

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Sunday, November 24th 2024

Race 1

#2 P. S. Rising Star

#7 I Have an Idea

#6 Candid Candace

#3 Gunnawin

#2 P. S. RISING STAR was finishing up nicely when fourth on the inner turf on October 24, missing second by ¾ lengths. She posted a big speed figure on the Tapeta three-back. #7 I HAVE AN IDEA had some trouble when sprinting for \$25,000 on November 7. She is re-adding blinkers and should be the main speed stretching back out to a route. #6 CANDID CANDACE had a wide, stalking trip and was able to prove best against \$7,500 maidens over this distance on October 10 and is not impossible for a repeat here. #3 GUNNAWIN came up empty in her first start off of the claim when racing over the inner turf on October 24. Her maiden win came in a Tapeta route.

Race 2

#7 Kid Gizmo

#6 Worry Less

#4 Firecracker Fiona

#1 Mardene

#7 KID GIZMO has been a fringe player in several routes since being claimed for this price. She gets back to a Tapeta sprint for the first time since her maiden win. #6 WORRY LESS set the pace and was caught late when travelling two turns on the inner turf on October 31. Her Tapeta form is respectable; she should have no problem with the slight cutback. #4 FIRECRACKER FIONA had a perfect stalking trip behind a speed duel before pouncing to break her maiden for this tag 22 days ago. She is still lightly raced and could still be improving. #1 MARDENE was much the best when scoring her long overdue maiden win for this tag on November 8; we'll see if she can keep the lightbulb on.

Race 3

#4 If You Insist

#7 Posturing

#6 Monday Morning

#5 Tutti Contenti

#4 IF YOU INSIST was pressed through fast fractions and ran deceptively well when finishing sixth, missing third by 1 ½ lengths on November 8. He catches a field where he could be the controlling speed. #7 POSTURING was running on well when finishing third in a route for this tag on October 20. Blinkers are being re-added for this cutback in distance; his sprint record is solid. #6 MONDAY MORNING threw in a clunker when rising back

up to the OS/\$40,000 level three weeks ago. He had previously been in solid form; blinkers are being added to this potential value player. #5 TUTTI CONTENTI was able to get up late to break his maiden when dropping in for this tag on November 9; he will need to improve a bit to double up.

Race 4

#8 El Alacran - Best Bet

#6 Indy One

#5 People Are People

#2 Knowing

#8 EL ALACRAN came up empty when trying the dirt at Aqueduct on November 1. Quick gelding had a good effort sprinting on the turf for \$50,000 in September and should be right at home here. #6 INDY ONE has had two solid runner-up finishes since returning to the races and dropping in for this tag, most recently forcing the pace before being run down by Tutti Contenti. He should be forwardly-placed again. #5 PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE has been off since September 13 where he just narrowly missed second for \$15,000. He rises back up in value for his first start in over two months; seems to run well fresh. #2 KNOWING raced wide and came up empty when dropping in for \$40,000 on September 27 and will now take another drop in value. His debut effort was good enough to make him a player here.

Race 5

#2 Humber River

#3 Red Weaver

#5 Springer

#1 Fiction

#2 HUMBER RIVER is by 12% juvenile debut sire Frac Daddy, and is the second foal to race out of multiple restricted Stakes-placed mare Miss Sea. He has been working evenly with #3 RED WEAVER, who is by 10-for-50 juvenile debut sire Signature Red, who's progeny often show speed. He is the first foal to race out of decent route mare Spider Dance. #5 SPRINGER had a horrible break and was never in the race when debuting on the inner turf, but showed life second time out when finishing second behind the well-meant firster Go Jimmy Go. If he can get out of the gate effectively he should be live. #1 FICTION was sent off as the favourite when debuting at Colonial but broke badly and was never a factor. He adds blinkers while taking a drop; we'll see if he can back up the hype he had at first asking.

Race 6

#5 Three Sonny Sideup

#3 Mannix (IRE)

#1 Salvator Mundi

#4 Ghoul (BRZ)

#5 THREE SONNY SIDEUP duelled on the lead before faltering in the stretch in a starter/optional \$10,000 on October 5. He is better coming from off of the pace. #3 MANNIX (IRE) had a very hot pace to run at when rallying to an easy score while being claimed for \$5,000 nine days ago. He should have a decent pace to run at again but has come up flat when running back on short rest before. #1 SALVATOR MUNDI looked dangerous in midstretch and ran a credible fourth for this tag 10 days ago. He has been competitive in both of his starts for this tag and should fare well again. #4 GHOUL (BRZ) got cooked in a speed duel when racing for \$5,000 in the same race that Mannix exits. He returns on quick rest; hopefully he can avoid another duel.

Race 7

#6 Last American Exit

#7 Courageous Copper

#5 Border Town

#2 Air Combat

#6 LAST AMERICAN EXIT duelled through quick fractions, lost some ground on the turn but was coming back on again when finishing third and attracting a claim for \$25,000 17 days ago. Multiple Graded Stakes-placed runner would not be a shock here. #7 COURAGEOUS COPPER tracked the pace and pounced to an easy score against a solid group of starter/optional \$15,000 types, attracting a claim on November 1. He has been having a solid campaign and deserves a try at this tougher level. #5 BORDER TOWN tracked from the outside and was able to hold off the closing Quite Ready when winning the same \$25,000 race that Last American Exit comes out of. That was a return to form after several dull efforts against tougher; a logical option. #2 AIR COMBAT was in contention on the turn but lacked a serious late punch when facing N2X/\$50,000 types nine days ago; could get back to form dropping back in for the tag he was taken for.

Race 8

#5 Patriotic War

#1 Dark Screen

#6 Call Me Sue

#4 Mansetti

#5 PATRIOTIC WAR is cross-entered in Saturday's Shady Well Stakes but seems more likely to take on the boys in this shorter field. She was an impressive debut winner with strong figures on November 2; there is other speed here including her stablemate so the tactics will be interesting. #1 DARK SCREEN was a dominant winner against OS/\$40,000 non-twos eight days ago with a winning Beyer that nearly matches that of Patriotic War. If he can run back to that effort he could be a serious threat. #6 CALL ME SUE had a bit of a slow start, had some traffic and narrowly missed second in a game

fourth-place effort behind Dark Screen last week. In a race loaded with speed he may be a closer to pick up the pieces late. #4 MANSETTI was a good-looking debut winner on September 26 but came up empty after racing forwardly in the Display. Blinkers are being added.

Race 9

#4 Victory Achieved

#6 Gilt Edge

#1 Society's Thunder

#3 Indian Peak

#4 VICTORY ACHIEVED is two-for-two over the local surface, exiting a very easy front-end win against N2L allowance types last month. He looks like he will be the controlling speed once again. #6 GILT EDGE showed good late energy when rallying to be fourth behind the Grade 3-placed Playmea Tune in a race that has produced two next-out winners. He had a sharp work on November 17. #1 SOCIETY'S THUNDER was a bit unlucky to lose the Overskate after getting in a bit tight along the rail and missing by a neck. He has been having a very strong season and was able to run a solid race at this level back in June. #3 INDIAN PEAK finished evenly over a wet turf course when making his first start for this barn on September 29. He raced very well over the Tapeta two-back and could be worth a look here.

Race 10

#6 Media Sensation

#9 C C's Kingdom

#5 Taranto Titan

#3 Mighty Sea

#10 Classic Dancer

#6 MEDIA SENSATION was a very good closing second for this price over the inner turf in his first start since being claimed back by this barn. He has a very strong record on the synthetic and should have pace to run at. #9 C C'S KINGDOM did not run badly when finishing sixth off of a wide trip for \$15,000 10 days ago. He has only had two poor efforts in nine starts this year; hopefully he can work out a trip. #5 TARANTO TITAN was able to hold off Media Sensation for the win on November 3. If he can reproduce that effort he will be tough but he is questionable on the Tapeta. #3 MIGHTY SEA could be a sneaky live option here. His recent speed figures have been decent in tougher sprints; his last win came in a route back in June. #10 CLASSIC DANCER figures to be a speed factor from the outside here, stretching out to a route for the first time at Woodbine. He was $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths behind Mighty Sea last time; a wild-card.

