



SARATOGA - POST 12:05

By MIKE BEER

First Race **4 FRENCH KNIGHT** is the most interesting new face in the opener, a race in which the experienced horses leave at least something to be desired. He is by an acceptable debut sire, and his dam was precocious, winning her debut late in her juvenile year with a 95 Beyer Speed Figure, before going on to win graded stakes races in each of her next two starts - and just missing getting a third in her 3yo debut; she has also proven to be an excellent producer, getting several winning foals already, including Grade 3 winner and Grade 1-placed Genre; McPeck rarely cranks them up, but he is 8 for his last 54 with 2yo first-time starters sprinting on dirt (15%, \$3.39 ROI). 7 Waitin'onasunnyday was bumped at the start and could only chase a sharp, front-running Bobrovsky (returned to win a stakes race on turf with an 80 Beyer) to no avail on debut; this won't be nearly as tough. 2 NEIGH BABY showed a surprising lack of speed on debut and was never a real factor, though that was a fast race for the level; has valuable experience now.

Race 2 **11 JACKS WORLD** world acted green while outrun early and was not being rushed by his rider, then wound up getting blocked in the stretch when he did start to make a run; he ran on well late once he steadied and altered out of the trouble, but it was way too late; can do a lot better with that experience behind him, but he needs a scratch to get in. 8 TWIRLING LAD had his debut rained off to a muddy main track, where he was on the chase from the start and never really came close before tiring to third behind Minorinconvenience, who returned to win the Funny Cide on Wednesday's card; bred for turf and distance; blinkers on. 11-8-6

Race 3 3 Trust Fund 5 What's Up Bro 1 Runaway Joke

Race 4 2 Bonus Move 5 Creditworthy 4 Urban Legend

Race 5 8 Midtown Lights 3 Scythian 7 Khali Magic

Race 6 6 Further Ado 1 Stradale 7 Souper Caliber

Race 7 G3 Prioress S.

3 DELIGHTFUL CLAIRE came up short after getting bet hard in her career debut; shipped here for her second start and took a nice step forward to bury maidens in fast time; much to prove still while giving away experience to her main rival, but this race didn't come up nearly as tough as it could have. 6praying earned Beyers of 78 and 79 as a 2yo last summer while showing good speed, and her effort behind Echo Sound in her stakes debut at Keeneland suggests that she can go with these horses if showing routine improvement as a 3yo; she has been a bit disappointing in her two starts so far this year, but she has been freshened up since, drew good post, and will be a price. 3 Delightful Claire 6 Praying 5 Long Neck Paula

Race 8 6 DRAGONES 10 Grittiness 2 Our Magical Moon

6 DRAGONES is very well-bred as a Gun Runner half-brother to Grade 1 winner Leofric, and these connections paid up for him as a yearling. He has landed in the weaker of the two divisions of this race and appears to be training strongly up to his debut for an excellent first-out barn. 10grittiness lacked speed and could only chase from last while failing to land a blow in his debut earlier this month; bred to get better with time and distance, and having a start is a big advantage in races like this, particularly going this distance. 2our magical moon also has a race under his belt, though he went long on turf first time out; he showed speed that day but faced two good-looking colts and was no match when challenged in the stretch; can easily do better switching surfaces with more of a dirt pedigree.

Race 9 4 Shoot It True 6 Granka 3 Tales of The Heart

Race 10 **8 Bellezza (IRE)** impressed winning her lone start as a 2yo before missing time; she concentrated on longer races last year, and, while she wasn't up to group standards, more than held her own with stakes horses; always traveled before moving wide and looming at the top of the straight in her 2024 finale on synthetic, and she won that race easier than the margin might suggest, then was ready off the bench and dominated the Sheepshead Bay in her stateside debut over this distance; has been over two boggy turf courses since; might be set to rebound back over firmer ground. 4 LA MEHANA (FR) has always been rock-solid, but she was impressive winning two back off a perfect trip and ride from Prat; appeared to relish that deep turf course last time when running away from the top one in the stretch en route to a 104 Beyer; going good now, but don't think she really holds an edge here. 3 LONG AGO (GB) was sharp winning her return to turf over this distance at Churchill, then more that held her own in a strongly run stakes race going shorter just 18 days later; was the pace-setter over that deep and tiring course last time; can do better.

Race 11 G1 Spinaway S. Purse: \$300,000

8 TOMMY JO was as impressive as any 2yo filly first-time starter at the meet when swinging up wide from off the pace en route to burying a field with an 85 Beyer last month; has likely been pointed to this ever since by Pletcher; this will be tougher but there is plenty to like here. 5 PERCYS BAR was sharp overcoming the kind of early trouble that typically gets horses beat going that short distance in her Keeneland back in the spring; stepped into stakes company off that impressive effort, and she was just as good taking the Debutante while ranging up into a contested pace and then running away; dangerous shipping in for an underrated trainer. 4 MYRHICAL is three for three and already a multiple stakes winner, including a dominant victory over colts on this track with a 93 Beyer; owns big speed and commands respect.

Race 12 8 VICTORY WAY shaped with potential early on but was sidelined out of a troubled trip in the Smarty Jones and took a long time to reappear on the track; he has run well several times without finding the winner's circle since starting back over the winter; tried it on the front end over that wet track last time, but was only second-best to General Partner, who might be better than anything he faces here; one more chance. 3 LOCKE AND KEY is underrated dropping out of four straight stakes races for this while also making a return to dirt; he won the last two times he made the switch from turf to dirt, most recently when defeating today's rival Whatchatalkinabout fair and square last November. 4 SURVEILLANCE has run nothing but races that make him a strong contender here, and he is versatile enough to get any kind of trip, depending on how the pace plays out; logical as one of the favorites.

Race 13 2 CANDYTWON ran a good one in his career debut despite showing some greenness in the late stages that might have cost him, and that was against a good field; he won his next start on the grass impressively while clearly moving forward, then was away for about four months; was compromised by the post last time, as Saez seemed intent on sending for the lead, then got caught wide on the first turn when others went inside of him; moves inside for this and might be a lot better than he looks. 12 MAIN BEACH was progressing nicely last summer for Chad, and he ran a good one here while trip-compromised, before failing to class up with graded stakes horses in the fall; that trip worked out as well as it could have last time, but he was only second-best in his first start off the bench; blinkers on breaking from a tough draw. 1 PAPMIENTO was a maiden winner here as a 2yo off a stalking trip; has been more aggressively ridden in his turf starts since, including that last one when cutting a fast pace for the distance and paying the price; good post for this, and he is capable without the lead.

Scott Shapiro: Saratoga Late Pick 5 Analysis

by Scott Shapiro

It is somewhat hard to believe, but the summer of 2025 has come and gone. With that comes the final week of racing at historic Saratoga Race Course. However, there are still three big weekend cards to come, including the last Saturday of the meet, which is headlined by the Spinaway (G1). The 7-furlong affair for 2YO fillies goes as Race 11 of 13 and makes up the middle leg of the late Pick 5. Here are my thoughts on the sequence.

Race 9:

Main Ticket: 4 Shoot It True Backup: 3 Tales of the Heart

#4 Shoot It True moved to the turf for the first time on July 18 for trainer Wesley Ward and beat a field of state-bred first-level allowance foes for total fun. The Munnings filly did not get out of the gate well in her victory last month, but showed a lot of early zip in her four prior starts over the dirt. Ward finds a pretty soft open company allowance event over the same course his filly won over last month. She can probably win again from off the pace, but with a cleaner start she should make the lead and be very tough to catch late. If Shoot It True fails to put forth her best, #3 Tales of the Heart makes some sense to run this group down late. The Resolute Racing filly has lacked a strong enough punch to get to the wire first through 4 starts in the States, but might have found the right spot if the Ward fails to fire.

Race 10: Flower Bowl (G2)

Main Ticket: 4 La Mehana Backups: 2 Amber Cascade

Forecast: #4 La Mehana fired a career best effort last out over the yielding going in the Glens Falls (G2) for hot training Miguel Clement. The 6YO mare should get another honest pace to run at in her attempt to make it 3 wins in a row dating back to June. If she avoids regression, they are running for second place. If she happens to take a step backwards in her second start at the Spa, #2 Amber Cascade intrigues at a big price. The daughter of Free Drop Billy was claimed by trainer Mike Maker out of at 9-furlong dirt race at Churchill Downs in mid-May, given ten weeks, and she came back with a big performance. In fact it was a better than looks second in the Ladies Mile Turf Preview at Ellis Park when she missed by just a head despite struggling to find running room in the lane. Maker has done it before stretching horses out on the grass. She should be a juicy price.

Race 11: Spinaway (G1)

Main Ticket: **8 Tommy Jo** Backups: **7 Steer Clear; 5 Percy's Bar; 2 Meringue**

#4 Mythical and #8 Tommy Jo are likely to take a lot of support in the feature. Mythical holds the experience edge over all of her rivals, including Tommy Jo and brings a perfect 3 for 3-record into her toughest task to date. It is hard to knock her, but she comes back in less than a month and is likely to take plenty of heat from her outside. I prefer Tommy Jo. The Spendthrift farm filly was one of the most impressive juvenile winners this summer in New York and once again draws favorably to the outside. A move forward makes her tough to beat.

The tote board may suggest a two-filly race to an extent, but it is far from that. #5 Percy's Bar was really good in her two starts this spring in Kentucky for trainer Ben Colebrook. Colebrook rarely ships horses into the Spa, but clearly thinks a lot of this daughter of Upstart. She did take advantage of a very favorable setup though in her win in Louisville in late June. #7 Steer Clear is the "other Pletcher". She was beaten by #1 Ornellaia in the August 2 MSW race, but was best in my opinion. She was part of a contentious pace and held together pretty well late. A move forward is well within the cards. Same is true of #2 Meringue who is still learning and probably a reach, but is likely to get overlooked in the wagering making her worth including as a backup.

Race 12:

Main Ticket: **1 War Stride; 4 Surveillance; 5 Acoustic Ave**

Forecast: I am going to take a swing against the two ML favorites in this second-level allowance event at 6-furlongs over the main track. #2 Rookie Card was dominant last out, but it was against lesser over a speed favoring racetrack. Plus, he has yet to prove he can put forth back-to-back top performances. #7 Whatchatalkinabout makes his second start of the meet after failing over the mud last out at 9-5 for Wesley Ward. His two races at Aqueduct prior are scary, but he has to prove it to me in upstate New York before I swallow the chalk.

I will use a few against the likely favorites, including #1 War Stride. The Tamarkuz gelding put forth back-to-back big efforts this spring before being caught three-wide over a racetrack that favored the inside on the Fourth of July. He was in a logical regression spot as well that afternoon, but has been given time and should get a great trip along the rail under jockey Eric Cancel. He is one of the more intriguing long shots on the card.

Race 13:

Main Ticket: **5 Debt Limit; 11 Laurel Valley** Backups: **2 Candytown**

Forecast: I lack a strong opinion in the finale where #5 Debt Limit does appear the one to beat after a third-place finish to the very good looking Then last month. The blinkers go on the Chad Brown trainee that aims to make it 3 for 5 to kick off his career. I will also use #11 Laurel Valley. On paper, there appears to be enough early speed to keep things honest, but I have seen this movie in New York before. The Three Diamonds Farm gelding is dangerous if left alone on the front end under Ricardo Santana Jr.

Kentucky Downs – Post 12:25



FIRST RACE	10	Running Game	Ortiz J L	10-1-4-11
SECOND RACE	2	La Dolce Vita	Ortiz I Jr	2-11-4-3
THIRD RACE	6	Ready to Jam	Ortiz I Jr	6-1-2-11
FOURTH RACE	9	No Ah A	Franco M.	9-1-11-12
FIFTH RACE	4	Autumn Sunshine	Ortiz I Jr	4-1-3-16
SIXTH RACE	3	Beer Run	Ortiz J L	3-7-12-11
SEVENTH RACE	4	Limited Liability	Dettori L	4-7-3--8
EIGHTH RACE	6	Ag Bullet	Saez L	6-11-2-10
NINTH RACE	2	Howard Wolowitz	Ortiz I Jr	2-6-7-8
TENTH RACE	12	Wimbledon Hawkeye	Dettori L	12-9-2-8
ELEVENTH	6	Lady Ilize	A. deVries	6-2-10-7
TWELFTH	3	Mayweather	Saez L	3-15-4-1-5

Race 8

Ag Bullet also set a Kentucky Downs course record last season when she ran 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:14.19, and that came not in some lower-level allowance, but in the Ladies Turf Sprint. She won by 5 1/2 lengths – and not merely because Ag Bullet took to the quirky Kentucky Downs course. In November, Ag Bullet lost the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint, a five-furlong race, by a neck; in December, she finished a good third going a two-turn mile in the Grade 1 Matriarch.

Ag Bullet's connections, trainer Richard Baltas and owners Calvin Nguyen and Joey Tran, brought the mare back for a 5-year-old campaign with three targets – the Grade 1 Jaipur in June at Saratoga, this race, and the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. A rough trip over a Churchill course she might not have liked produced a subpar comeback run in May, but Ag Bullet aced the Jaipur, winning by two lengths, then returned to Baltas's base in Southern California and resumed working steadily on July 20. She has not missed a beat while breezing with aplomb over the Del Mar grass course.

Race 9

Upside, in this Kentucky Turf Sprint clearly lies on the side of # 2 Howard Wolowitz. Khaadem is a 9-year-old with 40 starts, Howard Wolowitz a 4-year-old with seven starts. One of those wins came in the Franklin-Simpson Stakes during the 2024 Kentucky Downs meeting, and Howard Wolowitz, powering through the uphill dogleg finish, won comfortably. With Irad Ortiz Jr. riding and a slew of fast workouts on his page, Howard Wolowitz figures a more defined favorite than the 7-2 listed on the morning line. "He came back from the layoff doing very well," trainer Jose D'Angelo said. "He's more mature and has grown up. I'm very happy with him, very confident." Howard Wolowitz, if he breaks well from post 2, should slot in just behind them, and if, as his trainer, the colt comes back from his extended layoff a faster model – look out.

Race 10 \$ 3.5 Million Nashville Derby

Bellum Justum came from England to win the 2024 Nashville Derby, and England shipper # 12 Wimbledon Hawkeye is a better horse at this stage of his career. He has a tough draw, post 12, and his trainer has never run a horse in America. The track's morning line lists him as the 7-2 favorite. Yet I'm still riding the Wimbledon Hawkeye train..

Post 12 going 1 5/16 miles at Kentucky Downs since 2000 is 2 for 28. Taken as a whole, the four outside posts appear to be somewhat of a disadvantage but not a deal-breaker. Wimbledon Hawkeye possesses tactical pace, and with several no-speed horses drawn inside him, he can break alertly under an aggressive rider and find a good enough spot into a turn that comes up very quickly. Wimbledon Hawkeye can't crack the top echelon of European company – but he's quite good. He lacked the speed to handle milers in the Craven and the 2000 Guineas, ran well enough to win this race in the Dante and the King Edward, and has improved in his two starts since. His form with Sword Dancer hero El Cordobes and sharp 3-year-old Merchant says that all the colt needs to win Saturday is any kind of decent trip.

Noble Confessor nearly beat top 3-year-old turf miler Zulu Kingdom in the Pilgrim last year, ran a subtly good race in the Breeders' Cup, and is unexposed this season. Can be in the mix.

Monmouth (12:50)

BY BRAD THOMAS

RACE	1ST PICK	2ND PICK	3RD PICK
1	#4 Earl of Dassel	#8 Quistmer	#2 He's Got Swagger
2	#8 Neck of Cairo	#4 Patty's Girl	#7 Spectacular Joke
3	#6 Photo Finish	#1 Miss M M	#3 On The Payroll
4	#6 Wise Words	#8 Ball of Fire	#1 Shozan
5	#2 Just Asap	#6 Knick the Quick	#3 One More Freud
6	#5 Trango Tower	#1 Snowyte	#6 High Note
7	#8 C C Girl	#3 Whirlwind	#4 Red Haired Gal
8	#3 Charluche	#4 Cara Blanca	#1 My Honeybunch
9	#1 Majestic Venezuela	#6 Ribaltagaia	#3 Breath Away

Race 4

6 Wise Words

Flashed clear improvement in second start. By Thousand Words (14% dirt sire), and both siblings to try dirt won. Gets back on fast track after good mud performance.

8 Ball of Fire

Well-bred \$210,000 first-time starter by Munnings (18% dirt sire) out of a dam who was 1-for-5 on dirt earning \$77,130. Sire produces solid 14% winners with first-time starters

Race 5

2 Just Asap

Try to catch me as the only gate-to-wire winner in the field; stretches out to 1 Mile for the 1st time; is out of a 1-for-9 dam (50K) who earned her lone win a 1-Mile and 1-8 on SA turf; she produced 2-time route winner Hollywood Closeup (3-for-24 overall 46K).

6 Knick the Quick

Racing 2nd-time out and 2nd-time long are both improvement angles; projects to sit just off Just Asap then hopes to get 1st run on the stalkers and closers;

Race 9

Majestic Venezuela

The winner from last posted an 84 Beyer speed figure in her next-out GP-optional claiming victory; versatile sort has won on the lead and rallying from 5th;; off recent form projects to save ground then make 1 run from the back.

Wheeling (1:00)



1. 6-2-7-8
2. 5-3-6-7
3. 2-8-1-7
4. 6-1-7-3
5. 2-5-6-8
6. 1-3-2-6
7. 2-8-1-6
8. 8-6-1-7
9. 2-1-4-5
10. 8-5-7-1
11. 5-8-7-2
12. 4-1-5-6
13. 2-8-7-3
14. 5-1-4-3
15. 8-4-6-1
16. 3-5-2-1
17. 6-2-3-8

Best Bets : Race 10. # 8 Wild Ms. Rose

Race 15 # 8 Time Stamp



RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, August 30, 2025

RACE 1:

4 NVDA may have finally found the spot where she can get the maiden victory. The stretchout to 6 ½ furlongs can be the key to her success.

3 PRINCESS HONOR is turning back to a sprint distance after showing speed before fading vs similar quality going a mile. **1 BOOMBOX BETTY** is dropping to the bottom on the main track after facing tougher sprinting on the Tapeta. Trainer Ron Spatz has Jonathan Ocasio managing the surface switch.

SELECTIONS: 4-3-1

RACE 2:

9 LITTLE GUSSIE is a daughter of Improbable debuting for trainer David Fawkes, who is 24% with his debut turf runners. Reyly Gutierrez rides.

5 LADY ROCKULA is moving to the grass after breaking from an outside post, stalking the pace, and finishing third vs this level of opposition going five furlongs on the Tapeta. Carlos David has Miguel Vazquez atop the daughter of Connect.

7 MUCHO MACHO LADY is another trying the turf after rallying to finish third in her five-furlong debut on the all-weather Tapeta. Marcos Meneses rides for Angel Rodriguez.

SELECTIONS: 9-5-7

RACE 3:

3 GALLANT KNIGHT, listed as a gelding, the son of St. Patrick's Day faces winners after responding to both Lasix and blinkers with a \$12,500 maiden victory on June 25 for Jose D'Angelo, who is 21% winning consecutive races. **1 SMOKIN JACK FLASH** is dropping into a winning situation after chasing the pace and fading vs \$20,000 state bred optional claimers going five furlongs on turf. His previous sprints on the Tapeta are good enough to defeat this field. **5 HOTTAKEJAKE** is another facing winners after following the second-place finish behind the top choice with a maiden victory as the odds-on choice. Tareq Moubarak is 38% winning consecutive races.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-5

RACE 4:

1 SEVILLA is moving to the rail after rallying to finish second behind red-hot repeat winner I Love Venezuela at this level last out. Trainer Fausto Gutierrez has apprentice Luis Fuenmayor atop the daughter of Tapiture. **7 ALANIS** is turning back slightly after setting the pace and finishing third behind the top choice going a mile and a sixteenth on the Tapeta last out. Mark Casse has Rajiv Maragh atop the daughter of Brethren. **11 ROGERS PARK** is dropping to this level after showing speed and giving way late vs \$12,500 two lifetime claimers. Trainer Gary Subriate has Elijah Greenidge overseeing the outside post.

SELECTIONS: 1-7-11

RACE 5:

6 COACH KAIN finds a good spot to make amends after breaking a step slow, encountering traffic at the quarter pole and finishing third – as the even-money favorite – going a mile on the grass. Mark Casse has Luca Panici in the saddle again.

7 DAVID PEPPERMAN is stretching out around two turns again after taking a positive step forward when finishing fourth going five furlongs last out. Trainer Carlos David has Edwin Gonzalez making the colt's third career start. **3 SIR CROSS TRAFFIC** is another hoping for clear sailing after getting blocked at the furlong marker when fifth behind Coach Kain last out. Ron Spatz has Jonathan Ocasio atop the son of Cross Traffic.

SELECTIONS: 6-7-3

RACE 6:

5 BET STORMY, three for five at the distance on the Tapeta, has her claiming tag sliced in half after a couple of stalks and fade performances vs better, the last on turf. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Heriberto Figueroa named to ride. **2 SALS DREAM GIRL** will try to make it two in a row after the driving score at this level last out. Trainer Gary Jackson, winning at a 28% rate, is 21% winning consecutive races.

9 COMPASS RISES, four for four in the money on the Tapeta, will try to add to the win column after rallying to finish a willing third behind Sals Dream Gal in her last. Luca Panici rides for Angel Rodriguez.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-9

RACE 7:

2 ADIOS NOW is dropping to the \$12,500 level after rallying to finish second vs \$20,000 state-bred optional claimers going six furlongs on the main track. One cruise down his past performance and you will see that the \$12,500 level is in his wheelhouse.

7 URANIUM, a winner at this level three races back, drops and turns back to a sprint after dueling throughout and finishing third vs \$20,000 starter optional claimers at a mile. Trainer Eniel Cordero, who has two in the field (Christensen), has Edwin Gonzalez atop the son of Unified.

5 PERSISTENT DANGER debuts locally for Laura Cazares after a consistent sprint campaign at Monmouth vs similar quality. The gelding, who was a voided claim last out, worked a bullet at Palm Meadows in preparation for the return.

SELECTIONS: 2-7-5

RACE 8:

6 WAYNE'S LAW is stretching out to 6 ½ furlongs after the promising five-furlong debut in which he dueled for the lead and finished third behind impressive repeat stakes winner Discassette. Trainer Amador Sanchez has Marcos Meneses atop the son of Tiz the Law. **3 MISCHIEVOUS MILO** is a son of win early sire Cajun Breeze debuting for trainer Mike Yates, who is 19% with his freshman winners.

2 MICANOPY is a son of Uncle Chuck (Uncle Mo) and a half-brother to Princess Secret, who won the My Dear Girl and Susan's Girl Divisions of the Florida Sire Stakes Series. Trainer Jose D'Angelo has Jose Morelos at the controls.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-2

RACE 9:

10 ZOZAN is turning back to seven furlongs after the impressive score going a mile last out. Saffie Joseph Jr has Reyly Gutierrez going for two in a row.

4 CROSS HASTE is stretching out after the consistent sprint campaign going shorter distances. His consistency must be respected, but the zero for nine record at the distance is an obvious concern (9-0-1-1).

8 LACE UP moves to the Fred Labo barn via the claim and cuts back to seven-eighths of a mile after the quartet of solid outings vs similar going a one-turn mile. Apprentice Luis Fuenmayor hops aboard.

SELECTIONS: 10-4-8

RACE 10: THE BLACK DIAMOND CAT

1 HADES is turning back to a mile and a sixteenth after running a monster race at nine furlongs in which he set blistering fractions when hounded throughout before tiring and being disqualified to second when drifting out in deep stretch. People who subscribe to the 'bounce' theory may have some concerns.

6 CATALYTIC wheels back after reaping the spoils when placed first – as the favorite – in front of Hades last out. Antonio Sano has Edwin Gonzalez overseeing the rematch. **4 RELAMPAGO VERDE** had the ideal setup to win last out but could not close the deal when closing to finish third behind the top two. It can by déjà vu all over again.

SELECTIONS: 1-6-4

RACE 11:

4 SHACE SLOANE is dropping to the \$17,500 level and returning to the turf after the so-so outing vs \$25,000 maidens going around two turns on Tapeta. His previous outings on the grass point him out as a major player in the nightcap. **5 FLAG OFFICER** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth after rallying late to come with a head of exiting the maiden ranks at a mile. Antonio Sano has Edwin Gonzalez at the helm. **9 SEATTLE ROAR** was the poster child for a speed favoring turf course when he set the pace and was beaten a neck when finishing third – at 50-1 – going a mile last out. Trainer Ruben Sierra has apprentice Luis Fuenmayor atop this interesting proposition.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-9

BEST BET: RACE 10 – 1 HADES

LONGSHOT: RACE 11 – 4 SHACE SLOANE

WOODBINE (1:05)

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Saturday, August 30th 2025

Race 1

#6 Go Gemma

#5 Suigu Belle

#2 Scary Speedy

#1 Pretty Good Joke

#6 GO GEMMA set the pace and faded to sixth when racing over the Tapeta at Presque Isle in June. Her maiden win came closing at this distance over the Indiana turf. #5 SUIGU BELLE was an impressive gate-to-wire winner over this course on June 28, then came up empty after forcing a hot pace in the Thunder Bay on July 27. She could rebound dropping in for a tag for the first time. #2 SCARY SPEEDY dueled on the lead but stopped late when taking on N2L allowance company over the EP Taylor course on August 9. We'll see if the inner turf is better for her with the big class drop. #1 PRETTY GOOD JOKE rallied to be a decent third over this course three starts ago and will likely get back to that closing style after two starts setting the pace over the EP Taylor.

Race 2

#8 Drogon

#1 Come On Big Lou

#3 Hello Jello

#6 Big Lew

#8 DROGON ran well to be third in his first start off of the claim but came up empty when returning on August 8. He plunges in from the \$25,000 level and could rebound. #1 COME ON BIG LOU was loose on the lead but got picked up at the wire when last competing on August 10. He figures to be loose on the lead again; we'll see if he can hold. #3 HELLO JELLO fared better than Drogon when finishing a distant fourth on August 8. He makes his second start over the local surface; contender. #6 BIG LEW was disappointing in the same race that Come On Big Lou exits but had run two nice runner-up efforts before that and could be better this time.

Race 3

#4 Genius of Love

#5 Cymbal Court

#1 Takemybourbonneat

#2 Sterling Heights

#4 GENIUS OF LOVE ran a nice second in her only start for this tag so far this year on July 24. Her speed figures fit well; contender. #5 CYMBAL COURT has raced well in both of her starts so far this season, most recently running on to be second over the inner turf at this level. Consistent check-earner has had both of her wins come

over the synthetic. #1 TAKEMYBOURBONNEAT looked very good when winning her non-two for this price on June 14, then was claimed from a runner-up effort behind Tabloid Material on July 5. She will be hoping for a decent pace to run at here. #2 STERLING HEIGHTS was a half-length behind Genius of Love when last racing on July 24. She could be forwardly-placed in a race without much speed.

Race 4

#1 Napa Spirit (IRE)

#6 Souper Success

#7 Grainger County

#2 Jimmies Big Day

#1 NAPA SPIRIT (IRE) was a nice winner at this level over the inner turf in his first start off of the claim, then did not have the best trip and still ran a very game fourth by just a length at the starter/optional \$15,000 level on August 8. Speedy gelding drops back in for \$10,000 and should be prominent throughout. #6 SOUPER SUCCESS was claimed back by these connections for \$15,000 on June 26 after they had lost him from a winning effort for \$10,000 the start prior. Nine-year-old veteran likes to win and looks like a big threat. #7 GRAINGER COUNTY did not fire over a muddy track in a tough field at Fort Erie on July 27 and now returns here. He was an impressive winner for this price on June 13; could be on Napa Spirit's flank early. #2 JIMMIES BIG DAY held on for a front-end score at this level on August 10. He catches a tougher field this time; we'll see how he fares.

Race 5

#1 Tazman

#7 Border Town

#3 Ask in My Name

#4 Your Valentino

#1 TAZMAN kicked off his season in a \$25,000 turf mile where he dueled on the lead and weakened late to be fifth. He drops in for \$15,000 and is definitely better suited to sprinting on the synthetic and should be better in his second start off of the bench. #7 BORDER TOWN had to steady going into the turn then rolled late to be second by a half-length in a five furlong inner turf dash on August 8. Nine-year-old was a winner over the synthetic in his first start of the year and should be a big threat here. #3 ASK IN MY NAME has rallied strongly to be beaten less than a length in both of his starts since being claimed by these connections. If he has enough speed to run at he could be a big threat here. #4 YOUR VALENTINO looked very good when bursting clear in the stretch to win his non-three for \$25,000 on July 6 but couldn't make the lead and came up empty when trying N1X/\$32,000 foes on

August 10. He drops back in for the price he was taken for; we'll see if he can get the lead this time.

Race 6

#1 Dazzling Cruiser

#8 Tiz Ready

#7 Afleet Flatter

#5 Silent Strike

#1 DAZZLING CRUISER was a game third behind the runaway Spirited when last racing nine days ago. She finally gets a chance to try turf which she had very strong speed figures over last year. #8 TIZ READY sat off of the pacesetter but finished evenly when returning from a 162 day layoff on August 9. She was beaten a nose around two turns in her first start for these connections at Gulfstream; we'll see if she can get back to form. #7 AFLEET FLATTER raced wide and kept on well to be fifth of 14 from the 12 hole on August 2. She makes her second start off of the layoff here and could step forward. #5 SILENT STRIKE has had two big efforts since getting on turf for these connections. She may be forwardly-placed stretching out to a mile.

PICK 3 PLAY:
1.7.8/4/1.6

Race 7

#4 Spun Around - Best Bet

#1 Good as Gone

#5 Crystallaire (GB)

#2 Speak Up

#4 SPUN AROUND tracked the pacesetter and proved best in the stretch to break her maiden on the stretch out to this distance on August 2. She could be the pacesetter here. #1 GOOD AS GONE had a wide trip when sprinting over the turf on July 31. She had some nice synthetic route efforts last year and should fare well with this group. #5 CRYSTALLAIRE (GB) broke her maiden in a synthetic route at Gulfstream while attracting a \$50,000 claim in March. Her first two local starts had to come in Stakes due to the Gulfstream claiming jail rules, then she was flat in an N2L allowance on the turf on August 2. She drops in for \$40,000 and should be happy to get back on synthetic. #2 SPEAK UP had an even effort in the same race that Crystallaire exits. She gets back to the Tapeta and adds blinkers for the first time.

Race 8

#1 Boca Queen (IRE)

#6 Wagstaff

#9 Cyclonite

#11 Hammerhead

#1 BOCA QUEEN (IRE) lived up to the hype coming into her debut when bursting clear to an impressive 3 ¼ length score, then came back three weeks later in the Ontario Colleen where she was a bit rank and finished fourth. I think she is a filly with a big future; would not be surprised to see her take down the boys today. #6 WAGSTAFF is in search of his fourth consecutive win, rallying to beat a short field of three-year-olds over the outer turf on August 8. He beat some very nice older horses in his N1X/\$32,000 score two-back; the one to beat. #9 CYCLONITE made his North American debut at Saratoga where he was a one-paced seventh. His European form was quite good; adds lasix this time. #11 HAMMERHEAD has had two very close efforts behind good quality foes in N2L allowance foes since returning from south of the border. He has Stakes quality to him but a tough post to overcome.

Race 9

#1 Balls in Ur Court

#10 Uncarrick Teristic

#7 Crumlin Trouble

#8 Kimberlina

#3 Crimson Forest

#1 BALLS IN UR COURT was part of a contested pace and wilted to be seventh in an OS/\$40,000 race on August 9. She plunges in for \$15,000 and could be the main speed. #10 UNCARRICK TERISTIC debuted in a five furlong turf dash on August 9 and was finishing well to be fifth. She has a start under her belt now and gets some extra ground to work with. #7 CRUMLIN TROUBLE was forced wide on the first turn and emptied out when taking on \$25,000 foes on the inner turf two weeks ago. She drops in class and re-adds blinkers for the return to the main track. #8 KIMBERLINA was a game second in the same race that Uncarrick Teristic exits. She had a nice synthetic effort three-back. #3 CRIMSON FOREST had a nice gate work back in June but was scratched from a previous entry and has since breezed slowly; we'll see what we get on debut.

Del Mar (Post 4:30)



Analysis & Selections By Brad Free

First Race **2**. Tempus Volat **8**. Decapo **7**. Never Ambling

First post Saturday, **4:30** p.m. TEMPUS VOLAT ran super in his comeback, runner-up behind the odds-on favorite in a similar maiden turf mile with a final quarter in :23.59 and finishing more than three lengths clear of third. 'VOLAT is the only entrant with a recent turf route under his belt. If he runs two alike, he will be tough to beat. DECAPO showed ability in March in his fourth-place debut in a turf sprint. He broke slowly from the rail, got shuffled into the turn, waited for room, and kicked strongly late. That was five months ago, and he has never run long, but his recent drills suggest he is ready to fire first start back/second time out

Second Race **2** Wild Recruit **10**. Jaguar Jon **1**. Distant Fleet

This N2L claiming sprint is a good spot to take a shot. WILD RECRUIT can upset potential favorite JAGUAR JON. The maiden-20 win last fall at Del Mar by WILD RECRUIT makes him a contender; he was only prepping last out in his comeback when he chased, cracked and finished seventh. But he worked well since, and should move up second start back. JAGUAR JON returns to dirt after a turf experiment failed last time out. The third-place finish by 'JON two back ranks among the fastest in this field, he figures to press the pace from the outside post while dropping in class. DISTANT FLEET is speed on the rail; he will keep class-drop front-runner CURRY honest on the lead. An upset candidate is COACH CRONIN, who will rally in a race that could set up for his late kick.

Third Race **6** Vodka Vodka **10**. Annan **3**. Brazenly

The dominating maiden win by VODKA VODKA at this mile turf trip was somewhat validated when the third-place finisher won his next start. VODKA VODKA set the pace, ran his final quarter in a sharp :23.58, and can fire right back in this Cal-bred allowance turf mile.

Fourth Race **4**. Misstrial **3**. Molly E **6**. Heaven's Bolt

The 2yo filly MISSTRIAL seeks redemption after finishing next-to-last as the odds-on favorite in her debut three weeks ago. She had an alibi. She bobbled and went to her nose at the start, uncorked a middle move on the turn, then flattened out. She has continued to work well, and can make amends with a clean takeoff.

Fifth Race **4**. Formidable Man **7**. King of Gosford **8**. Full Serrano

FORMIDABLE MAN has never lost at DMR (5-for-5). Odds-on winner of the G2 Eddie Read last out at a mile and an eighth, he is a two-time G1 winner including the Kilroe Mile this spring at SA. KING OF GOSFORD skipped the Eddie Read to target this G2 turf mile, and he did finish in front of the top choice in May. 'GOSFORD has tactical speed, a late kick, and is closely matched with the top choice.

Sixth Race 1. Tenma 6 Om N Joy 2. Howin

Four-time graded stakes winner TENMA is the class; sharp Cal-bred stakes winner OM N JOY enters the G3 Torrey Pines for 3yo fillies having won four straight including a runaway last out in a Cal-bred sprint stakes. TENMA is the pick, first start since finishing fourth in the Kentucky Oaks.

Seventh Race 4. VibeZ 5. Sneaker 8. Khinjani

VIBEZ has improved this season at age 4, and merits horse-to-beat status off a runner-up finish last out in a similar N2X turf route. She likes the DMR turf course, two wins and a second from three routes. SNEAKER is speed, back with allowance rivals after four solid tries in restricted stakes including a Cal-bred stakes win two back and runner-up finish less than two weeks ago. SNEAKER will be positioned in front of VIBEZ, but she faces pace pressure from RUNAMILEINMYSHOES and stretch-out SPICYBUG. Late-runner KHINJANI drops in class and shortens from a mile and three-eighths while wheeling back in 15 days. She will rally late in a race that should unfold at an honest tempo.

Eighth Race 4. Danzing Daisy 5. Miss Kona 8. Shady Stripes

Cal-bred maiden 2yo fillies DANZING DAISY and MISS KONA both ran well to finish second in their respective debuts; both can improve with a race under their belt. DANZING DAISY began her career on turf; she raced midpack, finished well, and galloped out with run. Sired by Danzing Candy, she might prefer the switch to dirt..

LATE P-4: 4.5/10.11/4.6/4.8

Ninth Race 10. Motorious 11. Queen Maxima 3. Coppola

Late-running turf sprinter MOTORIOUS can be the first three-time winner of the G3 Green Flash Handicap, and also the first 7yo winner. There is plenty of pace for him to run at. MOTORIOUS won his only start this year in June, worked well for his return, and the DMR turf-sprint course has been fair recently to all styles. With a clean trip and legit fractions up front, MOTORIOUS can add to the string of Green Flash chalk. Favorites won this stakes five of the last six years..

Tenth Race 4. Nysos 6. Journalism 5. Indispensable

Local favorites NYSOS and JOURNALISM are tough to separate in the Pacific Classic; shipper FIERCENESS is close behind. Three outstanding colts race a mile and a quarter in this Grade 1; NYSOS is the tepid choice. He finished well last out winning at a mile and a sixteenth, worked well since, and should handle this longer distance. NYSOS is 5-for-6, with more natural speed than his main rival. He will get the jump, and can win if he holds off the rally of 3yo JOURNALISM. Three-year-olds get a six-pound weight break and are 6-for-19 overall in the Pacific Classic. JOURNALISM has run well repeatedly at this mile-and-quarter distance: runner-up in the Kentucky Derby and Belmont, and courageous winner of the Preakness at a mile and three-sixteenths. JOURNALISM has had an enterprising campaign this year (6 starts, all three legs of the Triple Crown, 4 wins). He shows no signs of a letdown. Winner of the G1 Haskell last out, JOURNALISM looked strong in his final work, he won on DMR dirt last year, and will roll late. Close call between the top pair in a race favorites won 6 of the 10 years since DMR reinstalled dirt. INDISPENSABLE could outrun his 15-1 program odds third start back after a fast N1X win last out. A horse-for-course (2-for-3 at DMR) INDISPENSABLE is making his third start as a 4yo; he should relish a mile and a quarter..

Eleventh Race 4. Stay Hot 8. Final Boss 11. Gold Phoenix

In a G2 turf marathon light on speed, front-runners/pace-pressers STAY HOT and FINAL BOSS can turn the race into a parade and finish one-two. STAY HOT gets the call to upset with a two-hole trip behind likely pacesetter FINAL BOSS. Both starts this year by STAY HOT were solid: he wired a stakes at Lone Star, and finished respectable third in a G2 at DMR. 'HOT trained better into this race than his last race according to his trainer; a mile and three-eighths is perfect for an honest colt whose even-paced style should play well at this long distance.

Race of the Week: The Pacific Classic at Del Mar

Mar (RACE 10 - 9:00)

by Jeremy Plonk

The Lead:

Travers winner Sovereignty threw down the gauntlet last Saturday and now Del Mar's Breeders' Cup Classic division hopefuls get to strut their stuff in the \$1 million Pacific Classic. This year's cast is one of the race's most interesting since its 1991 debut, including a cross-section of stardom at the top in a first-time matchup. The 1-1/4 miles Pacific Classic will be Race 10 on an 11-race program that co-features the Del Mar Mile, Torrey Pines, Green Flash and Del Mar Handicap.

Field Depth:

Multiple Grade 1 winners FIERCENESS and JOURNALISM lead the way along with NYSOS, a Grade 2 winner and Grade 1-placed. The rest have a deep cavern in the ledger with MIDNIGHT MAMMOTH a Grade 3 winner among the other five.

Pace:

As many as six of these could be considered 'pressers' to the pace as their preferred running style. It will be about jockey intent and how assertive one or two want to be given the 10-furlong journey. MIDNIGHT MAMMOTH or TARANTINO may be most likely to set the tempo, BUT FIERCENESS, NYSOS and LURE HIM IN (among others) could be vying and capable of making the top. The late threats appear to be JOURNALISM and INDISPENSABLE. Very tough race to handicap based on 'shape' and pace.

Our Eyes:

Here are my horse-by-horse notes.

#1-FIERCENESS: Last year's Breeders' Cup Classic runner-up over this class and distance makes an early trip west while flanking the coasts from Todd Pletcher stablemate Mindframe, who stays home to run in Sunday's Jockey Club Gold Cup at Saratoga. Pletcher's only Pacific Classic runner in more than a decade was 2021 third-place finisher Dr. Post. Looked like he was going to bury the competition in the Whitney last out and inexplicably stopped at the head of the lane. His best is great, but it's inconsistent. May provide some value after being favored in 7 of his last 9. Look for jockey John Velazquez to float some competitors into the clubhouse turn if he's able to establish an early run inside.

#2-MIDNIGHT MAMMOTH: Romping winner of Del Mar's 1-1/2 miles Cougar II last summer, but hasn't come close to that in 4 stakes tries this year. Did perk up with a 12-1 second in the Hollywood Gold Cup in late May and comes in freshened by trainer Craig Dollase. Needs to be 1-2 in the early going to do his best work. Tough task.

#3-ULTIMATE GAMBLE: Recent allowance winner via DQ stretches out a full quarter-mile while trying a stakes for the first time in his 10th start. Mark Glatt asks a lot of this 5-year-old by 2003 Pacific Classic runner-up and beaten favorite Medaglia d'Oro, who already has sired 2019 Pacific Classic victor Higher Power. Feels like a no lead, no pass candidate.

#4-NYSOS (pictured): Injuries derailed his 2024 season after a flashy start, but he's returned after 15 months on the sideline and continues to impress. What's most telling about his fabulous second off the bench in the Churchill Downs Handicap was that he didn't regress from it; he thrived and easily won the Triple Bend and San Diego since. His workouts at 1st.tv are mind-blowing good and he's going to be a handful for another of these through the upper stretch. The question comes late as he's never run beyond 1-1/16 miles. The short length of the Del Mar stretch will be his friend, but he may not need it. Bob Baffert has a record 7 wins in this race, most recently Arabian Lion in 2023. Flavien Prat eyes a record-tying fourth win in this race, looking to match Mike Smith and the late Garrett Gomez. Five San Diego winners all-time have added the Pacific Classic, the last of which was Maximum Security in 2020. The one to catch.

#5-INDISPENSABLE: Last year's Shared Belief Stakes runner-up over this track, this \$825,000 yearling purchase has gone a disappointing 2-for-14 lifetime. Trainer John Sadlers won 4 Pacific Classic editions in a 5-year period from 2018-'22, most recently with the legendary Flightline. Improved effort last out in an allowance but is being asked to take a big leap. Paco Lopez rides for the first time.

#6-JOURNALISM: Six 3-year-olds have topped their elders to win the Pacific Classic all-time and the 2025 Preakness winner ranks among the strongest chances to try the feat. The recent Haskell winner takes the same path as Arabian Knight from 2023. Journalism seeks his fourth Grade 1 victory on the campaign. He finished second in both tries at the 10-furlong trip, both behind Sovereignty in the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes. Training videos at 1st.tv don't give any reason to doubt he'll once again fire his shot and come with another determined, late effort. Umberto Rispoli rides for Michael McCarthy, who is 4: 0-0-0 in the Pacific Classic to date.

#7-LURE HIM IN: 8-year-old is the eldest member of this field and note that no runner over age 6 has captured the Pacific Classic. Veteran has won 3 of his last 5 starts for Florida-based Sam Wilensky, but settled for third in a Del Mar allowance when getting a prep over the track. His Gulfstream jockey Edwin Gonzalez travels for the mount. Major longshot.

#8-TARANTINO: Honest sort nibbles around the edges with consistency, but an 0-16 career stakes record all but eliminates him from consideration to upset all 3 elite runners he faces on Saturday. Trainer Peter Eurton saddled 13-1 runner-up Draft Pick in the 2019 Pacific Classic and brings this one in off a 57-1 third-place effort in the San Diego against Nysos.

Most Likely Exotics Contender:

6 JOURNALISM is proven over the track, rock-solid at the distance and gets a 6-pound weight break from traveling FIERCENESS and stretch-out candidate NYSOS.

Best Longshot Contender:

TARANTINO could spruce up some exotic tickets on the bottom of trifectas and superfectas, but it's tough to reason 2 of the big 3 won't complete at least the exacta.

Sending it in (\$100 bankroll):

With large field sizes in Races 9 and 11, let that work for you in multi-race bets getting in and out of a Pacific Classic where all 3 major players will be strongly backed intra-race. Race 9 \$ 5 daily doubles QUEEN MAXIMA and NO NAY HUDSON to JOURNALISM 2-6 11-6 (\$10); Race 10 \$10 daily doubles JOURNALISM to MONDEGO and ENDLESSLY 6-6 6-9 (\$20).



By Derek Giwner

BEST BET: RITCHIE ALPHA (6th)

SPOT PLAY: CAPTAIN BAZINGA (11th)

Race 1: (3) JONES BEACH DE VIE hasn't exactly come to life since the barn change but really hasn't been racing bad either. We get a new driver tonight and a return to the big track. Note that earlier in his career he won a couple of times and finished second 13 times at Vernon. (6) SERGEANT WALT has gone two very strong miles in his last two appearances at the TM68 level. (1) PACK YOUR BAGS is a hardly a killer on the track lately. That said, he fits nicely in this condition and should get a piece. (5) A B COLLINS drops back down. His last start in this condition saw him go a monster mile.

Race 2: (7) PACK A PUNCH put in a good effort last time considering he missed two months of action; improvement expected. (6) STEAMBOAT SPRINGS arrived her last weekend and turned in a nice performance from post 10; better post now. (4) VICTORY JOE was certainly in a tougher spot when last seen on this track. The form seems fine and the competition looks softer.

Race 3: (5) CAPTAIN CARTER put in a strong mile to finish third from post 10 last time. He gets a better post here and faces a very dull group. (1) LEON DAVID displayed some signs of life last week and there is some class here. I could see tossing him onto your Pick 5 ticket. (4) WARRAWEE XCEED is sporting good recent form, albeit down in class on paper in TM68. This field barely ranks as TM71 worthy. (8) SUNSHINE'S FINEST is another who has been racing well. Don't be shocked if Carter fires off the gate here.

Race 4: (6) ON THE MONEY GB was in a tougher class when last here. Previous two efforts out of town were solid. He returns to the Big M at a reduced level now and gets an interesting driver change. (1) MONEYMAKESHERHAPPY is great when she can settle in and pounce late. That trip seems possible with the inside draw. (3) ALMOST KAREN is too sharp to ignore but one that does her best down a level.

Race 5: (6) CRAIGIEBURN has missed four weeks of action and that is certainly at least a minor concern. That said, I do believe he's best in here if ready. (8) DARK MIND is double dropping in class and very capable of bringing a big mile. (4) C KAN TROT has won three of four starts but seems to be facing a better field on paper. (2) SAINTS PRESERVE US was second missing by just a neck when last here at this level.

Race 6: (2) RITCHIE ALPHA went a pretty good mile in last with no chance versus much, much better than he tackles this week. Six-year-old is ready to pop a big mile and seems destined for a new lifetime mark tonight. (9) CAPTAIN MARVEL has been sharp and he gets an interesting driver change here. If the pace is hot he'll be coming. (1) SLIP THE HUNDY N moves into a new barn and is worth some consideration.

Race 7: (6) CAVEMAN A is a veteran campaigner who is feeling good right now. I'll take a shot with him in a race with many contenders. (1) BOBCAT BAY has big early speed and the inside post to work with tonight. His last effort was better than his prior two. (2) BLANK STARE can't be faulted for poor performances from outside posts at Yonkers; capable with trip. (9) SPRINGSTEEN is another veteran who is coming off a big mile. Classy 10-year-old is worth some consideration.

Race 8: (5) OUR CORELLI N hasn't been doing much out of town but was a winner when last seen here and going back further won his last amateur start over the track as well. The Height/Slendorn combo has been solid all year. (7) ARTIST BEST returns to The Meadowlands at a reduced amateur level and picks up one of the top pilots in the series. (3) URBAN RENEWAL raced well most weeks and seems likely to show early speed here and land in a good spot. (4) CAMLACHIE CHROME was second in this class last time out.

Race 9: Driver David Miller didn't get the memo on (2) MAD MAX HANOVER last week that outlined he likes to be on the lead. Instead the pair burned plenty of tickets at 1-5. There are no excuses here not to press on the gas pedal at the start. Hopefully new driver Kennedy knows the correct plan of attack. (6) IT'S MY SHOW has dealt with some issues but seems to be back to himself now judging by the recent qualifier. I doubt he'll fire off the gate but he has a big chance regardless as the class of the field. (5) DUKE OF CORNWALL N returns from a two year break in action with a strong qualifier. He had talent when last seen but this has to be too difficult a spot right off the bench, right?

Race 10: (4) KANDY KISS was done in from post 10 when she came away last and the half went up in 58 seconds. Granted she wasn't loaded with late pace but she hadn't been on a big track in over a month and may not have been up to speed. If she has a big mile I think we'll see it here. (6) DUCK INTO THE NITE has posted consecutive second-place finishes in this class and has a shot on the win end with a clean journey. (5) IN ERA'S IMAGE wasn't very good in her first start since July 12; can show more here.

Race 11: (4) CAPTAIN BAZINGA went to the front, was shuffled to fourth on the pylons and then came first-over in his most recent race. It was a tough trip that ended in locking wheels when he was tiring late. The journey has to be better this time. (5) RYDINGTOTHEWIRE went a monster mile uncovered last weekend and deserves plenty of respect, especially considering that was his first start in over a month. (1) INTERSTATEDAYDREAM can be a player if he decides to behave this week. (8) DON'T DROP THE BALL is off a really nice performance in just his second start of the year, but this is a huge jump up the class ladder.

Race 12: (3) BLOODHOUND moves to the inside of the gate this week and seems likely to be put in play early. (5) MUSCLE FACTORY A is one of many from this barn that got a little rest and a lot of them have come back strong. He's certainly a factor moving back into the amateur ranks. (4) BIZYS BEATLE is sharp and capable. (6) PALOMAR looks like an interesting newcomer for a good amateur driver.

Race 13: (1) FENDI HANOVER hasn't been very good lately but also hasn't seen a spot this soft in a while. If he shows up with anything close to his best mile the rest will have their work cut out for them. (6) BET A BUNDLE is dropping a number of classes and really should awaken. (3) POMPEO HANOVER is another with subpar lines landing in a better spot.

Race 14: (5) FATHER TED GB rallied nicely for second in his first start for the new barn and he jumps off the page this week. (9) RAPTORS FLIGHT N was used hard to the front and paid the price last time. The road to the top could be easier here without many early speed players. (7) BIG BAD BILL picked up a win two starts back in his last race at this level.

Best Bet: BYTHEMISSAL (Race 10)

Spot Play: BLUE HUNT (Race 3)

1st Early Pick-5: 6,8/2,3/3,8/6/1

6th Mid Pick-5: 6,7,9/3/7 2,5/4

8th Late Pick-5: 7/5/4/1,5,7/2,6,8,10

Race 1: (6) DIRTY LIL PIGLET is back in just five days after a dominant score at the claiming class just below this. His early speed and staying power makes him a threat on the step up. He should be just fine here. (8) PACINO HANOVER flew from last to only miss by just over a length as the slight favorite in his latest. He is one of a few horses with a turn of foot that can allow him to make up significant ground when racing from off the pace. (5) FORTIFY comes off two even efforts in PEI in the Gold Cup and Saucer, but he has been capable of winning Open level races here in the past. Zeron could strike early. (7) NAUTICAL HANOVER comes off a confidence boosting win as the heavy favorite. He should be part of the early pace mix, but will need to show a little bit more.

Race 2: (2) FIFTH AND FIVE continues to show he has a nose for the wire, extending his streak of wins to, appropriately, five after a head victory against similar types. I'll give him the nod to continue the streak. (3) CONTROL ROCKS didn't get his kind of trip last time. He usually only wants to do one thing, and that's go forward. He has raced well in past Gold tries and deserves a long look. (4) BACKUP PLAN was a very strong second in his latest behind TH Kay C Crunch who finally put it all together. He is speedy enough to deserve a shot at the Gold level, and should benefit from a short field. (6) DOCS BUDDY showed enough tactical speed in Kentucky to make you think he may not take back, especially with Dunn returning, but he will need to class up to the top ones here. I'll use him underneath.

Race 3: (8) BLUE HUNT could be set for a speed try with Cullen back in the bike. The two teamed up for a win four starts ago after he was driven aggressively. (3) CALICOJACK HANOVER looks ready to roll after his sharp qualifier win. His last effort at Mohawk was very strong. (6) HEAD HONCHO is a horse I continue to use because he just never seems to quit. He grinds out solid efforts week after week and significantly outraced his odds in his last two efforts. (4) WRITE ME A ROSE was left chasing Remember The Alamo in his latest, but there was no shame in losing to that rival. I would count on a bounce back effort from him with an up close trip. He can hold on for a piece.

Race 4: (6) EMOTICON LEGACY gets my slight nod because of his past history at this track. He got picked off in the late stages at Pocono by another top trotter in Super Chapter. I think Roy gets the jump from this post and could take them the distance. (1) MARYLAND ships to Mohawk in search of his first win of the season. The already double-millionaire makes his first start back since the Hambletonian. He deserves respect. (7) GALEN ERSO will need to class up to the top two, but has enough tactical

speed which could allow McNair to get him in a good spot. He can hit the board. (2) WILDTURKEY HANOVER was a solid winner last time out despite getting bumpy gaited. He dominated last week's morning prep which should keep him sharp. He can grab a share.

Race 5: (1) LASTING DREAM was unable to catch Global Heritage in the sprint home. She likely didn't benefit from taking control when the pace slowed in the middle portions. I think a quarter move comes this week and she gets the job done. (5) R DUTCHESS held off the pocket sitting Zette Athena in the stretch, and those two were a few lengths clear of the others. It wouldn't surprise me if the top two line up and try to outspurt each other in the stretch. (6) SPRITE SEELSTER was left chasing R Dutchess last week, but continued her streak of always hitting the board in 2025. She can do it again tonight. (8) ROXIE HART has taken a bit of a fall from grace in recent weeks, but continues to fight for checks. She adds Lasix and can close for another share.

Race 6: (7) COCO JO JO just missed after an impressive first over move. She has been very sharp in recent weeks. It was an impressive grind into contention, which eventually saw her get picked off by (9) CAVIAR N CRACKERS who got the rail to open up for her after sitting in the pocket. It's hard to ignore her given the record this year, but I hesitate slightly when it comes to the trip she gets. (6) GRIT N GRACE was apparently the wrong horse to pick when Chantilly came to town on August 8, because she was empty when angling out from the pocket. Last week saw her succeed from off the pace, which I don't think I had seen prior to that. She could pull off the upset with the right trip. (8) TELLS ON A ROLL has been right there in recent starts, but the wins just aren't coming like they used to. She could latch onto a live helmet and get a piece.

Race 7: **Maple Leaf Trot Final**

(3) AETOS KRONOS S produced the first ever sub-1:50 trotting mile in Canada in his elimination. After an effort like that, it's hard to pick against him, but they race them for a reason. (5) LEXUS KODY was given a first over chance by Gingras and ended up holding off the big favorite. He should be forwardly placed off the car and get another good trip. (7) GAINES HANOVER was moving well at the end of his mile after being angled to the outside. He could loom as an exotic booster if he latches on to live cover. (4) PERICULUM is a horse I really don't want much to do with now. He got a perfect tow up in the Cashman, then couldn't go by Lexus Kody, who he's supposed to go by. He's a nice horse, but I'll look elsewhere.

Race 8: (7) REMEMBER THE ALAMO could not be caught after quarter moving to the lead, and went on to set a new career best. The new shooters don't scare me; I'll give him the call to repeat. (2) ABUCKABETT HANOVER gets Dexter Dunn back in the bike after a subpar effort in his Canadian Pacing Derby elimination. He has been extremely hit and miss this year, but a big effort could be in store against some of Mohawk's top overnight stock. (1) CENTURY KOMODO was unable to get a check when racing from well off the pace, but that's not his game. He can be dangerous when grinding into contention. (4) TAURASI is inching closer to another win and could be in the perfect spot if he finds his way into the pocket. Hard to handicap a trip like that, but it could happen

Race 9: (5) ALLSTAR MANIAC was driven patiently by J-Mac last week, but he was looming up menacingly in the few strides he took before hooking wheels with another rival. That took him completely out of contention. He deserves another look tonight. (2) CRACK SHOT returns from some good efforts in Kentucky behind some of Burke's top stock. He has a decent track record at Mohawk and has the speed to contend. (7) CENTURY LUCIFER was a strong second two starts ago after grinding into contention. He was going to be a major factor last week, but was scratched sick. Depending on how sharp he is tonight, he can get a piece. (6) BOXER SEELSTER hasn't missed many checks this season, but when the going gets tough, he doesn't quite respond with enough. He can hold on for a share.

Race 10: (4) BYTHEMISSAL freaked last week and put together by far his best effort of 2025. Heck, maybe of his career. His effort in the Dan Patch was a step in the right direction, but I don't think anyone expected something like that in the eliminations. When he is on his game like that, he is so much fun to watch. (1) RUTHLESS HANOVER was my top pick in his elimination, and McNair gave him the trip he was supposed to: a front-end mission. He got picked off in the late stages, but raced extremely well, and should be firing out from the rail. His price will be inflated. (6) ERVIN HANOVER had the recency at the track to his advantage, and parlayed a perfect pocket trip into a win over Ruthless Hanover. He draws perfectly to try and trip out again. (9) OAKWOOD ARDAN IR was flying late behind the two above him and made his way into the final. He will be looking for live cover as he normally does, but if others show the speed that they're capable of, he will be scrambling to get a piece.

Race 11: (1) WELCOMETOTHESHOW has shown strong speed and ability stateside, and comes off a very nice winning qualifier. He should do some good things right away when shipping in. (5) PAC MAN HANOVER was well supported when Louis Roy returned to the bike. The horse responded extremely well when first over despite the month off and getting late pulled on around the turn. He should be sharper tonight with a quicker turnaround. (7) CAPTAIN HURLEY has made the most of off the pace trips in his last two efforts. He is a candidate to get his picture taken if he brings his best. (6) D A LOVE BOAT has hit the board just twice this year but has been facing some tougher competition. He can grind out a share tonight.

Race 12: (10) MOMAS SON BYRNE has had some issues this year, but he looked very strong in both of his recent qualifiers, and could be ready to roll on returning to action. (8) LEGION SEELSTER is a horse that is deserving of use on tickets pretty much every week. His staying power is top tier at this level, and it has stuck with him even through the last couple of seasons. (6) WHICHWAYTOTHEBEACH is logical if you think he gets a speed try. From this post, it might be his only choice. He should have an easier time being first to the lead than last week. (2) CONTROL THE POWER has some very strong strides on the end of his miles, and could benefit if things get western up front. There should be plenty of movement which can allow him to get into the flow. (9) BATTERUP HANOVER hasn't raced that poorly in his last two efforts, but the speed on display was too much for him in the late stages. As things start to slowly but surely cool down, his closing kick could become more of a factor. I'll use him to round out tonight's Hi-5.



Race Selections

(7:00)

Saturday August 30, 2025

	Bobby Neuman Track Announcer	Trackside Tina The Unbridled Spirit	TV Drew "Iowa Energy???"	Tipster The Wizard Of Calle Ocho
1	6 Trs Just Like Dutton 7 Affirmative 2 Ts Fly Like An Eagle	7 Affirmative 5 Little Bit Restless 1 Mystic Jessi	5 Little Bit Restless 6 Trs Just Like Dutton 7 Affirmative	7 Affirmative 6 Trs Just Like Dutton 5 Little Bit Restless
2	3 Access Granted 4 Gal With Authority 2 Isle B Bac	3 Access Granted 4 Gal With Authority 5 Aces Flyin Bye	5 Aces Flyin Bye 4 Gal With Authority 3 Access Granted	4 Gal With Authority 3 Access Granted 5 Aces Flyin Bye
3	5 Jtc Jess Bayou 8 Cotton Candy Sunset 6 Itz About Tyme	8 Cotton Candy Sunset 4 Wagon Dashin 1 D Explorer	4 Wagon Dashin 8 Cotton Candy Sunset 2 Trs Snot Nose Kid	8 Cotton Candy Sunset 6 Itz About Tyme 4 Wagon Dashin
4	6 Golden Greek 2 El Rojo Vivo 4 Hayahlookatme	4 Hayahlookatme 2 El Rojo Vivo 6 Golden Greek	6 Golden Greek 4 Hayahlookatme 1 Run Fire Run	6 Golden Greek 4 Hayahlookatme 2 El Rojo Vivo
5	4 Hola Joey 5 Dialed In To Win 1 Dagger Ranch	4 Hola Joey 3 W W Hotshot 5 Dialed In To Win	3 W W Hotshot 5 Dialed In To Win 4 Hola Joey	4 Hola Joey 3 W W Hotshot 5 Dialed In To Win
6	5 Red Kingdom 7 Brasa 3 Wily Wade	3 Wily Wade 7 Brasa 4 Into The Deep	3 Wily Wade 5 Red Kingdom 4 Into The Deep	7 Brasa 5 Red Kingdom 3 Wily Wade
7	6 Prettywittyandwise 4 Travelin Witch 2 Selinus	4 Travelin Witch 6 Prettywittyandwise 5 Friendly Spirit	2 Selinus 4 Travelin Witch 3 Charlie Mike	4 Travelin Witch 2 Selinus 6 Prettywittyandwise
8	5 Lillabet 6 Born Fearless 4 K Dog	2 Margarita Twosday 5 Lillabet 6 Born Fearless	4 K Dog 2 Margarita Twosday 5 Lillabet	6 Born Fearless 3 Crimson Tapestry 5 Lillabet
9	2 J T's Imagination 5 Doublecheck 3 Native Hellraiser	2 J T's Imagination 3 Native Hellraiser 6 Ice Again	6 Ice Again 3 Native Hellraiser 2 J T's Imagination	7 Western Command 2 J T's Imagination 4 Mash On The Gas
10	6 Better Than Good 7 Day Money 4 Bravo Kolt	3 Tap The Brakes 2 Pleaseusetheportal 5 Secret Blarney	2 Pleaseusetheportal 5 Secret Blarney 3 Tap The Brakes	2 Pleaseusetheportal 7 Day Money 6 Better Than Good

Most probable winner noted in **BOLD** /Please verify all horse names and numbers in the official program!

TOP SHOT

Remington Park Selections
By Jerry Shottenkirk
Saturday, August 30

7:00

1st Race

5 RUBIA
7 IUKA MISS
2 ON WING
9 CAYMAN HOT

2nd Race

1 SHIP OF DREAMS
6 DEVIOUS DIVA
2 SHIP HER WEST
4 CRYPTIC MISS

3rd Race

6 HAKUHIA
4 SUMMERTIMEE
5 CHECKER'S SONG
1 NOBLE AWARE

4th Race

6 DULCIA
3 MISS TAPPY TONE
8 FAYETTE BLUE
2 ACCELERATE JUDY

5th Race

6 SIVAKO
7 BROTHER REID
5 COASTAL BRINK
2 FROM THE HEART

6th Race

6 PERLIANO
10 ALGEBRA
9 SPEIGHT AND MALICE
2 HELLO HOT ROD

7th Race

1 THREESOCKS
2 SIR TRISTAN
7 HOW ABOUT BOB
9 PASS THE ROSES

8th Race

5 IMPERIAL GUN
4 HOT GUNNER
3 TWENTY ONE SKIDOO
2 GO GO BOSS

9th Race

4 DASHINGLY
6 LOOKINFORBARGAINS
5 FAITH ALONE
2 PERFECT WISH

10th Race

1 ANNIE'S JOY
3 LOTERIE
4 CATALYST
8 PEAK EARNINGS

TODAY'S BEST BET

HAKUHIA (3rd)

PICK FIVE

(Races 1-5)
5-7-2-9 with 1-6-2 with 6-4 with 6-3 with 6-7 (\$48)

PREMIER PICK FOUR

(Races 2-5)
1-6-2-4 with 6-4 with 6-3-8 with 6-7-5 (\$36)

PINNACLE PICK FOUR

(Races 4-7)
6-3-8 with 6-7-5 with 6-10-9 with 1-2-7 (\$40.50)

LATE PICK FIVE

(Races 6-10)
6-10-9 with 1-2-7 with 5-4 with 4-6 with 1-3-4 (\$54)

PRIMETIME PICK FOUR

(Races 7-10)
1-2-7 with 5-4-3 with 4-6-5 with 1-3-4 (\$40.50)

Data provided by the author generally are accurate, but occasionally errors occur. The author and Remington Park disclaim responsibility for the consequences, if any, of such errors, but would appreciate their being called to their attention. We suggest you verify horse names and numbers with the official Remington Program.