

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson  
Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

Race 1

**#5 Victor's Way**

**#4 Krpan**

**#1 Legal Gump**

**#3 Kinlee's Song**

#5 VICTOR'S WAY finished fourth on turf in his first start off of the claim, beaten about a half-length for second. His speed figures are consistent and fit well with this group. #4 KRPAN ran fourth for this price in his first start off of the bench in a group that was probably tougher than this one. He was a vet scratch when entered at the \$15,000 level on September 14. #1 LEGAL GUMP has had a few very solid efforts against solid company this season. He drops in for a tag for the first time since last summer and returns on 13 days rest. #3 KINLEE'S SONG exits an empty effort when entered for \$40,000 on turf last month. His one start for this price in August was not bad; this will be his synthetic debut.

Race 2

**#2 Get Explicit**

**#6 Avie's Mineshaft**

**#3 Oh Zap**

**#4 Without a Doubt**

#2 GET EXPLICIT has not won since this date last year and is now eligible to race protected at this level. She has been in very credible form facing Stakes company here and in New York and should appreciate the class relief. #6 AVIE'S MINESHAFT returned from a seven month layoff and ran a credible third at this level on September 6. Last year's Wonder Where winner could improve off of that effort. #3 OH ZAP dueled for the lead and was able to put away Foxy Belle but was unable to hold off the stalking Ambitious Moon when finishing second, a nose in front of Avie's Mineshaft on September 6. The early speed is new to her this year; she had success as a deep closer in New York last year. #4 WITHOUT A DOUBT is primarily a sprinter but ran a respectable fourth when setting the pace at this distance in the Eternal Search. She should have more speed than Oh Zap.

Race 3

**#5 Make No Mistake**

**#3 Rexdale**

**#7 Lucky Girasol**

**#2 Mary of Scotts**

#5 MAKE NO MISTAKE was able to beat \$15,000 non-threes two back on the inner turf, then came up a bit even when returning 12 days later. A one turn turf sprint is a

new challenge for her. #3 REXDALE made an impressive rally from last to win for this price on August 14, then was not able to finish as effectively when facing a \$40,000 non-three group with several non-twos on September 20. She fits with this group based on speed figures. #7 LUCKY GIRASOL has had success in one turn sprints in the past. She raced evenly in the same race that Make No Mistake exits on September 18; the cutback may be able to wake her up. #2 MARY OF SCOTTS dropped in for \$15,000 on August 30 and was able to get up to beat Hurricane Emily, who returned to score a fairly easy win in a soft group at the \$25,000 level. She ran a respectable fifth behind Rexdale on August 14.

Race 4

**#9 Broadway Bonnie**

**#3 Fact Checking**

**#5 Real Coal**

**#8 Patton's Girl**

#9 BROADWAY BONNIE ran better than in looks on paper in the Passing Mood, racing wide on the turn, getting into contention in midstretch then evening out somewhat, with the rally of Speedy Soul making it look like a more dramatic hang than it truly was. She has had success over this course. #3 FACT CHECKING ran a very good second behind the very in-form, class-dropping Copper Fox on September 2, then came up empty over a yielding E. P. Taylor course 12 days later. She could be a longshot contender. #5 REAL COAL is a rapid speed type with a habit of stopping. Although her last start was disappointing her prior form was good; we'll see if she can outsprint the rest for the lead. #8 PATTON'S GIRL came up empty with a wide trip last time out. Three back she raced a good fourth in the Grade 2 Royal North and could easily rebound into good form here.

Race 5

**#7 Avie's Sky – Best Bet**

**#3 Vespolina**

**#5 Hibiscus Punch**

**#1 Peace Corps**

#7 AVIE'S SKY makes her delayed seasonal bow here. Her debut was a big runner-up effort, followed by a well beaten third on an especially snowy day where she made up ground in a race where nobody else was able to. #3 VESPOLINA disappointed in a turf route on September 1 and now gets back to a main track sprint. She was second best behind a lone speed winner on debut, then finished third behind a filly who has gone on to win a Stake on August 2. #5 HIBISCUS PUNCH raced well to be third when debuting on the inner turf on September 14. If she moves forward she looks like one of the big players here. #1 PEACE CORPS ships up after a fourth

place finish in a shorter sprint at Colonial. She has raced well over the Presque Isle Tapeta; her speed figures will need to improve.

#### Race 6

##### **#3 French Charm**

##### **#8 Lady Kratos**

##### **#5 American Tap**

##### **#7 Mission City Girl**

#3 FRENCH CHARM raced well when finishing second on debut behind a stablemate with prior experience. She returned three months later, drawing the widest post and getting a wide trip on the turn, finishing evenly. She may rebound with better racing luck. #8 LADY KRATOS will debut here off of a short worktab. Half-sister to Stakes winner O'Kratos is by 13% debut sire Warrior's Reward. #5 AMERICAN TAP trained in Ocala before arriving here for her final few breezes. First year sire Tapiture has had eight debut winners in 43 starters; all four of the dam's foals to race have won at some level. #7 MISSION CITY GIRL returned from a two month break on September 15, showing some early speed before stopping. Half-sister to Summer Sunday could move forward at a price.

#### Race 7

##### **#4 Gorgeous Kitten**

##### **#1 Willy's Castle**

##### **#2 Gray Phantom**

##### **#5 Bold Animaux**

#4 GORGEOUS KITTEN came up empty in an off-turf \$40,000 event on August 17. He is better on turf and takes a big drop in class. #1 WILLY'S CASTLE dueled for the lead before being outkicked by a class-dropping stalker on September 20. Although his turf record looks poor he has run some respectable grass races in the past. #2 GRAY PHANTOM came up empty as one of the favourites when entered for \$23,500 on September 21. He should appreciate the drop in value. #5 BOLD ANIMAUX is yet to run a poor race this season. He dueled into the stretch when racing at this level on September 2; a logical contender.

#### Race 8

##### **#1 Take Charge Eh**

##### **#5 Special Honor**

##### **#2 Skygaze**

##### **#3 Curlin's Voyage**

#1 TAKE CHARGE EH was a front end winner on debut before putting in a game second behind Owlette. In her most recent start she came up empty over a wet turf course; we'll see how she handles the route. #5 SPECIAL HONOR made a wide rally to be second in her route

debut. She returns on a week's rest. #2 SKYGAZE figures to be favoured here. Daughter of American Pharoah switched from turf to Tapeta in her second attempt and was an easy winner on the front end. #3 CURLIN'S VOYAGE stretched out to a route last time and rallied to an easy win as the heavy favourite. She is the only runner here with a route win.

#### Race 9

##### **#5 Dont Get Smart**

##### **#7 Dads Missy**

##### **#2 Onezy's Dream**

##### **#3 Invodkawetrust**

#5 DONT GET SMART showed no speed on debut and failed to threaten. She takes the big drop from maiden special weight company in for \$25,000. #7 DADS MISSY made the lead in midstretch but was run down when trying turf two weeks ago. Her form has improved significantly since dropping in for this price. #2 ONEZY'S DREAM has made four starts at this level and has run well to hit the board in each one. She figures to be competitive. #3 INVODKAWETRUST showed speed but came up empty in the stretch when dropping in for this price. She returns from a five week break.

#### Race 10

##### **#6 Daymare**

##### **#3 Heart Rush**

##### **#2 Millbank Magic**

##### **#4 Express Banking**

##### **#7 Peut Etre**

#6 DAYMARE came up empty when facing males on the inner turf. She cuts back to a sprint here. #3 HEART RUSH stalked the pacesetter and just missed by a nose when returning off of a near-three month break last time. She has early speed. #2 MILLBANK MAGIC made the lead when travelling a mile last time, hanging to be third. She cuts back here. #4 EXPRESS BANKING dropped in for this price for her first start against winners and finished a closing third, narrowly behind Heart Rush. #7 PEUT ETRE cuts back a sprint, moves to turf and drops in value after finishing an even fourth in a Tapeta route. She did have a credible turf race last year.