

SATURDAY, 27/01/24

R3 CAGNES-SUR-MER [L-H]

C1 - PRIX SKY LAWYER - 2150m (a1m 1/4) - TURF - Class 1 - Flat - EUR € 30,000

1. SIBAYAN - Has won twice and finished 2nd in his three outings to date in the South-West. Won on PSF over 2000m at Pau last month and ought to continue his momentum here

2. SAINT AQUILIN - Authoritative winner over 2000m on turf at Salon-de-Provence two starts back but was a bit disappointing last time when only 4th on PSF at Marseille-Vivieux behind TRAFALGAR SQUARE (3) and PARADISE STORM (4). Can do better

3. TRAFALGAR SQUARE - Confirmed the promise of his debut win over 2000m by finishing 2nd in both subsequent starts over that distance, the latest of which was on 12 December when beating PARADISE STORM (4) and SAINT AQUILIN (2). Will be a factor

4. PARADISE STORM - Caught the eye when running on well to finish 3rd behind TRAFALGAR SQUARE (3) at Marseille-Vivieux over 2000m. Should have more to offer over extra 150m

5. PEPETE - Consistent filly with sound form references. Won and finished 3rd once each, as well as finishing 2nd seven times in her previous nine outings on turf before a disappointing last run (5th) on PSF. Not written off

6. SHARQANA - Debut winner of a claiming race on PSF over 1900m at Deauville last month before finishing 8th in a conditions race over 1500m on turf at Cagnes-sur-Mer on 15 January. Will appreciate stepping up to this trip

Summary: SIBAYAN (1) has made a very encouraging start to his career in the South-West and was an easy winner of his last start on PSF at Pau, so gets the nod here reverting to turf, on which he has already won and finished 2nd in as many outings. PARADISE STORM (4) was beaten by TRAFALGAR SQUARE (3) at Marseille-Vivieux last month but ran on well that day, suggesting he could turn the tables on that rival and pose more of a threat to the selection. SAINT AQUILIN (2) was a little disappointing, although not disgraced, last time out and is capable of joining the fight for victory. Good race!

SELECTIONS

SIBAYAN (1) - PARADISE STORM (4) - TRAFALGAR SQUARE (3) - SAINT AQUILIN (2)

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C2 - PRIX ACE IMPACT - 2000m (a1m 1/4) - ALL WEATHER - Newcomers - Flat - EUR € 23,000

- 1. KOTGAR** - Aga Khan-owned Wootton Bassett gelding who is one of the runners in the race for Jean-Claude Rouget, who has engaged Enzo Crublet to ride
- 2. NORRIDOR** - Helena Blazkova trains and owns this Touch Of Genius colt who will be ridden on debut by Marvin Grandin. Watch for now
- 3. REDSHIFT** - Pomellato newcomer to be ridden on debut by Hugo Boutin for trainer Mathieu Boutin, who also owns this gelding
- 4. MIRAGE DEUX** - Fabrice Vermeulen-trained Taj Mahal colt who will be ridden on debut by Ioritz Mendizabal. Not underestimated
- 5. SHERAYAN** - Fabrice Veron rides this well-related Shalaa colt on debut for Georgios Alimpinisis. Has an attractive pedigree, so is worth making note of
- 6. VALZAK** - Antonio Caro-owned Zarak colt who has, undoubtedly, been carefully prepared ahead of his debut. Jean-Bernard Eyquem rides for Jean-Claude Rouget
- 7. ADORABLE** - Anthony Crastus rides this Ruler Of The World gelding on debut for trainer Fabrice Vermeulen. Others preferred, so best watched for now
- 8. FOREVER GIVEN** - Sea The Stars colt trained by Philippe Decouz, who has engaged Ronan Thomas to ride. Not one to be taken lightly
- 9. PORT SANTA PONSA** - Jérôme Reynier-trained Le Havre gelding who dam, Santa Ponsa, was a Listed-race winner. One to keep an eye on
- 10. ARROW EAGLE** - This Gleneagles colt is the half-brother to none other than Ace Impact, who began his career with a win on this very course. Follow

Summary: Of Jean-Claude Rouget's three runners, well-related ARROW EAGLE (10) is sure to attract most attention, being a brother to Ace Impact. Stable companion VALZAK (6), with Jean-Bernard Eyquem in the irons, is also likely to go well on debut and could fight for victory along with PORT SANTA PONSA (9), who hails from Jérôme Reynier's in-form stable. SHERAYAN (5) is closely related to the useful Sivka Burka, so also deserves a mention. Good race!

SELECTIONS

ARROW EAGLE (10) - VALZAK (6) - PORT SANTA PONSA (9) - SHERAYAN (5)

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C3 - PRIX REMANENCE (PRIX DE LA DURANCE) - 2500m (a1m 1/2) - TURF - Class 1 - Flat - EUR € 38,000

- 1. MIKA D'O** - A winner of multiple Listed races, including his latest outing at Lyon-Parilly on 9 November. Has a winning chance on his return
- 2. HAVE DANCER** - Consistent sort, for the most part, who made an encouraging comeback (5th) over 2150m at Cagnes-sur-Mer earlier this month. Not taken lightly
- 3. DECBOU** - Won a 3200m Quinte+ handicap at Deauville in August but failed to make any impression in both subsequent starts under a 4,5kg penalty. Watch for now
- 4. FENG CHUILLE** - Placed on debut in a minor event at Limoges before finishing 12th in a claimer on PSF at Lyon-La Soie earlier this month. Up against it here and can be ruled out
- 5. BELGIAN PRINCE** - Reliable veteran with sound form references, including a good 4th in a Listed race at Lyon-Parilly when last seen (on 9 November). Keep safe
- 6. SKAZINO** - High-class veteran boasting the highest rating of the runners in this lineup, having placed at Group I level last year, albeit over a longer distance. Warrants respect
- 7. HOMO DEUS** - Capable sort who ended 2023 in good form, winning and finishing 3rd in Quinte+ handicaps before finishing 2nd in a Listed race at Toulouse over 2400m. Chief threat
- 8. PALUS ARGENTEUS** - Won two Listed races in 2022 but was absent from June of that year until his recent reappearance on 17 January at Cagnes-sur-Mer where he finished 8th. For another day

Summary: MIKA D'O (1) won a Listed race at Lyon-Parilly in his final outing of 2023 and, having won on this course last year, is good value to get off to a winning start in 2024. HOMO DEUS (7) will appreciate a softened track and is likely to spearhead the threats to our selection, which include HAVE DANCER (2), who made an encouraging comeback in a competitive field, as well as SKAZINO (6), who'd be more effective over a longer distance.

SELECTIONS

MIKA D'O (1) - HOMO DEUS (7) - HAVE DANCER (2) - SKAZINO (6)

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C4 - PRIX IPPOLITO (PRIX DE LA BOCCA) - 2000m (a1m 1/4) - ALL WEATHER - Newcomers - Flat - EUR € 23,000

- 1. SUNZHA** - This Aga Khan-owned Intello filly trained by Jean-Claude Rouget ought to benefit from rider Enzo Crublet's 2,5kg allowance. Respect
- 2. PRINCESS SHALAA** - Well-related Shalaa debutante trained by Henri-Alex Pantall who has engaged Maxime Guyon to ride. Follow
- 3. TOPTAMA** - Cristian Demuro rides this Frankel filly out of a mare who placed at Listed-race level in Ireland, for Jean-Claude Rouget. Keep safe
- 4. BAZIL** - Georgios Alimpinisis-trained Zelzal newcomer to be ridden by Hugo Boutin. Others make more appeal, so probably for another day
- 5. BREAWNA** - Georgios Alimpinisis-trained Awtaad filly who will benefit from Frederic Ferdig-Zimmermann's 2,5kg allowance
- 6. DYMKA** - Fabrice Veron rides this De Treville filly trained by Georgios Alimpinisis. Could get into the picture on debut
- 7. WITH PRESENCE** - Intello filly to be ridden on debut by Anthony Crastus for trainer Fabrice Vermeulen. For lovers of outsiders
- 8. ENORA SENORA** - Benjamin Marie rides this Recoletos filly on debut for the stable of François-Xavier Belvisi. Best watched for now
- 9. TRELly** - Fabrice Vermeulen-trained Le Havre filly not to be underestimated with Ioritz Mendizabal engaged to ride
- 10. AMERICAN GLORY** - Sylvain Ruis rides this daughter of American Devil on debut for trainer Nicolas Perret. One to keep an eye on
- 11. SHALOHA** - Le Havre debutante whose dam enjoyed a fruitful career in Germany, placing several times at Group level. Philippe Decouz trains, Ronan Thomas rides
- 12. L'HORLOGE** - Mastercraftsman newcomer who represents the formidable Seroul-Reynier combination. Antonio Orani rides

Summary: PRINCESS SHALAA (2) is closely related to Group I winner French King and Group II winner Mutabahi so could well be up to shining from the get-go under Maxime Guyon. Jean-Claude Rouget holds a strong hand too, with TOPTAMA (3) and SUNZHA (1) both likely to go well on debut - the latter for His Highness Aga Khan. L'HORLOGE (12) and SHALOHA (11) are others worth a mention.

SELECTIONS

PRINCESS SHALAA (2) - TOPTAMA (3) - SUNZHA (1) - L'HORLOGE (12)

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**C5 - PRIX DE LA CRAU - 1300m (a6f 1/2) - TURF - Class 1 - Flat - EUR €
38,000**

1. KNOCK ON - Blows hot and cold but has undeniable means, including an unbeaten (two from two) course record. Finished 15th in a Listed race on PSF in November but should do better reverting to turf

2. DENVER CHOP - Last-start winner of a Class 2 conditions race over 1100m at Fontainebleau off his current mark. Will be stretched by this distance

3. AMEDRAS - Capable but inconsistent veteran who has finished unplaced in his last two starts, the latest of which was on PSF at Chantilly (8th). Outsider

4. SWING FOR ME - Consistent colt with solid credentials, including a good 4th on PSF at Deauville last month on his reappearance. Has leading claims

5. NATIONAL SERVICE - The joint highest-rated runner in the race, boasting the best references of the seven runners engaged. Finished 5th on PSF on 21 January but will have more to offer here

6. INVESTISSEUR - Consistent for the most part but has been soundly beaten in Quinte+ handicaps off similar marks, including his last start when 15th over 1300m on PSF at Deauville last month. Others preferred

7. BELLE ET GRISE - Consistent filly with sound references, including a highly commendable 3rd in a Listed race on PSF at Deauville on 29 November. Keep safe

Summary: NATIONAL SERVICE (5) held his own in very good company last year and, although disappointing (5th) on his reappearance last time, is worth another chance here under favourable conditions and looks good value to bounce back to winning ways. SWING FOR ME (4), who has never been beaten at this racecourse (two victories on PSF), is unlikely to be bothered by the switch to turf and is capable of posing a threat. KNOCK ON (1) is undefeated on this track and also has the means to make her presence felt, as does BELLE ET GRISE (7) who finished 3rd in a Listed race when last seen.

SELECTIONS

NATIONAL SERVICE (5) - SWING FOR ME (4) - KNOCK ON (1) - BELLE ET GRISE (7)

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C6 - PRIX DE STERREBEEK - 2000m (a1m 1/4) - ALL WEATHER - Class 3 Divided Handicap - Flat - EUR € 21,000

1. POP LIFE - Has won back-to-back outings over this distance at Marseille-VivauX recently, winning a claimer before a handicap last time out on 9 January. Has more to do under a 3kg penalty

2. MARTIAL ART - Without a win now after 17 starts but, judged on his best references, is not incapable of getting into the picture. Was 9th over track and trip on 17 January, so is best watched for now

3. MANNE - Well-performed veteran mare who has been inconsistent of late, though did finish 3rd over course and distance on 17 January. Dark horse

4. TREASURE KEEPER - Still a maiden after 9 starts and has been soundly beaten in both his handicap outings, so is hard to recommend. Others preferred

5. I'M ON MY WAY - Last-start winner of a PSF handicap at Marseille-VivauX on 4 January. Should remain competitive under 2kg penalty

6. MORTON - Bounced right back to form off his current mark by finishing 2nd in a PSF handicap at Lyon-La Soie over 2150m on 3 January. Could confirm

7. BABY GLORY - Finished 5th in a PSF handicap before confirming that improvement with a good 2nd in a handicap over course and distance on 17 January. Keep safe

8. INATTENDU - Won back-to-back claiming races this year at Lyon and Cagnes and has claims of completing the hat-trick back in a handicap with just 0,5kg more. Danger

9. INTERIEUR - Showed signs of a return to form when staying on to finish 8th over 2000m on PSF at Marseille-VivauX last time and has dropped further in the ratings, which he ought to appreciate. Value play

10. EVERMAN - Took advantage of a reduced mark by winning a handicap over track and trip on 17 January. Up 2,5kg for that win but has claims here if confirming

11. A STOLEN KISS - Won a PSF handicap over 1800m off a similar mark last year but made no impression on her return from a lengthy layoff over 1600m on this track last time. Watch for now

12. FORCE TRANQUILLE - Versatile and consistent mare who has proven her competitiveness off her current mark on several occasions, most recently at Marseille-VivauX (3rd) over this distance. Place chance

13. DRAGON LOVE - Has maintained a fair level of form/consistency off his current mark recently and finished 6th over track and trip in the benchmark race (17 Jan). Outsider

Summary: INTERIEUR (9), although unplaced last time, did not go unnoticed by staying on to finish 8th, and he could be worth siding with here off his attractive current mark. UNEXPECTED (8) has won back-to-back claiming races this year and ought to remain competitive back in a handicap. BABY GLORY (7) is also on the right track and is another capable of fighting for victory, on the evidence of her last-start 2nd. MORTON (6) and last-start winner EVERMAN (10) aren't without a chance either.

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INTERIEUR (9) - INATTENDU (8) - BABY GLORY (7) - MORTON (6)

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C7 - GP RIVIERA COTE D'AZUR - JACQUES BOUCHARA - FINALE POLYTRACK CHALLENGE - 2000m (a1m 1/4) - ALL WEATHER - Listed - Flat - EUR € 60,000

1. SWISS BANK - Resurgent veteran who finished 2nd twice before consecutive recent victories on PSF over 2000m at Pau, the latest of which was on 14 January. Has more to do in this race/company

2. BAKHCHISARAY - Consistent sort who finished 4th in this race last year and has maintained a good level since. Finished 3rd in his last start over 2150m on 17 January

3. HOOKING - Won this race last year and is unbeaten in three starts at this track. Versatile and consistent performer who finished 2nd on his reappearance over 1900m on PSF at Chantilly last month

4. SAINT HELLIER - Inconsistent sort but is not incapable of getting into the picture in a race of this nature judged on his best references

5. GLAER - Runner-up to HOOKING (3) in this race 12 months ago and was last seen finishing 5th on his return to action over 1900m at Chantilly on 22 December. Chief threat

6. DAR TOUNGI - Closed out 2023 winning two of his last three starts, including a conditions race at Marseill-Vivau on 19 December. Will be a factor

7. ASTORIA - Has flattered to deceive, winning just two of 25 starts. Finished 7th over 2150m at this track in the reference race on 17 January

8. SNOW LATE - Successful and more effective at a lower level. Has finished unplaced and soundly beaten in her last two outings, so can be ruled out here

9. AVOLTA - Unbeaten in four starts on PSF, the latest of which was at Deauville over 2500m on 20 December. Finished 9th in her last start on turf but will be more effective on this surface

Summary: HOOKING (3) was a workmanlike winner of this event last year and lines up in defence of his title having regained freshness. He retains the means to win this edition and gets the nod ahead of familiar foe GLAER (5), who finished 2nd last year and heads the list of potential threats, which includes high-flying last-start winner DAR TOUNGI (6). Model-of-consistency BAKHCHISARAY (2) has more a place chance than a winning one.

SELECTIONS

HOOKING (3) - GLAER (5) - DAR TOUNGI (6) - BAKHCHISARAY (2)

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C8 - PRIX D'OSTENDE - 2000m (a1m 1/4) - ALL WEATHER - Class 3 Divided Handicap - Flat - EUR € 25,000

1. MADIGAN - Promising three-year-old last year but lost his way trying his luck at Quinte+ level, including his last three starts on PSF. Ought to fare better dropped in grade

2. GLACIER PEAK - Soundly beaten in consecutive outings on PSF recently at Deauville and Lyon-La-Soie. Others preferred

3. KHOCHENKO - Inconsistent but capable veteran who is 5,5kg below his last winning mark with blinkers fitted for the first time and Marie Vélon (1,5kg allowance) engaged. Unplaced in his last two starts but is good value under these conditions

4. JAGDA - Inconsistent filly with undeniable means to be competitive at this level, especially off a reduced mark after finishing 6th at Marseille-Vivieux last time

5. BOBBYMURPHY - Capable but unreliable type who continues to blow hot and cold. Finished 3rd at Deauville two starts back but was only 11th at that venue last time (5 January), so will need to improve with blinkers now fitted

6. BLANC BLEU - Seldom far off but rarely wins his races. An unlikely winner off his current mark but has a place chance if confirming the improvement of his last start (3rd) in a handicap at Marseille-Vivieux

7. LODOVICO - Has made no impression in his last two starts, the latest of which was on PSF at Chantilly over 1900m. Overlook

8. NOSDARGENT - A model of consistency and is a specialist PSF performer who will be ridden by Maxime Guyon. Finished 6th under a 2kg penalty last time over course and distance

9. LINFASOMMER - In good shape and ought to be competitive for a podium finish if confirming the improvement of her last start (2nd) in a 1600m PSF handicap on this course

10. KINGDOM - Capable but inconsistent performer who has been out of sorts recently. Finished 10th over course and distance last time so can be ruled out here

11. INTO FAITH - Had lost his way off higher marks until sparking improvement off his current rating last time, finishing 5th over this course and distance in a handicap. Place chance

12. RISE AND SHINE - Seldom far off the mark but has won just once in 15 attempts and finished only 8th in a handicap at this level over 1900m on PSF at Chantilly last month. For another day

13. SIR WALTER - Lightly raced maiden with scope to improve and sufficient mean to fight for victory, having finished 3rd in his only handicap appearance over 1900m on PSF at Chantilly

14. MYRKA - Has struggled to maintain any consistency since winning at a slightly lower level five starts back. Confirmed on this surface but high enough in the weights at present - outsider

Summary: During its penultimate outing, KHOCHENKO (3) left a very good impression in a Quinté+. He already has two victories on this course and could well achieve a third. For this, he will nevertheless have to be wary of MADIGAN (1), who is seriously going down in category, and SIR WALTER (13), third for his only handicap. BOBBYMURPHY (5) will be fitted with Australian blinkers for the first time in his career. It seems capable of resurfacing like JAGDA (4). NOSDARGENT (8) and LINFASOMMER (9) will aim for a place.

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SELECTIONS

KHOCHENKO (3) - MADIGAN (1) - SIR WALTER (13) - BOBBYMURPHY (5)