

Friday 17 January 2024 Volume 408



The Big Bash is into its final throws and with the way the ladder is, fourth spot could be taken by a team with only four wins out 10 games. Hopefully it'll be the Strikers if they win in Perth on Saturday, if other results go their way over the next few days. They've had their chances and could consider themselves a little unlucky with star batsman and skipper Matt Short missing three games in the middle of the competition.

But good sides can cope with injury, the Hurricanes showing so far they are the best team, having the depth to cover injuries. Caleb Jewell has come into their team with the hamstring injury to Ben McDermott and played superbly on Thursday night at the Gabba to be Man of the match. He has signed a deal to play with Derbyshire in County cricket later this year. Tall left-arm paceman Marcus Bean took his chance in the same game when Billy Stanlake was injured – Bean having played second grade club cricket in the early part of last season!

If it can't be the Strikers, I hope the Hurricanes go onto win the tournament. They and the Stars are the only teams not to win the Big Bash and it would also be a great triumph for their coach Jeff Vaughan, a Broken Hill lad who played many years for South Australia. They also have more than half their team as home grown, which shows they don't rely heavily on their overseas players.

On another topic, the Australia squad for Sri Lanka is a good one, I'm delighted to see young West Aussie batsman Cooper Connolly in there. Whether he makes the First Test remains to be seen – he reminds me so much of a young David Hookes it's quite incredible. His 90 in last season's Shield final was a fine knock, he's made Shield runs this season and looks a star of the future. He plays spin well and can smack it in the Big Bash as well, being the Scorchers leading run scorer this season. Australia needs an inject of new blood into their Test side – Connolly's selection is hopefully the start of a new era of younger players getting a run in the team.

Hopefully the rain stays away for the rescheduled Magic Millions Gold Coast meeting.



You can now order FanFave Merchandise with Miller's Sports News Logo - contact Simon direct at info@fanfav.com.au

*** Stubby holders , Polos , T shirts , Huge range of Caps , Puffer jackets , Soft shell jackets, etc — www.fanfav.com.au ***

FANFAVE
OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

Murray Bridge	Flemington	Rosehill	Eagle Farm
Crystal Clear	The Shark	Harbour Harry	Jungle Jim
R1 : 3 , 2 , 1 , 7	1: 3 , 4 , 5 , 1	1 : 6 , 4 , 10 , 9	1: 1 , 2 , 6 , 8
R2 : 2 , 1 , 5 , 3	2: 3 , 4 , 6 , 8	2 : 6 , 4 , 3 , 5	2: 5 , 2 , 8 , 7
R3 : 11 , 6 , 3 , 2	3: 4 , 2 , 1 , 9	3 : 4 , 5 , 1 , 2	3: 3 , 6 , 12 , 4
R4: 7 , 3 , 6 , 1	4: 1 , 5 , 2 , 3	4 : 16 , 11 , 4 , 14	4 : 8 , 12 , 11 , 5
R5: 4 , 7 , 3 , 1	5: 3 , 2 , 1 , 8	5 : 1 , 9 , 10 , 5	5: 4 , 8 , 11 , 6
R6: 4 , 6 , 5 , 2	6: 4 , 7 , 8 , 1	6 : 10 , 2 , 6 , 9	6: 1 , 4 , 2 , 16
R7: 3 , 6 , 7 , 12	7: 1 , 2 , 3 , 4	7 : 5 , 1 , 2 , 3	7: 7 , 14 , 2 , 3
R8: 10 , 8 , 7 , 1	8 : 15 , 13 , 10 , 11	8 : 12 , 2 , 5 , 3	8: 3 , 2 , 6 , 5
R9: 14 , 6 , 5 , 2	9: 17 , 10 , 8 , 2	9 : 1 , 2 , 12 , 5	9: 9 , 10 , 1 , 8
	10: 12 , 13 , 19 , 14	10 : 13 , 10 , 5 , 9	10: 9 , 10 , 3 , 13

Jimmy Olsen	The Mailman	Tower Of Knowledge
BR 4 # 2 Jetty	SR 3 # 5 Polyglot	AR 1 # 3 Let's Get Down
BR 9 # 1 Golden Decade	MR 7 # 2 Kirribilli	AR 4 # 7 Gotta Go Gurru
MR 9 # 17 Red Phantom	SR 8 # 5 Cigar Flick	AR 5 # 4 The Stalker

At The Barriers Podcast by Gary Newton is available Tuesday and Friday Nights

Race 1: LETS GET DOWN Stokes/Neindorf combination is on fire and should start the day with a winner MANHATTEN TIMES looks the danger. Selections: 3 to win 1 is a danger.

Race 2: DIVINE FIRE a winner of three of her past four starts. If she can get an easy lead, she will be the one to beat. STRUCK BY drops in grade after finishing a close third behind Dubai Poet in the Xmas Handicap and gets Taylor Johnstone's claim to help. Selections 5 to win from 2

Race 3: is a maiden NOVELA finished fourth last start, blinkers go on for the first time Saturday, which may help in a hard race. Selection; 6 in a hard race.

Race 4: GOTTA GO GURU was a big winner last start. This doesn't look any harder and she'll carry 1/2kg less today. COURSA VITA is back in trip after running second to Arugamama over 2500m last month. Selections: 7 from 8

Race 5: QUANAH returns with a new trainer who looks a smart type, the only concern is hasn't seen a good surface before as both wins came on a heavy track. CHAMBERS BAY will probably need further but has raced well when fresh in the past Selections: 7 to win from 3.

Race 6: ROYAL TRAPEZE has won his past two starts. He's up in class today but drops 2.5kg. HOLMES will be at his best when he gets over further, but you can expect to see him doing his best work late in the race. Selections: 2 from 1.

Race 7: STAR SIRIUS finished a close second to Anotherhouse at Morphettville at her third run back from a break. She meets the Anotherhouse1.5kg better at the weights on Saturday. FINE FUTURE has won this over this trip in the past. Selections: 3 from 2

Race 8: DUCHESS OF SUSSEX from the Stokes yard was spelled following a luckless run on the Parks track in September. Has claims in this. HAMNER SPRINGS comes into this off the back of an Oakbank trial win on January 3rd. Selections : 7 & 5

Race 9: SWYCHO is coming off a let-up and comes back in distance but is quite smart and can send us home a winner. HIGH ON SUGAR will push forward and give them something to catch. He was run down close to the line here a fortnight ago. Selections: 6 from 5.