

**Tuesday, June 16, 2026 • Race Day 27**

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

Full-Card Selections			\$1 Pick 5 Ticket	\$1 EP4 Ticket	\$1 LP4 Ticket
<b>1</b> 7-4-5-3	<b>6</b> 4-5-1-6	<b>11</b> 1-4-3-9	Race 1: 7	Race 6: 4	Race 10: 4
<b>2</b> 5-6-8-7	<b>7</b> 4-9-1-2	<b>12</b> 5-9-4-1	Race 2: 5	Race 7: 4	Race 11: 1,3,4
<b>3</b> 4-1-7-3	<b>8</b> 2-6-4-1	<b>13</b> 6-2-4-5	Race 3: 1,4	Race 8: 1,2,4,6	Race 12: 4,5,9
<b>4</b> 8-4-1-3	<b>9</b> 4-7-8-2	<b>14</b>	Race 4: 1,4,8	Race 9: 4,7,8	Race 13: 6
<b>5</b> 6-1-2-8	<b>10</b> 4-3-2-6	<b>15</b>	Race 5: 1,2,6	Total Stake: \$12.00	Total Stake: \$9.00
			Total Stake: \$18.00		

**Race 1**

**1 Mile / Pace • Fillies & Mares Open Handicap**

Even with the outside draw, (7) YANKEE B SOMETHING is the best of the group. The toughest issue to navigate is whether blasting from the wide post through something like a :25.4 first quarter can wear her down enough for defeat, but with what we've seen of her so far this year I struggle to see how she couldn't handle it. Tricky spot where I truly believe in the likely favorite. (4) FEARLESS BETTOR figures to push forward for a seat and that's probably her best chance, otherwise if she floats out she risks having to go first up which may not be her forte against this group. (5) LYIN' EYES has been fine at this level so far this year and continues to struggle with being an off-the-pace type. She's always viable if she can find her setup. (3) BONITAS BEST BET has been better of late and gets a great post to work into the tactical spot where she thrives.

**Race 2**

**1 Mile / Pace • Fillies & Mares 4YO & Under NW 1 EXT PM LT**

(5) LOUMALEE ships from a pair of starts at Hoosier that look like prime learning experiences while also improving between those races. Her recency probably a strong asset in this race too as the Stohler team ships south to try and snipe a generous purse. (6) INTERSTELLAR showed solid speed at The Meadowlands and is a major factor if that form holds coming to the smaller track, but the first start off a sick scratch from this draw makes gauging the trip difficult. Especially if she's a short price, I could see her being involved but one to play against. (8) SOAPY CELEB has gate speed to use from the wide slot and that should be enough to place her in contention for a check. (7) FRONITER FANTASY similarly can fire off the car and probably wants to sit close and chase for her best shot at a check.

**Race 3**

**1 Mile / Trot • Ky. Pref. 4YO & Under Maiden / NW 1 EXT PM LT**

(4) NUMANTHIA had a solid debut from a tough spot off the speed to nearly reel in winner Gare D'orsay, and now she gets a better draw in her second start off the bench. Another step up and she could be the one to beat. (1) DIVERSION debuted well but got locked in the pocket last time to finish an even fourth. He should have more at second asking and the inside draw should place him in a good spot. (7) YOU AND ME AS closed well on debut for a check at Scioto, but this looks like another spot where she'll want to take back and find a path into the race, which makes a possibly short number tricky. The ability is there for her to do well in this race, though. (3) JULIUS SPIRIT showed a nice glimmer of ability when he stayed flat two starts ago, but the key thing in this race is making sure the colt stays steady. He's maybe one at a price to slot into verticals if the Pinske team have him in order.

**Race 4**

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

Perhaps foolish given the draw, but (8) RK'S TONI is taking a big enough drop in class off solid efforts to make me want to bite at a possible price. She was runner-up when last in for the tag back on May 5th and seemingly is better since then. The qualifier behind Prince Willie is a true outlier because, even with a soft first half, I wouldn't have thought she could pace a :55-and-change back half. (4) D A WICKED SHINE finds a spot where he could land behind the ball depending on how others leave the gate, but he's been consistent at this class so he remains a logical one to hit the ticket. (1) TALK RACY TO ME held okay from a first-over push in his first start off the qualifier. He's probably still a ways away from the form he showed here last year, but sustaining off that trip is a possible signal. Inside draw shouldn't hurt him either. (3) IT'S A JK was terrible in his most recent start but enters from a qualifier that shows he may be ready for a rebound. A nice price for the verticals given the draw.

## Race 5

### 1 Mile / Pace • NW \$4,000 L4 CD

(6) LIL JOE IV put in the best race in that bottom-level pace last time to just miss the win but now moves up into a group where just a few offer stiffer challenges. He ultimately belongs against better, so if all things stay smooth he offers the most power. (1) WHELK BLUE CHIP drops in class and gets a draw where he should finally be able to roll for a snug forward spot off the car. Curious how aggressive Maxwell will be from the pylon draw since this horse seemingly is on the improve. (2) THUNDER COUNTRY may have had the race won popping from the pocket last time until he hooked wheels on the move, but his price could be hurt given the interference last time and his backclass relative to this group. This is his spot to excel but tough to gauge how great a bet he may be this far out. (8) BET MINE had no chance to get into the race last time but this could be a spot that sets up more kindly for his style.

## Race 6

### 1 Mile / Trot • Open Handicap

(4) JIGGER DK went a big mile over a wet track last time in his first start with hobbles and probably can be better from that performance. Will be curious what, if any, changes Team Pinske makes on this guy third out, and especially interesting that this horse is likely the reason why Todd McCarthy stays in town, aside from Pinske's other entries on the day. (5) LITTLE EXPENSIVE has been tough at the top class all season long but will be at a disadvantage if JIGGER DK's speed shines through again. (1) WOMAN OF PASSION should protect position from the inside to sit a trip and maybe hit the ticket at good odds. (6) TOM'S MUSCLE remains reliant on a speed collapse like he got last time, but maybe Fonseca can get him rolling sooner in a softer tempo to find another win.

## Race 7

### 1 Mile / Pace • 5YO & Under NW 2 EXT PM LT

(4) WATCHFIRE has the post advantage in this race to push out and work a great trip. He was game in victory last time and shows no signs of regressing from that mile. (9) PRINCE WILLIE got a brilliant steer from Putnam last time to crush off of a helmet but this will be his toughest task yet. He finds a tough challenger in WATCHFIRE, but maybe he can prove that he's the better prospect inside of this race. I have my doubts just given how his trip comparatively will fare from this draw. (1) EL JUTE lands a ripe spot to push out and stalk, which is his game. He'll just have targets to chase that he may not be able to overhaul but he's been good at fighting to the finish. (2) JIM'S BIG BOY has a lot of strength and can take air but is ultimately more grit than speed compared to others here, which makes him more viable as an underneath type in this spot.

## Race 8

### 1 Mile / Trot • 5YO & Under NW 2 EXT PM LT

(2) IN YOUR HEART AS won in hand but in a much slower mile at second asking last time, which makes me wonder how this filly levelled up from start one to start two. But she draws well and was good in defeat on her debut, so I am intrigued by her allure as an unknown commodity in this group. (6) CHOSEN PRAYER worked a beautiful setup with her early speed last time to bottom out the field and is in a weird spot of improving and maybe not improving, because she's gotten good enough to race with that type of early speed but she continues to lack a solid finish in her races that continues to make me weary. Her speed is a huge asset from this draw, though. (4) NOFREAK VOLO was even trying to stay smooth behind the pillar-to-post winner last time and maybe puts together a better performance in this race that could have weaker leaders. (1) WILL 'N' DUCK had no chance in his debut but qualified way better in his most recent line. He obviously needs to stay flat, but he could be getting better at a time to at least hit the ticket.

## Race 9

### 1 Mile / Trot • NW \$7,500 L4 CD

(4) JE SUIS CASH S raced well in spite of the accident last time, staying smooth on a pylon trip in his first start off the bench. He should be way better after that go around and gets a terrific draw inside of a weaker field. (7) WORLD BY STORM drops in class and seems to still be a work in progress but he's managed to take a lot of air in his races of late. Even if he parks, this could be a group where he may still eke out a solid performance, presuming he stays flat of course. (8) INTERNATIONAL LAW got shuffled out of contention last time but had loads in hand if given a chance to roll. The outside draw puts him in a tricky spot as the possible favorite, but he's good if Bender can find the path. (2) CONVOY HALL was racing well last time and showed me he probably can get a nice check against this group.

## Race 10

### 1 Mile / Pace • Open Handicap

(4) A COOL MOMENT looked spectacular on track last time but also put in a career-best race in defeat. He gets a great draw in this short field, so he shouldn't be too far back. But I do wonder whether he just felt especially good or if he can hold that form from a two-week break. (3) ADMIRAL HILL won on the lead here for the first time since setting the all-age track record as a 4-year-old last time. That tells me he's probably back to his best and just has to maintain that. (2) HAZARDOS got an easy trip in his first start off the injury scratch but looked good sitting and rolling. He should have more to offer now. (6) TIP TOP CAT lands in a tough spot as a grinding closer but possesses enough grit to still find a way onto the ticket if McCarthy can mesh with his quirks.

## Race 11

### 1 Mile / Pace • 6YO & Under NW 3 EXT PM LT CD Claiming

(1) CLAPTON won in a ridiculous race with tons in reserve and now gets a great draw to work a trip. (4) CARRONSIDELEGY GB has speed to use but remains vulnerable to any type that can rip off a helmet, like CLAPTON. (3) IMAPRICELESSPRINCE continues to go crazy miles and finishing evenly, which makes me wonder what he can do from a spot like this where he maybe doesn't have to park every step of the race. (9) ROCK OF ALL TIME is a solid closer inside of this group and could find a good tow from the wide draw to pick up a share.

## Race 12

### 1 Mile / Pace • 4YO & Under NW 1 EXT PM LT CD Claiming

(5) FEAR NO LOU finds a spot where Putnam should want to roll. He drops in class, has no Prince Willie or Fox Valley Vitali to face; both being 1:52 or better pacers. Come on Joey, it's go time. (9) BIG HESS is super logical on the class drop and has been racing in solid form, but the wide post concerns me about taking him as the likely favorite. He could be at a positional disadvantage even though he's great off a helmet. (4) COVERUPHETRACKS makes his first start since May 10 with no lines but has raced well in his three starts at Oak Grove. He also drops in class, so I wonder if the time off did him well. (1) LYLE has gate speed to use and has put in sneaky good races against similar to show that he could get a check from this spot.

## Race 13

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

(6) JUST CHASING TAILS should blast and roll here. Yes he caved massively last time, but he dealt with head-on pressure to his outside for most of the mile; he's not that kind of pacesetter. Bobbitt can roll him and get his preferred setup in the weakest group he's faced in awhile. (2) KING CRUNCH has to find the winner's circle at some point and has steadily returned to form over recent starts, but as the probable favorite I'm not super excited about him in this spot. He still has a bit more to show but at least possesses enough to do well. (4) LUCKYCHRIS gave solid chase in his first start as a 7-year-old for a check last time and can factor more if he steps up from that effort. (5) FROZEN SHARK couldn't work into the race from the pylon post last time, but maybe the center-gate draw can land him in a spot to find a helmet into the race.

## SHEET STATS

2026 STATS (25 DAYS)	WINS	TOP PICK	2ND PICK	3RD PICK	4TH PICK	ALL PICKS
# OF RACES	327	124	52	36	41	253
WIN %		37.92%	15.90%	11.01%	12.54%	77.37%
RETURN	(\$654)	\$603.92	\$362.54	\$583.26	\$651.74	\$2,201
ROI %		-7.66%	-44.57%	-10.82%	-0.35%	-15.85%
AVG RETURN		\$4.61	\$5.58	\$8.97	\$13.03	\$8.05
MEDIAN RETURN		\$3.14	\$3.98	\$5.90	\$6.92	\$4.22
AVG ODDS		2.76	6.93	9.46	16.69	8.96
MEDIAN ODDS		1.58	4.67	6.01	11.68	4.83
MULTI-RACE BETS	# OF HITS	TOTAL COST	TOTAL RETURN	ROI		
PICK 5 (\$.20 BASE)	4/48	(\$414.40)	\$448.73	8.28%		
PICK 4 (\$1 BASE)	5/27	(\$426.00)	\$471.07	10.58%		