# **Saint-Cloud** [L-H] - 17 November

Race 1 - PRIX AJAX - 1600m CL1. Purse EUR €35,000.

- 1. **PENTAOUR** Last appeared 12 weeks ago when he finished 9 lengths from the winner in sixth over 1900m at Deauville AW. Could surprise.
- 2. **ANTERO** Returned from a spell with a sound third last start over 2000m at Munich (Germany). Strips fitter and is worth including.
- 3. **AIGLE VAILLANT** Stepping out at this circuit for the first time. Last appeared when he finished fourth over 1900m at Chantilly AW on November 2. Rates highly.
- 4. **JAGUAR FLEURY** Well accounted for in both runs back from a break. Doubt he will do too much here.
- 5. **MONTMIRAIL** Had to contend with a wide draw at her latest run and finished out of the money over 1600m at Longchamp. Won prior at Vichy and holds claims.
- 6. **SITUVEUX** Has been out of the money in recent runs including last time out when fifth over 1600m at this track three weeks ago, beaten 2.5 lengths. Great chance to atone.
- 7. **JARITE FLEURY** Has been out of the money recently including last time out when seventh over 1800m at Le Croise-Laroche a week-and-a-half ago, beaten 14 lengths. Not keen on her chances.

**Summary**: SITUVEUX (6) has been running consistently of late in Listed company including when fifth in the Prix Isola Bella over course and distance. Major chance on ratings alone. AIGLE VAILLANT (3) finished fifth in the 1800m Listed Prix Le Fabuleux at Chantilly prior to a decent fourth in this class at Chantilly AW latest. Leading hope. MONTMIRAIL (5) won a Class Two conditions event over 1600m at Vichy two back. Player. PENTAOUR (1) is next best.

#### **Selections**

SITUVEUX (6) - AIGLE VAILLANT (3) - MONTMIRAIL (5) - PENTAOUR (1)

- 1. **DUC DE MORNY** Looking to improve on his last-start fourth in the G3 Prix De Conde over 1800m at Chantilly two months ago. Suited this level so cannot be underestimated.
- 2. **DENVER CHOP** Comes back in grade after finding Charyn too classy last start, beaten 4.5 lengths into fourth in the G2 Criterium De Maisons Laffitte over 1200m at Chantilly. Key runner.
- 3. **AWTAAD PRINCE** Won last start over 1207m at Leicester (UK), getting home by a long neck. Looks tested in this field.
- 4. **DEVIL IN PINK** Looking to improve on his last-start fifth over 1400m at Chantilly five-and-a-half weeks ago. Consider.
- 5. **GOT SOCKS** Finished fourth last start over 1500m at Deauville AW, beaten 1.75 lengths. Meets a tough line-up and prefer others.
- 6. **PROLETARIAT** Scored last start over 1200m at Nimes, getting home by 3 lengths. In form and worth following up.
- 7. **QUEEN SAO** Landed the prize last start over 1600m at Angers, getting home by 8 lengths. One of the contenders.
- 8. **RIBERA** Looking to improve on her last-start second over 1400m at Hannover (Germany) three-and-a-half weeks ago. In form and worth following up.
- 9. **DRAWN TO DREAM** Scored last start over 1500m at Halle (Germany), getting home by 6 lengths. Looks tested in this field.
- 10. **RITOURNELLE** Was successful at her latest appearance over 1600m at Lyon-Parilly, scoring by 1.75 lengths. In the mix.

**Summary**: The form of DUC DE MORNY (1) good fourth in the 1800m G3 Prix de Conde at Chantilly took a boost when the winner went on to follow up in the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Keeneland (USA). Top claims dropped in trip with first-time cheekpieces added. DENVER CHOP (2) produced a solid effort when fourth in the G2 Criterium de Maisons-Laffitte over 1200m at Chantilly last month. Key chance. RIBERA (8) is interesting following a decent second in the Listed Grosser Preis Der Mehl-Mulhens-Stiftung at Hannover (Germany) while Lyon-Parilly maiden winner RITOURNELLE (10) could feature.

#### **Selections**

DUC DE MORNY (1) - DENVER CHOP (2) - RIBERA (8) - RITOURNELLE (10)

- 1. **SWEET VICTORY** Unable to find the winners' circle this campaign. Last start was beaten 10 lengths into eighth over 2200m at Longchamp. Happy enough to avoid.
- 2. **KABIR** Honest gelding. Course and distance winner whose latest effort was a third over 1800m at Le Croise-Laroche. In the mix.
- 3. **RIDWAAN** Yet to fill a placing in two runs since resuming from a spell, the latest effort a fourth over 2000m at Marseille-Borely three-and-a-half weeks ago. Prefer to see him back in form.
- 4. **DUKE OF CONKER** Couldn't fire second up over 1950m at Longchamp after winning when fresh from a spell at Vichy. Happy to overlook.
- 5. **HIGHBARI** Out of character performance last time out when seventh over 2000m at Longchamp, beaten 4 lengths. Can improve. Consider.
- 6. **EQUUS VINCIT** Usually reliable type who ran well below his best last start when 6 lengths adrift in 13th over 1950m at Longchamp. Not a good sign last start so looking elsewhere.
- 7. **WOOT CITY** Honest gelding who has a top-three strike-rate of almost 50%. Found one better last start at Longchamp over 2200m. Rates highly.
- 8. **ANCTOT** Lightly raced gelding who progressed nicely last start with a win by 1.3 lengths over 2000m at this track. One of the major players.
- 9. **PLAIN BEAU** Had to contend with a wide draw at his latest run and finished out of the money over 2500m at Deauville AW.
- 10. **HOMO DEUS** Followed a win at Lyon-Parilly two starts ago with a fourth last start over 1950m at Longchamp, beaten 2.5 lengths. Shapes as a top three prospect.
- 11. **RUE DES IRLANDAIS** Drops in journey from the last start when fourth over 2400m at this track, finishing 2.25 lengths off the winner. Major player.
- 12. SHAMSABAD Ran a better race last start to finish second over 2800m at this track. In the mix.
- 13. **LONDON ROYAL** Hasn't won in 17 months. Finished fourth, beaten 2.5 lengths, last start over 1950m at Longchamp. Has ability and should measure up.
- 14. **HAUTE VOLEE** Drops in distance from the latest outing when seventh over 2500m at this track, finishing 2.25 lengths off the winner. Must be respected.
- 15. **QUEEN LADY** Finished second over 1950m at Longchamp two back then missed the frame last time out over 2200m at Longchamp. Hard to fault if at her best.
- 16. **CREATIVE** Often among the minors but finds it hard to win. Has six wins to her name but in the placings a further 13 times from 47 career starts. Finished 11th at Deauville AW. Looking to others.

**Summary**: QUEEN LADY (15) arrives following a trio of placings in similar Class Two handicaps of late including when runner-up to a subsequent winner at Longchamp on penultimate outing. Notable chance with plenty in favour. ANCTOT (8) won a competitive course and distance handicap latest. Remains of interest upped 3.5kg. KABIR (2) finished a good third behind Queen Lady at Longchamp before filling the same spot in a Class One conditions event at Le Croise-Laroche. Noted. HIGHBARI (5) has the form to feature off this mark and WOOT CITY (7) is respected following a good Class Two handicap second at Longchamp.

#### **Selections**

QUEEN LADY (15) - ANCTOT (8) - KABIR (2) - HIGHBARI (5) - WOOT CITY (7)

- 1. **SERBER** Battled last start to finish seventh over 1650m at Machecoul, adding to a sequence of plain results. Worth forgiving the last few efforts.
- 2. **SUPREMATIE REBEL** Pushed forward on debut last start but couldn't go on and finished ninth, beaten 16 lengths, at this track over 1500m. Needs more.
- 3. **ST JAMES PARK** Didn't do a bad job last start when fourth on debut over 1500m at this track. Open to plenty of improvement.
- 4. **I'M A BELIEVER** Went down by just 0.7 lengths when third at Le Pin Du Haras over 1400m last time out. Tackling a longer journey this time. Shapes as a key runner.
- 5. **OKAPINA'S LIGHT** Finished second on debut last start at Clairefontaine. Worth consideration of a place at best.
- 6. **FAMOSO** Has been a model of consistency this time in work, most recently finishing second over 1600m at Bordeaux. Solid top-three prospects again.
- 7. **KELPIE** Was in the money on debut two starts back at Lyon-la-Soie but followed up with a moderate performance when fifth over 1800m at Lyon-la-Soie last time. Can do much better this time.
- 8. **FILLE DU ROI** Hit and miss type who improved last start to finish second over 1500m at this track. Can go close.
- 9. **MANKO** Kicked off her career with a moderate seventh, beaten 7 lengths, over 1900m at Chantilly AW two-and-a-half weeks ago. Can improve with that run under her belt.
- 10. **NO TIME** Hasn't shown a great deal in two career runs, the most recent a sixth over 1100m at Le Croise-Laroche. Looking to others.
- 11. ALICANTO Unraced gelding by Myboycharlie out of Real Maestranza. Happy to risk this time.

**Summary**: FILLE DU ROI (8) has shown more than enough to suggest she can win a maiden of this nature and is selected to go one place better than when runner-up over 1500m here last outing. The consistent FAMOSO (6) could prove the chief threat on the back of a narrow second in a 1600m maiden at Bordeaux. It was a promising initial effort from OKAPINA'S LIGHT (5) when second at Clairefontaine and he should feature if building on that. KELPIE (7) is also considered.

#### **Selections**

FILLE DU ROI (8) - FAMOSO (6) - OKAPINA'S LIGHT (5) - KELPIE (7)

- 1. **PAROL** Tailed off in the G2 Qatar Prix Dollar at Longchamp in October. Capable of featuring on the form he showed when winning the G3 Grosser Preis Der Wirtschaft at Dortmund (Germany) in June.
- 2. NORWEGIAN SIR Held in a Class Two at Dieppe latest. Up against it on ratings.
- 3. AD MERAJJ Held fifth in the Listed Prix du Ranelaghover 1600m at Longchamp. Opposed.
- 4. **SKALLETI** High-class seven-year-old who looks likely to take all the beating on reappearance. Top claims despite disappointing in the G1 Prix Ganay at Longchamp in May.
- 5. **KENGERO** Held seventh in the Listed Grand Prix du Nord last start but could place on his narrow second in the Listed Prix Le Fabuleux at Chantilly prior.
- 6. **MATHLETIC** Returned from a break with a head second to Titanium in a Class One conditions event over 1600m at Longchamp. Unexposed and needs respect.
- 7. **TITANIUM** Progressing nicely and battled on well to deny Mathletic in a 1600m Class One at Longchamp latest. Not dismissed.
- 8. **TRUE TEDESCO** Finished third in the 1400m Listed Grosser Preis des Arc Siegers Torquator Tasso at Hannover (Germany) last outing. Place looks best here.

**Summary**: SKALLETI (4) will not need to be anywhere near his best to take this on reappearance and the multiple G1 winner can making a winning return to action. Turned over when fifth in the G1 Prix Ganay in May but expected to get back on track down markedly in grade with conditions to suit. MATHLETIC (6) was denied a head by TITANIUM (7) in a Class One conditions race over 1600m at Longchamp recently. The former was returning from an absence and looks likely to reverse the form with a step forward expected although the latter must be respected once more. PAROL (1) is worth including.

**Selections** 

SKALLETI (4) - MATHLETIC (6) - TITANIUM (7) - PAROL (1)

- 1. **MISTER APPLEBEE** Has been out of the money of late including last time out when sixth over 1400m at Baden-Baden (Germany) five weeks ago, beaten 4 lengths. Certainly worth another chance.
- 2. KOBOLD Fair third over 1600m at Hannover (Germany) four weeks ago. Consider.
- 3. **SANPEDRO** Has ability but the wins are rare. Has just one success to his name but has recorded five placings from 16 starts. Last start finished fourth over 1800m at Le Croise-Laroche. Among the chances on his best form.
- 4. **HEATHERWOOD** Finished midfield last start at Le Croise-Laroche over 1100m, 4.5 lengths from the winner. Steps up in distance today. Holds claims.
- 5. **READY TO RUMBLE** Delivered a better run last time out when fourth over 1100m at Le Croise-Laroche, beaten 4 lengths. Likely to measure up.
- 6. **MERANO** Back sharply in trip last time and didn't feature when fourth over 1400m at Toulouse. Better off looking at others.
- 7. **DUBAI MEMORIES** Five placings of 15 career starts but just the one win. Last start finished second at Le Croise-Laroche beaten 3.5 lengths. Rates well and expected to go close.
- 8. **FUN BUT TUFF** Finished midfield when resuming from a spell last start over 1200m at Fontainebleau. Jumps up in journey today. One to note.
- 9. **ORIFLAMME** Has been out of the placings in two runs to date, the latest when safely held in 13th over 1950m at Le Mans. Open to improvement.

**Summary**: It was a decent effort from MISTER APPLEBEE (1) when sixth in a 1400m handicap at Baden-Baden (Germany) a month ago. Key claims with Barzalona booked for this drop in grade. FUN BUT TUFF (8) is yet to run a bad race in four career outings and shaped nicely when fifth in a 1200m qualifying handicap at Fontainebleau. Interesting contender back up in trip on claiming debut. DUBAI MEMORIES (7) needs considering following a good second in a claimer over 1800m at Le Croise-Laroche. Another to note is HEATHERWOOD (4).

### Selections

MISTER APPLEBEE (1) - FUN BUT TUFF (8) - DUBAI MEMORIES (7) - HEATHERWOOD (4)

- 1. **VILARO** Started this campaign in poor form, last start finishing sixth and beaten 9 lengths over 2100m at this track. Well placed and can do much better.
- 2. **BROK** Didn't disappoint fresh and shown little since that run. Can't have with poor performances and additional weight.
- 3. **NAISHAN** Handy stayer fitter for two runs back, the latest when fourth over 2100m at this track. Will be improved.
- 4. **MAKTAVA** Well held at the last couple starts, the latest when beaten 27 lengths into 15th over 2200m at Longchamp. Needs progress.
- 5. **AKYO** Five-year-old gelding who drops in distance from the latest effort when third over 2400m at Lyon-Parilly, finishing 3.5 lengths off the winner. Going well and should be prominent again.
- 6. **KIAZ APAPA** Going well recently including a last start second beaten 2 lengths over 2100m at Angers. Has ability and can make his presence felt.
- 7. **WALDKAUZ** Resumed from a spell with a win last time out over 2000m at this track. Back in good order and is sure to be thereabouts.
- 8. **EVERMAN** Form in recent times has been moderate, including a last start fifth over 2000m at Marseille-Borely. Finds a suitable race and can make amends.
- 9. **COGOLIN** Finished 15 lengths back when a disappointing ninth last time over 2200m at Longchamp. This is no easier. Others preferred.
- 10. **JOEY UP** Looks tested again after some poor recent form, the latest when 14 lengths adrift in eighth over 2200m at Longchamp. Struggling and not likely to threaten.
- 11. **MI C'INFILO** Won latest at Amiens over 1650m on heavy going. Backs up on winning form and looks a top chance again.
- 12. ORANGE VIF Good fourth at this venue over 2000m last week. Can build on that effort. Consider.
- 13. **STORMY NIGHT** Unplaced at all three runs this campaign, the latest when seventh over 2500m at this track three weeks ago. Interesting jockey booked.
- 14. **TORIANO** Beaten 5 lengths into third at Longchamp two starts ago then appeared at Deauville AW last time and finished 7 lengths from the winner in 14th. Can atone.
- 15. **SILVER SCHNOK** Finished 8 lengths back when a disappointing eighth last time over 2000m at this track. This no easier and others rate better.
- 16. **DARE** Fitter for recent racing and looks close to a win after finishing third over 2500m at this track last time. One of the major hopes.
- 17. **MANDLEFT** Won two starts back at Le Mans then finished second last time out over 2000m at this track. Worth following up.
- 18. **RUE JONAS** Hasn't won in more than a year. Comes into this off a solid third over 2100m at Angers last time but further improvement is required if she is to be competitive.

**Summary**: AKYO (5) won a Class Two handicap at Longchamp three starts ago and proved he can be competitive off this mark when third over 2400m at Lyon-Parilly latest. Strong claims with the drop back to 2000m no issue. STORMY NIGHT (13) is two from four over course and distance and looks interesting in first-time cheekpieces with Barzalona keeping the faith. MI C'INFILO (11) has been supplemented following a 4L Class Three handicap win at Amiens five days ago. It's hard to dismiss WALDKAUZ (7) who returned from a break with a pillar to post win over track and trip. DARE (16) holds place claims.

## Selections

AKYO (5) - STORMY NIGHT (13) - MI C'INFILO (11) - WALDKAUZ (7) - DARE (16)

- 1. **LET THERE BE ROCK** Broke a long drought last time when he scored by 2.5 lengths at Lyon-Parilly over 2400m. Last-start winner who can measure up again.
- 2. **LA BARILLETTE** Has been out of the placings in recent runs. Last start finished 4.5 lengths from the winner in sixth over 2000m at this track. Looking elsewhere.
- 3. **WELCOME MOON** Hasn't won in two years but was only beaten 0.8 lengths last start when second over 1600m at Clairefontaine. Racing well enough and is a strong top-three hope.
- 4. **TEPEKA** Battled last start to finish 13th over 1900m at Deauville AW, adding to a sequence of plain results.
- 5. **CANNELLO** Has been out of the money of late including last time out when fourth over 2500m at this track three weeks ago, beaten 3 lengths. Strong contender on his best form.
- 6. **SANDSTORM** Finished second over 2500m at this track two back then missed the frame last time out over 2400m at Toulouse. Great chance to atone.
- 7. **DARLYVI** Still a maiden after 16 starts but has run a lot of good races especially at this track. Thereabouts last time out. Definite top-three prospect.
- 8. **SOHO VICKY** Last start finished seventh over 2400m at Dieppe, beaten 33 lengths. Prepared to risk in this line-up.
- 9. **PERFECT ROSE** Six-year-old mare who drops in distance from the last start when third over 2200m at Clairefontaine, finishing 2.25 lengths off the winner. Sure to be thereabouts.
- 10. **PHILOSOPHY** Well held of late including last start when fourth over 1900m at Cholet. Fully tested in this line up.
- 11. **ILDOUCE FLECHOIS** Broke a long drought last time when he scored by 2 lengths at Cholet over 1900m. Place likely best.
- 12. **JEU CELEBRE** Has seven wins and 16 placings from 77 starts. Better effort last time when third over 2400m at Dieppe. Can hit the frame with the right run.
- 13. **ANATH** Last start finished 11th over 2500m at Deauville AW. Has recorded just 2 victories from 24 starts. Well placed this time.
- 14. **ARMORIGENE** Stepping out at this circuit for the first time. Last appeared when he finished sixth over 1900m at Deauville AW on November 6. Racing well and is nicely placed.
- 15. **AMERICAN DAISY** Has been out of the placings in recent runs. Last start finished 12 lengths from the winner in 11th over 1350m at Lyon-Parilly. Looks safely held.
- 16. **DARENIX** Going well at the moment, most recently finishing third over 2500m at this track. Another big run is on the cards.
- 17. **ALF A STAR** Resumed in similar fashion to the way she finished last preparation, putting in an ordinary effort to finish 11th over 2300m at Le Mans. Happy to risk.
- 18. **CHARLES LEGEND** Struggling to find form including last start when beaten 14 lengths into ninth over 2500m at Deauville AW. Disappointing form is likely to continue.

**Summary**: LET THERE BE ROCK (1) made all to win a Class Three handicap over 2400m by 2.5L a fortnight ago. Could be up to defying a 3kg rise with similar tactics likely. PERFECT ROSE (9) is a two-time winner over the trip and showed up well when third in a Class Three handicap at Clairefontaine last outing. Player. Longstanding maiden DARENIX (16) needs respect from an each-way angle following a good third to a subsequent winner over 2500m here. Recent runner-up WELCOME MOON (3) rounds out the shortlist.

## Selections

LET THERE BE ROCK (1) - PERFECT ROSE (9) - DARENIX (16) - WELCOME MOON (3)