

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Thursday, July 3rd 2025

Race 1

#6 Rookie Court

#7 No Visor

#1 Thatsitthatsall

#2 Mitole Power

#6 ROOKIE COURT was second-best behind the class-plunging Tivali when kicking off her season on May 23. She should be well positioned stretching out to seven furlongs. #7 NO VISOR came with a late surge to win a maiden \$10,000 over this distance on June 5. She takes a slight drop for her first try against winners and has a shot to double up. #1 THATSITTHATSALL swung wide and made a bit of a rally to be fifth, a length behind Rookie Court on May 23; win-shy but in the hunt. #2 MITOLE POWER raced evenly for when adding blinkers \$15,000 on turf to kick off her campaign on June 21. The blinkers are removed and she gets back to her preferred surface.

Race 2

#3 Scary Boo

#9 Let's Be First

#2 Sultry Sophie

#8 Ami's Cry

#3 SCARY BOO did not fire when trying a turf route at the \$15,000 level on June 14. She was racing well in Tapeta sprints in May and could rebound here. #9 LET'S BE FIRST was sent to the front but gave way to be third, just missing place when dropping in for this tag on June 12. She should be quicker than Sultry Sophie early; we'll see if she can control the pace. #2 SULTRY SOPHIE cuts back a furlong after setting the pace and giving way late to be third on June 5; figures to be well-supported. #8 AMI'S CRY showed nothing as a two-year-old but improved greatly in her three-year-old debut, rallying to pick up second over Let's Be First on June 12. If the pace falls apart she could be primed for another big effort.

Race 3

#1 Iron Pyrite - Best Bet

#2 Ondine Lady

#4 Cymbal Court

#6 I'm Tenacious

#1 IRON PYRITE chased the pace before fading while racing a bit wide in her seasonal bow on June 14. She takes a drop in class for her second start off of the bench and could land a good inside stalking trip. #2 ONDINE LADY just missed by a head when making her first start against non-threes on June 20. She has gotten into great

form since getting back into the \$15,000 level and figures to be live again. #4 CYMBAL COURT closed out 2024 with a runner-up effort for \$25,000. She takes a drop in for \$15,000 for her return to the races. If she is ready off of the bench she should be live but I wouldn't trust her at too short a price. #6 I'M TENACIOUS ran a solid third for this tag on May 23 but regressed when bumping up to the \$25,000 level on June 14; rebound candidate.

Race 4

#2 Unheard

#1 Periwinkle

#7 Worry Less

#5 My Cash Factor

#2 UNHEARD got back to the turf on June 14 but had a tough post and had some traffic in the stretch. She draws much better this time and should appreciate the drop in for \$25,000. #1 PERIWINKLE has raced well but been a bit outclassed in two starts this season. She continues to slide down the class ladder and will try turf for the first time here; the surface is an obvious question but she has the best speed figures in the field. #7 WORRY LESS set the pace but could not hold off Takemybourbonneat when racing at this level over the Tapeta on June 14. She has raced very well in both of her turf attempts and should be a pace factor once again. #5 MY CASH FACTOR was a fairly game fourth in the same race that Unheard exits. She takes the drop in for \$25,000; lightly-raced filly figures to be a contender.

Race 5

#6 Gizmo's B F F

#3 Addendum

#5 Ala Turka

#4 Foolish Games

#6 GIZMO'S B F F looks to extend her winning streak to four after a confident five length-score on June 5. She has the speed to be on the lead but can track if desired; the one to beat. #3 ADDENDUM set the lead but faltered in the stretch when facing optional \$15,000 foes in her first start off of the bench on June 19. She gets a class drop here and could be more threatening. #5 ALA TURKA charged home to come up a half-length short behind Shamra after a slow start on May 22. There could be a solid pace for her to rally into here. #4 FOOLISH GAMES missed the start, rushed to the lead and gave way to be fourth in the LongRun Thoroughbred Aftercare Stakes at Fort Erie on June 15, a race where she was arguably the best horse. She was nearly able to beat Gizmo's B F F back on May 16.

Race 6

#6 Orderofthephoenix (IRE)

#5 Cara Cara

#4 Maximum Fifty

#3 Blind Spot

#6 ORDEROFTHEPHOENIX (IRE) was never a serious win threat but rallied fairly well to be third at this level on May 29. The pace could set up well for her here. #5 CARA CARA has been second best in both of her most recent starts at this level, must recently behind rapid repeat-winner Miss Vyvyanne. She figures to be competitive once again. #4 MAXIMUM FIFTY has been able to secure the early lead and hold comfortably for back to back wins at the N1X/\$32,000 level. She has to face tougher here and may have a tougher time controlling the pace. #3 BLIND SPOT was empty in two starts against Stakes company at Gulfstream earlier this year. She was able to win at this level over Cara Cara last August; she is offered for the tag and is a bit of a question mark.

Race 7

#4 Gun Court

#7 Crucial Taunt

#6 Road to Versailles

#1 Caught Speeding

#4 GUN COURT dueled on the lead before being outmatched coed by Ready to Collect when dropping in for \$25,000 on the inner turf on June 7. He drops again for his second start off of the bench and looks like the quickest of the quick out of the gate. #7 CRUCIAL TAUNT tracked a very moderate pace and kicked clear to break his maiden for this tag on June 13; the pace will be quicker and he will likely have to come from a bit further out of it this time. #6 ROAD TO VERSAILLES chased the pace and lacked much finishing kick when racing for \$25,000 on June 15. He drops back in for the price he was taken for and should be more competitive. #1 CAUGHT SPEEDING forced the pace before giving way to be fourth when kicking off his season at this level on June 8; we'll see if he can step forward in his second try off of the bench.

Race 8

#9 Vrana (IRE)

#11 Design Diva

#4 Butterfly Billy

#8 Ain't No Girly Girl

#7 La Ronde

#9 VRANA (IRE) ran a big second for this price in her first start off of the bench on June 1 but came up empty 18 days later when bumping up to the OS/\$40,000 level. She gets back in for \$25,000; I think she is at her best on turf. #11 DESIGN DIVA has been dying to get back on turf this season with no luck so far, both of her starts having been rained off and moved to the Tapeta. She gets an opportunity to get over the grass here but will need to overcome a challenging post position. #4 BUTTERFLY BILLY made her turf debut on June 12 in an EP Taylor sprint for this tag and ran a game third. We'll see how she handles the stretch out to two turns. #8 AIN'T NO GIRLY GIRL chased the pace from the outside and ran a decent third, missing place by a length when competing in a split of the aforementioned June 12 race. She makes just her third career start here and could be in the hunt. #7 LA RONDE debuted on the main track on June 1 and ran a credible third, three lengths behind Vrana; a chance to move forward with experience.