5 ODD BALL looks a lot better now that he has put together two clean lines and dropped from NW15000L5 to NW3000L5 in the span of a few weeks. The line that you don’t see on a 6-line program is his 1:53.4 record which was taken on 05/20. And that race was certainly no fluke! He went straight to the top, led at every call, and eventually drew off by 4-3/4 lengths in his first start for Auciello. Beware!

2 RAMAS LAST SON doesn’t look all that appealing on the surface but we’ll look past the break on his top line and treat him as a solid backup pick at this particular level. He has some back class but at the age of eight he struggles with the ones you normally find in the NW10000L5 class and beyond. But just look six lines down the page and you’ll see what he accomplished at NW7000L5. And if that’s not enough, consider that he did win the last two times he dropped to this exact level (04/11 and 01/10).

9 MISTER MAGIC is another horse that is getting some much needed class relief and must be considered as a result. Two back he raced at this level but was parked every step and wound up second as the chalk. It’s no coincidence that he has only hit the board in one of his last five as that’s the only time he has raced at this level.

1 PRESQUILLE generally gets a share when racing at this level but with just one win in his last 27 starts (2018/2019), we’re reluctant to list him any higher than third or fourth.

ON THIS DATE...
1553 – 15-year-old Lady Jane Grey was deposed as Queen of England after just 9 days. There have been two mares named Lady Jane Grey, the latest a foal of 2011 who raced at Hoosier Park through 2016 when she retired with 2 wins.
1701 – Antoine de Cadillac arrived at site of Detroit with 50 settlers, 50 soldiers, two priests, and a fleet of 75 canoes
1869 – Louis Riel spoke at a meeting of Metis residents about rights, setting in motion the events now referred to as the Red River Rebellion
7 APOTHEIC has been going off at double digit odds since losing a close one at NW3 back on 06/04 so it might be time to climb back on the value train. She was in with some of these and as well as Fan Hanover starter Beach Bar and the class-dropping Tequila Party in her latest and that proved to be a bit too much for her. While back up NW4 for this race, she is still racing for the same purse. She has a shot to win it all and possibly at a square price.

5 ABUELITA HANOVER might be moving up the class ladder but at least she has now won a pair at NW2. She snuck up the contest to get the first win in a sharp 1:51.1 and then doubled up despite a first-over trip on 07/08. While she could easily be listed on top, I'd like to know the price before committing.

3 SO MUCH MORE didn’t live up to her odds-on status in the final of the Kin Pace at Clinton but perhaps we should give her that one as sh did suffer interference near the start and she was parked past the quarter. Trevor Henry doesn’t seem to be in a giving mood though. He was named on both Undefiable and So Much More and he stuck with the latter for trainer Bob McIntosh.

1 SKATER CHICK is bound to get her second win of the season before too long. She has made late gains in most of her recent races but simply had too far to come. Post one in a seven horse field won’t hurt.

6 UNDEFIABLE might get things turned around now that she’s back on a semi-regular rotation and spared another shot with world class fillies like those she faced in the Fan Hanover.

ON THIS DATE...
1814 – Samuel Colt, inventor of the .45 calibre ‘Peacemaker’ revolver, born in Hartford, Connecticut
1848 – 1st US women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York
5 FREE FLYIN TICKET is one of two in this race who set National Season’s Records when they won Gold splits on 07/08. Free Flyin Ticket was the first to make it into the record books with her 1:52.1 win in Race 2, but while she was still in the wash rack, Off The Press shaved a fifth of a second off her mark with a win in 1:52. Both fillies finished under wraps and both looked like they could have gone around again. So how do we separate these two? We’re going to give the nod to Free Flyin Ticket as she was first-up after a slower half.

6 OFF THE PRESS was so impressive in her 07/08 race that we had to think long and hard before listing her second from the top in this race. It’s little more than trivia but we’ll add that her older half sister Dragon Lady Art won her first for a purse in 2:03.4 and was a 1:51.2 winner in her last start over this track (07/05). What is the future for Off The Press if she was more than 11 seconds faster than Dragon Lady Art in her debut?

4 KARMA SEELSTER was listed on top in her 07/08 race but things just didn’t work out. However, I’ll give her credit for finding a way through traffic in the stretch drive and finishing up a very game third. She might offer the best value of the bunch now that many bettors will be fixated on FFT and OTP.

8 ALICORN came awfully close to winning her pari-mutuel debut on 06/28 and since the loss came at the hands of the sight favourite who got a cheap middle half, we’ll consider Alicorn as upset material at this point. Last week she went 36’ further than the winner and still paced home in 26.1. She definitely had the most late pace of any in that field of eight.

1 SOUND IDEA was let go at 39-1 on 07/08 so the fact that she got by two in the last quarter and beat all but Free Flyin Ticket is actually quite impressive. This race is doubly tough as she’ll face several more that have already won races or qualifiers.

ETERNAL CAMNATION ELIGIBLES (Purse: $250,000 E; 08/24): 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
8 CAFE SOCIETY was added to our Watch List after the 07/01 race in which she was sent off as the favourite but got trapped as they raced past the half and shuffled out of contention on the last turn. To her credit, she did fire home in 27.1 to get fourth money in a race that came down to a sprint. Two back she faced some of the same fillies and wound up with a similar trip – buried at the top of the lane but live late. Last week Phil Hudon put her on the chooch and she responded in a big way. She was swarmed though the lane but to her credit she held them all at bay in a 1:53 mile.

5 SAINT ALBRAY looks like exacta material now that she has finally drawn an ideal mid-gate starting spot. Note the tough posts in her last two and a win just three back when she left from the five hole at NW2. It’s worth noting that she also won just before she left The Meadowlands and that 1:51.2 mile is easily the fastest on this page.

1 BLUEWATER BEACH needed nine starts before she broke her maiden by the slimmest of margins so we weren’t about to call for a second win when she tried NW2 for the first time on 07/08. I’m still not 100% sold on her but will use her in the trifecta now that she has drawn inside with our top pick in Post 8.

3 AUMYDARLIN appears to have had some serious road trouble in her latest at KD. We won’t pin that on the driver but it never hurts having Trevor Henry back in the bike, especially when he has turned down three others to take the drive.

ON THIS DATE...
1793 – Upper Canada’s Lt Governor John Graves Simcoe received word that Britain and France were at war; distrustful of the Americans, he ordered Captain Joseph Bouchette to survey the harbour at York, and sent 100 Queen’s Rangers to begin building and fortifying a new town (now Toronto, Ontario)
4 MANHATTAN AGAIN was particularly good in coming first-over and wearing down the pace-setting Dontbruisecarrie when we last saw her on 07/12 so we’ll give her serious consideration even though she’s up one level for this race. It would be different had she got things her own way or simply tripped out to win that one but the fact that she did that much work and then held off the class-dropping Miss Mady was impressive.

6 FOLLOWTHEWIND N is back for a third start at this level and with any luck she’ll get a piece. She was driven aggressively on 07/05 and if it weren’t for a good one who came off her back she would have won in 1:51.2. Last time out she made a backstretch brush to the top but soon faced pressure from the eventual winner who was just too much for her. One of these times!

2 CASINO CLASSIC isn’t one that we can back with complete confidence but if she’s ever going to get a win here at Mohawk it will probably come at this level or a class lower. She was simply in too tough with the likes of Witch Dali, Sandbetweenurtoes, The Joy Luck Club, Circle The Page and others in her last three outings that all went sub-1:51.

ON THIS DATE…
1869 – Louis Riel spoke at a meeting of Metis residents about rights, setting in motion the events now referred to as the Red River Rebellion
1886 – The Bank of Montreal opened a branch at the northwest corner of Yonge and Front Streets in Toronto (present home of the Hockey Hall of Fame)
1912 – A meteorite weighing approximately 190 kg entered the atmosphere over Holbrook, Arizona causing at least 16,000 pieces of debris to rain down on the town
5 THRILLONTHEBEACH is one that we completely misread when she took a second shot at this level on 06/25. She was coming back on just a few days rest and everyone but this ‘capper seemed to know that she was good-to-go. And how good was she? Well, she had 10 on them as they turned for home and was simple eased up to win by 5-1/4. She’s back to that same level and reunited with Jamieson so we’ll see if we can’t make amends for blowing that last one.

4 MISS MADY is a much better prospect than most who get to their 27th start of the year with just one photo to show for it. She narrowly lost a battle with Manhattan Again in her latest so it would be nice to know how Manhattan Again made out in the NW6000L5 class (see Race 5) before going all in on this one. Unfortunately we don’t have that luxury when doing picks three days out.

7 WINDSONG OLYMPIA is an intriguing option now that she has been sold and moved to the barn of .301 trainer Corey Giles. She has previously won at least one race for each of three different trainers – Stephanie Jamieson, Marty Fine and Stephen Charlton, but it is Fine who had the most luck with her. Roy has driven for two of those barns and so far he’s 1-for-2 on this mare with the win being a four length romp over NW2 rivals back in December.

1 ROYALTYWESTHO has a similar overall record to Miss Mady without the recent second place finishes. The good news is that she is back for a second shot at the level and starting from an inside post. While her times have been holding steady, her odds have been coming down by the week. One of these times she’ll actually deliver the goods, just as she did on 04/12 when she dropped from NW7000L5 to nw3600L5.

9 PRETTY HOT has a slightly better win percentage than Miss Mady or Royaltywestho but she too has been inconsistent. She dropped and popped in a big way back on 06/18 but then reverted to the norm when back up in class on 06/28. What kind of a trip can she expect from Post 9?
1 PRESTIGE SEELSTER might be worth chasing one more time. He went about 7/8ths of a mile on the lead in his latest before Loud Splash and Cheddar Bay got by. He deserves the credit for doing the heavy lifting in that race whereas the other two simply fell into favourable trips. That race was in stark contrast to the 07/04 race in which he trailed for the same distance before rallying into third with a best-in-race last quarter of 26.2. Now if only he could come up with a hybrid of those two trips!

6 LOUD SPLASH might have been good enough to win his latest with a little tougher trip but even that’s debatable. Henry had to go to the whip to win by a neck despite an absolutely perfect second-over tow around the final turn. Of course he might work out a very similar trip this week as three of our top four picks are returning to similar post positions.

5 THE FIRST STEP overcame some adversity in his most recent and for a long while it looked like he was going to prevail at 3-1. In the end he did lose out to Cliffhanger (3-5) and OK Kudo (5-1) but only after being taken very wide past the quarter and then asked to drive on in the second quarter. He’s a serious threat with a clean trip.

2 CHEDDAR BAY is much like Loud Splash in that he worked out a great trip in his latest and the result was a second place finish for the second time in as many starts. Just a week earlier he split rivals and finished a game second at odds of 51-1. The days of getting high double or even triple-digit odds are probably long gone.

4 ST LADS THRILLER had the most late pace in 07/11 race with some of these same horses. That’s hardly surprising as he wasn’t asked for anything until the top of the stretch and even then he opted to split horses rather than swing wide which would have taken a bit more out of him.
**Race 8 Selections**

**4 ALL DAY SUNSHINE** is off to a pretty good start for a filly who sold for a mere $6K as a yearling. Hats off to trainer and co-owner Dan Lagace for getting this one to the races and also to Richard Moreau for doing the fine turning that resulted in a Gold Series win in her first OSS test. Even her $435K winning brother Make Some Luck had to start out in the Grassroots before he worked his way up to Gold status. Our only concern tonight is that Roy was named on two and he sided with Mach My Kiss when normally he would be on a Moreau horse. However, Filion makes a perfect replacement as he has already sat behind the filly on three occasions.

**3 MACH MY KISS** will retain Roy and that’s a positive. But is it enough to sway us when forced to decide between the two horses Roy was originally named on? No shot. This filly got away with a 30.4 second quarter in her 07/08 race and she still gave way. The eternal optimist will point out that it took two very nice fillies to get around her and either Sound Idea or Free Flyin Ticket would look good in this division.

**6 MARTINIS PLACE** didn’t get a mention in this column when she faced All Day Sunshine (our top pick) on 07/08 but after that very respectable second place finish we’d be remiss if we didn’t point out the obvious: she’s improving rapidly and might even post a threat to ADS who simply cannot count on getting the same trip twice.

**1 WATCH ME BOOGIE** didn’t have a lot of racing luck in her 07/08 debut and in fact she had a perfectly legitimate reason to throw in the towel when she got jammed up at the half. The fact that she stayed pacing was impressive given that it was her first start for a purse. There’s upset potential here!

**ON THIS DATE…**

1892 – Dick Irvin, Sr., hockey player and coach, born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Irvin coached four Stanley Cup winning teams, was the first coach to rotate three intact lines, and is the father of longtime Hockey Night In Canada broadcaster Dick Irvin, Jr. When asked about the most memorable moments of his playing career, Irvin mentioned a game in which he scored all 9 goals in the Winnipeg Monarchs 9-0 thumping of Toronto.
5 BOADICEA is very hard to pick against now that she has won five straight, including a pair of OSS Golds and one in stakes record time. She had to work a little harder to make front on 07/05 but even being parked around the first turn and then three-wide on the backstretch didn’t seem to matter. And just one more note about that 1:49 mile. There have been a lot of VERY nice fillies pass through the OSS program over the years and Boadicea is now the fastest by 4/5ths of a second! Let that sink it.

4 SUNNY DEE is probably best equipped to take down Boadicea even though the best she could do in their 06/22 meetup was hold off a 40-1 shot to claim second money. Trainer Bob McIntosh has given her the better part of a month to recover and that can’t hurt a filly that has been asked to do an awful lot so far this year. The next Gold test for these fillies is Saturday, July 27 so this race will serve as a nice prep for the next $100K clash.

8 POWERFUL CHRIS was a handy winner when she last faced OSS fillies and in the meantime she has come within a few inches of taking a 1:49.3 record. Overcoming Post 8 will be a challenge but at least we know she’s capable of a last quarter in 26 and change and she does show one 25.2 kick home in the Fan Hanover elim.

3 BEAUTYONTHEBEACH didn’t make a big impact when she faced four and five-year-old mares like Double A Mint and The Joy Luck Club on 07/12 but I suspect that we’ll see a little more from her now that she’s back in with fellow three-year-olds and starting from inside the top three picks.

ON THIS DATE...
1944 – Kerry Davies, trainer-driver, born in Sintaluta, Saskatchewan
1969 – Super Wave (trainer-driver Jack Kopas) won the $17,700 Queen City Stakes at Greenwood in 2:02.1
1970 – Rob Ron Robbie (trainer-driver Keith Waples) won the $13,600 Simcoe Stakes at Garden City in 2:09.1
Race 10 Selections

10 STEUBEN HANOVER was our top pick in each of his last two starts and both times he finished on the board. Unfortunately we’re still down a few dimes as he only paid $2.90 in last week’s win. So, is he worth chasing now that he has been bumped up to NW3 and shunted out to Post 10? We’re leaning to the ‘yes’ side as the remote post is bound to boost the price. And like we said last week, this is a colt who sold for $200K as a yearling and who was 9-2 in the company of Gimpanzee in his Breeders Crown elim. None of the others in here can make those kinds of claims.

8 HIGHLAND DYNAMITE is one we’ve considered on many occasions so we weren’t surprised when she finally put it all together on 07/05. She went into that race off a solid second to the odds-on Southwind Casha and things worked out well trip-wise. One knock is that the third and fourth place finishers All Wrapped Up (3-1) and Okeanos (7-2) had too far to come after the slow starts from posts 8 and 10.

1 MISTER OF ALL is a contender and possibly even the one to beat now that he has dropped back to the NW3 level at which he eked out a narrow win on 06/11. He’ll have to be better than he was last time at Georgian as he failed to clear in a 29 second third quarter and then paid the price.

4 MISS JUBILEE HILL looks like a solid choice to hit the board after doing just that in two straight races at this same level. However, she was no match for Highland Dynamite on 06/28 and her 2019 record is now sitting at 0-for-10. This is the point that we start to lose interest no matter how close they get.

ON THIS DATE...
1979 – Sonsam (George Sholty) won the Meadowlands Pace in 1:53.2, rallying from sixth to beat Hot Hitter by 3 ½.
1985 – Nihilator (William O’Donnell) paced the first sub-1:51 mile at The Meadowlands when he won the Meadowlands Pace in 1:50.3 for Bill O’Donnell. A record $1,168,010 was wagered on race, producing a minus pool of $171,011.15.
2001 – Ferball (Ken Duncan / Jen Duncan) finished third at Woodbine, ending a 9-race win streak.
8 KLOOF STREET isn’t a lock by any means but I do like her chances a lot better now that she has been spared another start with Double A Mint, Powerful Chris and others that she recently faced at NW25000L5. When last at this level she wound up seventh as the chalk (hence the ‘no lock’ comment) but looks six lines down the page and you’ll see that she also won at this level on 05/31.

1 THE JOY LUCK CLUB did extremely well to finish a lapped-on third against a better group and in a very fast mile on 07/12 so she could easily be picked to win this one. Two back she held off Circle The Page despite the fact that she drifted wide through the lane. That worked out okay at NW10000L5 but I doubt that it would go over so well in the presence of Kloof Street and Sunday Afternoon to name just two.

3 SUNDAY AFTERNOON keep our top pick honest and with a bit of racing luck she might even come out on top. Sh didn’t make any impact whatsoever in her last start but two back she was close after an inside trip and three back she did just what Kloof Street did at this level – win with the lights on and horn blowing. Tonight’s class drop and improved post might be all she needs.

9 ANDERSON SEELSTER was handled pretty aggressively in her latest and she paid the price in the last quarter mile. However, it wasn’t a total loss for the Boyd pupils in that race as stablemate Just Her Luck led in deep stretch and wound up second in a photo.

ON THIS DATE...
2001 – Mach Three (Randall Waples / Brett Robinson) made his pari-mutuel debut at Flamboro, winning the NW1 class by 10 lengths at 3-1. He won his next start at Woodbine at 6-1. Two starts later he won his Metro elim at 7-1, followed by the Metro final at 5-2.
2003 – 12-year-old Pilgrims Fiery notched career win #100 (and his 73rd under 1:55) when he won at Rosecroft
2008 – Art Official (Ron Pierce) dug down deep to beat Somebeachsomewhere (Paul MacDonell) in 1:47 in the Meadowlands Pace