

Northville Downs presents  
**The Big Horse Handicapper**

powered by **The Players' Guide**

Friday, Sept. 24, 2021



| Selections |       |          |       |          |       |
|------------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| <b>1</b>   | 1-6-2 | <b>4</b> | 7-4-1 | <b>7</b> | 6-5-8 |
| <b>2</b>   | 5-2-4 | <b>5</b> | 3-4-7 | <b>8</b> | 4-5-2 |
| <b>3</b>   | 3-7-1 | <b>6</b> | 3-5-6 | <b>9</b> | 1-8-7 |

### Pick-4 Ticket

**Race 6:** 1, 3, 5, 6, 8

**Race 7:** 5, 6

**Race 8:** 4, 5

**Race 9:** 1

**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

3 - RIGHTEHERRIGHTNOW led throughout in his return to Northville, but was just upended in the stretch after doing most of the heavy lifting. Expect stronger second out; similar await. 7 - MIDNIGHT DAY is likely the biggest threat in the field, but the outside draw will give the rapidly-developing sophomore a pretty hefty uphill battle. Still, he wired kinder conditioned company in a June series final before shutting down for the summer, and his qualifier last week indicates fitness off the shelf. 1 - GREY PHANTON worked forward around stalled cover to take third at this level on arrival from Northfield, where he toiled recently against tougher N4L fields. Pole keeps him close; trip relief can aid, too.

### Race 5

3 - EMERALD MISS may have finished fifth in her last, but she didn't lose ground in the stretch after being boxed. Easier await on arrival; wins against kinder conditioned claiming fields from both on and off the pace indicate her versatility. 4 - FULL OF SHARKS beat easier from the pocket two back, and more recently toiled off cover from astern against tougher. She splits the difference here; slight post relief should aid to some degree, too. 7 - ELOQUENT VELOCITY pressed hard through the middle half last week before fading off the home turn. Give her credit for her sustained exertion at this level last week, and expect sharper this time despite the wide draw. The 35-time winner makes for a solid exotic inclusion if the value suits and if she can find an easier journey.

### Race 7

6 - DANIKOVA wired high-level conditioned company at Northfield two and three back, but found Cleveland's top mares too much to handle despite a 1:53 mile last Saturday. Now, she invades off the strength of nine seasonal wins, consistently good raw speed, and proven versatility. Top call. 5 - ROCKIN DEO held her ground for a local Open win three back, and before that pressed and closed her way into strong high-level conditioned efforts. Will she need the start after three months away? Maybe, but, if she brings her 'A' game, she has all the tools to contend. 8 - PRINCESS ROCKETTE rises from conditioned company, but her last two starts indicate renewed strength. Last week, she pressed to a narrow score, and before that, she circled cover to just miss tougher by a neck. That improving ability to take air can help her overcome the wide draw, even if only for a small share.

### Race 8

4 - TRAVLIN SWAN was a solid third off the shelf last week — and that outing is all the more impressive when considering that he blasted from post 7 for the pocket before making a second move into the home turn. Similar await tonight; better draw gives him more in the tank for the stretch drive. 5 - HAIL CAESAR won his lone qualifier after taking 2-1/2 months off. When we last saw him, he was a minor player in the June series against Northville's top trotters, showing pressing and mild closing ability. This group shapes up as a notch easier; midpack draw should keep him close enough to strike. 2 - STORMIN AT DAWN set the pace on Monday at Northfield, only to be upended in mid-stretch. Comparatively speaking, this field is roughly of a similar calibre, and the inside draw plays well to his strengths.

### Race 9

1 - MERCILESS stayed on OK for third against just tougher from a cosy pocket ride last week. This mare kept racing all through the summer break, and now can benefit from another kid starting spot in this far more manageable group. 8 - OOZIE'S BEACH GAL will have to contend with a back-row start, but, to her credit, she did quite a bit of work from off the pace to hit the ticket in her last two. Just last week, she circled three-wide into third at this level. Provided she stays clear early in the second circuit, she can pose a threat from just about anywhere. 7 - ITSIRIS'S BIRTHDAY worked hard to secure the pocket early last week, and she kept up throughout for a good second. Wide draw presents an added obstacle, but she figures to be sharper coming right back. Can share.

## Driver Selections

### Race 1

Jason Merriman: #1 over #7  
Kim Pluta: #2 over #3, #6

### Race 2

Art McIlmurray: #2 over #4

### Race 5

David Lake: #3 over #5

### Race 6

Ryan VerHage: #2 over #4

### Race 7

Justin Irvine: #6 over #8

### Race 9

Kody Massey: #7 over #5