## Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Thursday, July 10th 2025

## Race 1 #2 Pet Sounds #5 Guard of Honor #1 Whiskey Row #3 Diva's Ghost

#2 PET SOUNDS finished up well to be third in his first start off of the bench but was a bit flat when returning on May 30. He sheds the blinkers and should appreciate the drop in for \$7,500. #5 GUARD OF HONOR pressed the pace but came up empty when making his first start in over a year on June 20. He has the potential to be the controlling speed here. #1 WHISKEY ROW has put in a couple of decent efforts at this level in his two most recent starts and figures to show up for a share again. #3 DIVA'S GHOST rallied to break his maiden for \$10,000 in his first start off of the bench on June 27; his chance at doubling up will depend on how the pace sets up.

Race 2

#2 Froginapond

#3 Reload Eh

#### #1 Miss Ozege #8 Six for a Nine

#2 FROGINAPOND made her first start off of the bench over a mile at this level on June 14 and ran a very credible third, beaten just a length. She gets a slight comeback and should be ready in her second start of the season. #3 RELOAD EH rallied, hit the front on the far turn but failed to hold off Saratoga Empress, finishing a half-length better than Froginapond on June 14 in her turf debut; an obvious contender off of that solid effort. #1 MISS OZEGE stalked the pace and finished evenly when a distant third in an off-turf route on June 19. She has some turf pedigree and could have a good covered up trip from the rail. #8 SIX FOR A NINE put in a flat effort in the same race that Reload Eh and Froginapond exit. She had a big race over this turf course on October 31, an effort that would be plenty good enough to win this.

# Race 3 #1 Maxine Magic #6 McKenzie Road #2 Pat's Holiday

### #7 Sunnyville

#1 MAXINE MAGIC dueled down the stretch but was narrowly outkicked when beaten a half-length for \$15,000, drawing away from the rest of the field. I don;t think she'll have a problem stepping back up to the \$25,000 level. #6 MCKENZIE ROAD has been lightlyraced and has had a couple of okay but no stellar efforts at the maiden special weight level. She takes a big drop in for \$25,000 and has plenty of long works in preparation for her return to the races. #2 PAT'S HOLIDAY takes a drop in for \$25,000 after a flat effort in a seven furlong OS/\$40,000 race on June 19. She raced much better in routes last year. #7 SUNNYVILLE finished gamely to be fourth by just 1 ½ lengths in an inner turf route on June 14. She is lightly raced and has performed well in both of her starts this year.

### Race 4

### #3 Sassy Melissa #2 Galley Head #5 Holiday With Amy #8 Lois Len

#3 SASSY MELISSA had a pretty solid 2024 meet, closed out with a flat effort on the Tapeta. She gets on turf for her return to the races and should fare well. #2 GALLEY HEAD rallied up the inside to win her return to Woodbine at this level on June 19. Although I think she is best on the synthetic, she is plenty capable on turf and should have sky-high confidence. #5 HOLIDAY WITH AMY rallied to an easy win against \$25,000 non-threes on June 14. She is another I think is better on the synthetic but is well spotted for a horse who just lost her final condition. #8 LOIS LEN was an easy winner for \$7,500 while attracting a claim on June 20. She has a tough post to overcome; could be a speed factor.

## Race 5 #7 Not So Swift #6 Mrs. Hot Shot #1 Save the Date #2 Magic Token

#7 NOT SO SWIFT was a winner at first asking when racing for \$10,000 on June 12. She looks like she could control the pace with the stretch out to seven furlongs. #6 MRS. HOT SHOT took a shot at the \$25,000 level on June 19 and ran a very solid third at 42-1. She seems to like the seven furlong distance and gets back down a level. #1 SAVE THE DATE was not far beaten for second when finishing fourth for \$25,000 on June 14. She was a good-looking winner for this price two-back; in the hunt. #2 MAGIC TOKEN was a fringe player for this price on turf on June 21. She had some form last year that would make her a factor here; we'll see if she can find that type of run again.

#### Race 6

#7 Baby Lala #6 Secret Plan #4 Under Agreement (FR) #2 Easter Sunday Girl

#7 BABY LALA has tried to get on turf in both of her starts since arriving at Woodbine but both have been moved to the tapeta. She raced well to be fifth for \$40,000 two starts ago; blinkers are on for this sharp drop in class. #6 SECRET PLAN forced the pace but faltered when debuting in a split of the same race that Baby Lala exits. She is aggressively spotted and figures to be a serious threat. #4 UNDER AGREEMENT (FR) raced at Turfway this winter where she picked up a couple of minor shares for \$5,000 and \$7,500 on the Tapeta. She is definitely better on the grass; worth a look in her first start in four months. #2 EASTER SUNDAY GIRL has had some good efforts sprinting on the Tapeta at the \$10,000 level. Her best efforts in Maryland last year came in turf routes.

## Race 7 #7 Mizzen Ash - Best Bet #3 Flying Black #1 Strega

#### #6 Katherine's Gem

#7 MIZZEN ASH won with a convincing rally over the inner turf while attracting a \$15,000 claim on June 12. Her turn of foot seems to be dialed in this year; she was competitive in a couple of tries at this level last year. #3 FLYING BLACK shipped down to Presque Isle on June 10 where she stalked the pace, angled up and was up late to win at a similar level. She is drawn well and seems very logical. #1 STREGA was eased up in the stretch in her first start for these connections in October and was sidelined right after. Restricted Stakes-winning mare obviously has the class to win this and will be a pace factor. #6 KATHERINE'S GEM has been racing well sprinting at the \$15,000 level this season. She has had some good runs around two turns on the inner turf; this will be her first main track route attempt.

#### Race 8

#5 Grace On the Green #8 Cinnamon Bits #2 Looks Lucky to Me #4 Forest Vixen #9 Magic Modie

#5 GRACE ON THE GREEN made her first start since 2023 on June 20 and was a very close fifth in a blanket photo. If anyone needed that race it was her; should be tough this time. #8 CINNAMON BITS dueled on the lead and ended up fourth in the aforementioned June 20 blanket finish. She has raced huge in both of her starts this season. #2 LOOKS LUCKY TO ME was a close sixth behind the wall of horses on June 20. She is probably a bit better on the grass but still looks competitive here and should be running on late. #4 FOREST VIXEN rallied to be fourth against open \$7,500 foes in a race won easily by Lois Len on June 20. Despite the rise in value this is easier competition. #9 MAGIC MODIE was a front-end winner against \$25,000 non-twos on May 17 but was unable to sustain her speed against non-threes for that price last time; rebound candidate on the drop.