

Presque Isle Downs Selections and Analysis by Dick Powell Tuesday 08/25/20

Race One:

1st: **(5) BOWMAN** – ran well on the dirt two starts back at Thistledown then showed up here and held on for second after battling for the lead every step. He won here each of the past two years and draws in the middle with Addiel Ayala.

2nd: **(4) HONOR LIFE** – looked good two starts back in an off-the-turf event over a sloppy track at Mountaineer Park then came back there and did nothing. He seems to run his best races when he breaks well and he had two sprint wins here on the Tapeta last summer.

3rd: **(3) JOHNNY CAB** – horse for the course won here by a nose in decent time last out for Tim Girten who wins 26% after a win.

Race Two:

1st: **(3) SKI BUNNY** – improved second time out in her two-turn debut with a good second at Laurel. She came back there on a sloppy track at a mile and just missed. Daughter of Union Rags has the highest BRIS speed rating on dirt and should handle the Tapeta.

2nd: **(7) TWILA MAE** – has had many chances against this maiden level with five thirds. She does have a race over the track and could be improving for Wayne Rice who wins 8% at this maiden level. Doesn't have to be much to get a piece of this.

3rd: **(5) SAFARI QUEEN** – made two decent starts last year on the turf but is training well on the Tapeta at Fair Hill for Graham Motion.

Race Three:

1st: **(2) SNOWY MORNING** – has had three career starts against open company out of town on the dirt and now tries state-bred maidens in her Tapeta debut. Flint Stites wins 14% moving up the maiden ranks and 27% first start after being beaten as the favorite.

2nd: **(1) BENTLEY'S PALACE** – first-time starter from Joe Martin who wins 7% with his debut runners. She is by grade one stakes-winning sprinter Palace out of a dam by Skip Away that won nine times and she is a half-sister to a stakes winner of \$175K.

3rd: **(6) MOMS LOVE** – has had many chances but didn't run bad here in her career debut going a two-turn mile last year.

Race Four:

1st: **(6) KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS** – was soundly beaten in her first three career starts. In her second start off a long layoff, she was a wide fourth going five furlongs in a wide trip from post 9 and should improve here for Gerry Brooks who wins 16% second start out of his barn.

2nd: **(1) WATCH THE DIP** – was used hard to make the lead here last out going six furlongs before weakening. He has some back class and drops down another notch in class for Mike Pappada who wins 15% with his synthetic-track starters.

3rd: **(2) ZOODLES** – first-time starter from Wayne Rice who wins 11% with his debut runners.

Race Five:

1st: **(3) HAPPY WANDERER** – makes his Tapeta debut after racing on turf and dirt. If you just concentrate on his races against this claiming level, he has a win and two fourths. He makes his Tapeta debut for new trainer Mike Pappada who wins 20% first start.

2nd: **(7) MICKEY T** – won two in a row on the dirt at Parx Racing then did nothing off the layoff at Finger Lakes. Now, he drops down to bottom-level claimers for Rafael Rohena who wins 12% with his overall claimers.

3rd: **(1) BALK** – horse for the course had an even effort here 12 days ago to get ready for this.

Race Six:

1st: **(3) GOLDEN PEARL** – ran well on the dirt at Thistledown then shipped here and faded late going six furlongs in good time. She drops down in class for Mike Pappada who wins 16% with his overall claimers and he gets Willie Martinez back aboard.

2nd: **(8) SIMONELA** – ships in off two turf sprints at Belterra against allowance foes. She drops way down in class for her Tapeta debut but with her 1-for-46 lifetime record, I can't play her any higher than second.

3rd: **(1) FOOT RUB LOVE** – was a good second in her Tapeta debut here two starts back then was second again last week.

Race Seven:

1st: **(2) CANADIAN GAME** – made his Tapeta debut a winning one last out when he surged to the lead in the deep stretch. He comes back against the same class level and from post two, there's no reason he can't do it again with Pablo Morales.

2nd: **(1) RED CAT** – beat low-level claimers two starts back on the turf at Mountaineer Park then shipped here and won easily. He went back to Mountaineer and won again on the grass in fast time. Horse for the course draws the rail with Kris Fox.

3rd: **(4) MIDNIGHT ACT** – dirt horse makes his Tapeta debut but I like how he handles fast, sloppy and muddy tracks.

Race Eight:

1st: **(4) THE HUMUNGOUS ONE** – just missed in his Tapeta debut going today's distance then he came back and raced evenly. He drops down in class for Gerry Brooks who wins 29% with this dropdown and 22% first start after being beaten as the favorite.

2nd: **(7) SIR SWAYSALOT** – has yet to win here in six tries but most came against better quality maidens. He did face this maiden level here last out and was a game second going a two-turn mile for Tim Hamm who wins 18% with his route mounts.

3rd: **(1) COMMODORE BARRY** – very inconsistent gelding makes his Tapeta debut for Hall of Famer Jonathan Sheppard.

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