

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 • Race Day 23

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

Full-Card Selections			\$.20 EP5 Ticket	\$.20 LP5 Ticket	\$1 Pick 4 Ticket
1 2-8-7-3	6 1-3-8-6	11 1-3-2-4	Race 1: 2,8	Race 6: 1	Race 10: 1,2,6
2 2-8-1-5	7 1-4-2-6	12 7-1-8-6	Race 2: 1,2,8	Race 7: 1,2,4	Race 11: 1
3 5-4-6-8	8 1-4-2-7	13 1-5-7-6	Race 3: 5	Race 8: 1,2,4	Race 12: 1,7
4 4-2-8-1	9 3-4-5-2	14	Race 4: 2,4	Race 9: 3,4	Race 13: 1,5,6,7
5 2-3-7-1	10 2-6-1-8	15	Race 5: 2,3,7	Race 10: 1,2,6	
			Total Stake: \$7.20	Total Stake: \$10.80	Total Stake: \$24.00

Race 1

1 Mile / Pace • 4YO & Under Maiden / NW 1 EXT PM LT
 (2) NASH is making her debut but she's a filly with oodles more talent than this group, with no offense to this group. Even with this draw, she could find herself in a position where she can't help but win. But we'll nonetheless hold some caution given this is her seasonal bow. (8) BETTOR AFTER DARK got a super aggressive drive for the first start of her career and nearly took her peers around the track. Can't see any reason why Bobbitt won't try the same from this spot. (7) BIG HESS is solid off of a helmet but is thus trip dependent inside of this race. If he gets the right tow into the mix, he may be able to slingshot forward for a win, otherwise he's a major contender to key in exotics. (3) PD'SFOREVERDIAMOND got a bit exposed last time chasing fast fractions and finishing a level fourth, but that performance showed she has enough ability against this group to still get a nice check while building experience.

Race 2

1 Mile / Pace • Ky. Pref. Claiming \$10,000
 (2) MACKERAL A showed a wicked burst of speed before tiring late in his seasonal debut, losing to a headstrong winner in Granite Ridge Lady. All in all, terrific return for a 12-year-old and a super positive signal for the second start on this post improvement if that effort didn't take much away from him. (8) JUST PLAIN LOCO finally connected on an aggressive drive from Denson last out. Outside draw puts him in a tough spot again, but this horse is in form and usually puts in a good effort. (1) JUST A START is best when he can stalk and make one solid punch, but others in this field seem to pack a stronger burst than he's shown of late. This post should at least give him the chance to land in a solid spot to do well. (5) B LIKE CRUISER has held his speed better of late and can definitely get another check.

Race 3

1 Mile / Pace • 5YO & Under NW 2 EXT PM LT
 (5) WATCHFIRE was vicious on debut, winning with a :55 back half as the odd-on favorite. He'll only bet better in his second start while likely tightening for the KYSS series at the end of the month. (4) END IT also has a sharp turn of foot from his racaas at Hoosier but he'll have to show if that same kick can hold over the smaller track. (6) KOUNTRY BLUE should fire forward but probably holds on for a piece given the power likely thrusting into the mix late in the two probable chalks. (8) BEYOND COOL also stands to hit the ticket since he should have good cover to follow into the mix. Outside post hopefully helps his price for the verticals.

Race 4

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$6,500 L4 CD
 (4) BIKINI CHASER was mounting a solid bid but got wobbly in the turn when forced into the three-wide path and eventually broke stride. He should have a smoother path this time around now that he also doesn't face as stout of competition as he did last time at this class. (2) FOX VALLEY LANGLEY will take money on his backclass and could put away this field, but he's been in this position before where all the elements align in his favor and he gets stuck going first up or in some other tough position that does stymy his bid. He seems much sharper now at 6 though, so these all could be useless worries. (8) WILDCAT ABBY should have the tactical speed to land into a good spot from the wide draw. She's terrific off of a helmet and Bender seems like the perfect pilot to architect that kind of methodical trip for her. (1) LYONS SPIRIT gets a prime draw to utilize his grinding ability to grab a good check on this drop in class. He has been a solid overperformer all season.

Race 5

1 Mile / Trot • NW \$7,500 L4 CD

(2) INTERNATIONAL LAW had solid late trot visually before going off stride, but he's always had breaking problems. That time it looked like he wanted to roll while Bender wanted to hold him back for a bit longer and that fight was enough to send him into a gallop, but now he drops from the Open into a group that admittedly is pretty soft for a bunch one rung below the Open. Draw is great too, but Bender and his charge have to stay in sync otherwise its gallop time. (3) SCRAPPYS LOVE goes back on Lasix off a big effort on Trotting Derby Day where he clearly bled from how terribly he finished from fast early fractions. He draws right to be put in play and could outrace his odds. (7) SAN PATRICIO is well meant as a chalk here off a solid win on debut, but the draw could be tricky and require some decent work early. Tough to tell how much he's willing to do since this is likely a stepping stone for the next Indiana Sire Stakes leg on June 11. (1) CLEMENCY went a big mile in the Bronze Consolation and makes her first start off a few weeks' rest. She likely is looking for a tightener, but the inside draw could encourage her to be more aggressive for position.

Race 6

1 Mile / Pace • Fillies & Mares NW \$2,500 L4 CD

(1) KATIES UP went way too hard last time and still held third. Now she drops in class and lands the pylon post in what many are calling the most "cannot-lose" situation of the meet at Oak Grove. We'll see, this is horse racing after all. (3) LITTLE BIT TUFF gets a draw that's way more conducive to her brushing style. She's likely to just sit and make one move to grab pieces if KATIES UP races to form. (8) MY UPTOWN WISH has a tough draw to overcome but should come firing onto the ticket against a group mostly lacking in late speed. (6) SILVERSHOE CHIXY is interesting if Tharps sends her for position when not much else early speed is really present. She can get away close and just suck along to hopefully hit the ticket at a good price.

Race 7

1 Mile / Trot • Ky. Pref. 5YO & Under NW 2 EXT PM LT

(1) LETHAL LEGACY went a good mile from an impossible spot last time and now gets a draw that isn't an impossible spot. He should be able to connect the dots quite easily. (4) KERSTIN kept plugging for the victory last time, but we'll see if her last two performances have taken anything out of her or if she's building stronger form. (2) R ZEE went a tough trip last time and stayed in the game well to hold third at a square price. She figures to put in an alright effort again and the draw certainly helps her chances of hitting the ticket. (6) GHOSTBUSTER SA will fire and will try his darndest to go all the way, but we've watched this play out many times and know how it usually goes.

Race 8

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

(1) GARE D'ORSAY pushed well first up last time to just miss victory on debut and gets a great draw again to improve from that effort. (4) DIVERSION was okay as a freshman but put in a solid rally with a :56.4 back half to finish third in his lone qualifier, so he could be ready for a good debut. These connections can have them ready to win off the bench. (2) FESTIVAL showed nice tactical speed from a wide draw last time before finishing level for a share, but now she gets a good post to ease into a stalking spot and maybe have some extra left for a stronger finish. (7) NUMANTHIA showed nice speed as a 2-year-old though most of it was giving chase on a quick track in Lexington. She debuts for Bob Stewart off an okay qualifier but can maybe surprise for a slice at a big number

Race 9

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

Okay this could be the time where (3) MRGRINDANDGOGETIT can put his spurt into winning effect. This is not that tough of a field and he gets the right draw for Demars to launch an attack similar to his April 27th effort where he only lost because a better horse beat him. (4) CLAPTON showed solid late speed as a freshman but has to show he's past the breaking issues from a few months ago. This looks like a textbook spot for a tightener, but if he's staying smooth he could snatch the win. (5) PURPLE WAYNE took a nice step forward in his second start but finds a tougher draw this time. He should still be able to climb into the action for a chunk. (2) PERFECT STRANGER should use his speed to take the top but he is notoriously bad at fending off challengers. But he's been okay at getting checks, so he may still stay in contention for a piece but figures to take play as a strong speed in a race lacking much of it.

Race 10

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

(2) CARRONSIDELEGY GB may have the edge given his gate speed and post draw. He shouldn't have to go as hard as he did in his last start early which should bode well for his preferred style. (6) HE'S LOST IN TIME drops in class and continues to put in good races but he just has to land into the right part of the race. The draw could be tricky but he's good enough to factor. (1) ROLLIN DICE got a perfect setup last time and is a horse that does need some things to go his way, but the pylon draw and the potential of solid speed to materialize again with this race could place him in a good spot. (8) JUST CHASING TAILS needs the lead and getting it from post 8 will be tough, but he's quick enough to at least secure a seat close to the action and keep tabs to get a check.

Race 11

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$4,000 L4 CD

(1) DEAL THE ODDS made a bold move to the last turn that ultimately cost him the win on his debut since he had to recoup so much ground into a :27.4 third quarter while racing three wide through the last turn. He gets an even better draw in a race many are calling potentially the “second-most can’t-lose spot” since a few races prior. (3) BET MINE had decent late speed but kept bearing in through the stretch which cost him a bit of ground overall. He’s shown more tactical speed of late and can maybe claw into the picture. (2) I GOT SIX SHOTS drops in class and lands in a spot where his type of speed could excel. He’s at least been good enough to hit the board in these spots of late. (4) FIGHTFORYOURRIGHT should launch here on the post improvement and could offer good odds for the verticals.

Race 12

1 Mile / Pace • Claiming \$10,000

(7) HAPPIERDAYSRCOMIN has been super good of late and finds a bunch that he should be able to handle since he has the ability to push off the car. (1) DRAGON GRAD was in a tough spot last time but ships from Hoosier for a barn that’s done really well over the last few weeks while also getting his first good draw in months. I wonder if this is a spot where Tharps will send... (8) I UNDERSTAND returns to Kevin Miller’s barn but starts from a tough draw for his brushing style. He may be able to land into a stalking spot to make his usual far-turn move but he appears dependent on that setup. (6) MYSTICAL CHARGER is good at grabbing pieces in these situations but unfortunately probably doesn’t go at as ridiculous of a price because of the class drop.

Race 13

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$2,500 L4 CD

I was surprised to see (1) IDEAL ACE be so aggressive last time and he looked great until he dug his feet into the ground and basically decided to stop. In the past, this has been a textbook spot for him to go down the road and I’m curious if he’ll try again on the class drop since White was so confident last time before the mistake. (5) STREET BOY used to be a solid speed type at this level and could always rekindle that form while coming in from okay races at Hoosier for the Rodriguez-Tharps combo. (7) SEARCH THE SEA has solid speed off the gate and that’s probably enough to get him involved against this group. (6) KING CRUNCH probably needed that last start off of the sick scratch, but I don’t really want to settle on him in this spot given that his efforts against tougher signal this is somewhere he should win. He definitely will be a major factor, but I want to see some aggression from him first before settling on the class principle at a short price.

SHEET STATS

2026 STATS (21 DAYS)	WINS	TOP PICK	2ND PICK	3RD PICK	4TH PICK	ALL PICKS
# OF RACES	275	101	48	29	31	209
WIN %		36.73%	17.45%	10.55%	11.27%	76.00%
RETURN	(\$550)	\$487.86	\$344.62	\$540.68	\$497.86	\$1,871
ROI %		-11.30%	-37.34%	-1.69%	-9.48%	-14.95%
AVG RETURN		\$4.56	\$5.74	\$9.49	\$13.10	\$8.22
MEDIAN RETURN		\$3.12	\$4.21	\$7.16	\$6.55	\$4.21
AVG ODDS		2.80	6.92	9.36	16.48	8.89
MEDIAN ODDS		1.54	4.66	6.03	11.53	4.82
MULTI-RACE BETS	# OF HITS	TOTAL COST	TOTAL RETURN	ROI		
PICK 5 (\$20 BASE)	4/42	(\$372.40)	\$448.73	20.50%		
PICK 4 (\$1 BASE)	3/21	(\$326.00)	\$190.80	-41.47%		