Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Friday, July 11th 2025

Race 1 #5 Night Striker #8 True Shot #4 Lasting Silence #2 Cosmostorm

#5 NIGHT STRIKER set the pace when re-adding blinkers on June 15 but was outkicked and finished a clear second to Lost Star. He is 0-for-19 but does his best running on this course and looks like he's caught a manageable field. #8 TRUE SHOT has shown finishing kick in a pair of synthetic sprints so far this season. He had a decent fifth-place effort over this course for \$25,000 last October. #4 LASTING SILENCE had a slow break, moved up while racing wide and emptied out when sprinting on the outer turf last time. Blinkers are being taken off here; he raced well in a route last year and deserves another try on the grass. #2 COSMOSTORM is a first-time starter with a spotty worktab. He goes for a barn that has been able to quietly get horses to get ready to go long when fresh in the past.

Race 2

#1 Bowman's Run #5 Ethnic Soul

#3 Adapted

#7 Heard a Ghost

#1 BOWMAN'S RUN was beaten just 2 ¼ lengths after clipping heels on the far turn when finishing fifth (placed fourth) for \$40,000 on June 21. He should be very live on the drop in for \$25,000. #5 ETHNIC SOUL kicked off his season with a very credible runner-up finish behind Swan Lake in a starter/optional \$15,000 on June 13. He looks very live going from wide open foes to non-two company here. #3 ADAPTED chased the pacesetter and gave way in the stretch to be seventh, beaten 3 ½ lengths in the same race that Bowman's Run exits. He could be the pacesetter this time with Vives back aboard. #7 HEARD A GHOST rallied to be a good third against \$15,000 nonthrees over the inner turf on June 27; worth a look in his second start off of the bench.

Race 3 #7 Carcone #5 Jmr Speedy Escape #9 Can't Jump

#1 Sammy Stone

#7 CARCONE has been shipping from Saratoga to Presque Isle where he exits a pair of good third-place efforts against N1X company. He has never missed the top three on Tapeta and should be tough at this level. #5 JMR SPEEDY ESCAPE has been in the money in all four of his starts since returning from Penn National. Although win-shy he fares very well over the Tapeta and looks like he will be in the hunt again. #9 CAN'T JUMP won two consecutive routes over the dirt at Tampa earlier this year. He has since been privately purchased; there are some gaps in his works but he is intriguing nonetheless. #1 SAMMY STONE was nosed out for the place spot by Jmr Speedy Escape on June 20. He is not the most consistent type but his best figures are more than good enough to win this.

Race 4

#2 Nikinzie #7 Blondina's Boy #6 Arrakasta Izan #4 One Smooth Stone

#2 NIKINZIE was eased up on the far turn and outdistanced when kicking off his season for \$40,000 on June 12. He has moved to a very capable smaller barn who feel fit to enter him back in good time; takes a sharp drop and doesn't have to beat much. #7 BLONDINA'S BOY has raced well in both of his starts so far this season, most recently running a decent fourth in a route on the main track. I don't think turf is his preferred surface but he did have one decent turf run last year; we'll see what he does here. #6 ARRAKASTA IZAN edged out Blondina's Boy for the show spot on June 20. He has improved with every start this season; his lone turf try last year was a bit dreadful. #4 ONE SMOOTH STONE has not shown much thus far in his career save for some cheap speed on May 30. He races as a first-time-gelding here; we'll see if that reverses his fortunes.

Race 5 #3 Stratus - Best Bet #9 Silver Raleigh #7 Kairos Moment #8 Its in the Cards

#3 STRATUS has been racing well this year, most recently moving back up to the OS/\$40,000 level and running on to be a credible third. He was a good second for this price two back and should be well-spotted early. #9 SILVER RALEIGH had been off for over a year when returning at Horseshoe Indianapolis on May 26, rallying nicely to be second for \$12,500. He handled the Turfway synthetic well in the past; hopefully he can work out a trip from the outside. #7 KAIROS MOMENT debuted for \$15,000 on June 26 and rallied strongly from last to be second in a sprint. He stretches out in distance and goes for a barn who has been live from the start of the season. #8 ITS IN THE CARDS finished evenly against OS/\$40,000 foes on the turf on June 12; could earn a share with the drop in class.

Race 6 #4 Priceless Will #3 Moon Landing #7 The Great Oz

#6 Pat's Gamble

#4 PRICELESS WILL was second-best behind the welltripped Moon Landing when last competing on May 29. He could have a freshness edge this time as that foe has raced again in the interim. #3 MOON LANDING looked comfortable throughout when bursting clear to an easy win at this level on May 29, then dropped back to last and finished up well to be fourth in the Turf Sprint series on June 29. He gets back to his preferred surface and will hopefully get back to being close early. #7 THE GREAT OZ was put away after a very game third-place effort at this level on September 29. He had some of the strongest speed figures in this field last year; we'll see if he returns in as good of order as he had been in. #6 PAT'S GAMBLE missed place by a length when finishing fourth in the May 29 races topped by Moon Landing. He could improve in his second start off of the bench.

Race 7 #8 Legal Attack (GB) #2 Silent Miracle #6 Maticulant

#7 Ask in My Name

#8 LEGAL ATTACK (GB) found racing room in the stretch and surged clear to win a five furlong inner turf dash at this level on June 27. He is definitely at this best on the grass; with the right trip he can double up. #2 SILENT MIRACLE makes his seasonal debut here. He had two very big wins at this level last year; no breezes in the month of May is a red flag but he has the speed and talent that make him hard to ignore. #6 MATICULANT found room up the inside and burst through to win a \$15,000 non-three in his first start of the season. He obviously has to step up in his first try against wide-open foes but he did post a lifetime-best Beyer for that win; could be a better horse this year. #7 ASK IN MY NAME rallied up the rail and dominated his foes by 11 lengths while attracting a \$10,000 claim on June 14. A repeat of that effort obviously makes him tough to beat here but I'm not sure he is as good on the turf as he is the synthetic.

Race 8

#4 Winston Blue #5 Midnight Arkle #10 U S Army Corps #9 Life is Hard #7 Commander At Sea

#4 WINSTON BLUE broke a bit slowly and never found his stride in his first start off of the bench but ran a good third when stretching out to a route and dropping in for this tag on June 13. He adds blinkers for the cutback to 6 1/2; had a couple of solid sprinting efforts last year. #5 MIDNIGHT ARKLE exits a runner-up finish behind the back-classy Executive Search on June 26. Live bug Forde retains the mount. #10 U S ARMY CORPS had some trouble when finishing a close fifth in the same race that Midnight Arkle exits. He is a long time between wins but has been faring well and should be in the hunt again. #9 LIFE IS HARD failed to factor against open company on a day where the track was guite deep last time. He could rebound with the move into the non-three/nonwinners since level. #7 COMMANDER AT SEA rallied to be third, a neck better than U S Army Corps on June 26; minor player.