Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Saturday, July 27th 2024

Race 1 #8 Mt Logan #2 Colonel Mustard #1 Moon Over Egbert #5 Highland Life

#8 MT LOGAN makes a delayed start to the season here. He was able to win when coming off of the layoff last year; his best speed figures put him in the hunt with these. #2 COLONEL MUSTARD makes his first start in two months after finishing third on the turf behind Truebelive, who has since won the first leg of the Turf Sprint series. He is a consistent check-earner; looks logical. #1 MOON OVER EGBERT was a comfortable winner when dropping in for \$15,000 and attracting a claim on June 28. He looks competitive despite the move back up to the \$25,000 ranks. #5 HIGHLAND LIFE was a good third for \$40,000 on June 16 but came up flat when returning two weeks later at this level. He could fire with a better effort with four weeks between starts.

Race 2 #5 Super Sicily #7 Tavaline #2 Sweet Charlize #3 Rocket Riley

#5 SUPER SICILY gets on the turf for the first time since a fourth-place effort behind tough horses like Lantana Lady and Admissible last year. She likely would have won two starts ago if she hadn't broken a touch slowly; looks solid here. #7 TAVALINE will go without blinkers for the first time here. She has been racing well while adopting a new stalking style this season; the pedigree does not scream turf. #2 SWEET CHARLIZE is another first-timeturfer who has made two starts against tougher company at the meet and now makes her first start in two months. She looked good in her maiden win at Fair Grounds over the dirt and may be at home with this level of company. #3 ROCKET RILEY was a good third two starts ago then did not embarrass herself last time when finishing sixth of nine, beaten 2 1/2 lengths. Daughter of Souper Speedy is out of a turf-winning mare.

Race 3 #5 Rose of Sharon #6 Tabei #4 Pickford Sweet #8 Hyper Angel

#5 ROSE OF SHARON is by 12% juvenile debut sire Souper Speedy, and is the first foal to race out of claiming winner Penny a Point. She worked in company with a pair of stablemates from the gate on July 14. #6 TABEI is by 11% juvenile debut sire Silent Name, and is a half to versatile allowance-winner Pemberley. She has a solid foundation of breezes coming into her debut. #4 PICKFORD SWEET ran evenly when finishing midpack on debut three weeks ago. Big Screen is not a particularly strong debut sire; this one could move up in her second attempt. #8 HYPER ANGEL took pressure on the lead before being outkicked by a stalker when debuting on July 6; we'll see if she can carry her speed a bit further today.

Race 4

#8 Royal Ribbon #6 Encourageachother #9 Genius of Love #3 Golden Boss

#8 ROYAL RIBBON was racing well over the Tapeta last year, including a close runner-up finish behind Little Teddy, who is since a restricted Stakes-winner. Her race over the dirt at Laurel was solid: should fit well here. #6 ENCOURAGEACHOTHER had a good trip but had to settle for fourth in her local debut but regressed after being pressed on the pace on June 22. She tries the Tapeta for the first time and is offered for a tag. #9 GENIUS OF LOVE has been racing against maiden special weight company and now opts to take the class relief as an Ontario Sired runner. She ran a good third two starts ago; will go with blinkers for the first time. #3 GOLDEN BOSS is another dropper from the maiden special weight level, this one being offered for a tag. She had some trouble and ran on to be third when kicking off her season on June 29 in a slowly-run off-turf race.

Race 5

#8 Onejabtoomany #6 I Love to Win #5 Top of D Mountain #1 Zippy Gamble

#8 ONEJABTOOMANY is by 12-for-54 juvenile debut sire Reload, and is a half to Grade 3-placed router Wicked Django. She outworked a pair of stablemates from the gate on July 20. #6 I LOVE TO WIN is by 9-for-44 juvenile debut sire Signature Red, and is a full sibling to debut-winner Silver Sign. She worked with a pair of stablemates from the gate on July 14. #5 TOP OF D MOUNTAIN tracked the pacesetter and ran a credible second despite finishing on the wrong lead on July 6; worth a look in her second attempt. #1 ZIPPY GAMBLE pressed the pace and was outkicked by a stalker when finishing third on debut on July 6. She could be a speed factor from the rail.

Race 6 #4 Go With Gusto #3 Twisted Romance #7 Enduring #6 High Handed (IRE)

#4 GO WITH GUSTO was disgualified from her debut win and went on to make three tries against Stakes company including a good third against the boys in the Summer Stakes. She figures to be very tough getting to kick her three-year-old season off against maiden company. #3 TWISTED ROMANCE took a bit of a shuffle and finished well to be second when making her local debut for \$40,000 in a race that has produced two next-out winners. I don't think she will be out of place against maiden special weight company here. #7 ENDURING has raced very well in all three of her turf starts to date, including a good third sprinting on debut at Colonial behind two eventual Stakes-winners. She looks very logical in her local debut. #6 HIGH HANDED (IRE) has shown ability in the UK but has had trouble getting out of the gate effectively. She is a half-sister to multiple Group 1-winner Lillie Langtry; an interesting new face.

Race 7

#5 Never Silent - Best Bet #8 Now Is a Breeze #4 Fourfiftyfour #7 Magical Trick

#5 NEVER SILENT looked terrific when winning on debut over this surface, then came back with a solid third in the Catch a Glimpse. She was sidelined after a disappointing effort in the Victorian Queen; she can be quick out of the gate and looks tough in her return. #8 NOW IS A BREEZE set the pace but hung late when beaten by War Painter in a route on June 6. I think she is at her best sprinting; if Never Silent isn't ready to fire she could capitalise. #4 FOURFIFTYFOUR was pressed on the lead and ran a solid third on June 23 behind an impressive Hurricane Claire, who came back to be third in the Woodbine Oaks. Multiple Stakes-placed filly cuts back from a route and is worth a look here. #7 MAGICAL TRICK had a wide trip and ran a game fourth at this level June 30; hopefully she can save a bit of ground this time.

Race 8 #3 Simply in Front #11 Ready for Shirl #7 Sabatini #10 Witwatersrand

#3 SIMPLY IN FRONT led well into the stretch but faded late in the Tepin at Churchill after having won a first-level allowance in the start prior. The Natalma runner-up may appreciate the return to one turn on the EP Taylor turf. #11 READY FOR SHIRL hit the front in the stretch but was briefly passed by Miss Roberts but dug in and kicked clear to win an N1X/\$32,000 on June 22. A debut winner at Keeneland, she clearly has plenty of class and could prove tough in her Stakes debut. #7 SABATINI had a perfect trip and kicked clear to win the Selene on June 29. She has turf breeding on both sides of the pedigree and looks logical in her first try on the grass. #10 WITWATERSRAND was much the best in the Ruling Angel over Sabatini but regressed in the Selene when finishing a non-threatening third behind that foe. She had a very wide trip in her only turf try in the Florida Oaks at Tampa; we'll see if she can do better on the surface.

Race 9 #6 County Final #1 Palazzi #9 Paramount Prince #2 Money Supply

#6 COUNTY FINAL had some early trouble and failed to make a dent in the Highlander on June 29. He has a solid record on the synthetic and will have no problem stretching back out to a route. #1 PALAZZI rallied impressively to win the Eclipse on June 1 but could not overcome the inside speed bias and had to settle for fourth in the Dominion Day. This race looks like it will have a fast pace for him to rally into. #9 PARAMOUNT PRINCE tracked the pacesetter. led briefly but failed to hold off Palazzi in the Eclipse but came back and rode the bias to an easy front end win in the Dominion Day. He may have a tougher time here with the outside draw, but will probably look to sit second behind speedy stablemate Volcanic. #2 MONEY SUPPLY took his turf debut over yielding going in the Schuster Memorial in Indiana and will now try Tapeta for the first time. The Grade 3 Mineshaft-winner is clearly classy and is an interesting wild-card.

Race 10 #4 Privacy Setting (FR) #7 Indiana Road #10 Prairie Sky #14 Momunnyfor Ro #5 Mardene

#4 PRIVACY SETTING (FR) has lacked finishing kick in a pair of tries around two turns on the inner turf. She drops in value and will race around one turn for the first time. #7 INDIANA ROAD added blinkers and finished decently when routing on the Tapeta two weeks ago. She is better on turf and may find a long sprint to her liking. #10 PRAIRIE SKY had some traffic trouble when finishing fourth in a five furlong inner turf sprint on July 4. She could step forward in her second try off of the bench. #14 MOMUNNYFOR RO broke poorly and failed to threaten against maiden special weight company on June 22. She gets significant class relief but has a very tough post to work from, #5 MARDENE came up empty in the same race that Indiana Road exits. She is capable of better and could hit the ticket at a decent price off of a couple of flat efforts.