

Race 1 Selections

THE HORSEPLAYERS JOURNAL by Robert Reid Jr.

#5 IMEXTRASPECIAL was five for 10 as a rookie and was three for three in OSS Gold events until the OSS Super Final when she made a break in stride as the even money favorite. She has two starts under her belt coming into this and she was the runner-up in her latest to Royalty Deal in NW6. This filly looks like she is ready to continue where she left off last year in this division and we will give her the nod in the first OSS Gold tilt of the season.

#6 HP MAMA B moves up to the big leagues being a dominant force in the OSS Grassroots as a two-year-old. She was a winner in back-to-back legs before cruising to victory in her elimination and then scored from off the pace in the final. This filly finished third in her sophomore debut and then followed it up with a wire-to-wire score in her latest, where she trotted to a new lifetime mark of 1:54.3. She appears ready to tackle gold company, but this will be one of the stiffest challenges of her career. Using underneath.

#4 HAWAII was not able to find the winner's circle in three OSS Gold tries last season but did turn in a solid effort to dead-heat for second in one here at Mohawk Park last October. She was dominant in the Harvest Series by sweeping all three legs to close out her rookie season and has been on the edges in her first two efforts at three. We might see her rise to the occasion with a better effort tonight when the chips are down.

#2 MIDNIGHT MIRACLE was the runner-up in her latest after being sent to the early lead from the nine-hole. She ended up having to release a pair of rivals, who were battling three-wide and then got shuffled back to fourth before needing to go on the attack again first-over. This filly struck OSS Gold in the first start of her career last season and should be in the mix from an inside spot on the starting gate this evening.

Race 2 Selections

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#8 SMASHING SUCCESS was a \$40,000 yearling purchase at Harrisburg for Determination that will be sent out for her lifetime debut by Luc Blais. She comes into this with a wire-to-wire qualifying score, where the final time of 2:04 might not be flashy, but the performance appeared to be top-notch. This filly trotted her final panel in 29.2 and was under no urging from McClure who had tight lines as a rival sat within a short margin of her. She held onto win by a head, but it likely could have been as much as she wanted. Giving this daughter of Muscle Mass the nod to win at first asking.

#9 GLOBAL NEWS was a \$14,000 yearling purchase at Harrisburg that will be making the first start of her career for Blake MacIntosh. She was an easy winner on the morning of June 18th when she moved to the lead before the halfway point to then hold a comfortable margin throughout in 1:59.3 over a track that was two seconds off. This filly trotted each of her two final panels in 29.1 for a back-half in 58.2 and but will now have to leave from the outermost post in her debut. She appears to have enough early foot off the gate to get spotted early and is one of the main chances.

#1 DA ROYAL MIRACLE was a \$15,000 yearling purchase at the Ontario Select sale and will be sent out Laurie Bako for her debut. She produced a nice first-over effort to be victorious in her qualifier on June 24th when she trotted past the one below in the stretch. This filly has banged home in 28.3 in each of her morning preps and looks primed to make a big effort to kick off her career.

#4 TRADE SECRET was a \$100,000 yearling purchase at Harrisburg and the stablemate of our top selection. She is out of millionaire Pure Ivory and is a full sister to Hambletonian champion Forbidden Trade. This filly finished third in both of her two morning preps, but Bob McClure opted to drive our top selection over this one. Scott Young picks up the drive and she merits consideration.

Race 3 Selections

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#5 FASHION FRENZIE went five for seven at two, including the first four start of his career and then moved to the barn of Richard Moreau after making consecutive miscues in OSS Gold events. He rebounded in a big way for his new connections, as he was a dominant winner in the OSS Super Final beating Macho Martin by a wide margin under the wire. This gelding produced a gutsy effort off the bench in this sophomore debut last week when he held off a pesky Highland Mowgli by a neck in 1:55 flat over a surface that was two seconds off. He has by far the best resume in the field and is clearly the one to beat.

#3 DEALIN WITH DEWEY made one attempt against gold company last season but jumped it off to finish a distanced eighth. He has shaken off the trotting hobbles in his sophomore campaign and is a perfect two for two to start off the season. He was the easiest kind of winner in NW1 two back and then charged late to win by a head in his latest when he transitioned to NW2. It might be a lot to ask him to beat the one above at this point, but he looks like a major player underneath.

#1 LEXUS KODY is two for four after beginning his career at three with both of those victories coming in May at Hoosier Park. He has finished third in both of his efforts over the surface and now has rail control in his first attempt in the Ontario Sires Stakes. This gelding can land on the ticket.

#4 BUCKYS ANGEL won five of nine as a rookie, including a clean sweep of the Autumn Series at Flamboro Downs where he won the final by nearly 10 lengths. He raced well to finish third in his sophomore debut at Grand River Raceway and then made a break in stride two starts back before finishing as the runner-up. He was a dominant winner in his latest and might be able to grab a share.

Race 4 Selections

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#3 RACINWITHTHEWIND moved to Ontario from the east coast for his sophomore season and made his first start on the big track on June 21st out of the barn of Anthony Beaton. He landed the two-hole off the gate but then got relegated to the three-hole to then be stuck behind a tiring rival early in the stretch drive. This colt was pacing strongly in the final eighth of a mile and ran into traffic just before the wire. He raced much better than the line indicates and now picks up Sylvain Filion for the first time in his career. The pick.

#7 PETER POOLE has two starts under his belt as a sophomore and was doing his best work late in each of those efforts. He had no chance on June 11th when he got away eighth off the gate but paced his back-half in 53.4 with a final quarter of 26 seconds flat. This gelding then followed that up with a third place in his latest where he was overland for much of the mile before pacing another rock-solid back-half in 54.4 with final quarter speed of 26.4. Scott Young chose to drive this one over the one above and he is the main danger.

#5 LIFETIMEEXPERIENCE got away to the early lead in his latest on June 17th but then faded in the late stages to be fifth by 16 lengths. The winner Powertrain won by a wide margin in 1:51.2 and has already come back to win again in 1:49.3 in the second start of his career. This gelding was off for over a month prior to that effort and comes back on 13 days rest with lasix for the first time. McNair opted to stick with this one and he is worth a look underneath.

#6 GLOBAL CRUSH followed the winner Armor Seelster in his latest to get third under the wire. He was only a half a length off the runner-up spot and might be able to take a step forward off that effort in what will now be his third start of his sophomore campaign.

Race 5 Selections

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#10 RADLEY HANOVER tried different tactics last week he was sent to the lead before the halfway point. He paced a middle-half in 56.3 and tired in the stretch to fade back to fifth under the wire. This gelding now finds himself in an easier spot in this condition claimer with a much lower lifetime earnings cap. He will have to overcome the outermost post but might benefit from returning to his off the pace ways tonight. Giving him the slight edge.

#9 MODERN WRITER comes out of the same contest of the one above but out finished that rival in being the runner-up. He got a perfect second-over trip behind the winner Chiefs Beach but that rival was much too strong for this one and all of his foes on that evening. He should enjoy the softer competition tonight but will have to get spotted off the gate from the nine-hole.

#2 EATAAMSBETTERSHARK race well to be the runner-up to a dominant winner in Brilliant Corners last week in this class. He finished five lengths behind that rival but there was another wide margin back to the third-place finisher. This gelding came into that effort off just three days rest and now gets back into a regular rotation for this try. He paced his mile in 1:52.4 with final quarter speed of 27.3 and a repeat of that performance tonight might make him tough to beat.

#4 MYINSIDVOICE was claimed out of his most recent effort at Grand River Raceway for \$15,000 by trainer James Stewart. It was this gelding's second start off the bench, and he ended up finishing sixth in that contest. He won six of 17 last season and might benefit from the change of scenery. The price might be robust, and he is worth a look.

Race 6 Selections

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#1 EQUINOX ANNIE looked like a speedboat moving three-wide off the final turn at Georgian Downs in her sophomore debut and then bolted home to score in 1:58.4 on cruise control for Travis Henry. Even more impressive was the trip she went before crushing her rivals, as she went parked the entire mile from the seven-hole but only needed to be shown clear racetrack to claim the victory. This filly took support to the tune of 3-1 in her lifetime debut last season in an OSS Grassroots event here at Mohawk Park, but she did not get a cheque in two tries as a rookie. She is half-sister to Sass, who has won 41 races and more than \$450,000. James MacDonald picks up the steer and we hope to be on the right side of value with one.

#4 WEE JILL was hammered down to 4/5 in her lifetime debut on June 17th but was unable to get to Tanzanite Trizz, who scored on the front-end. That winner stole the middle half in a minute and this one was not asked to trot forward until the final turn. She made a good account of herself to trot into the runner-up spot in deep stretch and doing her best work under the wire. This filly trotted her back-half in 57.2 and her final panel in 28.1. She will likely be handled more aggressively this time around with a start under her belt and is the one to beat but the price will be short.

#7 LIMOGES did not have much of a chance when she got away last off the gate in this class last week. She sat 10th for most of the mile then swooped around rivals on the final turn to finish in the runner-up position to a long-gone winner in Pixies Lady. It was her first try over the surface after making three starts south of the border in May and she had not raced in a parimutuel event for over a month. She should get a lot out of her latest and merits respect on the ticket.

#5 EXCLUSIVE ROSETTE finished third but was placed up to second here on June 17th at this level. She was overland for much of the journey and banked over \$36,000 last season as a rookie. This filly can get another piece of it this time around.

SPOT PLAY: #1 EQUINOX ANNIE

Race 7 Selections

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#6 DICENTRA returned in a snug spot in NW6 for her sophomore debut on June 21st and was closing late to finish third in Royalty Deal. She was not asked to do her best work until the stretch drive and was flying in the final eighth to steal the show spot under the line. This filly took down one OSS Gold event as a rookie but was also victorious in the Champlain and her elimination for the Peaceful Way. She figures to progress well into her second start of her sophomore campaign and gets the nod.

#7 DASHING MUSCLE was the winner of the OSS Gold Super Final last season and hit the board in three gold tilts leading up to that championship winning effort. She made her first start of her three-year-old season in NW3 and moved first-over on the final turn but was unable to get to the top two finishers HP Mama B and Logan Park. The leader blasted her back-half in 56.3, which gave this one virtually no chance of cutting into that margin. Expecting a better effort tonight from this one and she is the main danger.

#4 UP AND READY was the runner-up to the one above in the OSS Super Final last season and only missed by a nose under the wire. She struck gold in her second lifetime start at here at Mohawk Park and went on to earn more than \$190,000 in her rookie season. This filly has had to settle for two runner-up finishes so far in her sophomore season in NW2 and will have to bring her best to have a chance against the two above this evening.

#9 MEADOWVIEW LILLY made breaks in both of her efforts as a sophomore so far but recovered in her most recent on June 18th to finish third in NW2. She claimed the show spot in the OSS Super Final as a rookie and comes into this off a strong qualifying effort where she won by more than seven lengths in 1:56.3. This filly must overcome the outside draw but can get a share if she minds her manners.

Race 8 Selections

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#6 SPITTIN CHICKLETS looks like she is ready to graduate after finishing as the runner-up in both of her starts as a sophomore. She was only beaten by half a length to Turning The Table two back and then maintained her position in the two-hole last time to the odds-on favorite Voluptuous. This appears to be a much softer group than what she has faced in her last two and she now establishes herself as the one to beat. Hudon might point her to the front-end and she should be tough to catch.

#5 BABY GOT BACK finished third to Ring Of Kerry in her latest and that rival has since come back to score at this level. She has picked up shares in both of her tries over the surface this season but is winless in 22 starts lifetime. That designation makes it difficult to back her in the win position but landing somewhere underneath is likely.

#2 SKIP ACROSS went to the early lead from the nine-hole in her latest but faded to be fourth in the stretch after getting relegated to the three-hole for most of the mile. She managed to hold off the one below at the wire and paced her mile in 1:53.2, which should stack up well against this group.

#1 JENNA WATCH finished fifth at this level last week and was unable to get past the one above under the wire. It was her first start in a month, and she might take a step forward off that effort. She figures to pick up a smaller share.

Race 9 Selections

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#10 UP THE CREEK was a \$13,000 yearling purchase at Harrisburg and will now be sent out by Dave Menary for the first start of his career. He comes into this with two rock-solid qualifying wins under his belt and has progressed nicely in dropping a second between those two preps. This gelding win by more than three lengths on June 19th in 1:58.4 and then by 14 lengths the following week in 1:57.4 with a final panel of 27.1 under-wraps to Jamieson. He must start from the outermost post will be aided by the slanted gate if he has enough early foot to roll out of there early. Giving this son of Bettors Delight the nod.

#1 MANY MOONS was a \$55,000 yearling purchase at Harrisburg and makes his lifetime debut for conditioner Anthony Beaton. He was an impressive winner in his first morning tilt on June 19th when he scored in 1:58.1 and then finished third to He Bee Sunny in his most recent prep on June 25th. This colt paced his own mile in 1:55.4 and never appeared to be fully extended by Filion. He looks threatening in here and will leave from the opposite starting spot of the one above.

#8 KOLBY TWO STEP was a \$12,000 yearling purchase at the Ontario Select sale and will go postward for the first time for trainer Tim Gillespie. He showed an impressive snap off the gate in his lone qualifier when he easily cleared to the lead from the seven-hole to trip the opening quarter marker in 28.3. This son of Betterthancheddar managed to get a soft middle-half but then banged home in 27.4 to score with ease under the wire. He is worth a look.

#4 WORLD FOR TWO was a \$16,000 yearling purchase at the Lexington Select sale and will be sent out for the first start of his career by trainer Mario Baillargeon for The Stable. He was the easiest kind of winner in his latest qualifier and has come home in 27.1 or better in both of his morning preps. He is not without a chance.

Race 10 Selections

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#4 MACHO MARTINI won eight of 11 as a rookie and only missed the board once when he made a break in stride after being interfered with. He struck OSS Gold in his lifetime debut and then three more times after that before having to settle for the runner-up spot in the Super Final. This colt also won the Champlain and was third in the final of the William Wellwood Memorial. He now comes into his sophomore debut with two stateside qualifiers to his credit but is clearly the one to beat with over \$450,000 already in the bank.

#6 HP RUNNING MASS produced an eye-catching stretch drive to score going away in NW1 on June 17th and then replicated that late burst last week in NW2 when he won from what looked like an impossible spot. He has come home in 27.3 in each of those efforts and shaved three seconds off his lifetime mark last week when he stopped the clock in 1:54 flat. We likely have still not seen the best out of this son of Muscle Mass, and he looms a major danger.

#3 FOUR WHEELIN raced well in his sophomore debut in NW7 on June 21st when he closed late to be the runner-up to Combs Hanover. He had been shuffled back earlier in the mile and did not appear to be under much pressure because the leader was long gone. This gelding won the final four starts of his rookie season, including the OSS Grassroots Final, and was fourth in both of his tries at the gold level. He loses Roy to the one above but picks up James MacDonald.

#5 LOGAN PARK made over \$123,000 as a rookie and was a winner in an OSS Gold event here last September. He already has three starts under his belt in his sophomore season and was a winner in his latest at the NW3 level in 1:55.2 over a track that was two seconds off. This is another that Roy chooses to opt off in favor of our second choice, but he picks up the services of Jody Jamieson.

Race 11 Selections

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#9 MIAMI SEELSTER was a going away winner last time in her sophomore debut out of the barn of Corey Johnson. She sat the three-hole for much of the mile before attacking from the first-over position on the final turn. This filly paced past Voluptuous in the stretch and won by nearly four lengths in 1:53.3 with tight lines to Scott Young under the wire. The runner-up has already come back to be victorious and while this one makes the difficult transition to NW2, the effort was an eye-catching one. She will have to overcome the outside draw but appears to be the one to beat.

#3 ZAR E IP was the runner-up in here at long odds-on June 11th in the first start of her four-year-old season. It was a solid effort, but she then made a break before the start in her latest to be a parimutuel refund. She gets reunited with Louis-Philippe Roy this evening and goes down to the lower earnings version of NW2. This mare has every right to land on the ticket if she minds her manners.

#4 SHES GOT IT ALL was almost a front-end winner on June 11th when Rendezvous hauled her down at the wire. She came back with a fifth-place finish in her latest after going to the early lead from the nine-hole. This filly released Dabarndawgswatchin to the lead on June 17th and then tried to rally again in the stretch but then tired late. She might be able to lock down a spot underneath.

#10 PREMIER DELAINEY raced on the edges in both of her starts so far to kick off her four-year-old campaign and now moves into the lower earnings version of NW2. She will have to work from the 10-hole and while she loses Scott Young to our top pick, this mare picks up the services of Bob McClure.

#6 POSTSCRIPT faded to finish ninth in her sophomore debut on June 17th and now resurfaces with lasix for the first time in her career. This filly banked over \$67,000 in her rookie season and picks up Trevor Henry with Scott Young opting to drive our top selection.