



The Leg Up

Meeting Preview

Sunday 31 March 2019



Race 1 - 1:43PM TABTOUCH BETTER YOUR BET MAIDEN (1600 METRES)

The market will no doubt come for HAPPY SANDAY, but we're happy to be with SCENIC JOURNEY. Doesn't have an ideal platform stepping up to the mile third-up, but has really hit the line hard at both 1100-metre outings so far, and with a patient ride from Jason Whiting she can utilise her closing speed to zap her rivals late. HAPPY SANDAY is the obvious, being race-hardened and coming up of stronger assignments than this on the inner-provincial circuit. Has had plenty of chances, but his form certainly stacks up. HARD TOO CEE caught the eye fresh two back and worked home well over 1500 metres at Pinjarra 20/3 last start. Should be close to a peak third up, while the consistent ORASKY has been costly to follow recently, but does map to enjoy the run of the race in transit.

Tips: 6-1-4-7 Suggested: 6. SCENIC JOURNEY win.

Race 2 - 2:13PM USG BORAL MAIDEN (1230 METRES)

Albany Cup winning trainer Darren McAuliffe is in town with a couple of promising maidens, the first of them being ALTANI, who should take some beating in this. Have tracked this filly closely since her first Lark Hill 5/11/18 trial and was keen on her on debut when running into the smart Archant after being firm in the market as a \$3.80 second favourite. Could've comfortably won her Belmont 18/3 trial as William Pike slipped her an inch of rein, so with a clean getaway from gate one and even luck in transit, she should be breaking through. GEOTHERMAL is an obvious major player after attacking the line strong when ridden patiently at her past two, and the blinkers have been added after being slow away last time. They should enhance her and SORAMIMI, who really caught the eye last start when recording the third-fastest last 200-metre time of the day, while ROO has some ability and stretched out nicely in her Mt Barker 17/3 trial, and is expected to make an impact fresh.

Tips: 10-7-4-9 Suggested: 10. ALTANI win.

Race 3 - 2:55PM ALBANY GARAGE DOORS HANDICAP (1230 METRES)

The second of the Darren McAuliffe winning chances is INFLATION, who looks particularly well placed at his first appearance in 145 days. Showed plenty of promise during his initial racing campaign, stretching WA Derby fancy Platoon on debut at Northam 17/10/18 and running fast time to win his maiden at that venue 11 days later. Settled outside leader in a Belmont 18/5 trial and edged clear late for a strong win, and he really does stand out at the horse to beat in this competitive Class 1 Handicap. JADE REEF appreciated coming back to the outer provincial circuit with a dominant maiden win third up at Mt Barker 17/3. Has the gate speed to work across from the high draw and should take some beating again. On-pacer RED HOT FLIRT is

racing her way into form and did a good job to box on into third behind the smart Shuwish at Pinjarra 14/3. Maps to advantage from the inside alley also, while fellow front-runner DANEHILL STORM won his maiden here back on Boxing Day and has raced fairly competitively since. Low draw is another positive.

Tips: 2-9-13-5 Suggested: 2. INFLATION win.

Race 4 - 3:25PM MOSS CONVEYANCING HANDICAP (1100 METRES)

Good contest this and you could make a case for most of the 12 original acceptors, but it does look a nice option for ARRUM BOY. Has chased home the sharp Tango Over twice over this track/distance already this campaign and his last start performance was much better than it reads. Suited with senior rider Peter Hall on board and if he can hold a midfield running position from the low draw, he should be too strong late. SIXPENCE SPENT drew 10, charged late and just missed with 59.5kg at Mt Barker 17/3, continuing his consistent recent form. Should settle closer from the lower draw and will no doubt appreciate sliding down to 54kg. Stablemate FRIAR'S GIFT had no luck in the Mungrud Stud Sprint when encountering significant traffic issues in the straight. Apprentice Jade McNaught won on this fellow two back and she should have him well positioned from the low draw, while quality local sprinter RUN LIAM RUN is resuming from a spell and showed he was ready to run a race fresh with a sharp Mt Barker 17/3 trial. Will drift back and swoop late.

Tips: 3-12-9-2 Suggested: 3. ARRUM BOY each way.

Race 5 - 3:55PM ALBANY AVIATION AIR CHARTERS HANDICAP (1600 METRES)

Pretty keen on the chances of SHORT BLACK ROMAN. Has a good record when venturing to this track in the past and looks to have risen to another level in three outings this campaign, with two good efforts against smart opposition, prior to have no luck at Pinjarra 20/3 last start. Should've finished much closer on that occasion, but ran into plenty of trouble in the straight, and looks well placed by Matthew Scott in this assignment. With even luck in transit he's going to be very hard to beat. BENTLEY'S BROTHER hasn't quite lived up to expectations and has disappointed punters on more than one occasion this campaign, however, he's going to get a lovely run from the low draw and is rarely far away at the finish. STEP RIGHT UP didn't fire on the significantly rain-affected Albany 7/3 surface last start, but his previous form was very strong. Should conserve energy from gate one and have plenty of fuel left to challenge late, while didn't mind the third-up effort of VITAL BOOM last start and he looks ready for the mile at this stage of his prep.

Tips: 5-3-6-8 Suggested: 5. SHORT BLACK ROMAN each way.

Race 6 - 4:25PM ALBANY STOCK FEEDS HANDICAP (1500 METRES)

MR PAGO looks ready to win. Put in eye-catching efforts at his first two runs back from a spell and was beaten by the barrier at Mt Barker 17/3, when drifting back to worse than midfield in the 14-horse event and clocking fast sectionals late to snatch third right on the line. After jumping from 10, 11 and 9 this prep, he should be able to settle closer on this occasion and does look suited rising to the 1500 metres with a significant weight advantage over the other major players. Track specialist NOTTA MOCHA is the obvious after being heavily supported and racing away with an impressive win in a similar assignment to this last start. Has the task ahead with 60.5kg from the high draw, but has the closing speed and class to still make things interesting. ITS NOT TRADING didn't fire when having a crack in town last start, but really should've won his last three Great Southern assignments. Stephen Sheehy has this fellow flying and he's raced well over this trip in the past, while SPEED BANDIT was huge on the rain-affected Albany 7/03 surface last start when recording the fastest final 200-metre split of the day. Obviously harder here, but that run was certainly full of merit.

Tips: 12-3-5-7
Suggested: 12. MR PAGO each way.

Race 7 - 5:00PM SKYRACING.TV PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES HEAT (1230 METRES)

Not a bad line up to contest the Provincial Series Heat and with five acceptors, leading local trainer Steve Wolfe clearly holds the key. And all things being equal, his talented-but-frustrating four-year-old THREE SECRETS really should be winning. Probably should've won three of his five runs in town in his comeback from injury, when racing without a lot of luck, but he is running out of excuses, especially considering how heavily he's been backed at his last four starts. THREE SECRETS needs a confidence-booster and with an uninterrupted run with Peter Hall on board, he should be too good. MALILANGWE will have admirers though and Roy Rogers has certainly got him firing. Capable of working forward from the high draw and no one is riding Percy Spencer Racecourse better than Dan Staeck. COUNT KALA doesn't know how to run a bad race and simply has to be included among the main fancies, especially considering his track/distance record, while stablemates WAR JEUNE and COLD AS COLD are both capable of winning this if they can tap into their best form.

Tips: 1-4-3-2
Suggested: 1. THREE SECRETS win.