Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Saturday, June 7th 2025

Race 1

#1 Gun Court #5 Ready to Collect #3 Daddy Send Money #4 Field Hockey

#1 GUN COURT made a small number of starts in 2024 with a couple of good results towards the end of the year. Quick gelding drops in for \$25,000 while trying turf for the first time and looks very live for his first start off of the bench. #5 READY TO COLLECT showed speed and gave way to be third when kicking off his season on the Tapeta on May 10. He is definitely better on turf and should be a factor in his second start off of the bench. #3 DADDY SEND MONEY did some very good running over this course last year, hitting the board in three of five starts over it including a good third behind the likes of Red River Rebel. He is a win threat but may need a start off of the bench. #4 FIELD HOCKEY had a runner up finish at this level over this course last year. Difficult gate horse could be around for a minor share.

Race 2

#6 Shameless Affair #5 Fanny M #4 Ondine Lady #3 Red Mood

#6 SHAMELESS AFFAIR made a wide rally on the turn which she was unable to sustain in the stretch when finishing seventh for \$25,000 two weeks ago. She looks competitive with this group. #5 FANNY M caught a field where she was quick enough to make the lead and not get headed for this price on May 10. She will tackle older horses for the first time here. #4 ONDINE LADY showed unexpected speed and ran fairly well to be fifth in a five furlong sprint on opening day but failed to threaten in her second start off of the bench on May 17. She drops in for \$15,000 and has the speed figures to be a major factor here. #3 RED MOOD was a vet scratch on May 24 and now reappears. She was very hit and miss last year but her good efforts put her in line here.

Race 3
#3 Winterberry
#4 Aristella
#1 Shifty
#5 Nata Trouble

#3 WINTERBERRY pressed a fast pace and flattened out when kicking off her season in the Star Shoot on opening day. The Glorious Song-winner could be the main speed with a sharp break. #4 ARISTELLA had a wide trip when kicking off her season in the Ruling Angel. She should find this company a bit easier for her second start off of the bench. #1 SHIFTY got an easy lead and kicked clear to dominate N2L allowance company on May 11. The Catch a Glimpse-winner will not have as easy a time on the lead this time. #5 NATA TROUBLE was a distant

second behind Shifty on May 11 and figures to be a fringe player.

Race 4
#7 Likely Story
#3 Sipping History
#1 Meilani
#5 Border Czar

#7 LIKELY STORY is by Charlatan, who is two-for-two with his first-timers so far, and is out of the multiple Stakes-winner Caren. She enters her debut off of four decent-looking local breezes. #3 SIPPING HISTORY overcame a poor start and looked like a serious threat turning for home but was second-best when debuting on May 11. Having that good start under her belt could put her at a serious advantage. #1 MEILANI is by 17% juvenile debut sire Omaha Beach, out of a dam who has had three winners in as many foals to race including Stakes-winner High Front. She outworked a stablemate from the gate on May 22. #5 BORDER CZAR is by first crop sire Beau Liam, out of a dam who has thrown debut winner Sassy and Bold. This barn already has a twoyear-old winner at the meet; she worked evenly with a stablemate from the gate on May 31.

Race 5
#1 Cara Cara
#3 Miss Vyvyanne
#2 Zana
#6 Rule the Waves

#1 CARA CARA wheels back in nine days after being outkicked by Little Teddy on the Tapeta. She loves the inner turf and could be able to finally win this condition here. #3 MISS VYVYANNE was claimed for \$32,000 when being outfinished by Little Teddy on April 26. She was able to hold off Cara Cara for a win at this level last year but does not seem quite as good at this point. #2 ZANA did not show anything in an abbreviated campaign last year. A winner over this course in 2023, she could be a live closer if the pace falls apart. #6 RULE THE WAVES was an impressive debut winner in July but was sidelined after faltering in deep stretch in her second start. She races out of condition and will make her first turf try for her return from the layoff.

Race 6 #9 Rarified (IRE) #6 Mikelle #7 Flashy Motor #10 Mew N Me

#9 RARIFIED (IRE) had three narrow defeats in four starts in France last year with one try against Group 3 company as well. She has had a very steady string of breezes coming into this and looks very live. #6 MIKELLE had a nice rally to be beaten a head on debut last June before being sidelined. She should have no problem taking to the turf. #7 FLASHY MOTOR has had two good efforts since arriving from Gulfstream. She makes her second start with blinkers on here; one of her best efforts came in a turf sprint at Gulfstream back in November. #10 MEW N ME is by 14% debut sire Mitole, out of a

mare who has had two winners in three foals to start including a debut winner at Grants Pass. She had a sharp breeze in company on May 14 but has a tough post to overcome for her debut.

Race 7
#2 Verdejo
#1 Reflexivity (IRE)
#3 Anam Cara
#8 Stolen

#2 VERDEJO made a belated rally to be third in her first start off of the bench on May 17. She could have a more contested pace to rally into here; almost never runs a bad one. #1 REFLEXIVITY (IRE) closed out 2024 with good turf form in New York after being claimed for \$40,000. Speedy mare should not have a problem adapting to the Tapeta but runs the risk of getting caught in a duel with Maximum Fifty. #3 ANAM CARA has shown some closing interest in both of her starts so far this season, most recently finishing third behind Garnet and Gold. She draws well and should be able to earn another share. #8 STOLEN jumps up in class off of an impressive win against starter/optional \$15,000 company. Her speed figures are strong and she comes into this with plenty of confidence.

Race 8
#2 Silent Reserve
#5 Forester's Fortune
#3 Light the Lamp
#1 Forest Buzz

#2 SILENT RESERVE had some nice efforts over this course in 2024 including an N2X/\$50,000 win with a 92 Beyer. He looks like he will get loose on the lead here and should take some catching. #5 FORESTER'S FORTUNE has been a very nice closing sprinter for many seasons. He was disqualified from a nice win last year and otherwise picked up quite a few checks; he may not have guite as much pace as he would like to run at but expect him to be finishing nicely, #3 LIGHT THE LAMP forced the pace before fading in an N1X/\$32,000 on May 18. Although winless on turf he has had some very nice efforts over this course; hopefully he can rebound in his second start off of the bench. #1 FOREST BUZZ will sprint over this turf course for the first time here. He had a deceptively good fifth place effort going 7 ½ furlongs over this course last year; a \$32,000 claim in December and could be sneakily live here for the new connections.

Race 9

#5 Without Cause - Best Bet #3 Shotgun Wedding #4 Hoshiana (FR) #8 Party On

#5 WITHOUT CAUSE dueled on the lead before giving way to be fifth in the stretch in her first try against winners routing on the Gulfstream turf on March 22. She cuts back to a sprint here and should not be on the lead; there looks to be a lot of speed to run at here. #3 SHOTGUN WEDDING ran very gamely in the Ruling Angel on May 17, dueling down the stretch and digging in to be beaten

just a half-length despite finishing fourth. She was Stakes-placed on turf last year. #4 HOSHIANA (FR) broke her maiden in France last year and closed out her campaign with a decent fourth over heavy going against winners. Blinkers are added for her North American debut. #8 PARTY ON went gate to wire to win at this level on opening day but was disqualified and now re-appears; gets to try the turf for the first time here.

Race 10
#6 Just Pray
#1 Em Chamas
#9 Wozniacki
#2 Citori
#7 Tanzanite Lily

#6 JUST PRAY is by 14% debut sire Reload, out of an unraced dam who has thrown multiple Stakes-winner Rockcrest. She trained at Palm Meadows over the winter and should be ready to go; note that she was a vet scratch on May 18. #1 EM CHAMAS is by 8% debut sire Flameaway, out of a dam who was beaten a half-length on debut at Turfway and has thrown one winner in three foals to race. She had a good gate work in company with two stablemates on May 10. #9 WOZNIACKI is another Reload, out of a mare who has had three winners in as many foals to race including restricted Stakes-winner Jim's Hope and hard-knocking sprinter Ol' Blondie. She outworked a stablemate from the gate on May 31; has to overcome the outside post. #2 CITORI was a beaten favourite when dropping in for \$25,000 and getting claimed on May 18. She could be a short price as one with some form in a race with many first time starters. #7 TANZANITE LILY is yet another Reload, and is the first foal to start out of an unraced dam. Her breezes have been steady though unremarkable.