

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson  
Sunday, June 8th 2025

Race 1

- #6 Country Living**
- #4 Caught Speeding**
- #3 Secret Storm**
- #1 Sol de Verano**

#6 COUNTRY LIVING ran a big second beaten just a neck at the OS/\$40,000 level on May 18. He takes a plunge in for \$15,000 and should be tough to beat. #4 CAUGHT SPEEDING had a couple of good efforts at this level to close out his 2024 campaign. He may need a start off of the bench but figures to be live. #3 SECRET STORM raced wide and ran a credible fourth at this level eight days ago. He gets a weight break with live bug Forde and should be able to earn another share. #1 SOL DE VERANO passed a couple of tiring foes when kicking off his season for \$25,000 on May 10. He could move forward with that start under his belt and a drop in value.

Race 2

- #7 Backroadsbilly**
- #4 Tentomidnight**
- #6 Happy Quad**
- #1 Backonthechaingang**

#7 BACKROADSBILLY debuted for this price in May 2024, making an early move before being outfinished by Celentano. He looks like he should have enough pace to rally into; we'll see if he's ready off of the extended layoff. #4 TENTOMIDNIGHT was second-best as the heavy favourite when plunging in for \$15,000 on May 16, attracting a claim. She raced competitively at the maiden special weight level last year; adds blinkers while taking on the boys. #6 HAPPY QUAD stalked the pace and looked very dangerous turning for home but was second-best while posting a solid 66 Beyer on May 17. A repeat of that effort will make him very tough here but he did regress noticeably off of a strong first effort last year. #1 BACKONTHECHAINGANG ran on evenly to be fourth in the same race that Happy Quad exits. He could be well positioned with an inside stalking trip.

Race 3

- #7 Making His Mark**
- #6 Rude Procedure**
- #4 Delta Force**
- #5 Perfect Sparkle**

#7 MAKING HIS MARK is by 12% juvenile debut sire Souper Speedy, out of a mare who has produced a few winners though nothing of note. He does not appear to be catching a stellar field; the Ross barn is off to a hot start. #6 RUDE PROCEDURE is by 5% juvenile debut sire Authentic, out of a dam who did not break her maiden

and who's only other foal to race has not won either. He had a fast gate work in company with a stablemate on May 28. #4 DELTA FORCE is by 9% juvenile debut sire Hard Spun, and is the first foal to race out of a Pioneer of the Nile mare. He narrowly outworked a stablemate from the gate on May 25. #5 PERFECT SPARKLE veered in at the start but showed some finish to be fifth on debut. She has the advantage of some experience under her belt; blinkers are being added.

Race 4

- #6 Big Screen Boss - Best Bet**
- #3 Signature Sir**
- #7 Westminster**
- #2 Fine Style**

#6 BIG SCREEN BOSS tracked the early pace and made a bid but was a clear second best behind Classy War when debuting on May 17. So long as he doesn't regress from that effort he should be a factor here. #3 SIGNATURE SIR had some trouble in the stretch when finishing third on debut on May 24. We'll see if he can improve with a clean trip. #7 WESTMINSTER was training at Hastings this spring before shipping here to finish off his preparations. Stakes-placed gelding was a winner on debut but was disqualified; at least that showed he can fire fresh. Speed figures are solid; the surface is the question. #2 FINE STYLE is by 14% debut sire Reload, and is a half to debut-winner Ante Up Alex. He worked evenly with company from the gate on May 24.

Race 5

- #6 Bankingtonamiracle**
- #5 Sedbury's Ghost**
- #2 Shadow Realm**
- #3 Speedy Bear**

#6 BANKINGONAMIRACLE could be the main speed in this race for his first start off of the layoff. He was able to win a maiden special weight last year when securing an early advantage; we'll see if he can do the same here. #5 SEDBURY'S GHOST had a good inside stalking trip and burst by to break his maiden in June before being put on the sidelines. That win came against open maiden special weight company and he gets to take on OS/\$40,000 foes for his return to the races. #2 SHADOW REALM threw in a clunker as the 2-1 favourite in his first start off of the layoff on May 4. Multiple Stakes-placed gelding is offered for the tag despite being Ontario Sired and comes into this race off of a slow five furlong breeze over the training track. #3 SPEEDY BEAR showed speed and proved best when debuting for \$25,000 on May 17. The 70 Beyer he earned for that effort is the highest last race figure in the field; definitely worth a look.

Race 6

- #4 Velociraptor**

## **#2 Proudly Hailed (GB)**

## **#5 Biles (IRE)**

## **#3 Beyond Adversity**

#4 VELOCIRAPTOR came up completely empty when facing auction-restricted company at Churchill on May 10. His previous form at Oaklawn was not bad; could be the lone speed in his turf debut. #2 PROUDLY HAILED (GB) rallied from last to be second over 7 ½ furlongs in Indiana on May 8 and now ships north. He did have a good effort going five furlongs at Gulfstream in February and may appreciate the long E. P. Taylor stretch. #5 BILES (IRE) is a four-year-old debuting with strong European pedigree to back her. She has been breezing steadily including a winter at Turfway; should be ready for her debut. #3 BEYOND ADVERSITY had a few fringe efforts at this level last year and could be running on for another small share to kick off his campaign.

## **Race 7**

## **#3 Souper Dormy**

## **#4 Pine Knoll**

## **#7 Western Whirl**

## **#2 Highland Life**

#3 SOUPER DORMY secured the early lead and was never truly threatened when winning the Welcome Back Handicap on May 4. Moon Landing came out of that race to win an N1X/\$32,000; could wire them again. #4 PINE KNOLL has had two strong efforts for \$25,000 at the meet, winning last time over stablemate Last American Exit. He has the speed to be tactical and could double up on the rise. #7 WESTERN WHIRL could be the one to put the pressure on Souper Dormy early. Speedy son of Twirling Candy was run down late by a neck at the hands of Arabian Prince on December 1 and now returns as a gelding. #2 HIGHLAND LIFE had some trouble approaching the turn but rallied and finished a credible fourth at this level on May 18; should be finishing well again.

## **Race 8**

## **#6 Mansetti**

## **#4 Notorious Gangster**

## **#2 Forty N Five**

## **#7 Regal Guest**

#6 MANSETTI proved he did not need the lead when stalking and pouncing en route to a going away victory in the Woodstock on April 27. His hit-and-miss tendencies are a bit of a concern but he does look like the one to beat if he can run back to that last effort. #4 NOTORIOUS GANGSTER rallied from last to be third behind Mansetti in the Woodstock. The Coronation Futurity winner does not get his ideal route distance yet but he should appreciate the extra furlong of ground he gets to work with here. #2 FORTY N FIVE prevailed by a nose when taking on older N2L allowance company on May 10,

galloping out strongly. He may go a little overlooked here compared to those with more Stakes credentials. #7 REGAL GUEST looked very good when kicking off his season with a win against OS/\$40,000 foes. The full brother to Pink Lloyd obviously has an acid test here but has done nothing wrong to date.

## **Race 9**

## **#1 Bee Me**

## **#2 Dontgobackonurword**

## **#5 Perfectworks**

## **#6 Rhumbaba**

## **#3 Holiday Snooze**

#1 BEE ME had a clear lead in midstretch but was unable to hold when kicking off his season for this price on May 24. Blinkers are being re-added though he may be better racing off of the pace. #2 DONTGOBACKONURWORD is by 22% debut sire Vekoma, out of a mare who has not been fantastic but has thrown four winners. Fairly inexpensive Ocala purchase has been working steadily. #5 PERFECTWORKS raced wide, made a bid on the turn and ended up a non-threatening third with a solid 65 Beyer in his debut on May 17. He could be the one to beat in his second attempt. #6 RHUMBABA showed some ability in his first few starts at Hastings last year but came up empty on August 16 and was put away. If he takes to the surface he isn't hooking an impossible group. #3 HOLIDAY SNOOZE ran on to be a decent fourth when jumping up to this level on May 11 and is not out of the question with these.

