

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Friday, July 24th, 2026

Race 1

#5 Allbetsareoff

#7 Captivating Name

#1 My Boy Bruce

#3 Miah Said

#5 ALLBETSAREOFF did not take to the turf at all when facing \$25,000 foes on June 26. He broke his maiden in a soft field for that tag; he drops in for bottoms and should be more live. #7 CAPTIVATING NAME has failed to fire in a couple of \$15,000 sprints this season and now drops in for bottoms. His previous route tries have not been great but they have come against tougher company; we'll see if he is more competitive at this level. #1 MY BOY BRUCE ran a solid third when stretching out to this distance on July 6. He has been picking up shares all year and should be able to hit the board again. #3 MIAH SAID figures to be the pacesetter stretching back out from sprints. In his last route try he opened up six lengths early before faltering; hopefully he can relax and sustain his speed a bit longer.

Race 2

#1 Exude

#8 Bankingonamiracle

#2 Stratus

#4 Agile Dancer

#1 EXUDE was a turf winner against OS/\$40,000 non-twins two back, then failed to fire when facing a tough N1X/\$32,000 group on a speed favouring surface on July 4. He gets back to the turf and drops in for \$25,000. #8 BANKINGONAMIRACLE showed speed but was overtaken by Dewolf early in the race and faded to be fourth in an otherwise soft OS/\$40,000 group on June 24. He will likely be trying to get clear from the outside draw. #2 STRATUS stalked the pace and proved best in the stretch when winning his non-two for this price over the Tapeta on June 7. He always races well over this course and draws a good post. #4 AGILE DANCER never got involved in a Tapeta sprint on July 12. Both of his wins have come on grass; he makes his third start off of the bench here.

Race 3

#4 Heaven's Champion

#1 Crucial Taunt

#5 Armstrong

#2 Jmr Speedy Escape

#4 HEAVEN'S CHAMPION chased the speed of Imperial Gold and emptied out in the stretch when he failed to

reach that rival. He drops back in for the price he was able to win for in April and should be able to get back to form. #1 CRUCIAL TAUNT chased Little Red Domi in the early stages before flattening out to be fifth for \$15,000 on July 9. He makes his second start for the barn here and has raced well in these shorter sprints before. #5 ARMSTRONG plunges straight in for bottoms for his first start since August. Back-classy gelding is without a doubt the most talented horse in this field but figures to be a short price; if he's ready to fire he should win. #2 JMR SPEEDY ESCAPE was forwardly placed but evened out a bit in the stretch when finishing fourth on July 11. Win-shy type figures to be a fringe player again.

Race 4

#4 Sanhedrin

#5 Night Striker

#3 Battle Warning

#1 Holy Rambo

#4 SANHEDRIN had a troubled stretch run two back but came back with a good runner-up finish behind Accelerando on July 6. A repeat of that effort should make him very live here. #5 NIGHT STRIKER had a good trip sitting off of the pacesetter but could not get by in a game runner-up effort on July 6. He has crossed the wire first before but has been DQ'd; in with a shot to get the job done this time. #3 BATTLE WARNING made a bit of a rally when finishing sixth, but only beaten 2 ¾ lengths for place when facing OS/\$40,000 company on July 5. He continues to slide down the class ladder and should be able to run on for a share. #1 HOLY RAMBO put in an okay effort to be fourth at this level on July 6. He draws inside today after having a wide draw last time.

Race 5

#1 B The King

#5 Sure Shot Timber

#2 Marshalltown

#7 Bacarro Point

#1 B THE KING was fighting the rider while racing wide and lacked finish when kicking off his season on May 3. He added blinkers that day; they are promptly removed for this drop in for a tag. #5 SURE SHOT RACING was sent to the lead but was outkicked in the stretch when finishing third for this tag on July 6. That was a big improvement from his debut on May 15; we'll see if he can continue in the right direction. #2 MARSHALLTOWN is by 12% debut sire Mitole, and is out of a multiple Stakes-winning mare whose three foals to race have all been winners, including debut winner Swirling Dancer. He looks to have been breezing steadily enough coming into his debut. #7 BACARRO POINT ran a decent third when dropping in and attracting a \$15,000 claim on June 26.

He ran a good third at this level in his first start of the year; not impossible.

Race 6

#4 Bankers Hours

#3 Dissectologist

#6 C C's Kingdom

#1 Your Valentino

#4 BANKERS HOURS got roughed up at the start but rallied well from last to be fifth for \$10,000 on June 28. He should have an honest pace to run at here and should get out of the gate better. #3 DISSECTOLOGIST is getting back into form after a disappointing start to the meet, pressing the pace and keeping on to be third by just 1 ¼ lengths on June 18. When he is good he can be very dangerous, rattling off a three-win streak at the end of 2025. #6 C C'S KINGDOM cuts back in distance after an even fifth in a route for this price on July 10. Although I've always thought of him as a router first and foremost, he has won twice at this distance and may appreciate cutting back at this stage of his career. #1 YOUR VALENTINO got cooked in a speedy duel when trying two turns on the Fort Erie turf against some decent company on June 21. We'll see how much speed he shows from the inside.

Race 7

#3 Fin Del Mundo - Best Bet

#8 Celestial Heart

#5 Go Go Alexander

#1 No Cape

#3 FIN DEL MUNDO was clear on the early lead but deflated after Maker's Flatter blew by and gave way to be fifth on July 5. He drops in for \$25,000 and should be a lot tougher to run down this time. #8 CELESTIAL HEART ran a decent fourth trying to rally into a race where the top two did not stop at all on July 6. Son of Bond Street should probably be better on the turf than he may be showing right now; I wouldn't ignore him here. #5 GO GO ALEXANDER was finishing up well when fourth in a Tapeta sprint for this tag on July 6. He gets onto turf and around two turns for the first time here. #1 NO CAPE failed to fire when making his seasonal debut at the OS/\$40,000 level on June 18 in an off turf race. He drops in for \$25,000 and is another who will try turf and two turns for the first time here.

Race 8

#5 Sunday's Well

#12 Dontgobackonurword

#7 Fracen Macho

#3 Out N Out Disgrace

#5 SUNDAY'S WELL fell back on the turn but came back on again belatedly when a distant fourth for \$25,000 12 days ago. He drops in for \$15,000 and put the blinkers back on in a bid to regain the speed that he has been able to impress with on a couple of occasions. #12 DONTGOBACKONURWORD was very impressive when winning in spite of a poor start on June 19, then came back to run a good second behind the pacesetting Little Red Domi on July 9. If he can work out a trip from the wide draw he should be in the fray again. #7 FRACEN MACHO tried to run down the pacesetting Imperial Gold when dropping in for this tag on June 26 but came up a half-length short. He figures to take support off of that effort. #3 OUT N OUT DISGRACE cut back to a sprint and was able to just get up at the wire to win his non-two for this price on July 10, but faces a tougher assignment here as he moves into the next condition.

Race 9

#4 Its in the Cards

#2 Zucchero

#10 Connor

#1 Accelerando

#6 Padraig

#4 ITS IN THE CARDS gets back in for \$25,000 after disappointing a bit in a couple of OS/\$40,000 tries. She was beaten just two lengths when sixth over this course two back and should be happy to get back to the turf hee. #2 ZUCCHERO chased the speed before emptying out when making his local debut against N2L allowance company on June 21. He has since been gelded, adds lasix, takes the blinkers off and takes a drop in class; we'll see if the multitude of changes are enough to put him in the winner's circle. #10 CONNOR will be showing speed from the outside and trying to fend them off in the stretch. He faded to be fifth last time when sent off as the favourite; probably better on the Tapeta but could take them a long ways here. #1 ACCELERANDO rebounded from a hang job two-back to score an easy maiden win on July 6. He earned a solid figure for that win; we'll see if it woke anything up in him. #6 PADRAIG stormed home to win his seasonal debut in a Tapeta sprint at this level on July 6. He stretches out here; his lone route try was a good runner-up effort; we'll see how he likes the turf.