

~ The Early Word ~ New Zealand

Northern horses make the trek south for the Christchurch carnival this week & a below average meeting in the Waikato with a few maiden races. We will stay with the Waikato RC meet for this weekend as often it can be hard getting a line on the first time Northern runners against Southern company at Riccarton.

Our best bet of the day is Waikato **Race 3 No 9 Malukar**. Put in a solid one here 2 weeks ago, had a torrid time in the running & at the start, got itself into a hopeless position & just missed. This race looks well suited as does the roomy Te Rapa track, better luck in the running & wins.

Our rated price is 3.00. Expected price 4.00-5.00.

The value selection for today is Waikato **Race 9 No 5 Anuthahoarse**. Currently available at 21.0 fixed NZTAB which on the face of it appears rather nice overs. Did win well last start & does meet a lot in this that are fresh up. Loves the distance although a rise in class, does look capable of handling it, rarely puts in a bad performance. The 6 Magic Tryst is the other potential leader in the race although its record left handed would be a huge concern.

Our rated price is 8.00. Expected price 10.00-15.00

Adelaide

The Banker

Race 8 # 1 Bella Leah

Rated: 2.00

Expected: 2.50

BEST BET

Always risky selecting a best bet where there are 3 first starters and all from good stables. However, the formlines surrounding Bella Leah are enormous with 3 subsequent runners going over to win in Melbourne (Eclair Fantastic, Al's Best Mate and beat last start Exalted Keetah who then blew away a good field on Oaks Day). Gets in just 1/2kg above the minimum after Kate Dysons 3kg claim, will settle on the pace and shouldnt have any excuses. Very happy to take 2.00 or better.

Will be standing her out in the last leg of the quaddie too.

Quaddie numbers 1,3,4,6 / 1,2,3,7 / 2,4,6,7,8,9 / 1. (Total cost \$96 before scratchings).

The Value

Race 6 # 7 Saeta Rose

Rated: 5.50

Expected: 8.00

E/W BET

Is already a winner of the 1800m and is now nearing peak fitness and is ready to run very well 4th up from a spell. Will look to race handy sitting just off what looks to be a genuinely run race. Looks to be the early value in the race and rates very well at 5.50.

Dangers are Jeune's Lagoon(2) 3.0, Purple Haze(3) 3.5 and Bella Grande(1) 9.5.

Lacey Underall

2008 Adelaide Cup Winner

Brisbane

The Banker

Race

Rated:

Expected:

BEST BET

The Value

Race

Rated:

Expected:

E/W BET

Viewed

2008 Brisbane Cup Winner

Melbourne

The Banker

Race 6 # 1 Apache Cat

Rated: 1.55

Expected: 1.80

BEST BET

If Apache Cat returns anywhere near his best he will not be losing the Patinack Farm Classic. He has won five group one races on end and has not lost since racing over a mile in the Makybe Diva Stakes last spring. He is the best in at the weights, he flies fresh, he loves this distance and he has a Lightning win down the Flemington straight. He should win and win well.

The Value

Race 9 # 3 Mandela

Rated: 5.00

Expected: 9.00

E/W BET

Mandela has been racing well of late with a super run in the Coongy when finishing sixth behind Baughurst before winning the Werribee Cup in fine style. He is well suited by this trip and the smaller field should ensure he doesn't get too far back. With the speed expected to be strong, Mandela will have every opportunity. A great each-way bet.

Efficient

2007 Melbourne Cup Winner

Sydney

The Banker

Race 6 # 1 Espurante

Rated: 2.50

Expected: 3.00

BEST BET

Class mare resuming and might just about be the right price. Never won first-up, takes on an in-form mare in Mary's Grace, and has 59kg. Hoping that's enough for the bookies to risk Espurante. Twice listed placed and a Listed win last prep, resuming in a 2 metro win race for fillies & mares. Should be too good on her home track.

The Value

Race 8 # 3 Mr Incredible

Rated: 3.80

Expected: 5.5

E/W BET

Open little race to finish the day, but this fellow looks the class runner, well in with 54.5kg. While most of this field are coming of Restricted form, Mr Incredible will actually appreciate the drop in class from Welters. 3rd first-up (2 starts back) behind Global Warming and recent Group 1 placed mare Absolutelyfabulous is terrific form for a race like this.

No Wine No Song

2008 Sydney Cup Winner

~ The "Get Out" Stakes ~ Western Australia

A 9 race card with race 6 the wfa Lee Steere Stakes being the feature event, which sees the clash of two of the states heavyweights in Marasco and Megatic. At first glance, value bets appear hard to find, but overall looks ok for punters with many of the races only having a few genuine winning chances.

Race 4 sees **No 2 ESCADAIRE** hold a significant points rating over his combatants in this one. This former Victorian galloper's form has been irresistible since arriving in the west and his great last start victory over the brilliant Vain Raider is compelling. That form was franked when Vain Raider came out at his subsequent start and ran a state record. Comes off 21 day break here, but his last two wins have been off 38 and 28 day breaks. Good top end speed from Naval Seal and Solidwickedcruel, and should get lovely run in transit behind that pair. Oroya Gold doesn't win many and again should be placed here, with a watch on West River Charley at big odds for the exotics.

Rated Price: **2.50** Expected: 3.00

Race 7 should provide the ideal platform for **No 1 HERMOSA CORONA** to put together back to back wins. He produced a stunning win here last start after a luckless run in a listed affair at his previous outing. Hermosa Corona was ridden aggressively and took off well before the home turn with a sustained run and raced right away in the straight to defeat the smart Valentine Miss, with the third placegetter Gum Nut Guru franking the form by winning easily here on Melbourne Cup day. Should have the measure of his rivals here. Russell Road was not far off them in strong race last time and looks the danger.

Rated Price : **2.90** Expected: 3.50