Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson Sunday, December 14th, 2025

Race 1

#5 Proudly Canadian #6 Noisy Cricket #1 Yoshii #4 Go Go Alexander

#5 PROUDLY CANADIAN pressed the pace before flattening out and giving way to be fifth when last racing on November 30, earning a solid 57 Beyer. Blinkers are being added. #6 NOISY CRICKET showed some late interest when debuting in a solid maiden allowance race on November 23. He should appreciate the easier company for his second attempt. #1 YOSHII is by 5-for-64 juvenile debut sire Yoshida, out of a mare who has produced the multiple Stakes-placed Rambert. He outworked a stablemate from the gate on November 22. #4 GO GO ALEXANDER debuted for \$25,000 on November 23 and finished up nicely to be beaten a half length to the class-dropping Smoke McLeod. He could step forward in his second attempt.

Race 2

#2 Priceless Will #1 Bachelor Pad #4 Indian Peak #3 Souper Success

#2 PRICELESS WILL exits a pair of good runner up finishes behind the very solid Last American Exit. Solid old gelding is winless this year but has hit the board in seven of nine starts and should have an honest pace to run into. #1 BACHELOR PAD cleared from the 13 hole and was never truly threatened when winning a starter/optional \$15,000 on November 21. He was scratched from another optional \$15,000 race last week and now shows up here; if he gets loose again he will put up a good fight. #4 INDIAN PEAK hit the front in early stretch before giving way to be fourth in the same race that Priceless Will exits. He was a good-looking winner at this level two back and can definitely be a contender with the right setup. #3 SOUPER SUCCESS battled on the lead before evening out and finishing fifth in the aforementioned race that Priceless Will and Indian Peak exit. He runs the risk of getting caught in a duel with Bachelor Pad but does not need to go to the lead to race effectively.

Race 3

#4 Brachetto #1 Wine After Whiskey #5 Flyonbye

#3 Eubank

#4 BRACHETTO debuted on November 13, breaking poorly but rallying up a live rail to be beaten a nose. He should have plenty of pace to close into here. #1 WINE AFTER WHISKEY showed speed and ran a very game second, 8 ¾ lengths clear of the third place finisher when beaten by the well-touted Yukon Striker in his November 23 debut. He should be very live here, especially if he can outsprint the other speed. #5 FLYONBYE dueled on the lead and had the advantage in midstretch but gave way to be third in the same race that Brachetto exits. His Tapeta form is very solid and seems to be sitting on a win. #3 EUBANK has had a very good campaign racing at the OS/\$40,000 level, hitting the board in all five of his starts to date; we'll see how he handles the tougher company he meets today.

Race 4

#1 Found My Ball

#3 Red Pharaoh

#9 Rapid Grey

#7 Ride for the Purse

#1 FOUND MY BALL has made just three starts this year, all at the N2X/\$50,000 level. He gets massive class relief here and had an excusable trip last time out. #3 RED PHARAOH returned from two months off on November 27 and put in a decent effort, giving way to be fourth of five after pressing the pace for \$40,000, beaten 2 3/4 lengths. He gets back in for the tag that both of his wins have come for. #9 RAPID GREY dropped in the for this tag on November 15, setting the pace before being outfinished and settling for second to fellow class-dropper Shadow Realm. He does not need the lead; hopefully he can work out a trip. #7 RIDE FOR THE PURSE closed well from last in spite of some stretch traffic to finish third for \$15,000 on November 20. Despite the rise in value there should be some tiring speed types he can pass for a minor share.

Race 5
#2 Heart Tap
#5 Ada Claire
#6 Auntie's Bambino

#1 Tracy Arm

#2 HEART TAP has finished up well to hit the board in both of her starts since getting out to two turns, most recently finishing third behind the well-meant Dunmore Beach. She could have a solid pace to close into with several stretching out from sprints. #5 ADA CLAIRE set

the pace and was a clear second best behind Piper's Gift when debuting in the Glorious Song, then raced wide and disappointed as the favourite when racing over a rail-friendly track on November 13 against the boys. She should be better here; the one to beat. #6 AUNTIE'S BAMBINO looks like he started to figure things out last time when rallying to be a close fourth against OS/\$40,000 company. His dam was a capable mare at any distance, winning as far as 2 miles and 70 yards; he should not mind getting out to two turns. #1 TRACY ARM debuted on November 15, rallying well from last to be fourth. She should have a nice ground saving trip from the rail draw.

Race 6

#8 Your Valentino #6 Echo With Laughter #1 Bold Reload #4 Ry Pie

#8 YOUR VALENTINO was caught in traffic and ran a respectable race when finishing sixth in his first start for these connections, but came up flat after chasing the pace in a similar spot on November 30. He is aggressively spotted here for \$10,000 and should be very competitive. #6 ECHO WITH LAUGHTER was claimed from a winning effort for \$5,000 on November 22 and came back six days later to run a game third at this level behind the very in-form Dissectologist. Eight-time winner should be very competitive here if he can maintain that form. #1 BOLD RELOAD hit the front in the stretch but could not hold off the well-tripped Military Force when racing for \$7,500 on November 14. He loves to stalk the pace and should be able to work out a very nice stalking trip from the rail. #4 RY PIE made a nice rally to win his non-three for \$15,000 on November 22. He takes a drop in value for his first start against wide open company.

Race 7

#4 Cairo Girl - Best Bet #1 Orient Beach #2 Rideau Falls #5 Really Big Show

#4 CAIRO GIRL made a three-wide move and was outfinished, settling for third when heavily favoured on November 15. She adds blinkers in her third lifetime start and meets a manageable-looking field. #1 ORIENT BEACH will sprint for the first time since her career debut in August 2024 here. She set the pace and was run down late at 1 1/16 miles when last racing on October 10; she has had some time to freshen up and may appreciate cutting back to seven furlongs. #2 RIDEAU FALLS ran a very nice race to be third (placed second) when debuting on September 6 but has been dreadful in two starts since.

She adds lasix here; we'll see if that reverses her fortunes at all. #5 REALLY BIG SHOW showed some finishing interest in her November 15 debut but had a rough early run and failed to fire when trying a route eight days ago; she could finish up for a small share with a clean trip.

Race 8

#5 Blazing Bucchero #4 Paynes Spirit #3 Chambers #2 Speedy Bear

#5 BLAZING BUCCHERO won an N2L allowance three starts ago but has failed to factor when facing some very high quality foes in a couple of N2X/\$50,000 races since. The class drop to face non-threes here is significant; the speed figures are light but he could be a value player. #4 PAYNES SPIRIT showed speed and burst clear in the stretch to score an easy win against non-twos at this level on November 30. He seems to be getting better and better as he gains experience and looks very threatening here. #3 CHAMBERS was claimed from an easy win against \$15,000 non-twos on October 24 and ran a very solid third behind past Stakes-winner Perfect Crime in an N1X/\$32,000 when making his first start for the new connections on November 30. A repeat of that effort would put him in the hunt against these. #2 SPEEDY BEAR made a nice rally to get up by a head to win his non-two when last competing on November 14, beating Paynes Spirit that day. He has really only had one poor race so far in his career; an obvious contender.

Race 9
#2 Society's Thunder
#5 War Bomber (IRE)
#4 The Great Oz
#6 Babbo

#2 SOCIETY'S THUNDER has been having a remarkably consistent campaign, never running a bad race and most recently beaten less than a length in the Grade 2 Kennedy Road. He is more than good enough to win this race and should have some pace to run into. #5 WAR BOMBER (IRE) chased fast fractions and flattened out when routing in an N3X/\$80,000 on November 30. The cutback to a sprint and return to the N2X/\$50,000 should improve his fortunes. #4 THE GREAT OZ was disqualified for drifting out into War Bomber in the stretch when crossing the wire first at this level on November 14. He may not have as easy a time controlling the pace this time. #6 BABBO was an easy front-end winner against N1X/\$32,000 company on November 14. He rises back up to the N2X/\$50,000 level which he ran a good second at three starts ago.

Race 10

#2 Awesome Bourbon #5 Rapid Test #1 Cruden Bay #8 Paramount Prince

#2 AWESOME BOURBON had a troubled stretch run when finishing third (placed second) by 3/4 lengths to Nobals in the Grade 2 Kennedy Road. He probably didn't like the give in the ground when disappointing as the favourite in the Overskate but otherwise has had a tremendous campaign; he has speed but should be able to track anyone else who may want to go early. #5 RAPID TEST was second best behind Awesome Bourbon when making his first start of the year on September 28, then came back and turned the tables when rallying to win the Overskate. Since he had a late start to the year he could have a big freshness advantage over most of the competition. #1 CRUDEN BAY rallied from last to be fourth in the Overskate, beaten 1 1/2 lengths. Multiple Grade 2 winner ran third in the Vigil on this surface two back and has hit the exactor in five of seven starts routing on the Tapeta. #8 PARAMOUNT PRINCE set fast fractions and gave way late to be third, beaten a head for second in an N3X/\$80,000 on November 30. He will likely have to go fast early again as there are other speed types here, but if he is able to relax a bit the 2023 King's Plate-

Race 11

#8 Artemus Citylimits #9 Forester's Fortune #5 Crumlin Lad #4 Yacht Boy

winner could prove tough to run down.

#8 ARTEMUS CITYLIMITS held on by a nose to win at this level on November 23, then came back six days later and ran a good second to Roi Soleil. Although he is primarily a five furlong type horse, he looks like the main speed here and may be able to relax a bit more early getting out to six. #9 FORESTER'S FORTUNE was stymied in traffic down the stretch when finishing seventh in the November 23 race won by Artemus Citylimits. Aside from that effort his form this year has been very solid; he should be a decent price and is definitely capable of hitting the ticket. #5 CRUMLIN LAD pressed Fighter in the Win throughout but could not get by when finishing second in the Crimson Handicap on November 30. When he is in the right spot he shows up more often than not and should be very live for \$32,000. #4 YACHT BOY rallied very nicely from the back to miss by a nose to Artemus Citylimits on November 23. He has been lightly

raced this year and should be a contender again today.

Race 12

#6 Jamiesta #8 Wilberforce #1 Computer Hacker #3 Winston Blue #14 Military Force

#6 JAMIESTA rallied well to be fifth by four lengths behind his incredible in-form stablemate Dissectologist when racing for \$10,000 on November 28. His races without blinkers this year have been very solid; should be live at this level. #8 WILBERFORCE was not far beaten for place when rallying up the fence to be fourth on November 28. Hard-knocking six year old doesn't run very many bad ones. #1 COMPUTER HACKER was a front-end winner against conditioned foes for this tag two starts ago and catches a field without much pace today. It's hard to imagine no one else in a 14 horse field trying for the lead but if he is allowed to set soft fractions he could get brave. #3 WINSTON BLUE outfinished Wilberforce for the place spot when last racing on November 28. His form has been up and down but if he shows up with one of his good efforts he should be a factor. #14 MILITARY FORCE had some traffic when finishing third for \$7,500 last week. He drops in for \$5,000 and definitely has the ability to win but will need luck to be on his side from the 14 hole.