

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Thursday, July 17th 2025

Race 1

#7 Hyper Holiday

#4 Tentomidnight

#1 Crimson Forest

#2 La Belva

#7 HYPER HOLIDAY has yet to run a bad race this season. Closer cuts back to five furlongs but has raced well at the distance and should have speed to run at. #4 TENTOMIDNIGHT has dueled on the lead and given way in both of her starts since being claimed. She continues to slide down the class ladder; if she gets loose she should be tough but I wouldn't trust her at a short price. #1 CRIMSON FOREST is by 12% debut sire Old Forester, out of a Stakes-placed mare who ran second on debut and has not been a stellar producer. She had a quick gate work on June 15; likely debuting at the right level. #2 LA BELVA ran on to be fourth in the same race. Tentomidnight exits on June 29, 1 ½ lengths behind that foe; could finish up for another share.

Race 2

#4 War in Charge

#3 Palace View (IRE)

#8 Lil Bit Gangsta

#2 Agile Dancer

#4 WAR IN CHARGE had some trouble in the stretch when finishing fifth off of the layoff on May 30. He gets to try the bigger turf course for the first time and could be better in his second try off of the bench. #3 PALACE VIEW (IRE) ran very well to be third, narrowly missing place for \$40,000 in his first start off of the claim on June 20. He drops back in for the price he was taken for and is arguably the one to beat. #8 LIL BIT GANGSTAN rallied well to be second behind the winter-fit Causin Mayhem in the same May 30 race that War in Charge exits. Hopefully he can work out a trip from the outside gate. #2 AGILE DANCER rallied to win a \$15,000 non-two easily on June 22. He can handle the added distance but is not super consistent.

Race 3

#6 Mitole Power

#5 Shameless Affair

#1 Lillz Star

#2 Red Mood

#6 MITOLE POWER ran a credible fourth when getting back to the Tapeta and dropping in for this price on July 3. Her record on Tapeta is fairly consistent and she looks competitive with these. #5 SHAMELESS AFFAIR continues to drop in value after a flat effort for \$15,000 on June 7. She ran competitively for \$10,000 at the end of last season and should be more in line with these. #1 LILLZ STAR rallied and got up at the wire to break her maiden for \$10,000 on June 26. She could be closer to the pace than normal in a very speed-lacking field. #2 RED MOOD has been even in both of her starts this season but showed last year she is capable of better and could hit the ticket at a decent price.

Race 4

#2 Master Aragorn

#5 Love You Lippy

#7 Where's Samnbailey

#3 Jimmy's Affair

#2 MASTER ARAGORN was put on the shelf after finishing third on the drop in for this price in September. She has run well fresh before and catches a field with pace to rally into. #5 LOVE YOU LIPPYN was a gate to wire winner on debut over the Tapeta for \$40,000 on May 25, but came up empty on turf on June 14. She plunges in for \$15,000 and could rebound getting back to the Tapeta. #7 WHERE'S SAMNBAILEY made a bid on the turn but flattened out to be fifth for \$25,000 on June 14. She takes the drop in for \$15,000 and should appreciate the pace scenario here; arguably the one to beat. #3 JIMMY'S AFFAIR ran an even fourth when dropping in for this tag on June 14. She has more talent than she's shown this year but is tough to trust.

Race 5

#4 Serious Green

#8 Silent and Sinful

#3 Sky Divine

#5 Federova

#4 SERIOUS GREEN has raced well in both of her starts this year, finishing gamely to be third at this level.

Stalking/closing type should have a solid pace to run at.

#8 SILENT AND SINFUL plunges down from the maiden special weight level after giving way to be sixth by 2 ¾ lengths on May 25. The sharp drop is a bit of a red flag after missing nearly two months; the one to beat but impossible to trust. #3 SKY DIVINE has not raced since September, coming up empty in a maiden special weight on the Gulfstream Tapeta. She has raced well at levels more comparable to this in the past; the blinkers come off for the first time in her career. #5 FEDEROVA ran an even race on the inner turf for her seasonal debut on June 28. She is tagged for the first time; lasix is being added.

Race 6

#1 More Money Hunny - Best Bet

#4 Neenah

#2 Regal Moment

#6 Just Magnificent

#1 MORE MONEY HUNNY was second-best behind Ella It Is at this level on June 1. She gets back on turf which is probably her preferred surface and is drawn well here. #4 NEENAH showed some finish when sprinting on the outer turf on June 14. She should appreciate the added distance she gets here. #2 REGAL MOMENT is a half to turf distance specialist English Conqueror. Quick filly is adding blinkers for her turf debut; we'll see if she can carry her speed further. #6 JUST MAGNIFICENT went by like nothing on June 19 in an off-turf OS/\$40,000. She raced well in both of her turf tries last year; definitely in with a shot.

Race 7

#7 Determined Fury

#2 Master Spy

#5 Bet N Win

#9 Valyrian Sky

#7 DETERMINED FURY had a wide trip and ran flat over a deep track against starter/optional \$10,000 on June 13. A game winner rallying up the fence at this level on May 16, he is definitely capable of better than his last effort. #2 MASTER SPY forced the pace but was outkicked by Confusing when racing on the turf on June 29. He was beaten a head by Determined Fury on May 16; in with a shot dropping back in for \$7,500. #5 BET N WIN was a non-factor in the same turf race that Master Spy exits. Turf is definitely not his preferred surface; rebound candidate at a decent price. #9 VALYRIAN SKY was a distant third behind a runaway Ask in My Name in a starter/optional \$10,000 on June 14. He ran two huge races before that; hopefully he can get a trip from the outside.

Race 8

#6 Springer

#4 Temple Hall

#1 Backonthechaingang

#3 Drogon

#8 Switzler Jammin

#6 SPRINGER was crowded on the inside and came up empty in a five furlong dash on June 29. He had a couple of good Tapeta efforts last fall; drops in for \$25,000 and could fire with a clean trip. #4 TEMPLE HALL was pressed on the lead and gave way to be third when kicking off his season for this price on May 17. He could be the main speed in his first start in two months. #1 BACKONTHECHAINGANG ran the best last-race Beyer in this field when posting a 65 for a closing second on June 8. With the right setup he is an obvious win candidate. #3 DROGON broke poorly and never got involved while attracting a \$15,000 claim from his debut on June 27. Blinkers are being added; hopefully he can get out of the gate. #8 SWITZLER JAMMIN has been lightly raced so far in her career. She showed nothing for \$50,000 on the Tapeta in March at Gulfstream. She drops sharply and cuts back in distance.