

Race 1 Selections

The Horseplayer's Journal by Garnet Barnsdale

#2 P N G SHADOW started to turn her form around four starts back in Grassroots Leg 3B when she raced well and finished second. She fired back a week later, got an aggressive steer, and took a new lifetime mark of 1:50-flat in victory. Her streak of good efforts was broken when she raced in the Lynch at Pocono last Saturday and she broke before the start. She was expected to rebound here last week in Grassroots Leg 4, and she came up big, pacing a 54 4/5 middle half after she made her move to the lead then she held off the pocket sitter late. This spot looks a bit tougher, and she is one of a few that you could use in a fascinating start to tonight's \$75,000 guaranteed early Pick 5. I think she could offer some value in this spot.

#9 CANT TURN YOU DOWN took a lot of action in her second start, and she was an impressive front end winner that night. She then raced here on July 2nd, and she raced well in defeat. After parking past the quarter, she dropped into the available pocket. From there, she stayed in until the stretch where she tried the inside route but got shut off. After twisting and turning, she found a seam, but the 4 to 5 favorite had already sailed past and was long gone. This filly finished with plenty of pace and was a clear second at the wire. She came back eight days later, and she left nothing to chance that night, taking the lead at the half then powering away from the field. She had no problem doubling up on July 24th then she came back a week later and dominated Grassroots rivals. Then, on August 22nd she raced off a stale date but jogged at 8 to 5, and six days later, she escaped from a tough looking spot late in the stretch and sailed past some winded leaders. She is very good, but I'm inclined to say that she is no lock in here starting from a wide post as she shoots for a sixth straight win.

#6 ADINA HANOVER crushed a non-winners of two field to lower her lifetime mark to 1:50 2/5 two starts back, then she raced against Bulldog Hanover's highest earning offspring Daya, who scorched the Mohawk Park oval in 1:49-flat. No one in here is pacing that fast tonight, and this improving filly can contend tonight.

#10 FABULOUS HANOVER won her sophomore debut at The Meadowlands in May, and she lowered her lifetime best mark to 1:51 2/5 that night. She has been in too tough since then, and while this spot is no picnic, either, it is not the Grand Circuit. She draws widest here which will ensure that she offers a good price. She is worth a look in this spot.

Race 2 Selections

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#2 ROCKER LINDY is a \$70,000 Lexington buy that is a first foal out of a Muscle Hill dam that took two wins and eight slices from 13 starts and earned more than \$101,000 while taking a mark of 1:52 3/5 at The Red Mile. This colt popped and stopped on debut, but he was much better in his second start where deployed closing tactics and he dropped four seconds. Trainer Cecere is almost always live when he ships north for one of these races. For context, take a look at Race 2 on Saturday night where he shipped three-year-old gelding Mothers Moni in to Mohawk and that gelding won the Grade 3 Simcoe Stakes in a track record 1:50 4/5. I typically don't back maidens in Grade 3 Grand Circuit races, but this is more a trainer play than anything else.

#6 THE GREAT GAZOO raced four times in the Grassroots division so far, and he was right there on the wire in every one of those miles. He had only two miles at Mohawk Park, and he was very good in both of them, closing from Campbellville Road to finish a close second on debut, then crushing his rivals in his second start. He steps up on paper, but this is not a loaded Grand Circuit race. His speed will likely be on display early starting from the best post, and if they let him steal a breather or two, he might prove tough to overhaul.

#3 MAHALO got the "first time McNair" boost in his last start, and despite missing close to three weeks, he crushed an overmatched group of maidens. This is obviously a tougher spot for him, but if he can improve on his 1:55 2/5 maiden breaking score a bit, he could be right there on the wire with these.

#5 GRAND MANALISHI broke his maiden at first asking on June 26th, then he proceeded to race in four straight OSS Gold legs where he took cheques in every one of those miles. He gets a good post, and he will likely show speed tonight. He might be rated a bit low here. He should be part of the Super at a minimum.

Race 3 Selections

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#8 JEN TILLY improved in her two starts prior to last week's mile. In those races two and three starts back, she was right there on the wire in both of them. She took a shot against much tougher last week in Grand Circuit action in the Grade 3 Simcoe Stakes. She followed to the last turn where she latched onto third-over cover following the 4 to 5 favorite and 7 to 5 second choice. She tried hard down the lane, and she was gradually gaining on her two rivals, but a 1:49-flat mile was just a bit too much for her. That was her best effort of the season, now she gets into what should be a much easier spot. She has a big chance to take her third win of the season here.

#6 JAY was expected to do well racing on the lead last week, but after she made front, she got no breather whatsoever as she ended up in a backstretch duel with a rival that got parked the mile and was also intent on making front. She understandably raised the white flag after duelling to the three quarters in 1:22-flat. She draws best here and I could see her getting an easier trip, perhaps racing in Jen Tilly's pocket. She is worth a look at what could be a big price.

#1 MY GIRL FRIDAY raced well in defeat in her last start, and she looked like she would be a winner in mid stretch as the 1 to 5 favorite looked hopelessly bottled up. That rival eventually found a seam before it was too late, and she sailed past in deep stretch to take her fifth straight victory. This Tony Beaton trainee has been good in four of her last five starts, the lone exception being on August 7th when she broke stride at the start. She will be coming late here, and she could do if she gets the right setup.

#5 ROMANTIC BEAUTY, like Jay, went too fast early last time and she paid the price late. Starting from the middle of the gate tonight, she should get put into this race early, too. I can see her sticking around for a share. She is probably a good one to use on the bottom of the exotics tonight.

BEST BET: JEN TILLY

Race 4 Selections

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#7 FLAWLESS LADY started her career in Gold races and she raced decently in the first one to finish fourth, then she broke stride in the next one. She dropped into a maiden race and was bet down to 8 to 5 favorite, and she dropped to the back early then closed late. She was too far back to challenge for the win, but she did trot a 27 3/5 final quarter. That was enough for her connections to try another Gold race on August 14th, but she broke at the start and lost all chance. With her trainer/driver Paul Macdonell retiring recently, this filly moved into the Julie Walker barn on August 27th and got leading driver James Macdonald in the bike. She was predictably hammered at the windows, and she trotted off the screen to break her maiden. She came right back to win a Gold race last week, gamely digging in late to fend off the closers. She faces four of the same rivals tonight, and she gets the call to score the threepeat in this first leg of tonight's 20-cent Pick 6.

#4 DREAMTRADE broke stride two starts back in the Balanced Image Stakes, but it's possible that she just didn't care for the Hanover Raceway surface that afternoon. She bounced back in a big way last week when she came roaring down the middle of the track in the stretch to get herself in the win photo with Flawless Lady. Her 27 2/5 kicker is encouraging, and she might be able to turn the tables tonight if she can lay a bit closer early in this mile.

#2 TREASURE KING tried taking on Flawless Lady with a first-over challenge last week, and it didn't work out so well for her. Starting from an inside draw tonight, I could see her getting a more conservative steer, and that would give her a better chance of finishing in the money.

#5 BEAUTS CABARET has shown that she has some talent, but her recent gait issues are somewhat worrisome. Even when she won on July 30th, she looked headstrong in the lane, but pilot Louis-Phillipe Roy held her together to the wire. As mentioned, talent isn't the issue with her. I'd take a close look at her in the post parade and scoring down before plunging.

Race 5 Selections

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#7 COLD CREEK CALI started off her sophomore season with three strong efforts racing at Grand River Raceway, culminating with a lifetime best 1:52-flat score on August 17th when she toughed it out racing first-over and outsprinted pocket sitter Lainey Blu. She tried her luck here at Mohawk Park for the first time this season in Grassroots Leg 4 and she had the misfortune of racing with a broken buxton and she was pulled up. She got another chance last week, and things went much better. She raced first up as the 3 to 5 favorite, but she provided perfect cover for rival Mollys On Fire who got the getter of her in the final strides. I don't think there is much between those two fillies, and now we will most likely see the odds reversed based on last week's results. I'll stick with this filly tonight.

#3 MOLLYS ON FIRE comes into this race living up to her name as she boasts a five-race win streak. During that streak, she has shown that she can win with just about every trip imaginable. That versatility came in handy last week with her starting from the tricky rail post. She worked out a perfect second-over trip following Cold Creek Cali, and she got up for that fifth straight win while lowering her lifetime best to 1:51 3/5. She is the obvious one to fear as she seeks a sixth straight score.

#5 TAINTED LOVE was good here two starts back when she closed to get third in an OSS Grassroots race, then not as good last time. She gets off the rail tonight, though, which should mean that she will get positioned closer to the front leaving the gate. That gives her a good chance to get a slice.

#8 SWEET LAKE tried the front end two starts back and things didn't go so well, then she reverted to a stalking style last week and she was able to close for a slice while pacing her own back half in 55-flat. She will likely race from the back again tonight, and I could see her working her way into the bottom of the Tri or Super at what should be a square price.

Race 6 Selections

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#6 ACCESS NOW probably should have won the Wellwood Memorial in his last start when you consider the trouble that he overcame to finish a flying second, beaten only three quarters of a length. He was sitting inside near the back entering the far turn when the horse in front of him backed him up then broke right in front of him. After getting around that rival, he cut the corner and he took a couple of bad steps in early stretch and almost broke stride. Once he stabilized, he was moved between horses late and he ate up a lot of ground, but he ran out of racetrack. He draws best now in this Grand Circuit race, and he gets top billing to start up tonight's late Pick 5 wager.

#7 DETONATER HANOVER bet a bit on debut, going off at 9 to 2, and he raced well in that OSS Gold event. He looked like he was going to be the winner until Unstable Genius hit his best stride. That was a nice debut, and he raced well again in his second start, and he might have won if a rival didn't break right in front of him on the last turn, forcing him a couple of lanes wider than he wanted to be. That ground loss might have been the difference considering he was only beaten three quarters of a length. He was a very impressive winner of his elimination of the Grade 3 Millard Farms stake and followed it up with a workmanlike win in the final. He then trotted the fastest winning mile of any in this field in his Wellwood Memorial elimination. He couldn't fend off some sharp colts in the final, including the top pick in here, but he rebounded well winning a Gold race last week where he dug in late to fend off the closers. He is the obvious threat to the top choice here.

#4 HIGHEST MOUNTAIN is interesting to me in here because he ships in for trainer Domenico Cecere, who has had great success up here. This \$70,000 Lexington buy is still a maiden, and he surely doesn't look as fast as the best ones in here, but he is worth a look for use on the bottom in a race where it will likely be hard to find value.

#2 THREE SIX ZERO has had a great rookie year so far, taking three wins, three seconds and a third from eight starts, his only misstep coming where he broke stride in the first quarter of his third start when he was racing in the pocket. He comes off a decent Gold effort last week when third to Detonater Hanover, and he should get another share tonight.

Race 7 Selections

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#10 TAMARA HANOVER was bet down to 9 to 5 only two starts back when she raced one class higher than tonight's level, and she raced okay in defeat that night when she finished third. She stepped up one class last week, and she was aggressive, but it took her too long to make front, getting parked past a 54 1/5 opening half. It's understandable that she backed up in a 1:49 3/5 mile considering the trip that she got that night. She fits well in here and she should offer a good price starting from the widest post. I'll give her a slight nod here.

#4 WICKED AND SINGLE won two straight in August when she got good trips racing on the lead then she was first up in a Popup series final two starts back and in her last start she raced from the back against tougher after drawing the widest post. Things swing more her way tonight as she drops a couple of class levels and gets a much better post position, and she can be right there versus these.

#8 SUPERIOR DELIGHT was much better in her second start back following a four month rest and she got hammered down to 4 to 5 favorite last week with bettors expecting an even better result. Chalk players were nit disappointed as she moved to the front and controlled the race from there. She steps up in class a bit here tonight, but it's hard to discount a mare that has won 17 of her last 46 starts.

#7 BLINDED BY DELIGHT made a rare break in stride last time, now she drops in class. She is another mare that knows how to find the winner's circle; she has taken seven wins from 30 starts so far this year. She will likely offer a good price tonight coming off that break in stride, and she is another one that is worth a look for the late Pick 5 in a competitive looking dash.

Race 8 Selections

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#1 MAJOR CONTENDER showed a bit of late zip in the Peaceful Way Final to pick up the fifth place cheque after starting from the worst post, and that decent mile foreshadowed her second win of the season a week later, both of those wins coming in OSS Gold races. She got an aggressive steer, being put on the lead for the first time in her seven race career, and she fended off all comers. She enters this Grand Circuit race in peak form, and I expect that she will get another aggressive steer from Jody Jamieson. She gets top billing in this opening leg of tonight's late Pick 4.

#3 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 on July 20th, 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. She moved off the rail for her second start and she was much better. She drew wide in her third start, and she converted to take her maiden win then she was let go at 23 to 1 in an elimination for the Peaceful Way, and she stormed home to notch the upset. She raced well again to get third in the final of that Grand Circuit stake, and she looks like the main threat to the top pick in here.

#4 REBEL MOON closed for third behind Major Contender last week, and that was when she started from post eight. She gets a better post tonight and she could be closer at the wire, but she looks third best in here, and I prefer to use her underneath.

#8 TWIN B KINGSLEY made a nice late charge to put a scare into the favorite last week, but she is in tougher tonight and she draws widest. I could see her coming on late to work her way into the bottom of the Tri or Super this time.

#4 BLUE JEAN GAL came off a stellar rookie season, and she got class tested in her first mile of 2026, starting against some Gold winners and she passed that test with flying colors. She won the slower of the two eliminations of the SBOA Stake, then she came back eight days later and endured the toughest trip in the mile and drew off late for her eighth straight win. In the opening leg of the Ontario Sires Stakes Gold division, she lowered her lifetime best mark to 1:54 2/5. From there, she tried a Grand Circuit race where not much went right. She was a slight second choice at 95 cents on the dollar in Gold Leg 2, and she was no match for Bingo Night. She turned the tables big time in Gold Leg 3 where she set an all time Ontario Sires Stakes record. She was then no match for Cher Hill, but she rebounded last week, sort of. She was leading turning for home, and at the moment that she looked like a sure winner, she jumped it off. It's important to note that she looked excitable in the score down as noted by the Mohawk Park on air talent, so it makes sure to pay attention to the in-house video feed before heading to the windows to hammer this filly tonight.

#2 BINGO NIGHT raced better last week when she showed some early speed in a Grand Circuit race, and she can be a win threat here if she rounds into her best form. She has only one win this season, but on that night, she smoked Blue Jean Gal, so we know she is capable if she brings her best race here.

#1 M E LAUREL looked like she had a ton around the final turn last week, but she had nowhere to go and she was hard held until they turned for home. She dove inside, and once she had clearance, she closed well to get up for third. That was a decent effort, and I could see her taking another share here.

#3 FLOWING TRIBUTE regularly takes shares in Gold races when she is against her own gender and I'm not going to hold a seventh-place finish racing versus males against her too much. That should be a good tuneup for tonight's Gold race, and she can be part of the exotics.

Race 10 Selections

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#5 SENSATIONALIZE A arrived here from Australia in June after being purchased by Team Cullen, and she showed some good late pop in her local debut on North America Cup night when she paced a nice back half to close from the back to get up for fourth. From there, she entered a Pop Up series, and she swept that series but the money she earned forced her up into the top class for several starts. She came close to winning in the Open on July 25th when she was beaten only a half length. She got class relief two starts back, and she raced well as expected, but fellow class dropper Grit N Grace was just a bit better. Last week, she got bet down to 6 to 5 favorite, and she tried the front end, but it didn't work out. It was probably discovered that isn't her best trip. I think she reverts to a stalking style this week, and she gets top billing.

#1 POWNAL BAY BOBBI was bet down to 8 to 5 favorite last week coming off a third-place finish to the two best sophomore pacing fillies in the country in her previous start. Last week, she raced well in defeat, but as she was launching off cover in the stretch, the pocket sitter was getting a clear run up the inside and getting the jump on her. She should be a threat right back tonight.

#2 GLENBORO will take plenty of action tonight because she drops out of a much tougher spot where she rallied nicely to win the race for third behind two mares that had broke away from the field. She has the look of a contender in this spot, but keep in mind she is riding a 14-race losing streak before you stampede to the window to support her at what could be an underlaid price.

#7 PERFECTLY CHIC is in solid form, but she is only a one-time winner so far this year. She will likely drop to the back at the start here, and look to pass rivals late, and I could see her coming on to land in the bottom of the Tri or Super.

Race 11 Selections

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#3 SANTAFES APPETITE was a closing winner here five starts back, then she drew poorly in most of her starts since then. We can see that she is sharp because she fired home in 26 4/5 in both of her last two starts. She gets both class and post relief tonight, and her strong late speed should play well in this spot. She gets top billing in tonight's finale.

#5 ALL MY WISHES has made four starts this year without earning a dime, but the good news that comes from that is she gets to drop to the bottom of the conditioned ladder tonight. She gets one of the best posts to boot, and it seems very likely that she will get put into this race at the outset. She was an eight time winner from only 17 starts last season, and this could be a good spot for her to take her first win of 2026.

#1 ACEFORTYFOUR DAISY raced great in both starts since being claimed by trainer Brett Lester on August 13th including her last mile where she motored late to get up for the win. She steps up in class tonight, but if she fires another 27 2/5 kicker like she did in her past two starts, she can get a good piece of this.

#2 PRETTY MISSY MAY raced better last week, and she draws inside tonight, so she will likely look to sit another following trip racing close to the front. She gets to take a slight class drop, but the two droppers picked above her here look better, and I'll use this mare underneath.

#10 GUCCI SEELSTER comes off a nice win at Grand River Raceway, and she has the gate speed to be able to get away well from the widest post. She might be a good one to use underneath at what should be a square price.

SPOT PLAY: SANTAFES APPETITE