



SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 20TH

**VIRGINIA DOWNS CREATES
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES**

Racing officials are hoping that Sunday's inaugural Virginia Downs racing card in The Plains goes off without a skip. They already know it will go off without a jump. It's a steeplechase card without the steeplechase races (those come in October) with riders, not jockeys carrying the weight over the flat.

Three of the races are for maidens providing an opportunity for 26 maidens to break into the win column. Considering those three winners would have carried 145 or so pounds certainly won't cheapen their accomplishment.

Sunday's Great Meadow card somewhat resembles an opening week card at the former Colonial Downs course with entries funneling in from a diverse field of destinations, in some cases, from Great Meadow itself in their last start.

Whenever I make picks, I like to do so without the benefit of seeing the morning line odds, as to not distort my zen analysis. In Sunday's six races, Nick's Picks square up with the morning line oddsmaker 5 times including the likely lock of the day, Mr. Hot Stuff in the featured 5th race. That's a formula for value so don't be afraid to drift off the favorite. don't It's unique racing providing a unique opportunity in a unique venue. I wouldn't expect much to go according to plan.

RACE 1 - MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT

6	CELTIC LORD	Cassidy's Celtic had a tough go versus class on the Monmonth turf may find Virginia turf at the right level.
5	MALIBU DREAMER	
1A	MUSHROOM KING	

RACE 2 - MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT

4	ICE WOMEN	Beyer's believers like "Women". I like for other reasons...Street Sense & a strong finish 2 weeks ago.
3	BETE NOIR	
9	PRECIOUS DAUGHTER	

RACE 3 - ALLOWANCE

6	SWOOP	Louis Quartorz's mare spent the summer at Saratoga and Voss is no stranger to gently rolling turf courses.
9	IVY MILLS	
2	WATCH THIS CAT	

RACE 4 - MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT

2	GOLDEN RUM	Firestone's "Rum" wasn't smooth over the jumps but returns with blinkers to Great Meadow where he runs best.
9	JUMP SHIP	
10	MAJESTIC Z	

RACE 5 - ALLOWANCE

4	MR. HOT STUFF	If this race was over jumps I wouldn't change the order, but Johnston's "Stuff" was "Hot" over Suffolk in last start.
2	BAU BAI GOLD	
10	GINOBI	

RACE 6 - ALLOWANCE

1	RENOWN	No need to look past the 1st program page here, but for some this is the time of the day for 2nd page longshots.
3	PLATED	
4	OUT OF THE FIRE	



