

Northville Downs presents
The Big Horse Handicapper

powered by **The Players' Guide**

Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021



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

Pick-4 Ticket

Race 8: 2, 7, 8

Race 9: 5, 8

Race 10: 2, 7

Race 11: 2, 3

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

6 - TIME'S ARE TIGHT made all the pace in his return to action last week, only nabbed in the final yards of a similar event. Expect sharper from the 50-time winner second out; a kinder field should help his cause, too. 2 - SAILOR'S FORTUNE was elevated to victory last week after rallying three-wide from last through the far turn and closing seven lengths of ground in the final quarter. Post relief puts him much more within striking range this time. 1 - SKYWAY TOXIC blasted from the nine-hole at Aces last week, parried pressure up the backstretch, and had enough to protect second at double digits. He's at his best when close and clear; the draw enables just that.

Race 9

5 - LYING IN CASH won the faster of last week's two Opens by over a full second, and that came after he circled three-wide to the lead at the quarter and turned aside pressure at the half. The likely horse to beat showed sheer athleticism and versatility in Chicago and Indiana outings late in the summer. Plenty to like yet again. 8 - OGRADYS FIRST MAN emerged out of traffic to take second behind Lying In Cash last week, continuing a gradual rise in class on his way west from Northfield. The 36-time winner has hit the board in his last six tries, from all sorts of trips. Proven closing ability can help him overcome the wide draw. 2 - NORMANDY BEACH tired late last week, but was a big factor in stringing Lying In Cash out through a :27.1 opener. Trey Brinson trainee should be near the action with ease yet again.

Race 3

2 - JK NOWORNEVER worked hard to secure the pocket last weekend, and chased to maintain second at 15-1. Slightly easier await the 15-time winner who is gradually trending upward. Kinder draw can keep him sharper in the stretch, too, provided he stays in the clear. 5 - AL'S BRIEFS joins us from Chicago, where he nearly lasted on the point two back and tired more recently after significant early exertion. A more direct path can suit; generally even finishes are amply for this assignment. 4 - FOX VALLEY SCAMPI invades from Minnesota, where he chased in vain behind \$4k claimers of late. Easier await here; raw speed is enough for this group.

Race 10

2 - ROCKIN RUSTY enjoys a step down after a respectable enough fourth-place finish on arrival from the Ohio fairs last week. Give credit to his push forward into the backstretch before the overall pace slackened. Easier await here. 7 - DOUG'S JAXX may well be the best horse in this field on paper, all other things equal, but he'll have a far tougher task ahead of him today from the outside. His one-paced finish from the pocket is as good as any in this field can boast in recent weeks. 1 - MASTER SMILE realises extreme post relief after passing tired foes steadily from astern in a similar race last week. Mind value, especially given that he's only 1-for-21 on the season. Still, he figures to be a fairly sure factor.

Race 6

5 - BETTOR'S CHOICE chased OK to hit the board against similar at Northfield last month, but traffic trouble and wide draws limited his earning ability in tougher assignments. Prime midpack draw can enable him to land forward on the step down. 3 - LIBERAL faded off the home turn last week, but absorbed sustained pressure through the middle half before slackening. Expect a sharper effort from the 44-time winner coming back; give credit to his response in a :28.3 third split. 6 - DANTE SEELSTER drops from \$6k claimers at Northfield, where he was a minor player under the right circumstances. Mid-race gains in his last two starts didn't materialise, but they are indicative of ability. Useful in exotics here, too.

Driver Selections

Race 1

Justin Irvine: #8 over #6

Jason Merriman: #9 over #2, #4

Race 5

Justin Irvine: #9 over #5

Race 6

Kim Pluta: #7 over #4, #6

Race 7

David Lake: #1 over #8

Race 8

Jason Merriman: #2 over #1

Race 9

Art McIlmurray: #7 over #4

Race 11

Kim Pluta: #7 over #4