

C. F. ORR STAKES PREVIEW

February 6, 2010

OVERVIEW

(Based on a track rated dead)

If trainer Peter Moody's confidence is any guide to **Typhoon Tracy's** chances in Saturday's Group 1 C.F. Orr Stakes (wfa 1400m) at Caulfield, the mare is a unbeatable.

The usually reserved Moody, obviously buoyed by having the best team of gallopers of any trainer in the country, said he had targeted Typhoon Tracy for the Orr. "In the spring, her target was the Cox Plate, which is why she wasn't at her top earlier in her lead-up races, but she has been set for shorter races this autumn, and the Orr and Futurity Stakes are her targets," he said.

Track watchers believe Typhoon Tracy has matured into a magnificent mare and she is rippling fit for her first-up assignment.

A fit and primed Typhoon Tracy, in a race that lacks serious weight-for-age class depth, makes her a standout bet. The last mare to win the Orr was Perfect Promise in 2006 – she came with a late run to beat Lad Of The Manor. Expect Typhoon Tracy to be up on the pace, controlling the tempo. You have to go back a long way to the previous mare (a 3YO filly Grand Archway won in 1999) to win the Orr – the champion Let's Elope, who won the race first-up in 1992 after her glorious 1991 spring in which she won the Caulfield and Melbourne Cup double. The tactics of jockey Luke Nolen will be interesting. Barrier one forces him to push forward on Typhoon Tracy – he has the speedy **Danzylum** on his outside – and he has the choice of holding out Danzylum, taking the sit, or moving outside it.

I believe Nolen will let Danzylum take up the running, and then move to his outside as soon as possible – this will give him the opportunity to control the tempo of the race, especially as his main danger, **Heart Of Dreams**, is likely to handy to the speed.

The loss of **Sniper's Bullet**, an early scratching on Friday, removes not only one of Typhoon Tracy's main threats, but also takes out another one-pace runner, leaving Danzylum and Typhoon Tracy out on their own.

There's some wet weather around in Melbourne, but not enough to make

TAB	HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	BR	WGT	TAB Odds	DP* Ratings
1	Viewed	Steven Arnold	Bart Cummings	6	59	\$18	\$21
2	Shocking	Michael Rodd	Mark Kavanagh	8	59	\$21	\$34
3	Zipping	Nicholas Hall	Robert Hickmott	7	59	\$26	\$13
4	Sniper's Bullet	Nash Rawiller	Tracey Bartley			scr	scr
5	Sirmione	Dwayne Dunn	Bart Cummings	3	59	\$51	\$61
6	Heart Of Dreams	Craig Newitt	Mick Price	5	59	\$4.60	\$5.50
7	Littorio	Craig Williams	Nigel Blackiston	4	59	\$51	\$71
8	Danzylum	Matthew Allen	Robbie Griffiths	2	59	\$18	\$31
9	Raffaello	Steven King	Jim Marconi	9	59	\$10	\$17
10	Typhoon Tracy	Luke Nolen	Peter Moody	1	57	\$1.55	\$1.70

Percentages: TAB (119.9%); DP (104.5%)

* Danny Power's ratings are a guide only. TAB Price as at 10am Friday.

this track worse than dead – Caulfield has reported that only 3.5mm fell on Thursday night – unless the Weather Bureau's prediction of clearing weather is wrong. Typhoon Tracy has won five from six on firm ground, but also two from four when the surface is dead. Heart Of Dreams has the Group 1 Australian Cup as his mission, although trainer Mick Price remains skeptical about the gelding's ability to run a strong 2000m. I inspected Heart Of Dreams at Price's Caulfield stable two weeks ago, and the horse has matured nicely – and he looked pretty fit. Expect Heart Of Dreams to run very well, but can he give Typhoon Tracy a start and a beating in a race in which she will control the tempo? The veteran **Zipping** won't mind a dead track – he has won five from 10 on dead ground – and I expect he will be more primed this autumn than he has been in recent years when he has been kept "soft" for the spring.

The Melbourne Cup winners of the last two years – **Viewed** (2008) and **Shocking** (2009) – resume from the great race in November. History shows that stayers run well first-up in the Orr, and Viewed, especially, will be advantaged by a damp track. Five horses, all stars – Sainly (1996), Jeune (1995), Let's Elope (1992), At Talaq (1987) and Comic Court (1951) – have won the Orr first-up after winning the Melbourne Cup. **Raffaello** returns to trainer Jim Marconi after 12 months with Mark Kavanagh – not sure if that's a good thing, but the 5YO trialled nicely at Cranbourne last week.

RECOMMENDED PLAY

Typhoon Tracy is the standout horses, and freely quoted at \$1.55 (after the scratching of Sniper's Bullet) with the "corporates". If you fancy her and are happy to take the "shorts", then Betfair will be the best place to get somewhere between the \$1.60 and \$1.80. I expect there will be those willing to lay the mare at such odds.

If taking such cramped odds is a worry for the less adventurous, then a lay position on one or two of Typhoon Tracy's opponents is the best option.

In that case, Heart Of Dreams and Raffaello are the next in line in the betting, so they are the logical horses to lay.

And for those looking for a longshot bet, then Zipping is the horse with the talent to win a race like the Orr first-up.

SPEED MAP

Predicted positions on settling

 Danzylum	 Typhoon Tracy		 Heart Of Dreams	 Raffaello	 Zipping	 Shocking
			 Sirmione	 Littorio	 Viewed	

← INSIDE RAIL

THE TOP SIX

1. Typhoon Tracy
2. Heart Of Dreams
3. Zipping
4. Raffaello
5. Viewed
6. Danzylum

ANALYSIS BY RUNNER

1. VIEWED

(b h 6, Scenic (IRE)–Lovers Knot (NZ), by Khozaam (USA))

The 2008 Melbourne Cup winner, who resumes from finishing 7th in the 2009 Cup behind Shocking when he didn't have the clearest of runs. His form before that was career-best with a brilliant win in the G1 Caulfield Cup (2400m) and solid third behind Scenic Shot in the G1 Mackinnon Stakes (wfa 2000m). Like many of trainer Bart Cummings' stayers, he usually races well fresh – he has won two from six. In the spring, he was a very good first-up fourth, beaten 1.5 lengths, behind Mic Mac in the G2 Memsie Stakes (wfa) over this course and distance – he made a run well before the turn and held on strongly. His first-up wins were over 1400m (Warwick Farm 3YO) and 1400m (Rosehill welter, 4YO). The prospect of a wet track is very much in Viewed's favour. He may not have the zip to match the mare Typhoon Tracy, but expect him to run a cheeky race. Cummings last won this race in 1997 with Sainly, first-up from his 1996 Melbourne Cup win.

2. SHOCKING

(b h 4, Street Cry (IRE)–Maria Di Castiglia (GB), by Danehill (USA))

The 2009 Melbourne Cup winner is resuming from his memorable victory. In the spring, he resumed with a 6th behind Jungle Ruler in a 1400m

handicap at Caulfield on August 29. He didn't win until he got to the 2500m of the G3 The Lexus at Flemington on Derby day. His two first-up placings have been in maidens before breaking through over 1300m at Bendigo as a 3YO in April last year. It's hard to get a guide on him at weight for age as he is still maturing, and a lot will depend on how he has come on since the Cup. Five horses, all champions – Sainly (1997), Jeune (1995), Let's Elope (1992), At Talaq (1987) and Comic Court (1951 – have won this race first-up after winning the Melbourne Cup. We need to see his level of improvement before we can consider him as a weight-for-age prospect, but he certainly has the natural talent ... and the right trainer.

3. ZIPPING

(b g 8, Danehill (USA)–Social Scene (IRE), by Grand Lodge (USA))

Terrific veteran galloper, who missed the 2009 Melbourne Cup after injuring himself when he played up before the start of the G1 Mackinnon Stakes (wfa 2000m) at Flemington on Derby day – he was scratched. He recovered to record a memorable third consecutive win in the G2 Sandown Classic (wfa 2400m) at Sandown on November 14. In the last two years, he has been given soft autumn preparations, but he is likely to be more wound up this time with his sights set by owner Lloyd Williams on the G1 Australian Cup (2000m) and the G1 The BMW (2400m). In 2008, he was beaten only 4.4 lengths – at \$16 – behind Weekend Hussler in the G1 Newmarket Handicap (1200m, Flemington). His only first-up win from 10 attempts was at his debut as a 2YO on the Gold Coast (1300m). He's just too good a campaigner to disregard his chances.

4. SNIPER'S BULLET

(b g 6, Bite The Bullet (USA)–Yallah Terrace, by Yallah Prince)
SCRATCHED

5. SIRMIONE

(b g 6, Encosta De Lago–World Guide (NZ), by Defensive Play (USA))

Top-class galloper resuming from a 12-month break due to injury. Resumed last autumn with an 8th behind Maldivian in this race, and then pulled up scratchy from his 9th behind Theseo in the G2 St. George Stakes (wfa 1800m) at Caulfield on February 21. Yet to win first-up in eight attempts, the chance of rain will suit him. In the 2007-08 season, he won the G1 Mackinnon Stakes and G1 Australian Cup double (both 2000m wfa at Flemington), but he hasn't won since. Not yet.

6. HEART OF DREAMS

(b g 4, Show A Heart–Academy Of Dreams, by Royal Academy (USA))

One of the stars of 2009, winning the G1 Australian Guineas (1600m, 3YO) in the autumn and the G1 Underwood Stakes (wfa 2000m, Caulfield) in the spring. He followed his Underwood win with a game second behind Whobegotyou in the G1 Yalumba Stakes (wfa 2000m, Caulfield) and a preparation-ending seventh behind So You Think in the G1 Cox Plate (wfa 2040m, Moonee Valley). First-up fourth behind Predatory Pricer in the G2 Liston Stakes (wfa 1400m, Caulfield) in the spring, but he is a winner fresh. Three of his six wins have been on dead ground, so expect the rain that has been about to suit him. Looks very fit in work at Caulfield and he should settle just behind the pace.

Expect him to be a danger to the favourite Typhoon Tracy. Trainer Mick Price won this race with Shinzig in 2008, and jockey Craig Newitt won on Perfect Promise in 2006.

7. LITTORIO

(b g 5, Bellotto (USA)–Our Centasea, by Centaine)

Stayer, who was placed as a 3YO in the Victoria Derby and Australian Derby, which saw him as one of the favourites to win the 2008 Melbourne Cup. His Cup standing was enhanced when he beat Master O'Reilly in the 2008 G1 Turnbull Stakes (2000m, Flemington), but he lost form after that. Injury has kept him on the sidelines since he finished a first-up 14th behind Vision And Power in the G1 George Ryder Stakes (wfa 1500m, Rosehill) last autumn. Littorio has won only two of 18 starts, and one of those was at his debut over 1400m at Sale (slow track) in May 2007. Both wins have been in the wet, so that's a guide, but he lacks the zip to be competitive at this stage of his preparation.

8. DANZYLUM

(b or br g 6, Danzero–Political Asylum, by Plush (NZ))

Honest, on-pace galloper who taking a big step from Listed company into one of the feature Group 1 races of the year. He dominated from the front to win the Listed Chester Manifold Stakes (1410m, Flemington) before his last start 2nd behind Joku in the Listed Barton Stakes (1400m) at Caulfield on Australia Day. He's likely to be vying with the favourite for front position, and Typhoon Tracy, who has drawn inside him, might hold him out – or let him go and then sit outside him. Either way, the mare will give him wind-burn when she lets go and Danzylum will do well to hold on to run a place. If jockey Matthew Allen decides to try for a sit, then he could sneak into the money.

9. RAFFAELLO

(b h 5, Encosta De Lago–Sweet Delight, by Rancho Ruler)

Good galloper, who has returned to his former trainer (and part-owner and breeder) Jim Marconi after a year with Mark Kavanagh during which time he won four races, all at handicap level. In the spring, he ran a bottler first-up for 3rd behind Turffontein in the G1 Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes (1400m, Caulfield). Resumes over the same track and trip. Kavanagh stretched him out to win over 2000m

on the final day of the Flemington carnival, and he hasn't raced since his sound 5th behind Zipping in the G2 Sandown Classic (wfa 2400m) a week later on November 14. Warmed up for this with an easy trial win (1190m) at Cranbourne last Monday week. Has the talent to be competitive, but barrier 10 could be a test.

10. TYPHOON TRACY

(b or br m 4, Red Ransom (USA)–Tracy's Element, by Last Tycoon (IRE))

The best mare in Australia at around this distance and aiming for her third Group 1 win, having already taken out the Coolmore Classic (1500m, Rosehill) last autumn and the Myer Classic (wfa 1600m, Flemington) at her last start on Derby Day. Trainer Peter Moody said his mare is primed and close to her best for her first-up run in the Orr. Moody said TT was targeted to the Cox Plate (wfa 2040m) in the spring – a race she didn't contest when he realised 2000m was beyond her best distance – which left her soft and vulnerable in the early stages of her spring preparation. Not this time. Moody expects jockey Luke Nolen to use barrier 1 and push forward, although he will be happy enough for her to take the trail behind the speedy Danzylum. The last mare to win the Orr was Perfect Promise in 2006. Typhoon Tracy should be able to dominate the tempo of this race and win.