there are some good horses pointing to the Durban July, Africa's biggest race. But a win here would mean a penalty for that race. So it's tricky. Connections want to get a race in, but winning it may be profitable in the short term, but will hurt next month. A few sprinters are also taking their chances and I am happy to be against them. The Fav Dave the King is an admirable, overachieving sort who could win, but this leads me to look for value between the two three year olds in the race. Playing a 3 yr old against older horse is always tough, but we are only two months away from Southern hemisphere horses turning 4 and the **5 (5) Cosmic Speed 6/1**, the emphatic winner of the Gr1 Horse Chesnut Stakes fits the bill. This horse has been getting stronger if you compare his contests with Mike De Kock's Greaterrix. The Mile is his wheelhouse. He is great value at 6/1.

R8 11:35 EST

3 (3) Sohot Sowhat 6/1 Competitive race. Sohot Sowhat is on speed type with cosy draw and Gavin Lerena up. By my reckoning Lerena rides a treble today, at least.

R9 12:20 EST

13 (13) Zeitz 9/2. I am siding with another 3yr old here in this 9 Furlong Gr3 contest. The horse is drawn the widest but gets 10-15 lbs from most of his rivals. This is another race with horses pointing to the Durban July. And a win for Zeitz would almost ensure his participation in the Durban July. It is a good crop of 3 yr olds in South Africa, with the best of them - Vaughn Marshall's One Stripe - already being readied for European and North American campaign in the months ahead.

Epsom, UK

There is persistent very heavy rain "forecast" for Epsom, so ideally I would prefer to be submitting this on Saturday. There may be scratches, including rumours Godolphin may pull the Guineas winner Ruling Court if it turns into a bog.

R1 08:00 EST

8 (8) Sparks Fly 8/1.

Capable female jockey Laura Pearson aboard a mud lark who also happens the highest rated horse in the race. Not a super confident play because it is a competitive race, but this is a front running type who has a run already this season.

R2 08:35 EST

Persica 9/4 has taken over favouritism from Docklands 5/2, a horse who is being aimed at the Queen Anne at Royal Ascot. It is seemingly a two horse race, but I prefer the German raider **2 (6) Geography** with Christophe Soumillon (in town for a live long shot ride in the Derby) picking up the ride. Geography ran a career best winning a Gr3 at Düsseldorf in April with former Gr2 winner Brave Emperor over 5 lengths back. He was gelded prior to that race, so providing he can handle the potentially heavy conditions, he should be right there. He failed to handle heavy at San Siro in Milan last November, so you are betting that the horse was cooked at the end of last season and the subsequent gelding has made him a better horse.

R3 09:10 EST

A mad 18 runner 5 furlong dash for 3 yr olds. In theory, you need to be drawn high on the straight downhill course here, which helps the Fav **2 (18) Ruby's Profit 3/1.** I am not going to try to beat a form horse who gets a sweet draw.

R5 10:30 EST The Derby

It makes sense to swerve the Ballydoyle Fav Delacroix on breeding. No Dubawi has ever come close to winning the Derby. It is possible the Godolphin Guineas winner Ruling Court may scratch because of the ground, at least that was the hint from Charlie Appleby at Epsom on Friday.

11 (16) Prince of Arras 5/1 won the Dante trial at York in impressive fashion, but can he handle soft ground? The draw is super important at Epsom over the Derby Course. Very low and very high draws tend to detrimental given the inside outside nature of the race.

So we could have a big price winner, particularly if Prince of Arras who jumps from stall 16 cannot handle soft to heavy ground. 50/1 outsider **6 (3) Lazy Griff 50/1** does handle heavy, but is drawn in 3, which is not great, but better than 1, 2, 18 and 19. I have been keen on Stanhope Gardens 16/1 for months, but he is drawn worse than Lazy Griff in 2. On the opposite side, the long time Ante Post Fav The Lion In Winter has a horrible draw in 19. The horse who is proven over heavy (winning a Gr1 at St Cloud) and gets a funnel draw is **16 (12) Tennessee Stud 25/1** for Joseph O'Brien. He has been cut from 66/1 to 25/1 during the course of the week. And 2nd in the Dante, **2 (15) Damysus 12/1** for the Qatari Wathnam operation seems primed if he can go better on soft than Prince or Arras. Two French horse have been supplemented for 70,000 pounds, the Aga Khan's Midak 16/1 and Juddmonte's New Ground 50/1. Of the two I prefer New Ground who is much better value. Finally, a horse I tipped up last month **9 (9) Nighttime Dancer** is an incredible 150/1, which I have played here as the UK bookies are currently.

In short, I will be advising you play Prince of Arras, but keep your eye on the market particularly with Lazy Griff, Tennessee Stud, and Damysus. And if Nighttime Dancer too if you are brave enough.

I had intended to include Tokyo's big Gr 1 on Sunday, but have ran out of road this evening. Maybe I will have time to add a supplemental tip sheet tomorrow.