

Fort Erie Selections: Monday, October 24th, 2022

Our final card of the 2022 season features twelve races with our signature Tour de Fort as race 11! To all the horsemen and horsewomen, fans, and horseplayers that have supported the Fort this season, we thank you and look forward to seeing you next season! - Ashley Mailloux

Race 1: #4 Milwaukee Bay has the best figures in the field and while her most recent effort was dull, she did record a solid third two starts back over the mud. With that said, she's a bit unpredictable, but after that poor performance, she's right back in the entries which suggests she might have had an excuse last time out. **#2 Madame in Love** exits a race on October 4th, where she ran a decent fifth in that race. Her dirt efforts haven't been the best, but they were at Penn National and she did improve in her first start for trainer Richard Davis, who wins at 27% with horses making their second start off 45-180 days. **#1 Hippie Chick** enters today's race off a career best effort (42 Beyer, second), but that race was on the turf. Her dirt form isn't the best, but she gets a compact field today.

Race 2: #5 Be the Change sat off a quick tempo last time out and while he couldn't get to Shakoo Makoo in the end, the winner looked extremely tough and Be the Change held his own in the stretch - he was clear of third. He continues to show his consistency, but still is looking for the winners' circle in 2022. **#4 Too Legit** won here last week in his dirt debut at the six furlong distance. After some solid early fractions, he was able to rally late to win by over a length against \$4k claimers (N3L). He stays in for the same tag, but faces more seasoned rivals today. With that said, he did look quite good last time out. **#6 Brady O'Brady** finished fourth behind Shakoo Makoo and Be the Change in his most recent start. Looking at the horses he's faced this season, this spot does seem softer.

Race 3: #4 Hi Ast Power is a first-time-starter for trainer Beverly Chubb. She's by Fusaichi Pegasus and out of a Harlan's Holiday mare by the name of Heidi's Holiday, who won five of her sixty-three starts. Chubb's go-to rider, Juan Crawford has the mount and they've won at nearly 20% the past two seasons at the Fort. Her most recent work (48.60) on the training track at Woodbine was a big step up from her other works. **#7 Cant Beat the Katz** only beat one horse in her debut, but the barn is three for six with maidens second time out and today, she'll be piloted by Melanie Pinto, who is 23% the past two meets with trainer Julie Mathes. **#3 Papa's Silver** has had her fair share of chances to break her maiden and in fact, has hit the board in nearly half of her fifteen career starts. She enters this race off back-to-back second place finishes at five furlongs and today, she'll need a stronger late kick going an eighth of a mile further.

Race 4: #5 Thy Kingdom almost picked up his second career win two starts back, but Paperback Hero passed him to win by a neck. In his most recent start, Thy Kingdom rallied late, but could not get to the winner in the end. With that said, he was forced to go extremely wide which hindered his chances. A cleaner trip could put him in the winners' circle. **#3 C by the Sea** broke his maiden three starts back and since that victory, he's picked up some minor shares. In his last two, he's been coming from off the pace, but hasn't been able to finish in front of Thy Kingdom. **#6 Stormin' Humor** was much the best last time out, breaking his maiden by five lengths. While the turn around is quick, he could be a threat today with his early foot.

Race 5: #2 Dilettante ran quite well last time out and attempted to reel in Jack Beanstalk, but was unable to. His local dirt efforts have all been strong and he appears to be a step above several here. Jockey Jeffrey Alderson gave him a great ride last time out and he's booked to ride today. **#5 Striking Moon** won here earlier this year and since then, his best finish has been a second. In his last two starts, he missed the board, but he had to tackle tough horses, including the 2022 Fort Erie Horse of the Year, Strong Ending. He's now in the barn of Nick Mileni Jr. and will reunite with Helen Vanek - she piloted him to his lone win this season. **#4 Bahamian Dude** picked up his third win of the year last time out in stylish gate-to-wire fashion against allowance level N3L. He certainly is speedy and while he's jumping up today, his numbers suggest he deserves a shot against the older vets.

Race 6: #3 Loquacious rallied late last time out to get up in time to win the nightcap on October 3rd. He shortens back up today, but the confidence boost last time out is certainly a good thing and he's the type of horse that typically blossoms late in the season. Morning line favorite **#7 Money Matters** was second last time out against \$8k claimers over the slop. He sat midpack early on and closed nicely, but could not reel in Big Time Louie. He finds himself in the softest spot of his career today. **#8 De Only Solution** failed as the favorite last time out on the turf and while his dirt form isn't stellar this season, he has faced some of the toughest dirt runners here at the Fort. Chris Husbands has the mount which is certainly a positive sign.

Race 7: #3 Wicked Crazy has proven to be a great claim for owner/trainer Nick Mileni Jr.. In his first start for the barn, he tackled maiden special weight competition and won by over three lengths and last time out, he picked up another win. He's wheeling back to a one turn distance today, but he's been able to carve out some nice trips from just off the pace which makes him dangerous against this group today. **#8 Crumlin Experience** tried the turf last time out and he did not break like he did in his previous efforts. On the main track sprinting, he's been quick out of the gate in his two races in September and one of them resulted in a big win. He figures to improve today on the surface switch. **#9 Maximum Danger** picked up his second lifetime win last time out on the turf. He truly caught a flyer out of the gate and moved away from the field. He has yet to win on the dirt and only has two starts over the surface, but his "worst" finish was a third going long here at the Fort.

Race 8: #8 Bettabe Swift could not get to Crumlin Bird last time out, but that filly was a bit closer to the pace and was able to make first run on the pacesetter. That was this filly's first time on the dirt and she seemed to handle it well, despite it being an off track. Chris Husbands stays aboard today which is a positive sign. **#5 Speedy Fire** has been close several times to getting her first dirt win and last time out, she was nipped late and finished second. Based on her local record, toss at your own risk. **#3 A. A. Sweet Chilli** exits the same race as Speedy Fire and that was her first attempt on the dirt. She faltered in the stretch after setting the pace, but she managed to hang on for third. Once again, she figures to be part of the pace scenario.

Race 9: #7 Shambo was a dominant winner last time out - he dueled for a bit early on, but then cleared the field and ended up winning by four and a half lengths. The additional distance from his prior dirt start seemed to be to his liking and the barn wins at 27% off a week or less of rest. **#8 My Boy Christian** made his return to the dirt last time out and he was a distant third - the top two were clear of the field. He does have the most experience in the field and his other starts at the Fort were stronger. **#9 Santiago Salsa** visually ran one of the most impressive races this season last time out - he circled the field, tipped wide, and charged to the front. The runner up, Stormin' Humor, broke his maiden yesterday. It may be tough for this son of Ami's Holiday to repeat today, but he figures to offer value in the exotics and could claim a minor piece.

Race 10: The 2022 Fort Erie Female Sprinter of the Year, **#7 Gimbala**, will try to make her fifth trip to the winners' circle this year. She won two starter optional claiming races in a row before trying the turf last time out at Woodbine. She took a fair bit of respect in that race, but stumbled at the start and failed to close. Returning to the Fort Erie main track, she figures to be extremely tough, regardless of the track condition. **#8 Pino in a Purse** was a distant second last time out at Woodbine on the tapeta, but prior to that she ran a good second on the main track against this level of competition. **#9 Princess Halime** does have one local win on the main track this season, and that was a decisive victory against allowance-level N3L. In fact, she actually beat Super Chianti in that race, who went on to win their next meeting in the Molson Cup. She's made one appearance since the Molson Cup, but it was on the turf at Woodbine. Note the blinkers come off today and Juan Crawford climbs aboard.

Race 11: The Tour de Fort is a test of stamina as it is contested at two miles and seventy yards on the main track. Earlier in his career, **#4 Hiatus** broke his maiden on the tapeta at a mile and an eighth and more recently, he's been a dominant winner in back-to-back dirt routes. He stepped up significantly in his second dirt start and crushed his competition. Trainer Shane Meyers, has raced a few horses here in past years and this year, he sends out his first starter of the meet, **#8 Grandgran**, in this event on closing day. This four-time winner has run well going two turns on the dirt and enters this race off a victory at Thistledown where he recorded a 70 Beyer speed figure. He fought in the stretch last time out and showed his determination and he'll need that today going this far. Eight-year-old **#10 Seventyseven Stone** competed in the 2020 edition of this race and finished third behind Auntie Katherine and World of Prospects. Since then, he's gone on to win four races - three last year and just one from eleven starts this year. With that said, he's usually picking up ground late and has experience at today's distance. **#7 Ice Floe** picked up her third lifetime win last time out and it was her first time going long on the dirt. She was able to get to the lead early and won by five lengths. With that said, she's a filly tackling the boys so she gets a weight break and apprentice Amanda Vandermeersch is set to ride which gives her an additional break. Going this long on the dirt, less weight can make a huge difference.

Race 12: **#9 Is There a Forest** will make her dirt debut after winning her first race of the year on October 13th at Woodbine on the tapeta. It had been over a year since her maiden victory and after claiming minor shares in many of her starts, she was able to get a good trip just off the pace and ran them down late to win in a dead heat. There is plenty of pace in this race which suggests once again, she may get the perfect setup. **#3 Honey Girl** has yet to miss the board on the Fort Erie dirt and finished second last time out behind Jungle Goddess, who skipped over the mud. **#4 Sassywithattitude** has been quick and successful in her last two - she broke her maiden on October 4th and then returned to the winners' circle 13 days later. Her speed is her best asset, but she figures to get some pace pressure today which hinders her chances. With that said, she's still a player in the exotics as she may be able to hang on for a share.