Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Sunday, July 13th 2025

### Race 1 #6 Silver Is Best #3 Silent Mort #7 Balboni's Crew #5 Japonka

#6 SILVER IS BEST dueled gamely to the wire when finishing third, <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lengths behind the previously experienced Souper Diva when debuting on June 15. He looks like the one to beat. #3 SILENT MORT worked evenly with Dri Saddle out of the gate on July 5. He is by 12% juvenile debut sire Silent Name, and the first foal to race out of a dam who did not break her maiden. #7 BALBONI'S CREW is by 9-for-63 juvenile debut sire Society's Chairman, out of a mare who won a Stake in Chicago as a three-year-old, but has not had a two-yearold starter. He has an extensive worktab, including a good-looking gate work on June 29. #5 JAPONKA ran on a bit when debuting in a race won by stablemate Cayenne Kiss; room to improve.

Race 2 #6 Mopharra #5 Trip Aces #2 Globetrotting #4 Extraordinary One (GB)

#6 MOPHARRA debuted in a spring last year, showing no speed and rallying to be sixth, beaten three lengths for second. He should be very fit for his return and should appreciate the stretch out to two turns. #5 TRIP ACES has shown improvement since adding blinkers, coming into this off of a pair of runner-up finishes. He will be a speed factor again in his turf debut; the one to beat. #2 GLOBETROTTING ran a respectable third behind the talented Hammerhead when racing over this course last year. Son of Liam's Map has been breezing steadily and is drawn well for his return. #4 EXTRAORDINARY ONE (GB) showed speed but faltered when racing over 11 furlongs in New York on June 20, earning his best career Beyer figure. Blinkers are being added; wild card.

Race 3 #1 Olivia Rose #5 Little Teddy #2 Talk to Ya Later #4 Silent Sky

#1 OLIVIA ROSE dueled on the lead and gave way to be third against N2X/\$50,000 company on May 3. She needed a start off of the bench to find her best last year; she should be primed for this one. #5 LITTLE TEDDY resumes her rivalry with Olivia Rose after they took turns beating each other in last year's Georgian Bay and Thunder Bay Stakes. She comes into this off of two allowance wins; the confidence should be sky-high. #2 TALK TO YA LATER scored a dominant N1X/\$32,000 win to start the season on May 24 but returned with an even effort against N2X/\$50,000 foes on June 14. She came up <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lengths short in this race last year; capable enough when she wants to be. #4 SILENT SKY was a half-length better than Talk to Ya Later on June 14; on the edges.

### Race 4

## #6 Souper Debonaire #7 Two Out Hero #3 Speights Will #4 Twentytwo Soles

#6 SOUPER DEBONAIRE is by 18% juvenile debut sire Nyquist, and the first foal to race out of a Tiznow mare who did not break her maiden but hit the board in all four of her starts. He worked well from the gate on June 19. #7 TWO OUT HERO is by 11% juvenile debut sire War Front, and the first foal to race out of a mare who was twice Stakes-placed at two. He outworked a pair of stablemates from the gate on July 6. #3 SPEIGHTS WILL is by 5-for-68 juvenile debut sire War of Will, and the first foal to race out of an unraced dam. He worked evenly with a pair of stablemates from the gate on June 15. #4 TWENTYTWO SOLES is by 19% juvenile sire Upstart, out of an unraced dam who has produced multiple Stakes-winner Chicago's Gray. His gate works have been a bit slower than his stablemate's.

## Race 5 #3 Borealis Trail #4 Brawler #2 Globecrest #7 William T

#5 BOREALIS TRAIL got rolling late and just missed place when making his local debut on June 22. Secondtime-gelding will be hoping for some pace to run at. #4 BRAWLER is by 10% debut sire War Front, and is out of a Stakes-placed mare who has had two winners in as many foals to race. He had a quick gate work on June 15. #2 GLOBECREST was second-best behind the pacesetting Blanco when debuting on June 15. He stretches out to a route and figures to be a speed threat. #7 WILLIAM T will re-add blinkers quickly after taking them off last time. He finished gamely to be third when getting out to this distance last time; should be closer to the pace this time.

### Race 6 #2 Zisisit (IRE) #1 Mixologist #5 Wickenheiser #3 Cozy Curlin Kitten

#2 ZISISIT (IRE) was allowed a very easy lead and was never truly threatened when winning an N1X/\$32,000 on the inner turf on June 1. She will try the EP Taylor course for the first time here; does not need the lead to win. #1 MIXOLOGIST makes her first start since a midpack finish in the Jockey Club Oaks Invitational at Aqueduct in September. Her only bad race to date was one where she was too close to the pace and a bit rank; she should be able to take back and finish nicely in her local debut. #5 WICKENHEISER exits a runner-up finish behind the pacesetting Veery on June 21. Although her speed figures suggest she prefers the Tapeta I think she is very good on turf and does not look like she is in an overly tough spot for the level. #3 COZY CURLIN KITTEN surged in deep stretch to win an N1X/\$32,000 on the inner turf over the back classy Kitten's Romance. She should be running on late.

### Race 7 #5 Weller Green - Best Bet #3 Conn Smythe (GB) #2 Private Label #8 Paynes Spirit

#5 WELLER GREEN has been scratching due to off turf races and excessive heat. He now shows up for \$40,000; first-time gelding should be very competitive here. #3 CONN SMYTHE (GB) has raced well in both of his starts this season, most recently finishing second behind the pacesetting Gotme Good. He definitely seems to have stepped up this year since getting on turf and looks logical here. #2 PRIVATE LABEL dueled on the lead ran game to be second, eight lengths clear of the next horse. He is still lightly raced and could keep improving. #8 PAYNES SPIRIT showed no speed and rallied very well to be fourth when debuting over five furlongs on June 29; has the right to improve with the added distance.

## Race 8 #5 Sherlock's Jewel #2 Never Surprised #3 McAvoy #1 Ron's Gizmo

#5 SHERLOCK'S JEWEL had a wide trip in the Poker and raced evenly. He had previously won two high level allowance races in New York and should be competitive with these. #2 NEVER SURPRISED followed the leader well into the stretch and got up at the wire to win at this level over the inner course on June 1. He has hit the exactor in 13 of 18 career turf starts. #3 MCAVOY had a wide trip and was beaten only a length by Ron's Gizmo on June 21. He draws well and could turn the tables with a better trip. #1 RON'S GIZMO rallied to hit the front in late stretch and held off Frosted Over to win at this level on June 21. He has been getting better with age and would be no surprise to double up.

## Race 9 #3 Special Session #9 Blanco #8 Map's a Breeze #1 Faber

#3 SPECIAL SESSION sat midpack and burst clear to win with authority when shedding the blinkers on June 22. That was a breakthrough speed figure; if he can run back to it he will have a good shot to double up. #9 BLANCO went gate to wire to win on debut over seven furlongs quite comfortably. He figures to be well-supported on the stretch out. #8 MAP'S A BREEZE has begun to rally belatedly in both of his starts so far this season. He breezed well on July 2; if he can get rolling earlier he could be more of a factor. #1 FABER was second-best behind Faber, 2 ¼ lengths better than Map's a Breeze on May 31. He should have a good trip from the inside and looks logical.

## Race 10 #9 Tour the City #4 Lonny's Gamble #6 Human Desire #5 Quiet Vista

#9 TOUR THE CITY was in contention but had to steady in midstretch and ended up third in a solid N2L allowance on May 31. He takes the drop in for \$40,000; the one to beat. #4 LONNY'S GAMBLE had some trouble on the far but ran on in the stretch and was beaten only 2 1/4 lengths on June 21. He should be a factor here with a clean trip; gets on turf for the first time. #6 HUMAN DESIRE broke his maiden for \$50,000 while attracting a claim at Gulfstream but failed to factor against allowance threeyear-olds on April 11. He has been given some time and had a couple of sharp breezes coming into this; should appreciate the drop in for \$40,000. #5 QUIET VISTA failed to factor in a sprint on June 15. He has not made many starts in the last couple of years so the fact that he's returning fairly quickly seems like a positive; small share.

# Race 11

## #2 British Artillery #9 Journeyman #4 Alley Oop Johnny #12 J P Hellish #1 Jim's Hope

#2 BRITISH ARTILLERY looks like he is in tough here but had a very impressive win against OS/\$40.000 nontwos last September that would be good enough to win here. He is drawn well in a race with plenty of speed; could trip out. #9 JOURNEYMAN dueled down the backside well into the stretch and was outfinished by the closing Twowaycrossing on the main track on June 22. His lifetime record is stellar; always tough to ignore. #4 ALLEY OOP JOHNNY was beaten a head in a threehorse photo while attracting a \$25,000 claim on June 29. He almost never runs a bad one and has great tactical speed. #12 J P HELLISH attracted a claim at this level while finishing an even fifth on May 31. The post is tough but he has the back class to be a factor if he can work out a trip. #1 JIM'S HOPE has only raced once on turf in the past and did not show much. He was nosed out for place by Journeyman last time; has enough class that I'm willing to give him some consideration on turf.