



The Players' Guide

your comprehensive guide to tonight's races

Saturday, May 16, 2026 • Race Day 33

Today's selections and commentary by: James Witherite

Full-Card Selections

1	6-4-5-7	5	1-5-6-7	9	3-7-2-8
2	7-6-5-3	6	3-5-1-4	10	9-7-5-6-3
3	5-3-6-7	7	4-5-2-1		
4	7-6-4-2	8	5-3-2-8		

50¢ Late Pick-4 Play

Race 7: 2, 4, 5
Race 8: 2, 3, 4, 5, 8
Race 9: 2, 3, 7
Race 10: 9
Total Stake: \$22.50

Wagering Highlights

50¢ Pick-4s
races 3-6 and 7-10, 15% takeout

50¢ Jackpot Hi-5
final race
\$1,294 carryover

Race 3

Pace • NW 2 Ext. PM Races or \$12,500 Lifetime

5 - SUNFIRE ALERT seeks his third straight win after staving off pressure for odds-on scores in his last two at the level. He's hit the exacta in all but one of his starts — the lone exception saw him pass tired foes from astern and post a :27.2 sprint home. He's lightly raced compared to some of his foes here, but he's got a huge toolbox. 3 - OLE MISS REBEL hasn't won since stepping up to this level two starts back, but he put together sustained overland bids for both his N1L scores. Credit his stout first-up push through the far turn last week. Trending upward. 6 - NIFTY HILL is following a similar trajectory as Ole Miss Rebel: two wins over N1L company before rising. In his first try at this level, he blasted from post 7, cleared, yielded, and was one-paced behind Sunfire Alert. Griffith's been heating up, too — he posted his first-ever hat trick on Thursday. 7 - WICKED VALUE debuts for Foster on arrival from The Meadows. He showed glimmers of staying power for minors in tougher N2L fields there earlier in the year. Can share here, too.

Race 5

Pace • Winners 2-3 Ext. PM Races Lifetime

1 - ALWAYS GAME reached from an earned pocket two back and just missed from a similar spot last week despite throwing down a :27.4 last quarter. Pole should keep him sharper in the late going; there's no denying his form since he arrived from Dover. 5 - TRUSTED FRIEND shows a win and a second at this level, both from well off the pace. Powerful closer is proven, but will he have enough pace pressure to rally into? Be particularly wary of underlay potential. 6 - WATCHMAKER invades from the Maritimes following a pair of respectable staying efforts for minors in conditioned fields. PEI shippers tend to step up on arrival to the States, and he debuts for a trainer clicking at 20%. 7 - AYR CORLEON GB is a logical player in deeper exotics given demonstrated staying power at the level. If he's got clear sailing, he's more than capable of nabbing a minor from any trip. Reunited with Roberts.

Race 8

Pace • NW \$2,500 Last 4 Starts or TM Rating < 73.25

5 - IMAGINARY LINE raced well under pressure last week, all things considered, giving way only in the final 150 yards. The DQ came after he crossed down to the pegs prematurely on the first turn and forced Honky Tonk Flame, the very horse who stung him on the far turn, to steady abruptly. He showed a lot better fight late in the mile, and under tougher pressure, to boot. 3 - EVERYTHING B COOL flew home around rivals and was elevated to third last week, but into hot fractions. The start before, he made belated gains too for third. Late rallies to hit the board at double digits after laboring in pursuit of tougher make him a prime value player, and a little more live of a flow could carry him the rest of the way in a race with many credible candidates. 2 - MARCUS SEELSTER moves up in class in his Rosecroft return after reaching the board from off the pace in both starts on this side of a winter layoff. Post relief can aid; gains Roberts. 8 - DANGER ZONE had no chance in pursuit of a hot pace last week but stayed even for minors against tougher earlier in the spring.

Race 10

Pace • NW \$6,750 Last 4 Starts, 10 Races, or \$75,000 Lifetime

9 - LAYTON HANOVER has been a mainstay in the Open ranks this meet and has ground out over \$2,300 per start while racing in the shadows of Spring Blake. He gets a break from the meet's most dominant pacer, but he's saddled with post 9 to offset his edge. 7 - SHEER TERROR did a ton of work to make a bid for the lead at the eighth pole on the drop last week before leveling off. Three and four back, he kept first-over pushes alive to just miss. Roberts opts to stay on over two others. 5 - NATURALBORN LEADER won for \$20k two back and just missed off a stalking trip coming right back. Best when on or near the lead. 6 - BROOKS-FORREAL has to overcome a considerable step up after graduating from the N7L ranks, but his 1:50.3 win before the sun went down last week is the fastest mile on the page.