

Northville Downs presents
The Big Horse Handicapper

powered by **The Players' Guide**

Friday, April 30, 2021



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

Pick-4 Ticket
Race 8: 1, 3, 7, 8
Race 9: 2, 3
Race 10: 6, 9
Race 11: 3, 4
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

7 - LILYS REAL BOY seeks back-to-back wins after pressing and narrowly fending off Acting Captain last week. Long first-over grinds and success therein of late truly encourage; the optional tag enables him to avoid a double jump. 4 - RIVER VALLEY also rises after grinding to victory — although interference helped him be elevated to the top spot last week. He hasn't missed the exacta this year, and he has demonstrated he can set the pace, press the pace, or rally from off it. That versatility suits him well. 2 - ACTING CAPTAIN circled boldly from the tail of the field last week, and just missed. Now, he draws far better and moves up in class — but so do a majority of his rivals. Solid finisher can reach the ticket again; he's improving.

Race 7

This field pits many of the stronger contenders at this level in recent weeks against each other, and as such, makes for an interesting event from a betting standpoint. 1 - JET'S SURESHOT was a victim of traffic trouble on the drop to this level three back, but his uncovered grinds into the money twice since are deserving of respect. Not only can he take air, but he can stay competitive to the end despite it. 4 - MAX HANOVER circled wide to press the pace up the far side last out, only to be outkicked for home by the rising Yankee Time. Forgive two and three back on account of wide draws; consider OK showings against tougher four and six back. 3 - ARE DEE rode an earned pocket to second last week, and his 1:55.4 mile is the fastest among this field's most recent starts. He's near enough to the inside where he should be able to land near the action, and there's great likelihood for pace pressure.

Race 4

This shapes up as an interesting race with many credible contenders; the shape of the race ultimately will determine a lot, with all likelihood. 9 - CATERA GUN may have raced primarily in lower-level events of late, but he boasts strong current form and ample versatility. This race shouldn't present any new challenges save for a back-row start. 2 - P L MCCRACKEN was used hard for early position last week before making a bid off the home turn to give chase to the gritty Velocity Stifler. Inside draw can sharpen him up more for the race's late stages. 1 - BETTOR'S CHOICE struggled to get involved from wide draws earlier in the month, but didn't lack for late pace. Last week, the veteran blasted for the pocket and hung tough in an extended stretch duel. He seems at his best when close to the pace; the pole can afford him that sort of placement.

Race 10

9 - FRED'S NIGHTMARE reached in a conditioned claimer at Miami Valley two back, and since followed it up with a 1:55.1 mile unaided by traffic trouble. He returns to Michigan and finds himself in a much easier spot compared to four weeks ago. Note he's hit the board in 9 of 13 starts this year, too. 6 - ROETHBLISSBERGER fell just short at this level two weeks ago, but gave a great effort in the breeze to force the pace along up the backstretch. Clearly, the 13-year-old is at his best when involved directly in some capacity — his April 10 win came via a strong middle move. 2 - DOOWRAH LIGHTNING rode the pocket to near misses in two tries at this level, and he draws inside yet again. Expect him to be close with ease; credible minor contender with a similar effort.

Race 6

1 - OH K MAN sparkled on debut for Team St. Louis, pressing out of midfield and grinding to a going-away win. Only slightly tougher await today, safe for a couple foes who struggled in Open company. Every chance to keep building second out for his new connections. 8 - GRITS N GRAVY is one of those former Open contenders, having been done in by a torturous trip last week after Seymour claimed him for \$7.5. The versatile 34-time winner is back in for a tag; post 8 is his biggest obstacle. 7 - YANKEE TIME makes the same step up that Oh K Man does, but cedes a significant raw speed edge. That being said, his staying power has improved markedly since his first couple of starts this meet. Stalker-closer can at least share on this bump upward.

Driver Selections

Race 1 Jason Merriman: #9 over #2	Race 7 Kody Massey: #9 over #2, #7 Jason Merriman: #3 over #4
Race 2 Jason Merriman: #3 over #9 Darrell Wright: #6 over #5	Race 8 Justin Irvine: #1 over #9 Jason Merriman: #6 over #4
Race 3 Kim Pluta: #6 over #8	Race 9 Justin Irvine: #2 over #6
Race 4 Kim Pluta: #2 over #6 Marc St. Louis Jr.: #1 over #4	Race 10 Justin Irvine: #6 over #5 Kim Pluta: #3 over #8
Race 5 Justin Irvine: #2 over #4	Race 11 Jason Merriman: #5 over #4
Race 6 Justin Irvine: #5 over #8	