

Sportsday

'Will a new manager make a difference? Not as much as new players will. If you haven't got the players, you can't win games'
Sacked manager NEIL WARNOCK delivers a parting shot after being shown the door by EPL battlers QPR

Burning Q

QUEENSLAND-trained horses have won two of the past three Magic Millions and, with the Kelso Wood-trained Sizzling, the locals have an undeniable chance to win again on Saturday. **Nathan Exelby** and **Bart Sinclair** ask leading form assessors their thoughts

ROB WATERHOUSE Leading bookmaker

I can't go past Gai's (Waterhouse) horse Driefontein. Sizzling was a very good run at Doomben and is clearly a talented horse but I just think the other one has the better upside going into this race. In fact, I have Driefontein rated as the best two-year-old in Australia to this point (and ahead of Saturday's boom Warwick Farm winner Raceway). The improvement she made from her first to second start was outstanding. She's only had the two starts... I expect her to improve even further.

VINCE ACCARDI Sectional times expert

The only way I can see Sizzling being a winning chance is if they go very easy through the first 400m, otherwise there's no way he can beat Driefontein. He needs the early tempo to be three to five lengths softer than what he has been running in. Sizzling has beautiful finishing numbers and if it was just a jog to the turn he would have the biggest finishing kick, but Driefontein has a higher cruising speed and the ability to run at a higher rate for longer. It will be a genuine tempo so Sizzling has no hope, unfortunately, and if they try to ride him closer he will be the first horse beaten.

GARY CRISPE Timeform assessor for Australia

Driefontein has to be the top pick. She earned a rating of 113 for her win in the McLachlan, which makes her the second highest-rated two year old in Australia this season behind Raceway (114). With the allowance for fillies and off the good draw she looks pretty foolproof. I have Sizzling clear second pick. He went 112 last time and off the better draw he can race closer to the speed. Amorino (109 rating) might be the value in the race.



HOT SHOT: Chris Munce and Sizzling will combine in Saturday's Magic Millions Classic. **Picture:** Jono Searle

ROB HEATHCOTE Queensland's leading trainer

I would love to see a hometown victory and I wish Kelso all the best with Sizzling. The barrier and likely good tempo should really help him this time and he's a definite hope – the bookies think so too. But he has two massive hurdles to overcome in Amorino and Driefontein.

BRAD TAMER TattsBet spokesman

I think Sizzling can stay midfield without being pushed out of his comfort zone. You have to remember he has been disadvantaged by bad barriers in his past two runs. He has the better barrier this time. He's a very

good prospect but I don't know whether he can win a Magic Millions around the Gold Coast track. He needs to be at the level of Brave Warrior to come off the pace and win this race. The form is well exposed this year and I don't think there will be a left-field winner. Amorino looks a safe each-way bet to me.

HAYDYN FLYNN Leading Brisbane bookmaker

I'm keen on Sizzling. He put in an enormous run behind Driefontein in the McLachlan Stakes last time. He stood her up eight or more lengths before the turn and was taking huge ground off her in the final 200m. This time he has a better alley and if he can stay closer to the lead and, still find the line as hard, then I think he will beat

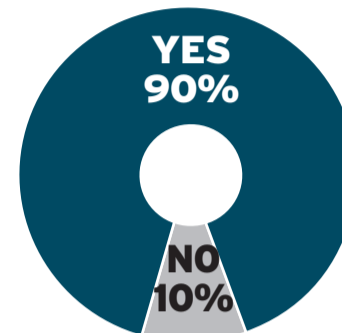
the filly. I'm happy enough to take on Driefontein. But I don't think there is any bookies' hope for a blow-out of the three favourites. I have great respect for Gerald Ryan and if he says Amorino is good enough – and the form suggests he is – then he is the other chance. But I'm with Sizzling.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN Sportingbet

Sizzling isn't the traditional type for the Magic Millions track. Every horse who gets back off the pace on this track needs a lot to fall their way. I'm happy to take on Sizzling and the one who beat him last time. Our hope is Amorino. The Millions has become an ordinary betting race. The form is well exposed and the punters latch on to two or three at the most.

The debate

Q: Should Australian curators doctor wickets to suit the home side?



Yes 90%

The Indians do so why can't we do it too to match our strengths.
CJ, Toowoomba

Yes and I hope our bowlers go through them like a bad curry!
Patrick, Ferny Hills

Yes. We get their bad taxi drivers so they can play on whatever pitch we doctor.
Paddy, Richlands

As long as the pitches are prepared to ICC guidelines.
Vije, Capalaba

Yes. All the other nations do it so why not us?
Ryan, Buderim

Yes. That's why it's called home-ground advantage.
Herc, Morningside

Yes, suck it up India. They'll lose 20 wickets for 200 runs in Perth.
Jono, Stretton

Yes definitely. Isn't that what the whinging Indians do.
HJ, Arana

Yes. Every country does it and India especially, so deal with it India and stop sooking.
Mark W, New Farm

Hell yeah!! Every other nation does it so why can't we?
Matty H, Victoria Point

How do you think India made it to the top of the tree, it goes without saying!
Bomber, Mackay

Yes and put the sprinklers on after each day too.
Muscles, Bardon

No 10%

No. Both sides have been whinging, so just get over it.
Linco, Bundaberg

Tomorrow

Q: Should Lleyton Hewitt call it quits?

Send us your yes or no vote and tell us why. Email thedebate@thecouriermail.com.au or SMS on 0421 261 270 and tell us why and include your suburb or town.

Footlocker

ONLINE

SPORTSDAY VIDEO



Barry Dick and Ben Dorries talk NRL All Stars and analyse cricket's third Test

SUMMER OF TENNIS

Latest news and results from Sydney and Hobart

MORNING CATCH-UP

All the latest news from around the world - including this morning's EPL action



couriermail.com.au/sport

BEST BETS

WINNING GLORY

\$7.00

Race 6, No.7, Gosford, 5.10pm
Promising stayer who should give a great sight

BRISBANE HEAT

\$2.20

v Melbourne Renegades (\$1.67)
Big Bash, Etihad Stadium tonight
The Heat finally hit their straps last start and can make it two in a row with a win at Docklands

TELEVISION

■ **AMERICAN FOOTBALL** NFL: America's Game, 6am ONE

■ **FOOTBALL** Carling Cup, 6.30am live, Fox Sports 1

■ **BASKETBALL** NBL round 14 Wollongong Hawks v Townsville Crocodiles replay, 10am ONE

■ **GOLF** Inside the PGA Tour, 7pm Fox Sports 1; Euro PGA Johannesburg Open round 1, 8pm Fox Sports 1;

■ **ICE HOCKEY** NHL live, 11.30am Fox Sports 3

■ **TENNIS** World Tennis Challenge final day live, 7pm Fox Sports 3

■ **CRICKET** Big Bash Melbourne Renegades v Brisbane Heat Live 7pm Fox Sports 2

BY THE NUMBERS

4 game NBA win drought ended for the Milwaukee Bucks when Australian centre Andrew Bogut returned to beat San Antonio.

4 match suspended sentence for Townsville Crocodiles NBL coach Paul Woolpert.

13 athletes to represent Australia at the Winter Youth Olympics in Austria this month.

27 -event US LPGA Tour starts with the Women's Australian Open at Royal Melbourne next month.

28 tennis titles for Australian former world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt since turning pro in 1998.