Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Sunday, September 7th 2025

Race 1

#5 Bankingonamiracle - Best Bet #3 El Cohete #2 Paintthetownsilver #1 Yacht Boy

#5 BANKINGONAMIRACLE chased the pace from the outside and gave way to be fifth when racing on turf on August 15. He looks like he could be the controlling speed here. #3 EL COHETE has raced well in all five of his starts this year and has finished no worse than fourth. He should appreciate cutting back to a sprint after a good route effort on August 7. #2 PAINTTHETOWNSILVER came up empty off of a wide trip over the turf on July 20. He gets significant class relief coming down from the N2X/\$50,000 level and gets back to the surface over which he has done his best running. #1 YACHT BOY has closed well to be fourth in both of his starts so far this year. He is good enough to win this but may not get the pace setup he needs.

Race 2

#2 Conn Smythe (GB) #6 Highly Potent #1 Sluggernaut #7 Gone Hunting

#2 CONN SMYTHE (GB) dueled on the lead and came up second best while attracting a \$25,000 claim on August 17. He draws a better post this time and ran a good second for this price over this course three starts back. #6 HIGHLY POTENT pressed the pace and emptied out when sprinting on the main track on August 24. He drops in for \$40,000 and has raced well in both of his turf tries. #1 SLUGGERNAUT ran an okay fourth in a tough maiden allowance over this course when debuting last August and has been sidelined since. Son of Frac Daddy gets to race protected in this earlier spot and is definitely interesting on the comeback. #7 GONE HUNTING debuted in a maiden allowance turf sprint on August 10 where he raced a bit wide and ran a non-threatening fourth; he could improve with the class drop.

Race 3

#6 Shotgun Wedding #3 Biles (IRE) #2 Promising #4 Periwinkle

#6 SHOTGUN WEDDING looked like a winner in late stretch but was caught late by an exploding Hoshiana when last racing on August 9. She gets back on the synthetic for the first time since she was beaten a half-length in the Ruling Angel. #3 BILES (IRE) clipped heels early but recovered to still run a credible fourth in her debut, then came back with a gate to wire maiden win on July 26. She is still gaining experience and seems to have a lot of potential. #2 PROMISING was outkicked in a stretch duel by stablemate A Little Frisky when making her return to Woodbine on July 26. Synthetic specialist

has strong speed figures for this field. #4 PERIWINKLE narrowly missed place in an OS/\$40,000 non-three on the turf on August 15; fringe player against these.

Race 4
#1 Making His Mark
#8 Japonka
#5 Digital Security
#9 Fog d'Oro

#1 MAKING HIS MARK came up empty off of a wide trip when taking a shot in the Simcoe on August 24. He drops into the easiest class he has seen yet and could rebound. #8 JAPONKA finished on the edges in her first three tries for \$40,000 before a flat run in the Muskoka; could be more live at this level. #5 DIGITAL SECURITY was green early and showed little when debuting against maiden allowance company back in June. We'll see if he figures it out a bit at this easier level. #9 FOG D'ORO has been gelded in the time since his most recent effort on July 27; we'll see if that change can launch him out of the edges and into more serious contention.

Race 5
#3 Gone With Duwyn
#8 Deputy Ghost
#9 Amore Mio
#2 No Cape

#3 GONE WITH DUWYN led well into the stretch and was caught late while lugging out to be beaten a neck on August 17. He could be the controlling speed again; we'll see if he can hold on. #8 DEPUTY GHOST has raced well to be third in both of his starts to date. He has shown tactical speed; maybe he will be more forwardly placed stretch out an extra furlong. #9 AMORE MIO raced wide and lacked much finish when debuting in a maiden special weight won by the dominant Marcus J on August 3. We'll see if he can improve at this easier level. #2 NO CAPE is by 13% juvenile debut sire Souper Speedy, out of a mare who has produced a couple of juvenile winners. He comes into this off of a sharp breeze from the pole.

Race 6
#3 Walking in Memphis
#1 Kokomo
#7 Blazing Bucchero
#2 Pipers Reign

#3 WALKING IN MEMPHIS dueled on the far turn and faded a bit in deep stretch to be fourth when facing a tough group over a mile on turf on August 3. His only previous sprint try was on dirt; he should like the synthetic. #1 KOKOMO gave way in the stretch after dueling on the lead in a five furlong turf dash on July 20. He likely prefers a slightly more moderate early tempo and has done his best running on the Tapeta. #7 BLAZING BUCCHERO ran on well to be third in the same five furlong turf dash that Kokomo exits. He raced well on the Gulfstream Tapeta and should appreciate getting a bit of extra distance. #2 PIPERS REIGN made an eyecatching rally to win on debut for \$40,000 on turf on July 27. We'll see if he can duplicate that effort on the Tapeta and against allowance company.

Race 7 #2 Last American Exit #7 Walter Me Lad #8 Crumlin Lad #4 Indian Peak

#2 LAST AMERICAN EXIT was claimed back by these connections for this price in May and returned in the Pink Lloyd where he raced very well to be fourth by just a length and a half. Hard-knocker should be very live back at this level. #7 WALTER ME LAD dueled on the lead and gave way in deep stretch to be fourth in a turf mile for this price in his first start off of the claim for these connections. Solid sprinter looks competitive once again. #8 CRUMLIN LAD came up empty after chasing the pace in the Connaught Cup on July 20. He has been competitive in the N2X/\$50,000 ranks this season and now plunges in for \$25,000; we'll see what we get. #4 INDIAN PEAK had a tough post and never fired in an N1X/\$32,000 on August 16. He has had synthetic success and drops in for \$25,000.

Race 8 #7 Taquanyah #1 Weehawken #2 O Wow #5 Snatched

#7 TAQUANYAH ran on to be fourth over a yielding course on August 17. Last year's Eternal Search-winner seems to do her best running on this course and could be ready for one of her peak efforts. #1 WEEHAWKEN was claimed back by these connections for this price back on July 26 and now makes her return. She is at her best sprinting but ran well over a mile at Gulfstream this winter and isn't in super tough here. #2 O WOW looked good when winning her \$25,000 non-three two back, then had some trouble when finishing fourth in her first try against wide open foes for that tag on August 1. She jumps up in class but is hooking a reasonable group. #5 SNATCHED had some trouble when finishing last, 1 3/4 lengths behind Taquanyah over the yielding going on August 17 after having won an OS/\$40,000 non-two over this course in the start prior.

Race 9
#2 Time for Truth
#6 The Great Oz
#3 Gilt Edge
#5 Western Whirl

#2 TIME FOR TRUTH chased the pace from the outside and flattened out when trying turf for his first start in six months on August 16. He adds blinkers and has had some very sharp Tapeta breezes. #6 THE GREAT OZ dueled on the lead and proved best late to win an N1X/\$32,000 in his first start of the year on July 11. He does not need the lead to win and definitely seems to have returned in good order. #3 GILT EDGE had a wide trip and finished up a bit when finishing sixth at this level in his first start for these connections. He is best on the synthetic and draws a better post for his running style this time. #5 WESTERN WHIRL was run down late by Niagara Skyline at this level on August 16. He gets back to the synthetic for the first time since his N1X/\$32,000 win three starts ago where he threw a 90 Beyer.

Race 10
#10 Globetrotting
#1 Livininthefastlane
#2 Drogon
#4 Aim Don't Miss
#14 Ginger's Holiday

#10 GLOBETROTTING has shown nothing in his two most recent starts on turf, dropping in for \$25,000 last time. He continues to plunge; actually ran a deceptively decent race on the Tapeta on July 13. #1 LIVININTHEFASTLANE chased the pace and finished a bit evenly to be fourth when last racing on August 2. He ran a nice second two back and drops in for \$10,000. #2 DROGON chased throughout when finishing third for this price last week. He may like the stretch out to seven furlongs, #4 AIM DON'T MISS had some trouble on the turn and finished evenly on the inner turf on August 23 but ran on well to be second behind the class plunging Imperial Gold over this surface on August 2, #14 GINGER'S HOLIDAY made his first start of the year in a \$15,000 on the inner turf on August 22 and finished second; will need racing luck from this post.