

RACE #1

BANNON

1 TAHANA

7 BEARS MAFIC

3 HONDURAS

2 SUMMER RETREAT

TAHANA had such a good opener that he understandably attracted a claim second time out when he had a fringe try; he went into a difficult spot for Norm McKnight last time and surprisingly was made the favourite and finished far behind; he now drops back to his claimed evaluation.

SUMMER RETREAT was smart early last time leaving the gate as if he had an edge on that field when dropping in for \$25,000; he could not beat the bias and was reeled in late and finished third.

HONDURAS was trying to run from off the pace last time and was moving on well in a race where blinkers were used; he now stretches to seven furlongs.

STRATEGIC VISION has been protected while facing Ontario sire rivals with three consecutive out of the money finishes; he did stay on ok last time with some outside movement; he comes right back at seven furlongs and drops for \$32,000; he rates a look.

DATA BOY debuted December 2nd in a near impossible situation because of the goodness of the top two and he had speed and flushed out the winner on the backstretch; however, he stopped in the lane; he faces easier here.

STOP THE HUMBUG was getting his second start at seven furlongs last time and used a completely different style with a vastly better result when giving up the lead only late; he now adds lasix.

BEARS MAFIA debuted November 9th and was awkward in the early going and finished a mild fourth when only the top three counted; the winner has come back to be second for \$40,000 and the runner up has come back to win for \$25,000; he stretches to seven furlongs and has had interim prepping.

RACE #2

BANNON

3 CHESTERMERE - *BEST BET*

8 GUNNER BEN

6 WALL STREET WOLF

2 NORTHERN SKY

WAUBAUSHENE competed last Wednesday in a race where the early speed types stopped setting it up for the closers but he didn't make much of an advance when, Wall Street Wolf, was second and, Northern Sky, was third; he does travel farther here.

NORTHERN SKY has committed to five furlongs in four consecutive races with a win and two other in the money finishes; he had a perfect setup last Wednesday when the speed stopped abruptly and he closed from sixth to be third about three lengths shy of, Wall Street Wolf, who is here; he must travel six furlongs.

CHESTERMERE competed with the speed bias in his favour November 17th but it became obvious that seven furlongs was too far for him and he gave it up in the last crucial half furlong; he will shorten to six furlongs here in hopes that his speed will still be effective.

GATOR SPY had a belated return after considerable time away October 20th and for \$10,000 rallied against a key winner to be third and the runner up has come back to win; most recently however, running from off the pace was difficult to do and a speed winner took top prize while he was only eighth; the blinkers are on and he still has a chance to have an impact in the stretch.

HOPE VISION is without momentum; he went up in value and out in distance last time to finish far behind and now sprints at six furlongs.

WALL STREET WOLF was in the perfect spot December 5th as the speed runners stopped abruptly in front of him gifting him the advantage in the stretch but another rival ran right by him; he didn't offer much resistance and finished second and extended his winless streak; he remains a popular factor with Kimura taking over.

RING FOR ESSA had post fourteen last time and didn't get into the hunt at long odds; both the fifth and seventh place finishers have since won.

GUNNER BEN competed December 1st over a surface helpful to closing types and that is the style he used for a mild upset; he rallied from seventh in the stretch to be narrowly first catching the leader at the end; he is hopeful his style can be accommodated on tonight's surface.

TWICEASLUCKY took a win with Hernandez back in September and he has been up for the last two races at low levels finishing on the edges; he comes from the widest post now with a bump in value.

RACE #3

BANNON

8 BRASS COMPASS

3 ABBA

4 LOKINFORPURSEMONEE

7 NASHVILLE KNIGHT

MARTEN RIVER used a speed style October 28th over a surface more helpful to closing types and he couldn't continue in contention; the sixth and seventh place finishers behind him have already come back to win including, Classic Cotton, who is here; the winner came back to be third in the Kennedy Road; he has since been active in training; he departs the lasix program.

BIG SHANTY is a second speed representative here along with, Marten River, and he has been winning every other time; he beat the bias with a speed journey at seven furlongs last time as he persisted; he now takes on better with the cutback to six furlongs.

ABBA returned from time away November 7th in the prep for the Kennedy Road and he offered little beyond some early positioning; for this second start following the long layoff he takes the plunge to the \$40,000 mark for Norm McKnight.

LOKINFORPURSEMONEE was working hard in his previous race at six furlongs to finish a tight third beaten just a length by a key winner; he came back to be out of the money last time in a significant late clocking by the winner; he now takes a drop to the optional level.

CLASSIC COTTON was getting his second local start November 21st and he dropped down to win while taking significant support; the last time he took sharp money he was also a winner; he will shorten to six furlongs and go up in value while some others come down in evaluation.

FRONT NINE was moving late last time and finished fifth beaten only three lengths against a key winner and, Lokinforpursemonee, was third; he does have two wins this season and one of those came at the optional level on Tapeta.

NASHVILLE KNIGHT had a great turn of fortune last time; in his previous race he was against the bias showing speed but in his last race those with speed were helped along by the conditions and after he set a slow early pace he was able to repel the favourite; he is up in value here.

BRASS COMPASS ran a good race two starts ago to take his initial win of the campaign and he did it with a late move; most recently, he went to the Kennedy Road Stakes where he jostled between rivals while trying to get into a position to rally and then he edged forward; he comes back down to the \$40,000 mark.

RACE #4

BANNON

2 YOU'RE BATMAN

5 SMOOTH TALK

12 HANDSOME LIKE ME

8 AWESOME JOEY

BLOW OVER came from the second flight from between rivals last time with a nice move; he had every chance a furlong from home but gave away positions late and, Hidden Artifact, was second.

YOU'RE BATMAN found a spot where his speed was more effective on Tapeta November 16th for \$8,000 and he was able to get away from that field as the favourite to take a maiden win; he comes back against non winners of two.

STREET CAT SAM made a move inside from the second flight November 23rd and gained well from tenth to be beaten only a length and a half with, Hidden Artifact, second.

HIDDEN ARTIFACT dropped from the \$9,500 mark when far behind to compete for \$6,000 with a wake up run last time; he almost got it done with a late charge against a speed winner but settled for second.

SMOOTH TALK is the question mark here; he was competing at much higher levels earlier then took a big drop for \$20,000 last time and went from a sprint to a route where he committed to a pace that was much too fast; he understandably stopped in the stretch; he gets to take the final local drop and he shortens to seven furlongs.

POINT OF ORDER was traveling close to a quick route pace last time and advanced in contention then faltered late; he goes shorter here.

WE TAKE CHECKS has lost by wide margins; he came off the shelf November 23rd to face some of these and was close only early.

AWESOME JOEY took a big drop for \$19,000 last time out and raced in contention at a route but then hung on the edges; he now takes a substantial drop to go for just \$6,000; he cuts back to seven furlongs.

FINE GRIT was trying to close up the inside last time but there was still work to do; he now lengthens out to seven furlongs.

SEVENCOMINGOUT advanced inside from the third flight last time and was finally on the edges as the field bunched up and, Hidden Artifact, was second.

D'S DOUBLE EAGLE moved far on the outside last time and closed to be on the edges when a speed winner took top prize; he stretches out.

HANDSOME LIKE ME is an obvious one to consider; he has already been down to this level to run seven furlongs and he finished second; he went back up in value last time to land on the edges and now comes back down again.

RACE #5

BANNON

8 **DULCIBELLE**

9 **CANDY MOUNTAIN**

11 **VERRADASSAH**

4 **DANCING HORIZON**

HOPE GARDEN had only early prominence when dropped sharply for \$20,000 last time and she must travel farther here.

STELLA UNREAL a debut runner for Horsepower Racing and Beverley Chubb is from a dam who has produced four winners and this one will try six furlongs for \$20,000 at first asking with Crawford aboard after a series of works through the November getting ready.

MAHONE BAY is noted for her early speed commodity; she shortened from a route to a sprint last time but faded out of the money when, Verradassah, was third.

DANCING HORIZON gets to drop down after being in against difficult opponents with better late velocity; in her latest she was eighth in that protected spot; she stretches out and drops down.

ANTHECROWDGOESWILD was getting her second consecutive route last time; two starts ago she made a good middle move but hung; most recently when the pace was slower, she grabbed the lead but again weakened in the lane against a key winner; she shortens to a sprint; she rates a look.

FLAHY GIZMO was moving late on the outside last time against a key debut winner and landed fifth with, Candy Mountain, in third.

DURDLE DOOR was wide off the turn November 24th for \$20,000 at five furlongs and faded in the stretch.

DULCIBELLE debuted November 24th from the inside post and completely eliminated herself when she did not get out of the gate efficiently; she raced behind and then closed up to be about a length behind the third place finisher, Candy Mountain, who is here; a better departure from the gate means a better result tonight.

CANDY MOUNTAIN had her size on display last time out as she shortened to five furlongs and closed sharply in third keeping the late running, Dulcibelle, in fourth and that one is here; she stretches to six furlongs.

SHANGHAI COLLECT debuted November 7th and was moving very late in fourth and was not far out of second; she hopes to improve on that race; she rates a chance.

VERRADASSAH has run her best races in claiming events and that was the case when dropped for \$20,000 last time at six furlongs; she was hemmed in as the heavy favourite but made her way up the rail to salvage second.

QUEEN OF THE NORTH moved up between runners from the second flight last time and was finally fifth beaten about six lengths for \$25,000; she drops in price for this second consecutive sprint.

DYNAMIC SOLUTION debuted October 8th in a better type of race and was close only early against a key winner who has repeated; she has had time for interim prepping; she drops sharply and goes from five to six furlongs.

RACE #6

BANNON

9 **SILENT RESPECT**

5 **SHE'S GOT FIRE**

7 **NORTHERN KISS**

6 **FORESTELLA**

GOLDTOWN was anxious in front last time and didn't find a level stride but carried the field into the turn in front then was behind in double digits at the end.

CRUMLIN SPIRIT is getting her first start since October 19th and is in search of a breakthrough win; she has the benefits of a series of works coming to this; in her latest, she was ridden along to try and reach contention and was finally sixth with, Now Play Nice, in second.

WORLDS YOUR OYSTER had trained well November 17th and her longshot win November 25th was not a surprise; she was well ridden by Wilson to produce her best right at the end for her second lifetime win; she now tries non winners of three.

NOW PLAY NICE was reserved up close to the pace last time at seven furlongs against some of these then went flat the last furlong and now shortens in distance.

SHE'S GOT FIRE did well to win a seven furlong race two starts ago with a late run and that prompted her entrance into the La Prevoyante Stakes at a route where she finished sixth of nine; she not only cuts back to a sprint but comes all the way back to just six furlongs; she can rally.

FORESTELLA ran what looked like a winning race last time as she emerged from the pack with the lead only to have the winner mow her down in deep stretch; she settled for second with, Northern Kiss, third; she goes shorter.

NORTHERN KISS was made the favourite on the big drop November 21st but while all eyes were on her, Marcherdowntheally, her stable mate won it with a big rally; she was finally along in third place.

GREEK JUSTICE took surprising support last time given her extended winless streak but blinkers were on for that event and she attended the pace nicely and finished on the edges; she cuts back in distance.

SILENT RESPECT was taking her second win this year November 11th at seven furlongs as she got away from her opponents; she shortens all the way to six furlongs here.

STORMY SUMMER just missed in the Classy 'N Smart back in September and then ran nicely on the edges against a speed winner going long; most recently in the La Prevoyante she pressed the pace before retiring; she shortens to six furlongs and puts the blinkers on.

JIM BANNON'S JOURNAL DECEMBER 12TH, 2018

RACE #7

BANNON

9 GUATEMALA CITY

11 BOLD HOPE

5 INDIANTOWN SUNRISE

2 HOMBRE NATURAL

BE THE CHANGE typically has sharp velocity but was ineffective here for \$7,500 last time at six and a half furlongs and he faltered in the stretch.

HOMBRE NATURAL is a Fort Erie specialist who took six wins there this year from distances of two to five furlongs on dirt and turf; he did have success earlier in his career here; Santos who had a couple of wins with him at Fort Erie has the mount for Willie Armata.

YALLHAVEANICEDAY tried to come from off the pace last time at five furlongs and made a good middle move but hung in the stretch.

REXTON took a sharp drop for \$10,000 last time and was used on the pace driving forward but lost the early fight and backed away.

INDIANTOWN SUNRISE competed at five furlongs at a level underneath this last time and let the early speed go; he then gathered it up in the stretch and was clear at the end for his second consecutive five furlong victory; there is lots of speed to run at here.

AWESOME FIVE is getting his first race since September 12th and on his best day as he showed earlier this year he can still be a speed force; he does indicate three November works getting ready.

MOON DOGGIE has been out of the money in consecutive races and was part of an exhausting early pace last time and he had little left for the end.

TOO MANY EGBERTS got behind a wall of runners last time in a six furlong race then moved forward late on the inside to be third; he will shorten all the way to five furlongs looking to utilize his stretch skill.

GUATEMALA CITY likes to show speed but as he indicated in July he can win from off the pace; he is fresh again now for Norm McKnight and should be running at the speed.

BUDDING competed last time in a race set up for a closer; he moved outside as if he would have something to offer but he went flat in fifth with, Stay Determined, in second.

BOLD HOPE made his way all the way down to the \$8,000 mark October 31st; that seemed to be his race as he rushed at the speed leader but was turned aside and finished narrowly beaten; the winner is one of the quicker five furlong runners locally and that last performance is a good reference.

STAY DETERMINED won an exhausting pace fight over six furlongs November 30th and opened up in the stretch but was caught desperately late by a fresh off the pace winner.

BAKERSFIELD was the front runner November 30th in a race where, Stay Determined, eventually won that interior fight but both lost out during the stretch run.

RACE #8

BANNON

6 BEALESTREET DANCER

2 DUPES

8 CHRIS' BREW

7 OAKTON

1 MIND MAGIC

MIND MAGIC has been flirting around the edges and can be considered here with the drop for \$6,250 although he is winless in recent years; he was in against a sharp stamina winner last time and closed belatedly.

DUPES is certainly one to consider given his ability to run effectively under the lights and to do well late in races; he won again on a Wednesday evening, November 14th, at long odds and now has four wins for the campaign; he remains at this low level; Boulanger rides once again.

PUGSLEY went from a series of sprints to a route and had an intense commitment to the front end and had to work extra hard just to protect the lead against the favourite who was threatening in the stretch; that was his first win of the year; he is up in value.

BOLD ANIMAUX got down to a lower level than this last time and chased and was used in the middle stages and finished an ok fourth against, Pugsley.

MONEY TALKS is without a win in recent times; most recently at a lower level, he was used from the second flight and went flat in the lane.

BEALESTREET DANCER is worth considering; his last effort was a victory against non winners of three and he had a good presence in the stretch.

OAKTON attracted a claim for a minor sum October 21st by Norm McKnight and now makes his way back at an even lower level going from a sprint to a route looking for his first win in an extended time.

CHRIS' BREW is certainly one to consider even though he hasn't won in recent campaigns; he had a good rally last time to be fourth and, Mind Magic, was sixth; he takes the final local drop.

CROWN PRINCE had a good race for \$5,000 at a route last time; he moved on ok in the stretch to be third against, Pugsley, who is here.

NEIL'S DIAMOND had another positive fringe try November 30th; he attended the pace and stayed on at seven furlongs and now he goes a route.

SPANISH RIVER went from a route to a sprint last time and landed just on the edges with a mild outside move and now stretches out.

TH ORIGINAL SCOTTY had an excusable trip two starts ago; most recently, he had a double digit loss against, Pugsley.

THUNDER POINT was forced to scratch from a race November 14th; he6 made his way back November 25th but didn't have much impact at extremely long odds in a very unlikely situation; now that he gets down for \$6,250 he has a chance to run late.