



Tuesday, April 9, 2024 • Race Day 4

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

Full-Card Selections

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

Early Pick 5 Ticket

Race 1: 1,2
 Race 2: 3,5,9
 Race 3: 3,5,6
 Race 4: 1,2
 Race 5: 5,7
 Total Stake: \$14.40 for \$.20

Late Pick 5 Ticket

Race 6: 1,2,3
 Race 7: 1
 Race 8: 2,3,4,5
 Race 9: 1,4,7
 Race 10: 1,2,4
 Total Stake: \$19.60 for \$.20

Race 1

1 Mile/Pace • NW1 EXT PM

(2) SO I LIKEIT DIRTY started showing improvement at Cumberland Run last fall and enters here off a solid qualifier. He should be ready to roll. (1) THATS CACHE sat too far back last out and lost all momentum when closing super wide into the stretch. A trip closer to the speed will do her well. (5) BELLA MAGIC can show gate speed but not much late speed, though her gate speed could be enough for a check. (6) MAGICKINGDOM showed a miraculous rally but finished short of victory on debut. He can take a step forward.

Race 2

1 Mile/Pace • NW 1 EXT PM LT

(5) WITHIN THE WILD drops into this race off two solid qualifiers and appears ready to go. (3) MIKI LEAKS continued to show improvement from last season with his going-away victory last week. He'll probably take obvious play but fits here. (9) PRETTY N SASSY again lands the second tier and is a grinding type, but her late kick could be better suited for this group. (8) MIKI BELLE is an unknown coming from Georgia but is also a 4-year-old on debut, so he carries some intrigue.

Race 3

1 Mile/Pace • NW \$4,000 L4 CD

(3) LOUIE THE LOOPER folded from his first-over attack last out, but seemed more vibrant with the new barn. (5) LOVE ME HILL didn't travel well over the mud last week and maybe improves on a fast track. (6) JOE MC-DUDE is great at picking up pieces and this race could have loads of speed. (8) CLEARCHOICE DE VIE likely will have to come from off the pace, but has enough ability.

Race 4

1 Mile/Pace • NW \$2,500 L4

(1) STUN GUN appears a bit of a project for the Vandervorts, but has the speed to contend against a group like this. (2) LIFEISBUTADREAM lands an improved post after closing ground in her return mile last week. She could try to sit closer. (9) MONTANA CHIEF A drops in class and should follow speed into contention. (3) KOA is fast enough to get involved but appears more likely for just a share.

Race 5

1 Mile/Trot • Open

(5) THE HAZELTON ships from Miami Valley off a strong qualifier and may offer an okay price on his return. (7) SINATRA DE VIE is a stout closer and failed to swoop the field last out, but he could still power home here. (2) SWAN FLYER should leave now that he has an inside draw. He's rarely a factor from off the pace. (3) BIG CHRISTIAN excelled at this level last year and enters off a tightening mile while also getting a good draw.

Race 6

1 Mile/Trot • NW 1 EXT PM LT

(2) GREENTEA closed ground on a smaller track in his only qualifier, so maybe he'll be faster in a race over a bigger track. (1) BEE OUR HONEY lost momentum when getting around a breaker in the stretch and otherwise looked like a winner. He now gets a better post. (3) BEAT BOBBY BAYOU is another Georgia mystery but debuts here off a blowout qualifier, so he might have something under the hood. (6) MINNELLI looks quirky but also capable of hitting the ticket.

Race 7

1 Mile/Trot • NW \$2,500 L4

(1) ONLY PASSING THRU took tons of money for his first start off the bench as a 10-year-old and followed it with a decent fourth from the second tier. He should show more this week. (9) SWAN OF DREAMS can work into the race from the second tier but just has to stay flat. (4) MISSILE gets a driver switch after showing early gusto and late flatness so we'll see if he improves. (2) JUDGE ME NOT could have been a factor if he stayed flat, and that remains true of this race.

Race 8

1 Mile/Trot • NW 1 EXT PM LT

(5) DANCING DOVER kept himself together through the mile and lost just from the outside post forcing an adventurous trip. As long as he can stay flat, he should do well with the better draw. (4) CASHAMIGOS can push off the wings and that should be enough to get involved here. (3) LOVE POISON left the gate and held on to upset last week and should get a good share if he leaves again. (2) MILITANT should get more involved from the inside draw after taking back and showing sneaky progress from the backfield last out.

Race 9

1 Mile/Pace • Claiming \$7,500

(1) M G KID capitalized on a race falling apart and appears the one to beat by default as a result. He surely can win again, but tough to tell how that form will hold. (7) MESSI N has the speed to do well here but enters off an okay mile at Cooper Downs last out. We'll see if he's ready to roll. (4) WESTERN BOOTS showed some life late last season and hopefully can rekindle that form off a pair of lackluster miles down south. (6) ILLINI DUKE stayed competitive but finished even last out. He'll likely be a factor again but not worth a short plunge.

Race 10

1 Mile/Trot • Open 2

(4) BRACE FOR LANDING got shuffled to no man's land and emerged a third-place finisher. With a better trip he could have more to offer. (2) SPARKS FLY had too much work to do last week and settled for second to a tough horse. He's the most logical winner but does often find ways to lose to trip. (1) WINNERUP showed loads of speed but failed to clear from the outside post. Now with an inside post, he should launch and try to last. (5) IT'S A HERBIE ground to victory against weaker last out and will have to take another step forward to win.

Race 11

1 Mile/Pace • NW 2 EXT PM LT

(4) GREAT SEATS lands on the gate off a decent return mile from the second tier. Based on his qualifiers and the play he took last out, he should be ready. (3) AYR BALMORAL GB gets a better draw that hopefully lets him go for the front, though last out from off the speed he seemingly only faltered cause of interference. (1) MISTER HERCULES enters off a good race at Cooper Downs and, joined by the 1:55.2 win he had last year, he should fit here. (2) COUNTRY SQUIRE appeared ready to last from a parked mile until breaking stride last out. He'll need a smoother trip.

Race 12

1 Mile/Pace • NW \$2,500 L4

(5) ROCKIN ELLA MAE went a bold trip and lost to a game rival last out. She is in sharp form. (3) WHITE BELLY did not race to expectations last out but could improve in his second start off the bench. (2) BR EZLIK-SNDYMORNIN went a better mile on debut than usual and could have something to offer. (7) ESAI HANOVER may try an off-the-pace trip this week and that could work.

SHEET STATS

STATS (4/1/24- 4/2/24)	WINS	TOP PICK	2ND PICK	3RD PICK	4TH PICK	ALL PICKS
# OF RACES	24	7	9	3	3	22
WIN %		29.17%	37.50%	12.50%	12.50%	91.67%
RETURN	(\$48)	\$39.82	\$101.90	\$107.48	\$18.20	\$267.40
ROI %		-17.04%	112.29%	123.92%	-62.08%	39.27%
AVG RETURN		\$5.69	\$11.32	\$35.83	\$6.07	\$14.73
MEDIAN RETURN		\$5.06	\$6.76	\$29.36	\$5.34	\$6.47
AVG ODDS		5.15	6.76	9.13	13.07	8.53
MEDIAN ODDS		2.83	2.96	6.25	9.06	5.20
CORRECT PLACINGS	RACES	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	ALL
RACES	24	7	5	7	3	21
RATE		29.17%	20.83%	25.00%	12.50%	21.88%

FROM THE BOOTH with PETER KLEINHANS

FINDING "MY FAVORITE HORSES" TO GET AN EDGE

One of the most fun parts of becoming a racing fan is gradually getting to know particular horses. Since we race only two days a week here at Oak Grove, you'll very likely start to notice certain horses that catch your eye. You then can bet (or not) on them, but keep your eye on that horse's next race. You'll learn the horse's racing habits, what kind of trips they're capable of handling well. Or you might follow a horse for three weeks and then give up on them.

The best way to build up a list of horses, starting with comments about particular horses and gradually adding to, so that when one of those horses you've listed races next, you'll have a really good feeling he will race well... and they often do! I had two horses on my list from the first week. The first one- CAUTION THIS- came back yesterday and raced very well, finishing second by less than a length (but I bet him to win so that didn't do much for me!). After the race, I decided to take him off the list, because that race will expose what he can do with a good, and he'll get bet and won't offer the same value opportunity the next time he races.

But there's a second list horse racing -- TODAY. Let's take a look at my note on him from last week:

RACE 3

LOUIE THE LOOPER left the gate, let a horse go who then let the 1-2 winner go, came right out first over with a vicious challenge up the backstretch, couldn't quite get by the favorite, looked ready to quit after being shaken off but held well for third. Will be very tough to beat if he can find a spot where he can get to the top.

So- he was aggressively raced first-over (being the first horse in the outside flow), often the most exhausting move in racing. Being on the lead is easier, and my feeling is that he will win once he finds a race he can control on the front ends. Is today that day?

I happen to think not. There are a whole bunch of horses with early speed in here. To make things worse, this field is arguably tougher than the one he was in last week.

So... what to do. I'll probably place a very small bet, just to keep myself from punching myself if he wins and I didn't bet him. But the bet today doesn't matter. The race does, though. Depending on how he races he'll either get another note and stay on the list, or I'll drop him from the list. The more good races you see on a horse without them being obvious to fans only using the program. Then if you still have confidence in a horse, and he shows up

In a spot that works for him, you can really fire the largest bet you can afford to lose. He'll probably win- you'll feel like a genius, and you can make some real money. That's a score!