

Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021

Express **Players' Guide**

Best Bets • Expert Analysis

Today's commentary by:

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

Harrah's
PHILADELPHIA

Early Pick-4 Ticket

Race 1: 5
Race 2: 3-6
Race 3: 6
Race 4: ALL

Total Stake: \$12

A Closer Look

This section features more in-depth analysis on selected events from each card of racing at Harrah's Philadelphia, with something for the novice player and seasoned handicapper alike.

Race 2

5 - DARK HORSE seeks a third straight and was one of a rare club Christmas Eve to go against the closers trend that was markedly present that day. He's ready for tougher company in 2022 and his last two months of racing have been encouraging. Makes a good banker in any multi-dimensional ticket. Tetrack returns. 4 - AVALANCHE HANOVER seeks to get back to the better form at level which was enjoyed in early December. May leave, may press. Cozier trip from post four? 3 - UFFIZI qualified well down at Dover and is refreshed. Struggles in Maryland this autumn, but potential and speed control are present. 6 - SOME POWER has struggled in some recent, yet has raced evenly in some of his recent.

Race 5

3 - SPUNKIN'SROCKETMAN raced from last to win narrowly in a fine closing effort at NW 3 and steps up. Racing up into best overall career form at present. Harder group today yet post relief aids. 7 - STORM BRINGER raced well last time and hustles back in for one more race this season. He was a stout competitor against the eventual winning favourite and maintained much better form and position throughout his mile. 5 - ALL THE TRUTH won as favourite up the Turnpike, took part of the month off, and tries a stop at PHL. He has gait issues in his recent past, but if they're as corrected as they appeared last time, we're looking at a much better proposition with a large win chance, even more so if the speed falls apart. Powerful connections all around.

Race 7

5 - TRICKY DICK worked out a terrific reach of the board at over sixty times the money and has been signalling improvement at this higher level of NW action in doing so. Today's price play. 8 - VINYASA has a significant post challenge today but has been able to travel at a level nearly comparable to this one in very productive miles. Allard takes the lines. 3 - DAZZLING REIGN seeks to get back to early autumn form. Some promise was shown on arrival at the level, three weeks off the track. Fresh chances? 4 - GINGERTREE STAKIAS was a vet scratch on Dec. 16, but had been steadily moving towards good outcomes in the level. Lightly-raced sort in all, able to mix tactics.

Race 10

4 - MR TEE gets our nod as a reliable speed presser. Ultra-reliable across the year. Still relatively new to horse racing. May leave mildly. Slim nod. 1 - DINGLE closed up most of her deficit last week and looked about as good as she ever has in doing so. Eleventh career start, last mile looked very much her best of them all. Prime draw, seek value in exotics. 7 - STANFRED qualified well on the 21st. Three weeks off. Post hurts but can leave or float to productive result. 2 - BUCKET HEAD figures as a leading piece of the speed equation. Will also take play. Ginsburg aboard the bike.

Race 12

1 - SEVEN IRON draws favourably and receives class relief. Allard in the bike. What's their plan? A key banker and multiple paths to success look apparent. 2 - WARRAWEE WELCOME gets both post relief and only a slight class increase on his second start back in Philly. Manageable spot, will almost certainly go for the front. 4 - PRAYERS DO MATTER makes a second start off the drop, raced evenly enough in his last; an appropriate fit. 8 - TEDDY BROSEVELT left smartly and always stayed nearby. It'll be tougher from out here but it's doable. The raw speed appears quite enough to play. 3 - KEYSTONE SERGEANT has had recent gait issues but gets a better draw today. A win at the lower level two prior does indicate ability, though. Useful addition, mind tote for price drifts.