



The Players' Guide

your comprehensive guide to tonight's races

Thursday, September 24, 2026 • Race Day 4

Today's selections and commentary by: **James Witherite**

Full-Card Selections

1	4-2-5-7	6	1-7-6-3	11	7-1-6-3
2	4-8-6-1	7	2-3-6-4	12	9-1-7-4
3	4-6-3-5	8	2-7-6-1	13	2-7-1-8
4	5-8-1-3	9	5-3-2-1	14	7-3-5-2-9
5	3-4-5-1	10	6-1-7-5		

50¢ Early Pick-4 Play

Race 5: 3
Race 6: 1, 3, 6, 7, 9
Race 7: 2, 3
Race 8: 2, 6, 7
Total Stake: \$15

Wagering Highlights

Two 50¢ Pick-4s
now races 5-8 and 11-14, 15% takeout

50¢ Jackpot Hi-5
final race • \$3,418 carryover

Race 2

Trot • NW 3 Ext. PM Races or \$30,000 Lifetime

4 - ESPECIAL romped in his local debut, and he's now won three of his last five races. He's back in the same class via the earnings provision, and the midpack draw should take away the need for as much early exertion compared to last week. 8 - ZUZU ZOOM debuts for Crescenze after racing at Yonkers this summer, and she's consistently shown mild closing ability to hit the board in over half her career starts to date. That'll suit her well from this wide draw, and the switch to three turns should boost raw speed. Be wary of underlay potential on the drop, though. 6 - PINK VISOR comes in from Philly after being outmatched by N3L types there. While he's 1-for-42 in his career, he's turned in miles that are fast enough to hold his own in this group. Gains Foster, too. 1 - NEGOTIATION worked to protect a no-match second to Especial last week, and he's got the pole again coming right back. Expect a little sharper.

Race 8

Pace • F&M NW \$1,000 Last 4 or TM Rating < 70, Opt. Clm. \$5k

2 - LITTLE JUDITH has been a consistent minor player in \$5k claimers the past couple months but lately has been too far off the pace to pose a credible threat. Last week, she rallied around third-over cover to make up 4 lengths in the last quarter. There's definite upside, and now she drops into a group trying to find form. 7 - HALF A VIRGIN chased well to just miss from the pocket and uncovered in her last two tries, only to be outkicked amid a stout closing push on arrival last week. Roberts gets along with the 33-time winner, and she seems to get over this track quite well. Ramping back up! 6 - ROLL THE MUSIC gave way to late pressure at evens in her first start in four months. Expect sharper second out. 1 - HEART FULL OF SOUL could be the X-factor here given class movement, but she's only hit the board once all season — and that came in a similar class at Ocean when she had the pole. Improving raw times could be a sign of improved form, but she needs a better trip to put it to use.

Race 9

Pace • 2YO Fillies, Maryland Sire Stakes (Preliminary #1)

5 - ALL THAT RUSTY tasted defeat in the Ocean series championship for the first time after winning both prelims at odds-on, but looks to bounce back with a cleaner dispatch. This is Morgan's last drive on the program, too. Seek value in exotics. 3 - IF I WIN UWIN got a decent tune-up here last week in N2L company, and she gave pretty good chase behind Princess Di to save third in a failing second flight. She's only missed the board once, and even then, she closed with a flurry from well off the pace to only miss by 1-3/4 lengths. Ample stayer, to be sure. 2 - R U KIDDING hasn't been worse than fourth in her career, and she likewise showed forward motion out of the second flight in the Princess Di race. Kinder draw and smoother start can aid. 1 - PURE ENERGY made two moves to just miss at 20-1 at Ocean three weeks ago after a string of fourth- and fifth-place finishes in stakes and series company. Retains Roberts; pole should aid.

Race 12

Trot • NW \$7,500/WO \$7,500 L4 Handicap, Opt. Clm. \$15k

9 - YALL KEEP DREAMING wired a similar group at Philly in 1:53.2 two back, and he since turned in a sustained pressing bid to only miss the stakes-tested Little Expensive by a length. He's 16-for-23; the recent switch back to three turns has helped him regain form. Lots to like on arrival. 1 - BAYSIDE CUE was a good second from an earned pocket behind Sinatra De Vie at this level last week, and he's enjoyed steadily good form over the past few months save for a failed bid at Harrington two back. Another handy draw should help him stay sharp late in the mile. 7 - YALL JUST LOVE ME worked to win over upper-level conditioned types at Ocean two back, but he tired in the stretch and was just headed for third by a neck on arrival. Back with similar, and he avoids the outside group via the optional tag. 4 - CREEKSIDE PETE was fourth or better in his last three tries at Ocean from close tracking trips, and now he bumps up mildly. The 39-time winner isn't lacking for staying power or back class. Can share with similar.