

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

EPSOM DERBY, SATURDAY, 4.30PM



MATT CHAPMAN

The biggest Group 1 race of them all over 1m 4f is of course the Epsom Derby. I want the York Dante winner **Telecaster** to do it for Oisin Murphy, but I have a feeling that **BROOME** is the solid horse here and I am happy to back him each-way at about 4-1 to hit the frame at least. He's long been crying out for this trip and I like his attitude. He'll do for me to give Aidan O'Brien a record-equalling seventh win in the Colts' Classic.



JASON WEAVER

It's very rare that I put up two selections in one race but I can make a strong case for both Irish raiders in **JAPAN** and Madhmoon. Japan was never at the races at York last time and stayed on pleasingly after being way too far out of his ground. We can expect him to step up on that run. **MADHMOON** on the other hand holds a speed advantage over this field as I feel nothing else in the line-up would have the required gears to finish fourth in a 2,000 Guineas.



MICK FITZGERALD

I was all over **Sir Dragonet** when I saw him winning at Chester, but I'm worried that he won't be as good without the word 'soft' in the going description. His stablemate **BROOME** won the best Derby trial in Ireland and should definitely stay the 1m 4f trip. I'm going to side with him. One who could put it up to Ballydoyle's battalions is the Andrew Balding-trained **Bangkok**.



PADDY POWER

In my very unshrewd opinion, the best form has been set by the York Dante winner **TELECASTER**. He looks a relentless galloper and if he slips the field around Tattenham Corner, they'll have some job pegging him back. Connections have paid big money to supplement him, so they're not playing games. One at a bigger price is Kevin Prendergast's **Madhmoon** who was just outside the places at Newmarket. There's an old racing saying that 'fourth in the 2,000 Guineas wins the Derby'. I hope it's right!



PAUL JACOBS

I really can't be doing with all that guesswork about how the race will pan out for the seven Ballydoyle runners but I've decided that if he comes forward by another 7lbs, **SIR DRAGONET** could prove a superstar of the highest order. There were strains of the mighty Shergar at the end of his Chester win and even though the bare form may not be out of this world, sometimes the eye can communicate more to your betting brain than the formbook ever can.



FRANK HICKEY

With the last two winners of the Derby being returned at 40/1 & 16/1 - it can pay to look beyond the obvious. **CIRCUS MAXIMUS** appeals as one that has the potential to cause a surprise. He has good form behind Magna Grecia and Phoenix of Spain last year over a mile and won the Dee Stakes at Chester nicely, with Ryan Moore suggesting there was more to come. He should get the trip and **Frankie Dettori** is booked.



BRENDAN DUKE

The best value in the race to my eyes looks to be **TELECASTER** and I would make him favourite to win it. His sire is a Derby winner, his dam was second in the Oaks. At Windsor, and particularly at York, he looked comfortable sustaining a gallop that few horses can endure. While the runner-up Too Darn Hot didn't win the 2,000 Guineas last weekend, he still ran well. I suspect that Dante form will work out and for me he's the most talented horse in the race by some distance.



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