Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Sunday, June 29th 2025

Race 1 #2 Sky Devine #3 Tentomidnight #6 Ring Bit #7 Kimberlina

#2 SKY DEVINE made just two starts in Florida last year before being sidelined. She wintered at Palm Meadows and has had a few quick local breezes; takes a big class drop for her return to the races. #3 TENTOMIDNIGHT added blinkers and took on \$25,000 boys in her first start off of the claim on June 8, weakening after an early speed duel. The blinkers come off for the return to a \$15,000 fillies race. #6 RING BIT showed speed but tired when debuting for this tag on May 30; we'll see if she can improve with a start under her belt. #7 KIMBERLINA has not been a serious contender in two starts for \$25,000 so far this season; could land on the fringes with the drop in for \$15,000.

Race 2 #5 Master Spy - Best Bet #8 Confusing #6 Wilberforce #3 Bet N Win

#5 MASTER SPY was a very game second behind the rail-skimming Determined Fury when kicking off his sason for \$7,500 on May 16. He had a very wide trip when turfing here in October and did not like the two turn trip of the Fort Erie turf earlier last season; I would not hold that turf form against him. #8 CONFUSING could be the main speed here. He faded after setting the pace in a route on May 23; should appreciate the drop from the starter/optional \$15,000 level. #6 WILBERFORCE has made two starts on the dirt at Fort Erie so far this season and has not fired. Dirt is definitely his least preferred surface; he should last year that he is a competitive Woodbine horse and does not look out of place here. #3 BET N WIN exits a rallving second behind Hev Cue for \$7,500. Turf may not be his preferred surface but he can run on for a share.

Race 3 #6 Big Bold and First #4 Making His Mark #3 Time Zapper #1 Bank On Big Winner

#6 BIG BOLD AND FIRST ran an okay though even race when debuting on June 15. He adds blinkers and could move forward in his second attempt. #4 MAKING HIS MARK was midpack throughout when debuting against maiden special weight company on June 8. He drops to the OS/\$40,000 condition while adding blinkers and lasix. #3 TIME ZAPPER is by 4-for-76 juvenile debut sire Shaman Ghost, out of a mare who has not had a debut winner in four foals to race. He has a solid-looking worktab with a good work from the gate in company with a stablemate on June 7. #1 BANK ON BIG WINNER is by 10% juvenile debut sire Big Screen, and is the first foal to race out of a mare who did not break her maiden. We'll see how he handles the rail draw for his debut.

Race 4

#1 Alley Oop Johnny #2 Swan Lake #4 C My Meister #3 Justintimeforwine

#1 ALLEY OOP JOHNNY had a few heartbreaking losses at Gulfstream this winter. Hard-knocking veteran loves the inner turf and should have a great stalking trip with some speed to run at. #2 SWAN LAKE was finishing very nicely to be third in his local debut, then got onto this course on June 13 and surged late for an impressive score at the \$15,000 level. He rises in value but should be live with the right pace setup. #4 C MY MEISTER was lightly raced last year but did have good results including a win at this level over this course in July. We'll see if he can fire with his best off of the layoff. #3

JUSTINTIMEFORWINE dueled on the lead and emptied out when taking on a tough N1X/\$32,000 group on May 31. If he can outsprint Peja Du and get loose on the lead he has a shot to wire them.

Race 5

#5 Catch a Tiger #6 Dontgobackonurword #2 Kokomo #3 Classy War

#5 CATCH A TIGER was a distant third behind the solid Latch the Hatch when racing over the Gulfstream dirt on May 23. He should have the speed to be tactically positioned here and is catching a field with plenty of class-risers. #6 DONTGOBACKONURWORD saved ground from midpack and burst clear to break his maiden on debut at the OS/\$40,000 level on June 8. He has returned to breeze quickly and could double up. #2 KOKOMO was part of a four-way speed duel with set things up perfectly for Oscar Joy, finishing a nonthreatening second to that foe on May 17. He looks like he could be the guickest out of the gate here. #3 CLASSY WAR made the early lead and shook clear down the stretch to break his maiden for \$40,000 on May 17; he runs the risk of using too much too early to go with Kokomo.

Race 6

#2 Four Strong Winds #5 Roar of the Crowd #7 Shadow Realm #4 Little Alexa

#2 FOUR STRONG WINDS returned from a near-two year layoff on May 17, racing as part of a four-way duel for the first ¼ mile before retreating. He drops in for \$40,000 and deserves a mulligan for that first start. #5 ROAR OF THE CROWD had a wide trip and ran a decent fourth over the turf course June 15. He shows up with a good effort more often than not and has competitive speed figures. #7 SHADOW REALM threw in a clunker in his first start off of the bench but returned on June 8 with a runner-up finish behind Sedbury's Ghost. He was multiple Stakes-placed as a two-year-old and should be able to be competitive here again. #4 LITTLE ALEXA was able to win at first asking for \$25,000 on May 23 over next-out winner Sil's Gamble. She rises in value while taking on the boys in her first start against winners.

Race 7

#3 Silent Reserve #5 One True Gentleman #2 Ready to Collect #4 He Shoots He Wins

#3 SILENT RESERVE was picked up at the wire by Light the Lamp when kicking off his season in the first leg of the Turf Sprint series. He should be the main speed here and could hold on in his second start off of the bench. #5 ONE TRUE GENTLEMAN ran an okay fourth behind some solid foes at this level when returning from the layoff on June 8. Although Silent Reserve looks tough, the rest of this field does not look out of reach, and his turf record is solid. #2 READY TO COLLECT was a comfortable winner against \$25,000 non-twos on June 7 over this course and distance, earning a possibly inflated 82 Beyer; we'll see how he handles this jump up in class. #4 HE SHOOTS HE WINS was not a serious threat when taking on N2X/\$50,000 foes on June 12; could be around for a small share at this level.

Race 8 #5 Junior Hot Shot #2 Oscar Joy #1 Paintthetownsilver #7 Speed Figures

#5 JUNIOR HOT SHOT made a wide, premature move approaching the turn, began to tire in the stretch but was then interfered with and had to take up sharply when last racing on May 18. Multiple Stakes-winning colt should be able to rebound with a better trip. #2 OSCAR JOY could not have asked for a better setup when making his local debut on May 29, sitting fifth behind a four-way speed battle then pouncing in the stretch. He takes a step up in class here but could be a threat off of that confidence booster, #1 PAINTTHETOWNSILVER closed out 2024 with a very good fourth at this level behind super tough foes like Old Chestnut and Simcoe. He should have pace to run at in this field. #7 SPEED FIGURES set the pace but wilted to be fifth over the inner turf at this level on June 12. Blinkers are coming off for the first time in his career.

Race 9 #1 Forester's Fortune #6 Light the Lamp #3 Armstrong #2 Moon Landing

#1 FORESTER'S FORTUNE had a wide trip and could not make a serious dent when kicking off his season in the first leg of this series. He draws a better post today and could have more of a late impact. #6 LIGHT THE LAMP stalked the pace and was able to pick up Silent Reserve at the wire to win the first leg of this series. The pace scenario in this race is a bit more murky; he could end up on the lead with the stretch out from five furlongs. #3 ARMSTRONG showed late kick to finish third in the first leg of this series, his second start off of the layoff. He had a wide trip in his only previous try over the EP Taylor; worth a look. #2 MOON LANDING was given a long line and looked very good when posting his lifetime best Beyer in his May 29 win. Hopefully he is over his bad gate habits; turf is the biggest question mark for him.

Race 10 #1 Springer #7 Velociraptor #4 Red Weaver #9 Fighting the Wars #2 Fine Style

#1 SPRINGER dueled on the lead before tiring when routing over this course on June 12. The break has been an issue for him at time but I do think sprinting is what he wants. #7 VELOCIRAPTOR chased the pace but lacked a serious late kick when making his local debut in a maiden special weight on the EP Taylor turf. He shortens up a bit while dropping in for a tag for the first time. #4 RED WEAVER had two good runner-up finishes with solid Beyers in two starts last year. He could be a pace factor in his three-year-old debut. #9 FIGHTING THE WARS drops in for \$40,000 after offering no late resistance in a maiden special weight over the main track May 24. #2 FINE STYLE did not have the cleanest of trips when debuting on June 8. Blinkers are being added; could be worth a look at a bit of a price.