

OAK GROVE

The Players' Guide

RACING • GAMING • HOTEL YOUR COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO TODAY'S RACES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 • Race Day 37 • CLOSING DAYToday's selections and commentary by: *Ray Cotolo***Full-Card Selections**

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

**Pick 5 Ticket**

Race 4: 4
 Race 5: 4,6,7,8
 Race 6: 1
 Race 7: 3,4,6,7
 Race 8: 5
 Total Stake: \$3.20 for \$.20

Race 1**1 Mile / Trot • Ky. Pref. Maiden / NW 1 EXT PM LT**

(3) ZINA KEMP broke stride when getting jammed around the first turn. She hasn't had a chance to flex her muscle yet, and she does find a soft group here. However, she is a grinder, so don't expect her to fire down the road at all. (2) D'WOOD got a flat line from a bad draw in his first start with hobbles, so he should get more involved from a good draw. (5) LEGACY'S CASANOVA cuts his bread at this class. He'll get involved somehow. (9) BALOO showed some interesting late trot last time. Second tier is tough, but he maybe has some finish to him where others do not.

Race 4**1 Mile / Trot • Ky. Pref. NW 2 EXT PM LT CD**

(4) R MISS USA makes her first start off a month layoff so she could be rusty. Same time, she debuted and won in late April with an effort that probably finds the winner's circle against this group. (8) OLIVIA HILL has speed to use from an outside draw that lets her hold onto some share of the purse. (6) HELP US HELP YOU didn't close quickly last time, but was pushing past tired rivals in a way that likely would also do him well here. (2) ZIONS REALY CHILLY should get away close. Whether he can sustain his position is a gamble, but he should be good odds at least.

Race 2**1 Mile / Trot • Open**

(6) RAILEE SOMETHING looked in career form before her lifetime-best win last time. I just have to operate on the impression that she will continue in this positive trajectory unless her warm up indicates otherwise. (5) LITTLE EXPENSIVE hit a groove in June at Harrah's Philadelphia, but ships in against horses in form on a stale date. He can pick up where he left off, but he might have a seriously tough rival to his outside. (1) AMIGO VOLO gets a workable draw now. He should be a price worth including. (3) DP FREEDOMS CHROME looked empty despite a premature challenge last time. Unless he can fire down the road, he's playing for minor pieces.

Race 5**1 Mile / Pace • Claiming Handicap \$12,000-\$15,000**

(7) APERTIF got a picturesque setup for his return from a three-week break, sitting a pocket trip to win. Confidence-building effort that didn't deplete him too much for his first start off the claim. Live. (8) FOX VALLEY DURHAM tries to game a class drop here from a wide draw, which he very well could. But his off-the-speed tactics have gotten him into trouble many times, and I worry that will happen again at a short price. (6) MISTER MATT should also go forward. His speed should hold well. (4) WISE THINKING can work a trip and have a late say for a minor spot.

Race 3**1 Mile / Pace • Claiming \$10,000**

(4) SOMEBEACHSOMEDAY is in form and could work a tactical advantage since many in here struggle to make early speed. (5) APRIL'S BIG GUY will come closing late as always, and likely he will again be closing too late for the win. (3) COLD DECKED can land close, but the time it takes for him to build momentum likely positions him for a spot underneath versus the win. (2) SONIC STAR has been rebounding with each start, but I'm unsure if he still needs a pace setup to do his best work.

Race 6**1 Mile / Pace • NW \$2,500 L4 CD**

(1) ISITLIKEITLOOKS lands back at a level where he crushes. Go time. (3) RONA MAE should find a tactical spot, but is most likely second fiddle. (2) MY UPTOWN WISH is capable of clawing past rivals, but the break in stride last time does raise some concern. (4) BLUE CODE had oodles of speed from a tough spot last time and went a tough trip because of broken equipment. He should offer great odds for the underneath spots.

Race 7

1 Mile / Pace • Claiming \$10,000

(6) BLACKLIST Z TAM feels like a default use here because he will be forward, but he so often folds on the lead. Maybe he holds better on the smaller track, but he's the pick of least resistance. (3) DOWAHS BOY finds the right group to find the winner's circle. He has one move in him that Maxwell will have to time right (or hope that others tire and he can swoop in for the spoils.) (4) FATEFUL DUEL should sit close and perhaps offer a good effort at long odds. I don't envision many in this race really closing ground. (7) TICKLED TO TEARS at least might, but he's another who's probably grabbing a minor share unless the last half is in something like a minute.

Race 8

1 Mile / Trot • Open 2

(5) PIONEER AS got a terrific tightener at Scioto Downs in her last start. She should roll. (7) PIZZELLE is in form, but she has to really push into the action. If she's the chalk, I'm less inclined to use, but if PIONEER AS is somehow the favorite, then PIZZELLE is not a bad play. (6) EMPIRE BUILDER always gets involved against this group. He probably just finds a tow outside and collects what he can. (3) BEE OUR HONEY has speed to get into a good spot, but his game is to just chase for a check.

Race 9

1 Mile / Pace • NW 2 EXT PM LT CD

I'm not sure whether (1) BEYOND COOL really has more in his tank or not, but he at least gets a good draw where he should be in a spot to win. He looked much sharper in victory earlier this meet, but he could return to that form here. (6) FOX VALLEY YORK is moving in the right direction as evidenced by that runner-up finish last start. Denson can put him in play and he will have something to offer late. (2) PD'S DIAMOND HOPE is the best closer in the race. If Hall can actually land him towards the middle of the pack, he also could mount a serious first-up bid. (3) PONDA EAGLE won when he was supposed to last time. Not a lot to glean from that effort, but he will take play off that win with some room to still show what he can offer.

Race 10

1 Mile / Trot • NW \$4,000 L4 CD

(1) JUSTASIAM AS does not have a trailing spot to deal with on the class drop, so all systems should be go. She's in form, she has speed. She is the best in this field. (3) BAR BEE had to come from an impossible spot in the slop last time. She tried circling like eight wide and lost so much ground, so I'm expecting her to maybe work a closer trip here. (4) SOUTHWIND MAI TAI came back quickly from a tough trip and looked pretty smooth, but admittedly tired in that race at Hoosier. She at least wasn't wobbly like when she broke three starts ago. (2) ADVENTUREFUL PETE can close with fury for a piece.

Race 11

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$2,500 L4 CD

(2) MISTERTENAHKEY finds his easiest challenge to date. Absolute domination expected. (3) TRIFECTA HANOVER should have a better chance to contend now that he lands back on the gate. (4) FROZEN SHARK similarly should offer more since he doesn't have to navigate out of post 8. (7) STEVIE MAE has just been okay in Illinois, but she seems faster than some of the others here to at least hit the ticket.

Race 12

1 Mile / Trot • NW \$2,500 L4 CD

I see no reason why (6) SUMMER YOUNG does not try to just stroll to the lead and take them around. She drops in class, this group *mostly* lacks early punch. She just makes sense here. (9) NOSTALGIC went a long trip and closed well to finish third last time. She could climb into the mix again. (3) COTTON CANDY CUTIE really is the main wild card. She should go to the lead in this spot, but she's been real hit and miss most of the season. (2) URN TROUBLE HANOVER should also find a spot up close and at least finish evenly to maybe hit the ticket.

Race 13

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$4,000 L4 CD

A fitting end to this meet would be (2) FOX VALLEY LANGLEY and trainer Jamaica Patton winning in the Freddie Patton Sr. Memorial. We lost Freddie a few weeks ago, and he was such an instrumental figure not just to the Patton family, but to the whole Midwestern and Southern racing communities. FOX VALLEY LANGLEY is the best horse in this race, and last time he dropped to this level he won with ease. Should all come full circle here. (6) MY HOUSE didn't even bother going to the lead last time, but did at least finish well. Curious what tactics Shetler utilizes here. (9) LIL JOE III should find a mid-pack spot out of the second tier and work a trip to hit the ticket. (4) BLAZE SHOOTER does well with suckalong efforts. She can't really take a lot of air, so I expect her to try to save ground and pick up what she can.

SHEET STATS

2025 STATS (34 DAYS)	WINS	TOP PICK	2ND PICK	3RD PICK	4TH PICK	ALL PICKS
# OF RACES	443	164	88	67	41	360
WIN %		37.02%	19.86%	15.12%	9.26%	81.26%
RETURN	(\$886)	\$805.12	\$752.94	\$763.84	\$595.18	\$2,917
ROI %		-9.13%	-15.02%	-13.79%	-32.82%	-17.69%
AVG RETURN		\$4.79	\$8.10	\$10.05	\$12.66	\$8.90
MEDIAN RETURN		\$3.66	\$5.66	\$7.52	\$7.16	\$4.96
AVG ODDS		2.71	6.01	9.49	14.00	8.05
MEDIAN ODDS		1.54	4.03	6.50	9.23	4.50