

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 • Race Day 38

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

Full-Card Selections			\$1 EP4 Ticket	\$1 MP4 Ticket	\$1 LP4 Ticket	\$1 P5 Ticket
1 1-3-6-2	6 2-5-3-8	11 8-1-9-3	Race 3: 3,5	Race 7: 1,5	Race 11: 8	Race 1: 1
2 3-4-2-1	7 5-1-7-2	12 3-1-4-2	Race 4: 4	Race 8: 3	Race 12: 1,3,4	Race 2: 3,4
3 3-5-1-7	8 3-9-4-5	13 5-7-3-2	Race 5: 2,3,4	Race 9: 1,6,7	Race 13: 5,7	Race 3: 3,5
4 4-1-7-3	9 1-6-7-4	14 6-4-1-9	Race 6: 2	Race 10: 4,5	Race 14: 4,6	Race 4: 4
5 3-4-2-5	10 5-4-9-6	15	Total: \$6.00	Total: \$12.00	Total: \$12.00	Race 5: 2,3,4
						Total: \$12.00

Race 1

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Fillies "B" Division 1 of 2

(1) SEASIDE CHARM got a rebound win of a golden trip up at Scioto after racing evenly behind better in her bounceback from a stiff Fan Hanover elim. She also gets a good draw here to maybe connect. (3) MAKEMBLUSH HANOVER fired sharp speed that didn't hold, though she still paced a 1:50.4 mile to finish third. She could take a step forward here to lead the field around, but if she gets weary late again then she's likely holding for a piece. (6) ROCKSY returns to the sire stakes off a Proud Series win against much weaker, though she has the speed to push off the gate. She has a chance to land into a striking position and do well. (2) LADY PANERA should push to protect position but may be at her limit speedwise if the main ones here really fire. A good trip should still place her in the frame.

Race 3

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Fillies "B" Division 2 of 2

(3) BETTOR BE A STAR fought well to get into position and just miss victory last time. She gets a better post to work from now so she should have every chance to carve her trip. (5) SHE'S A RICH GIRL drops from the "A" division where she could never get involved, but she raced okay the start prior against Hope Hill when she was put into action. She appears poised to fire forward from this draw, which could be enough to land her in the number. (1) SHE B MINNIE finished best of the rest at long odds last time and now gets a better draw to plant into a stalking spot and get some kind of check. (7) ESTUARY came on late last time but settled for third in an evenly run race. She clearly has ability to do well against a group like this but from this draw and tough-to-gauge form she maybe is just a player for the underneath spots.

Race 2

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Colts & Geldings "B" Division 1 of 3

(3) CAILLOU HANOVER flashed strong speed from a wide draw to nearly win in his most recent, getting collared by a reasonably better horse under the circumstances. He gets a better draw here and a short field to potentially dominate if he has that same spark. (4) LASTDRIVEDOWNMAIN closed well off fast early fractions but still paced at least a :53 and change back half to get back into the mix. That sort of speed should be competitive in this smaller field and from a draw where Zeron should have the chance to get away well. (2) CAVIART ANDERS ground into the race to get another piece in KYSS action and now gets a better draw to hit the ticket again. (1) VIZCAYA drops from the "A" division but has not shown enough to justify being favored in this race. He followed Show Me Your Ace in a track-record mile and inside of a weaker field before not firing off a perfect setup in the "A" division last time. He's probably in the right spot classwise and can still do well but probably is not a great bet as the chalk.

Race 4

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Colts & Geldings "B" Division 2 of 3

(4) COUP STATION keeps getting stuck with first-over trips. But not today! I don't know if that actually will be the case because he's surrounded by a lot of speed, but he's the best in this race when not forced into that tough trip. Hell, maybe he can still win from that trip depending on who's cutting the mile. (1) TREACHEROUS raced well in his first start off a month layoff from a tough spot, but now he lands into a good spot at the pylon post to maybe improve off that line. (7) LOUAVILLE has to blastoff here on the drop, right? The tough thing to assess is whether he's pillar-to-post material against a group like this, because a mile even like his Pocono win on May 16 could galvanize some of the stalkers in this race. Tricky, but his gate speed will be in play. (3) ROCKNACIOUS got caught in a first-up grind last time and levelled off for fourth in an overall still good performance. He may benefit being wider from the pylon post to build more speed off the car, otherwise he's likely just fishing for a check.

Race 5

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Colts & Geldings "B" Division 3 of 3

(3) THISBEESTINGS DEO rallied belatedly but kept digging last time to just miss the win to a horse that was able to steadily build and hold momentum. He maybe struggled chasing those fractions and he may or may not have those to deal with again depending on how Dunn lets THIAGO HANOVER roll. (4) DOWNBYTHELAKESIDE saved ground and charged home well to just miss second. He hasn't fired his best shot yet and has shown improvement through his five starts this season to signal a possibly good effort here. (2) TALK SOFTLY zipped through an inside seam and had every chance to reel in the top horses but just finished evenly behind in fourth. He may have a better punch depending on how the trip unfolds here but hopefully he remains a high price to make a plunge worthwhile. (5) THIAGO HANOVER couldn't shut down once activated off the car and uncorked crazy fractions before tiring. He's had quirks all through his career that keep showing up, so who knows what kind of performance we'll get from him, but he's shown great ability when the stars align.

Race 6

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Fillies "A" Division

(2) HOPE HILL got an easy lead last time and set a track record while barely being asked. She draws well again to push forward and work a similar trip. One to beat unless she takes a serious speed beating. (5) GONEBUTNOTFORGOTTN rallied well to win in the "B" division last time and has been competitive against good fillies in her last few starts. She's capable of doing well here with the right trip and setup. (3) GALA tried to climb into the race from a wide draw last time but plateaued for fourth rounding the bottom corner. The post switch may allow her to save a bit more energy but she'll have to find a bit more or will need a big duel to weaken HOPE HILL. (8) CAVIART DAISY now gets a wide draw to overcome, which could force her to launch off the car for position. If she finds a seat early, she'll have a chance to punch through. Always a chance though that she'll get stung by others protecting position.

Race 7

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Colts & Geldings "A" Division

(5) SEA BISTRO HANOVER will have to prove he's up to the class test here but he's an improving horse coming into this race fresh. He could work a great trip in a chaotic race. (1) SHOW ME YOUR ACE had to have bled or something to falter as hard as he did last time, but since he's back in the box a week later I presume it's something he's able to bounce back from. He may get more conservative handling now to find a trip off that last mile, but that's been his style anyway. (7) PAPI RICK should've reeled in the tiring leaders for the win in theory but he still paced a :54.1 back half to just miss, so still a good effort. The wide post is tricky to navigate but this race could have ample speed to help horses working a trip. (2) FUNKY BUDDHA wins if he races to form of that last race, but I'm willing to take shots on better prices that he's a bit short.

Race 8

1 Mile / Pace • W/o 5 - NW 10 EXT PM LT

(3) NOSMALLTALK IR had plenty of pace last time but was handed an impossible trip locked from the pocket. As long as that doesn't happen here he's probably fine. (9) SHOOTING IN PLACE has quick times up at Hoosier on the page to potentially hurt his price, but he's a puzzle to me. This looks like a spot where he can and should have to blast, but he also has abandoned leaving into strong speed. Either way, this horse should be competitive against this group on his lines, the post just obfuscates how he'll work into the race. (4) STRANGERINTHENIGHT gets a better post to fire to the lead and roll. As long as he can get to the top and get a breather, he's got a good mile in him. (5) SOMELOUSOMEWHERE has been competitive in spots like this when he can find a trip and he may be able to find one drawing the center of the gate.

Race 9

1 Mile / Pace • NW \$6,500 L4 CD

(1) IAM THE CAPTAIN A returns to Oak Grove off a solid tightener up at Hoosier. He paced a great mile winning at this level on June 8 and maybe has another one like that in him with this good draw. (6) UNIVERSAL makes his first start off the claim following a torrid mile on the lead to just miss to a classier horse in Handsome Stranger. As a speed type he still gets desperate in the last sixteenth for the finish, but he could do okay trying to air out the field with quick fractions again. (7) DEAL THE ODDS folded from a first-up push last time but did do tough work in that third quarter to tire. He appears more level with the top ones in the group here but is burdened by the outside draw. Quick fractions to roll into should suit him, though. (4) SEA OF LIFE drops in class off a simple line from an impossible spot. Now's the time for him to show whatever backclass is on offer from Shenandoah Downs since he gets a better post.

Race 10

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

(5) DISMANTLE appeared outclassed in KYSS action but put in efforts that should be competitive in a race like this where he figures to work a stalking trip. He just has to stay smooth off the gate. (4) BEYOND COOL had too much to do from a wide draw last time and kept plugging for third. He's the obvious one inside of this race especially with post improvement, but this is also his first race in a month so we'll see how tight he is in the warmup. (9) IN A MINUTE comes in from lines at Hoosier and Scioto that should be competitive in this race, but the outermost post is a difficult spot for this horse that appears to have just alright gate speed. Same time, Miller has been great at picking these kinds of spots so we'll see I guess. (6) CHANCE AND DOC goes back on Lasix and returns to a class where he can actually be competitive. He should fire off the car and have a chance to hit the ticket.

Race 11

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

(8) FIGHTFORYOURRIGHT finds a weak field and can easily blast off and roll from this draw. He's done well when landing in this bottom level. (1) LYLE had every chance to go the distance last time but tired to third with an even push to the finish. He at least draws well again to get forward, but he's by no means the strongest speed of this race. (9) DRAGON PERFECT has done well when dropping to this level in the past and has a solid brush in his toolkit, but the outside post will make the path forward a bit tricky. (3) JOINT ACCOUNT could be more involved on the class drop, especially since the majority of this group stays pretty level through the race. He does best when the fractions are even all the way around, which could make him an exotic contender here.

Race 12

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

(3) RK'SMACK finds a soft group after contending with tougher in the NW2 and conditioned claiming ranks. She also gets a good post to punch forward if the speed flatlines late. (1) SHAKEANERA is supposed to take this field around in theory. Pylon post has proven tricky to make great speed from and she's seemed to find more life racing off the pace at times. This level has been her bread and butter for the last few years, so the fact that she could take a lot of play from some lines against much tougher makes her a bit less appealing. (4) CLAIREDELOU worked a great trip but kept bearing in when trying to rally by tired horses late. She ultimately lost to a classier horse in Anns Marina Delray and an alright one in Mel's Vicki Lou, so all depending on how the main factors show up here she should remain a threat. (2) SIDE EFFECTS kicked home well in a slow back half to get a piece but maybe she can fire home just as well in a more even race with this inside draw?

Race 13

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

(5) SOAPY CELEB ships from Scioto off a win with speed that should crush this group, as long as that Scioto form carries over. (7) VARIANT has solid gate speed to use and gave strong chase to finish second when last at Oak Grove to Prince Willie, who has since gone on to tackle KYSS company. She should be forward but will have to find a bit more when it comes to pouncing past horses late. (3) HIGH PROOF has gate speed to use and this seems like the prime spot to use it. I'm unsure what equipment broke last time but she worked into a great spot on debut before choking back because the leader got stuck on a line through the turn. Great value use for the gimmicks. (2) KOUNTRY JOY got third one time here at Oak Grove which is pretty cool I guess. She doesn't seem that fast but will probably appreciate leaving the tighter fair tracks for this surface. She maybe hits the ticket.

Race 14

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

The last one. Wow. What a season. Nearly 500 races later, we end it on this: a NW 1 conditioned claimer. As we should. (6) TELLROSETOGETREADY had sneaky pace from a ground-saving trip on debut and rolled home well once shaking free. She admittedly was aided by slow fractions, but who's to say she won't have as much to offer in a slightly quicker race? Who's to say this race goes fast at all? (4) SUMMA LUCK drops into the claiming ranks, which has proven a strong move through the meet. This is his first start in a month, so as a possible chalk proceed with caution. (1) ROCKING JK has raced well through four starts but also has done most of his best work in soft pace races. He at least draws inside to maybe make something happen with a trip. (9) CRUZINBEST has gate speed to use from the wide draw and has a potential tightness advantage having raced down in Mississippi in late June. He's been competitive at this level with his speed, so he'll definitely try to roll from here.

SHEET STATS

2026 STATS (33 DAYS)	WINS	TOP PICK	2ND PICK	3RD PICK	4TH PICK	ALL PICKS
# OF RACES	447	167	78	56	55	356
WIN %		37.36%	17.45%	12.53%	12.30%	79.64%
RETURN	(\$894)	\$813.84	\$532.62	\$761.96	\$849.74	\$2,958
ROI %		-8.97%	-40.42%	-14.77%	-4.95%	-17.28%
AVG RETURN		\$4.60	\$5.79	\$8.86	\$12.50	\$7.94
MEDIAN RETURN		\$3.42	\$4.21	\$5.88	\$6.92	\$4.40
AVG ODDS		2.76	6.54	9.25	16.50	8.76
MEDIAN ODDS		1.53	4.01	5.90	11.38	4.54
MULTI-RACE BETS	# OF HITS	TOTAL COST		TOTAL RETURN		ROI
PICK 5	4/56	(\$505.40)		\$448.73		-11.21%
PICK 4 (\$1 BASE)	7/49	(\$698.00)		\$565.28		-19.01%