

The Big Horse Handicapper



Your guide to betting on the races at Northville Downs

Friday, Sept. 23, 2022 • Fall Meet, Program No. 5

Race 2 *F&M TrackMaster Rating ≤70 Pace*

5 - DELANEY R worked hard through the middle half to achieve the lead, but was just nabbed at the end of a stretch-long duel after that effort. Similar foes await; post relief can help her have enough oomph to last through the final yards this time. **9 - MAGGIES WAY** is in a similar spot — right back at this level after a significant exertion to work into contention in her last. Expect sharper from the 22-time winner coming right back; spring success against similar locally noted. **1 - ALWAYS JAZZY** gave stout chase from an earned pocket in the same race Maggies Way exits. While she did have the run of the race, give her credit for blasting from the outside wing of the gate to land in the two-hole in a :28.2 first quarter. She figures to be close and clear with greater ease tonight.

Race 3 *NW \$2,750 Last 4 Starts or \$15,000 in 2022 Trot*

This event shapes up as a tougher third-level trot than usual, given nobody moves up from easier races and four horses are dropping from high-level conditioned or Open events. That noted, my top call goes to **2 - HAIL CAESAR**, who lifted well out of traffic in his first start in nearly three months and now finds a much easier group. He excelled against Michigan's best last season, and his recent lines indicate renewed fitness. He's the one to beat here. **8 - R SPEED OF LIGHT** may have to contend with the outside post, but he proved a game runner-up under sustained pressure in top-level company last week after only regressing mildly off a failed pocket bid in the Open two back. **3 - CALMAS CANBEE** remains at this level, but he lifted mildly into third at 20-1 or longer in both of his starts so far this meet. Post relief aids some; the 45-time winner is an extremely logical value inclusion in all exotics if trends continue.

Race 4 *F&M NW \$5,500 Last 4 Starts, Opt. Clm. \$10,000 Pace*

7 - SHE THE NORTH rises after vaulting three-wide for an odds-on score two weeks ago, but avoids the Open by way of the optional tag. She rallied from off the pace for a similar score four back, too. There's just enough speed in the middle of the gate for her liking. **5 - IDEAL TOY** rode the pocket to victory on arrival from Chicago last week, and before that showed consistent staying power over the long Hawthorne straightaway. This bump up in class daunts to a degree, but her form stands out. **8 - DANIKOVA** rises after a win and a second-place finish in third-level events to start the fall meet. While she's tasked with a wide draw and a class hike, her proven versatility and back class can carry her into at least a minor yet again.

Race 8 *Open Trot*

7 - TRAVLIN SWAN parried pressure for an Open win on Opening Night. Expect an even sharper effort from the 6-time winner this year coming right back — this is his second start since June, mind. **8 - I GET IT** raced all through the summer and closed well from last to finish fourth behind Travlin Swan two weeks ago. He seems to do much better when on or near the lead, and this wide draw doesn't make for that to be a likely scenario. Still, he's won over half his career starts and has hit the board over 70% this year. **3 - CRUZEN CASSI** sustained an uncovered grind for seven furlongs on arrival from Chicago last week, but the eighth furlong was just too much after that trip. Any relief can alleviate this mild step up. Can share readily.

Full-Card Selections

Race 1	5-3-2
Race 2	5-9-1
Race 3	2-8-3
Race 4	7-5-8
Race 5	1-3-5
Race 6	1-3-7
Race 7	6-9-2
Race 8	7-8-3
Race 9	4-1-2
Race 10	3-1-2
Race 11	2-8-3
Race 12	1-4-2

Exotic Combinations

\$1 Exacta

3-horse box	\$6
4-horse box	\$12
5-horse box	\$20
AB/ABC	\$4
AB/ABCD	\$6
AB/ABCDE	\$8
ABC/ABCD	\$9
ABC/ABCDE	\$12

50¢ Trifecta

3-horse box	\$3
4-horse box	\$12
5-horse box	\$30
A/BC/BCD	\$2
A/BC/BCDE	\$3
A/BCD/BCD	\$3
A/BCD/BCDE	\$4.50
AB/ABC/ABCD	\$4
AB/ABC/ABCDE	\$6
AB/ABC/ABCDEF	\$8
ABC/ABC/ABCD	\$6
ABC/ABC/ABCDE	\$9

10¢ Superfecta

4-horse box	\$2.40
5-horse box	\$12
6-horse box	\$36