

BATAVIA DOWNS HOT PICKS SPECIAL EDITION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 – POST TIME 5 P.M.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PICK 5 / \$5,000 GUARANTEED POOL

Race 1: Competitive races throughout, so there's potential for a very nice payout. **3-SUGAR SHOCK** should show speed and did wire a Class B field on Sept. 5. **5-VIVA LAS VEGAS N** also can flash speed, while **4-YANKEE CLOUT** (camera shy, for sure) and **6-MAKEMEALLEGEND** have good closing ability. The **1-THE LONGEST YARD** is the morning-line favorite, and if he's ready to roll, then he absolutely can win. But he hasn't raced all year and they've been trying to get him back to the races since August. He's finally here but question marks abound. Maybe the tote board provides answers. Kevin Cummings could have driven him for one of his main outfits, but chose the No. 5.

Race 2: It's maybe possible to narrow this leg to **3-MY MIND IS MADEUP** (Hot Picks Best Bet) and **2-DRY RIDGE ACE**. The 3 was an easy winner in this class on Sept. 24 and tried much tougher in his last three starts (with no-chance draws in two of those). The Jackson barn also is going pretty well right now. The 2 always races well for Kevin, and just missed in this class with an amateur driver in his last. **1-MC MAN** just isn't sharp. **7-COACH WENDL** is third off the layoff; for long shot fans?

Race 3: **4-HUNT FOR CASH** took a five-race Batavia winning streak to The Meadowlands last weekend to try hard-knocking \$25,000 claimers and got parked three-wide to the quarter, derailing any chance to win. He's the one to beat, and perhaps he's a Pick 5 single. If you don't single, then it's easy to make a case for four others: **1-WINCHESTER PHOENIX** (likely sits the trip), **2-CAPTAIN PARADISE** (dropping from the Open), **3-AVION SEELSTER** (stepping up in class sharp) and **5-TOREADOR GB** (also dips out of the Open).

Race 4: **3-ODDS ON ANUBIS** and **4-CAVIART VAL** tick down the class ladder and are obvious players (even if the 3 is a bit off his game). **1-DECISION DAY** oozes back-class and has been good since he arrived, just not quite good enough to hit the wire first. **6-SURE THING CAPTAIN** has made more than a quarter-million lifetime and ships in from Prince Edward Island for part owner and driver Brett MacDonald. This one may need a local start, but I wouldn't dismiss him too quickly. **7-POINTOMYGRANSON** also drops but the draw may be too much to overcome.

Race 5: Tough race! A case really could be made for six of these, but maybe it can be narrowed to three: **2-ONE CORONA TO GO** is sharp for a hot barn, but Kevin chose off to drive **6-STRANGER THINGS**. A curious choice but the 6 is a former Open competitor and perhaps the race will set up for his big stretch kick. **4-MIKI MINAJ** just missed in his Batavia debut, and he could be sitting on a good race after making a late run vs. better last week. **1-CONNOR B** probably needs to trip out. **3-SOUL ASSASSIN** just never wins but also lands in the trifecta seemingly every week. **7-DOUBLE MY CHIPS** can fly home; the problem: Stranger Things has an even bigger late kick.

Possible plays:

3-4-5-6/2-3/4/1-3-4-6/2-4-6 = \$48 (for 50 cents)

3-5-6/3/1-2-4/1-3-4-6/2-4-6 = \$54 (for 50 cents)

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