

Northville Downs presents
The Big Horse Handicapper

powered by **The Players' Guide**

Thursday, April 29, 2021



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

Pick-4 Ticket
Race 8: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
Race 9: 2, 5
Race 10: 1
Race 11: 1, 6
Total Stake: \$20

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 3

2 - STORM'S COMING overcame traffic trouble enough to save third at 10-1 against just tougher last week, and he chased similarly the start before, too. Class relief via the N3L provision brings him back to a proven level — he was a decisive winner on the point three back. 4 - CLASSIC PLAYTER gave stout chase from the pocket in a similar race last week — far better than his 62-1 off price would otherwise indicate. Expect sharper from this veteran coming right back. 1 - SAFE AND SOUND didn't lack for late trot in his last few, but struggled to get to within striking range. The pole can serve to keep him closer in this largely kinder group.

Race 10

1 - DAY OF HONOR is a solid stone-cold closer at this level, having rallied into the ticket in each of his last three tries at this class. He's working well into form, he shares a raw speed edge with Zeke The Freak, and he should benefit mightily from significant post relief. 3 - LYONS FULLHOUSE outlasted an overland grind last week enough to save third at odds-on. Before that, he turned aside pressure to beat easier going away. Any semblance of trip relief can help him achieve better results; be mindful of value. 4 - ZEKE THE FREAK stayed on well after covering extra ground in his two local starts to date this season. Presser-stalker figures well in exotics on this slight bump up given current form.

Race 5

6 - LADY ANASTASIA pressed hard to just miss in her last two starts, both against similar competition. Two weeks ago, she offered a sustained first-over grind and — even after doing more work — held off a late charge from Sweet Talkin Gypsy to protect second. They meet again here; slim call. 9 - ITSIRIS'S BIRTHDAY never saw the pegs last week after firing from the eight-hole, but she kept up a good fight through the middle half. Two back, she fought gamely in defeat, and four back, she powered clear of similar at twos-on. She's no doubt capable; the back-row start should help give her a little more oomph late. 5 - SWEET TALKIN GYPSY seeks back-to-back wins at the level after circling wide from astern to score going away last week. She's arguably the best finisher in the group, but will she have enough pace pressure afore to suit her deep-closing style?

Race 12

2 - IDEAL TOY led, yielded, and ground her way to Open victory last week after chasing for minors twice before. Current trajectory and grinding ability encourage most in this hodgepodge of a field. Massey's choice, too. 9 - FAITH PREVAILS rallied off cover to hit the board in her last two — and she almost got the job done at 15-1 two back. Back-row start can help the 24-time winner land close enough to the pace, and the pace promises to be contested. 7 - PHOOS GIRL reached in the April 16 open, but failed to keep a wide bid alive the week following. Note her rally off cover four back to beat \$7,500 company; that ability to vault into striking range can suit her well in a race likely to be well contested in its middle stages.

Race 8

7 - SOLDIER HANOVER rose to Open company last week and put together a solid third-place finish after grinding up uncovered through the second lap. Wide draw is his biggest obstacle against largely familiar foes; his proven pressing ability amid resurgent form impresses most. Irvine opts to remain on. 1 - SWAN LEADER was one-paced behind I Get It in their last two Open meetings. Before that, he parried pressure to beat just easier. He splits the difference here and gains the pole. Be mindful of underlay potential. 2 - HAIL CAESAR rises after brushing to victory in a mid-level event last week. Earlier in the month, he toiled in Open fields, but proved himself amply against Michigan's best last fall. Could last week be the start of a turnaround? Worth including off the strength of that win and his long first-over try four back.

Driver Selections

Race 1
Art McIlmurray: #2 over #3, #6

Race 5
Marc St. Louis Jr.: #9 over #8

Race 7
Kody Massey: #6 over #9

Race 8
Justin Irvine: #7 over #2
Jason Merriman: #1 over #6
Kim Pluta: #5 over #3

Race 12
Kody Massey: #2 over #6