





TWISTER BI (ITALY)



4th in 2017 UET rankings (behind BOLD EAGLE/TIMOKO/PROPULSION. 3rd in UET Masters Final (behind AUBRION DU GERS & BOLD EAGLE). Front running winner of Group 1 Ulf Thoresen when he sprinted away from pocket sitting country mate OASIS BI. Impressive close to win Group 1 Oslo Grand Prix. Brilliant 2nd when parked whole race in Jubileumspokalen in world record time. Trainer says he trains well over half. Versatile, but expect speed here. Pick.





OASIS BI (ITALY)

4th in 2015 edition (from 10 hole) & solid 2nd last year after using speed to get pocket position behind RESOLVE. Only 1 win in 2017 following an ultra-impressive 2016 campaign (2nd UET Trotting Masters Final, win Gran Premio Lotteria & 3nd Prix D'Amerique). Dull 9th in 2017 UET Final & only 2 board finishes last 7 (tough shuffle in Sundsvall). Over \$2 million earned. Trainer says he prefers YR's hard track (training well here). Expect pocket trip behind TWISTER BI.



RESOLVE (USA)



Last year's Champ in world record time (on lead). Several big 2017 wins (Cashman (1 1/8), Crawford & Cutler (1 1/8), but even more impressive finishing 2nd behind BOLD EAGLE in Elitloppet Elim & 3rd behind TIMOKO in Final. 2nd behind NUNCIO in 2016 Elitioppet. Poor last start (Maple Leaf Elim) when he pulled & abruptly retreated (trainer suspects tick bite that caused fever). Away since 9/8. 2-6 at YR, with 1 Open win coming from 7 post. 2 hole to 6 hole.



MARION MARAUDER (CANADA)



2016 Triple Crown winner & 2016 Dan Patch Trotter of the Year. Winner of 2017 Graduate Final & Hambletonian Maturity vs. 4YOs. Another who failed to fire in Maple Leaf Elim (last start), & has been off the board last 2. Qualified sharply last week. 2-2 at Yonkers (Yonkers Trot Elim & Final). Has enough speed to take advantage of rail draw, but (like DREAMMOKO) is facing a tall task against older warriors. Ultra game & regular pilot Zeron obviously a plus.



DREAMMOKO (FRANCE)



Son of TIMOKO, runner up in 2015's edition. Had the audacity to challenge dad in the Group 1 Kymi Grand Prix & finished a hard charging 3rd (1 spot behind TIMOKO) after a VERY difficult trip. Has picked up some nice wins facing fellow 4YOs (Prix Phaeton, Prix de Pont-Audemer & Prix de Meulen) & 2nd in Group 1 Prix de Selection. Brings regular pilot Gelormini & trained by TIMOKO's Westerlink. Logical exotics candidate, but tough assignment for 4 YO.



IN SECRET (USA)



Home court advantage, with wins in 4 consecutive Yonkers Raceway Opens. Won 1st 5 for trainer Burke (there's a surprise!). Also gets the benefit of Yonkers based George Brennan, who has won just about everything there is to win in the sport. Got the worst of the draw, but is no stranger to YR 8 holes. May still be overbet by Yonkers faithful and is facing some tough European elders, but remember Papagayo E was also 5 YO when he won this race in 2015.



ON TRACK PIRATEN (SWEDEN)



1st up in 2015 edition (after early 3-wide move from 6 hole) & tired late. Strong closing 4th last year from 8 hole. Now has to deal with 10 hole. Winner of nearly \$2 million lifetime (37 wins - 118 starts) went on tear, winning 8 consecutive starts 1/26/16-3/11/17. Won Midsommarloppet on 6/24, but has lost his last 7 (with only two board finishes). Offstride in UET Masters Final 9/9 (same as last year), & tired in last to 4th. Talented veteran gets benefit of Johnny Takter.



MIDNIGHT HOUR (FINLAND)



Impressive 10th in UET rankings. Proved his durability in the Group 1 Aby Stora Pris by winning first and third heats (third was a two horse runoff). Winner of the 2017 Group 1 Prix Saint Michel (defeating JONESY, a 2016 Yonkers International Trot participant). 30 wins in just 72 lifetime starts. Unfortunately, 7 hole in 10 horse field likely to severely compromise his chances.



TRIPOLINI VP (DENMARK)



Comes into race in top form, winning three of last four. Was strong in 2016, winning Silverdivisionen of the Flaata Eindom As Loppet and the Hamburg Cup. Second tier draw may not be too bad given the speed of the two inside horses in the first tier. This feels like a fairly big class hike for this one, but then again no one believed Denmark would win the 1992 Euro!



SHADOW WOODLAND (FINLAND)



Has won 25 of 64 lifetime races. Winner of the 2017 Prix The Onions Lopp and the Gulddivsionen on 3/25 and 9/9. Picks up the services of Tim Tetrick (that ain't gonna hurt a bit). Drew mid-pack, but outside some likely leavers. Will be forced to take back and will probably be no better than 7th early on. Seems like a tall order to reel in several good ones who will be more forwardly placed.

2015 PAPAGAYO E







2017 INTERNATIONAL TROT



