

**Tuesday, May 5, 2026 • Race Day 14**

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

Full-Card Selections			\$.20 EP5 Ticket	\$1 Pick 4 Ticket	\$.20 LP5 Ticket
<b>1</b> 5-2-1-4	<b>6</b> 8-4-1-7	<b>11</b> 2-1-5-3	Race 1: 2,4,5	Race 11: 1,2	Race 6: 1,4,8
<b>2</b> 8-6-1-5	<b>7</b> 3-4-5-7	<b>12</b> 4-2-3-6	Race 2: 1,6,8	Race 12: 2,4	Race 7: 3,4
<b>3</b> 3-7-6-5	<b>8</b> 3-6-1-8	<b>13</b> 8-6-5-1	Race 3: 3,6,7	Race 13: 6,8	Race 8: 3,6
<b>4</b> 4-5-2-6	<b>9</b> 2-1-4-3	<b>14</b> 3-4-9-8	Race 4: 2,4,5	Race 14: 3,4,9	Race 9: 1,2,3,4
<b>5</b> 1-2-4-5	<b>10</b> 8-6-1-2	<b>15</b>	Race 5: 1,2	Total Stake: \$24.00	Race 10: 6,8
			Total Stake: \$32.40		Total Stake: \$19.20

**Race 1**

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

(5) CAPTAIN TRACEY had some decent speed late once splitting through traffic in the stretch on his debut. He'll be in a good position if he improves in his second start back. (2) MARKOTA had pace at the pylons but got caught behind a tiring one before a seam opened in mid-stretch. He zipped through when the opportunity arose, so I'm curious what he could offer in a spot like this at second asking. (1) THE SHREDDER won at this level last fall in Cumberland Run but enters off a qualifier that's just okay. He makes sense if he hits the ground running this season, but at a short price I feel he's more likely to hit the ticket than win. (4) PRINCE PALONE got shuffled and tried to kick late, but only did so mildly. He can get into position early and maybe the race shapes for him to get a share.

**Race 2**

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

Weak field. (8) COMMENCE has gradually rounded into form and has the ability to float from the wide draw into a stalking spot. He could come with a furious charge late at a good number. (6) FESTIVAL had okay lines as a 2-year-old and enters off an okay qualifier at Miami Valley. I'm concerned that she hangs, which makes her a tough win candidate but a solid exotic candidate. (1) WOODSIDE JASMINE finished third best two starts ago and did her best to climb into a slow race last time for fourth. She gets a better draw today to place her into the action. (5) COUNTRYDIAMONDLADY showed sharp gate speed on debut but finished flatly. Her early speed should be enough to get her into the race to grab a piece.

**Race 3**

**1 Mile / Pace • NW \$2,500 L4 CD**

(7) DYNAMIC DESIRE has been off form so far this season but drops in class and enters off a super rough trip in an amateur race. He's got speed to get into position and should be able to contend against a group like this. (6) B LIKE CRUISER should use his speed to his advantage, but whether he'll lead them all the way around is another question. (3) GRANITE RIDGE LADY is not quick off the gate but can grind. She'll still need to take a step forward from her last start a month ago, which could be an indicator that she'll be a bit sharper with freshness. (5) MARLBORO SEELSTER hit a visible wall in the stretch but looked menacing off the last turn last time. He can at least get a piece against this group.

**Race 4**

**1 Mile / Pace • NW \$9,000 L4 CD**

(4) SERIOUS MIKI does move into much tougher waters this time around but has been such a confident winner climbing the ladder that he seems good enough to trust here. Plus we hopefully get a better price than odds on. (5) E MODE'S DESIRE meanwhile drops from the Open back to a level that he can handle. He's in form, so I'd be shocked to see him not get involved. (2) GREAT SEATS will push forward and do his best from there. He was great chasing a better horse in Banderas last time, so he's another in-form horse here that should fire. (6) KING OF METAL AS has a start under his belt and maybe has a chance to close for a piece at second asking.

## Race 5

### 1 Mile / Pace • NW 2 EXT PM LT

(1) DOWNBYTHELAKESIDE was a solid freshman and enters off a good qualifier where he was collared by a better horse in stablemate Funky Buddha. He's incredibly obvious here but may still look for a trip on debut, which could work for him or against him depending on how the race unfolds. (2) JIM'S BIG BOY delivered a strong effort for victory last time and shows now reason why he can't put together a similar effort here. (4) VAINGLORIOUS seems fast enough to contend with this group but also seems likely to take a lot of action given her mile times and the fact she exits stakes company. She fits but could be an underlay. (5) JAMES IN CHARGE A got a beautiful drive last time to get the jump on his rivals for victory ahead of a strong next-out winner in Coalfordoneofus GB. He maybe works that trip again depending on who rushes to cut the mile here.

## Race 6

### 1 Mile / Pace • Ky. Pref. Maiden / NW 1 EXT PM LT

(8) DOC'S GIRL FRIDAY was solid on debut and possibly lost only because of ground she had to recoup from her wide rally through the last turn. The draw isn't ideal here but she has the speed to overhaul this bunch; Jerrell just has to time the rush right. (4) MEIGHTY worked into a tactical position last time and finished second best to a horse with a much better trip. He gets a better draw and has the chance to work an even better trip. (1) BENEDITION should protect position from the pylon post. He can keep tabs for a piece, all depending on who leads this race (maybe it's him?). (7) MRGRINDANDGOGETIT made a big brush on a tailwind last time and held well behind a no-doubt winner in Timothy. The draw isn't ideal but his boldness last time makes him a curious contender here.

## Race 7

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

(3) PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE was held up behind slower horses on her debut and finished with good pace once getting clearance. Her improved draw should place her into a stronger striking spot for her second start off the bench. (4) ODDS ON UFO did not really quicken in the last quarter last time despite getting a good breather in the middle half. I'm unsure why that was the case but she figures to be a short price again with some question marks. She's at least fast enough to be a main factor. (5) AARDIES A WASH didn't totally fire on debut but the race did go fast and she drew terribly in that spot. She's maybe tighter from the experience and gets an improved draw for her second start of the year. (7) PD'SFOREVERDIAMOND went the mile of her life on her seasonal bow last out. She probably still has some ground to find on the better ones here but another step forward from her first start back could land her in the number.

## Race 8

### 1 Mile / Trot • Ky. Pref. NW 2 EXT PM LT

(3) PANZEE PARTY nearly took her competition pillar to post last time, only getting passed by a Trotting Derby starter in Impossible Bi. She's on the cusp of a win and now could be the time. (6) HEKNOWSALLTHETRIX bobbled off stride last time after a good race where he landed in the right part of the shuffle. He'll put in a good race as long as he stays flat. (1) STORMY SEAS qualified fine behind a better one in Silverstein but probably needs a start. He should at least work a good trip from the pylon post and thus be a factor in exotics, but he's not one I'd rush to take at a short price. (8) GHOSTBUSTER S A returns to a class where he fits and he has speed to land into a tactical spot from the wide draw. He's another that seems more likely for exotics than win, though.

## Race 9

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

(2) KISSINBYTHEBEACHES again appears the dominant speed off a strong pillar-to-post win last time. He probably tries to go forward again but I do wonder if we'll see a contentious first quarter. (1) LUCKS ON TIME should try to protect position from the pylon draw. He's become a grinder who needs the proper opportunity to arise, but he could find it here. (4) D A WICKED SHINE should try to fire for a forward spot but is just so even at the end of his races that I worry about locking onto him as a win candidate at a short price even on the class drop. (3) TALK RACY TO ME is yet to hit his best stride but lands a good draw on the class drop to take a strong step forward.

## Race 10

### 1 Mile / Trot • NW \$4,000 L4 CD

(8) INTERNATIONAL LAW cruised first up under a death grip last time and won under wraps. The draw stinks here but he's likely just much better than this field. (6) SPANISH ROOM picks up aggressive hands in Pat Curtin after three solid starts from off the speed; it might be time to blast to the lead. (1) COUNTRY MAMMA was even last time behind a strong winner in Whiskey Wow and finds a good draw to work a trip. She's classy enough to hit the ticket. (2) YOUNGBLOOD also figures to assert into the early mix and may be able to get a good piece because of it.

## Race 11

### 1 Mile / Pace • Ky. Pref. NW \$4,000 L4 CD

(2) MISS FANCY NANCY was competitive against much better and now finds a super soft group. She should be good. (1) PONDA EAGLE is in form on the move up and gets a good draw to work a good trip. (5) MY HOUSE has the speed to be competitive at this level but I wonder where Shetler wants to land off the wings. Farther back probably makes him more of an exotic contender. (3) FIGHTFORYOURRIGHT is quick enough to hold for a piece depending on how sharp a mile the good ones go.

## Race 12

### 1 Mile / Pace • NW \$6,500 L4 CD

(4) WHELK BLUE CHIP adds Lasix off a nightmare trip last out where he still paced a solid mile in 1:52.3. He's been in great form with Laffoon and should be able to bounce back with this improved post. (2) WESTERN ERA is a classy old horse who got a nice tightener on his return two weeks ago. He gets a good draw to take another step forward as long as he stays smooth off the gate. (3) LIL JOE IV went a big mile on his return chasing better for fourth at this class last time. He could land into a similar position and go a slightly better mile today. (6) NIGHT HAWK improved tremendously in his most recent qualifier compared to his form in Pennsylvania, so maybe something's clicking now. I don't know, but I can't imagine Tharps taking back with one like this. He could go an alright effort if placed close, but I'm still unsure whether that makes him a strong win candidate against some others here.

## Race 13

### 1 Mile / Pace • NW 3 EXT PM LT CD

(8) STRANGERINTHENIGHT drops out of the Sire Stakes into this spot after showing strong early speed two starts ago that should make post 8 no problem. A repeat of his April 20th effort probably wins here. (6) GUITARS CADILLAC went a big uncovered mile last time but was aided by softer mid-race fractions to bring him into the mix. He still had to take a lot of air and reached a strong leader in Serious Miki to finish second, so he's probably sitting on a big performance with the right trip. (5) FUNKY BUDDHA was a solid 2-year-old with great speed but he's debuting here against others who already have some starts under their belt. He's priming for the Sire Stakes series coming up in a few weeks so I don't expect him to blast out and set scorching fractions. He can definitely win with the right trip, but risks taking a lot of money off a great freshman season. Solid play against for me on the win side, at least. (1) SHADYSHARK TEN had good speed on the bigger track last fall and qualified alright coming into this race. Not sure what he'll have to offer against some of the others in here at first asking but the pylon draw should land him into a functional spot to make something happen.

## Race 14

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

(3) TICKELD TO TEARS is better than most of this field. He gets a good draw on the class drop and just has to perch himself into a striking spot; cutting the mile here probably isn't his forte. (4) IT'S A JK found a lot more late in the mile last out, so he could be trending in a positive direction coming into this spot. The post should put him into a good position, too. (9) ALWAYSSTELLTHETRUTH finds a soft bunch but has a wide draw to overcome. He could prove much the best all depending on how big a factor the stretch headwind/backstretch tailwind was last Monday. (8) THE LEGEND HANOVER always has late energy against this group and should chug onto the ticket if Denson can get him onto good cover.

## SHEET STATS

2026 STATS (12 DAYS)	WINS	TOP PICK	2ND PICK	3RD PICK	4TH PICK	ALL PICKS
# OF RACES	153	53	28	25	19	125
WIN %		34.64%	18.30%	16.34%	12.42%	81.70%
RETURN	(\$306)	\$274.40	\$167.98	\$327.88	\$348.10	\$1,118
ROI %		-10.33%	-45.10%	7.15%	13.76%	-8.63%
AVG RETURN		\$4.81	\$4.42	\$10.93	\$13.92	\$8.52
MEDIAN RETURN		\$3.46	\$3.65	\$8.20	\$6.38	\$4.21
AVG ODDS		2.94	6.59	9.95	14.44	8.48
MEDIAN ODDS		1.65	3.86	6.32	8.55	4.66
MULTI-RACE BETS	# OF HITS	TOTAL COST	TOTAL RETURN	ROI		
PICK 5 (\$.20 BASE)	2/23	(\$135.20)	\$357.96	164.76%		
PICK 4 (\$1 BASE)	1/12	(\$138.00)	\$70.02	-49.26%		