Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Saturday, July 5th 2025

#### Race 1 #4 Takemybourbonneat - Best Bet #6 Saucy Name #7 Tabloid Material #3 Red Samurai

## #4 TAKEMYBOURBONNEAT made a powerful rally in the stretch to win her non-two for this price on June 14. She could have a fairly contested pace to rally into. #6 SAUCY NAME had been notoriously win-shy but has reinvented herself this season, going two-for-two so far at

the meet. She will likely be a pace factor stretching out from five furlongs. #7 TABLOID MATERIAL was disappointing in her first start of the year while attracting a \$15,000 claim on May 23 but came back with an improved effort on June 14, forcing the pace and finishing second behind a going-away winner. #3 RED SAMURAI missed the start and never factored when kicking off her season for \$40,000 on May 24. She continues to slide down the class ladder; blinkers are coming off.

#### Race 2 #6 Haley's Honor #1 Complex Secret #4 Wildfire #2 Pretty Good Joke

#2 HALEY'S HONOR faltered after being pressed through quick opening fractions in an N2L allowance on June 7. She gets significant class relief here and looks like the quickest out of the gate. #1 COMPLEX SECRET chased the pace before flattening out in an N2L allowance on the Tapeta on June 14. She tries turf for the first time here; may appreciate the cutback from seven furlongs. #4 WILDFIRE was a bit wide and finished evenly when taking on the boys in her first start of the season on May 10. Another one who tries turf for the first time, she seems to like the 5 1/2 furlong sprints on the Tapeta and could be finishing well in this short dash. #2 PRETTY GOOD JOKE looked like a serious threat in midstretch but was outkicked when finishing third on June 5. Both of her turf efforts have come over the EP Taylor and they were both respectable despite not hitting the board.

## Race 3 #4 Powaqa #9 Pickford Sweet #7 Makayla #3 Wild Queenie

#4 POWAQA was tracking the leader who ended up kicking clear to win before giving way to be fourth in a similar spot on June 20. If she is chasing a target again it will likely not be as threatening of one this time. #9 PICKFORD SWEET exits a midpack effort for \$25,000 on June 19 and now takes the plunge in for \$7,500. She looks like the clear one to beat but will have to overcome a difficult post. #7 MAKAYLA outfinished Powaqa when finishing second on June 20. She likes two turns and should pick up another check. #3 WILD QUEENIE has been a non-factor in two sprint efforts so far this season. Plodding filly gets back out to her preferred distance and could show up at a decent price in her third start off of the bench.

# Race 4

#### #2 Enduring #6 Fourfiftyfour #1 Bedazzle Me #3 Sweet Passions

#2 ENDURING chased the pacesetter and gave way to be fourth when kicking off her season in an N2X/\$50,000 around two turns on the inner turf. She gets significant class relief for her second try off of the bench. #6 FOURFIFTYFOUR was a game third when kicking off her season on June 14. Although winless on the turf she has run more good races than bad over it; her speed figures are remarkably consistent. #1 BEDAZZLE ME has raced very well in her two most recent starts, last time against the boys over a mile. I think she is at her best sprinting so the cutback is welcomed. #3 SWEET PASSIONS put in a huge effort to miss by a nose after a rough break in the same race that Fourfiftyfour exits. The turf is the biggest question for her as the pedigree does not scream grass.

# Race 5

## #4 Tanzanite Lily #7 Naughty Destiny #5 Mo Argento #2 I Got Murphed

#4 TANZANITE LILY showed no speed and had hot fractions to run into but was eye-catching nonetheless when rallying to be second in her June 7 debut. We'll see if she can step forward off of that promising effort. #7 NAUGHTY DESTINY has run some solid races against New York-breds on the turf. Her speed figures are solid; if she can translate her form to Tapeta she will be a factor. #5 MO ARGENTO ran an okay fourth in a maiden special weight sprint in April before coming up completely empty in a route on May 31. She cuts back in distance and gets class relief; the blinkers are coming off. #2 I GOT MURPHED dueled on the lead before giving way to be third in a solid debut effort on June 14. She could be outsprinted to the lead by Rock Hard Rose.

## Race 6 #1 Spellcheck #6 Spun Around #3 Monty's Inn #2 Silent Strike

#1 SPELLCHECK pressed hot fractions and kept on well to be second when last competing on June 19. She has raced well in both of her starts this year and should be in good early position. #6 SPUN AROUND dropped in for this tag to kick off her season on June 14, dueling on the lead and keeping on persistently to be beaten a halflength by the closing Sil's Gamble. She may land in a stalking spot as there are some quicker-looking foes here. #3 MONTY'S INN rallied from the lead and was outkicked in a duel for the place spot when debuting on June 7. She has worked sharply since and should have another honest pace to close into. #2 SILENT STRIKE chased the pacesetter while racing wide and gave way to be fifth when facing three-year-olds on May 31. She has since been purchased in an online auction and goes for connections who have had a strong early part of the meet.

## Race 7 #5 Hoshiana (FR) #7 Flashy Motor #1 Shotgun Wedding #8 A Little Frisky

#5 HOSHIANA (FR) made her Canadian debut at this level on June 7, rallying to be second behind the quick Without Cause. She looks like an obvious factor in her second start of the year. #7 FLASHY MOTOR set quick fractions and burst clear in the stretch for an easy maiden win on June 7. If she can control the pace again she will have a good shot to double up. #1 SHOTGUN WEDDING trailed early and rallied to be third, four lengths behind Hoshiana on June 7. A cleaner break could have her in good enough position to be a serious threat this time. #8 A LITTLE FRISKY finished a bit evenly when routing in her first start of the season on June 1. She cuts back to a sprint which is probably ideal for her; her only turf start was not too bad when going 10 furlongs in the Wonder Where.

## Race 8 #3 Wicked Mercury #5 Gloriannia #6 Purr Factor #9 Now Is a Breeze

#3 WICKED MERCURY makes her first start since being vet scratched at Gulfstream on March 26. She was remarkably consistent last year when racing at this level, with her worst result being a traffic-marred fifth; the one to beat if she is ready off of the bench. #5 GLORIANNIA lost position on the turn but found more in the stretch and rallied to be fifth on May 17. She was in very good form throughout 2024 and would not be a surprise to see her find her best again soon. #6 PURR FACTOR made a very easy lead when winning against \$25,000 non-threes in her local debut, then stretched out to 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  on the inner turf and led into deep stretch before finishing third at this level on June 14. We'll see if she can secure the lead again with the cutback to a sprint. #9 NOW IS A BREEZE ran well in her first two starts of the 2024 season before a poor effort on July 27. She has breezed well coming into return in which blinkers are being removed; she will need to work out a trip from the outside draw.

## Race 9 #2 Ticker Tape Home #8 Gal in a Rush #7 Lithe Spirit #6 Ms. Tart

#2 TICKER TAPE HOME raced wide after some early trouble and finished up very well to be third by a length in the Royal North on May 31. I think the Tapeta is her preferred surface; drawn well and looks like a main contender in a very wide-open race. #8 GAL IN A RUSH swung wide and rallied very strongly to be fourth, just a neck behind Ticker Tape Home in the Royal North. She has only missed the board once in five starts on synthetic track; hard to ignore. #7 LITHE SPIRIT went three-forthree with a pair of Stakes wins over the Turfway Tapeta this winter before throwing in a clunker in the Giant's Causeway at Keeneland in April. She has had some time to recoup and been training on the Turfway synthetic; rebound candidate. #6 MS. TART rallied from last to pull off a 70-1 upset in the Royal North, but had a troubled trip and ended up tenth in the Nassau last week. The quick turnaround seems like a positive for a capable trainer and a quality horse, and she has proven she handles synthetic well in the past.

#### Race 10 #9 Boca Queen (IRE) #11 Rarified #8 Mew N Me #7 Vintage Ring #6 Celebrity Ro #0 POCA OUTEEN (IRE)

#9 BOCA QUEEN (IRE) has very nice pedigree to flaunt, being by the stellar Kingman, who won Group 1 Stakes in England, Ireland and France, out of multiple Irish Group Stakes-winner Bocca Baciata. The worktab is extremely strong-looking; let's see. #11 RARIFIED stalked the pace and kept on well to be second behind the runaway Flashy Motor when making her North American debut on June 7. Lasix is added this time; a logical option. #8 MEW N ME debuted in the same race that Rarified exits, racing greenly through the long stretch run but finishing up and galloping out very well. She will need to be more focused but has reason to improve in her second attempt. #7 VINTAGE RING was claimed for \$100,000 from her debut at Keeneland and has raced well in both of her starts since arriving here, finishing second behind stablemate and repeat winner Our Lady, then finishing third on May 25. Her full-brother, Colton's Command, was a winner on turf. #6 CELEBRITY RO has only been able to race in routes thus far in her career where she has generally been showing speed and fading. Getting the cutback to a sprint could reverse her fortunes.