

# The Big Horse Handicapper



Your guide to betting on the races at Northville Downs

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 • Program No. 48

## Race 2 NW \$1,750 Last 4 Starts or 3 Races Lifetime Pace

**2 - MIKIMOTO** beat a similar group five back off a strong middle move out of midfield. The last couple weeks, he's made considerable mid-race gains before weakening. This class relief can help him sustain progress for longer. **8 - FOX VALLEY SCAMPI** dropped two levels on Sept. 2 and immediately became a value player in exotics from well off the pace. He's got a wide draw to contend with this time, but sustained gains to hit the board at double digits in his last two encourage for a similar situation. He's clearly been punching above his weight! **6 - LOCAMOTION FRED** is another one who can show up late in the mile, as evidenced by his rally from last to only miss by a length on the drop to this level last week. Deep closer is rounding nicely into form.

## Race 4 NW \$2,750 Last 4 Starts, Opt. Clm. \$7,500 Pace

**2 - RJP** returns from Cleveland after failing to fire from the eight-hole last week — but only missing by 3-1/2 lengths. He doesn't lack for pace whatsoever, and the much kinder inside draw will almost assuredly serve to plant him in the firing line without the need for exertion to get there. **3 - LIBERAL** was a victim of traffic two back and was subjected to sustained pressure in a narrow defeat to Anoché last week. He moves up off improved outings, but he's pretty clearly regaining his form. That being said, mind value. **5 - IMA IRONMAN** held sway against just easier four back, pressed well to just miss tougher three back, and since had mixed results in Cleveland. He comes back off a stout close for third at 27-1, and he's in for a similar tag to remain competitively spotted.

## Race 7 NW \$15,000 in 2023, Opt. Clm. \$15,000 Pace

**8 - DON'TCALLMEFRANCIS** parried sustained pressure to win last week's Open at 13-1, and now he seeks his fifth straight win. The 58-time winner got unlucky at the draw, but he does find a kinder field after winning. As strong as they come in this group. **7 - FRIENDLY'S SCOOTER** last raced two weeks ago, when he circled three-wide from worse than midfield to challenge Don'tcallmefrancis off the home turn and preserve second at 29-1. Forgive his pressing bid two back and traffic three back. If the trip plays out for him even just a little bit, he can bring major value to all exotics. **5 - LET'SNOTFORGET** pressed hard throughout the first six furlongs last week before tiring, and he won on the point the week before. Let's be fair — he took a ton of air last week, can set the pace, and showed closing ability four back. Versatility can and should aid.

## Race 8 Open Handicap Pace

**7 - LYING IN CASH** won well in 1:53.1 two back and most recently kept a first-over bid alive for more than a half mile in a narrow defeat to Don'tcallmefrancis, who had the benefit of a pole draw. This one did a ton of work by comparison. My top call again. **6 - CATCH ME CONRAD** rolled three-wide into the far turn last week and gained gradually to take third at 10-1. Five back, he reached at this level from a kind stalking trip. While he can clearly overcome trouble, the slightest bit of trip relief makes him a mid-price chance for it all. **3 - COALFORD BYTHESEA** earned cheques in his last five Open outings, doing so from all sorts of trips. He's got leaving ability and staying power alike; clear sailing is a must.

### Full-Card Selections

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

### 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