

Race 1 Selections

The Horseplayer's Journal by Garnet Barnsdale

#4 ANGOSTURA HANOVER was in the midst of an excellent 2026 season when she got sick in the spring. She had taken wins in six of her first 12 starts while adding three slices and earning more than \$143,000. She won at the Fillies and Mares Open level five times in seven starts from mid February to mid April. I like that she qualified three times in 13 days preparing for this fall return to action. She has raced off a qualifier three times in her career, and while she didn't win on any of those occasions, she didn't race poorly, either. She gets Jody Jamieson in the bike for this return race, and I'll give her the nod to start up tonight's \$75,000 guaranteed Pick 5.

#6 WISE PROFESSOR takes a big class drop here and she draws the magic six-hole, so it seems very likely that she will get sent forward leaving the gate tonight by pilot Daryl Thiessen. She was a winner last time she raced at a class similar to tonight's and in that mile, she was driven aggressively and she worked out the winning pocket trip. I don't see her closing anywhere close to her 10 to 1 morning line quote in here, and she is one that I wouldn't leave off early Pick 5 tickets.

#3 MARGOSGOTTHECARGO didn't start her five-year-old campaign until mid September, but she has been terrific. Consider: in her four starts this year, she paced four of the five fastest miles of her career, including a 1:50-flat lifetime best score three starts back. She will be passing mares late in this mile, and she is capable of beating them all if all the cards fall her way.

#1 TELLS ON A ROLL sat then rallied two starts back when a leader was cutting some wild fractions, and she had no problem chasing that leader down in a mile where she finished ahead of Margosgotthecargo, who rallied late. She lowered her lifetime mark to 1:48 2/5 that night, then she stepped up to the top class last time and the result was quite different. I wonder if that huge mile two starts back emptied the tank at least a bit, and she is one that I will try to beat here as the 3 to 1 morning line favorite.

Race 2 Selections

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#3 JUSTFORYOUKNOW is a \$30,000 London Classic Sale buy that makes his pari-mutuel debut here coming off a solid qualifying effort here on October 9th. In that mile, he was unhurried early, racing last of seven through the opening fractions and he made a move to the outside with about 5/16ths of a mile to go. He followed cover, then he dove to the inside in the stretch, and he closed willingly to get up for fourth. He was finding his best gear when the wire hit. This Bettors Delight gelding is a half brother to two six-time winners, and driver Travis Cullen chose him over the #6 in here who won his last start. I'll give him the nod here at first asking expecting that pilot Travis Cullen will give him a more aggressive steer in this spot.

#1 JETT OUT EARLY is one of three winners in here, and he holds the co-fastest mark. He comes into tonight's race off a solid effort in defeat, and that mile stamps him as one of the main contenders in here. Starting from the middle of the gate, he blasted off for the front, and he was the first leader heading into the first turn. He ended up getting shuffled to third around the final turn, then he made a move between horses in close quarters in mid stretch, and he got up for second behind a horse who worked out a nice pocket trip. With his good gate speed, he should be able to get away well starting from the rail tonight, and he should be right there again.

#8 COLD CREEK NACHO is a gelding that showed improvement three starts back, and as a result was expected to do well here on September 28th. He had the misfortune of coming up against a debutant monster that paced a 1:50 4/5 mile that ended with a 26 1/5 final quarter on that night, so it was no surprise that this gelding never got untracked. He drew widest last week, and he closed to get a slice. He finishes fast, he only need be put into the race early to have a shot here tonight.

#5 TAILWIND SEELSTER raced four times, and he dropped seven seconds in less than a month. He comes off a decent closing effort where he got up to take the smallest cheque, and I could see him sneaking into the bottom of the Tri or Super tonight if he can lay just a bit closer to the front.

SPOT PLAY: JUSTFORYOUKNOW

Race 3 Selections

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#8 BEACH WIGGLE is having a tremendous season where she has taken 11 wins from her first 30 starts while finished second or third on 12 other occasions. She entered her last mile off a good effort the week before where she sat to the lane, looked for room, then closed between rivals to get up for third. She drew best last time, and she was hammered down to 2 to 5 favorite. She managed to work out a perfect trip, getting the lead along the pylons in the stretch, but she was chased down by a rival that also got a nice trip, and that mare rallied from second over to chase this one down late. She gets post position on that rival tonight with that one getting the 10-hole, and she gets top billing to start up tonight's early Pick 4.

#6 ONE LAST BET was claimed three starts back by Garry Merner and in her first start following that claim she chased 1 to 9 shot Sunshine Magic around the track at London. She did much better in her next start, finishing second behind a big favorite after racing first-over. She gets a look here moving to the best post from where she will likely get put into the race at the start.

#10 LITTLE MOMENTS was moving well at the end of her penultimate mile and that identified her as one of the main contenders last week. Starting from the inside, she followed some decent cover to the top of the stretch then tipped wide and found her best stride in the drive to the wire to get up and shade Beach Wiggle. She draws worst here and she has her work cut out considering that post 10 has produced only 2.3% winners from 394 starters so far on the pace in 2026. Still, she is sharp and dangerous, and the higher her price goes here, the more viable she becomes as a possible win bet.

#4 WEDNESDAYS CHILD got a needed class drop last week to the class level where she almost won four starts back, but she drew the rail and she ended up traveling first-over and she tired late after providing winning cover for Little Moments. She should be able to find some cover tonight, and I could see her land

Race 4 Selections

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#5 POSEIDON SEELSTER made his first start back here following a three month rest on October 3rd, and he drew a wide post that night and he got raced conservatively. He paced a 54-flat back half that night, finished off with a 26 2/5 kicker. He stepped up in class a week later, but he wasn't ready to pace a 1:48 mile to compete with the winner. He did go in 1:49 flat, though, now he gets a class drop and a middle of the gate post to work from. He should get a much more aggressive steer tonight, and he gets top billing to start up tonight's 20-cent Pick 6 wager.

#2 AYEAYE CAPTAIN DEO won a leg of the Graduate Series here in May in 1:47 3/5 which at that time was the fastest mile in Canada this year. He hasn't won a race since, and it was thought that he had a good chance to break that streak last week when he took a big class drop. He added Lasix, and he was sent off as the 6 to 5 favorite. He made a move into contention on the final turn, then he hung in the stretch. He gets to take another class drop here, and he could improve racing on Lasix for the second time, but I wouldn't take a short price.

#1 RBSTENACIOUS was really good in both of his last two starts, firing from the back to get second in each of those miles. He drew wide in both of those miles, now he gets the rail which in itself isn't usually a picnic, but I could see him getting away fifth or sixth. If he can do that and find a live helmet to follow, he could be the one in here. He merits a look for use on early multi-race tickets.

#4 STONEBRIDGE HELIOS raced tough first-over two starts back chasing home a 6 to 5 favorite that came right back to win again a week later. He was then raced aggressively last week as most horses are when they draw post six, and he never really got a breather. He eventually tired late to finish fifth. He can be an exotics factor here with a slightly less aggressive steer.

Race 5 Selections

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#3 MADRID A prior to her last start got post 10 for the second straight start and she was coming into that race on October 2nd having missed a start due to a transportation scratch. She was sent forward leaving the gate and she got a bit of a tough trip, and she was only able to pace home in 29-flat. She came back a week later and drew inside and she was correctly sent off as the even money favorite by the punters as once she took over command, she was never in any danger of getting beat. She fires back in the same class here tonight, and she faces some class droppers, but they are all lined up on the outside of the gate. I'll give her the nod to repeat.

#6 ALL MY WISHES raced well at tonight's class level two starts back when she closed for third, then she was even better last week closing from last to third at 46 to 1 when facing better racing one class higher. She should get plenty of attention moving from post eight to the six-hole while dropping back down to tonight's class level, and it makes sense to assume that she will get a much more aggressive steer. She is one that I wouldn't leave off early multi-race tickets.

#7 AVYANNA drops out of the same race as All My Wishes, and she was returning from a two month rest on that night. It wasn't surprising to see her get raced conservatively from the seven hole that night, now she will likely get sent forward starting from the same post facing easier having had a return start. She can be a threat in this spot tonight.

#4 PERFECTLY CHIC is another mare that drops and moves inside, and she finished in behind All My Wishes but ahead of Avyanna last week. She should get a better result here considering some of the factors that move in her favor, but she is stuck on one win still this year, and I prefer to use her underneath.

Race 6 Selections

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#5 SEEN HERE is now 3 for 3 since arriving here from the United States and moving into Dave Menary's barn. He moved up a couple of class levels and took a new lifetime mark two starts back, then he stepped up again last week, and he was even more impressive in victory. He raced first-over in that mile, and he advance into second by the time they reached the stretch. Just when it looked like the leader had opened up an insurmountable lead, this gelding started a relentless rally, and he got up right on the line. He steps up again here, but he is razor sharp and I will give him the nod to score the threepeat to start off tonight's middle Pick 5.

#7 NUCLEAR dropped and popped as the even money favorite two weeks ago, then he stepped up to tonight's class level again last week, and he produced a nice closing effort from far back to get up for third behind Seen Here. He has been firing home quickly for several weeks in a row, and he could take this if he gets out into a live flow and is a bit closer when they turn for home.

#1 HELLUVA N crushed and took a new lifetime mark racing one class lower than tonight's two starts back, then he tried the big boys in a \$75,000 Free For All and he wasn't a contender in there. He drops to a more acceptable level tonight, but he comes off a sick scratch, he missed some time, and he draws the rail. His best puts him right there versus these, but I'm inclined to play to beat him as the 3 to 1 morning line favorite here.

#2 PACINO HANOVER comes off a solid effort where he came charging late to get up for second, but he moves up to face tougher now. He is an honest trier that brings a good effort every time he hits the track, and he will be passing some rivals again tonight. He should be part of the Tri or Super.

Race 7 Selections

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#3 R J RINGO gets a needed class drop here and he lands in a spot where he should be looking to control things on the front end. He tried that approach here five starts back when he drew post six, and just when it looked like he had the race sewn up in the lane, favored Pacino Hanover rocketed off cover and flew past him in deep stretch. He draws okay here, and there is a good chance that he will go right down the road in here.

#1 MOMAS SON BYRNE could be the fly in R J Ringo's ointment here. He dropped to the bottom conditioned level last week and he got bet down to 2 to 5 despite drawing the worst post. It took him until past the half to gain control, and he came under immediate assault. He battled tooth and nail and held the lead until late in the mile before finally getting passed by three rivals all the while racing with a broken head pole dangling on his inside. He gets the rail here, and that's okay because he won't get parked for the first half of this mile. He is the other one to consider for middle Pick 5 tickets.

#2 SAUBLE ACE was decent in his return race considering that he had been off for close to 10 months. He closed mildly in that mile, and he figures to be much sharper with that race under his belt. He should be in the exotics mix tonight.

#8 ACEFORTYFOURAPOLLO shipped in from Kawartha Downs on October 12th, and the trainer handed the lines to Jody Jamieson, and the gelding took some action, getting bet down to 5 to 1. He got an aggressive steer, and he was right there at the wire facing \$20,000 conditioned claimers. He is in a bit tougher in here, but he will likely get put into the race leaving the gate and I could see him getting another share.

Race 8 Selections

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#5 MIRACULOUS DESBI N caught the eye four starts back when he made a nice closing move in deep stretch, then he stepped up in class and drew wide in his next start, and he was a non-factor. He dropped one level two starts back and he tried racing on the front, but he never got any breathers and he ended up fifth. He once again was a nonfactor in his last start after starting from a wide post, but getting only two fifth place cheques in his last four starts allows him to take a big class drop tonight. He meets a field that he should handle here, and he gets top billing to start up tonight's late Pick 5.

#7 REMEMBER THE ALAMO is the other class dropper in here that figures to contend for the lead and he gets a driver change to Tyler Borth in this spot. He has obvious class when you consider that he has earned close to \$300,000 in 2026-27. I could see him and Miraculous Desbi N racing 1-2 to the head of the lane then decide this race in the drive to the wire.

#3 LONGSHOT PANIC is racing well here having taken a win and a second in his past four starts and he raced aggressively last time but he provided cover for the eventual winner that flew past him in deep stretch. I don't see him beating both of the top two picks in here, but he should contend for a share.

#10 SCAMMER typically races well at this level, and he lowered his lifetime mark to 1:50-flat three starts back when he got a perfect second-over trip. He raced at this level again last time, and he made a wide move late to get up for fourth in a good effort. He has his work cut out here starting from the widest post, but he would be racing from behind anyway. He might sneak into the exotics at a price.

Race 9 Selections

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#4 ALCHEMY HANOVER raced well in defeat four starts back when he rolled up wide and closed to finish a close fourth, but still he was overlooked in his next start when he closed as an 8 to 1 shot despite coming in off that good mile. He was excellent that night where he moved to the outside at the half then paced right past even money favorite Lou Who for a decisive win to lower his lifetime mark to 1:51 1/5. He then doubled up at even money before stepping up to non-winners of three last week. While he was second best to 2 to 5 favorite Evans Legacy that he once again faces tonight, he raced first-over for more than half a mile and he kept coming. I could see him turning the tables in this opening leg of the late Pick 4 if he can work out a slightly easier trip.

#5 EVANS LEGACY entered last week's mile coming off a nice effort racing at this non-winners of three level where he made front early, then accepted the pocket and fired home in 26 2/5 to fall just short. In that mile, he got a clear run along the pylons in the stretch, and he sprinted hard with the 3 to 5 favorite and fell just short. Off that good mile, he got bet down to 2 to 5 favorite last week, and he used the six-hole to full advantage to take a front end score. He is the obvious one to beat again here.

#7 HURRIKANELOUIEXIII is an interesting shipper here that won his last start at The Meadowlands in September as a 48 to 1 bomb. He qualified well here eight days ago, winning in 1:53-flat racing over a track that was assigned a one second variant. He had a trainer in the bike that morning, now he gets catch driver Mark Macdonald. If there is a horse in here that might beat both of the top two picks, it's probably this gelding.

#1 DR DAVE dropped out of the \$350,000 Gold Superfinal last week and he got a good following trip to the top of the stretch. He then popped out and angled three wide to set his sights on Alchemy Hanover and Evans Legacy, and while he did gain some ground on that duo, he couldn't pass either of them. He should get a similar following trip here, and he can get another slice.

Race 10 Selections

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#4 FUSION dropped and popped two starts back when raced aggressively, and he lowered his lifetime mark to 1:48 1/5 that night. Still, he was let go at 17 to 1 when he stepped up to the Open level last week, and he made a move to the front in the second quarter, then he gamely repelled favored Crack Shot down the lane. He is obviously in peak form, and I would argue that he faces an easier field tonight with Crack Shot gone. He draws well, and he no doubt will once again be the one to catch.

#7 DONT DROP THE BALL is the horse that finished closest to Fusion in his past two starts, having been beaten by only a head here two weeks ago in that 1:48 1/5 mile. He made a couple of moves in that mile, and he grinded first-over relentlessly, pacing a 26-flat final quarter. I don't mind the wide draw for him here in a seven-horse field. He is the one that will likely be the biggest threat to Fusion here.

#1 DUBLIN DASHER sat third to the final turn following Fusion and Crack Shot last week, and he inherited the pocket when it was vacated by Crack Shot turning for home. He was no match for either of those rivals, but he did hold off a rival to stay for third. He can get another good following trip here, and he should be able to work his way into the Tri or Super.

#2 ITS SATURDAY NIGHT raced decently against Fusion last week, closing between horses in the stretch to get fifth now he moves inside. He is unlikely to threaten for the win here, but I could see him laying closer to the front and finding his way into the bottom of the exotics.

BEST BET: FUSION

Race 11 Selections

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#2 GOLDDIAMOND brought a perfect nine for nine record to the track three starts back, and he couldn't have found a worse time to break stride, racing in a \$65,000 stakes final. He missed a bit of time, then he shipped west and raced over the bigger Mohawk surface on October 5th. Unfortunately for him, he met a rival that jogged in his debut in 1:50 4/5, and that four-year-old came right back and won again in 1:50 3/5. This gelded son of Cattlewash raced well in defeat, then he drew a better post last week, and he was a predictable front end winner as the even money favorite. He moves inside here, but he looks good to repeat returning to the same class.

#8 RUN TO THE HILLS rolls in from Flamboro Downs having won three of his last four starts, the only blemish coming two starts back where he broke stride while making what looked like a decisive move out of the pocket around the last turn. If he stayed flat there, he would probably be riding a four-race win streak. His speed makes him dangerous.

#10 LOU WHO was an impressive winner here three starts back where he wired the field from the rail and lowered his lifetime best mark to 1:50 3/5 while beating non-winners of two. He stepped up for his next two starts and he came up against tough rival Alchemy Hanover, who won both of those miles. He looks like he is in a bit easier tonight, but he will obviously need to overcome post 10. He gets Jody Jamieson in the bike tonight, and he is worth a look at a price for late multi-race tickets.

#5 DENIMDAN DELIGHT had a nice summer racing on the B tracks where he took six wins. He brings some solid form with him from Kawartha Downs, and he moves into trainer Kyle Fellows barn tonight. He gets a good post to work from, and it is likely that teamster Nick Boyd will put him into play leaving the gate. This consistent gelding is worth a look for the exotics here.

Race 12 Selections

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#8 CAPTAIN HURLEY is only a two-time winner so far this season, but he raced decently a couple of classes higher than tonight's level last week where he closed for fourth. He gets to drop a couple of levels tonight, now he gets Travis Cullen in the bike. Cullen was in the bike for both of this gelding's wins this year, and he will likely send him forward from his wide post tonight. He gets top billing in the finale.

#2 CAPTAIN FEAR NOT dropped in class last week, and he got a good trip following eventual class dropping favored winner Jack Panic. He did manage to stay for third in a tight finish, and he seems to fit well versus these. He should be a threat tonight.

#6 CONVOY TWENTY TWO is worth a look tonight because he moves to the six-hole after racing from post 10 and the nine-hole in his previous two starts. He didn't fare terribly in those miles, and he almost surely will get a better trip racing closer to the leader tonight. He has shown that he can find the winner's circle having taken 14 wins in 54 starts in 2025-26.

#1 LOUS WORLD was in a mile where Silverwalls made front early and controlled the pace last week, and he raced okay to get fourth money. He will likely get a similar trip here starting from the rail, and I can see him landing in the bottom of the Tri or Super.

#4 LIVINTHEBEACHLIFE found a good spot last week, and he was driven aggressively to score as the 8 to 5 second choice. He moves back up now, and this field looks quite a bit tougher than the one that he handled last week. I'll use him on the bottom here.