Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Saturday, June 14th 2025

Race 1
#2 Magic Modie
#3 O Wow
#4 Tabloid Material
#1 Holiday With Amy

#2 MAGIC MODIE set the pace and proved best in the stretch when cutting back to this distance for her first start off of the layoff. She catches a field where she could be the pacesetter again. #3 O WOW was winless last year but hit the board in four of six starts. Plodding type will be hoping for some speed to go with Magic Modie early to set the table. #4 TABLOID MATERIAL had a good trip but finished a bit evenly when fourth while attracting a \$15,000 claim on May 23. She should be capable of better and may have simply needed a start off of the layoff. #1 HOLIDAY WITH AMY finished second behind pacesetting US invader Purr Factor when kicking off her season on May 16. That 73 Beyer seems a little suspect; worth a look but don't accept too short a price.

Race 2
#6 Mannix (IRE)
#1 Master Spy

#4 Ask in My Name

#8 Classic Dancer

#6 MANNIX (IRE) had a wide post and never got into contention when kicking off his season on May 18. He catches a field with some speed to close into and should be able to show more this time. #1 MASTER SPY made a wide rally and briefly hit the lead but was outnodded by the perfectly-tripped Determined Fury on May 16. With the right trip he is the type who could fire a huge effort at any time. #4 ASK IN MY NAME stalked the pace and prevailed to beat Valyrian Sky in a similar spot on May 18. He could foreseeably land a very similar trip this time. #8 CLASSIC DANCER was pressed on the lead before faltering against \$25,000 foes in his first start off of a \$15,000 claim. He drops right in for \$10,000; there is other speed here but he may be quick enough from the outside.

Race 3

#2 Froginapond #5 Six for a Nine #7 Sunnyville #1 Ecliptical Ladybug

#2 FROGINAPOND competed against tougher company last year but did improve when getting down to the \$25,000 level. She takes a drop in for \$15,000 for her seasonal bow and catches a very questionable field; blinkers come off. #5 SIX FOR A NINE was never involved when kicking off her season for \$10,000 on the Tapeta on May 16. She had one big effort over this course in October, an outlier on her form; if she can recreate that race she will be tough. #7 SUNNYVILLE finished second at this level over the main track on May 30. The stretch out and surface switch are both obvious question marks but she is lightly raced and could improve. #1 ECLIPTICAL LADYBUG rallied from last to

be fourth for this tag in her first start off of the bench on May 16; adds lasix and should like the stretch out to a route.

Race 4
#2 Worry Less - Best Bet
#6 Bright Sunshine
#4 Takemybourbonneat
#8 Hymn to Her

#2 WORRY LESS pressured a quick pace before fading to fourth on May 17. She gets a slight cutback in distance and looks like the one who most wants the lead here. #6 BRIGHT SUNSHINE dropped in for this tag on the heels of a \$40,000 maiden win and ran a decent third, running on into a fast pace on May 24. She seems like a logical contender. #4 TAKEMYBOURBONNEAT was close to the pace and outkicked Worry Less, finishing second on May 17. Lasix is added today; arguably the one to beat. #8 HYMN TO HER had a very wide trip over a rail-favouring track on May 11 but threw in a clunker 13 days later. She drops in for \$25,000 for the first time since her debut; rebound candidate.

Race 5

#2 Brengungirl #3 Dolce Fortuna #5 Sweet Passions #1 Fourfiftyfour

#2 BRENGUNGIRL won her first two starts including the South Ocean Stakes, but stumbled at the start and was not a serious factor when trying a route in the Princess Elizabeth. She has to be ready off of the layoff but if someone like Prima goes with Dolce Fortuna, things could set up well for her. #3 DOLCE FORTUNA romped on the front end with a standout 83 Beyer to win her first start of the year. If she gets clear on the front again she could prove very tough to run down. #5 SWEET PASSIONS exits a very good closing runner-up finish behind Sinclarity on May 24. She definitely seems like she has taken a step forward this year, taking on older horses without a problem right off the bat; might not be quite good enough but tough to knock. #1 FOURFIFTYFOUR kicks off her season here after being on the shelf since August. Multiple Stakes-placed filly has speed figures that fit and should not be overlooked.

Race 6
#3 I Got Murphed
#4 Sil's Gamble
#7 Ruthless Action
#10 Foresters Exec

#3 I GOT MURPHED is by 14% debut sire Reload, and the first foal to race out of a mare who ran second on debut. She worked well out of the gate with a stablemate on May 28. #4 SIL'S GAMBLE closed strongly late to be second by ¾ lengths against \$25,000 foes on May 23. She steps up in value here but looks solid from a speed figure perspective. #7 RUTHLESS ACTION chased the pacesetter and hit the front in deep stretch but was run down late on May 29. Consistent filly has been second in five of seven lifetime starts. #10 FORESTERS EXEC came up empty after chasing the pace in a tough maiden special weight on May 4 but rebounded three weeks later

with a runner-up finish at this level; hopefully she isn't caught too wide.

Race 7
#6 Miramichi
#7 Speedy Freeze
#9 Love You Lippy
#10 Unheard

#6 MIRAMICHI has raced well in all three of her starts so far this season, most recently finishing a distant third behind the impressive Dolce Fortuna. She prefers the turf and has the tactical speed to find good position. #7 SPEEDY FREEZE rallied well and outfinishied Miramichi for the place spot, finishing 2 ½ lengths ahead of that foe. She is out of a turf winning dam and looks like the one to beat in her second start off of the bench. #9 LOVE YOU LIPPY broke sharply, dueled early and kicked clear to break her maiden for this price when debuting on May 25. She looks like she could be quick enough to make the early lead again. #10 UNHEARD gets onto turf for the first time since rallying under a hand ride to win on September 21. She could be live at a good price in her second start off of the bench.

Race 8
#1 Cozy Curlin Kitten
#3 Bolt Enoree
#4 Kitten's Romance
#5 She Makes a Point

#1 COZY CURLIN KITTEN was able to win her OS/\$40,000 non-two and non-three over this course last year but was wide when failing to threaten in her first try at this level. She draws well and should have some speed to run at in her 2025 debut, #3 BOLT ENOREE is puzzlingly dropped in for \$32,000 after winning an N2X/\$50,000 on May 17. Obviously off of that win we can say she has the class to win this, but turf is not her preferred surface and this drop raises red flags: proceed with caution. #4 KITTEN'S ROMANCE was second-best behind the pacesetting Katherine's Gem in a starter/optional \$15,000 on May 29. She loves the inner turf and is the kind of horse I would never count out at this level. #5 SHE MAKES A POINT had a less than perfect start and came up empty when making her return from Oaklawn on May 16. With a clean break she should be a pace factor; rebound candidate.

Race 9
#5 Family
#8 Bit of Music
#6 Complex Secret
#1 Crystal Visions

#5 FAMILY took a shot in the Miss Preakness on dirt for her first start in the Saffie Joseph barn but came up empty after pressing wide early. Beaten a head in the Serena's Song at Turfway before that, she should thrive getting back to the Tapeta and looks like the clear speed here. #8 BIT OF MUSIC was able to win at first asking in November, getting up by a head to beat Earendel. The 69 Beyer is a solid figure for a filly who was two at the time; very intrigued to see what she shows in her three-year-old debut. #6 COMPLEX SECRET was not in good form at Oaklawn but took a big step in the right direction in her

local debut, racing wide and finishing third behind the impressive Our Lady on May 24; worth a look in her second try over the surface. #1 CRYSTAL VISIONS failed to fire when kicking off her season in the Ruling Angel. Blinkers are added to this Stakes-placed filly.

Race 10
#2 Charlottesapproval
#1 Miss Bodacious (GB)
#5 Zo Lee
#8 Uphill Dance

#2 CHARLOTTESAPROVAL made the most of her four starts in 2024, winning twice and missing narrowly in the other two. Both of her local starts came around two turns on the inner turf but she did win going 5 1/2 furlongs at Colonial; a sprint on the EP Taylor may suit her perfectly. #1 MISS BODACIOUS (GB) had two good third-place efforts in five furlong dashes on the Gulfstream turf to kick off her North American career. She rises up from the first allowance level here but could be the main speed stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs. #5 ZO LEE chased fast fractions and hit the front in the stretch but was unable to hold off the closing Bolt Enoree on May 17. Her running style is hard to predict; although win shy there are plenty of good races in her form. #8 UPHILL DANCE was 1 3/4 lengths behind Zo Lee when finishing fourth last time. Although winless on turf she is multiple Stakes-placed and has posted her best speed figures on this course.

Race 11
#11 Orion Beach
#13 Hibiscus
#7 Xarabella
#5 Sunlit
#1 Princess Anastasia

#11 ORION BEACH rallied well to be second on debut on May 25. The 64 Beyer she earned for that effort may go a little overshadowed by the others who have run in the 70s and she may offer some value. #13 HIBISCUS disappointed when debuting in a turf route at Keeneland. but proved she has some serious talent when taking on the boys in the King Corrie where she kept on well to be third by 1 1/4 lengths. She figures to be well backed off of that effort; the one to beat. #7 XARABELLA earned a field-best 77 Beyer when finishing second chasing the pacesetting winner on May 25. She should be tactically positioned. #5 SUNLIT is by 15% debut sire Outwork, out of a dam who has been a solid producer including Stakes-winner Hemp Hemp Hurray. She has had some quick breezes. #1 PRINCESS ANASTASIA stalked the pace and finished gamely to be second by a neck on May 25; not without a shot.