

OAK GROVE

RACING • GAMING • HOTEL

The Players' Guide

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO TODAY'S RACES

Monday, June 30, 2025 • Race Day 31
Today's selections and commentary by: **Ray Cotolo**

Full-Card Selections

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



Pick 5 Ticket

Race 4: 3,4,5
 Race 5: 1,2
 Race 6: 1,2,3,7
 Race 7: 3
 Race 8: 7
 Total Stake: \$4.80 for \$.20

Race 1

1 Mile / Pace • Fillies & Mares NW 1 EXT PM LT CD

(3) TURN UP THE MUSIC has not imposed much in her miles, but she has faced such tougher competition of late. This is a noticeable drop for her and a chance for her to show her ability. (1) KOUNTRY CARROTS seems reliant on a setup unless Bender can work into a closer spot with this pylon draw. (7) HIGH TENSION has done work trying to get into action in her races here at Oak Grove, but the outside draw puts her more in a position to grab a share than a winnable trip. (5) FOX VALLEY JASMINE should fit this group. She's just had some easy setups in these Illinois-bred races, so taking a short price doesn't have appeal. But she's likely to hit the ticket.

Race 2

1 Mile / Pace • Fillies & Mares Open Handicap

(4) JADA CAROLINE should offer the best price in this field. She should be forward and is capable of capitalizing if Bender can work a pocket trip. (6) HIGH FLYIN' FILLY has been on a roll after numerous mishaps at the top class. I'm imagining she wants to go down the road again, but she also went such a big mile last time that I wonder if she'll progress from that or regress. (3) YANKEE B SOMETHING will use her speed to get a good seat. She should be able to stick around for a spot on the ticket. (5) LYIN' EYES has left the gate in these situations in the past, but I feel Joey will take back with so much power surrounding him early. She'll need things to collapse, then.

Race 3

1 Mile / Pace • NW 4 EXT PM LT CD Claiming

(4) FACING THE GIANTS lost to a better one from a better trip last time. He gets a good draw and should be alright. (5) KING OF METAL AS makes his first start for new connections. Maybe that levels this horse up? (6) FOX VALLEY PEPPER can grind into the action, but is likely chasing for a piece then. (3) MY PLAYMATE GB had no shot getting locked last time. He'll be a live price for the exotics.

Race 4

1 Mile / Pace • Claiming \$10,000

(5) HURRIKANE CHUCK has the most reliable form in an all-over-the-place group. Curtin can put him into a striking spot and he just has to hope the horse ahead isn't having a great day. (3) TRIFECTA HANOVER ekes some form in his off-the-speed and well-beaten tries at Scioto. The times may be flashy, but he could have a move in a soft group that makes him competitive. (4) THE LEGEND HANOVER should have lasted on the lead last time. He maybe succumbed to the tiring wet track like many others that day, so he could have room for an improved effort. (7) DREAMFAIR SUNSHINE is a one-way type; firing down the road. Whether he'll do that off a sick scratch is the gamble.

Race 5

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$2,500 L4 CD

(2) SEAFARER chased much tougher for a fourth-place check last time. I'm unsure how much that form will adjust to a weak bottom-level group, but he wins this race if it holds. (1) PRECIOUS MACEY had some late punch to offer in a race of attrition and was just stymied by a drifting rival. She gets a good draw for another crack at things. (3) MAGICKINGDOM makes his first start on Lasix here. He's always possessed a sneaky late kick, which maybe comes out against this bunch. (4) JOE MCDUDE has one move, and he's been using it to at least hit the ticket at times.

Race 6

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$6,500 L4 CD

(3) SERIOUS MIKI could put his kick to stronger use with this inside draw. (7) CRUSH KILL DESTROY also appears in a spot where he'll just go down the road at a short price, but he whooped a weaker bunch last time than this. (2) HIGHRT-HANANEAGLE A had loads of pace off a trip last time, so maybe the Lasix has brought him back to form. (1) CAPTION THIS fit this class last season and gets a good draw for his return.

Race 7

1 Mile / Pace • USHDC NW \$3,000 L4 CD

(3) APRIL HILL HIGH will fire forward and likely has the ability to carry this field to her whim. (1) BUCK ART offers the strongest challenge early. Tough to gauge from his Hawthorne form if he can outspurt everyone, but he should be able to work a trip and hit the board. (6) DRAGON PERFECT usually climbs into the action late. His dependence on a trip really only makes him a win factor if this race collapses, which will depend on how aggressive FATEFUL DUEL is from the wide draw. (2) APRIL'S BIG GUY is another who can usually close into the mix for a good chunk. He has a great draw, too.

Race 8

1 Mile / Pace • Open Handicap

(7) SAULSBROOK VICTOR has a perfect setup for a down-the-road effort. He only has two main speeds inside, so MacDonald shouldn't cave and settle for a grinding trip. (5) LATER DUDES will push forward, but probably benefits from a pocket trip here. Unless Tharps decides to quarter move for some reason, which is possible. (6) TIP TOP CAT will do his usual thing of more work than is necessary, but that's how he likes it. He also does not have any speed off the gate, so he's forced to claw into things. (3) DALE YEAH had no room to race last time, but he again has a good draw to work a trip. I just fear he has to come first over in this spot. More likely, he'll stick inside and hope for room.

Race 9

1 Mile / Pace • Claiming \$10,000

(1) WESTERN ROSIE saved ground but had a stout rally for third last time. She gets a huge post switch finally while in sharp form; go time. (3) HOLD MY DRINK couldn't get into the early action from the second tier, but he should be more involved while packing a stronger punch with this draw. (4) PREACHERSAYNOMORE went a much-improved qualifier in his first start for the new barn. We'll see how that translates here, but he'll certainly be a price worth a gamble. (5) FOX VALLEY REEVA has speed to get into a striking spot, but usually just chases for a share.

Race 10

1 Mile / Pace • NW 2 EXT PM LT CD Claiming

(3) CHECKONWILLIAM GB drops from much tougher waters while getting a solid post. He's obvious and in a spot where he "should" win based on his form. (9) CHECKERS LEGACY has a great turn of foot, but his path out of the second tier is tricky. He raced one time here this season and won in an upset, so there's also that. (1) PD'S GABRIEL got a mile under him from and now goes from an impossible spot against a monster to a great draw in an otherwise even field. He should do fine. (8) BLOSSOM roared into action as the pace collapsed and performed well in her second start on Lasix. The outside post just makes her reliant on a collapse again, but she's in form.

Race 11

1 Mile / Pace • NW 1 EXT PM LT CD

(7) BULLDOZER was so well beaten against better last time, but his effort from two back probably wins this race. (8) GIGI'S DREAM has to leave from here. As long as he does, he probably has room to show more than he did on that slowing wet track a few weeks back. (6) RB'STENACIOUS T has qualified well twice, but is making his career debut. That said, he qualified behind a nice one two back in Kirkland and appears to have a decent turn of foot. I think he can hold his own at a price. (9) PD'S DIAMOND HOPE has been improving with each start this season, but the second-tier draw puts him behind the ball off the go. He's good enough to at least get a check from here.

Race 12

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$6,500 L4 CD

(6) NUMBER CRUNCHER, to my eye, made a break because of being held up for so long on a helmet. He was going to win that race without the bobble, so I trust that he'll be unleashed as needed this time around. (2) I GOT SIX SHOTS is in career form and again gets an inside draw, which will put him in a great spot with his early speed. (3) COUNTRY SQUIRE has a lot of fight, but likely gets a trip where he's more of an exotic player than a win candidate. (4) TRENTE DEO drops in class, but should step up well from that effort since it was his first mile in three weeks.

Race 13

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$2,500 L4 CD

(3) RULE THE WEST drops from tough bunches in the conditioned claimers. This honestly is the kind of spot where he could try his usual speed tactics and they probably work, lol. (5) IT'S A JK returns to a track where he had plenty of success in years past. For a refresher, this guy came from like a two-year layoff to Oak Grove either last season or the season prior and successfully swooped the field to win. He's been facing tough groups in Ohio, so maybe he livens up in this homecoming. (6) OKIE FROM MUSKOGEE was chasing faster efforts at The Meadows of late, but the trip from this draw is tricky to map. A short price doesn't feel worthwhile on this kind either, but a fresh face also has plenty of appeal at this bottom level. (7) SONIC STAR may have encountered the right kind of group for his grinding tactics. This race does have a chance to go real slow, and that circumstance is where he'll truly shine.

SHEET STATS

2025 STATS (30 DAYS)	WINS	TOP PICK	2ND PICK	3RD PICK	4TH PICK	ALL PICKS
# OF RACES	389	147	77	62	33	319
WIN %		37.79%	19.79%	15.94%	8.48%	82.01%
RETURN	(\$778)	\$714.80	\$669.02	\$693.28	\$453.98	\$2,531
ROI %		-8.12%	-14.01%	-10.89%	-41.65%	-18.67%
AVG RETURN		\$4.77	\$8.47	\$9.90	\$12.27	\$8.85
MEDIAN RETURN		\$3.58	\$5.72	\$7.52	\$7.06	\$4.76
AVG ODDS		2.76	6.04	9.40	14.21	8.10
MEDIAN ODDS		1.57	4.08	6.34	9.38	4.56