

Northville Downs presents
The Big Horse Handicapper

powered by **The Players' Guide**

Saturday, April 17, 2021



Selections					
1	2-7-6	5	4-1-7	9	1-7-5
2	3-1-6	6	3-8-1	10	5-1-2
3	5-3-6	7	6-1-5	11	5-2-6
4	4-3-8	8	7-2-1	12	5-1-9

Pick-4 Ticket
Race 8: 2, 7
Race 9: 1, 7
Race 10: 1, 2, 5
Race 11: 2, 5
Total Stake: \$24

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 4

4 - ONCE BITTEN rallied from astern into the ticket against N3L types in his last two — and was shuffled to last at the half last week before his overland pursuit. Now, he finds himself in a significantly kinder group. Clearer sailing and a closer early perch make him a big threat on the drop. 3 - ROETHBLISSBERGER blitzed up the far side to the lead last week in a similar race after failing to threaten from astern on debut. The 52-time winner should be able to cross over for close position with ease. 8 - BOLD DECISION starts from the back row again, and was able to work through well to give solid chase to Roethblissberger last week after a needed start on opening weekend. This old guy just keeps on going! Can grind out another minor if able to work out another favourable journey.

Race 5

4 - WANDERER circled to the lead from post 8 last week, and then withstood sustained pressure through the far turn before the fresh Dreaminmylifeaway collared him. Give him tons of credit for the work he did through the entirety of last week's race. 1 - SAMMONSLETSROLL is another one who exerted mightily in his last, given his first-over grind into a runner-up finish at this level. He draws the pole again, and major class-dropping threats all drew outside. 7 - ACTING CAPTAIN steps down after lifting into a close third last week. Forgive his April 3 start entirely on account of mid-race traffic trouble. Further class relief should wipe out the effects of this wide draw.

Race 8

7 - YODA SHARK is my top call in today's feature after chasing stoutly to just miss in two tries at this level so far this meeting. His recent success in upper-level events is unrivalled in this group. Plenty to like. 2 - CATCH ME CONRAD rises after pressing his way to a going-away win in mid-level company last week. Kind draw can help him get an early jump on some of the stoutest competition here. 1 - SWAPPORTUNITY battled gamely last week, but was ultimately overpowered at the eighth pole. Just three days before, he turned in a 1:54.1 mile at Northfield in pursuit of the venerable Mr D's Dragon. Pole can sharpen him up for late in the mile. Warren's choice.

Race 9

1 - LOCOMOTION FRED gets a pass for his sustained first-over push last week. Two back, he worked hard to clear in a :27.3 quarter and held onto second despite his early exertion. St. Louis opts back aboard. 7 - DALI SPECIAL rises after parrying pressure for a decisive score last week. Wide draw is his prime obstacle, but he showed ability to sustain two moves out of an outside post two starts back. 5 - DOUG'S JAXX hasn't raced since December, but his 1:58.1 qualifying effort last Friday indicates he's sharp and ready to go. Staying power in fall lines was good, provided he didn't have to endure a first-over grind. Can share.

Race 11

5 - JET'S SURESHOT gets another crack at this group after a failed pressing bid behind Salty Robyn in Open company two back and a hemmed-in but even journey last week. A major threat if close and clear. 2 - GRITS N GRAVY is back in for the optional tag after a win at this level two weeks ago and a failed three-wide push through the far turn more recently. Kinder draw can help him rebound; mind value. 6 - STENING A dropped to this level from Open company last week, but was softened up by sustained pressure through the middle stages. Expect a little bit better third out; can share with minor improvement and a more insulated journey.

Driver Selections

Race 1
Justin Irvine: #4 over #3

Race 2
Todd Warren: #6 over #3

Race 3
Todd Warren: #5 over #2

Race 5
Jason Merriman: #3 over #8
Kim Pluta: #5 over #6

Race 6
Kody Massey: #3 over #1, #5

Race 7
Justin Irvine: #1 over #2

Race 8
Todd Warren: #1 over #4

Race 9
Marc St. Louis Jr.: #1 over #2

Race 10
Kody Massey: #6 over #8

Race 11
Todd Warren: #4 over #8

Race 12
Todd Warren: #3 over #7