

VICHY [R-H] - 10 August

Race 1 - PRIX DU CHATEAU DE MAULMONT - 2400m CLM CL4 HCP. Purse EUR €12,000.

1. **BLACK HAWK** - Was below his best two back at Lyon-Parilly then ran a much better race last start when third over 2400m at Compiegne. Hard to beat on that latest effort.
2. **HAGAR BERE** - Scored a well-deserved win last start over 2000m at Compiegne after a close third two runs back. No reason he cannot get the job done again.
3. **MAGNENTIUS** - Honest type who was third last time out over 2400m at Vittel at the third run back from a spell. Progressing well and rates highly.
4. **LOCAL WHISKY** - Ready to peak after two runs back, the latest effort a fifth over 2000m at Le Lion-d'Angers. Must be respected.
5. **SANCHO** - Has been out of the money in recent runs including last time when tenth over 2400m at Dieppe two-and-a-half weeks ago, beaten 9 lengths. Hard to fault if at his best.

Summary: HAGAR BERE (2) was always well positioned when running out a smooth 1.25L winner of a Class Three claiming handicap at Compiegne. Major chance with the step back up to 2400m no issue. BLACK HAWK (1) continues to run well in similar events and must be respected following a good third over this distance at Compiegne. MAGNENTIUS (3) needs including as a four-time scorer over the trip while LOCAL WHISKY (4) is noted under Soumillon.

Selections

HAGAR BERE (2) - BLACK HAWK (1) - MAGNENTIUS (3) - LOCAL WHISKY (4)

1. **PIKATSU** - Returned from a layoff last start and was beaten 4.5 lengths into ninth over 2000m at Divonne. Strips fitter and is among the chances.
2. **ASPEN** - Beaten 3 lengths into fifth when resuming last start over 2000m at this track. Rates highly.
3. **BALAGAN** - Has a poor strike rate and failed to improve on it last start when tenth over 1850m at this track. Happy to overlook.
4. **STARYAN** - Finished sixth over 1800m at Aix-les-Bains on July 14. The 1.5kg claim won't be enough. Place likely best.
5. **CHOCOBELLO** - Put the writing on the wall last start when he finished a close second at Vittel over 1600m. Ludovic Boisseau retains the ride. Expected to feature.
6. **GRAIN DE POUSSIÈRE** - Unplaced at all four runs to date, the latest when beaten 9 lengths over 1400m at Longchamp. Finds a suitable race now and is worth including.
7. **DEAR MR FANTASY** - Has been very ordinary since winning at Cavaillon four starts back. Beaten 6 lengths when sixth over 1600m at this track last start. Prepared to overlook.
8. **AFFAIRE CONCLUE** - Had to contend with a wide draw at her latest run and finished out of the money over 2000m at this track. Draws out again but should fare a lot better in this suitable contest.

Summary: CHOCOBELLO (5) was denied a head in a similar claimer over this trip at Vittel seventeen days ago. Top claims in what looks a suitable affair. GRAIN DE POUSSIÈRE (6) will find this easier than the Longchamp handicap she tackled last-time-out. Key chance dropped to claiming level for the first time for a notable trainer and jockey combination. ASPEN (2) shaped nicely when fifth here after a short-break. Can go well with Soumillon taking over. STARYAN (4) could find the frame.

Selections

CHOCOBELLO (5) - GRAIN DE POUSSIÈRE (6) - ASPEN (2) - STARYAN (4)

1. **OMANENSE** - Promising filly who last start finished 5.5 lengths away in fourth over 2000m at Longchamp. Worth including.
2. **SEÑOR PEDRO** - Good effort last start to win his maiden over 2000m at this track by 1.3 lengths. Fitter again but this might be too rich.
3. **LORENZO DE MEDICI** - Hasn't really fired in two runs since a spell, the latest when beaten 3.5 lengths into fourth over 2000m at Longchamp. Has the ability and a bold showing is expected.
4. **DEREVA** - Has improved at each of her three outings, culminating in a win last time out over 1900m at Argentan on July 4. Well placed and sure to be prominent.
5. **WILD SWEETHEART** - Good effort last start to win her maiden over 2000m at this track by half a length. Fitter and can measure up again.
6. **TALISMANIA** - Resumed over 1800m at Aix-les-Bains last start and she scored by 2.5 lengths. Impressive on that occasion but isn't among the top hopes today.
7. **MILAD'ID** - Unraced filly by Johnny Barnes out of Coup D'eclat. Keep safe.

Summary: DEREVA (4) won a Class Three conditions event by 1.75L over 1900m at Argentan last outing. Taken to cope with this rise in class with a progressive profile for top connections. LORENZO DE MEDICI (3) produced a solid 3.25L fourth in a Class Two conditions contest at Longchamp. Huge chance on the figures. OMANENSE (1) was behind a pair of subsequent scorers when fourth at Longchamp in this level. Hard to ignore for a top stable. Recent course and distance maiden winner WILD SWEETHEART (5) is noted.

Selections

DEREVA (4) - LORENZO DE MEDICI (3) - OMANENSE (1) - WILD SWEETHEART (5)

1. **ALROMY** - Seventh over 2000m at this track last time out. Finds a nice race this time and is right in contention.
2. **AGOUREIL** - Didn't impress when resuming then was poor second-up in latest effort. Prepared to wait until he returns to form.
3. **SHAHNAMEH** - Has been out of the money recently including last time when fourth over 2400m at Le Lion-d'Angers six-and-a-half weeks ago, beaten 3 lengths. Major player.
4. **PRESA DIRETTA** - Narrowly beaten last time when second at Tarbes, finishing just 0.8 lengths from the winner. In the mix again.
5. **NIGHTHAB** - Pleasing effort when second last start over 2000m at this track. Leading player.
6. **ULTIME NONANTAISE** - Has looked good in her five career starts, most recently scoring by 1.3 lengths over 1800m at Aix-les-Bains. One of the each way hopes.
7. **CHINZ** - Resumes today after showing glimpses of ability in her first campaign. At the latest outing she finished tenth over 2150m at Cagnes-sur-Mer on February 26. Others rate better.
8. **PUMP PUMP JUNIOR** - Good effort to finish second last time over 2000m at this track. Might find this a bit rich.

Summary: The ultra-consistent PRESA DIRETTA (4) arrives in solid form including when runner-up in a similar handicap over 2100m at Tarbes. Obvious appeal with a top jockey booked. SHAHNAMEH (3) showed up well when beaten 3L into fourth in a 2400m handicap at Le Lion-d'Angers. Interesting contender back down in trip for top connections. ULTIME NONANTAISE (6) was always towards the fore when winning a handicap by 1.25L at Aix-les-Bains. Key chance. Handicap debutant NIGHTHAB (5) is considered.

Selections

PRESA DIRETTA (4) - SHAHNAMEH (3) - ULTIME NONANTAISE (6) - NIGHTHAB (5)

1. **HYDROPUCE** - Went down by just a head when second at Le Lion-d'Angers over 3000m last time out. Winning chance.

2. **HANZIKO D'AIRY** - Lightly raced gelding progressing well. Broke his maiden status last start by 2.5 lengths over 2400m at Vittel. Rates highly.

3. **IRADIUS** - Better effort last start to finish third over 3000m at Dieppe when facing the starter for just the second time. Coming along well and can win without surprising.

4. **HOULAHOU CHALUZY** - Has been out of the money of late including last time out when fifth over 3000m at Dieppe three-and-a-half weeks ago, beaten 20 lengths. Certainly worth another chance.

5. **INCOAST** - Turned in a respectable run on debut back on April 18 when third over 2400m at Le Lion-d'Angers. Shows promise and is worth including.

6. **ISOLABELLA** - Unraced filly by Free Port Lux out of Mendy Tennise. It will pay to keep an eye on the betting.

7. **IDOLE DE FREGANDE** - Tiger Groom filly from Java De Ciergues on debut. Tough test at her first outing.

8. **ILAND'S** - Was well in the market on debut last start but could only manage fifth, beaten 5.5 lengths, over 2400m at Vittel. Others rate better.

Summary: INCOAST (5) made a pleasing debut when third over 2400m at Le Lion-d'Angers. Major contender with a step forward expected. HANZIKO D'AIRY (2) had a next-time-out scorer behind when winning by 2.5L at Vittel. Key chance. IRADIUS (3) followed up a Erbray debut success with a good third at Dieppe. Firmly in the mix. ISOLABELLA (6) would be interesting if seeing market support on debut.

Selections

INCOAST (5) - HANZIKO D'AIRY (2) - IRADIUS (3) - ISOLABELLA (6)

1. **AMERICAN DAISY** - Has been out of the money of late including last time when eighth over 1600m at this track five days ago, beaten 7 lengths. Capable of sharp improvement.
2. **WAYNE** - Has been out of the money recently including last time out when eighth over 1600m at this track three-and-a-half weeks ago, beaten 2.25 lengths. Major player.
3. **ALPINO** - Has been out of the money recently including last time out when eighth over 2000m at this track two-and-a-half weeks ago, beaten 5.5 lengths. Hard to fault if at his best.
4. **IGGY CHOP** - Struggling to break through this campaign, the latest effort a fair fifth over 2000m at this track. Good sign last time and is worth including.
5. **ZILLI ROCKS** - Still a maiden after finishing ninth last start over 1900m at Chantilly All Weather. Others preferred.
6. **SUNSET LOVER** - Returning from a spell today. Form at the back end of last campaign was not the best and she is unplaced from four first up efforts. Others more appealing today.
7. **MALECON** - Seasoned galloper who hasn't broken through for two-and-a-half years. Wasn't far away last time when third over 2000m at this track. Among the leading chances.
8. **LEAPING** - Not a prolific winner with just five victories from 102 starts. Last start finished fourth over 2000m at this track. Not keen.
9. **RISE HIT** - Fitter for two runs from a spell. Better effort last start when eighth over 2100m at Le Touquet. Is among the chances.
10. **PINK LOTUS** - Disappointing last time when 10 lengths 13th at this track, maintaining the maiden status after 33 runs. Can't enthuse.

Summary: MALECON (7) was always towards the fore when a good third in a course and distance handicap nineteen days ago. Notable chance off the same mark. RISE HIT (9) shaped better than the bare result when eighth in a Class Four handicap at Le Touquet. Key claims. IGGY CHOP (4) was a solid 3L fifth over track and trip latest. Thereabouts. WAYNE (2) looks an each-way player.

Selections

MALECON (7) - RISE HIT (9) - IGGY CHOP (4) - WAYNE (2)