Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Saturday, October 25th, 2025

Race 1

#5 Save the Date #3 Lemoncella Spritz #6 Rookie Court #2 Misty Eyed

#5 SAVE THE DATE came up empty as the favourite for \$15,000 on October 5 and now returns halved in value. Her form before that race was good enough to give her a look here. #3 LEMONCELLA SPRITZ broke her maiden for \$25,000 on June 1 and has not been seen since, plunging in for bottoms for her return to the races. She figures to be favoured but with obvious cause to be wary. #6 ROOKIE COURT has hit the top three in five of seven starts this year. Win-shy mare has some speed and could get her elusive second win in a field of questionable company. #2 MISTY EYED trailed early and finished a half-length better than Save the Date on October 5. She has been more forwardly placed in her better races.

Race 2
#1 Mikelle
#7 Flip Flops
#6 Neenah
#9 Periwinkle

#1 MIKELLE finished gamely to be beaten a length by Workout Affair over this course on October 5. Lightly-raced filly is not hooking a super tough group and is drawn well. #7 FLIP FLOPS was a fringe player against similar company at Colonial this summer. She had some nice efforts in Florida this winter and is probably capable of better than she has shown in recent starts. #6 NEENAH raced wide and ran a game second for \$40,000 over this course on October 2. She definitely seems best on turf and does not look out of place despite the rise in class. #9 PERIWINKLE ran a credible fourth in the same race that Mikelle exits and could run on for another share.

Race 3

#3 Stealin'time #5 Bravo Kate #1 I'm Tenacious #6 Leziate

#3 STEALIN'TIME has raced well in all three of her starts since returning from the layoff, most recently finishing third for \$25,000. She drops in for \$15,000 and looks like the clear horse to beat. #5 BRAVO KATE pressed slow fractions and could not get by the eventual winner, giving way to be third when last racing on October 2. She figures to be competitive in this spot. #1 I'M TENACIOUS dropped back to last and ran on to be a non-threatening fourth nine days ago. She should appreciate the extra furlong she gets today. #6 LEZIATE ran third in a very solid starter allowance at Fort Erie on September 29. She ran some okay races against cheap company on the Turfway synthetic last winter.

Race 4
#7 Ginger Zip
#2 Mew N Me
#4 Xarabella
#8 Cairo Girl

#7 GINGER ZIP set the pace but could not hold off a perfectly-tripped Ludicrous when beaten 3/4 lengths on September 27. The runner-up in all three of her starts to date, she could prove best this time. #2 MEW N ME was disqualified from a rallying win on September 6, then got a bit rank with a wide trip and faded after being bumped turning for home on September 27. She draws a better post and will hopefully have a better trip this time. #4 XARABELLA last raced on September 6, challenging the leaders on the turn before fading to be fifth. She has had some of the better speed figures in this field. #8 CAIRO GIRL had been training in Kentucky before arriving here and firing one quick breeze from the gate six days ago. Cairo Prince is an 11% debut sire; the dam was a Stakeswinner who has been a solid producer, throwing multiple Stakes-winner and Grade 3-placed Bishop's Pond.

Race 5
#7 Galley Head
#2 Grey Princess
#3 Voice From Above
#5 Candid Candace

#7 GALLEY HEAD could not get by the lone speed Kikitsa when finishing a clear second at the optional \$15,000 level. She has had success routing and gets in a slightly lower class. #2 GREY PRINCESS has twice beaten the boys at this level since arriving here and exits a decent fourth-place effort against males on October 5. If she throws one of her better efforts she will be tough here. #3 VOICE FROM ABOVE fell back early and picked off a few tired foes when making her first start off of the claim in the same race that Galley Head exits. She should have better position getting out to two turns. #5 CANDID CANDACE was bothered at the start and never got involved when finishing ninth in the aforementioned Galley Head race. She should definitely be able to fire a better effort with a clean trip.

Race 6

#7 One More Brew #1 Grandson #3 Meyer #4 Junipero Serra

#7 ONE MORE BREW tracked the speed, made a bid and briefly lead but gave way after being outfinished by Twowaycrossing when travelling this distance on September 1. If he settles more early and waits to make his run I think he will have no problem with the distance; one of many chances in this wide open affair. #1 GRANDSON passed tiring foes when finishing eighth in an N2X/\$50,000 on October 4. Plodding type gets back in for \$32,000 and should have no problem stretching out to 11 furlongs. #3 MEYER has not been seen since the Gulfstream meet where he had two okay efforts. Distance specialist has traditionally done very well over this course and is drawn well; he's proven in the past he can go a

long distance off of a layoff well. #4 JUNIPERO SERRA was last early and picked off quite a few foes to be seventh, a neck better than Grandson last time. He is tagged for the first time since his most recent win in July 2024.

Race 7 #11 Golden Goose #3 Hurricane Amelia #10 Black Hawk Eagle #5 Whiskey Over Wine

#11 GOLDEN GOOSE was a good second at this class and distance when making her local debut on September 11 but was empty in an allowance route on October 4. She could rebound in a field that does not look overly tough. #3 HURRICANE AMELIA was beaten a head after a game stretch duel at this level on October 4. Blinkers are added; potential speed factor. #10 BLACK HAWK EAGLE did not run terribly but was never really involved when debuting at this level on October 4. She adds blinkers and could improve with experience. #5 WHISKEY OVER WINE finished gamely to be third, 1 3/4 lengths behind Hurricane Amelia on October 4; she will add lasix this time.

Race 8 #6 Sister Marjorie #11 Rock Hard Rose #5 Sympatico #10 Outforarip

#6 SISTER MARJORIE did not have the best of trips when finishing seventh in her debut for \$25,000 on September 4. She takes a drop and has reason to improve second time out. #11 ROCK HARD ROSE has finished second in both of her starts since dropping in for this price. She has some speed and will hopefully be able to work out an okay trip from the outside. #5 SYMPATICO made the lead in the stretch but was outfinished and had to settle for second when racing for \$25,000 on September 27. She takes a drop off of that solid effort and is arguably the one to beat. #10 OUTFORARIP was pressed on the lead before fading to be fifth in the same race Sympatico exits; we'll see if she can last a bit longer at the lower level.

Race 9

#1 Fashionably Fab - Best Bet #8 Little Teddy #4 Talk to Ya Later #6 War Painter

#1 FASHIONABLY FAB has been taking on Graded Stakes company all year and now gets to face Ontario Sired mares here. She draws a good post and should have no shortage of speed to close into. #8 LITTLE TEDDY sat midpack early and exploded in the stretch to win the Zadracarta going away. She was beaten a half length around two turns in the Ashbridges Bay last year so the stretch out from five furlongs should not be an issue. #4 TALK TO YA LATER was keen early before running on to be second in an N2X/\$50,000 on October 5. She ran a good third in this race last year; I have no

doubt she could win on the right day but has always been somewhat of an underachiever. #6 WAR PAINTER won an N1X/\$32,000 over this course on August 24 before coming back with a good third-place effort in an N2X/\$50,000 on September 21; definitely could be in the hunt.

Race 10

#4 Golden Harvest #7 Mighty Tanner #6 Liveoaks Viewpoint #9 Ashlee B

#4 GOLDEN HARVEST debuted in a route on October 4 and ran well to be second behind the well-meant second-timer Bold Time. She should have some pace to run at here. #7 MIGHTY TANNER set the pace but was run down late by Katie's Grace when travelling seven furlongs on September 27. Her pedigree suggests the route distance should not be an issue. #6 LIVEOAKS VIEWPOINT debuted in the same race that Mighty Tanner exits and ran a credible third, 1 ½ lengths behind that foe. She could move forward with a start under her belt. #9 ASHLEE B is by 3-for-14 juvenile debut sire Country House, and a full sister to the solid Kalahari Dreams. \$180,000 purchase has been working consistently; we'll see if she's ready to get the distance first time out.

Race 11 #1 Deputy Daddy #5 Fighter in the Win #6 Aristotle

#7 Friendly Ghost #2 El Kabong

#1 DEPUTY DADDY tries a route for the first time on the heels of a game runner-up finish behind the solid Summer Commander on September 28. Aside from a dirt try on Prince of Wales day he has been running great all season. #5 FIGHTER IN THE WIN emptied out after being prominent early in an N2X/\$50,000 on October 4. Versatile type gets a better post and should fare better getting in for \$32,000. #6 ARISTOTLE was out of condition but rallied nicely to win an OS/\$40,000 nonthree on October 5. They opt to protect him in this spot despite still being eligible for the non-three condition. #7 FRIENDLY GHOST was impressive with outfinishing Summer Commander to win the Elgin in his first start of the year but understandably regressed a bit when finishing third at this level in the same race that Deputy Daddy exits. The third-place finisher in last year's Plate Trial won't mind getting back out to a route. #2 EL KABONG ran a game second behind the extremely nice veteran Journeyman when making his first start off of the claim on October 4. He has run some good races on the synthetic but is probably better on grass.