Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Saturday, November 15th, 2025

Race 1

#3 Samartina (FR) - Best Bet #1 Beautiful Things #6 Superfly Chick #4 Likely Story

#3 SAMARTINA (FR) finished midpack when making her North American debut in a turf route in New York. Both of her sprints in her home country were solid runner-up finishes; should be very live cutting back here. #1 BEAUTIFUL THINGS stalked the pace and finished gamely when finishing second by ¾ lengths to Stroke of Genius in her October 18 debut. She should be right there in her second attempt. #6 SUPERFLY CHICK made a wide run en route to a fourth-place finish, 3 ¼ lengths behind Beautiful Things on October 18. She will be hoping for an honest pace to close into. #4 LIKELY STORY debuted in a five furlong turf dash on October 18 in which she finished midpack. We'll see if she shows more speed stretching out a quarter-mile.

Race 2

#2 Royal Entry #6 Souper Vinnie #7 Carrick On Stage #4 Devil's Tonque

#2 ROYAL ENTRY plunged in for \$15,000 on October 3 but failed to fire when racing wide in a seven furlong sprint. He takes another drop and draws well while getting back to his ideal distance and could rebound. #6 SOUPER VINNIE was three-wide en route to a game third place finish when getting out to this distance on October 26. With a good trip he should be a serious contender. #7 CARRICK ON STAGE was able to hold place with a ground saving trip in the same race that Souper Vinnie exits, a serious wake up effort. He has a trickier post this time; we'll see if that last race was a one-off. #4 DEVIL'S TONGUE set the pace before flattening out in a sprint on October 31. His best Beyer figure came in his route try three starts ago.

Race 3

#7 Rapid Grey #4 Shadow Realm #8 Good King Sam #3 Groot

#7 RAPID GREY set the pace but faded to fourth in an OS/\$40,000 non-three around two turns on the inner turf on October 2. He has not been having a great season and continues to drop in class; should be good enough to factor here. #4 SHADOW REALM chased the early pace before emptying out when favoured against OS/\$40,000 company on October 19. He rebounded from a poor effort like that at the start of the season; we'll see if he can do it again. #8 GOOD KING SAM was able to win his non-two when cutting back to this distance on September 28 then lacked finish when going back to a route on October 26. He should be competitive cutting back to a sprint. #3 GROOT ran a good second to Wico when dropping in and attracting a \$15,000 claim on October 30 and looks very in line with this group.

Race 4

#5 Trevally

#3 Grand Warrior (JPN)

#2 Mad World

#4 Digital Security

#5 TREVALLY raced wide and was second-best behind the runaway Fire and Wine when making his local debut for \$40,000 on October 19. He gets class relief and will hopefully get to save ground here. #3 GRAND WARRIOR (JPN) broke slowly and was never involved when debuting against maiden allowance foes on October 10. He plunges in for \$25,000 and adds blinkers for his second attempt. #2 MAD WORLD did not have the best of trips when finishing sixth by four lengths for \$40,000 on October 26. He could maybe be a pace factor getting out to a route and dropping in value. #4 DIGITAL SECURITY has been picking up checks since dropping in for this tag, finishing third in a six furlong sprint on October 11. He has route breeding.

Race 5

#6 Bowman's Run

#3 Magna Time

#1 Graffiti Writer

#2 Watsonville Red

#6 BOWMAN'S RUN had a wide journey over 11 furlongs on October 25, but had been in very solid form before that and could rebound in this short field with a better trip. #3 MAGNA TIME makes his first start since his maiden win on turf on September 21. He ran a good second in his only Tapeta try. #1 GRAFFITI WRITER is the only three-time winner in the field, winning a \$7,500 non-two before jumping up to beat \$25,000 non-threes on October 26. He showed potential earlier in his career and is now building himself back up; his speed figures are very good for this field. #2 WATSONVILLE RED plodded along but lacked a threatening enough kick in the King's Plate and Breeders' Stakes. He gets back in against conditioned foes and should be more competitive.

Race 6

#7 Socially Intact #6 Myhusbandsagenius #2 Wunhappy Wabbit #10 Golden Goose

#7 SOCIALLY INTACT had a tough trip but was beaten just 1 ½ lengths for place when racing for \$40,000 on October 25. She drops back in for \$25,000 and will add blinkers. #6 MYHUSBANDSAGENIUS failed to threaten when debuting in a maiden special weight sprinting five furlongs on turf on October 18. She gets significant class relief for her second attempt. #2 WUNHAPPY WABBIT added blinkers while getting back in for this tag on October 31 and ran a credible second, seven lengths clear of the third-place finisher; in the hunt. #10 GOLDEN GOOSE ran a solid second for \$40,000 in her local debut but has not fired in two starts since and takes the drop in for \$25,000; worth a look.

Race 7
#5 Cairo Girl
#2 Alpha Gamma Girl
#3 Mew N Me
#1 Ginger Zip

#5 CAIRO GIRL debuted in a similar spot on October 25 and made a wide rally to finish a solid third. If she can step forward off of that she will be tough. #2 ALPHA GAMMA GIRL made her first start in over a year on November 1, chasing the pace and finishing second in a five furlong turf dash. She races over the Tapeta for the first time. #3 MEW N ME finished evenly when finishing fourth, 2 ½ lengths behind Cairo Girl. She was disqualified from a win on September 6; a contender with one of her better efforts. #1 GINGER ZIP chased the pace before coming up empty on October 25, her first poor effort in her career. If she is a good price she is worth looking at as a rebound candidate.

Race 8
#2 Runnin' Rocket
#3 Souped Up
#6 Twin City
#4 Playmea Tune

#2 RUNNIN' ROCKET has been very good in two starts since being gelded, winning an N2X/\$50,000 on October 19. He takes on tougher foes here but I think he has the potential to develop into a very nice sprinter. #3 SOUPED UP made his delayed seasonal debut on October 18 and finished third to the very back-classy Lucky Score. He should be very live in his second start off of the bench. #6 TWIN CITY held place from Souped Up when last racing on October 18. His sprint record this season is very strong and he seems very logical. #4 PLAYMEA TUNE was a bit even when finishing fifth in the aforementioned October 18 race. Stakes-winning gelding has burned some money this season but is good enough on one of his better days.

Race 9
#5 Journeyman
#4 Ocean Atlantique
#11 Fly the W
#2 Aristotle

#5 JOURNEYMAN exits a very game runner-up finish behind solid sprinter The Great Oz over seven furlongs on October 19. Nine-year-old hard-knocker gets back to his preferred distance and is tough to ignore. #4 OCEAN ATLANTIQUE exits a rallying third place finish over 11 furlongs on the inner turf on October 25. He has not raced over the Tapeta in quite a while but has a Stakes win over the Turfway Tapeta back in 2023. #11 FLY THE W stalked from the inside and kicked clear to win at this level on October 25. He will need some racing luck from this post. #2 ARISTOTLE ran a game third behind Fly the W on October 25. He could trip out from this post and pull off a minor upset in this wide open affair.

Race 10
#1 Nobals
#4 Lucky Score
#6 Society's Thunder
#2 Western Whirl

#1 NOBALS was gaining in the stretch but came up a neck short to No Nay Hudson in a very game effort in the Nearctic. The defending champion of this race has only missed the exactor once in 11 synthetic starts. #4 LUCKY SCORE had a fast pace to rally into when winning an N3X/\$80,000 on October 18. Back-classy seven year old should have similar fractions to run at here. #6 SOCIETY'S THUNDER continued his solid campaign with a close third-place finish in the Overskate on the inner turf on October 26. He faces a very tough assignment here but if there is a pace meltdown he will run on for a slice. #2 WESTERN WHIRL set the pace in the Nearctic, giving way late to be third by just a half-length. There is a risk he gets hooked in a duel with Reload's Rascal.

Race 11
#3 Crystal Visions
#6 Workout Affair
#9 Tiz Her Money
#2 Talk to Ya Later

#3 CRYSTAL VISIONS made her first start at this level on October 18, racing wide and finishing a game third behind nice company in Luz de La Luna and Shifty. I think she is a much more capable router than her Stakes tries this season suggest and could offer some value. #6 WORKOUT AFFAIR was given two months off and returned with a powerful closing win in an N1X/\$32,000 over the inner turf on October 5. She has been better on the turf so far but is still relatively lightly raced and I would not discount her getting back to the synthetic. #9 TIZ HER MONEY had most of the summer off then returned in the Ontario Damsel on October 11, surging late to be beaten 3/4 lengths to the very nice Shotgun Wedding. If she can work out a trip from the outside she could be a serious contender, #2 TALK TO YA LATER finished second at this level two starts ago before a flat effort in the Eternal Search; I expect her to be more competitive here.

Race 12
#5 Galley Head
#11 Hay Hay Paula
#1 Logistics
#7 Voice From Above
#9 Happy Valentine

#5 GALLEY HEAD took the lead in the stretch and held off Voice From Above to win a starter/optional \$10,000 route on October 25. Versatile mare simply loves to win and is always hard to ignore. #11 HAY HAY PAULA closed from last to finish a distant second in a route nine days ago. She was able to win on fairly short rest on October 16 and is better around one turn. #1 LOGISTICS set quick fractions and emptied out in an N1X/\$32,000 route in her first start off of a \$25,000 claim. She jams in for \$15,000 and cuts back to a more ideal distance. #7 VOICE FROM ABOVE rallied to be a game second to Galley Head on October 25. She had a tough trip two back but has otherwise been in good recent form. #9 HAPPY VALENTINE halves in value after a flat effort in an N1X/\$32,000 on September 27. She could rebound at this reduced level.