

Race:	Top Selection	Second Choice	Third Choice
Kahayla Classic	#12 Tallaab Al Khalediah (4-1)	#9 Goshawke A (15-1)	#8 Af Maher (8-1)
Godolphin Mile	#4 Kimbear (15-1)	#3 True Timber (10-1)	#13 Secret Ambition (20-1)
Gold Cup	#2 Call The Wind (3-1)	#9 Cross Counter (8-5)	#10 Gold Mount (15-1)
AI Quoz Sprint	#8 Blue Point (3-5)	#6 Brave Smash (20-1)	#1 Stormy Liberal (7-1)
UAE Derby	#3 Golden Jaguar (15-1)	#2 Jahbath (6-1)	#5 Derma Louvre (12-1)
Golden Shaheen	#4 Promises Fulfilled (7-1)	#3 X Y Jet (9/2)	#2 Imperial Hint (5-1)
Dubai Turf	#7 Almond Eye (7-5)	#4 Vivlos (15-1)	#12 Without Parole (15-1)
Sheema Classic	#2 Old Persian (8-5)	#8 Desert Encounter (20-1)	#6 Rey de Oro (5-2)
Dubai World Cup	#12 Thunder Snow (6-1)	#3 North America (5-2)	#4 Audible (12-1)

Race 1: Dubai Kahayla Classic Post Time 6:45 AM

The Dubai Kahayla Classic kicks off the card bright and early for the pure Arabians. The defending champion in this race Tallaab Al Khalediah sports four impressive victories this season running his undefeated streak to ten. His victory last year was against many of these and he is certainly the horse to beat. It is worth noting a number of these horses come out of grass races or mile races on the dirt so it is important to try to find horses who look like they should stay the ten furlongs on the dirt. *My picks are 12-9-8.*

Picks

12. Tallaab Al Khalediah (4-1) is the defending champion in this event and has yet to be beaten. Until a time he looks like he is too much horse for the rest of this field. He's able to sit close to the pace but does not need to be in the lead. Coming off four wins in Saudi Arabia this season he once again looks primed for the biggest race of his campaign.

9. Goshawke A (15-1) made an eye-catching rally in the third round of the Al Maktoum Challenge. With Af Maher cruising on a loose lead he advanced four wide around the turn and started to make up some ground before weakening in the final furlong. He does sport a win at 11 furlongs back in January, so the distance is not a concern. A horse worth taking a look at to get a piece at a price.

8. Af Maher (8-1) was a convincing winner of the final local prep at Meydan. He cruised to the lead and drew off. There is other speed signed on for the race but even his effort two starts ago at Sharjah where he made up some ground would work here to get a piece.

Race 2: Godolphin Mile 7:15 AM

The Godolphin Mile might be a meltdown candidate. The heavy morning line favorite Muntazah is a one-dimensional speed horse who the last two open length victories has cruised to the lead and not looked back. There is other speed signed on though including American invader Coal Front for Todd Pletcher. Coal Front ran a massive race last time overcoming a rapid early pace and a heavy dual. It is worrying how much that effort took out of him before shipping across continents. I wanted to go against the favorites who could get hooked up early in a pace battle. *My picks are 4-3-13.*

Picks

4. Kimbear (15-1) was sixth in this race last year but seems to be a better horse in 2019 for Doug Watson. His second-place finish in the Al Maktoum Challenge Round 1 was a good effort and he defeated Muntazah that day. Last time he made up some ground in the Firebreak Stakes but was no match for the winner who was loose and gone on the lead. I think today with a better pace scenario he is going to be able to try to run them down at a big price.

3. True Timber (10-1) is an American invader for Kiaran McLaughlin who has some tremendous races on his form, however he is not the most consistent type. His second-place finish in the Cigar Mile would fit really well in this race especially given his stalking style. I am willing to forgive his sloppy track disappointment in a tough Pegasus World Cup because he has the right style for the field and if he can save some ground and come with a run.

13. Secret Ambition (20-1) is a big price that I wanted to throw in underneath as he got into a difficult trip in the Burj Nahaar but he did get up for second in the Firebreak behind Muntazah, with an expected hot pace I think he could duplicate that effort and once again will be a big price on the tote board.

Race 3: Dubai Gold Cup Post Time 7:50 AM

The Gold Cup is an international group of stayers over the grueling two mile distance. A field of ten will test endurance as they attempt to defeat the Melbourne Cup winner Cross Counter. The well travelled four-year-old from the yard of Charlie Appleby makes his 2019 debut and first start since his win in the Melbourne Cup over this same two-mile distance. Can anyone pull off an upset? My selections are 2-9-10

Picks

2. Call the Wind (3-1) is a French raider for Freddie Head who won the prestigious Prix du Cadran on Arc de Triomphe day. The French have won the last three Gold Cups with Vazirabad and now Call the Wind looks to continue that trend. He had a recent prep over the all-weather at Chantilly and now with a step up in distance he figures to be very tough.

9. Cross Counter (8-5) was the 2018 winner of the Melbourne Cup as a three-year-old. He was also a group stakes winner in England last year as well. He now makes his 2019 debut but does add 9 lbs from what he carried in the Melbourne Cup. He is the horse to beat but a case can be made against him as well.

10. Gold Mount (15-1) gets the services of Ryan Moore and exits some incredibly tough races. Some of the names you see in his recent lines are the top Asian grass horses with the likes of Exultant, Eagle Way and Time Warp. He now tries to stretch-out in distance but in my mind, he does get class relief. If he can stay the distance, I think he has the class to be in the mix at a price.

Race 4: The Al Quoz Sprint Post Time 8:30 AM

The Al Quoz Sprint might be a redemption of sorts for Blue Point. Last year as the favorite he was scratched during the post parade. He has come back this year with a vengeance with back to back open length preps over the Meydan surface. The rest of the field is international with American, French, Hong Kong and Australian invaders all signed on, but the big question is can anyone defeat the Godolphin star Blue Point. My selections are 8-6-10.

Picks

8. Blue Point (3-5) is the heavy favorite coming off open lengths scores in two local preps over the Meydan straight course. He rolled on past his rivals with ease under limited urging by William Buick. Even though he won the Group 1 Kings Stand Stakes at Ascot over five furlongs he might be a better horse at this six-furlong distance. His class and recent form make him very tough to pick against.

6. Brave Smash (20-1) is an Australian invader coming off a closing third in a Group One at Flemington. He's finished in the money in nineteen of his thirty-three career starts and the Australian sprinters are competitive around the globe. This is no different as Brave Smash could be a good value play as a horse who knows how to hit the board.

1. Stormy Liberal (7/1) is the two-time defending Breeders Cup Turf Sprint champion. He comes off back to back runner up finishes by small margins at Santa Anita. He seems to be geared up for big races well though by Peter Miller and he ran second in this race last year at a big price. He is the type that always seems to run his race and Saturday should be no different.

Race 5: The UAE Derby Post Time 9:05 AM

The UAE Derby for \$2,500,000 once again awards points towards the Kentucky Derby. A number of horses have converged from different corners of the world. The filly Divine Image was an open length winner of the Al Bastakiya on Super Saturday and with a good effort will be heading to the Kentucky Oaks. Can she beat the boys here or will someone emerge from the wide-open group to grab the ticket to Louisville? My picks are 3-2-5.

Picks

3. Golden Jaguar (15/1) is one for one on the dirt with an easy win in a Maiden race at Jebel Ali after a poor break. He came back with two good efforts on the grass and now switches back to the dirt and stretches out in distance. He is by the Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom and should be able to

handle the dirt and the distance. In a wide-open race this horse appears to have plenty of talent and as an upset contender can be respected as such.

2. Jahbath (6/1) is an English invader who has been dominant on the synthetic tracks at Kempton and Southwell and now attempts to switch to the dirt. He is four for four on the synthetic since switching from the turf and he has won comfortably with a good tracking style. He is bred to handle the distance and has some similar characteristics to a former UAE Derby winner in Toast of New York. If he can duplicate his success on the dirt, he will be formidable.

5. Derma Louvre (12/1) is a Japanese invader coming off a third-place finish in the Hyacinth Stakes at Tokyo Racecourse. He got caught up in traffic as the favorite while the top two kicked on with it. He ran arguably his best race in his longest career effort at nine furlongs with a seven-length maiden victory in September. He now stretches back out and in a wide-open race with a good trip from the inside could be a major factor.

Race 6: The Dubai Golden Shaheen Post Time 9:40 AM

The Dubai Golden Shaheen lost its morning line favorite Roy H to a hoof issue early Thursday morning but the race is still left with a blazing field of American speedsters. X Y Jet who seems to love making this trip is back again for another try along with the likes of Imperial Hint, Promises Fulfilled and Switzerland. The locals and Asian invaders look to be up against it against the like of the American speedsters even with the defection of two-time Breeders Cup Sprint winner Roy H. My Selections are 4-3-2.

Picks

4. Promises Fulfilled (7-1) was a tremendous three-year-old who battled to a fourth-place finish in the Breeders Cup Sprint after wins in the Phoenix and Allen Jerkens. He is the fastest of the American invaders and has reasons to have improved as a four-year-old. If he gets out and rolling it might make him very tough to catch for trainer Dale Romans who should have him primed for a top effort off the bench.

3. X Y Jet (9-2) the two-time runner up in this race comes off an easy score at Gulfstream Park in the slop. Last year he took slightly off the pace and I could see him trying that tactic again with Promises Fulfilled. He seems to love this track and with the right trip could be a major player again.

2. Imperial Hint (5-1) could be the closer of the field with the speed in the race. His last effort at Tampa Bay was a little bit flat, but that could have been a prep for a bigger target in this race. His top-notch efforts last summer would make him the favorite in this field, and he is versatile enough to work out a trip.

Race 7: The Dubai Turf Post Time 10:20 AM

The Dubai Turf is the race on the card with the most superstar power. The Japanese filly Almond Eye comes off a win in the Japan Cup and is six for seven life-time. Mix in Vivlos, Century Dream, Without Parole and the Godolphin contingent and this race is the highlight of the card. My selections are 7-4-12.

Picks

7. Almond Eye (7/5) has dominated the Japanese racing scene in 2018 including a victory in the Japan Cup and the Shuka Sho among her six victories. Her tremendous kick makes her incredibly tough and with her wins at distances ranging from a mile to twelve furlongs this nine-furlong distance should hit her right between the eyes as she looks to add to her growing resume.

4. Vivlos (15-1) is another Japanese mare and she has already proven herself as a winner of this race before and a runner-up last year. She was second in the Hong Kong Mile in her most recent effort and was one of the horses who made a positive impression on track in her morning trackwork this week.

12. Without Parole (15-1) is a British four-year-old for John Gosden who makes his 2019 debut. Last year he won the St James's Place Stakes by a half-length. He got into a couple of incredible tough spots late in the year against Recoletos and Roaring Lion and now as a four-year-old he has a chance to improve again and be a major contender.

Race 9: The Dubai Sheema Classic Post Time 11:00 AM

The Sheema Classic is a very competitive group that should be determined by who gets the cleanest trip the last quarter mile. Old Persian leads the Godolphin contingent against the likes of international travellers Rey de Oro and Suave Richard. My selections are 2-8-6.

Picks

2. Old Persian (8-5) had a nightmare of a trip in the Dubai City of Gold and still got up to win by a nose. That was his first start of the year and has every reason to move way forward off that race. I think that makes him the class of the race and the most likely winner.

8. Desert Encounter (20/1) also comes out of the Dubai City of Gold and had a rough trip. He was no match for Old Persian, but he is another horse that should move forward in his second start. David Simcock is very good at pointing horses for races like this and the 2018 Canadian International winner could get a big piece at a price.

6. Rey de Oro (5/2) also has to be respected coming out of some very tough Japanese races. He ran fourth in this race last year and was most recently a good second in the Arima Kinen. This field might not be as tough as the one from last year, so he figures to be in the mix.

Race 9: The Dubai World Cup Post Time 11:40 AM

The Dubai World Cup in 2019 looks to fill the void left by the retirement of Pegasus World Cup winner City of Light as well as Breeders Cup Classic winner Accelerate. The defending champion Thunder Snow looks to make it back to back victories while the American contingent is lead by Seeking the Soul and Accelerate. The two local prep winners North America and Capezzano both have early speed and impressive recent form, but this is by far the toughest field they've ever seen. It should be a very competitive race and a tremendous betting race if one can find the winner. My selections are 12-3-4.

Picks

12. Thunder Snow (6/1) looks to use the same pattern as last year to win another Dubai World Cup. He made a middle move in his prep and couldn't run down Capezzano who was very loose. Now with that start under his belt he should be able to stalk and pounce much like his victory last year. He ran a good third in the Breeders Cup Classic and should be one of the horses to beat on Saturday.

3. North America (5/2) has had two tremendous victories this year at Meydan by open lengths and looks to continue that good form on World Cup Saturday. He has early speed and should be able to get a good position. If he is available to avoid a dual this now seven-year-old has a big shot to be around at the end of the race.

4. Audible (12/1) is the top American for me in the race. He doesn't have to be a long way back, he has run well at the distance with a third in the Kentucky Derby and should be an improving sort. He was fifth in the Pegasus after being wide on both turns. He should now get back to a fast track and with the right trip he can get in the mix.

Once again, we look forward to a profitable and enjoyable Dubai World Cup.