

Free expert race picks for harness racing at Rideau Carleton on Sunday, April 24, from Mel Keith

Best Bet – (5) ROLLIN WITH ROCK – Race 2

Spot Play – (9) NATIONAL SPORT – Race 6

20-cent Pick 5 – Race 6 – 1,8,9/1,4,5/2,4/1,2/1,5 = \$14.40

20-cent Early Pick 4 – Race 2 – 5/3,5/1,3,6/1,3,5,7 = \$4.80

20-cent Middle Pick 4 – Race 4 – 1,3,6/1,3,5,7/1,9/1,4,5 = \$14.40

20-cent Late Pick 4 – Race 7 – 1,4,5/2,4/1,2/1,3,5 = \$7.20

Race 1 – (6) MAJOR MOTION won going away from tonight's post February 27; first-over from last at the half; sat single-file third last week, behind (4) MOLLY KOOL, who shadowed Shotgun Jerry here Sunday; she shared card's 27.4 bullet closing quarter with that 1/9 winning fave; Stephane Brosseau's apparent pick over second-tier (9) LIKE LIGHTNING LOU, whom he drove to winning qualifier here April 10; four consecutive October victories at Hippodrome 3R, going undefeated for Jessica Turenne; less success at Rideau, parked first-over in their last 2021 start.

Race 2 – (5) ROLLIN WITH ROCK took new lifetime best in convincing style Sunday; flushed out and followed cover of Sicily Beach on second turn; opened up late in field's-fastest 28.2. (2) STONEBRIDGE HERMES had tough post assignment for last weekend's class jump; front-end-loving gelding had to close from last; also spotted rivals 3-4 lengths leaving, as he didn't catch gate. (6) SIR A left hard Sunday, circling Shes Speechless to land on lead at the card's co-second-fastest 27.2 opening quarter; put away Sicily Beach by mid-stretch; two moves.

Race 3 – (5) DREAMFAIR TECATE looked hopelessly boxed in Sunday; shuffled back from third to near-last by the half; tipped around backpedalling Sagali on final turn; impressive late gains in field's-fastest 28.2. Beaten 3/2 fave (3) DRIVELIKEUSTOLEIT advanced second-over behind eventual winner Wisk Key K last weekend; gained ground late in the fastest mile of his life on a 5/8-mile track; retains Stephane Brosseau. (2) JON SNOW wired from this track's post #3 June 24, his only 2021 win; won 2020 seasonal comeback off the bench (and off the pace) for Mike Armstrong; recently fourth in fastest of three April 17 Rideau qualifiers; first 2022 start.

Race 4 – Class-dropping (1) BARN ONE sat along pylons behind St Lads Cash in what would be Sunday's fastest fractions (27.1, 54.4, 1:23.0); covered up fourth at the half; shuffled back;

individual clocking matched his fastest-ever victory on a 5/8-mile track; seemingly Robert Shepherd's pick over (3) LEVIS DAY, who was stretched out making front by opening quarter Thursday; looked rough-gaited much of race and finally broke at wire, as winner Whats Inthe Esky A passed him. (6) PANTHEON SEELSTER is competitive at this level; outside post #6 is better than #8 and matters less to him on class drop, especially since teamed up with Samuel Fillion, aboard for his latest (Boxing Day) victory.

Race 5 – Beaten 6/5 fave (3) BEST HONEY HANOVER took back to last Sunday, following first-up The Regulator from second-over at the half; when he couldn't clear a gate-to-wire Dylans Bank, she tipped three-wide to close in co-field's-fastest 28.2, running out of racetrack. (7) VANILLA MALTED is not a fan of outside post positions, so watch for scratches; hasn't missed a cheque at this track since November; covered, shuffled back from third past the half Sunday; co-fastest 28.2 last quarter; passing lane bid fell short; John MacMillan stablemate (5) SALTY ROBYN N returns from Mohawk and picks up Guy Gagnon to catch drive; closed well in latest, outsprinting other closers for place; above level of most recent, front-end Rideau victory.

Race 6 – Second-tier (9) NATIONAL SPORT hasn't raced since disappointing February 20; two recent qualifiers have been tighteners for his comeback; wired in Sunday's fastest of three Q miles, opening up in shared 28.3 bullet last quarter; predicting big effort. Front-end-loving (1) LOVEMYROCKINBIRD overtook rabbit Dreydl Hanover at 27.2 opening quarter Sunday; sat pocket behind stablemate Legion Seelster; "loaded with pace" on turn for home; faded in passing lane as hard-charging closers came on, none better than last-to-first winner (8) MAJOR HILL; field's-fastest 28-flat closing quarter; followed second-over (7) THE LIGHT SPEED from the half onward; like top selection this race, Guy Gagnon's gelding prefers front end; tough post assignment. Deep-closing (6) NATIONAL DEBT shared 2021 Rideau Preferred dominance with The Light Speed; new faces have since interrupted that reign; still Pascal Berube's apparent pick over stablemate Major Hill.

Race 7 – (4) SOS JUSTIFIED was under tight lines sitting third Sunday; covered and shuffled back; sprinted home through traffic in co-field's-fastest 28.2; reunited with Pascal Berube, for whom he's had best recent results. (1) TWOMACSONEMACH was claimed two starts ago by Guy Gagnon; debut for new owner/trainer/driver was gelding's fastest victory since 2019, despite class hike Sunday. (5) ATEYATEFNGERSLOUIE closed behind SOS Justified in identical field's-fastest clocking last week; similarly shuffled back as well, ending up last at the half; took passing lane to fourth.

Race 8 – (2) SHINE A LIGHT improved on class jump Sunday; underway third-over from near-last at the half; deep-closing 31/1 shot just missed catching the gate-to-wire St Lads Cash. (4) SILVERADO gets class/post relief after respectable off-the-pace effort Sunday; latest win was front-end trip from #7-hole; gate speed; late vulnerability. (3) WINDSUN CHEYENNE was trapped second-over behind a stalling Outlaw Kismet on final turn April 10; parked most of race, from this track's statistically-worst post for pacers; Samuel Fillion stays loyal.

Race 9 – Second consecutive start with Lasix for (2) SHAZAM BLUE CHIP; closed in a 28-flat last quarter on par with last Sunday's Preferred winner; front-end winner at 5/8-mile Georgian Downs twice last year. Beaten even-money fave (1) RADLEY HANOVER is back at level and post position of latest victory; thought better of exiting pocket to challenge front-end winner St Lads Cash Sunday; overtaken by closers battling for place, including (3) HES GOT A VENDETTA, who draws better; late speed.

Race 10 – (1) LEGION SEELSTER leaves Preferred, where he couldn't hold off quick-closing Major Hill and The Light Speed after making front in Sunday's fastest mile; Marie-Claude Auger catch drives lightly-raced class-dropper. Freshly-claimed (5) SEA LAIRD debuts for Mandy Archer; stalker/closer showed little at Mohawk last Saturday; past success on 5/8-mile tracks, including Rideau, notably in 2020. (3) OUTKAST BLUE CHIP hasn't been able to capitalize on that angle yet; two-time beaten fave on successive class drops; looked ready to overtake first-over Twin B Laker for the win Sunday; instead, both were caught by Rock N Zeus. (4) MONTYSGONEMARBLE draws better than last start; seemingly Stephane Brosseau's pick over (6) HOOTER SHOOTER, who was scratched due to transportation issues April 10; qualified well with trainer in the sulky at Hippodrome 3R last Saturday; racing above level of latest victories.