

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Sunday, October 5th, 2025

Race 1

#6 Firecracker Fiona

#5 Save the Date

#1 Rookie Court

#3 Zipfire

#6 FIRECRACKER FIONA dueled on the lead and emptied out when taking on \$25,000 foes on September 6. She does not need the lead and could have other speed to track on this drop in class. #5 SAVE THE DATE exits a rallying runner-up finish at this level on September 12. She has not missed a check this season; blinkers are being re-added. #1 ROOKIE COURT stalked the pace and kept on to be third when racing for \$7,500 on September 25. She wheels back in 10 days; win-shy type ran a close second for this price two-back. #3 ZIPFIRE exits consecutive runner-up finishes for this price, last racing on August 22. She figures to be tactically positioned here.

Race 2

#4 Cozy Curlin Kitten

#1 Zisisit (IRE)

#9 Workout Affair

#3 Mikelle

#4 COZY CURLIN KITTEN was closer to the pace than she wants to be before fading to be fifth in an N2X/\$50,000 on August 29. She drops back in for \$32,000 and should be more effective getting back to her preferred closing style. #1 ZISISIT (IRE) had nothing to offer in the stretch when trying the N2X/\$50,000 level in her first start off of the claim on September 21. She gets back in for the price she was taken for; inner turf specialist should be much more competitive this time. #9 WORKOUT AFFAIR made an eye-catching rally to break her maiden over this course on July 12 before an even fifth-place effort against N2L types on August 2. She returns from a freshening and is worth a look getting back to the inner turf. #3 MIKELLE was second-best behind Workout Affair on July 12 before coming back to break her maiden in a Tapeta sprint on August 23. She draws better than Workout Affair this time and could out kick that rival with better racing luck.

Race 3

#6 Humber River

#4 Jagersgotagun

#5 Adapted

#3 Aristotle

#6 HUMBER RIVER overcame a very wide trip to win his non-two on August 3 but did not take to the dirt at all when heading to Fort Erie for the Prince of Wales. He adds blinkers and should be able to rebound. #4 JAGGERSGOTAGUN rallied from last to beat a good field of non-twos on September 14. There should be cheap speed for him to rally into in this spot. #5 ADAPTED was in too tough when taking on N2L allowance foes on turf in his first start off of the claim. His

Tapeta speed figures are competitive with this field; another rebound candidate. #3 ARISTOTLE was third behind Jagersgotagun on September 14. He races out of condition here but is not without a shot in this short field.

Race 4

#9 Deputy Ghost

#4 Masterful Moment

#1 Streetshavenoname

#3 Eubank

#9 DEPUTY GHOST has raced well in all three of his starts so far, most recently finishing second behind the runaway Gone With Duwyn. He does not look to be hooking an overly tough field here. #4 MASTERFUL MOMENT is by 19% juvenile debut sire Caravaggio, out of an unraced mare who has produced debut-winner Tough Love. His worktab looks okay. #1 STREETSHAVENONAME is by 9-for-70 juvenile debut sire Frac Daddy, out of a mare who has produced the decent Hoodless. He has had three consecutive gate workouts, including a quick one where he went evenly with a stablemate on September 21. #3 EUBANK was a non-threatening third behind two experienced foes when debuting on September 14; could move forward in his second attempt.

Race 5

#7 Reveler's Row

#1 Flying Black

#5 O Wow

#9 Loveumissumeanit

#7 REVELER'S ROW adds blinkers after a fourth-place effort in an N2L on the Tapeta where she made a bid into a slow pace on the turn but was outkicked. Turf debuter ran a big second at this level back in June and is definitely worth a look. #1 FLYING BLACK rallied to be fourth, beaten a half-length for third in an N2X/\$50,000 on August 29, ending her win streak. She drops in for \$32,000 and looks like the clear one to beat, especially with pace to close into. #5 O WOW rallied up the inside and outkicked the pacesetting Lady In Red to win at this level on September 7. This looks like a tougher group. #9 LOVEUMISSUMEANIT beat conditioned starter allowance foes at Saratoga on August 1 before an empty run against New York-breds on August 23. She will need to work out a trip from the outside draw; we'll see if she can rebound.

Race 6

#7 Your Valentino

#3 Jamiesta

#6 Uncaptured Moment

#4 Awesome Crusader

#7 YOUR VALENTINO tracked the pace from the outside and proved best to win at this level on September 14. He should be able to work out a similar trip in this bid to double up. #3 JAMIESTA rallied from last to be second behind Your Valentino on September 14. With a taxing enough pace he could finish best this time. #6 UNCAPTURED MOMENT exits a respectable third-place effort in an N1X/\$32,000 around two turns on the inner turf on September 6. A winner at this level two-back, he definitely looks like one of the main threats. #4 AWESOME CRUSADER has been disappointing in two starts against tougher company since losing his non-three condition. We'll see if he's more live for this price.

Race 7

#6 Casson

#3 Cy Fair

#5 Gypsy Art

#1 Rogue Legend (GB)

#6 CASSON tracked the pacesetter and led well into the stretch before fading late in the Summer. The Victoria winner showed that he likes turf when finishing second in the Soaring Free and should be very live on the cutback. #3 CY FAIR was an impressive debut winner at Saratoga before running a game second by just a neck in the Bolton Landing. Filly takes on the boys here but has strong speed figures and could be the one to beat. #5 GYPSY ART split foes and rallied to be second when debuting in the Rosie's at Colonial on September 6. Ward-trainee should be able to improve with experience. #1 ROGUE LEGEND (GB) made his North American debut in the Rosie's, rallying from last to be third, 2 ¾ lengths behind Gypsy Art. Stakes-placed at Ascot, he would not be a great surprise in his second start over here.

Race 8

#6 Lupa (IRE)

#2 Zealous Moon

#1 Takemetothebeach

#4 My Girl Sky

#6 LUPA (IRE) set easy fractions and went gate to wire to win her N2L in her third career start on August 23. She does not need the lead to win. #2 ZEALOUS MOON had a wide trip and failed to fire when sprinting at Kentucky Downs on September 6. A route winner on the Gulfstream Tapeta, she should rebound with a better trip in her Woodbine debut. #1 TAKEMETOTHEBEACH makes her first start since May after a pair of empty efforts on the Churchill turf. All three of her wins have come on synthetics. #4 MY GIRL SKY won her N1X/\$32,000 on the Tapeta on August 3 in her first start off of the layoff, then came back with a good third-place effort at this level on the inner turf. She does not look out of place with this field.

Race 9

#1 Military Time - Best Bet

#10 Oscar's Encore

#8 Dixie Law

#9 Thundermaker

#1 MILITARY TIME was an authoritative winner when debuting on August 31, earning a strong 80 Beyer. He is the first foal out of multiple turf Stakes-winner Red Cabernet and looks like the one to beat here. #10 OSCAR'S ENCORE was a debut-winner against auction restricted foes at Saratoga, then ran a decent sixth with some stretch trouble in the Kentucky Downs Juvenile Fillies. She has the speed to find position from the outside gate. #8 DIXIE LAW made a nice rally while drifting in to win her debut in an EP Taylor sprint, then came back with a decent sixth-place effort with a wide trip in the Natalma. Her speed figures are good, hopefully she can get a better trip this time. #9 THUNDERMAKER re-adds blinkers after running a decent fourth over this course on September 14. He has shown potential in his first couple of starts and could hit the ticket with the right trip.

Race 10

#2 Mister Holden

#1 Grey Princess

#3 Embrace My Uncle

#5 Wilberforce

#9 Mehlek

#2 MISTER HOLDEN dropped in for this tag after winning his non-three for \$15,000 and was able to win nicely on September 1. He stretches out to a route but has won at this distance and should be tough to beat. #1 GREY PRINCESS has beaten the boys twice at this level in her three starts since arriving at Woodbine, overcoming traffic last time to get up late. She is tough to ignore here. #3 EMBRACE MY UNCLE has been picking up checks all season in the optional \$15,000 ranks and now takes the drop in for \$10,000 while removing blinkers; in the hunt. #5 WILBERFORCE ran gamely in spite of a wide trip when fourth in the Puss N Boots, then rebounded with a nice win for \$6,250 over the Fort Erie turf on September 16. He has had success on the Tapeta and could pick up a check here. #9 MEHLEK was claimed back by these connections from a close third-place effort for \$7,500 15 days ago and should plod along for another check.