



Monday, April 22, 2024 • Race Day 7

Today's selections and commentary by: *Ray Cotolo*

Full-Card Selections

1	2-5-1-6	6	3-6-1-7	11	5-4-3-6
2	4-1-7-8	7	6-1-7-4	12	4-3-6-5
3	8-2-6-3	8	4-3-7-5	13	-
4	2-5-6-3	9	5-3-1-6	14	-
5	4-7-9-1	10	4-6-8-5	15	-

Early Pick 5 Ticket

Race 1: 2
 Race 2: 4
 Race 3: 2,8
 Race 4: 2,6
 Race 5: 4
 Total Stake: \$0.80 for \$.20

Late Pick 5 Ticket

Race 6: 3
 Race 7: 6
 Race 8: 4
 Race 9: 3,5
 Race 10: 4,6
 Total Stake: \$0.80 for \$.20

Race 1

1 Mile/Pace • Kentucky Sires Stakes | 4YO H&G
 (2) ADMIRAL HILL returns to the site of his coming out off a sharp mile for Team Engblom. He goes off Lasix but appears to have developed well off his sophomore season. (5) FOR ONCE INMY LIFE showed sneaky ability against dynamos last year and could land himself in a good spot for a good chunk. (1) COMBUSTION works best off a trip and could eek one from the inside draw. (6) TIP TOP CAT similarly will have to find a helmet to follow to perform his best. He raced well on debut last week.

Race 2

1 Mile/Pace • F&M NW 1 EXT PM
 (4) RUN THE WORLD DEO wins this race just off her qualifier form. Potential good one. (1) TAMEUDOWN gets a good draw after an off-the-pace effort for a share. She's sharpening with each mile and can do well from this spot. (7) ASHLEE'S LIL ANGEL was a much-the-best winner here last out but finds deeper waters. She has the speed to at least get a check. (8) CANTDOWITH-OUTME showed speed last year that could contend but may go an easy route on debut for just a share.

Race 3

1 Mile/Trot • Kentucky Sires Stakes | 4YO Mares
 (8) RAILEE SOMETHING climbed through ranks to level off in third on debut but the trip here should be less cumbersome. (2) MAMBACITA is good when controlling the tempo. If she gets an easy lead, she'll roll. (6) FOOLISH GAMES may show speed to get a slice. (3) CANTERBURY HANOVER loses hobbles off okay qualifiers. She showed solid stakes ability at 3, too.

Race 4

1 Mile/Pace • USHDC NW \$4,200 L4 Opt. Claim \$12,000
 (2) CAVIART CAMDEN again drops in class and should fit this field with the good draw. (5) ZACH MAGUIRE N woke up last out and this race is to see if it was all purely a dream. (6) LOU'S DELIGHT was the winner last out had he gotten any room to pull pocket. He's a sneaky one landing back on the gate. (3) MERITO HANOVER went a solid mile against weaker but will have to show more to contend with this bunch.

Race 5

1 Mile/Pace • Kentucky Sires Stakes | 4YO Mares
 (4) ALWAYS B NAUGHTY was a good 3-year-old against phenomenal 3-year-olds last year. This is her time to show her colors off a strong debut. (7) HUNGRY FOR LOVE appears to be developing into a good one and can work a decent trip from this draw. (9) KEEP MY SECRET should step forward off that tightener around this track. (1) TO ALL A GOODNIGHT should also improve and honestly showed more life last out, though she levelled off when most menacing.

Race 6

1 Mile/Pace • Open
 (3) THIS KIT ROCKS gets a better draw to work a trip closer to the speed. He needs to be close for his kick to have any true impact. (6) HE'ZZZ A WISE SKY can carry sharp speed a ways and could come back stronger from the week off. (1) SADDLE UP worked a trip to finish third at the level below this behind two good ones and can likely contend given the draw. (7) MUSKATEER HANOVER is versatile and likely finds a trip to get a piece.

Race 7

1 Mile/Pace • Kentucky Sires Stakes | 4YO H&G

(6) EL REY seemingly is the most talented of this bunch. He should be primed off two qualifiers to grab a win against this kind. (1) THE GOOD DOCTOR hit a strong stride late last season and could carry that momentum into this return at 4. (7) A COOL MOMENT has loads of talent and a deadly speed but given the draw he may need a start to get fully torqued. (4) BAMBOOZLER should handle going off Lasix and can go decent speed for a share.

Race 8

1 Mile/Trot • Kentucky Sires Stakes | 4YO H&G

(4) SPARKS FLY has impressed in each start over this oval. We can only hope he goes at his morning-line price. (3) TALENT SCOUT showed good speed on the bigger track and appears alone on the lead from the paper, but how will he handle no Lasix? (7) GRAND REIVAL similarly showed ability, but appeared to improve with Lasix. As long as he doesn't regress, he fits. (5) COUNTRY DAGGER could work a good trip if Andy pushes him for a spot close early. That's his best shot.

Race 9

1 Mile/Pace • USHDC NW \$3,000 L4

(5) ROCK STEADY RON does make his first start off a sick scratch but was going great miles at Hoosier that would crush this field. Send him, Pete. (3) ROCKIN M is the next most logical and simply had too much traffic to deal with last out. He's sharp but has to work the right trip. (1) LANESIDE LOGIC GB tried to leave last out but broke stride, so with this inside draw he may stand a better chance to stay flat and go forward. (6) SOUTHWIND MOLLY finished evenly last out but that kind of effort can land her on the ticket.

Race 10

1 Mile/Trot • Kentucky Sires Stakes | 4YO H&G

(4) DJIMON went a good mile on debut without hobbles last week and always showed sneaky form through his sophomore season. Maybe ripe for an upset? (6) FRENCH WINE is obvious. He's well bred, full of talent but is making his seasonal debut likely at a short price. Do what you will. (8) ARI FERRARI J is in a similar position, but has to work from a more difficult position in post 8. He could overcome on ability, but will also take loads of play. (5) BRODEUR raced well here last year and could rekindle that form on his return.

Race 11

1 Mile/Pace • NW \$2,700 L4 CD

(5) MADELINES BLK JACK has descended the class ladder for this very moment, to shine in the grand light of the Oak Grove bottom level. She is supposed to win from this spot and with that speed. (4) MADISONS ANGEL went an okay mile in her return and now drops a peg in class. Maybe she works a closer trip to get more involved? (3) KIZZMELIKEUMISSME clearly went too hard early in her most recent at Hoosier and she raced well against tougher here before that. Live price. (6) ALLABOUTTHEMATERIAL keeps making bold moves to no avail, so clearly she has some life that just has to be given a better trip.

Race 12

1 Mile/Pace • NW \$6,500 L4 CD

(4) YANKEE B SOMETHING is due. I may be blinded by love but she's so ready for a win, though this is a good group. (3) LOUIE THE LOOPER gets back on the gate from a sharp effort out of post 10 last out. He's been going good for a hot Jim Brinson barn. (6) WESTERN ERA somehow rushed into the mix before levelling off last out, so he just has to work a closer trip. (5) CALIBER drops back in class to a level where he nearly won three back. He should be involved in some capacity.

SHEET STATS

STATS (4/1/24- 4/16/24)	WINS	TOP PICK	2ND PICK	3RD PICK	4TH PICK	ALL PICKS
# OF RACES	72	22	20	7	9	58
WIN %		30.56%	27.78%	9.72%	12.50%	80.56%
RETURN	(\$144)	\$103.08	\$196.18	\$150.04	\$148.76	\$598.06
ROI %		-28.42%	36.24%	4.19%	3.31%	3.83%
AVG RETURN		\$4.69	\$9.81	\$21.43	\$16.53	\$13.11
MEDIAN RETURN		\$3.93	\$5.44	\$16.94	\$10.28	\$5.51
AVG ODDS		4.18	5.77	8.53	13.62	8.02
MEDIAN ODDS		2.50	3.42	6.68	10.60	4.48
CORRECT PLACINGS	RACES	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	ALL
RACES	72	22	10	12	8	52
RATE		30.56%	13.89%	16.67%	11.11%	18.06%

FROM THE BOOTH (and bike!) with PETER KLEINHANS

Today I'm going to combine my handicapping with a view from the driver's seat, by taking a close look at the 5th and 9th races, taking the perspective of trying to win from my starting spot- and I can't do that, at least analyze the race well. Please remember that I have a huge conflict of interest in the fact that I am actually will be in the race and focusing on my horse. So please don't take my thoughts about my horses and how I think they might fit in the races- as actual betting advice!

4th race

Each week of racing thus far at Oak Grove has included two divisions of the United States Driving club. These drivers are part of a club and it's worth getting to know some of them because you'll be seeing a lot of them over the course of the year. In the fourth, I'm driving Snap Call (#4) who won last week. The race couldn't have worked out more easily for him, as he was able to use his rail position to control the race and keep his central competition bottled up. I don't think it will be quite that easy this time. From post four, I'll have to use him more to get a good spot- and there's a trailer to deal with which makes it a little less predictable what seat there is to get. He's also up in class, so this assignment is definitely tougher than last week's.

Zach MaGuire (#5) was absolutely fantastic on opening day. He came first over and just absolutely blew by a sharp Takeittotheface- a horse who came back a week later to win again. Cassidy Whitton is also up in class in this race, so we will see if the 12-year-old can duplicate his impressive performance at this level.

Caviart Camden (#2) has had two no-shot races under his belt since arriving at Oak Grove, but he moves inside on post position, and down in class- and I think he's going to be very tough against this field.

9th race

I picked up an interesting drive on Rock Steady Ron (#5) here. On class alone, he deserves respect. The question as it often is "how does get into the race"? In a ten-horse race with two trailers, you have to get as good a seat as you can because no one wants to be coming from tenth. This is why I love the ten-horse races as betting races; there's constant action of horses moving on the outside and it's very hard to predict a strategy in advance. My horse looks like he generally has been sitting for most of the mile at Hoosier Park and then pouncing late. He'll have to get involved earlier to win from this spot, but he's got some ability.

Laneside Logic (#1) is down in class and looks primed for a possible speed mission from the rail for Tony Dinges. Dangerous!

Rockin M (#3) got shuffle to the back last time but did finish well; he also could win this with the right racing luck.

Look for lots of action in these races, and don't remember to keep notes on horses that impress you!

Good luck,
Peter