

## PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY



JASON WEAVER



MATT CHAPMAN



MICK FITZGERALD



TIMEFORM



PADDY POWER

1.50pm

### DONCASTER - CHAMPAGNE STAKES

- JW** **ALBASHEER** comes back to the same track where he put up a spectacular performance on his racecourse debut when winning by more than six lengths.
- MC** I was hugely impressed with **CHINDIT** at Ascot last time and expect him to land this with ease for Richard Hannon and Pat Dobbs.
- MF** **CHINDIT** was very impressive at Ascot on fast ground. The form from that win looks even more impressive now as second, third and fourth have all won since.
- TF** **CHINDIT** has looked well above-average in winning both his starts to date and can improve again to give his yard successive wins in this event.
- PP** He battered the field on debut at Doncaster back in July so **ALBASHEER** has to be the one for me.

2.25pm

### DONCASTER - PORTLAND HANDICAP

- JW** First time **STONE OF DESTINY** is tested at 5½f and it looks ideal. Drawn very close to the front-running Ornate, he should get a lead at the business end.
- MC** I tipped **A MOMENTOFMADNESS** in this last year and we'll go with him again. He was second last year off 4lbs higher and won it off 8lbs more in 2018.
- MF** **A MOMENTOFMADNESS** won this two years ago, and was second to Group 1 winner Oxted in 2019.
- TF** Preference is for **A MOMENTOFMADNESS** who won this race in 2018 and found only July Cup winner Oxted too good 12 months ago.
- PP** **SOLDIERS MINUTE** had me standing to attention when he ran Acclaim the Nation close at York last time, and only has 1lb extra here.

3.00pm

### DONCASTER - PARK STAKES

- JW** **ONE MASTER** wasn't suited to the front-running track at York last time, but a strong pace is expected in this, so the Group 1 star should have a class edge.
- MC** **ONE MASTER** and Limato are specialist 7f performers and both have a great chance here. I'm going for the former, who was brilliant at Goodwood this year.
- MF** Aidan O'Brien's **WICHITA** runs in this. Third at Royal Ascot to Group 1 winner Palace Pier and second in the Guineas to Kameko, he should be better than the rest.
- TF** The Criterion Stakes panned out perfectly for **LIMATO** when he landed it for the second year running in June, but that does show he's still capable despite his age.
- PP** With Frankie on board, **WICHITA** can bounce back from disappointments at Goodwood and Deauville.

3.35pm

### DONCASTER - PERTEMPS ST LEGER

- JW** **PYLEDRIVER** is a massive underdog story, but his jockey is very confident and like all top-class horses, he not only has stamina but a change of gear late on.
- MC** Very good in the Queen's Vase and Irish Derby, **SANTIAGO** was far from disgraced by Stradivarius in the Goodwood Cup. He'll take some beating here.
- MF** I'm a huge fan of **PYLEDRIVER** after wins in the Great Voltigeur at York and King Edward at Royal Ascot. He can deliver William Muir's first Group 1 win here.
- TF** **HUKUM** looked a bona-fide Group 1 performer in the Geoffrey Freer at Newbury and this test should suit.
- PP** **GALILEO CHROME** has won all three starts this season, and can shine for Joseph O'Brien again here.

2.05pm

### CHESTER - STAND CUP

- JW** **ALIGNAK** has already proven himself a decent performer on 2020's form and this test may well suit him better than the market suggests.
- MC** **MORANDO** is often a horse to take on, but everything is right for a big effort here from him. This distance is perfect, he has good course form and a high rating.
- MF** **MORANDO** beat Kew Gardens at Chester on slowish ground so form at the track swings it for me.
- TF** **ALIGNAK** didn't look out of place in Group company when third to St Leger candidate Hukum at Newbury. He should prove a tough nut to crack.
- PP** The stars are aligning for **ALIGNAK** after strong runs at Newbury and Haydock, as well as a win on Newcastle's AW track to open the season.

2.40pm

### CHESTER - COMMONHALL STREET HANDICAP

- JW** The track here will suit **MAYDANNY** as he is a real handy balanced type. He may even pinch this on the front end as the contest doesn't look loaded with pace.
- MC** **RESTORER** is high in the weights now and should appreciate the drop in trip after disappointing over further last time.
- MF** **MAYDANNY** is a smart performer who bombed out at York. I am forgiving him that run.
- TF** **MAYDANNY** was unsuited to York's conditions three weeks ago and is better judged on an impressive Goodwood showing where he looked a pattern-class performer in the making.
- PP** Just beaten by Audarya at Newcastle over the same distance last time, **PREJUDICE** and can go one better.

3.10pm

### LEOPARDSTOWN - MATRON STAKES

- JW** **PEACEFUL** and Fancy Blue have been taking it in turns to get to the winners enclosure. In the Matron Stakes it could be Peaceful's time again.
- MC** I'll take **ALBIGNA** as an each-way shout. She has failed to shine this season and was poor last time at the Curragh, but I have always been a fan and hope Shane Foley can get a tune out of her again.
- MF** **FANCY BLUE** is the choice of Ryan Moore and she has gone from strength to strength as the season has gone on.
- TF** Can **FANCY BLUE** repeat the level of form she has shown over 1¼m at 1m? The trip looks a disadvantage but she has won Group 1s on her last two starts.
- PP** Coming back down in distance after a French trip, **PEACEFUL** can edge ahead of Fancy Blue again here.

4.10pm

### LEOPARDSTOWN - IRISH CHAMPION STAKES

- JW** If they don't give Ghaiyyath an easy time on the front-end, **SOTTSASS** can pounce late. Third in last year's Arc, he is blessed with the best change of gear in the field.
- MC** In a small field it's hard to oppose the world's top rated horse **GHAIIYATH** once again. He should dictate easily and this track is good for front runners.
- MF** **GHAIIYATH** is a monster and can lead it here, which takes away the worry of him being involved in a tactical war with the Irish trained horses.
- TF** **GHAIIYATH** is confidently expected to maintain his unbeaten record in 2020 and make it win number five with another all-the-way victory.
- PP** I can't look beyond **GHAIIYATH** and that unbeaten 2020 record should continue.

