

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson  
Friday, July 25th 2025

Race 1

**#2 Cardio Princess (JPN)**

**#7 Laughing Out Loud**

**#3 Great Kate**

**#5 Makayla**

#2 CARDIO PRINCESS (JPN) continues to drop in value after disappointing as the 4-5 favourite for \$15,000 on the inner turf on July 4. Blinkers are being added; should be able to beat these. #7 LAUGHING OUT LOUD forced the pace and ran a credible second at this class and distance on June 19. This race has very little speed which could give her a tactical edge. #3 GREAT KATE was empty in a \$15,000 sprint on July 10. She makes her second start off of the layoff here, gets class relief and stretches out to her preferred distance. #5 MAKAYLA tracked the pacesetter and dug in down the stretch to win her non-two for this price on July 5; in with a shot to double up.

Race 2

**#5 So Called Vacation - Best Bet**

**#2 Pet Sounds**

**#4 Smart Almasty**

**#7 Heard a Ghost**

#5 SO CALLED VACATION was claimed from his maiden win for \$10,000 and was brought down to Fort Erie where he finished second behind another Woodbine-claim, If You Insist. Speed factor is dropped in for \$7,500 and looks solid. #2 PET SOUNDS had some trouble when finishing second behind Whiskey Row on July 10. He is probably a bit better at seven furlongs but I think he is better at a route than his 5-0-0-0 record at the distance suggests. #4 SMART ALMASTY ran an okay fifth by 2 ¾ lengths in a sprint on June 27. He could step forward in his second start off of the bench. #7 HEARD A GHOST ran a very good third on the inner turf for \$15,000 in his first start off of the layoff but regressed when bumping up to the \$25,000 level on July 11. We'll see if he can rebound on the plunge in for bottoms.

Race 3

**#6 Scuderia**

**#3 Audi's World**

**#1 Isaac Leo**

**#4 Souper Effect**

#6 SCUDERIA has run two very strong races for \$40,000 this season with solid speed figures. He takes the drop in for \$25,000 and should be the boss. #3 AUDI'S WORLD dropped in for this tag for his first start of the year on June 26, running on fairly well to be third. He should step

forward in his second start off of the bench. #1 ISAAC LEO exits the same race as Audi's World, setting the pace and holding on for second. He may have a tougher time holding off Audi's World now that the fitness is evening out. #4 SOUPER EFFECT came up empty in a maiden special weight route on June 22. He ran okay at the OS/\$40,000 sprint on June 1; could be worth a look at a price.

Race 4

**#5 Its in the Cards**

**#9 Punkin Boy**

**#6 Calling Home**

**#7 Night Striker**

#5 ITS IN THE CARDS hooked a solid field and ran better than it looks on paper when trying turf on June 12 at the OS/\$40,000 level. He could offer some value here. #9 PUNKIN BOY fanned wide and rallied to be third, getting nosed out for place when getting on turf on June 15. He seems to be improving with experience; hopefully he isn't stuck too wide. #6 CALLING HOME has run on for small shares in both of his starts so far this season. Plodding-type peaked in his third start last year; we'll see how he likes the grass. #7 NIGHT STRIKER takes blinkers off again after running a flat fifth on July 11. He held place from Punkin Boy two-back; capable of a good effort but doesn't seem to want to win.

Race 5

**#5 Small Talk**

**#1 Legal Attack (GB)**

**#3 Forest Buzz**

**#2 Guildsman (FR)**

#5 SMALL TALK kicked off his season in a starter/optional \$15,000 sprinting five furlongs on the inner turf, forcing the pace before giving way to be fifth. He drops in for \$10,000 and gets a more ideal distance for his second start off of the bench. #1 LEGAL ATTACK (GB) was an impressive winner of the June 27 inner turf dash, then came back to be a very game third by just a neck over this course on July 11. If he doesn't bounce off of those two big efforts he should be tough. #3 FOREST BUZZ has finished midpack in both legs of the Turf Sprint series and is now plunging in for \$10,000. He is capable of showing more speed than he has in his two starts this year and may be more forwardly-placed at this level. #2 GUILDSMAN (FR) has not been seen since 2023 when he had a solid campaign with four wins in eight starts. He has been firing quick workouts consistently; we'll see what we get.

## Race 6

### #4 Sparklet

### #6 Frost Bitten

### #7 Cadfael

### #1 Catholic Jackie

#4 SPARKLET raced wide and finished evenly on turf while attracting a \$15,000 claim on June 20. He is much better on the Tapeta and could rebound for the new connections. #6 FROST BITTEN ran on well to be third behind the pacesetting Dissectologist when getting back to a main track sprint for this price on July 4. He seems to be doing his best running when falling back and making one late run. #7 CADFAEL was second-best at this level two starts ago before coming up empty in an N1X/\$32,000 inner turf sprint on June 29. He could be live getting back to a reasonable level. #1 CATHOLIC JACKIE was wide early when finishing midpack in a \$7,500 route won by the back-classy Mehlek on July 4. He is capable sprinting and could hit the ticket at a decent price.

## Race 7

### #1 Causin' Mayhem

### #6 This Dude a Breeze

### #10 Swan Lake

### #5 Peja Du

#1 CAUSIN' HAYHEM had a very nice trip when exploding to win her non-three for \$25,000 on May 30 but regressed at this level on June 13. He catches a field with a lot of speed to run at and could land a perfect trip. #6 THIS DUDE A BREEZE set a moderate pace and kicked clear to an easy win at this level on July 4. He is a winner on turf; likely to sit behind the quicker speed types this time. #10 SWAN LAKE was an impressive winner at this level on June 13 but came up flat for \$25,000 16 days later. He has had a bit more time between starts this time; if he can work out a trip from the outside draw he could rebound. #5 PEJA DU set the pace and emptied out to be fifth, four lengths better than Swan Lake on June 29. He drops in for \$15,000 for his second start off of the bench; we'll see if he can return to form.

## Race 8

### #2 Magna Time

### #3 Weller Green

### #6 Highly Potent

### #5 Conn Smythe (GB)

#2 MAGNA TIME finished third behind the impressive Monterey Bay when debuting on July 6. Son of Not This Time should appreciate the extra quarter mile and appears to have plenty of ability. #3 WELLER GREEN has been desperately searching for a turf race and has had to scratch due to weather-related circumstances several times. First-time-gelding hit the board in four of seven starts last year and should be in the hunt. #6 HIGHLY POTENT was second-best behind the well-meant English Actor on June 26. He raced well on debut over the Gulfstream turf in September; worth a look. #5 CONN SMYTHE (GB) was second-best behind the pacesetting Gotme Good for \$40,000 on June 20; fringe player jumping back up to the allowance level.

## Race 9

### #5 Kairos Moment

### #8 Big Lew

### #4 Jo Jagr

### #11 Ashwood

### #3 Highland Rocky

#5 KAIROS MOMENT ran a solid second after a slow start when debuting for \$15,000, then raced flat off of a wide trip in a \$25,000 route on July 11. He drops in for \$10,000 and gets back to a sprint; should be tough. #8 BIG LEW has improved with each start this season, rallying to be second for this price on July 4. Hopefully he has not peaked and will continue to be competitive. #4 JO JAGR was pressed on the lead and faded to be fourth for this price on June 27. Lightly-raced gelding could sustain his speed a bit better this time. #11 ASHWOOD ran an even fifth when debuting in the same race that Jo Jagr exits. He draws wide here but may step forward now that he has a start under his belt. #3 HIGHLAND ROCKY rallied to be third, in front of Jo Jagr and Ashwood on June 27. He makes his second start of the season and could run on for another share.