

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Friday, September 4th 2026

Race 1

- #1 Celebrity Ro**
- #3 Angel Danielle**
- #4 Wozniacki**
- #5 Rarified (IRE)**

#1 CELEBRITY RO finished with power to win her non-two for this price in a five furlong dash over the inner turf on July 20. She gets back to the races here and should be very dangerous in this short field. #3 ANGEL DANIELLE couldn't make the lead, took a shuffle and never got involved when facing N1X/\$32,000 company in her first start off of the claim. She gets back in for the price she was taken for and could be a speed threat in her turf debut. #4 WOZNIACKI was not far beaten for place when finishing third at this level on July 18. Beaten just a length when finishing fifth in the Thunder Bay, her only previous turf start, she should be competitive in her return to the grass. #5 RARIFIED (IRE) was able to outfinished Angel Danielle to be a distant fourth on August 16. Although both of her wins have come on the Tapeta I do think she is probably at her best on the turf.

Race 2

- #4 Sterling Heights**
- #1 April de Velp**
- #5 World Showcase**
- #2 Might Bee Trouble**

#4 STERLING HEIGHTS has been hitting the board showing good finishing interest this season. She cuts back to a distance shorter than she has ever gone before; we'll see if she gets a solid pace to run at. #1 APRIL DE VELP ran on to be fourth in a solid open group for this tag on August 9 when making her first start of the season. She gets to face easier for her second start off of the bench. #5 WORLD SHOWCASE showed breakneck speed before tiring the stretch in a seven furlong race two-back. If she can find that speed again today she could take them all the way in a race without a ton of obvious speed. #2 MIGHT BEE TROUBLE returned from a two-month break on July 23 and rallied to be second when dropping in for this tag. She has hit the board in nine of 11 lifetime starts and has to be considered here.

Race 3

- #7 Ain't No Lady**
- #1 Henna Gal**
- #6 Pippina**
- #5 Ratings Upgrade (IRE)**

#7 AIN'T NO LADY has been brought up to Woodbine on a few occasions and has raced very well in both of her route tries here. Finger Lakes-based mare makes her first start since July 2025 here with the tag waived; we'll see if she's well meant in her return. #1 HENNA GAL caught a soft field, made an easy lead and drew clear to a very easy maiden win on August 6. She faces tougher here but catches a field that may allow her another easy lead. #6 PIPPINA rallied well to break her maiden for this tag over the Tapeta in May, and has not disgraced herself at all in a couple of starts against tougher on the turf since. She drops back in and is arguably the one to beat here. #5 RATINGS UPGRADE (IRE) showed finishing interest when fifth in a race lacking serious pace on the inner turf on August 16. She drops in for \$15,000 but needs things to set up well for her.

Race 4

- #7 Zisisit (IRE)**
- #4 Nikita's Gem**
- #3 Loveumissumeanit**
- #5 O Wow**

#7 ZISISIT (IRE) was an easy winner at this level two back and returned with a solid third place effort behind Sheshimaintenance in the Midsummer Handicap on July 31, missing place by a neck. She should be very live getting back to this level. #4 NIKITA'S GEM was not far behind Zisisit when fourth in the Midsummer Handicap, then returned to score a front end win for this price on the Tapeta on August 20. She wheels back in 15 days for a very live barn. #3 LOVEUMISSUMEANIT rallied to win her non-three for this price in a five furlong dash on July 9, then ran okay when seventh by just three lengths at this distance on July 23. She has had route success south of the border and deserves another look. #5 O WOW has struggled so far this season but was good enough to win an N1X/\$32,000 last year and could fare better this time with the blinkers coming off.

Race 5

#3 Swan Lake - Best Bet

#4 Armino

#6 Delian League

#7 Pet Sounds

#3 SWAN LAKE battled on the lead before fading when facing \$10,000 foes on August 23. An easy winner against conditioned foes for this tag two both, he should fare better with this field. #4 ARMINO won twice consecutively for this tag but failed to fire in a starter allowance last week. He should be able to return to better form on the quick turnaround. #6 DELIAN LEAGUE won at this level three starts ago with a nice rail rally. He was a credible third in the same \$10,000 race that Swan Lake exits and looks very competitive here. #7 PET SOUNDS exits third place efforts behind Armino and Delian League. He seems to improve a bit with each start this year.

Race 6

#6 Crumlin Lad

#2 Artemus Citylimits

#1 Wagner

#4 Urban Legend

#6 CRUMLIN LAD chased the pacesetting winner before fading to fifth in a 7 ½ furlong N1X/\$32,000 on June 7. He returns after some time to freshen up and has the back class to be a serious threat here. #2 ARTEMUS CITYLIMITS skipped the first leg of this series in favour of the Vice Regent Stakes on the same weekend, and made the most of that choice with a front end win. Veteran campaigner could be tough to rundown if he can outsprint everyone to the lead. #1 WAGNER has been competitive in the N1X/\$32,000 this season, with Beyers in the 80s in five of six starts at the meet. He draws well and could come running if there's a pace meltdown. #4 URBAN LEGEND was a one paced fourth when making his local debut in the first leg of this series behind Ready to Collect. Last year he was competitive in a few N2X races; we'll see if that back class shines through today.

Race 7

#5 Public Knowledge

#8 I Love Presents

#4 New Renaissance

#7 Malibu Betty

#6 That's a Fact

#5 PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE showed brief speed before giving way to be fourth in her two year old debut last May before being sidelined. She drops in sharply for her return to the races and could possibly be the controlling speed. #8 I LOVE PRESENTS exits back to back rallying seconds at this level with some of the best speed figures in this field; an obvious contender. #4 NEW RENAISSANCE showed brief speed but was no match and faded to be a distant fourth when dropping in for \$15,000 on August 6. She continues to slide down the class ladder and warrants consideration. #7 MALIBU BETTY finished very well to be third, a head behind I Love Presents on August 14 and could be a serious threat in her second start with the blinkers back on. #6 THAT'S A FACT ran down New Renaissance for the third place spot on August 6; could come running for a share again.