

Northville Downs presents
The Big Horse Handicapper

powered by **The Players' Guide**

Friday, April 16, 2021



Selections					
1	6-1-4	5	1-7-2	9	3-8-7
2	5-3-1	6	4-9-3	10	1-7-2
3	2-1-3	7	9-5-6	11	6-7-1
4	5-4-6	8	6-7-2		

Pick-4 Ticket
Race 8: 6, 7
Race 9: 3, 8
Race 10: 1, 2, 7, 9
Race 11: 6, 7
Total Stake: \$32

A Closer Look

This section features more in-depth analysis on selected events from each card of racing at Northville Downs, with something for the novice player and seasoned handicapper alike.

Race 2

5 - LOVEM AND LIAM makes her second start back off a lengthy layoff, and can benefit from the needed start last week and a kinder draw this week. After five months off, she blasted for the pocket from post 8 and then failed to fire in upper stretch. Every reason to expect better this time. 3 - CANARY HANOVER raced at Miami Valley all winter, albeit unsuccessfully, and was hindered severely by traffic in her local debut. Given her raw speed in Ohio lines, she figures to be a threat if she can find racing room. 1 - LADY ANASTASIA was shuffled some after yielding last week, but then sustained a long first-over grind into a good second at 31-1 at this level last week. The more aggressive tactics worked to her benefit; another pole keeps her close again.

Race 3

2 - SKYWAY BEBOP is one of two horses in this field to fit via the also-eligible provision, and does so after vaulting off cover to a handy win last Friday. She's finished strongly in each of her two starts so far this season; form is arguably the best in the field. 1 - STONEBOROUGH ground it out in the breeze last week and stayed on well to protect second after being turned aside off the home turn. Kinder draw will mean less ground for this presser-stalker to have to overcome. 3 - WORTH A WHISPER bumps back up to this level after overcoming severe mid-race traffic to take second last week. He made similar late gains the week before to save third at this level. Solid exotic inclusion with clearer sailing.

Race 4

5 - FAITH PREVAILS came back from a three-month spell with renewed staying power, having steadily passed mares in both of her starts so far this meet. Last week, she only missed Love Forbidden — who reached from the pocket — by a nose after bailing off cover. Current trajectory encourages. 4 - GOOD TIDINGS comes out of that same race, having made all the fractions before giving way in mid-stretch. The start before, she brushed and powered clear of just easier. One of only a handful of likely pacesetters is similarly on the upswing. 6 - DEPRIVED seeks back-to-back scores at this level, but exits the slower division of this class from last week. That said, she's hit the board in five of her last six, all against comparable foes. She's right back via the optional tag.

Race 7

Last week, 9 - EMERALD MISS moved third-over with five-eighths to go, was left uncovered with three-eighths to go, duelled into the lead, and was just nabbed off cover by 6 - DELETRIUS — who tracked her every step through the second lap — in the last 40 yards. These two meet again in this race; Emerald Miss gets the nod from me after doing the lion's share of the heavy lifting and then some last week. 5 - DAY OF HONOR is actually my second choice over Deletrius after circling five-wide off the home turn and surging to the fore as a contested pace collapsed last week. His finishing ability is right up there with the aforementioned two out of a potential key race.

Race 8

6 - PRINCESS ROUGAROU took on the boys two weeks ago and held her own admirably for second from the pocket. That 1:54.4 mile stacks up as a tough mark for any in this field to beat over this course. 7 - VOW TO WOW circled boldly to the fore early in last week's Open and was driven clear at odds-on. Top-level contender in Cleveland through the winter stands every chance to repeat; this group doesn't shape up as that much tougher than last week's. 2 - GYPSY MERLOT endured a parked-out journey two weeks ago and tired late after contesting the first six furlongs. Post relief can help her generate a kinder journey this time around, but the outside pair are mighty tough. Warren does opt on.

Driver Selections

Race 2

Kody Massey: #2 over #9

Race 4

Jason Merriman: #2 over #9

Race 5

Kim Pluta: #1 over #4
 Todd Warren: #5 over #6

Race 7

Kody Massey: #1 over #7
 Kim Pluta: #8 over #4

Race 8

Todd Warren: #2 over #4

Race 9

Justin Irvine: #9 over #4
 Kim Pluta: #6 over #7

Race 11

Kim Pluta: #6 over #7
 Todd Warren: #1 over #8