

Race	Top Selection	Second Choice	Third Choice
Godolphin Mile	#8. Economic Model	#4. Musawatt	#2. Second Summer
Kahayla Classic	#4. Barnamaj	#3. Chaddad	#8. Ziyadd
Gold Cup	#15. Torcedor	#5. Vazirabad	#11. Al Sahem
UAE Derby	#3. Reride	#4. Mendelssohn	#5. Gold Town
Al Quoz Sprint	#12. Music Magnet	#9. Conquest Tsunami	#13. Blue Point
Golden Shaheen	#2. X Y Jet	#6. Roy H	#1. Mind Your Biscuits
Dubai Turf	#2. Neorealism	#8. Real Steel	#12. Lancaster Bomber
Sheema Classic	#3. Rey de Oro	#6. Cloth of Stars	#8. Satono Crown
Dubai World Cup	#9. West Coast	#10. Thunder Snow	#6. Forever Unbridled

Race 1: Godolphin Mile Post Time 6:45 AM (will not be shown at the track)

The Godolphin Mile kicks off the card with a field of 14. Economic Model has shipped from the U.S. after the defection of favoured Sharp Azteca. The defending champion Second Summer returns to defend his crown as well. What feels like a weak group ends up being almost a default pick to an American in Economic Model. I am against the speed horses from Super Saturday who got a huge aid of the bias. My picks are 8-4-2.

Picks

- 8. Economic Model (3/1)** won the Hal's Hope Stakes last time at Gulfstream. He's versatile, goes for top conditioner Chad Brown and actually gets a class drop into this field. He should sit close and get first run as the favourite.
- 4. Musawatt (12/1)** was closing three wide against the bias last time. He was making up ground on Kimbear who won the Burj Nahaar. Only a lightly raced 4-year-old he has upside and has yet to miss the board on dirt. Should be coming with a run at the end of the race.
- 2. Second Summer (20/1)** won this race last year after the pace melted down. He might not get the same setup this year but he should get a better one than his last start in the Maktoum Challenge where he was up against the bias. Actually was in similar form last year until his victory in this race.

Race 2: Dubai Kahayla Classic 7:15 AM (will not be shown at the track)

The Kahayla Classic for Arabians features a big American hopeful in an underdog role in Paddy's Day. He invaded Dubai from the US late in 2017 and has picked up two big wins, now he faces his biggest test the ten furlongs of the Kahayla Classic against his toughest foes yet. My picks are 4-3-8.

Picks

- 4. Barnamaj** defeated Paddy's Day two starts back and last time when defeated by Ziyadd he got a very wide trip around both turns and made a premature move to the lead as they turned for home. As one might have expected he tired late in the races and ran second. I think he can do one better in the Kahayla Classic.
- 3. Chaddad** is a longshot pick for me here. He was too far back last time going twelve furlongs on the grass; now he gets to cutback and switches back to dirt which he has two wins and a second from only three starts. He should be versatile enough to get a ground saving spot from the inside and he should be full of run on the cutback.
- 8. Ziyadd** is the main French hope for victory in this race. He won the most recent prep the Al Maktoum Challenge Round 3 with a good trip and a good kick. No reason he can't do the same thing once again with two good performances over dirt, a win over the distance and a top rider in Richard Mullen. One of the big threats in the race as he seems to be improving after a fourteen plus month layoff.

Race 3: Dubai Gold Cup Post Time 7:50 AM (First race to be shown at ASD)

The Gold Cup is an international group of stayers over a grueling two mile distance. A field of 16 will test endurance as they attempt to overthrow the two-time defending champion Vazirabad. The now six-year-old French star has dominated the last two Dubai Gold Cups. Will he be able to make it three in a row? My selections are 15-5-11.

Picks

15. Torcedor (16/1) has been second in his last two starts at the end of his 2017 campaign. Defeated by Order of St George who would vie for favoritism in this race against Vazirabad in his last two this could be a horse flying under the radar. His race over a mile and three-quarters on good firm turf in April of 2017 was impressive over Order of St. George and he will be a considerably better price than my second selection.

5. Vazirabad (9/5) has won the last two Dubai Gold Cups. He has won 13 of 20 career starts. He was given a prep at Meydan in March and was a solid second, he should move forward off that race much like he did in a similar pattern in 2017. It will take a career best performance from anyone to best him on Saturday.

11. Al Sahem (25/1) attempts to stretch out after trying some of the top middle distance runners in Dubai. He is group one placed in South Africa and trainer Mike de Kock has had success in this race in the past. He appeared to be finishing with interest in both of his most recent starts and has the look of a horse to throw in to get a slice of things.

Race 4: The UAE Derby Post Time 8:30 AM (Free \$5 wager at the track)

The UAE Derby features an international field for a spot in the Kentucky Derby as well as a \$2,000,000 purse. The field is international, in many ways untested and highly competitive. My selections are 3-4-5.

Picks

3. Reride (8/1) goes for trainer Steve Asmussen and is the lone American in the field. He will be an okay price off a good win at Sunland over Runaway Ghost who was ultra-impressive in winning the Sunland Derby. He seems to be an improving type for connections that have to be respected. Reride is versatile, can be close up to the pace and can pull the upset.

4. Mendelssohn (5/2) is an Aidan O'Brien trained colt who is absolutely regally bred by Scat Daddy out of Leslie's Lady making him a half-brother to multiple champion Beholder. He has yet to run on dirt but did win the Breeders Cup Juvenile Turf and then came back to start his sophomore campaign with a win in a prep at Dundalk on the all-weather. The field flew home at Dundalk covering the final three furlongs in thirty-four and change after a slow early pace. He will be a shorter price and tries dirt for the first time, but the pedigree and past results say he is the horse to beat.

5. Gold Town (6/5) rode a golden rail last time to make the lead in the 2000 Guineas and will now attempt to stretch out. He is outside the other two main contenders and that may pose an issue if the rail holds its form on how good it has been. This is by far his toughest test and the distance may pose a question but his talent is not questionable.

Race 5: The Al Quoz Sprint Post Time 9:05 AM

The Al Quoz Sprint for this year had a major defection in the wee hours of Wednesday morning as Ertijaal was withdrawn with a stress fracture. His scratch dramatically changes the field and the pace scenario is much more in question. Peter Miller brings over a trio for the race and Mark Casse has Holding Gold in the field. My picks are 12-9-13.

Picks

12. Music Magnate (14/1) is an Australian sprinter who made a good return to the races at Randwick in December. He is a multiple group winning sprinter in the toughest sprint jurisdiction in the world on the grass. He wants to be forwardly placed and should be able to track Conquest Tsunami and get towed right into the race. Worth a shot to pull off the upset.

9. Conquest Tsunami (16/1) is part of the Peter Miller trio in the field. Just being alive is a major achievement for this Ontario bred speedster who was briefly lost in the San Luis Rey Downs fire. With the defection of Ertijaal he may be the speed of the race and he has excelled since moving to the Peter Miller barn with back to back wins down the hill at Santa Anita. This is obviously a step up but his speed could carry him a long way.

13. Blue Point (6/5) will be the heavy favourite with the defection of Ertijaal. He was second behind the aforementioned Ertijaal in a local prep over five furlongs. He now adds a furlong for the Al Quoz and should be able to track my top two picks. He has competed against the top sprinters in Great Britain in 2017 and appears to be the class of the race.

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

The Golden Shaheen looks to be a battle between some of the top sprinters in the United States. The defending Golden Shaheen winner Mind Your Biscuits will look to defend his title against XY Jet and defending Breeders Cup Sprint winner Roy H. Also fan favorite Reynaldothewizard at the young age of 12 tries his luck once again in the Shaheen. He was graded stakes placed as a two-year-old in the United States all the way back in 2008. To put that into perspective he ran against Pioneer of the Nile who has sired a Triple Crown winner American Pharoah. It would be an absolutely tremendous story if he could get the job done on Saturday. *My selections are 2-6-1.*

Picks

2. X Y Jet (5/2) was second in this race in 2016. He has drawn to the inside and has little speed around him. He came back off a year layoff to narrowly win the Gulfstream Park Sprint before looking much more impressive in his last two wins. He has tremendous speed and if the rail and speed is going to hold, they will have to run down X Y Jet who will be cruising on the front end.

6. Roy H (4/5) the Breeders Cup Sprint winner is versatile, in tremendous form and has won three races in a row including his Santa Anita prep under lockdown. He should be able to track XY Jet his stablemate and we will see if he can run him down. Will be the shortest price of the Americans but also comes in with the best form.

1. Mind Your Biscuits (9/2) is the closer of the field; he circled the field to win easily last year in this race. This year he will have to chase speed and certainly is a contender if the speed does come back. He is an honest sprinter and will rally and be closing at the end, but the question is how much can he gain late?

Race 7: The Dubai Turf Post Time 10:35 AM

The Dubai Turf is lacking a true superstar this year but with Japan bringing the last two winners of the race back it should provide intrigue and a competitive race. *My selections are 2-8-12.*

Picks

2. Neorealism (5/1) was third last time out in the Hong Kong Cup with a good effort. He partners up with Joao Moreira who leaves last year's winner Vivlos to ride him. He comes with a good closing kick and already owns victories over Real Steel.

8. Real Steel (8/1) was the 2016 winner of the Dubai Turf. He missed last year's race after a slight injury. He looks to return to his best form at the site of his biggest triumph to date. His effort last time behind Japanese superstar Kitasan Black was much better than how it looks on paper and he is certainly a big time player in the field.

12. Lancaster Bomber (10/1) should be the speed of the race and is probably the best non-winner of two lifetime eligible horse in the world. He was second in the Breeders Cup Mile in 2017 behind World Approval and was competitive in the Hong Kong Mile last time as well. He should take the field a long way on the front end for the powerful combo of Aidan O'Brien and Ryan Moore.

Race 9: The Dubai Sheema Classic Post Time 11:10 AM

The Sheema Classic is a very competitive group that should be determined by who gets the cleanest trip the last quarter mile. Cloth of Stars looks to emerge from the shadow of his stablemate Talismanic. *My selections are 3-6-8.*

Picks

3. Rey de Oro (4/1) won the Japanese Derby with a sweeping move back in May of 2017. This newly turned four-year-old was second in the Japan Cup after a rough start; he tuned up for this race with a good third and should now get his preferred firm footing against a field that should be manageable for him.

6. Cloth of Stars (2/1) came with a great run to be second in the 2017 Arc de la Triomphe back in October. He came back and prepped by following his stablemate Talismanic in a French prep in March. There is no Talismanic in this group and as the highest rated horse in the field he will be the one to beat.

8. Santono Crown (8/1) also has to be respected coming out of some very tough Japanese races. He has competed against the best horses in Japan and if the pace does set up for a late run this will be the horse flying the most very late in the race.

Race 9: The Dubai World Cup Post Time 11:50 AM

The Dubai World Cup in 2018 looks to fill the void left by the retirement of Pegasus World Cup winner Gun Runner. Bob Baffert won this race last year with Arrogate to get his third World Cup win; he is back with two big shots in West Coast and Mubtaahij. Talismanic may be the unknown in the race coming off his Breeders Cup Turf win and trying dirt for the first time. Should be a very competitive race even if it does lack the star power of previous years. My selections are 9-10-6.

Picks

9. West Coast (1/1) has the opportunity to assert himself as the top dirt horse in the world. He was second behind Gun Runner in the Pegasus World Cup and his race in the Travers Stakes would win this. He should be forwardly placed and I believe he has the most upside of anyone in the field.

10. Thunder Snow (15/1) was totally up against it last time in the third round of the Al Maktoum Challenge. He let North America get loose on the rail and had to circle and try to close against the bias. Now he should get more pace to run at and be able to stalk and pounce. His best efforts fit with most of these and it is hard to disrespect the connections who have won this race seven times.

6. Forever Unbridled (8/1) the mare against the boys in her last career start will have to come up with a career best performance in her swan song. She was ultra-impressive in victories in 2017 over Abel Tasman and Songbird. Now we shall see how she matches up with the boys, but this lightly raced mare has all the talent in the world to compete with this group of guys. She wouldn't be a surprise to see run a huge race on Saturday.

Once again we look forward to a profitable and enjoyable Dubai World Cup. Looking forward to seeing you bright and early Saturday morning.