

The Big Horse Handicapper



Your guide to betting on the races at Northville Downs

Friday, Feb. 2, 2024 • Program No. 9

Race 2 *Fe&M NW \$20,000 in 2023 Pace*

6 - SANNA CRUZZA raced respectably in her return to Cloer's barn, stalking and staying on for third in the F&M Open on Opening Night. It's been four weeks since then, but nobody else in the field's raced since that night, either. **2 - LUCKY TOWN** earned minor checks in five of her last six between here and Northfield, and primarily against \$5k-7k claimers. Draw keeps her handy; staying power is ample for this group. **8 - LADYANASTASIA** pressed hard and held second at 14-1 last out after making serious ground through the middle half. That grinding ability will serve her well here, and the staying power she showed against tougher in Cleveland two back was the turnaround for better form for this girl.

Race 8 *Fe&M NW \$3,000 Last 4 Starts, Opt. Clm. \$7,500 Pace*

4 - DELIGHTFUL SUMMER rode the pocket to an Open win in her return to Northville, and did well for minors in top-level races locally last fall, too. That consistent form paired with this kinder group makes for a very tough contender. **6 - ALLBOUTTHEMATERIAL** did the lion's share of the lifting in that Jan. 5 Open after toiling in high-level claimers and starter allowances at Northfield through December. All things equal, she's probably the better mare, but she'll have to work harder from this spot, too. **1 - SKYWAY ROCKATOP** won from an earned pocket in Cleveland a couple weeks ago, and now draws inside on a lateral move. Capable presser-stalker has found renewed staying power in recent weeks.

Race 10 *Open Trot*

4 - TRAVLIN SWAN was uninvolved at Northfield on Jan. 21, but almost lasted at odds-on in a local Open on Jan. 5. He hit the board in half his 2023 starts, largely against top-level fields in the Great Lakes region. **3 - MYSTICAL LANE** was out every step of his Jan. 5 mile behind Rose Run Vincent (who won narrowly from the pocket) and held third after pushing hard into a share of second up the backstretch. Credit the amount of work this guy did. Significant post relief should leave him lots fresher late in the mile. **2 - ROSE RUN VINCENT**, as mentioned above, won the Jan. 5 Open, but only just prevailed after getting a pocket ride. He does show consistent ability in top fields and he's drawn perfectly for another handy journey, but that could all contribute to a short price. Weigh value accordingly.

Race 11 *Fe&M NW \$3,000 Last 4 Starts, Opt. Clm. \$7,500 Pace*

5 - AVALON FREEZE stayed on well for minors in conditioned \$30k races at Northfield through the break. I'm inclined to forgive that last line altogether; this group is much kinder and the pace scenario is likely tons more manageable. **2 - FURIOSA** hit the exactor (she was in Ontario, so, yes, "exactor") in her last five races, all against similar claiming company and from all sorts of trips. London invader should be close and clear with ease from this spot. **7 - SKYWAY VENUS** climbed over horses late for third in her last after a wire-to-wire score here one level below. Versatility and form unite; outside draw is her biggest obstacle.

Full-Card Selections

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

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