Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Friday, September 23rd 2022

Race 1

#3 Striking Heir #6 Chairman Bob #4 Over the Hills

#1 Pugin

#3 STRIKING HEIR returned from a near-three-month break and ran a credible fourth at this level two weeks ago. This field has come up a little tougher but he could be tough in his second start off of the bench. #6 CHAIRMAN BOB plunges in for bottoms after running a well-beaten fourth in the Elgin. The obvious horse to beat, it's a matter of how low a price you can stomach on a suspicious dropper. #4 OVER THE HILLS took a shot on turf, a surface he had shown previous disdain for, and came up empty on August 5. He gets back to his preferred surface and gets the drop in for bottoms. #1 PUGIN came up empty over a sloppy track at Fort Erie on September 13. He should be forwardly placed and has earned a number of shares this season.

Race 2

#9 Jmr Pure Sensation #4 Runninforcover #5 More Than a Dance #7 Just Start Me Up

#9 JMR PURE SENSATION got back to this turf course when competing for \$15,000 on September 5, finishing fourth by just a length. Despite the rise in value this group looks within reach; he needs to work out a trip from the outside. #4 RUNNINFORCOVER has a case of seconditis this season, with three runner-up finishes in five starts at the meet. His speed figures are strong for this bunch. #5 MORE THAN S DANCE dropped in for this price and was able to go wire-to-wire over this course on August 19. He may have to deal with pressure from the speedy Mad Dog N Joe. #7 JUST START ME UP fell back after showing speed when finishing fifth in the same race that Jmr Pure Sensation exits. His numbers are competitive and he may offer a good price.

Race 3

#3 Two Year Contract

#7 Taradar

#1 Settebello

#5 Theboyfromgormley

#3 TWO YEAR CONTRACT cuts back to a sprint after two tries around two turns. He should be forwardly placed in a race without much speed. #7 TARADAR figures to be favoured on the heels of a runner-up finish with a career-best 50 Beyer. He's been earning checks consistently and looks very competitive here. #1 SETTEBELLO returned from a year-long layoff with a flat effort for \$25,000 on turf on August 12. He plunges in and could improve with that start under his belt. #5 THEBOYFRIMGORMLEY debuted for \$25,000 and ran an even race after trailing early on June 17. He returns from three months off and could improve with the class drop.

Race 4

#4 Star Chamber #8 Regal Intent

#9 Victorious Wave

#7 Benlion

#4 STAR CHAMBER was entered when this race was cancelled on Saturday and re-appears in the same spot. His first start for this barn over the Tapeta was a strong second and he should be very solid with the move back from the turf. #8 REGAL INTENT has run some solid turf races this season but was an easy winner in his lone try on the Tapeta last season. He should be a speed factor and may offer a decent price. #9 VICTORIOUS WAVE broke his maiden on debut over this surface last year. He's had two empty efforts against allowance company on turf this season; he gets a drop in class for his third start off of the bench. #7 BENLION is a deep closer who's been running well to earn checks this season. Win-shy type figures to earn a slice once again.

Race 5
#4 Fielder
#7 Reconfigure
#8 War Giant
#1 Takota

#4 FIELDER was very game in the stretch to win when dropping in for this tag on August 14, attracting a claim back by connections who have had plenty of success with him. Solid eight-year old will be forwardly placed and has a good shot to double up. #7 RECONFIGURE, a 10-yearold with 27 top-3 finishes in 40 career starts, gets back to the Tapeta and shortens up in distance after two even runs in the last two legs of the Turf Sprint series. Hanging type loves the shorter sprints but needs to hit the lead as late as possible. #8 WAR GIANT is a 16-time winner who's had a strong season racing at high levels in Edmonton. The synthetic is a big question for him but good horses from Western Canada are often underrated when they get to Toronto. #1 TAKOTA takes on the boys for her first start since early July. She drops in after a couple of tries against allowance company; she's a short distance specialist who may be overlooked here.

Race 6

#4 Master Spy #5 Four Aces High #6 Celebratory #3 Souper Classy

#4 MASTER SPY makes his first start off of a \$15,000 claim here. A bar shoe is taken off while cutting back in distance; an interesting contender. #5 FOUR ACES HIGH took a shot in the Vice Regent on September 3 but did not threaten; his form before that was solid and his record over this course and distance is very respectable. #6 CELEBRATORY was claimed for \$32,000 from a July 10 race that produced a few next-out winners. Speedy-type resurfaces against easier company despite the higher claiming tag and likes this turf course. #3 SOUPER CLASSY angled wide and finished two lengths behind Four Aces High when competing over this course on August 19. With a pace meltdown he could be a live closer.

Race 7
#7 Forittable
#3 I Am Resilient
#6 Ultimate Answer
#2 Smoking Armoury

#7 FORITTABLE dueled on the lead and finished second behind a class-dropping Dragon's Key on August 26. He looks like the one to beat as he drops in for a new low claiming price. #3 I AM RESILIENT drops in class and shortens back up to a sprint after an even effort for \$25,000 over nine furlongs. His speed figures are strong for this soft group. #6 ULTIMATE ANSWER dueled on the lead before emptying out when last competing on August 19. He has earned a few checks this year and is not out of the question as a speed threat. #2 SMOKING ARMOURY is a debut runner by hot sire Reload. His worktab is not impressive but he is not in very tough.

Race 8
#2 Cousin Bob - b
#1 My Boy Christian
#7 My Redemption
#11 Unilateral
#3 Hayroll

#2 COUSIN BOB stretches back out to two turns while dropping in for bottoms after an okay fourth going seven furlongs on September 2. He has route speed and looks tough here. #1 MY BOY CHRISTIAN exits a runner-up finish for this price going seven furlongs 12 days ago. He was a winner over this distance three starts ago and draws well here. #7 MY REDEMPTION came back seven days after breaking his maiden and ran a decent fourth at this level. He has had a month to freshen up and could contend. #11 UNILATERAL plunges in for bottoms after coming up empty for \$25,000 on August 28. Fort Eriebased runner has not had a work between races; your call. #3 HAYROLL has disappointed since his maiden breaker on turf in July and now halves in value. The synthetic is the biggest question as his efforts over it last year were not good.