

Race 1 Selections

The Horseplayer's Journal by Garnet Barnsdale

#6 COOLER FASHION is a \$45,000 daughter of Greenshoe that cost \$45,000 at the Harrisburg Sale and she is sent out by trainer Macintosh who excels at winning early with his rookies. This filly is out of a dam that was an absolute speed demon at two when she took an incredible mark of 1:51 3/5 in only her sixth start. That mark, established in 2013, still stands as a Pocono Downs track record. This filly had two qualifiers for this pari-mutuel debut, and they were six weeks apart. She excelled in the second one, dropping six seconds in a winning mile where she had her nose right on the gate and she motored to the front despite leaving from the rail. She cruised to the easiest kind of win, and she really took off in the last few strides when pilot Tyler Borth gently touched her once with the whip. This filly draws best now, and she looks ready to graduate at first asking. She gets the nod in the opening leg of tonight's \$75,000 early Pick 5.

#5 DATAPRIVACY is an impeccably bred Determination homebred being by one of the greatest trotting sires of all time and out of their \$962,000 earning Grand Circuit winning dam. She qualified twice leading up to her debut here 10 days ago, and she improved in the second qualifier. This filly made a move from fourth to second in the third quarter, but the leader was long gone at that point. She trotted home well that morning then she raced only evenly in her debut. I think getting off the rail and moving to one of the best posts could make a big difference for her tonight, and she is worthy of a look for the Pick 5.

#10 TYMAL ECLIPSE is a sophomore daughter of Green Manalishi that cost \$37,000 at the London Classic Sale. She is a full sister to Tymal Electra, who made only one start at two, but has taken two wins from four starts so far this season as a sophomore. She was a big winner in her lone qualifier partly due to a rival that had a big lead turning for home jumped off stride. She motored home in 28 2/5 in a nice effort but she gets post 10 on debut and that's a tall order. I'll use her underneath tonight.

#2 NINE TO FIVE raced only evenly in debut then she was better in her second start where she drew the best post, and she showed early speed and landed a share. She will likely get outsprinted by a couple of these at the start, but I could see her taking another share tonight.

Race 2 Selections

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#7 JAZZVILLE was terrific here winning two straight racing at this class in late June and early July then she got picked off late by Acefortyfour Daisy on July 13 after she tried to try to bottom the field out but simply went too fast too soon and couldn't hold off a rival's late charge. She then tried her luck at Hiawatha Horse Park and once again she went too fast early and tired late. She lands in a spot here tonight where she should be able to control the pace and get a breather, and I'll side with her to bounce back and make her seventh visit to the winner's circle tonight in her 21st start.

#8 ACEFORTYFOUR DAISY motored late in the mile to chase down loose leading 9 to 5 favorite Jazzville two starts back in a nice performance, but she was the beneficiary of a slowing late pace where the final quarter was paced in only 29 1/5. Off that win, she stepped up into the much tougher \$12,500 optional claiming class and she raced only evenly. Dropping back down gives her every chance to rebound, but she will likely be at a tactical disadvantage drawing widest. She could start eighth, and that might be too much of a disadvantage to overcome, so I would be careful to not take too short of a price here.

#5 MEILLEUR FROMAGE raced here on Monday night, and she pulled from sixth after three eighths of a mile, and she picked up cover on the last turn when the eventual winner pulled from third to race first-over. She pulled widest at the top of the stretch appearing to have dead aim on the leader. She stayed game to the wire to get third, but she was a bit one-paced. She looks like one that can land in the Tri again tonight.

#2 THE LIES WE TELL got Jody Jamieson in the bike at Clinton on Sunday during the National Drivers Championship and her third place finish contributed to the points total which won the title for the veteran driver. She put together a nice rally that day, and while I don't see her as a win threat tonight, I could see her working her way into the Tri or Super.

Race 3 Selections

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#7 MERICANA HANOVER was bought for \$80,000 at Harrisburg being by popular sire Captaintreacherous. She is a half sister to a gelding that earned more than \$618,000 and took his lifetime mark of 1:48 4/5 right here at Mohawk Park. She looked good in her lone qualifier here on July 3rd, but she was up against it starting from post 10 on debut in a good Grassroots field on July 10th. She dropped back to last at the start and she produced a nice back half rally pacing 54 4/5 coming home. After idling in early stretch to look for room, she was angled to the far outside and she was really flying at the wire. She will get a more aggressive steer tonight starting from a better post, and I'll side with her to start up tonight's early Pick 4/

#1 BANKROLL HANOVER is a \$30,000 Harrisburg buy that is related to two that earned more than \$430,000 the faster of those two being Diamondbeach who took a mark of 1:51 1/5 (M.). This filly showed a strong late kick in her lone qualifier. With the pocket sitter gapping out on the last turn, this filly pulled first-over from fourth and once in the stretch, she really ate up ground fast. She was visibly flying at the wire. She followed that good qualifier up with an equally good debut, but she was passed late by a big favorite that was hidden on cover until deep stretch and simply had too big of a late kick to repel. This filly has some upside, and she could offer a nice price in here tonight. She's worth a look for early multi-race tickets.

#3 IM SWEET ON LOU will take plenty of action in here being one of three winners and having the fastest mark, and she had a tough trip in her second start in a Grand Circuit race. Getting back in with maidens, she will likely look to control the race, and she will likely be the one to catch when they turn for home. With her showing 29 and change final quarters in her two starts for a purse though, she is one that I will try to beat here.

#5 EFFECTIVE CONTROL improved in every start, and she was a solid second in her most recent mile where she faced Grassroots company. Her 1:53 and change speed certainly puts her in the picture tonight, but I prefer others more for the win, and I'll use her underneath this time.

Race 4 Selections

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#6 BEAUTS CABARET is an International Moni rookie filly that is well related being a half sister to millionaire Southwind Coors, whose biggest payday and fastest win (1:52-flat) came right here at Mohawk Park in the \$250,000 Goodtimes in 2023. This filly is also a half sister to \$443K earner El Toro Loco (28 wins, 1:52 3/5 F.). She qualified twice for her pari-mutuel debut, and the second one was much better as she dropped more than three seconds and won on cruise control. She was even better in her debut, racing first-over and always looking like she was going to pass the leader. She faces much tougher now in this Pure Ivory elimination, but she has a ton of potential. I'll side with her to score the repeat win in this first leg of tonight's 20-cent Pick 6.

#5 TREASURE KING gets a close look here coming into this mile off a big upset win in a \$100,000 Ontario Sires Staked Gold race. In that winning effort, she produced a big late rally from third over and she was full value for that maiden breaking score. Her strong late speed should play well again in this field, and it would be no surprise if she doubled up.

#3 SIMEA raced great in an OSS Gold event on debut, setting the pace as a huge longshot and holding a clear lead until deep stretch. She followed that good debut effort up with another strong mile in Gold Leg 2 where she finished behind Major Contender who is one of the best fillies in that division. She should get a good trip on or near the lead tonight, and she is another one to consider for early multi-race tickets in what appears to be a competitive stakes elimination.

#4 EMMA DEO was a good closing second on debut in a race where she was on the inside turning for home and she got bottled up until she was inside the eighth pole. Once she found clear sailing, she absolutely flew home, and if the distance of the race was a mile and eight strides, she would have been a winner. She drew best in her second start, and she controlled the race as expected. This is a tougher spot now, and I prefer to use her underneath tonight.

Race 5 Selections

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#6 SEVERIAN was a \$105,000 Lexington Sale buy that showed some promise at two, but he also had some periodic breaking issues. He changed hands on June 4th and moved into the barn of Pat Hudon who specializes working with trotters that have had some issues. This unaltered son of top trotting stallion Chapter Seven showed some nice trot in his qualifier at Grand River on July 6th, making a third quarter brush to the front then holding sway from there. He took plenty of action here on July 20th, going off as the 3 to 1 second choice. He made a move after the half and gradually advanced, then he was sent wide at the head of the lane looking like he would land in the top four when he jumped it off. He moves to the best post from the rail tonight, and I'll stick with him hoping that Hudon will make some improvements with him in this second start out of his barn.

#3 MASSCHETTE is one of three winners in this field, and he was expected to do well last week, but that was a mile where absolutely nothing went right from start to finish. He got hung three-wide to the quarter, and it was pretty much all downhill from there. He is capable of much better than he showed that night, and it is very unlikely that he will get parked three wide into the opening turn tonight. I'm willing to forgive where he finished last week because his trip was impossible. He can be right there on the wire tonight.

#5 STORMONT FRIEDBOY raced well two starts back and he hit the board for the first time in his career, then in his last start, he missed the gate by about a half a length, and he squandered a mile starting from the best post by leaving last of 10. He produced a nice late kick to pass half the field in the stretch, and he was still going forward at the wire. He can get a much better result tonight if he gets a more alert start.

#8 DULCES SUENOS DEO is one of the best horses on the circuit to use on the bottom of Tris and Supers considering she has landed in the second or third spot in half of her 10 starts this season. Most recently, she got hooked up with a rival in the stretch and threw a shoe, eliminating her chance of getting any kind of share. She could sneak into the exotics at a big price tonight, and she is worth a look.

Race 6 Selections

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#2 MISSY ROCKS is a fresh mare in here having made only eight starts this season, and she put together four very good miles since being claimed by Pam Forgie on June 21st at Clinton. Four starts back at Clinton in her first start after the claim, she drew into the second tier in a Pop Up Series final, but she managed to overcome it, making a three wide move at the three quarters and forging past the 4 to 5 favorite. Then, she came to Mohawk Park, and she produced a good closing effort to get up for fourth behind some solid \$8,000 claiming mares. She came back a week later and jogged here, then this past Sunday, she raced at Clinton again and she looks so dominant on paper that day that nit even post seven could stop her. She looks much the best on paper in here, too and she should be hard to stop at what will likely be a short price.

#4 LITTLE MOMENTS comes in from the B tracks in solid form having hit the board in three straight starts at three different tracks in a span of 15 days. Most recently, she raced at Clinton on Sunday like Missy Rocks, and she overcame the second tier post to get the job done, sneaking up the inside in the stretch to get the job done as a 17 to 1 longshot. She is one of the better closers in this field, and she should be heard from late.

#3 COOL CUTE COOKIE raced here on Monday night, and she was in a lot of traffic racing between rivals in the stretch, closing for fifth. It is likely that she would have finished closer to the winner if she had clear sailing for the entire stretch drive. She is a four time winner from 13 starts so far this season, but she is one that I prefer to use underneath in this spot.

#5 DARLIN DALLECKTRAH won three of four in June and July then she got a couple of bad trips from wide posts. She is capable of better than she showed in her last start, and she draws a good post here tonight. She is another one that I would give a look to for use underneath.

Race 7 Selections

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#3 MAJOR CONTENDER was purchased for \$110,000 at Harrisburg from the first crop of Breeders Crown winning King Of The North out of a full sister to \$525K earner Mister Muscle (44 wins, 1:53 4/5 H.). This filly was ultra impressive on debut here in an OSS Gold race where she trailed in the field of seven early. She found some cover and she was kept on a helmet to the eighth pole where she was turned loose. She motored home down the middle of the track, and she ended up just missing in a super effort. She parlayed that good effort with an even better one in Leg 2 of the Golds where she overcame a bit of trouble on the final turn avoiding a rival that broke in front of her then moving wide and sailing past the leaders. She stands out here in this Pure Ivory elimination and she will take beating as the big favorite in this opening leg of the late Pick 4.

#1 STOCKS AND BONDS is a \$130,000 Harrisburg Sale purchase being a daughter of the top trotting sire in the sport. She debuted here on July 9th off two strong qualifying efforts. After trotting a 57 3/5 back half in a slow paced race in her first qualifier, she was driven more aggressively in the second one, and she produced a 27 4/5 final quarter to chase down a game leader that morning. It was a long way back to the third place finisher. Those two miles had her well prepped for that pari-mutuel debut where she was a nice first-over winner. The filly that she beat that night came right back to win her next start. She has a good chance to complete the Exacta tonight.

#2 R ROSIE comes into this Gold leg as a maiden, but she has raced well in all three starts, including Gold Leg 1 two starts back where she led most of the way and got passed late. Most recently, she stickhandled through some traffic in the stretch and got up for fourth in a decent try. She can get a following trip here, and I can see her landing in the Tri.

#5 SONG FROM HEAVEN comes off a good closing effort where she got up for second behind Major Contender, now she has to face that standout filly again here in Gold Leg 3. She does draw a better post tonight after drawing the rail in her last start, so she could get positioned closer to the front leaving the gate. She is another one that will likely be fighting for a minor share behind Major Contender.

BEST BET: MAJOR CONTENDER

Race 8 Selections

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#5 SOUTHWIND RUSSIAN drops down to the bottom conditioned level here, and last time he took the same class drop, he was bet down to 7 to 2, and for good reason as it turned out. He was sent to the front that night, and once he cleared to the lead, he kept improving his condition and he simply crushed the field that night. Like tonight, he was coming off a break in stride in his previous start, but he behaved and excelled. He draws a perfect post for another speed try, and he gets top billing on the class drop.

#8 YOU GUESSED IT is the other one in here that drops from the non-winners of \$6,000 last four class showing a win the last time that he raced at this non-winners of \$1,000 last four class. That mile came three starts back, and on that night, he produced a game first-over effort to get the job done. He draws wide here, but he already showed he could overcome post eight in that winning mile three starts back. He rates highly in this field, and I could see the top two picks battling down the lane to decide the win.

#2 CRYSTAL BALLER is the third one in here that drops from the non-winners of \$6,000 last four level and he figures to improve by default getting class relief. In addition to getting class relief, he also draws a better post, so he can get positioned closer to the front early in this mile. I don't like him as much as the top two picks in here, but he should be able to get a share in this spot.

#6 MY WAY produced a decent closing effort here on Sunday night to get up for fourth at a huge price. He dares a good post here and he won't get bet much in this spot, either. He could be a good one to use on the bottom of your Super bets here.

SPOT PLAY: SOUTHWIND RUSSIAN

Race 9 Selections

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#5 GRAND CIRCUIT is a mare that knows how to find the winner's circle having taken 13 wins in the past two seasons, including three victories this year. Her most recent win came three starts back at Dresden where she prevailed over a very sloppy track that was assigned a five second variant. She comes into tonight's race off a decent closing effort last Wednesday at Grand River, now she draws one of the best posts and she picks up the leading driver. She gets top billing here in a race where there is no standout.

#1 CF SAVING GRACE dropped from conditioned races into \$8,000 claimers two starts back, and she improved immediately, racing aggressively from a wide post to finish second. She parlayed that good effort into a much better one in her most recent start where she made front early and proceeded to blow the race wide open. She went on to bottom out the field to take her first win of the season, and she seems to fit well in this field. She figures to be the main threat to the top pick here.

#6 GROOVY BABY YEAH is interesting here dropping into a claimer for the first time after fading to last in her most recent start. She raced well in three straight starts previous to that mile, now she draws best and she gets Travis Cullen in the bike. She does her best work on the front end, and she draws the perfect post for a big speed try. She is the third one in here that I would consider using on late multi-race tickets.

#3 AK BLACK BADGER has taken only one win so far this season, but she has taken seven slices from 18 starts, and she comes into tonight's mile off two decent efforts where she sat good following trips racing close to the lead and landed in the Tri. I don't see her as a win threat here, but she can get a slice in this spot.

Race 10 Selections

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#1 UPTO LAURA HANOVER was racing in a Breeders Crown elimination when last seen here last October. She was only a one time winner last season, but she showed some potential in that lone victory where she made a big first-over move then drove off for a big win. She comes into this sophomore debut where she put together a nice closing effort to finish a close second to a mare that has earned more than \$918K and won the Elegant Image here last year. Her 1:54 speed from that qualifier should play well here, especially if she can drop a second or two and she gets top billing in the finale.

#9 M E LAUREL is one of only seven trotters from 168 starters to win from post 10 this year at Mohawk Park, and she did it in style here 10 nights ago as the 6 to 5 favorite. That impressive winning effort came on the heels of a narrow loss in a \$100,000 Gold race, and she is obviously one of the best ones in here. She has a decent chance to take a rare double from the widest post.

#7 I AM raced very well in defeat here two starts back where he led to mid stretch before getting passed late by a fresh closer that sling shotted past in deep stretch. He was on the move trying to catch up to cover last time when he started to go rough then jumped it off. He can be a threat if he stays flat tonight.

#3 ROYAL CAPTAIN was good in his sophomore debut where e finished second to I Am, then his connections tried the Goodtimes where he led early in both his elimination and final, but he did fade to eighth in that final. He qualified okay here six days ago, leading to the stretch before getting passed by two rivals, one of them being Upto Laura Hanover. He will likely be put on the engine for as far as he can go again tonight, and I could see him taking a share.

#6 STORMONT SHANLYBOY hit his best stride two starts back where he led a field of maidens on a merry chase to take his maiden victory. He came back 18 days later and produced a good closing effort to get third against tougher. He draws best here, and I won't be shocked if he beats this prediction.

#1 GLORYVIEW IMAGE is a seven-time winner so far this year and he does his best work on the front end, so it was a bit surprising to see him racing from the back two starts back when he raced at Georgian Downs. He got aggressive pilot Louis-Phillipe Roy in the bike to last time, and with a claim entered, he for sure was going to be pointed to the front. He led all the way and he held sway, and he moved into the Jamie Copley barn. He took five of those seven wins racing for Copley, and he has a huge shot to take another here coming back in the same class and facing a similar field.

#2 SMOKESTACK was bet down to 7 to 5 favorite two starts back and he made an early power move to the front then tried to bottom out the field. He opened up a big lead on the last turn that he couldn't hold. Then, in his most recent start on June 29th, he was once again driven aggressively. He got hung out three wide to the first quarter, and he drove to the front, but he was overtaken and he was forced into the pocket. He waited for room in the stretch and he finally found it inside the eighth pole, then he outsprinted a rival to the wire. At press time, this gelding was entered Tuesday night at Georgian Downs, and he was the morning line favorite.

#4 THE DARK PANTHER raced off the Paul Court claim last time coming off a closing effort behind Smokestack, and he picked up leading driver James Macdonald. Those two factors led him to getting hammered down to 2 to 1 and he made an early outside move but he never really threatened Gloryview Image. He did well to stick around for third. He could improve in this second start racing out of the Court barn, and he is worth a look for late multi-race tickets.

#7 ROYAL JK sat a nice trip, got a good drive, and closed for second behind Gloryview Image last week. He draws worse now, and he will likely give up positioning at the start. He is one that I see closing for a smaller slice this time.

#5 SKYLAR raced off the claim last time and coming off an impressive win at Grand River, he was bet down to 1 to 2. He lagged off the gate and dropped back to last and he never moved forward. He didn't look sound and he was put on the vet list for lameness following the race which negated a claim that was entered. He is capable of contending here if he is okay. I'd take a close look at him in the post parade and on the score down before risking any wagering dollars.