

THE TRIAL FILES

26/12/2023 CAULFIELD

Race 1 – 12:45PM DENNIS HANRAHAN HANDICAP (1800m)

Track is rated a Soft 5 with the rail in the true, so expect Caulfield to play as it does typically – on speed runners advantaged.

It isn't often we would be finding a horse first up at 1800m, but we have liked the trials of #5 THIN RED LINE leading into this. He went super on debut at 1800m in a strong race as a 2-year-old and followed that up with a strong win at Pakenham on the synthetic. He was then sent for a spell and has had two jump outs this time in and both have pleased. We particularly liked his most recent 1000m jump out at Pakenham where he was strong through the line. We think this horse has a lot of ability and there is some confidence around it today from the stable. The Sadler yard are flying currently, so it is the right time to be with this horse.

The dangers are clearly the race fit #1 BOLD SOUL and #6 ANGEL DOWN. They have the race fitness advantage which could be key but backing in the Sadler team to have THIN RED LINE ready for today's first up assignment.

SELECTION:

#5 THIN RED LINE win.

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Race 5 – 3:10PM KEN STURT BM70 (1100m)

This doesn't look an 1100m race with an abundance of speed. #13 MRS CHRISSIE should be able to be handy from gate 4 with #6 CATALINA BLACK CAT and #10 OVER BOOST likely to try and hold prominent positions from the inside two barriers. Wouldn't surprise to see #16 RUBICON CROSSING look to take up a forward position too from 5. There doesn't look to be much speed drawn out wide so suggesting they might not go too hard here.

For that reason, we have sided with #13 MRS CHRISSIE here. She is a lightly raved 5-year-old Mare from the Maher & Eustace camp who resumes here today of a 22-week spell. The two jump outs this prep have been lovely, particularly the most recent over 800m at Cranbourne on 18/12. She settled just off the speed there and ran past the leaders under no riding to win. Based off that effort she has improved in her break. She has drawn 4 and looks to get a great run riding what looks to be a moderate tempo on paper. Carleen Hefel rides today, and she is right on top of her game currently. With the claim she gets in with 55.5kg here also which is a positive.

#3 MASTER MONTARO is a very interesting runner. He looked like he could be anything before he went to Hong Kong, but things obviously didn't pan out for him over there and he has been sent back to the Hayes team over here to try and recapture some of his previous form. We think that could have happened, based off his trials since he has been back. He has had three trials since 17/11 and each of them have been particularly pleasing, particularly the most recent 1000m heat at Bendigo on 12/12. He was asked to extend there, and he moved right away from his opposition impressively in very good time for the day.

SELECTION:

#13 MRS CHRISSIE win, she gets the map favours.

Have to have small win bet on #3 MASTER MONTARO also, he is going to well not to and the price is enticing.

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26/12/2023 MORPHETTVILLE

Race 3 – 1:32PM ADELAIDE CUP DAY 11/3/24 MAIDEN (1200m)

Liked the run of #4 MORRIS MINOR on debut. We were with him on that occasion off the back of some nice work at the trials and this race looks no harder.

He was a tad slow away on debut and didn't have the best luck upon straightening, but he was good in running 3rd. No doubt he will have taken improvement from that, and he strikes a very winnable race here at his 2nd start. Maggie Collett takes the ride today and she is riding superbly of late. She takes 3kg off also, so the horse will only carry 55kg here. He has drawn 4 and with the race experience under his belt, he should be able to take up a forward position and have every chance to record his maiden victory.

SELECTION:

#4 MORRIS MINOR win – keen.

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