Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Sunday, May 11th 2025

Race 1
#5 Casson
#2 Sipping History
#6 Seeking Magic

#3 Judy Chop

#5 CASSON is by 20% juvenile debut sire Caravaggio, out of a mare whose lone foal to race is Rideau Hall, who finished a distant second on debut behind Playmea Tune. He appears to have the most foundation of this group. #2 SIPPING HISTORY is by 15% juvenile debut sire Old Forester, out of a mare who has four winners in five foals to race with one debut winner. She trained at Palm Meadows before arriving at Woodbine. #6 SEEKING MAGIC is by Seeking the Soul, who has yet to have a juvenile winner in 10 foals to race, out of a mare who has not had a debut winner in four foals to start but has had three hit the board at first asking. #3 JUDY CHOP is by 3for-19 juvenile debut sire Curlin's Honor, out of a mare who has thrown debut winner Ninja Star, a restricted Stakes-winner at Gulfstream. She trained in Florida this winter; note that she was a vet scratch at Gulfstream.

Race 2

#7 Wet and Wild #5 Speedy Pal #2 Dissectologist #4 Stormin Dave

#7 WET AND WILD showed no affinity for the dirt at Oaklawn this winter. He is the only runner in this field with winter racing to his benefit and has done his best running in shorter sprints like this. #5 SPEEDY PAL hit the top three in each of his final four starts last season, including a good looking front-end score for this price when setting fast fractions on October 25. He will likely be trying to outkick Dissectologist for the early lead. #2 DISSECTOLOGIST got a comfortable lead and was able to go all the way to win a non-two for \$10,000 on December 7. He now drops for his return to the races and his first start at the non-three level. #4 STORMIN DAVE will shed the blinkers that did him no favours at the end of last season. He wants more distance than this but has solid speed figures and could earn a slice.

Race 3

#5 Brilliant Disguise #2 Serenading Kitten #1 Street Princess #4 Radio Goo Goo

#5 BRILLIANT DISGUISE has been beaten a nose in her two most recent starts at Parx. She ran well two starts ago around two turns and looks like the speed of this short field. #2 SERENADING KITTEN was a much improved horse when getting out to route distances last year, with three runner-up finishes in five starts routing, including one behind repeat-winner War Signal. If she is ready off of the layoff she looks like the main threat to Brilliant Disguise. #1 STREET PRINCESS showed

nothing in her debut in November in a race won by eventual Kentucky Oaks runner-up Drexel Hill. She has been breezing steadily and could show a little more in this short field. #4 RADIO GOO GOO broke a bit slowly and did not factor when debuting in an off-turf sprint at Saratoga last summer, a race won by next-out Grade 1-winner And One More Time. She trained at Palm Meadows over the winter and will add blinkers for her return.

Race 4

#1 Come On Big Lou #9 Serenade Point #2 Blackhillsheriff #10 Aim Don't Miss

#1 COME ON BIG LOU showed speed but wilted when kicking off his season in a short field of \$25,000 older foes. He raced well for this price in December and should be able to put in an improved effort here. #9 SERENADE POINT is by poor debut sire Seattle Serenade, but out of a mare who has thrown Stakes-winner Acting Out as well as debut winner and hard-knocker Warp Ride. He has breezed steadily this spring. #2 BLACKHILLSHERIFF is by 14% debut sire Reload, out of a mare who has not had a debut winner in seven foals to race. He comes into this race off of a slow gate breeze and two decent looking five furlong drills. #10 AIM DON'T MISS returns as a gelding after showing little in five starts at two.

Race 5
#4 Cost Basis
#2 Classic Dancer
#5 Highly Flammable
#1 Yorkville

#4 COST BASIS had a troubled trip and did not run terribly when attracting a \$10,000 claim at Oaklawn on April 13. He should show much more speed this time; very back-classy and an interesting contender in his Tapeta debut. #2 CLASSIC DANCER secured the lead and drew clear to an easy win for \$12,500 at Turfway on March 21. He is at his best when he gets those loose lead trips which is not a guarantee here. #5 HIGHLY FLAMMABLE rallied from last to be an okay fourth for \$35,000 over five furlongs at Gulfstream on March 22. He has not had the opportunity to go a more normal sprint distance in a while but has had success at six furlongs earlier in his career; should appreciate the class drop. #1 YORKVILLE ran some huge races on the Gulfstream dirt this winter including a recent second behind a monster in Freedom Road. His Tapeta form has never been nearly that good; we'll see how he fares in his return to Woodbine.

Race 6
#7 Holiday Snooze
#5 Awesome Empire
#3 Gotme Good
#2 Dark Danger

#7 HOLIDAY SNOOZE was beaten a head on opening day when taking on \$25,000 older horses. He gets to face fellow three-year-olds here and has hooked a field full of question marks. #5 AWESOME EMPIRE showed nothing in two starts at Gulfstream over the winter. New gelding gets class relief and adds blinkers in hopes of showing some more speed. #3 GOTME GOOD made one start at two, racing wide on the turf and never factoring. He is now a gelding and will add lasix and blinkers for his return. #2 DARK DANGER made his local debut on April 26, chasing the pace and running a credible third. He figures to be a speed threat on the stretch out from five furlongs.

Race 7
#4 Shinigami - Best Bet
#7 Arami's Speightster
#5 Deputy Daddy
#1 Maldini

#4 SHINIGAMI had a wide trip in his most recent start at Turfway, moving into contention on the far turn before evening out in a decent effort. The cutback to seven furlongs and the drop back in for \$40,000 should both be to his benefit. #7 ARAMI'S SPEIGHTSTER was never better than midpack in three maiden special weight attempts as a two-year-old. He returns as a gelding and is tagged for the first time. #5 DEPUTY DADDY was second-best when kicking off his season at this level on April 26. He was towards the back early in that five furlong sprint; we'll see if he's a little more forwardly placed with an extra ¼ mile to work with. #1 MALDINI will sprint for the first time after a fourth-place finish on the Gulfstream turf. His best race to date was his debut over the Tapeta over which he finished second.

Race 8
#1 Shade of Pale
#4 Shifty
#2 More Money Hunny
#3 Periwinkle

#1 SHADE OF PALE likely could have won her most recent start at Tampa but was a neck short behind a live foe who was able to save more ground. She ran a nice race to be second in her lone Tapeta try at Gulfstream; will sprint for the first time in her career here and catches a field of mainly three-year-olds. #4 SHIFTY had a solid but also unlucky juvenile campaign, winning the Catch a Glimpse guite nicely, racing well to be third against the boys in the Grey and running a troubled fourth as the favourite in the Princess Elizabeth. She finds a good spot for her return and looks the one to beat, #2 MORE MONEY HUNNY was scratched after getting loose in warmup on opening day. The only other four-year-old in this field may appreciate cutting back to seven furlongs after routing on the Gulfstream turf this winter. #3 PERIWINKLE had a very eye-catching maiden win in

October with several other good efforts last year. She has shown a very nice turn of foot on occasion and has some good-looking works prepping for her return.

Race 9
#6 Jimmy's Affair
#4 Nikita's Gem
#8 Really Thirsty
#3 Just a Gem

#6 JIMMY'S AFFAIR ran a very nice second at this level when coming back from an extended lavoff in November. but added blinkers and came up empty when taking on N1X/\$32,000 foes on December 14. The blinkers come back off for this drop back in to face non-twos. #4 NIKITA'S GEM hit the top two in five of nine starts last year with a very close fourth-place finish in the Ashbridges Bay Stakes also worth noting. Although winshy she is probably the most talented runner in this field but will likely be more primed next time at a route distance. #8 REALLY THIRSTY could be the main speed in her first start in about 11 months. California-bred breezed guickly over the Gulfstream Tapeta on April 20. #3 JUST A GEM broke her maiden for this tag with an impressive rally on November 17 before finishing third against allowance company on December 7. She should be able to put in a good effort to start her season here.

Race 10
#3 Road to Versailles
#5 Pet Sounds
#11 Sparklet
#7 Restoring Order
#10 Bingo's Grind

#3 ROAD TO VERSAILLES was second-best after encountering some traffic when returning from Gulfstream on April 27. He should be well-positioned with the stretch out from five furlongs. #5 PET SOUNDS ran more good races than bad last year, especially when factoring in wide trips in some of the less-impressive looking lines. His maiden win came at this seven furlong trip; speed figures fit. #11 SPARKLET was 2 1/2 lengths behind Road to Versailles when finishing fourth on April 27. He probably needed that start after the winter off; could be a speed factor. #7 RESTORING ORDER did no running in two tries on the dirt at Laurel this winter but had a nice maiden win for this price when last racing here on December 15. #10 BINGO'S GRIND was at least threewide on both turns when last racing at Tampa. Threeyear-old has run quite a few decent races; could be an interesting bomb in his local debut.