

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Friday, September 11th 2026

Race 1

#2 Keynote Speaker

#4 Celestial Heart

#1 Wonderful Quality

#5 Mann Court

#2 KEYNOTE SPEAKER showed promise in his first couple of Woodbine starts at the OS/\$40,000 level but disappointed in his most recent try on August 15 and now plunges in for \$15,000; he draws well and can hopefully work out a winning trip. #4 CELESTIAL HEART has been a fringe player in recent starts at the \$25,000 level. He sheds the blinkers here and the drop in for \$15,000 looks less suspicious than some of the others in here. #1 WONDERFUL QUALITY took a trip down to Fort Erie on August 11 to try and find easier company in one of their maiden allowance races but did not fire over yielding turf. They now tag him for the first time. #5 MANN COURT has shown little in two tries on turf at the OS/\$40,000 level and now sharply drops in for \$15,000 for his Tapeta debut with blinkers being added.

Race 2

#2 Knowing

#5 May and June

#4 Big Lew

#6 Field Hockey

#2 KNOWING exits a credible third at this level last time. He was beaten a head at this level three back and catches a field that should have an honest enough pace for him to run at. #5 MAY AND JUNE has not been seen since September of last year. He returns to the races here with a drop in for \$15,000; his best figures beat these but he may have company on the lead in his first start off of the bench. #4 BIG LEW set the pace before fading to fourth in his most recent start on August 22 when rising to this level. He has missed a check only once in seven starts this year. #6 FIELD HOCKEY was flat in his seasonal debut on May 30. Always lightly-raced, he was hitting the board at decent odds late last year and could fare well at a price today.

Race 3

#5 Ruthless Action

#3 Complex Secret

#6 Skydigger

#4 Got a Complex

#5 RUTHELESS ACTION was second of four in her seasonal debut at Fort Erie but has raced out of condition in two tries at the N3L allowance level down there and is

now relocated to Woodbine. Her Tapeta record is solid; the blinkers come off today. #3 COMPLEX SECRET ran a huge race to be beaten a nose for \$7,500 in her seasonal debut and has continued to race well for this price. She is not hooking a particularly tough looking field here and figures to be in the hunt again. #6 SKYDIGGER narrowly missed second in a race won by the runaway Keytothepark on August 22. She figures to be well supported with the drop down from the \$25,000 level. #4 GOT A COMPLEX won a questionable maiden \$25,000 at the start of the year and has since been a fringe player against winners; likely a speed factor with the drop in for \$15,000.

Race 4

#5 Lady Rainicorn

#6 Boss Lady J

#4 Lady Iona

#2 Scat Humor

#5 LADY RAINICORN pressed the pace and gave way late to be fourth in a solid effort for \$40,000 on July 30. She cuts back a furlong and drops in for \$25,000; could end up with a good stalking trip here. #6 BOSS LADY J rallied from last up the fence to break her maiden for this price on August 6. In a race with cheap speed she could get another ideal setup. #4 LADY IONA has exclusively sprinted on the Tapeta so far this season against tougher company. Her maiden win came in a race over this course and distance in which she went wire to wire; if she gets loose early she could be very dangerous. #2 SCAT HUMOR was a good second over this turf course three starts ago and now goes back to turf after finishing fourth as the favourite on the Tapeta 15 days ago.

Race 5

#4 Flatter Zip

#1 Winning Wizard

#6 Baytown Da Vinci

#7 Saratoga Gold

#4 FLATTER ZIP has been picking up checks in his three starts to date. He catches competition that has been running speed figures more unimpressive than his; likely will simply need to outperform the first time starters. #1 WINNING WIZARD is by 4-for-89 juvenile debut sire Shaman Ghost, and is the second foal to race out of a Stakes-winning mare. The worktab looks very steady. #6 BAYTOWN DA VINCI has failed to be a threat in a series of turf races in Kentucky. He will be tagged for the first time and has speed figures that fit here; he has trained over the Turfway Tapeta. #7 SARATOGA GOLD was scratched due to ineligibility two weeks ago and now reappears. Second for \$25,000 two starts ago, he will re-add blinkers today.

Race 6

#3 Tranquillo

#2 Can't Tie Me Down

#5 Well Lit

#4 Steele Town

#3 TRANQUILLO comes into this race off of a pair of runner-up finishes for this price. He figures to be tactically positioned and should fare well. #2 CAN'T TIE ME DOWN put in a huge effort when debuting on August 20, battling in the stretch with the pacesetting winner Sure Shot Timber, and missing by a head. That is the kind of a race a horse can bounce from, but if he does run back to it or build on it he will be right there. #5 WILL LIT was 3 ¼ lengths behind Can't Tie Me Down when finishing third last time. After a slow start to his career he has gotten into good form since finding easier company. #4 STEELE TOWN is by 12% debut sire Mo Town, out of a mare who has not had a winner in two foals to start; we'll see how he fares at first asking.

Race 7

#5 Magical Factor - Best Bet

#3 First Empire

#4 Ever Dangerous

#6 Countryboysurvive

#5 MAGICAL FACTOR had a very wide trip and came up empty in the stretch in the King's Plate. Beaten a half-length in the Marine two-back, his maiden win was an impressive score on the Keeneland turf with a 90 Beyer; should be able to rebound here. #3 FIRST EMPIRE raced very well in his first start of the year at the N2X/\$50,000 level but has gradually regressed and now drops in for \$32,000. He figures to be a speed factor getting back out to two turns. #4 EVER DANGEROUS was a disappointing favourite when a well beaten third for \$25,000 on August 16 after running a good second for this tag two back. He makes his first start for new connections here and gets back to turf for the first time since his winter campaign south of the border. #6 COUNTRYBOYSURVIVE was much the best when winning the same \$25,000 race that Ever Dangerous exits. He rises in class in search of his third consecutive win, but I do consider him to be a step better on the Tapeta.

Race 8

#3 Space Launch

#2 Onenightstandards

#11 Volcanic

#10 Audax Minor

#8 Shamateur

#3 SPACE LAUNCH has been in up-and-down form against open \$10,000 foes at Gulfstream. An earner of nearly \$250,000 USD on synthetics in his career, he should be very at home against these conditioned \$7,500 foes in his Woodbine debut. #2 ONENIGHTSTANDARDS has really gotten into strong recent form since taking the blinkers off, missing by a neck at this level two-back before finishing second behind the class-dropping This Dude a Breeze in an open \$10,000 on August 23; should be right there if he can run back to that effort. #11 VOLCANIC ran a big second behind the solid Swan Lake in his seasonal debut at this level, but was not as competitive for \$15,000 on August 9. He sheds the blinkers for this drop back down in class. #10 AUDAX MINOR ran a big race after an early shuffle to be fourth, missing place by less than a length on August 21, then narrowly missed place in a dirt race with a romping winner at Fort Erie on August 31. With some good racing luck he could hit the board at a price. #8 SHAMATEUR will be going out to the front end as he always does and seeing how long he can last. His last two efforts he has been pressured and kept on pretty gamely; we'll see if he can get loose in this larger field.