

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Friday, July 18th 2025

Race 1

#1 Kawacatoose

#3 Blame J D

#6 Banker's Hours

#2 It's Just Money

#1 KAWACATOOSE was pressed on the lead and gave way to be fourth when facing some solid starter/optional \$10,000 foes in his first start off of the bench on May 29. He looks like the quickest out of the gate and gets significant class relief. #3 BLAME J D ran on fairly well to be fourth against wide open company on June 27. He had a wide trip in his previous start; should appreciate getting back to the non-three/non-winners since condition. #6 BANKER'S HOURS chased the pace while racing quite wide and emptied out on June 26 but was beaten just a neck in a very solid effort two starts back; rebound candidate. #2 IT'S JUST MONEY was beaten by two repeat-winners two starts back before running a good fourth on June 26; should be rolling late.

Race 2

#2 Bravo Kate

#4 Magical Trick

#6 O Wow

#5 Foxy Diva

#2 BRAVO KATE moved into contention and threatened in early stretch but was outkicked when taking on starter/optional \$15,000 foes on June 12. She should appreciate getting to face non-threes here in her second try off of the layoff. #4 MAGICAL TRICK rallied to be fifth, beaten just 1 ¾ lengths against OS/\$40,000 company in her first start off of the claim. She gets back in for the price she was taken for and gets some extra distance. #6 O WOW narrowly outkicked Magical Trick for the show spot when kicking off her season on June 14. She is a fairly consistent check earner and could move forward now that she has a start under her belt. #5 FOXY DIVA took control in the stretch but was run down late in an inner turf route for \$15,000 on July 4; worth a look.

Race 3

#2 Tricky Magician

#3 Napa Spirit (IRE)

#7 Dyden

#1 Mamba On Three

#2 TRICKY MAGICIAN exits a solid third-place effort for \$15,000 over this course on June 27. He catches a field with a lot of speed; could get the right trip. #3 NAPA SPIRIT (IRE) broke a step slowly but made the lead and was able to hold off Banker's Hours while attracting a \$7,500 claim on June 5. When he is good he is very good; he will have company on the lead here but hopefully will break well and not have to overexert himself early. #7 DRYDEN went through his conditions in three consecutive wins last fall. He was a little closer to the pace than normal and finished flat against wide open \$25,000 foes on June 12; aggressively spotted and should be more effective with his preferred closing running style. #1 MAMBA ON THREE dueled on the lead and gave way to be fourth, a neck behind Tricky Magician on June 27; has back class but has had a hard time sustaining his speed.

Race 4

#3 Sultry Sophie

#8 Maryland Spirit

#5 Kimberlina

#2 Noyzee Girl

#3 SULTRY SOPHIE has hit the board in her last two starts when dropped in for \$10,000. Despite the rise back up to the \$15,000 level I don't think she is in overly tough; should be prominent throughout. #8 MARYLAND SPIRIT ran a game third in her first start off of the layoff but was ridden along to the lead, dueled on the turn and emptied out on June 1. She has enough natural speed to find position on her own and should appreciate the drop down from the \$25,000 level. #5 KIMBERLINA missed place by a head when dropping in for this tag on June 29. She had a wide trip on turf two-back and probably needed her first two starts anyways. #2 NOYZEE GIRL was a clear second at this level on June 19; fringe player.

Race 5

#2 Gather - Best Bet

#7 My Cash Factor

#8 Pretty Good Joke

#1 World Showcase

#2 GATHER had a wide trip from the nine hold and rallied very well to be beaten a neck for \$15,000 on June 21.

Despite the rise in value I think she fits very well and should get a better trip this time. #7 MY CASH FACTOR has been an improved horse since getting onto turf, running a very solid third at this level on July 3, though she was disqualified for interference. Her speed figures are very solid for this group. #8 PRETTY GOOD JOKE rallied from midpack to finish third in a five furlong inner turf dash on July 5. She returns quickly and has raced well despite not hitting the board over this course in the past. #1 WORLD SHOWCASE set the pace and gave way to be third, 1 ¾ lengths behind Gather in her first start off of the claim; could be the main speed in this field.

Race 6

#7 Signature Sir

#3 Girl's Nite Out

#4 Yoddha

#1 Pin Boy

#7 SIGNATURE SIR chased throughout but finished a bit evenly when trying 7 ½ furlongs over this course on June 20. He should be tough here with the cutback and drop in value. #3 GIRL'S NITE OUT dueled on the lead and gave way to be fifth when dropping in for this tag on June 21.

She takes on the boys here but could be the quickest out of the gate for her turf debut. #4 YODDHA ran an even fourth for \$10,000 in his first start off of the layoff on June 14. Last year he also ran evenly for \$10,000 before faring well at this price over this course; on the ticket. #1 PIN BOY chased the pace and emptied out July 6. He was part of a contested pace in his only other turf try on the EP Taylor; could be finishing better with the cutback to five furlongs.

Race 7

#3 Country Living

#6 A La Carte

#5 Doadster

#7 Alpha Kadin

#4 Fourlegsgood

#3 COUNTRY LIVING came up empty when plunging in for \$15,000 and attracting a claim back on June 8. He has worked sharply twice for the new connections; should be capable of better than he showed last time. #6 A LA CARTE was claimed for \$12,500 from a runner-up finish at Oaklawn back in April. He came up empty in his only previous turf try which came in an allowance route at Churchill in 2023; worth a look. #5 DOADSTER hit the front in the stretch but was outkicked by Agile Dancer when dropping in for \$15,000 on June 22. Although his maiden win came on Tapeta I think he does his best running on the grass. #7 ALPHA KADIN outkicked Doadster for third on the inner turf two starts ago but was a non-factor against OS/\$40,000 company on the Tapeta on June 29. His turf race was his best race speed figure-wise thus far in his career. #4 FOURLEGSGOOD showed speed and kicked clear to break his maiden for \$10,000 two weeks ago. Lightly-raced type will need to step up here but will be a pace factor.