

Northville Downs presents  
**The Big Horse Handicapper**

powered by **The Players' Guide**

Friday, Oct. 15, 2021



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

### Pick-3 Ticket

**Race 4:** 2, 5  
**Race 5:** 3, 4, 5, 6  
**Race 6:** 3, 5  
**Total Stake: \$16**

## 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

2 - MIDNIGHT DAY levelled off after pressing last week, but was a solid two-move second at this level the start before. Kinder draw keeps him close with minimal exertion; a less treacherous journey maximises his earning potential. He's hit the board in 75% of his starts, and he seems right at home in this class when forwardly placed. 6 - TRIZZLE TRAZZLE wired her competition last week in her second start for St. Charles, and she gets the same group tonight, in effect. The big change comes in the form of a wider draw. Can she overcome it? Mind value as such. 4 - GREY PHANTON pressed, stalked and closed his way into the money in three of his last four starts, and most recently was an OK second from the pocket in the slower division of this class. Reliable minor player if current form maintains.

### Race 4

5 - WINTER GRAM is right back in at this level via the optional tag after sustained uncovered grinds into second at this level. Give her credit for the amount of work she did to preserve second in both of her local starts this meet. Similar await; any semblance of relief pushes her forward further. 2 - VEGAS HIGHROLLER rises after demolishing \$5k types last week. A hemmed-in and rearward trip did her no favours two back, but she stands to be nearer the action from this more favourable draw. 1 - MERCILESS never made it to Northfield last week, but worked her way to a going-away score a level below this two weeks ago. Sustained progress amid improving form makes her a minor player on the step back up.

### Race 6

5 - I GET IT was parked from the eight-hole in a tough conditioned event at Northfield on Saturday, and he had nothing left in the final three furlongs after working hard without cover to that point. Before that, he battled back after being headed up the backstretch to win a local Open. The 39-time winner should almost assuredly benefit from class and post relief in his return to Michigan. Note that he's hit the board in all but four of his 2021 starts. 3 - IMPRESSIVE CHIEF was shuffled up the backstretch behind Hail Caesar last week, but emerged off the home turn to save second behind the clear winner. Before that, he turned in solid efforts in local conditioned races. Pretty clearly on the upswing. 1 - CALM AS CAN BEE hit the board in four of his last five, with the lone miss coming at the Open level. He bounced back OK from that eighth-place finish, all things considered, and he figures to round out exotics if close and clear.

### Race 7

4 - PRINCESS ROUGAROU beat mixed company three weeks ago before more recently being outpaced by the likes of Lying In Cash. Now, the 21-time winner returns to a strictly distaff field, and the midpack draw should enable her to land forward without too much trouble. Strong bounce-back opportunity for the 6-year-old; she just needs to be forwardly placed for best results. 6 - BETTER DAYS AHEAD didn't lack for pace at all in her last couple outings, but tight quarters severely limited her opportunity to improve position late. Solid finisher can threaten with clearer sailing. 7 - IDEAL TOY was a one-paced third from the pocket behind Danikova in last week's F&M Open after overland trips relegated her to minor placing twice before. She's capable if she can work out a cosy enough trip, but the wide draw is her biggest obstacle in achieving that.

## Driver Selections

#### Race 1

Skip DeMull: #9 over #6

#### Race 2

David Lake: #3 over #1  
Art McIlmurray: #6 over #4  
Lindsay Moen: #8 over #5

#### Race 3

David Lake: #1 over #8  
Kody Massey: #7 over #6

#### Race 4

Kody Massey: #5 over #2

#### Race 5

Kim Pluta: #1 over #2

#### Race 7

Kody Massey: #7 over #8

#### Race 8

David Lake: #8 over #2  
Kim Pluta: #1 over #6