

Northville Downs presents
The Big Horse Handicapper

powered by **The Players' Guide**

Thursday, May 13, 2021



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

Pick-4 Ticket
Race 7: 2, 3, 5, 6
Race 8: 2, 5
Race 9: 2
Race 10: 1, 2, 8
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 1

1 - STORM'S COMING wired easier two back, and then rallied from last to only miss a level above this one by a half length last Friday. Inside draw paired with the step down in class and current form can help him get back in the win column. Plenty to like. 4 - BO NANZA CHIP dropped multiple levels and dominated at odds-on last week. He proved far sharper in his second mile of the season, and has every chance to be tighter still coming back. Mind value on the rise into a field which includes five horses dropping in class. 3 - EMPIRE EARL N yielded and stalked evenly in his last, but fared OK from an earned pocket at this level three back. Relief and staying power are enough for this veteran to stay in the ticket.

Race 7

5 - TIMESTORM hit the board twice in four starts against local Open company, and now returns after a strong runner-up effort against similar at Northfield. Forgive his May 2 line; his class edge is enough to carry, especially as gamely as he fought last out. 2 - SWAN LEADER held second at this level two back after being subjected to sustained pressure through the second lap. The 46-time winner does his best work when on or near the lead; inside draw helps him achieve that positioning. 3 - FOX VALLEY ILIAD has been off for 26 days, but stayed on well to hit the board at double digits in two of three Open events. This group is a little kinder; solid value player boasts ample staying power.

Race 2

2 - SKYWAY JEWEL won well two back and battled gamely at odds-on in defeat more recently. This represents a step up in class, but this mare boasts as solid form of any in this group. Retains St. Louis. 5 - IT'S JUST A DREAM was even in traffic against Open foes three back, softened up in a similar race two back, and closed steadily from astern with further relief more recently. Clear cover can make her a treat at a price; she's improved a fair bit since Ver Hage took over. 4 - THE DEVILS CUT rode cover to victory last week, and has hit the board in five of six starts so far this season. Versatility is a definite plus, as is current form; raw speed will need a boost to factor for more than a minor here.

Race 8

5 - SWEET TALKIN GYPSY simply never got involved behind Gabe The Babe's win last week, but held her own from pressing and stalking journeys in past tries at this level. Kinder dispatch should help her rebound; Pluta opts to remain aboard. 2 - CHILI PEPPER won three of her last four, most recently pressing steadily up the far side before edging clear at sixes. The strength of her win last Friday indicates she can handle the class hike, especially from this favourable draw. 3 - REAL SANCHO never got involved last week, but mind that it was her first start in 6-1/2 months. Fall success at the level noted; expect better second out and from this cosier draw, too.

Race 5

1 - CRYSTAL REI won twice in her last three, including a 4-1 score at this level last Friday under sustained duress. A third straight pole gives McIlmurray tactical options galore and a chance to control the terms outright yet again. 4 - DEPRIVED brushed and edged away nicely two back, but fell victim to an overland grind more recently. Give her a pass from that outing; the kinder starting spot should alleviate some of the risk of a difficult journey. 5 - GOOD TIDINGS improved her position well at double digits two and three back in similar races, and stayed on OK against second-level conditioned company in her last. Live cover makes her a player in exotics at a healthy price.

Driver Selections

Race 2
Jason Merriman: #7 over #8
Race 3
Don Harmon: #4 over #5
Race 4
Justin Irvine: #2 over #6
Race 5
Justin Irvine: #8 over #5, #6
Race 6
Justin Irvine: #5 over #8
Jason Merriman: #2 over #6

Race 8
Don Harmon: #8 over #1
Kody Massey: #9 over #2
Kim Pluta: #5 over #4
Race 9
Skip DeMull: #3 over #6
Race 10
Justin Irvine: #2 over #6