Seven races on today's program, with three of them on the turf. Once again, we have saved the best for last as we have a big and competitive field of fillies and mares to wrap up the card. Best of luck to all the horses, their connections, and everyone wagering on today's card!
-Ashley Mailloux

R1: The morning line favorite **#2 Silent Contempt** has three starts over the turf, but he's yet to finish better than third. With that said, he faced tough competition in each of those and will be in for his lowest tag over the grass. Since joining the barn of Kevin Buttigieg, he's only missed the board once which was in his first start for the new connections and since then, he's picked up three wins and most recently, a second against this level but over the dirt. With his strong tapeta performances and recent form, he looks like a logical contender here and the barn is always hard to ignore, winning at 32% in 2020. As to be expected, when the races came off the turf last week, **#3 Butterfly Strike** was a scratch. In his most recent, he was rolling late and ended up finishing second to Milwaukee Magic, which was his first start since October. Looking at his turf races, he really has a knack for two turn races. Last year, his only win came at today's distance where he had to work hard but was able to dig in deep late. **#4 Conqueror Galactus (IRE)** was a late scratch here on opening day in a race scheduled for the dirt and then last time out, he was set to race over the turf, but our races were moved to the main track due to heavy rain. Seeing him on the turf today, I think he's found himself in a better spot. He's been working slow over the dirt in the mornings, but looking at his turf races, he's two for two on the grass and those races were at similar distances to today's (six, six and a half furlongs). Obviously it's been nearly two years since he's been on the turf and it appears that he's had a few setbacks, but both of those wins were against much tougher competition.

R2: **#2 Speeding Starlet** recently entered the barn of Elliot Sullivan after spending the past few months down at Tampa Bay Downs with Nick Caruso, who also trains for Bruno Schickendanz. She'll be in for the lowest tag of her career today and while her most recent form has tailed off a bit, she was facing tougher competition. Her better races were in January and February, where she was able to be closer to the pace (only a handful of lengths off the leaders). She appears to have a fitness edge over several in here and with the way horses that spent the winter at Tampa have been running here, she's a major player. **#3 Pasture Curfew** will drop from a very tough allowance optional claimer down to our lowest tag after failing to fire in both her starts this year. She was most competitive last year against claiming company and furthermore, her best races were at two turn distances so she should certainly appreciate the added distance today. She's the only mare in the race with multiple wins here over the main track so that's something to consider. **#4 Classy Scarlett** has yet to hit the board this year in four starts, but she did have one solid race at Turfway Park where she finished fourth and here at FE, she often finds herself picking up minor shares. Last year, she was third three times from four races routing over the turf. She faced better throughout the season and while she's coming into the race off a disappointing turf performance, I expect her numbers to improve on the dirt today.

R3: **#2 Chairman's Venom** finally put it all together in her fifth career start (second for trainer Julie Mathes) here on June 15ᵗʰ when she broke her maiden with authority. She made the lead easily and proved to be much the best. For her, the break made all the difference as she was off slow in her previous race. I think it's very possible that she'll be able to replicate her most recent performance because on paper, she appears to be the clear speed. **#4 Lindatalks** hasn't been seen since late October, where she finished last against non-winners of two lifetime up at Woodbine ($7.5k tag). Looking at her performances at Fort Erie, she's made two appearances and she hit the board in both. She broke her maiden here in early October after getting a good stalking trip and gearing down in the stretch. In her other race locally, she was very far back early on but closed the gap to get up for third. While both of those races were at two turn distances, I think the six furlong distance is a good spot to return to the races off a layoff and from a time perspective, she seems to be training

okay in the mornings. **#5 Miss Tea Blonde** made her first start for her new connections here on June 16th and she finished second to Orbiting the Sky, who was coming in from Penn National. She was simply second best that day. That performance was one of her better ones in recent time and this may be a better level for her compared to other spots that's she has been placed in the past.

R4: **#8 Giantballs of Fire** was absolutely flying late last time out after having to swing wide. He ended up getting up for second, beaten by just half a length. The class relief certainly helped this gelding step up from his other two starts down at Tampa Bay Downs, but the break was also a big part of the equation. He broke poorly in his other two starts and gave the field a sizeable advantage. I like the progression that he's made and the move from five furlongs to today's seven furlong distance should suit him perfectly. **#3 Strolling Posse** exits the same race as Giantballs of Fire, where he finished third. He rated off the two front runners in there and was very consistent throughout but lacked a late kick in the stretch. He's breezed once since that effort (it was a bullet work) and against this group, I expect him to claim at minimum, a minor piece. **#1 Duke of Hearts** only has one start under his belt which came down at Tampa Bay Downs this past April. He faced $16k maiden claimers over the main track and back-peddled. He didn't take much money that day as he was 17-1, but today, I expect him to be lower than that - he's trying a new surface and is dropping significantly in class. It appears he hasn't been in the Sullivan barn for too long, as he breezed at Tampa in late May and then at Mountaineer just 6 days ago, but the barn is always one to watch here and I expect some sort of improvement today.

R5: In my opinion, this race may be one of the toughest we've had all season. There are a few speedy horses in here, as well as some strong closers so it'll be interesting to see how it all plays out. **#5 Sent From Heaven** ran a huge race here on June 16th when he won with ease by nearly eight lengths and posted an 83 Beyer speed figure. That performance was extremely impressive considering how easy he made it look. While he'll likely get some pressure in here from Stolen Identity, who also received an identical Beyer in his most recent race, I think he faced better horses than that one last time out and has also found himself able to close from off the pace in several of his starts, so he doesn't necessarily need the lead. **#1 Kitten's Solution** finally picked up his first win at Fort Erie last time out in a starter optional claiming event. There is enough speed for him to hopefully stalk closely and make his move late and I think with his numbers being slightly lower than a few in here, maybe he'll offer more value than others in here. He loves this dirt course as he's 1-2-1 from four starts and while he has yet to go this short over the main track, he could get a solid trip today. The eleven year old **#4 Colleen's Sailor** was the first two time winner at Woodbine this season and in both trips, he stalked late and closed in time. His most recent win was certainly a step up from his other - even though he had some traffic problems early on in the race, he was able to open up to win by over five lengths in the end. At Fort Erie, he's made two appearances with the most recent being last October where he picked up a win. My biggest concern with this veteran is three races in a month might be too much for him.

R6: **#6 Strategic Vision** played zero games here on June 15th in his first start in over ten months. He took on allowance company for non-winners of two lifetime and drew clear by over 7 lengths in the end. In his races at Fort Erie, when he's made the lead with ease, he's won easily. While I do think he won't be able to sneak away from this field, his two dirt wins here have been from a numbers standpoint some of the strongest in the race and seeing Helen Vanek climb aboard today is a vote of confidence, as she just won with the horse on the rail, Midnite Snackattak. **#4 Get the News** will be making his dirt debut today after picking up his second lifetime win against allowance (N2L) last time out over the turf. When he finally decided to gear down in the stretch, he was almost too late but got the job done. I think the distance should be fine for him, but his dirt works haven't been the fastest in the mornings so his biggest challenge will be tackling a new surface in the afternoon. **#1 Midnite Snackattak** will step up in class today from his most recent race, which resulted in a win. He battled Flash Man around the track and was on the winning end of the photo finish. He's a horse that

is very consistent over the surface and while he's jumping up in class, he's picked up some minor shares against allowance company in the past. I'm not sure he can win today, but he is a major player in the exotics.

R7: **#1 Midnight Brew** won her most recent start here on June 16th against $6.25k claimers at today's distance. She really had to dig down deep to get the win and only won by a slim nose. Today, she'll once against square off with Express Banking who challenged her throughout. Even with that in mind, this mare looks to be extremely tough in here. She doesn't necessarily need the lead early to win, as in her other efforts here she rallied from off the pace, but she's versatile enough to win on the front end. **#2 Ginger Candy** has one start under her belt this year and in that event, she finished third after closing late. Similarly, to her start before that, it seems that some added distance would help her and today she'll stretch out to seven furlongs which is key. If the likely pacesetters set a swift tempo at today's distance, this mare might find herself in the winners' circle. **#5 Annie O'Schiller** made her first start for her new trainer Nick Mileni Jr. two weeks back and in her usual style, she was closing late but could not get to the top three. She might have needed a race and over this turf course, she's been a pretty consistent mare (4-1-3 from 14 starts).