

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson

Sunday, August 24th 2025

Race 1

#5 Bill of Ice

#4 Souper Debonair

#6 Deputy Curlin

#3 Silent Code

#5 BILL OF ICE is by 15% debut sire Constitution, out of a mare who has produced two Graded Stakes-winners including Grade 1-winner Americanrevolution. He outworked a stablemate from the gate on August 17. #4 SOUPER DEBONAIR chased the speed and gave way to be fifth behind the runaway Two Out Hero, who came back to win the Soaring Free last week. He was beaten just 2 ¼ lengths for place; big shot. #6 DEPUTY CURLIN wheeled at the break and dropped the rider when debuting on July 27. Blinkers are being added this time; we'll see if he is more keen on participating. #3 SILENT CODE plodded around and showed nothing in his July 27 debut; we'll see if he can pass a couple for a check on the stretch out.

Race 2

#4 Magna Time

#2 Globecrest

#8 Highly Potent

#6 Golden Truth

#4 MAGNA TIME rallied and hit the front but was outkicked by the impressive Monterey Bay when debuting on July 6, then tried nine furlongs second time out where he forced the pace and was second best. He cuts back and tries the synthetic for the first time. #2 GLOBECREST has been second-best in both of his starts to date, most recently rallying after an early steady in a route. He seems logical in a field where many have done their best running on turf. #8 HIGHLY POTENT made a bid in early stretch but gave way to be third in the same turf race that Magna Time exits. He ran a good second over the Tapeta on June 26; tries a sprint for the first time here. #6 GOLDEN TRUTH was second-best behind the well-meant Phillip Banks when sprinting on the grass two weeks ago. He had a big Tapeta effort on May 24.

Race 3

#7 Shak Town - Best Bet

#3 Flyonbye

#1 Mr. Perfect

#2 Stroke of Genius

#7 SHAK TOWN is by 10% juvenile debut sire American Pharoah, and is the first foal to race out of Grade 3-

winning mare Shakopee Town. He goes with blinkers; outworked a pair of stablemates from the gate on August 10. #3 FLYONBYE ran on well to be fourth on debut, missing place by a length. He has the advantage of being the only runner in this field with a race under his belt. #1 MR. PERFECT is by 15% juvenile debut sire Old Forester, out of a mare whose best progeny is Browning Island. He was outworked by a stablemate from the gate on July 31. #2 STROKE OF GENIUS is by 14% juvenile debut sire Munnings, out of a mare who has produced Stakes-winner Tournesol, who won on debut.

Race 4

#2 Royal Entry

#6 Paradise Perfect

#8 Thor's Cause

#3 Audi's World

#2 ROYAL ENTRY exits a decent fourth-place effort when trying turf against maiden allowance company on July 25. He gets to face easier this time and should be tough. #6 PARADISE PERFECT came from near-last to be fifth in an EP Taylor sprint at this level on July 27. Though I do think he is best as a closing sprinter, he has had good results around two turns over this course and is definitely a contender. #8 THOR'S CAUSE has hit the board in his two most recent starts on the Tapeta. He does not seem to like the turf as much but has had just three tries over the surface, one of which was his lifetime debut and another was the Breeders' Stakes. #3 AUDI'S WORLD had a poor break but ran on a bit to be fourth over a speed-favouring surface for \$25,000 on July 25. He will try turf and a route for the first time here; blinkers are added.

Race 5

#5 Little Teddy

#1 Speedy Freeze

#4 Souper Supreme

#6 Hoodless

#5 LITTLE TEDDY won her N1X and N2X in her first two starts of the season before being second-best in the Ballade behind the rapid Olivia Rose. Super consistent filly has the best resume in this field; only missed the top three twice in her career. #1 SPEEDY FREEZE had an idea setup when rallying to be beaten a neck in the Midsummer Handicap on August 1. She had an impressive rally to win her OS/\$40,000 non-two on June 14; won't have a problem with the cutback. #4 SOUPER SUPREME rattled off a pair of Stakes wins as a two-year-old before being eased up in the Glorious Song and being put on the sidelines. Speedy filly makes her return here; we'll see if she can get loose and get brave. #6 HOODLESS has won three of her four starts so far this

year, most recently taking a \$25,000 non-three; her confidence could be enough to pick up a check here.

Race 6

#1 Sipping History

#8 Superfly Chick

#4 Cayenne Kiss

#7 Winning Agenda

#1 SIPPING HISTORY had poor luck but ran big races against tough company in her first three starts, then dominated an auction-restricted maiden race on August 2. She should be well-positioned here; good shot to double up. #8 SUPERFLY CHICK debuted in the same race that Sipping History exits, catching a lot of eyes with a strong rally after a poor break to be second; worth consideration. #4 CAYENNE KISS stalked the pace while racing wide and burst clear to win at first asking on June 28. That race has produced next-out winner Perfect Sparkle. #7 WINNING AGENDA had some trouble at the start and ran okay when sixth on debut against maiden allowance company. Blinkers are added; could hit the ticket at a price.

Race 7

#2 Zisisit (IRE)

#4 Destiny Ro

#1 War Painter

#7 Mason's Music

#2 ZISISIT (IRE) broke a little too sharply and never really had an ideal trip when finishing fourth as the favourite in the Midsummer Handicap. Inner turf specialist is drawn well and should be able to rebound. #4 DESTINY RO was also victim of a less-than-perfect ride in the Midsummer Handicap, making a very early wide advance before flattening out in early stretch. She was a solid third at this level two starts ago. #1 WAR PAINTER has been favoured in three starts this year and is winless so far but has been racing well. She won the Victorian Queen on turf as a two-year-old; could get that first win of the season here. #7 MASON'S MUSIC was very game when winning her first start of the season on August 1 at the \$25,000 level. She steps up in class here but does not look out of place.

Race 8

#5 Silver Is Best

#2 Highwaytothemoon

#1 Duckduckduck

#3 Found Money

#5 SILVER IS BEST ran a game third on debut then put it all together with an easy win on July 13. He should be in good striking position. #2 HIGHWAYTOTHMOON dueled on the lead and kicked clear in the final furlong to

win an auction-restricted maiden race on debut on August 2. That impressive win should set him up well for this race. #1 DUCKDUCKDUCK pressured Highwaytothemoon but was second best in his August 2 debut. We'll see if he opts to go for the lead again or if he tries to stalk from the inside. #3 FOUND MONEY has not run badly but has not been a threat in a pair of maiden special weight races. He has the highest late pace rating according to Timeform US, which could be beneficial in a race with many fast horses stretching out from five furlongs.

Race 9

#9 Its Time to Shine

#5 Sunday's Well

#8 Regal Guest

#2 Summer Commander

#9 ITS TIME TO SHINE turned the tables on talented stablemate Junior Hot Shot when winning the Pink Lloyd on July 27. Quick colt has not crossed the wire worse than second in five starts this year; big threat. #5 SUNDAY'S WELL showed nothing in the stretch when debuting on turf but was absurdly impressive when dominating on the front end over the Tapeta on July 20. This is obviously an acid test for his first try against winners but could be any type. #8 REGAL GUEST makes his first start since being run down late by Notorious Gangster in the Queenston. Pink Lloyd's full brother has compiled a very good record so far and is not out of the question. #2 SUMMER COMMANDER is very consistent, hitting the board in 12 of his 14 starts so far. He exits a game win over Shadow Realm in an OS/\$40,000 non-three on July 27.

Race 10

#2 Private Label

#9 Connor

#7 Ciunas

#4 Gotme Good

#1 Bowman's Run

#2 PRIVATE LABEL gave way to be fourth after being part of a contested pace at this level on the main track three weeks ago. He ran a big second behind Wagstaff in his only try on turf. #9 CONNOR exits a sixth-place effort behind a trio of next-out winners including the aforementioned Wagstaff on July 13. He gets significant class relief moving down from the N1X/\$32,000 level but has a tough post to overcome. #7 CIUNAS rallied from last after being bothered at the break and was able to win nicely on debut. He stretches out to a route and tries turf this time. #4 GOTME GOOD had a very nice trip when rallying to be second in the same race that Private Label exits. His maiden win came over this course on June 20. #1 BOWMAN'S RUN rallied from last to be third, a neck behind Gotme Good in his first start off of the claim. His maiden win came over the EP Taylor turf last fall.