

Monday, April 20, 2026 • Race Day 9

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

| Full-Card Selections | | | \$.20 EP5 Ticket | \$1 Pick 4 Ticket | \$.20 LP5 Ticket |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 5-4-7-1 | 6 7-5-6-2 | 11 5-6-1-8 | Race 3: 1,6 | Race 6: 7 | Race 9: 3,5,6 |
| 2 2-4-1-3 | 7 3-1-5-9 | 12 4-2-1-6 | Race 4: 6 | Race 7: 1,3 | Race 10: 2,4 |
| 3 1-6-4-3 | 8 7-6-3-1 | 13 3-4-9-5 | Race 5: 2,3,4,5 | Race 8: 7 | Race 11: 5 |
| 4 6-1-2-4 | 9 3-5-6-9 | 14 | Race 6: 7 | Race 9: 3,5,6 | Race 12: 1,2,4,6 |
| 5 5-4-3-2 | 10 2-4-5-3 | 15 | Race 7: 1,3 | Total Stake: \$6.00 | Race 13: 3,4 |
| | | | Total Stake: \$3.20 | | Total Stake: \$9.60 |

Race 1

1 Mile / Pace • Ky. Pref. Maiden / NW 1 EXT PM LT
 (5) JIM'S BIG BOY went a large mile on debut with an uncovered blitz after breaking stride in the first turn. He tired reasonably at the end of that mile but enters here off a qualifier that shows he can keep himself together and offer solid strength at the finish. (4) DOC'S GIRL FRIDAY showed a solid late kick over the larger track at Mohawk for the Cullens and flexed a similar turn of foot in her first qualifier for Jerrell. She fits here and should be ready for a good debut; good luck getting 8-1. (7) CHANCE AND DOC showed competitive speed as a freshman and holds a slight class edge in the field, but his lone qualifier makes me question if he's a great short-price plunge from this draw. Curtin can get him into position, but others here show more power at the ready for this race at more interesting prices. (1) AIN'T NO TERROR gets a great draw to sit back and grab what she can. The slower the final quarter, the better her finish.

Race 2

1 Mile / Pace • Fillies and Mares Open
 The bet here is whether (2) YANKEE B SOMETHING doesn't throw in a clunker, which she debatably did on April 6 - debatably because she was in against male competition and got put into a tough spot. She's in career form and gets a perfect draw to just speed around again. Hers to lose. (4) LYIN' EYES rallied into the slower part of the race late, but still came home in :54-and-change to almost grab YANKEE B SOMETHING at the finish. She needs a setup, but if the speed does go wild here she's the first one to expect late. (1) TARSHISH arguably had a winnable setup stalking fast fractions last out, but she did have to move first up against a game pacesetter. Either way, she gets a pylon draw now in what feels like a class test; can she get into a winnable position and strike here? She could. (3) AINTNOTHINGUCANDO is the main other speed threat in this race and now she gets a better draw to fire into the action. She's struggled keeping good speed late, but she can keep tabs with the energy potentially saved from an inside draw.

Race 3

1 Mile / Pace • Maiden / NW 1 EXT PM LT
 (1) COVERUPHETRACKS rallied past tired horses in a race where Sparks N Fire just spurted clear and strung out the competition late. If he packed that kind of finish on debut, I'm curious what he can do from an improved draw. (6) DANCIN AFTER DARK put in competitive efforts as a 2-year-old but has qualified just okay into his sophomore debut. He seems to have speed that can get him into a tactical spot, but his main struggle will be pushing through a fight. (4) KEEP ON STEPPING had little to offer last out in a much faster race to his previous, where she overtook tired horses to grab second. This group may be more akin to that race two back, which makes her a viable favorite here, but her best efforts being produced by ground-saving trips make me worry that she could be a vulnerable favorite. (3) TREASURE G fired off the wings but faltered last time, a reversal of tactics from her debut where she took back to last and finished evenly in another blowout race, won by Prolific Blend. She may work a simple stalking trip from this draw that can get her a piece.

Race 4

1 Mile / Pace • Ky. Pref NW \$4,000 L4 CD
 (6) STRANGERINTHENIGHT chased home well in a tougher race for third last out, though he was not getting by anyone in that :55.1 sprint to the finish. Based on speed he's shown, this seems like a spot where he's supposed to win, but a lot hinges on what trip he can work from this spot. (1) CAVIART STONEY worked into the race late from a bad draw last time, though he may have been aided by the slowed backhalf in :57. Nonetheless, he's shown that he can stay competitive in various speed scenarios and the inside draw should help him work a good trip. (2) THUNDER COUNTRY was game first up to win in his seasonal bow and has since been forced into far-off positions to grab what he can. I'm curious what he can do against this group with an inside draw. (4) MANKAT improved tremendously into his second qualifier and always fit this class last year. He should be ready for a debut.

Race 5

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$9,000 L4 CD

Drivers' race. (5) GREAT SEATS showed good fight late chasing from a pocket against a good horse in E Mode's Desire last out, even if he came short of the victory by a neck. He's going to go forward again here and could find himself in the golden perch to continue on his upwards trajectory. (4) SWAGGY CAL is a trip horse who may be slightly above his comfort zone with this class, but he lands a draw where Hanners could work a tactical trip that gives him a good shot late. (3) SPEAKING VOLUMES almost held on the lead against this group last time but may have found his wall when hitting the finish a level third. Nonetheless, he draws well again and proved that he can still work his way onto the ticket. (2) KING OF METAL AS has a great kick off a helmet but seems to have dealt with his share of issues. The qualifier is just okay, but this looks like a spot where Luna can give him a tightening mile and finish strong for a check.

Race 6

1 Mile / Pace • Open Handicap

(7) ARDENS ACE N will give Oak Grove another try after refusing to turn to the gate on opening week for seemingly no reason. Happens - but then he uncorked vicious back-to-back miles at Hoosier that make you wonder how he'll handle the group in this top class. (5) TIP TOP CAT was forced into a trailing spot from the draw last time but still finished well for third. He shows no reason why he shouldn't hit the number. (6) ADMIRAL HILL won on the drive by Bender last time, getting the jump when he did to lead the stout closers in Tip Top Cat and Oakwood Haymiki IR last out. The draw is tough again, but he can still work a different kind of trip and be a factor late. (2) CAPTAIN ARTUROVICO tries his hand at the top class again and maybe fits better with the type of trip he can work from post 2 versus post 7.

Race 7

1 Mile / Pace • NW 1 EXT PM LT

(3) ODDS ON PYTHON went a big mile in his first start on Lasix to win out of post 9 and to hold off a next-out winner in El Jute. He gets a much better draw this time and again finds a field he probably fits well against. (1) ICE COLD MIKI chased well in his first start off a lame scratch last week and now gets an inside draw to build off that line with a good trip. (5) COALFORDONEOFUS GB trounced rivals with a three-wide swoop in the last turn last time, but also moved when the pace absolutely cratered. There may not be that kind of opportunity to strike in this race, but he can nonetheless grind into action and get a piece. (9) MY UPTOWN WISH was a handful to say the least last time, but she remains a mare that has a great punch to use when Lewis can time it right. The wide draw and that crazy mile last time probably just makes her a better price, but she admittedly faces a tall task to time her vicious brush in a winning way.

Race 8

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

(7) PERFECT STRANGER feels like the default top call here given he can get the lead even from this spot and he was well mannered to only get beat by a better horse last out. Unless there's some surprise early shakeup for the lead, this could be his spot. (6) CAPTAIN TRACY was okay as a 2-year-old but enters off better qualifiers than you'd think if you remember he's debuting in a conditioned claimer; he was put away off a soft first half by a vicious :26.4 brush to three-quarters and finished evenly in 1:56.4. He still may not be the fastest horse in this race, but he's coming into the race right. (3) PRINCE PALONE can compete against this group at his best and has faced tough fields in both of his pari-mutuel starts. Now's the time for him to get involved. (1) DAMN STRAIT should try to protect position from this draw and can put in an even finish for a good chunk.

Race 9

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$6,500 L4 CD

(3) SHAMWOW raced well from a tough post in post 8 three weeks ago and should factor more now that his speed can probably land him in a good spot from this draw. (5) ODDS ON ANUBIS goes back on Lasix after three straight strong finishes. He'll need to find speed early to land him closer now that he has a center-gate draw, but the ability is there for this horse to outperform his odds. (6) GUITARS CADILLAC can also offer a furious late burst if he can stay together in the turns. His qualifier gives me reason to think he could stay together. (9) SERIOUS MIKI had to work to get to the lead last time but showed he's got serious speed that could menace even with this class. The wide draw probably forces him into a more off-the-pace spot this time, but with the right tow he should be calling late.

Race 10

1 Mile / Pace • Ky. Preferred Claiming \$10,000

(2) OTHER PEOPLES BEER may have the strongest advantage in this field given how the race drew. He was game going first over two starts ago and finished best of the rest last out, signalling that he's in competitive form that should hopefully put him in a striking spot from post 2. (4) JUST PLAIN LOCO remains a consistent threat at this class who could find the winner's circle one of these times. He just needs the right setup. (5) JUST A START should put in another honest effort since he likely fires forward from this draw to control things. Whether he can hold on the lead is the gamble, but I would be surprised if he wasn't in contention early. (3) RK'S TONI makes a lateral move into the claiming ranks off a win, but she remains beholden to however the pace dynamics collapse in the race. With that ability, she can at least hit the ticket.

Race 11

1 Mile / Pace • Fillies and Mares NW 1 EXT PM LT

(5) ODDS ON UFO was much the best going a fast mile last out. She finds a slightly more competitive group this time but appears poised to just go and do what she did last time for a victory. (6) FUN IN THE SUN may be able to factor into a snug spot early, but she seems more of a grinding type than a speedy type, which can win here depending on how things shake. (1) FOX VALLEY MYGIRL put in a good effort last time but just had no speed to get into a winning spot. The pylon post maybe lands her closer, but she still has some lengths to find if ODDS ON UFO returns on her game. (8) PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE showed a solid late kick in her races as a 2-year-old and qualified well into this race. Given she has a wide draw, she's likely one to use to complete exotics.

Race 12

1 Mile / Pace • USHDC NW \$4,000 L4 CD

(4) NIMBLE NED had sneaky late speed chasing a pair of horses admittedly on the ropes last time. He closed ground down the center of the track in a manner that showed great improvement from his previous starts. Good draw here to boot, maybe a live price. (2) MANAGAINSTCRIME finds a softer spot than last time, where he went first up against a pair of horses now competing much higher on the condition sheet. He also gets a good draw and is swinging in form; obvious. (1) SWING DANCING had zero chance to race as he kept landing in the wrong lane when looking for clearance last time. He had pace to offer, but we'll see what trip he works off that frustrating mile. (6) DYNAMIC DESIRE has not fired like himself just yet this season, but this could be a good group for him to find that groove again.

Race 13

1 Mile / Pace • Ky. Pref. NW \$2,500 L4 CD

(3) TRUE BLUE LINDY has not had good spots to race since being claimed, parking the mile in his first start off a sick scratch and landing a rough draw in the start after. He probably still has that winning form from when he was in the Billy Farmer barn and gets a good draw against a questionable field. Intriguing prospect. (4) CHIEF MATE likely had something else go awry beyond just a distaste for cutting the mile. After a week off, this is a good opportunity for him to flex his class but he will likely do so at an unappetizing price. (9) LYONS SPIRIT can plow into the mix late given this field is stacked with a bunch who are just mostly even in the last quarter of the race. An unimaginative one to use to complete tickets since he again probably takes money, but he has form that could overcome the draw. (5) ROKNATNINETYTHREE can work into a close spot and just chase around from there, which puts her potentially on the ticket.

SHEET STATS

| 2026 STATS (8 DAYS) | WINS | TOP PICK | 2ND PICK | 3RD PICK | 4TH PICK | ALL PICKS |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| # OF RACES | 100 | 35 | 20 | 12 | 14 | 81 |
| WIN % | | 35.00% | 20.00% | 12.00% | 14.00% | 81.00% |
| RETURN | (\$200) | \$172.28 | \$114.94 | \$151.28 | \$312.38 | \$750.88 |
| ROI % | | -13.86% | -42.53% | -24.36% | 56.19% | -6.14% |
| AVG RETURN | | \$4.66 | \$4.60 | \$8.90 | \$16.44 | \$8.65 |
| MEDIAN RETURN | | \$4.24 | \$3.98 | \$4.92 | \$6.38 | \$4.58 |
| AVG ODDS | | 3.07 | 7.13 | 10.03 | 13.97 | 8.55 |
| MEDIAN ODDS | | 1.73 | 3.61 | 6.68 | 7.11 | 4.51 |
| MULTI-RACE BETS | # OF HITS | TOTAL COST | TOTAL RETURN | ROI | | |
| PICK 5 (\$.20 BASE) | 1/15 | (\$83.60) | \$352.45 | 321.59% | | |
| PICK 4 (\$1 BASE) | 1/8 | (\$92.00) | \$70.02 | -23.89% | | |