

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson  
Sunday, May 25th 2025

Race 1

**#6 Su Legado Vive - Best Bet**

**#5 Foresters Exec**

**#4 Cloud Rider**

**#2 Arctic Blonde**

#6 SU LEGADO VIVE is by 14% debut sire Reload, out of a mare who has not had a debut winner in six foals to start but has had four winners including the talented Trading Bay. She looks to have been breezing sharp and has found a field without a ton of speed. #5 FORESTERS EXEC chased the much-the-best winner early before folding when facing maiden allowance company on May 4. Her best start to date was her career debut, her only try at this level. #4 CLOUD RIDER made an early move into contention before emptying out when facing maiden allowance company at Turfway on February 21. She has had good results locally and is arguably the one to beat. #2 ARCTIC BLONDE was a distant third, 5 ¼ lengths behind Cloud Rider when last competing on November 9; not without a chance.

Race 2

**#6 Punkin Boy**

**#3 So Called Vacation**

**#1 Adapted**

**#4 Calling Home**

#6 PUNKIN BOY rallied from the back to be third in a six furlong sprint against three-year-olds on May 3. His pedigree heavily suggests two turns will be ideal for him. #3 SO CALLED VACATION was a good second as the favourite when kicking off his season for \$10,000 eight days ago. Win-shy gelding is taking a sharp rise in value but is hooking a field primarily filled with questionable three-year-olds. #1 ADAPTED finished nicely and was just a head behind Punkin Boy on May 3. He has three siblings to race, all route winners and he draws a good post. #4 CALLING HOME had a pair of runner-up finishes in three starts at two, all around two turns. He may need a start off of the layoff but definitely is worth consideration.

Race 3

**#3 Road to Versailles**

**#1 Gun Court**

**#5 Take Charge Sousi**

**#2 Glasweigian**

#3 ROAD TO VERSAILLES was claimed for \$15,000 while running his fourth consecutive runner-up finish on May 11. He could land a perfect inside stalking trip if the two inside of him engage in a speed duel. #1 GUN COURT missed a good chunk of last season but returned in November with two solid efforts at the OS/\$40,000 level. He is offered for \$25,000 for the first time and could be tough to catch as the inside speed. #5 TAKE CHARGE SOUSI swung wide and never made a dent in his only start of 2024 on November 3. His 2023 form would make him very tough; we'll see what he offers after

another hit of the reset button. #2 GLASWEIGIAN dueled on the lead but was second best behind the closing Frost Bitten on May 10; he is pretty consistent but risks dueling with Gun Court early.

Race 4

**#4 Classic Dancer**

**#2 Last American Exit**

**#5 Pine Knoll**

**#3 Enchant Me**

#4 CLASSIC DANCER will have to outsprint Pine Knoll to the early lead but may be able to do so. He was a comfortable winner while attracting a \$15,000 claim two weeks ago and could have the confidence to handle this rise in class. #2 LAST AMERICAN EXIT was able to run down Pine Knoll to win at this level on May 4. If the pace duel between the stablemate and Classic Dancer materializes he should be the one to take advantage and double up. #5 PINE KNOLL shook clear in the stretch after an early duel but could not hold off Last American Exit on May 4. He is capable of showing serious speed on the right day but it's not always easy to figure out when that day will be; may be overlooked in favour of Last American Exit. #3 ENCHANT ME closed out 2024 with a win against \$15,000 non-threes and could run on for a minor share in his return to the races.

Race 5

**#2 Next Pitch**

**#1 Daddy Has Diamonds**

**#4 Most Likely**

**#5 Diomedes**

#2 NEXT PITCH chased the pace but faded in the stretch when returning from an extended layoff on May 10. He may have simply needed a start off of the bench and the quick turnaround seems like a positive. #1 DADDY HAS DIAMONDS made a nice rally to finish third when kicking off his season on May 4. It looks like there is plenty of speed in this race for him to rally into. #4 MOST LIKELY had early trouble, raced wide and came up empty in the Woodstock. He is tagged for the first time and should be able to turn his form around with a clean trip. #5 DIOMEDES came up empty when trying the Keeneland dirt on April 19. His synthetic form was very solid last year; not out of the question.

Race 6

**#1 Dark Screen**

**#7 Gilt Edge**

**#2 Awesome Crusader**

**#3 Kekoa**

#1 DARK SCREEN had two very nice wins as a two-year-old but did not handle running back in nine days well when disappointing in the Clarendon. He has had the winter to reset and could be the controlling speed from the inside. #7 GILT EDGE had a tough time when graduating to the N2X/\$50,000 level last year and came up empty when trying the Tampa dirt in March. He should find himself more at home at this level. #2 AWESOME CRUSADER ran a good third in his local debut behind the pacesetter Its Time to Shine, who came back to win an

N1X/\$32,000 on May 18. Win-shy type definitely has the talent to win here but will likely be a short price for the Drexler barn. #3 KEKOA had a very nice juvenile campaign with two wins and a handful of good Stakes efforts. He will add blinkers for his three-year-old debut.

#### Race 7

##### **#3 Let's Go Souper**

##### **#2 Orion Beach**

##### **#7 She's Pretty**

##### **#6 North York**

#3 LET'S GO SOUPER is by 13% debut sire Maclean's Music, out of a mare who has had two claiming winners in three foals to race. She had a sharp gate workout in company with a stablemate on May 3. #2 ORION BEACH is by 13% debut sire Omaha Beach and is the first foal to race out of Grade 3-winning sprinter Alnilah. She worked well with a pair of stablemates from the gate on May 10. #7 SHE'S PRETTY had a less-than-perfect break but showed good closing interest to be fourth when debuting in a race won by the dominant Our Lady. Daughter of Liam's Map has reason to improve off of that effort. #6 NORTH YORK hooked tough company in her two-year-old season including Winterberry and Kentucky Oaks runner-up Drexel Hill, but did not run a bad race and is worth a look off of the layoff here.

#### Race 8

##### **#8 Innisfree Isle**

##### **#5 Vintage Ring**

##### **#3 Handsintheair**

##### **#4 Earendel**

#8 INNISFREE ISLE is by 15% debut sire Bolt d'Oro, out of a multiple Stakes-placed mare who has produced Stakes-winning router Lac Macaza. She had a solid work from the gate in company with a pair of stablemates on May 10. #5 VINTAGE RING was claimed for \$100,000 from her debut at Keeneland, then ran a distant second behind runaway stablemate Our Lady when making her local debut on May 4. She could keep improving as she gains experience. #3 HANDSINTHEAIR ran a decent fourth with a respectable speed figure when debuting over the Turfway Tapeta, but failed to kick on in the stretch after chasing the pacesetter in a turf route at Keeneland second time out. Expensive yearling purchase will appreciate the return to a synthetic sprint. #4 EARENDEL chased the pace but faded to sixth in the same race that Vintage Ring exits. She improved with racing under her belt last year and could repeat that trend.

#### Race 9

##### **#2 Frac Dancer**

##### **#7 Lucky Score**

##### **#1 Sigiloso**

##### **#6 Rapid Grey**

#2 FRAC DANCER is undefeated in three starts but has not been seen since March 2024 when winning the Texas Glitter over the Gulfstream Tapeta. He is very fast and could be the controlling speed in a race where the main threats are closers. #7 LUCKY SCORE is the class of this field, a multiple Graded Stakes-winner who finished third in the 2023 Woodbine Mile and ran respectably in the Breeders' Cup Mile that year. He rallied to be third behind the speedy Poulin in O T in a 5 ½ furlong dash on April 27, his first start in nearly a year, and should be tighter for his second start off of the bench. #1 SIGILOS0 ran a respectable third behind the pacesetting Junior Hot Shot while attracting a \$32,000 claim from his local debut on April 27. He was multiple Stakes-placed in his younger years and has a good record on synthetic; a candidate worth consideration. #6 RAPID GREY won two in a row before a disappointing effort in his first try at this level on November 15 and looks like a fringe contender in his return off of the layoff.

#### Race 10

##### **#9 Silent and Sinful**

##### **#2 Bella Classica**

##### **#5 Midsummer Mo**

##### **#6 Just Magnificent**

##### **#3 Pioneer Mission**

#9 SILENT AND SINFUL chased the pace before evening out in a 5 ½ furlong dash on April 27. That race has already produced next out winner Miss Demanding; she may be the main speed with the stretch out to seven furlongs. #2 BELLA CLASSICA is by 11% debut sire Classic Empire, out of a mare who has thrown Cup and Saucer-winner Muskoka Gold as well as Stakes-placed Lunch With Bernie. She was narrowly outworked by a stablemate from the gate on May 17. #5 MIDSUMMER MO was wide and uncovered throughout when routing on the Gulfstream turf for her first start in 203 days on April 12. Her local form last year was solid; could turn things around with a better trip. #6 JUST MAGNIFICENT gave reason to be optimistic last year, racing four times and hitting the board in each of them save for a try in the Algoma. Her speed figures put her in the hunt. #3 PIONEER MISSION's best start to date was her debut sprinting on the Fair Grounds turf. She may appreciate cutting back to a long sprint after two route tries.