

PAU [R-H] - 25 January

Race 1 - PRIX DE THEZE - 2400m CL3. Purse EUR €18,000.

1. **SHEHIYR** - Lines up for the first time since November 11. Form at the end of last prep was not flash, the most recent effort a 16th over 2400m at Toulouse. Might need a run or two.
2. **CAFE SAIGON** - Good fourth over 2400m at this track two-and-a-half weeks ago, beaten 7 lengths. Major player.
3. **PARABAK** - Fair effort two starts back at this track and distance when fifth, beaten 1.5 lengths. Couldn't repeat the dose last time when down the track at this track over 2400m. Must be considered.
4. **JAAFAR** - Last appeared six months ago when he finished 6 lengths from the winner in second over 2900m at Clairefontaine. Looks a key runner while fresh.
5. **QATAR RIVER** - Failed to feature last time over 2500m in Listed grade at Deauville AW when seventh, beaten 4 lengths. Will appreciate returning to this course where he has a win and a placing from three starts. Expected to improve sharply.
6. **QAISER** - Last appeared 17 months ago when he finished 0.8 lengths from the winner in second over 2800m at Deauville in Listed company. Expect a forward showing.
7. **JOHN LOCKE** - Unplaced at all three runs this prep, the latest when fourth over 3500m at Cagnes-sur-Mer two-and-a-half weeks ago. Hard to have.
8. **VITOR** - Recent form has been below par. Last start finished 32 lengths adrift in 12th over 2400m at Toulouse. Prefer others.
9. **CESAR JAGUEN** - Unraced gelding by Tiberius Caesar out of Bideeya. Keep safe.
10. **MOGILEVICH** - Continued his poor form first up last start when tenth over 2000m at this track. Looking elsewhere.

Summary: JAAFAR (4) has won twice and placed twice in just six starts. Smart prospect that remains open to any amount of further progression. Key player. QAISER (6) resumes from a lengthy absence. Placed in a Listed race when last seen however and looks a threat to all if fit on return. QATAR RIVER (5) was beaten 4L in the Listed Prix Arcangues. Drops in grade and has won here previously. Keep safe. CAFE SAIGON (2) is performing consistently well. Each way hope.

Selections

JAAFAR (4) - QAISER (6) - QATAR RIVER (5) - CAFE SAIGON (2)

Race 2 - PRIX ETALON CASTLE DU BERLAIS (PRIX RENE CRAMAIL) - 3800m HCP HDLE. Purse EUR €105,000.

1. **GRAND DE THAIX** - Did a good job to finish second two back in a steeplechase (4200m) at Meslay-du-Maine but could only manage fifth in a hurdle (3800m) at this track last time. Consider.
2. **RISK DU BRIZAIS** - Resumes from a break of four months. Finished 15 lengths from the winner in sixth at the latest appearance in a hurdle (3800m) at Compiègne. May need this run.
3. **BALADIN DE MESC** - Won two starts back in a steeplechase (4100m) at Lyon-Parilly then didn't miss by much over 3800m in a hurdle (3800m) at this track. Worth another chance.
4. **TROU NORMAND** - Scored two back in a hurdle (3800m) at Fontainebleau then couldn't repeat the dose last time when fourth in a hurdle (3500m) at this track beaten 7 lengths. Worth another chance.
5. **LYON CLERMONT** - Finished seventh two runs ago in a hurdle (3800m) at this track then wound up in fourth most recently in a hurdle (3800m) here. Thereabouts.
6. **KEEP HOPE DE ROCHE** - Returned from a layoff last time in a hurdle (3800m) at this track finishing fifth. Others rate better.
7. **PICNIC** - Finished sixth two runs ago in a Listed hurdle (4000m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer. Made amends last time when winning a hurdle (4000m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer. Hard to beat on current form.
8. **CHICHI DE LA VEGA** - Did well to finish third two back in a hurdle (3600m) at Auteuil but could only manage fifth in a hurdle (3800m) at this track last time. Must be a chance.
9. **SIR BECQUAILLE** - Couldn't find the top three two back in a hurdle (3900m) at Toulouse then again missed out in a steeplechase (4000m) at this track last start. Looking to others.
10. **SINGAPORE TRIP** - Couldn't find the top three two back in a Listed hurdle (3900m) at Auteuil then again missed out in a hurdle (3500m) at this track last time. May improve.
11. **GARO DE JUILLEY** - Finished a modest sixth in a hurdle (4000m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer last start. That came after he fell two runs ago. Might find this a bit too tough.
12. **LUCKY ONE** - Scored in a hurdle (4300m) at Auteuil two runs back then didn't back it up when beaten 6 lengths into fifth in a hurdle (3600m) at Auteuil last start. Ideally placed to bounce back.
13. **INSIDE MONTLIOUX** - Missed the frame the start before last in a steeplechase (3800m) at Angers. Made amends last time when he scored in a hurdle (3800m) at this track. Rates highly.
14. **SAINT ANJOU** - Placed two runs back in a hurdle (3800m) at Compiègne. Repeated the dose more recently when second in a hurdle (3800m) at this track beaten 1.3 lengths. Can return to winning form.
15. **HARRY CONTI** - Turned things around with a respectable second in a steeplechase (3900m) at this track last start. That came after he fell two runs ago. Looking elsewhere this time.
16. **HANDS UP SIVOLA** - Returns from a break. Mixed form in maiden campaign, finishing off with a fifth in a Compiègne hurdle when beaten 11 lengths. Place prospects appear best fresh.

Summary: PICNIC (7) is thriving at present and comes into this having won three of last four starts. Went away for a 10L victory at Cagnes-sur-Mer last time and looks the one to beat again. BALADIN DE MESC (3) was denied the hat-trick when a 0.5L second. Expect another bold showing. SAINT ANJOU (14) has placed on last three outings. Open to further improvement and is easy to fancy. INSIDE MONTLIOUX (13) returned to form with a strong 1.3L success here. Big chance. LUCKY ONE (12) holds each way claims.

Selections

PICNIC (7) - BALADIN DE MESC (3) - SAINT ANJOU (14) - INSIDE MONTLIOUX (13) - LUCKY ONE (12)

Race 3 - PRIX DE LA BIGORRE - 3500m HDLE CL1. Purse EUR €41,000.

1. **SANTA JULIA** - Returned from a 100-day spell last start with a win in a steeplechase (3900m) at this track. Can continue the bright start to the campaign.
2. **BELGA QUEEN** - Did a good job to be beaten 5.5 lengths when third on debut in a Listed hurdle (3600m) at Auteuil four months ago. Sure to make her presence felt.
3. **JOUE LE JEU** - Got off the mark at latest outing with maiden success in a hurdle (3500m) at this track. Tougher here but in winning form and can measure up again.
4. **JALOUSIE D'AINAY** - Filly by Masterstroke out of Torpille D'ainay. Market best guide to her chances.
5. **JETSEE** - Fell last time at this track on January 4. Looks tested in this line-up. Others are preferred.
6. **KOKYDALE** - Four-year-old filly who debuted in a hurdle at this track over 3300m and was safely held. Expected to struggle against these.
7. **ROSEMELLIC** - Missed the frame two runs ago in a hurdle (3500m) at this track then could only manage fourth most recently in a hurdle (3500m) at this venue. Must be a chance now.

Summary: SANTA JULIA (1) powered clear for a 4L victory at this track on reappearance. Rates highly on that form and can improve further. Hard to oppose confidently. BELGA QUEEN (2) found the placings tackling a Listed race at Auteuil on debut. Nice prospect that is easy to fancy. JOUE LE JEU (3) made impressive winning debut at this course. Went clear for a 3L success that day and holds a big chance of making it two from two. ROSEMELLIC (7) holds each way claims.

<p style="text-align: center;">Selections</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SANTA JULIA (1) - BELGA QUEEN (2) - JOUE LE JEU (3) - ROSEMELLIC (7)</p>

Race 4 - PRIX D'ALBRET - 3700m STPLE CL4. Purse EUR €34,000.

1. **JIPCOT** - Returns after a break of four months. Last appeared when he was unplaced beaten 26 lengths, on his jumps debut in a hurdle (3600m) at Auteuil. Could improve.
2. **J'ARRIVE D'ARTHEL** - Returns after a break of three months. Last appeared when he was unplaced, beaten 35 lengths, on his jumps debut in a hurdle (3400m) at Lyon-Parilly. Should be improved and expected to feature.
3. **J'ARRIVE DE L'EST** - Three-start maiden who fell last start in a hurdle (3500m) at this track. Rates highly on best form and can open his account this time.
4. **JOHNNY MAG** - Is taking on the jumps for a second time after finishing eighth at his first attempt in a hurdle (3500m) at this track nearly four weeks ago, beaten 30 lengths. Consider.
5. **JUNGLE VILLE** - Good effort to clock-in third on debut (2400m) on the AW here. Luck deserted him last time when pulled up in a hurdle (3500m) at this track. Worth another chance.
6. **JUMP DES BRUYERES** - Was very good when returning from a 90-day layoff most recently, beaten 23 lengths into third in a hurdle (3500m) at this track. Fitter and will be tough to beat.
7. **JEUNE CANAILLE** - Missed the placings on debut on the flat at Craon. Switched to a jumps race last time but failed to complete the course in a hurdle (3500m) at this track three weeks ago. Prepared to risk again.
8. **J'HALLUCINE** - First-up this season looking to improve substantially on an uninspiring debut where she was beaten 17L at Le Mans. Prepared to watch again.

Summary: JUMP DES BRUYERES (6) stayed on for a 23L third at this track on reappearance. Should strip fitter and improve. The one to beat if doing so. J'ARRIVE DE L'EST (3) fell last time. Better judged on a good 5L third at Craon on start before that. Winning claims if able to put in a clear round. J'ARRIVE D'ARTHEL (2) has been freshened. Promise in all starts so far and gets to the right race now. Each way hope. JUNGLE VILLE (5) was pulled up last time but looks worth another chance.

<p style="text-align: center;">Selections</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">JUMP DES BRUYERES (6) - J'ARRIVE DE L'EST (3) - J'ARRIVE D'ARTHEL (2) - JUNGLE VILLE (5)</p>
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Race 5 - PRIX AL CAPONE II - 3500m HDLE CL4. Purse EUR €34,000.

1. **JETRONIC** - Debuted eight months ago in a hurdle (3000m) at Auteuil and ran very well, finishing third and beaten 27 lengths. Shows promise and worth including.
2. **JARDIN D'ARTHEL** - Last raced on October 25 when he ran an improved race to finish fourth in a hurdle (3500m) at Auteuil. Can pose a serious challenge.
3. **JARGAUDER** - Was at long odds last time in a hurdle (3500m) at this track but failed to finish. Happy to risk this time.
4. **JUST A CASTLE** - Going well lately, last start finishing fifth over 3500m at this track. Continues to improve. Looks suited.
5. **JOYFULL** - Not seen since finishing fourth over 3200m at Le Mans on November 14. Lining up over the jumps for the first time. Looks tested.
6. **JEUNE COKO** - Comes here 23 days after a 15 length sixth first-up in a hurdle (3500m) at this track at just his second racetrack appearance. Holds claims.
7. **JOURNEE DE REVE** - Is taking on the jumps for a second time after finishing fourth at her first attempt in a hurdle (3500m) at this track three weeks ago, beaten 11 lengths. Rates highly and can improve.
8. **JOSHUANN BIHOUEE** - Filly by Joshua Tree out of Vann Bihouee. Tough test at her first appearance so prefer to see.
9. **JAGGER BOMB** - Failed to finish last time out in a hurdle (3500m) at this track when well in the market. Worth another chance and can figure in the finish.

Summary: Not the biggest of fields but certainly a competitive affair. **JUST A CASTLE** (4) rates highly on form of 4L second at Le Mans. Open to further improvement and looks the one to beat. **JOURNEE DE REVE** (7) ran creditably well when just missing the placings here last time. Should benefit for that outing and now third up will be primed. Key player. **JEUNE COKO** (6) was beaten just 5L at Lignieres. Easy to fancy on that performance. **JAGGER BOMB** (9) was supported into favouritism for hurdle debut but ran below expectations. Clearly felt capable of better and looks a potential threat to all here.

<p style="text-align: center;">Selections</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JUST A CASTLE (4) - JOURNEE DE REVE (7) - JEUNE COKO (6) - JAGGER BOMB (9)</p>

Race 6 - PRIX DE RONTIGNON - 2000m HCP CL3. Purse EUR €21,000.

1. **SAVE YOUR BREATH** - Improved second up last start when sixth at this track over 2000m. Should be in this for a long way.
2. **CAMPELLO** - Was building to a win before breaking through last time by a neck over 2400m at this track. Can go on with it with the confidence high.
3. **SIMPLY SOUTHERN** - Hasn't done much in recent times, the latest effort a sixth over 1600m at this track, beaten 1.75 lengths. Looking to others.
4. **POCA GEN** - Lines up for the first time since October 6. Closed the last campaign in lukewarm fashion, with a eighth over 1600m at Bordeaux the latest offering.
5. **BIRD OUT** - Placed two starts back at Deauville AW but couldn't back that up when unplaced over 2000m at this track last time. Can atone.
6. **SPEED BALL** - Stepping out at this course for the first time. Last appeared when he finished tenth over 1600m at Chantilly AW on January 14. Not going well enough to win this.
7. **BANANA SHOT** - Has not raced since finishing 45 lengths away in seventh over 3000m at Dieppe on July 24. Will take a lot from this run but stays under notice.
8. **PARTISANE** - Has just missed the top-three at her last few runs, the latest when fourth beaten 3.5 lengths, over 2000m at this track. Sharp improvement expected in this suitable contest.
9. **ATHELIA** - Struggling to find form including last start when beaten 8 lengths into seventh over 2400m at this track. Rates highly in this field.
10. **FEELIN LUCKY** - Good effort last start to win her maiden over 2000m at this track by 1.3 lengths. Fitter and open to further improvement.
11. **NOTRE HISTOIRE** - Resumed over 2000m at this track last start and finished 3.5 lengths away in fifth. Strips fitter and should be in the mix.
12. **PERROU** - Is a three-time placegetter in 12 career starts, but still a maiden. Last appeared when second over 2000m at this track on January 2. Looking to others for the winner.

Summary: CAMPELLO (2) showed a great attitude to hold rivals by a neck here last time. Should continue progressing and rates the leading chance. ATHELIA (9) is nicely weighted on best form. Placed at Pornichet two starts ago and easy to fancy on that effort. FEELIN LUCKY (10) shocked the market when a 1.3L winner over course and distance. Didn't appear any fluke to that however and has a chance of now going back to back. PARTISANE (8) has performed with credit all outings this campaign. Each way chance. NOTRE HISTOIRE (11) may place.

<p style="text-align: center;">Selections</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAMPELLO (2) - ATHELIA (9) - FEELIN LUCKY (10) - PARTISANE (8) - NOTRE HISTOIRE (11)</p>

Race 7 - PRIX DE FEZENSAC - 3900m STPLE. Purse EUR €38,000.

1. **INZEO DU GOUET** - Scored in a hurdle (4000m) at Craon two runs ago then didn't back it up when beaten 9 lengths into fourth in a steeplechase (3700m) at this track last start. Certainly worth another chance.
2. **IRISH CHANEL** - Couldn't find the top three two back in a G3 steeplechase (4400m) at Auteuil then again missed out in a steeplechase (3900m) at this track last time. Hard to fault on her best jumps form.
3. **IMAGE DE MARQUE** - Recorded a nice win 18 days back in a steeplechase (3900m) at this track. That result came as no surprise after a solid third in a steeplechase (3850m) at Craon. Can add to the recent impressive results.
4. **INTERDIT DE JEU** - Missed the placings in a steeplechase (3900m) at this track two back then did a better job to finish third in a steeplechase (3900m) here last start. Right in the mix if at best.
5. **IMAGINAIRE** - Unable to find the placings after two runs this prep. Missed out beaten 18 lengths two runs back when resuming in a steeplechase (3900m) at this track. Unseated the rider last time here.
6. **IKERO BLUE** - Unseated the rider two starts back. Finished fourth last time, beaten 7 lengths in a steeplechase (3900m) at this track. Makes appeal.
7. **IAKO** - Was unplaced two back in a hurdle (3500m) at this track. Filled a minor prize last time in a much better performance in a steeplechase (3900m) at this track, beaten 1.5 lengths. Prospects look very bright.
8. **IMPHYCOIS LORD** - Missed the placings in a Cross-Country chase (4100m) at this track two back then improved to be second in a hurdle (3500m) here last time. Hard to fault on his best form.
9. **IL EST DES NOTRES** - Was unplaced the start before last in a hurdle (3500m) at this track then wound up in sixth most recently in a steeplechase (3900m) at this track. Not sure he is up to this.
10. **IP UP** - Was returning from a layoff last start when beaten 7 lengths into fifth in a steeplechase (3900m) at this track. Requires further improvement.
11. **INTERRO SURPRISE** - Was returning from a layoff last start when beaten 39 lengths into fourth in a hurdle (4000m) at Craon. Useful type and a likely improver.

Summary: IMAGE DE MARQUE (3) powered home for a 1.5L victory over course and distance last time. Can improve further and return here suits. Keep safe. IAKO (7) made winning reappearance and posted best run since when placing here behind aforementioned rival last time. Gets handy apprentice weight allowance and may reverse finishing positions on these terms. INTERRO SURPRISE (11) shaped with promise before tiring at Craon first up. Should strip fitter and improve. Each way player. IKERO BLUE (6) has placed on five of eleven starts so far but remains a maiden. Solid each way choice.

<p style="text-align: center;">Selections</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IMAGE DE MARQUE (3) - IAKO (7) - INTERRO SURPRISE (11) - IKERO BLUE (6)</p>
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Race 8 - PRIX WILLIAM KNAPP THORN - 3800m HCP HDLE. Purse EUR €60,000.

1. **ROCK AND ROLL** - Fell two starts back. Bounced back and wasn't beaten far when second in a Listed hurdle (4000m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer last start. All set to continue the resurgent form.
2. **ITE MISSA EST** - Finished fifth when fresh from a spell two back in a hurdle (3900m) at Toulouse. Turned things around last time to grab second in a hurdle (3500m) at this track. Right in the mix.
3. **NEW PRESIDENT** - Finished ninth two runs ago in a hurdle (3800m) at this track. Was far more impressive last time when he filled a minor placing in a hurdle (3800m) here. Set to continue the resurgent form.
4. **ZIZANEUR** - Two runs ago finished fifth in a hurdle (3800m) at this track. Things didn't improve when he pulled up last start in a hurdle (3500m) here. Big task ahead.
5. **HAMERSLEY** - Reliable jumper who pulled up two starts back. Could only manage eighth last time in a hurdle (3800m) at this track beaten 37 lengths. Won't find this easy.
6. **INDALI DE LARREDYA** - Going well this prep. Placed first-up two starts ago in a hurdle (3500m) at Toulouse then filled a minor prize again last start in a hurdle (3500m) at this track beaten 14 lengths. Ready to find peak form.
7. **BI BEACH** - First up from a spell today for a new yard. Hard to enthuse.
8. **YO** - Struggling a bit of late. Two starts ago wound-up in seventh in a hurdle (3800m) at this track. Hopes of a rebound were dashed when he pulled up more recently here.
9. **RASANGO** - Unplaced two back in a hurdle (4000m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer. Finished second last time in a much better performance in a hurdle (4000m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer, beaten 10 lengths. Hard to fault on his best form.
10. **ZIINGARA** - Mixed fortunes of late. Two runs ago found one better in a hurdle (3500m) at this track. Things fell apart last time when she pulled up in a steeplechase (3400m) here.
11. **AVERNES** - Fluctuating fortunes of late. Two starts ago ran a good second in a hurdle (3500m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer. Everything changed most recently when she fell in a hurdle (4000m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer. Ideally placed now.
12. **MILLTOP** - Racing well since scoring three starts ago. Placed two runs back in a hurdle (4000m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer then filled a minor prize again last time in a hurdle (3500m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer, beaten 3 lengths. Ready to find peak form.
13. **ISABEY VALLIS** - Finished second two back in a hurdle (3800m) at Dieppe then could only manage fifth last time in a hurdle (3500m) at this track, beaten 12 lengths. Holds claims.
14. **MEANN** - Back to something like her best with a solid third in a hurdle (3500m) at Cagnes-sur-Mer last start. Right in the mix on best form.
15. **CADET VERT** - Missed the frame the start before last in a hurdle (3500m) at this track then wound up in eighth most recently in a steeplechase (4000m) at this track. Won't find this easy.
16. **DISCO MOME** - Two runs ago ran third in a steeplechase (3850m) at Craon. However pulled up in a hurdle (3800m) at this track last time. Must be given another chance.
17. **EASTER BOY** - Impressed two starts back on the flat, winning at Le Croise-Laroche over 3200m. Couldn't repeat the dose last time when fourth in a steeplechase (4000m) at this track. Consider.

Summary: ROCK AND ROLL (1) was beaten just a nose in the Listed Prix De La Picardie handicap hurdle. That is smart form and will prove hard to beat if repeating that. NEW PRESIDENT (3) has finished second on three of four starts this campaign. Looks overdue a victory so look to keep safe. INDALI DE LARREDYA (6) has placed on outings at Toulouse and this track. Should now be primed. Key player. AVERNES (11) fell latest. Performing consistently well prior to that however and worth another chance.

<p style="text-align: center;">Selections</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">ROCK AND ROLL (1) - NEW PRESIDENT (3) - INDALI DE LARREDYA (6) - AVERNES (11)</p>
