

Del Mar · 2026-11-20 · Races 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 — Ciaran's Notes

Late Pick 3 — R6–7–8 · $3 base · $42 total

8,7 / 5,4 / 8,7 = $24

5 / 5 / 8,7 = $6

8 / 6 / 8,7 = $6

8 / 5 / 4,10 = $6

Late Double — R7–8 · $5 base · $35 total

5,4 / 8,7 = $20

5 / 4,10 = $10

6 / 8 = $5

Horses for each race—in preference order

Race 1: 4,5,3,2

Race 2: 3,6,4,2

Race 3: 8,4,3,2

Race 4: 5,7,4,6

Race 5: 12,9,1,8

Race 6: 8,7,5,4

Race 7: 5,4,6,1

Race 8: 8,7,4,10

Race 1: Maiden Special Weight, 1 Mile, Dirt

Five-horse field and Moonflight is the lone confirmed speed. Mixit already showed he can sit just off him, while the Baffert firster is the wildcard.

#1 **Absolution** (4-1) — Does his best work late, but with only one established speed he may be waiting on Moonflight to come back. Baffert is 30% dropping from 30 starts and 28% in maiden specials from 500+ starts, and JJ is on fire here at 29% from 30+ rides. Still, he is 0-for-3 and feels more like an underneath horse than a win use.

#2 **Grand Indian** (12-1) — Started slowly last time and needs a much cleaner break. Tied for second on last-race late pace, so there is a little price appeal, but the route angles are rough: Kitchingman is 0% first time at a route from 16 starts and 0% sprint to route from 17. Price backup. USE.

#3 **Zizo** (8-5) — The obvious firster. Baffert is 35% with first-time starters from 60+ starts, 34% with debut maiden special weights from 220+ starts, and 29% with debut runners at a mile or longer from 14 starts. The Nov. 12 gate work was good too: 5f in 59.4, 3/27. Backup, but clearly one to use.

#4 **Mixit** (2-1) — This is the one I want. He finished second against similar last time, sat behind Moonflight and finished ahead of him, and he owns the best last-race speed plus the top late-pace figure. Sadler is 38% at the meet, and the Sadler-Rosy combo is 27% from 20+ rides in the last 60 days. First choice.

#5 **Moonflight** (3-1) — Lone speed and the main danger for me. If Berrios gets to ration that speed, this one can take them a long way, and the recent form fits well enough. The knock is that Callaghan is 0 for 7 in the last 30 days and 0 for 6 with second-time route runners. One more thing: the Nov. 13 work was 4f in 49.6, just 63/79. That is a slow work... not much encouragement there. Main use, not my top one.

Picks: 4 Mixit, 5 Moonflight, 3 Zizo, 2 Grand Indian

THE CRAIC

Mixit is the main opinion. Moonflight is the other proper win horse because he may get loose again, while Zizo is the backup firster you still have to respect. Grand Indian is the price saver only. Absolution can hit the frame, but I am not adding him to the win spread.

Race 2: 5 furlongs, turf, Maiden Claiming $50,000

Sharp little turf sprint. There is enough early pressure here with Padel Addict, Tokala and Mad Pursuit all wanting to be handy, so the main question is whether the speed holds or #6 gets the setup.

#1 **Loveontheleftbank** (4-1) — Needs a softer trip than last time after coming under pressure late. The turf mark is the problem: 0-for-11 with one second. Ellis is 17% in maiden claimers from 6 starts, but 9% on this distance/surface from 10+ starts and 9% off a 1-2 month freshening from 20+ starts. Underneath only.

#2 **Tokala** (8-1) — One of the pace players, and the jock needs to ration that speed. Hanson is 18% when dropping from 50+ starts and 12% in maiden claimers from 90+ starts, with a good little 33% current meet mark from 6 starts. Escobedo is less convincing on turf at 8% from 40+ rides. Backup only, but I get why he's on the ticket.

#3 **Padel Addict** (5-2) — Best last-race speed, best early pace, and Umberto fits a five-furlong turf horse. The layoff is the question after 258 days away, though D'Amato is 23% off 6+ months from 50+ starts, 22% when dropping from 50+ starts, 17% second time Lasix from 180+ starts, 14% MSW to maiden claiming from 10+ starts, and 17% maiden to maiden claimer from 60 starts. Umberto is 22% on this surface/distance from 90 starts and 22% on turf from 210+ rides. Main one to beat if ready. First choice. Trainer is 17% from 150+ starts with second-time Lasix.

#4 **Mad Pursuit** (8-1) — Class relief and first time in for a tag give him a look, and he does own the best current-class figure in the field. Baltas is only 9% when dropping from 30+ starts, but 18% MSW to maiden claiming from 10+ starts, 16% first-time maiden claiming from 20+ starts, and 12% in maiden claimers from 40+ starts. Backup win use, not a horse I'm leaning on heavily.

#5 **Santa Monica Beach** (3-1) — Big layoff at 447 days, first turf try, and first time for a tag. O'Neill has some angles that fit - 33% MSW to maiden claiming from 30+ starts, 28% in maiden claimers from 100+ starts, and 21% first Lasix from 60+ starts - but he is only 12% off 6+ months from 40 starts, 11% dirt to turf from 60+ starts, and 10-11% first turf depending on the printed condition set. Rosy is hot here, but at 3-1 I'd still rather let him beat me.

#6 **This Name's Taken** (5-1) — The closer of the main players and the obvious alternative if the speed gets pressured. Best last-race late pace in the field, and D'Amato is 23% off 6+ months from 50+ starts, 22% when dropping from 50+ starts, 24% in maiden claimers from 40+ starts, and 17% maiden to maiden claimer from 60 starts. The niggle is the rider combo: 0% with Jara from 9 starts, and only 1 ride together in the last 60 days. Still, Jara is 20% with pressers from 260+ rides, and that Nov. 16 Del Mar 4f in :47.4, 2/12, says go. Main use.

#7 **Raheeba** (12-1) — Price underneath if you want one, but 670 days on the bench is a lot to forgive. Barocio is 14% off 6+ months from 7 starts and 17% when dropping from 10+ starts; the other side is 0% on this distance/surface from 6 starts, 0% in maiden claimers from 1 start, and 0% with second-time starters from 6 starts. Limited race evidence and a long absence. I'd keep her underneath only.

#8 **I'm Lovestruck** (20-1) — Hard to make the case on what she's shown, and the barn angles do not help. Baker is 0% first turf from 7 starts and also 0% first on grass from 12 starts, with 0% second after a claim from 10+ starts; the one usable stat is 13% second off the layoff from 40+ starts. There was a sharp 5f bullet in :58.2 on Oct. 12, but the afternoon numbers and rider stats are still poor. Pass for me.

Picks: 3, 6, 4, 2

THE CRAIC

Padel Addict is still the main opinion. He has the best speed, the right rider, and the layoff stats to survive the break. This Name's Taken is the proper backup and the one I want if that early pressure tells late. Mad Pursuit and Tokala are the smaller win backups, not equal to the top pair. Loveontheleftbank and Raheeba are underneath types only; Santa Monica Beach is the short one I'm happy to oppose for the win.

Race 3: 1 Mile, Dirt, Claiming $16,000.

Springline and Giggle Giggle look like the main speed, and there are enough other forward types nearby to keep this honest. That gives the race a chance to set up for a stalker or closer, if the front pair don't get too comfortable.

#1 **Can't Say That** (3-1) — Second against similar last time and tied for 2nd on best comparable speed, so the race fits. Papaprodromou is 24% in claiming starts from 180+ runs, and Rosy is 26% at the meet. The worry is the latest drill: 4f in 53.2 on Nov. 6, 54 of 54. That is a slow work... not much encouragement there. Underneath only.

#2 **Springline** (7-2) — Recent third fits, and she ranks 1st on average class over the last three starts. Hanson is only 5% moving horses up in class from 55 starts, though he is 33% at this meet from 6 starts, and Ayuso is 21% in routes from 125 rides. One of the obvious pace players. Backup.

#3 **Wildfire Princess** (5-2) — Class relief helps, and she is tied for top last-race speed. JJ is on fire here at 29% from 30+ rides, and Hess is 27% with him from 11 starts; JJ is also 24% in routes from 100+ rides. Obvious horse to beat on paper, just not the writer's top pick. Backup use.

#4 **Busy Making Munny** (6-1) — Second last time and tied for top last-race speed, with the best Prime Power in the field as well. McCanna is 25% sprint to route from 16 starts and 20% at this distance/surface from 40+ starts, which helps, though the barn is 0 for its last 5 in the last 30 days. Main use.

#5 **Fun to Run** (15-1) — Has tactical speed and ranks 2nd on last-race early pace, so she can put herself in the race. The negatives stack up, though: Gomez is 0% moving horses up in class from 21 starts and 0% sprint to route from 20 starts, while Americano is 0 for 20 at the meet. Underneath only.

#6 **Skyexpress** (20-1) — Back off 74 days and only tied for 3rd on last-race late pace despite modest overall figures. Mendez is 7% with horses away 46-90 days from 54 starts, 0% moving up in class from 11 starts, and 4% in claiming races from 24 starts. Would surprise.

#7 **Giggle Giggle** (8-1) — Class relief gives her a look, and she is one of the main speed horses. The problem is the barn profile: Baker is 0 for 5 at the meet, 6% in claiming races from 50+ starts, and 5% in routes from 300+ starts. Last-race late pace is also last in the field. Underneath only.

#8 **Dats Ms. Blame** (6-1) — Best late runner in the field, 1st on best comparable speed, and 1st on last-race late pace. O'Neill is still 22% in claiming races from 300+ starts, even if this meet has been quiet at 8% from 26 starts. Meeks is 22% in his last 30 days from 20+ rides. First choice if they go quick enough up front.

Picks: 8 Dats Ms. Blame over 4 Busy Making Munny, then 3 Wildfire Princess and 2 Springline as backups. Underneath only: 1 Can't Say That, 5 Fun to Run, 7 Giggle Giggle. 6 Skyexpress would surprise.

THE CRAIC

Dats Ms. Blame is the one I want at the price if this pace gets contested. Busy Making Munny is the main alternative and the stronger horse to use alongside her. Wildfire Princess and Springline are backup win uses, not equals with the top pair. Can't Say That, Fun to Run and Giggle Giggle are more for underneath coverage, while Skyexpress is a reach.

Race 4: 5 furlongs, turf, Maiden Special Weight

Almost the whole field is starting out, so this comes down to who is ready first. Up for the Hunt is the lone horse with race form; otherwise it is mostly workout and barn judgment.

#1 **Grounding** (8-1) — Some ability in the drills, including 4f in 47.4 on Aug. 31 and 3f in 35.6 from the gate on Nov. 16. The concern is the debut turf angle: the barn is 9% with first-time starters from 23 and 0% first time on turf from 15. Underneath only.

#2 **Shahara** (12-1) — Haley is 0% with first-time starters from 27, 0% debut turf from 2, and 0% in maiden special weights from 16. The Nov. 6 gate work was 4f in 49.2, 8/20, and there are some slower ones back there too, including 4f in 50.4 on Oct. 17, 15/21. Hard sell for the win.

#3 **Omtrack** (12-1) — Same Haley debut profile as #2, and that is not helping. The latest was 5f in 62.2 from the gate on Nov. 6, 11/14. That is a slow work... not much encouragement there. Not a win use.

#4 **Pravian** (4-1) — Useful backup. Puype is 21% with firsters from 14, though only 9% in maiden special weights from 40+ starts in one table and 14% debut turf from 20+ starts in the other set. The work tab is mixed, but 4f in 48.0 on Nov. 13, 17/79, was one of the better recent moves.

#5 **Happy to Buy** (5-2) — Top choice. Sadler is 16% with first-time starters from 30+ starts and 16% with debut turf runners from 50+ starts, and he is 38% at this meet from 13 starts. Rosy is 26% at the meet and 27% with this barn over the last 60 days, 26 starts. Latest gate drill was 4f in 48.8 on Nov. 15. Main use.

#6 **Up for the Hunt** (20-1) — The price horse. He is the only one with race figures, and they stack up best among the active runners, but there are real catches: 161 days away, 0-for-7 on turf with no seconds, and the barn is 0% off layoffs of 90+ days from 41 starts. Stortz is also 0% in maiden special weights from 8 and 0% at this distance/surface from 9. Price backup. USE.

#7 **Easy Motion** (3-1) — Main alternative to the top pick. Koriner is 18% with firsters from 11 in one set, 12% from 50+ starts in another, and 19% in maiden special weights from 30+ starts. The work tab is good enough, especially 4f in 47.2 on Nov. 9, 3/44, and the latest 2f in 24.6 on Nov. 15. Main use.

#8 **Blazing Grace** (4-1) — Ricky rides for Glatt, and the barn is fine with firsters: 13% from 31 in one set, 15% from 130 in another, plus 20% in maiden special weights from 70+ starts. The latest 3f gate bullet in 35.8 on Nov. 16, 1/15, catches the eye. Usable underneath, but not ahead of the main pair.

#9 **Sifting for Gold** (20-1) — Also eligible, so he needs in first. If he draws in, the case is just that he has race experience and needs a cleaner break than last time. Reassess only if admitted.

Picks: 5,7,4,6

THE CRAIC

Happy to Buy is still the main opinion, with Easy Motion the other win horse I want. Pravian is the saver backup, and Up for the Hunt is the only price coverage that makes sense if you are spreading. Blazing Grace can fill out exotics, but I would not turn this into five equal win uses.

Race 5: 5 1/2 furlongs, dirt, claiming $8,000

Plenty of pace pressure here. Chasing Kat and Ro Town both showed the lead last out, and there are other forward types drawn inside, so this should be honest from the break.

#1 **Sugaree** (12-1) — Price closer. Best last-race late pace in the field, and the case is obvious if the front end gets softened up. The rail is the trick; she needs room at the right time. O'Neill is 22% in claiming from 300+ starts and 38% second after the claim from 20+ starts, while Meeks has been sharp lately at 22% from 20+ rides in the last 30 days. Price coverage.

#2 **Oveta's Hobby** (6-1) — Can sit close without having to blast away, and that keeps her in it. Best comparable speed fits, but the last-out figure was lighter than a few of these. Bratcher is

23% in claiming from 30 starts and 25% for the year from 20 starts, but the mandatory knock is there too: 0% dropping two or more classes from 1 start. Tiago is 14% in sprints from 250+ rides. Underneath more than win.

#3 **Blame It On Abby** (8-1) — Blinkers go on, and Uranga is 11% with blinkers back on from 9 starts plus 40% route to sprint from 5 starts. Rosy is obviously live most days and 26% at the meet from 40+ rides, but this mare still looks light on the main figures. Pass for the win.

#4 **Cheeky Gal** (15-1) — That recent third keeps her in the exotics picture, and she tied for second on last-race speed. Flores is 18% in claiming from 20 starts and 17% in sprints from 40 starts, though 0% third off the layoff from 3 starts is the small worry. Underneath.

#5 **Keep the Pavels** (30-1) — Showed some early speed, then got weary. Rivera is only 5% for the year from 40 starts, 8% in claiming from 100+ starts, and 0% second off the layoff from 20 starts. Tough sell.

#6 **Giant Kid** (8-1) — Forward enough to get a good stalking run, but she did come under pressure late last time and still has to finish better. Jara helps: 20% with pressers from 260+ rides and 21% in sprints from 220+ rides. McLean is lighter, 7% for the year from 100+ starts and 7% in claiming from 80+ starts. Underneath.

#7 **Sexy Blue** (30-1) — Will want to be involved early, but the barn stats are rough. Vega is 0% for the year from 20 starts and 0% in claiming from 7 starts, and the rider is 0% from 6 rides this year. Would surprise.

#8 **Ro Town** (5-1) — One of the main speed players and good enough on class and back figures to matter if left alone for even a moment. Frey comes in off a 16% last-30 run from 50+ rides, and the 4f bullet in :47.6 on Nov. 14 was a nice sign. Trainer numbers are only fair: 9% for the year from 30 starts, 14% in claiming from 190 starts, but 18% off 46-90 days from 60 starts. Backup.

#9 **Eltonsingsanother** (4-1) — Main alternative. Best comparable speed in the field and the class numbers are right there. The catch is the barn is only 3% when dropping in class from 30+ starts, even though Alvarez is 15% in claiming from 60+ starts. Baze is 13% in sprints from 140+ rides. Main use.

#10 **Alix** (15-1) — Does her best work late and has the second-best last-race late pace, so she is at least the right kind if this gets contested. Hess is 25% at the meet from 12 starts, 19% with Ayuso from 40+ starts, and Ayuso is 36% with this barn in the last 60 days from 14 rides. Still deeper use only because she needs the race to come back.

#11 **Rythem Girl** (12-1) — Stalking type with usable class figures, and Americano's overall sprint numbers are strong at 23% from 380+ rides. The meet form is the problem: he's 0-for-20 here, and McLean is 7% for the year from 100+ starts. Deeper saver at best.

#12 **Chasing Kat** (7-2) — First choice. Fastest last-race speed, tied for the top last-race early pace, and she already owns 3 wins from 5 starts over this track. Stute is 43% in the last 30 days

from 7 starts, 43% with last-out winners from 7 starts, and 25% in claiming from 20 starts. If she clears or works out the right outside pressing trip, she's the one they have to beat.

Picks: 12 Chasing Kat / 9 Eltonsingsanother / 1 Sugaree / 8 Ro Town

THE CRAIC

The craic: Chasing Kat is still the main opinion. She has the right recent speed and the barn stats are solid enough to trust. Eltonsingsanother is the danger on class and back numbers, but that 3% class-drop stat from 30+ starts keeps me from flipping them. Sugaree is the price horse I want if they go too hard, while Ro Town is more of a win-backup than a must-use everywhere horse. I do not need to turn the underneath fillers into part of the main spread.

Race 6: 5 furlongs, turf, Maiden Special Weight

Tricky little turf dash: only three with race experience in the main body, and two of those have the obvious speed. The rest are firsters, so trip and tote may matter as much as the paper.

#1 **Cinnamoroll** (5-1) — Firster with a mixed case. Garcia is 8% with first-time starters from 13 and 20% with debut turf runners from 5, but the latest work was 5 furlongs in 63.4 on November 11, 13 of 14. That is a slow work... not much encouragement there. Underneath only.

#2 **Soufriere** (5-1) — Mandella and Rosy will take money, and Rosy is 26% at the meet from 40+ rides. Still, the trainer stats pull both ways here: 0% with first-time starters from 22 in one printed split, 16% from 80+ in another, and 11% with debut turf runners from 38. Last gate work was 5 furlongs in 62.4 on November 12, 21 of 27. Underneath for me.

#3 **Miz Lydia** (8-1) — Jauregui is 10% with firsters from 40 and 20% with debut turf runners from 5, but the shorter samples are rough and the worktab has one real clunker: 5 furlongs in 64.6 on October 19, 13 of 13. Better since, though 61.4 on November 8 was only 22 of 40. Pricey underneath stab at most.

#4 **Mayflower Girl** (6-1) — She has the best current-class rating among the active runners and enough tactical pace to land the stalking trip if the two speeds go on. The numbers say she belongs, but Hess is only 5% dirt to turf from 22 and 4% in maiden special weights from 26. Backup, not a main win use.

#5 **Todayisagoodday** (8-1) — Best last-race early pace in the field, and that makes her dangerous in a 5f race. Hess is only 3% first on grass from 37 and 13% off 90+ days from 115, so there is plenty to prove, but the recent works help: 5 furlongs in 60.4 on November 10, best of 2, then a 4 furlong bullet in 47 on November 15, best of 12. Backup. USE at the price.

#6 **Berkey** (6-1) — Another Mandella firster, and this one has flashed more in the mornings than some of these: a 5 furlong bullet in 59 flat on October 7, best of 5, plus a few earlier quick moves. Even so, the debut stats are the same familiar caution — 0% from 22 in one first-time split, 16% from 80+ in another, 11% on debut turf from 38. Underneath.

#7 **The Whole Truth** (7-2) — The main firster. Umberto is 22% on turf from 210+ rides, and D'Amato is 12% with first-time starters from 17 in one split, 9% from 130 overall, with 8% on debut turf from 72. Worktab is solid: 5 furlongs in 60 on November 8, 5 of 40, then 61.6 on November 14, 5 of 17. Main use.

#8 **Furiosity** (4-1) — The proven one. Best last-race speed, best last-race late pace, and she has shown enough early foot that JJ just needs to ration the speed. Baffert is 31% off the 2-6 month break from 48, 12% dirt to turf from 68, and 13% first on grass from 47; JJ is on fire here with 29% wins at the meet from 30+ rides. First choice.

#9 **Miss Athens** (15-1) — Also eligible only. Cuts back from a route, and Baffert does win 19% going route to sprint from 37. Ricky would not be a crazy draw-in longshot, but she is still just a reassess-if-in type.

#10 **Queenofthewild** (8-1) — Also eligible only. The figures say she would fit if she got in, but she is 0-for-4 on turf and the latest 5 furlong work was 62.2 on November 14, 10 of 17. Reassess if admitted.

#11 **Star Above Me** (8-1) — Also eligible only. Better paper than most of these if she draws in, and Callaghan is 19% second off the layoff from 48, but the profile still comes with questions and she needs a cleaner break than last time. Reassess if admitted.

#12 **Vallendar** (6-1) — Also eligible only. Recent form is respectable enough for a share, but Kruljac is only 5% on turf from 99. If she gets in, she is more exotics coverage than win horse for me.

Picks: 8,7,5,4 (1,2,3,6 underneath; 9,10,11,12 if in)

THE CRAIC

Furiosity is the one I trust most because she has already run fast enough, and JJ/Baffert are obvious positives. The Whole Truth is the firster I want with her. Those are the two I care about most on the win end. Todayisagoodday is the price backup if the speed carries, with Mayflower Girl the stalking alternative. The rest are underneath horses, not more names to keep adding to the main spread.

Race 7: 6 furlongs, dirt, Claiming $25,000

Hot early pressure on paper. Snapshot wants the front, Watch Over Us and Eva Lea should be involved, and Swimmingly looks like the one who can sit just off it.

#1 **Tiosimage** (5-1) — Best comparable back speed in the field, and she's 2-for-2 at the trip. Wright is 23% with horses back in 46-90 days from 90+ starts and 22% in claiming company from 400+ starts, so the placement makes sense. The knock is the recent work: 24Oct SA 5f in 1:03.4, 54/58. That is a slow work... not much encouragement there. Backup only.

#2 **Snapshot** (15-1) — Speedy enough to matter early and the 04Nov SA 5f bullet in :59.6, 1/26 says she is live. Still, this is a class rise, and Baltas is just 5% moving horses up in class from 40+ starts. Price could make her annoying, but I don't want her on the win line.

#3 **Forever N Love** (20-1) — Back after 74 days and moving up in class. Mendez is 7% with horses back in 46-90 days from 50+ starts, and 0% on the class rise from 11 starts. Manuel can win plenty of races, but this one still looks light on figures. Big ask.

#4 **Watch Over Us** (5-2) — Main use. Adds blinkers and owns the best average class figures in the field. Miller is 21% with blinkers on from 10+ starts, and JJ is on fire here at 29% for the meet; they are 33% together in the last 60 days, albeit from only six rides. Obvious player if the equipment sharpens her early position without getting her cooked.

#5 **Swimmingly** (4-1) — First choice. Best last-race speed, best last-race late pace, and the projected trip is the whole appeal here. The rise after the maiden win is fine enough on paper, with Callaghan 20% off a maiden win last out from 15 starts and 17% moving horses up in class from six starts. One reservation: 08Nov SA 5f in 1:02.2, 35/40. That is a slow work. Rosy is 26% at the meet, though, and this setup still fits her best.

#6 **Jasmina** (3-1) — Fast enough to get herself into trouble. She had the top last-race early pace figure and then got weary late, so the jock needs to ration the speed a bit better. Hess is going well enough, 25% at the meet, and his recent combo with Ayuso is strong at 36% from 14 starts. Backup, but a dangerous one if she settles.

#7 **Bear's Board** (8-1) — Third-best last-race speed and comes in off a win, but the class rise is the question. Farias is only 8% moving horses up in class from 12 starts, even though he does better with last-out winners and this distance/surface generally. Underneath only.

#8 **Eva Lea** (6-1) — Can keep herself in the frame, but the barn numbers are hard to love: McLean is 7% for the year, 7% in claiming races from 80+ starts, and 5% at this distance/surface from 70+ starts. Then there is the 08Nov SA 5f work in 1:03.6, 39/40. YIKES. Underneath.

Picks: 5,4,6,1

THE CRAIC

The CRAIC: Swimmingly is the main opinion because she gets the friendlier trip behind the speed and still brings the best last-out speed-and-finish combo. Watch Over Us is the obvious alternative and the main saver, especially with JJ and blinkers on. Jasmina is the win backup if she relaxes better this time, while Tiosimage is more of a price backup than a horse I want to push into the main spread. Eva Lea and Bear's Board are underneath horses, not extra win uses.

Race 8: 1 Mile, Turf, Maiden Special Weight

Plenty of pace signed on for a one-mile maiden, so trip matters more than usual. I want the horses that can finish, with one speed longshot kept around in case the race just falls his way.

#1 **Southern Boy** (30-1) — Started slowly first out and still showed enough to land third-best last-race speed. The barn is 20% in maiden special weights from 5 starts, but only 5% on turf from 22 and 0% in one prior second grass race. Big price for underneath if he breaks better.

#2 **Missed Fortune** (5-1) — Had to steady last time and a cleaner run gives him a chance to improve. George is 27% at this distance/surface from 96 starts, but just 8% in maiden special weights from 281; Americano is 22% for the year and 21% on turf, though 0-for-20 at the meet. Usable underneath, not one I want to lean on to win.

#3 **Enjoy the Ride** (7-2) — Steadied last time and owns the field's second-best last-race late pace. Hanson is going well at the meet, and Rosy is too, but the barn is only 8% on turf from 380+ starts. Fair enough underneath; I don't love him as the win horse.

#4 **Bottled in Bond** (5-1) — Best last-race speed in the field and he did some running late as well. Gaines is 21% with 2-year-olds from 10+ starts and 13% in maiden special weights from 45, with 11% first time at a route from 46. Backup for me, but a live one.

#5 **Simple Majority** (30-1) — Can show speed, and the 11/12 SA 5f in 59.2, best of 6, is the obvious hook. Problem is the rest: Bonde is 0% classing up from 22 starts, 0% first time at a route from 23, and 2% dirt to turf from 44. Deep backup at a price at most.

#6 **Red Raider** (8-1) — Came under pressure late last time and now tries a tougher ask stretching out on turf. Lewis is just 4% classing up from 25 starts, 5% sprint to route from 19, and 5% dirt to turf from 19, even though the broader turf numbers are better. Needs a step forward I can't quite assume.

#7 **Repo** (4-1) — Second at this level last time and tied for best average class over the last three starts. Umberto is 22% on turf from 210+ rides and 23% with early types from 130+, and this barn hits 18% with him from 40+ starts. Main use.

#8 **Is That You Wing** (4-1) — Top comparable speed, best last-race late pace, and the recent form fits this group well. Blacker is only 7% in maiden special weights from 28 and 8% with 2-year-olds from 48, so he is not a free square, but the horse has a 11/6 SA 5f in 1:00, 5/36, and Ayuso is 17% at the meet. First choice.

#9 **Lil Prince Cairo** (10-1) — Did make some late progress last time, but the speed figures still leave him a bit to find. Gaines is fine in the spot, and Jara is 15% on turf from 360+ rides, with a 33% recent partnership figure here from 3 starts. More underneath than win appeal.

#10 **Hallagrey** (15-1) — Fastest last-race early pace in the field and the one obvious speed price. Puype does well dropping with a 25% mark from 20 starts, though the route/turf numbers are more ordinary, and Aguilar is only 5% on turf from 110+ rides. Price coverage if he breaks cleanly and gets brave.

#11 **Tapit's Ghost** (20-1) — Also eligible. Started slowly first out and would need a better break if he gets in. Reassess if admitted.

#12 **D's Four Thumbs Up** (6-1) — Also eligible. Showed some late interest last time and would fit the race on paper if he draws in. Reassess if admitted.

#13 **Fully Favorable** (12-1) — Also eligible. Recent third gives him a case if he gets into the body of the race, but the barn stats for this kind of move are light. Reassess if admitted.

Picks: 8 Is That You Wing over 7 Repo. Then 4 Bottled in Bond and 10 Hallagrey as the backup pair. Underneath: 1 Southern Boy, 2 Missed Fortune, 3 Enjoy the Ride, 9 Lil Prince Cairo. AEs 11, 12, 13 only if admitted; none are part of the main win spread as drawn.

THE CRAIC

The craic: Is That You Wing is still the main opinion. Best finishing numbers in the active field, solid recent drill, and this looks like the kind of mile where sitting just off it can matter. Repo is the clear alternative and very much a win use, not just a saver. Bottled in Bond is the backup I respect most if he builds off that last-race speed figure, while Hallagrey is the price coverage because his speed gives him one clean path to outrun the number. The others are underneath horses for me, not more names to keep stuffing onto the main line.