

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Friday, May 30th 2025

Race 1

#7 One Smooth Stone

#5 Arrakasta Izan

#3 Powaqqa

#2 Audax Minor

#7 ONE SMOOTH STONE was midpack while racing wide and emptied out when kicking off his season on May 11 against OS/\$40,000 three-year-olds. He takes a sharp drop in for \$10,000 for his second start off of the bench. #5 ARRAKASTA IZAN was never involved in his first start off of the bench, a seven furlong race for this tag on May 17. He ran a strong second in a route at the end of the 2024 meet. #3 POWAQA finished gamely to be third going seven furlongs on May 16. Filly takes on the boys here; her best results have come routing. #2 AUDAX MINOR is re-adding blinkers after plodding along to be fifth going seven furlongs on May 17, finishing a few lengths better than Arrakasta Izan. He was winter raced in Oaklawn; the others may be catching up to him now that they have starts under their belts.

Race 2

#5 Moventothecountry

#9 Scat Humor

#2 Miss Ozege

#4 Madam Gwen

#5 MOVENTOTHECOUNTRY chased the winner throughout when finishing second in her first start off of the bench on May 10. She could be the main speed here. #9 SCAT HUMOR ran a solid fourth for \$15,000 behind a few class-droppers on May 16. She takes a drop here and is arguably the one to beat off of that effort. #2 MISS OZEGE raced well to be third in both of her starts at two. She showed no speed in either of them; expect her to be rolling late. #4 MADAM GWEN ran a decent fourth when bumping up to the \$25,000 level to close out 2024 but has been a fringe player at best throughout her career.

Race 3

#4 Thenorthremembers

#1 Midnight Arkle

#6 Wet and Wild

#2 Three Sonny Sideup

#4 THENORTHREMEMBERS ran on to be third against starter/optional \$10,000 company in his local debut on May 18. He should be tactically positioned, especially if the two to his outside engage in an early duel. #1 MIDNIGHT ARKLE was at this best early in the 2024 campaign, winning his first start off of the bench. His speed figures fit and he could be live off of the winter freshening. #6 WET AND WILD was a comfortable winner against conditioned company for this tag when returning from Oaklawn on May 11. He could be a speed threat here. #2 THREE SONNY SIDEUP hit the board in half of his 10 starts last year, mainly against slightly tougher competition than this. He makes his first start for a new barn after being claimed for \$5,000 at the end of the year; he goes without blinkers for the first time in his career.

Race 4

#2 Tutti Contenti

#9 Your Valentino

#5 Monday Morning

#7 Pet Sounds

#2 TUTTI CONTENTI was a one-paced fourth for \$25,000 in his first start off of the bench. He could be more forwardly-placed stretching out a furlong and should appreciate the drop in for \$15,000. #9 YOUR VALENTINO got bumped at the start and was a bit outclassed when facing OS/\$40,000 three-year-olds on May 4. He takes a sharp drop in value here and could turn things around. #5 MONDAY MORNING went badly off form late in the 2024 season. Grey son of Silent Name will race as a first time gelding for new connections and has the talent to win here if he is more interested now. #7 PET SOUNDS rallied well to be third behind the lone speed Sparklet on May 11; a repeat of that effort puts him in the hunt here.

Race 5

#8 Phillip My Wine

#1 Paradise Perfect

#5 Conn Smythe (GB)

#2 Wagstaff

#8 PHILLIP MY WINE had an extremely eye-catching debut where he rallied after significant trouble, then came back to be third against maiden special weight company in July before being sidelined. If he has pace to run at he could pick them all off in his return to the races. #1 PARADISE PERFECT has done his best racing sprinting on turf but was primarily routed last year. A horse with some behavioural quirks, he could be better now that he races as a first time gelding. #5 CONN SMYTHE (GB)'s best race was his career debut, a rallying fourth in what was his only try on turf. Blinkers are being added for this drop in value; another first time gelding in the mix. #2 WAGSTAFF was empty in his first start off of the bench on May 3. His best race last year was his only turf race; could pick up a share at a good price.

Race 6

#2 Winston Blue

#5 Mister Holden

#7 Colonel Mustard

#10 The New Maybe

#2 WINSTON BLUE ran a couple of good races when cutting back to seven furlongs off of the claim last year but tailed off in his final two starts of the season. He goes for a new barn and could be live after the winter off. #5 MISTER HOLDEN closed out 2024 with a front-end score against non-twos in a route. Hit-or-miss type is capable at any distance and can definitely win this with one of his better efforts. #7 COLONEL MUSTARD was outclassed in the Welcome Back Handicap on May 4. He drops back in for the price he was claimed for in September and did run some good races at higher levels for these connections. #10 THE NEW MAYBE plunges in for \$15,000 after coming up empty against OS/\$40,000 company on May 4; his speed figures from last year would make him a threat here.

Race 7

#4 War In Charge - Best Bet

#2 Causin' Mayhem

#1 Palace View

#7 Frost Bitten

#4 WAR IN CHARGE did some very nice running over this turf course last year with two wins and a couple of other checks. He can race well from any position and looks solid in his return from the layoff. #2 CAUSIN' MAYHEM was able to win a \$50,000 non-two at Gulfstream on January 3 but was flat in his next two starts. He has now had 10 weeks to freshen up and reset; always been a bit of a win-shy type but should be competitive at this level. #1 PALACE VIEW had some traffic and was only beaten 2 ½ lengths for \$17,500 at Gulfstream on April 4. He had solid form at higher levels in New York last year; draws well. #7 FROST BITTEN rolled from last to win a 5 ½ furlong dash on the Tapeta on May 10. He can run any distance with seemingly any style; a wild card.

Race 8

#12 Tiger Town

#9 Glintindaddyseye

#10 War Empire

#1 Castle Harbour

#4 You and Me Baby

#12 TIGER TOWN forced the pace before tiring in his first start off of the bench on May 3. He takes a drop in value; could be quick enough to clear to the lead from the 12 hole. #9 GLINTINDADDYSEYE has been on the edges in two starts against OS/\$40,000 three-year-olds to begin the meet. Claimed for \$25,000 late last season, they aren't wasting time devaluing him. #10 WAR EMPIRE has been very sparingly raced so far in his career. He did show talent in his first start off of the bench last year when finishing second for allowance, but is likely wisely dropped in for \$15,000 in his first start for new connections. #1 CASTLE HARBOUR was a distant fourth for this tag 13 days ago; could move forward in his second start off of the bench. #4 YOU AND ME BABY chased early but emptied out against OS/\$40,000 three-year-olds on May 11. He had been competitive for \$25,000 last year and could turn things back around for this price.