



The Players' Guide

your comprehensive guide to tonight's races

Monday, October 5, 2026 • Race Day 7

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

Full-Card Selections

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

50¢ Late Pick-4 Play

Race 10: 1, 2, 5
Race 11: 1
Race 12: 1, 4, 6, 7, 8
Race 13: 3, 4, 6
Total Stake: \$22.50

Wagering Highlights

Two 50¢ Pick-4s
now races 5-8 and 10-13, 15% takeout

50¢ Jackpot Hi-5
final race, \$1,055 carryover

Race 1

Pace • Open Handicap

6 - ICACO HANOVER won on a speed mission last week after a strong no-match second to Lou's Starr's track-record 1:49 mile the week prior. He's been a consistent contender for the Fosters this season and has proven his ability from the point, the pocket, and off a helmet alike. 5 - DON'TMESSWITHLES comes out of the same race, where he floated forward from post 9, pressed up the backstretch in a :26.2 individually-timed third quarter, and stuck around for second to Icacoo Hanover. He's hit the board in all three starts since arriving from Philly, and he's done significant work on each occasion. Lots to like about this guy, too. 3 - ON THE CARDS N parried pressure to beat winners-over types at Ocean three back but has been a victim of traffic trouble in both local tries this fall. Clearer sailing can help him make better use of late pace.

Race 3

Pace • NW \$2,500 Last 4 Starts

5 - TONY BABE pressed stoutly up the backstretch and into the far turn last week before being rebuffed by 1-5 winner Full Send. He's back with similar after that much improved effort second out off the drop. 2 - HONKY TONK FLAME didn't lack for pace from the back of the pack against tougher in both starts since arriving, but was simply too far out of contention to pose any sort of threat. Now, he gets further class relief — back to his most recent winning level — and a plum inside draw. 8 - VIRGIN BOY made mild inroads for minors at 30-1 or longer in both starts since arriving from Ocean. Back with similar again; key to value in deeper exotics if able to maintain trajectory. 3 - VERTICAL SPEED steps up in class, sure, but he put together a good rally in the final furlong to save a no-match second to Keystone Doral last week. After being pinned in through the far turn, he found room off the corner and willingly passed foes. A little trip help on this step up can help him crack exotics.

Race 8

Pace • Winners 4-6 Ext. PM Races Lifetime

3 - JUST CHASING TAILS cleared, yielded, and stayed on to save second as Watchmaker crowd forward to a 43-1 upset score last week. Prior to that, he closed steadily for second, and he brshed and edged clear three back. Consistency and versatility give him the edge. 6 - WATCHMAKER did post a 43-1 upset last week with the addition of Lasix, but he'd been hit or miss to that point. Was last week a one-and-done, or will he continue trending upward? Mind value. 5 - HILARIOUS HANK was too far away to threaten last week out of post 9, but he showed pressing and stalking ability in past assignments. Minor option with a bit of trip help. 2 - FREDERICKTOWN LAD rises into a fairly proven upper-winners group after he parried outside pressure to prevail last week. He's got pretty stout form right now, and he shows ability to take air.

Race 12

Pace • Claiming \$7,500

4 - SHANE ADAM was embroiled in a duel with Tru Lou for 7f last week before tiring off the home turn. The start before, Moscow Mitch just narrowly got the better of him, and he lifted to win at this level the week before that. Post relief and a lack of inside speed both bode well for the 48-time winner. 1 - LEW NOT LOU failed to sustain a three-wide push into the far turn after stalking that extended baddle last week, but he lifted for second the start before. Pole keeps him much handier; Foster opts to remain aboard. 8 - TRU LOU took a ton of pressure from Shane Adam last wee kbut still had enough to hold second. The start before, he rallied belatedly around foes for third. Trending upward; good mid-price option for exotics. 6 - UNDRTHSOUTHRNSN N crosses over to claimers after even efforts for minors in a pair of second-level races. Raw speed is among the best in this group.