

# ***Jim Mazur's***

# ***2024***

# ***BES Day***

# ***EPILOG***

Published By  
Progressive Handicapping, Inc.  
9630 NW 39th Ct • Hollywood, FL 33024  
1-800-272-8039

Copyright © 2024 by Progressive Handicapping, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without the permission of the publisher and author.

First Print Date: May 21, 2024

# Jim Mazur's BES Day Epilog

As is my custom, I always recap the BES and PREAKNESS day cards. Turf course was listed as “good” throughout the day but the dirt was “fast.” Let’s see how things turned out.

## *Selections For Race 1*

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	4	Collection Day (4-1)	Needed a drop into the claiming ranks two back to garner a win. 3-2-1-0 at the distance. Fits here.
<i>Value Plays</i>	2	Game Change (9-2)	First time gelding; has back class. Bullet in the holster.
<i>Bombers</i>	8	Band Camp (8-1)	At first glance may look overmatched but none of these are really bona-fide allowance runners.
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	3	Castle Island (2-1)	Cost \$440k and they just lost him for \$45k. Must have a hole in him or no heart as his record indicates 6-1-3-1.

My BOMBER scratched. My HEADS UP was for naught. **CASTLE ISLAND** ran like a \$440k purchase and won by daylight at even money. Looks like a good claim UNTIL the wheels fall off.

## *Selections For Race 2*

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	7	Tidewater (3-1)	Went head to head with FUN NOTION a few times last year but now has a conditioning edge on that rival.
<i>Value Plays</i>	3 12	Had to Have Him (6-1) Fun Notion (7-2)	Beyers jumped when he moved to turf last out. Probably needs this but still hits the board.
<i>Bombers</i>	13	Chat Blanc (12-1)	Likely will draw in a few spots due to scratches. Ran with first LASIX last out in seasonal debut. Should improve off that effort.
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	10	One Whirlwind Ride (5-2)	Not bred for the turf but his Beyers jumped when he ran 2nd at this trip last out...has severe seconditis...pieces play.

The VALUE PLAYER **HAD TO HAVE HIM** topped MOST LIKELY **TIDEWATER** for a \$35 exacta for \$2. I took a shot on my BOMBER but he didn't fire.

## *Selections For Race 3*

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	3	Without Pretence (9-2)	Lukewarm MOST LIKELY as his effort two races back should win this if he can replicate off the turnback from a route; gets class relief from MSW company.
<i>Value Plays</i>	8	Kake's Arrow (5-2)	Hard to gauge...he's not bred for the turf but ran there in his first three starts. If his Beyers translate over to the dirt, he will win for fun as he drops in for a 1st time tag
<i>Bombers</i>	7 9	Lucky Prince (8-1) Car Ride (5-1)	These two ran 2-5 last out for the same tag. Lucky Prince can run without a tag as he is a Md bred.
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	5	Nielson (4-1)	The likely fave; the trainer has all the right stats and FIRST LASIX is in play but this one cost \$850k and is in for a \$45k tag. Scary from a negative standpoint.
<i>Heads Up #2</i>	2	Irish Hero (6-1)	You will know where to find him...on the lead but he has given it up late in each of this three starts.

From this race, we could tell that the track was biased to the front end types. IRISH HERO had given up the lead in each of his three starts but not today! He wired at 7-2 with the MOST LIKELY running 2nd.

## *Selections For Race 4*

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	7	Rock the Boat (9-2)	Has win over the course at the exact distance of 5f; also has a conditioning edge as he had a tuneup while many of his main rivals are making their seasonal debuts.
<i>Value Plays</i>	5	Dr Oseran (5-2)	On the edges in turf sprint stakes last season. Makes seasonal debut for trainer who can have them ready plus gets back on Lasix and has back speed figs that are competitive.
<i>Bombers</i>	11	Barzini (15-1)	Love the Godfather name but will he ready for his seasonal debut? Trainer bats 18% off long layoffs plus there is a Fair Hill bullet in the holster plus we have a FT gelding.
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	3	Childers (4-1)	Will take plenty of \$\$\$ due to his connections and has the speed figs to win but beware of runner that is 12-2-5-1 life-time...he just might not get there.

I was all in on **ROCK THE BOAT** but he didn't fire! The **VALUE PLAYER** almost got there but PRX shipper **TALENTED MAN** went wire to wire.

## *Selections For Race 5*

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	10	Golden Candy (2-1)	Possibly overmatched in 1st start off claim and now drops back to original claim level and has a bullet in the holster. I note a bit of 2nditis last year for the former trainer...HEADS UP.
<i>Value Plays</i>	3	Take Charge Too (9-2)	Part of a Magee uncoupled entry with POINT DUME. This guy has won two in a row with a major Beyer top in his last. Not surprised if he bounces. Not surprised if he makes this 3 in a row. Has to be part of your Early P5 ticket.
	5	Point Dume (7-2)	Yikes! Another \$450k purchase and former Baffert dropped down to \$30k for the score by Brit-tany Russell. Taken by Magee and then failed routing. Now is gelding and back on Lasix and back in sprint.
<i>Bombers</i>	7	No Easy Days (10-1)	This former \$10k claimer has been tough as nails this winter versus lesser and may be tailing off after two sharp 2nd-place efforts.
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	9	Arden's luckytobe (10-1)	This one definitely looks to be tailing off.

In Race 1, trainer Kieron Magee claimed a \$440k runner for \$45k and scored. He repeated that effort with VALUE PLAYER **POINT DUME**, a high-priced buy claimed for just \$30k. My BOMBER ran 2nd at 6-1, while Magee's other entrant, **TAKE CHARGE TOO** was 3rd.

## *Selections For Race 6*

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	10	Cinder Block (7-2)	Was 3rd at Keeneland in career debut. Sometimes 2nd-out runners regress; sometimes they move forward. Your call here but there is a Fair Hill bullet in the holster.
<i>Value Plays</i>	1	Forceful (6-1)	Top trainer took over for Pletcher on this one and coaxed improvement last time out. It's boom or bust day for this \$300k purchase.
	14	Mr Flowers (6-1)	I have to believe there will be some scratches to allow this guy to move inside a few slots. Hope so because I think he may go out and set the pace for CRABCAKE connections.
<i>Bombers</i>	4	Mission North (12-1)	Blinks come off for a high % CRABCAKE trainer who is getting just his 2nd start with new arrival to his barn.
	9	Polar Bear Plunge (20-1)	Best bred in the field for the turf, this gelding improved in his two on LASIX. Not sure he is fast enough but, at this price, he's worth inclusion in the last leg of the Early P5.
<i>Heads Up</i>	12	Border War (5-1)	NY trainer tries to uncork this one off a year layoff. Has the back speed figs to win this IF he is ready. And that's a big IF.

I've been picking Brittany Russell all weekend, including her **FORCEFUL** as the CO-VALUE PLAYER. But I went ALL in on that one and my BOMBER **MISSION NORTH**. As we've seen so many times, the "other" part of the uncoupled entry does the damage, In this case it was Russell's first time turfer (with an "F" turf SIRE RATING) getting the lead and then never looking back at 13-1 with my MOST LIKELY running 2nd and **MISSION NORTH** picking up the show. Ouch!

## Selections For Race 7

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	6	Paper Mansion (5-2)	This win machine has scored in 7 of his last 8 starts! Look for him to control the pace from the get-go.
<i>Value Plays</i>	1 4 12 14	Naval Empire (6-1) Surya (6-1) Thegirlfromireland (8-1) Galilei (10-1)	Each of these entrants is making their seasonal debuts for trainer who know how to win off long layoffs. If you don't single the #6, then you have to use all four of these VALUE PLAYERS.
<i>Bombers</i>	3	Chelichna (20-1)	Yet another one coming off the bench for a seasonal debut but his trainer is NOT known for scoring off long layoffs. I do note that this runner is 2 for 3 on Pimlico turf.

I started a Pick 5 in this race and used a bunch including the Graham Motion favorite, **SUN BEE**. In a thrilling finish, **SUN BEE (8-5)** nosed my **BOMBER CHELICHNA (35-1)**. The exacta came back just \$78...ah what could've been.

## Selections For Race 8

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	8	Shotgun Hottie (9-5)	Gets class relief and looks to be rounding into form for a top effort. One of the few in here that has won OFF LASIX.
<i>Value Plays</i>	1 4	Julia Shining (5-2) Musical Mischief (3-1)	Ran sharply ON LASIX in seasonal debut; winless last year. Ran sharply ON LASIX in '24 debut; winless last year without LASIX.
<i>Bombers</i>	7	Intrepid Dream (8-1)	Is 2 for 2 WITHOUT LASIX and comes in sharp albeit somewhat slower than the competition...No LASIX could be the equalizer!

One always hopes to beat the favorite when playing these Pick 5s. VALUE PLAYER **MUSICAL MISCHIEF** tried hard but trainer Cherie DeVaux had **SHOTGUN HOTTIE** primed for a top effort and she was an easy winner.

## **Race #9 The Hilltop (Start of the BES Pick 5)**

<i>Selections For The Hilltop</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	She Feels Pretty (7-5)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Royal Wintour (3-1) Expatriate (6-1) Waves of Mischief (4-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Roanan Goddess (15-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
	#5 #7 #8 #9 #10

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
2	Royal Wintour (3-1)
3	Expatriate (6-1)
6	She Feels Pretty (7-5)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
1	Roanan Goddess (15-1)
4	Waves of Mischief (4-1)

This race kicked off the P5 that ended in the Black Eyed Susan. Again I wanted to derail the favorite and again DeVaux had other ideas. I thought for sure her **SHE FEELS PRETTY** would need one off the bench. Nope. She fired big and also won by daylight.

We were in the midst of a chalk storm. The kind that turns a large fortune into a small one. LOL.

## **Race #10 Miss Preakness (Start of the BES Pick 4)**

### *Selections For The Miss Preakness*

<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Mystic Lake (6-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Youalmosthadme (2-1) Launch (9-2)
<i>Bombers</i>	Cap Classique (12-1)

### ***“A” TEAM***

#	Horse
1	Mystic Lake (6-1)
3	Youalmosthadme (2-1)
4	Launch (9-2)
9	Cap Classique (12-1)

### ***“C” TEAM***

#	Horse
	#2 #6 #7 #8

### ***“B” TEAM***

#	Horse
5	Lady Moscato (6-1)
10	Discreet Ops (12-1)

I thought **MYSTIC LAKE** was one of my strongest selections on the card. It's not often that I tab a 6-1 shot as my MOST LIKELY, but **Mystic Lake** fit the bill. She was moving from synthetic to dirt and showed two previous victories making that same move and *both were without LASIX*. I didn't think I would get 6-1, and I didn't but it was 5-1 and change. I made one of my first win bets of the day but was hoping to cash an exacta with something long like my BOMBER and “B” TEAMER **DISCREET OPS** on the bottom. They both rallied late but closers were up against it on this Friday afternoon. Brad Cox's fave, **YOUALMOSTHADME** split my pair and I had to settle for a muted trifecta payout.



## **Race #11 The Very One** (Start of the BES Pick 3)

<i>Selections For The Very One</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	All That Magic (5-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Future is Now (6-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Port Townsend <del>(15-1)</del> Shoshanah (20-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
	#2 #5 #9 #11(MTO) #12 #13

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
1	Queen of Mud (3-1)
6	Shoshanah (20-1)
8	All That Magic (5-1)
10	Future is Now (6-1)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
<del>3</del>	<del>Port Townsend (15-1)</del>
<del>4</del>	<del>Kaufymaker (2-1)</del>
7	Bosserati (15-1)

This was the KEY RACE of the day at least as far as my Pick 5 plays were concerned. This is the race that I thought would produce some fireworks on the tote. I had to replace the scratched **PORT TOWNSEND** and did so with **BOSSERATI** and Steve Asmussen's **HIGH CLASS (14-1)**. Those two joined my most confident pick—**SHOSHANAH (20-1)** as possible value enhancers. This was the last leg of my early Pick 5 and I had a \$3 ticket to all of six. But with 8-5 over 3-5 over 3-5 over 5-1 in the first four legs, the will pays weren't going to change my lifestyle. LOL. Good old **SHOSHANAH** gave it all she had and led until deep stretch when the 7-5 bet down **FUTURE IS NOW** blew by. The Pick 5 came in at \$152 for \$0.50. Better than tossing tickets but a loss on the investment nonetheless. And I was now sitting with yet another fave on my BES Pick 5. Yuck!

## **Race #12 Pimlico Special (Start of the BES DD)**

### *Selections For The Pimlico Special*

<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	<b>Kingsbarns (7-5) Red Route One (8-5)</b>
<i>Value Plays</i>	<b>Pyrenees (8-1)</b>
<i>Bombers</i>	<b>Be Better (10-1)</b>

### *“C” TEAM*

#	Horse
	<b>#1    #3    #8</b>

### *“A” TEAM*

#	Horse
<b>2</b>	<b>Kingsbarns (7-5)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Red Route One (8-5)</b>

### *“B” TEAM*

#	Horse
<b>4</b>	<b>Pyrenees (8-1)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Time for Trouble (10-1)</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Be Better (10-1)</b>

I singled **KINGSBARN** in this leg but had five “C” TEAMERS alive. So, if he got beat, I wanted it to be a fuzzy longshot like **HARLOCAP** or **BE BETTER**. Nope, instead, it was a bet-down local phenom—my VALUE PLAY **PYRENEES**—upsetting the fave with a masterful ride by the red-hot Brian Hernandez Jr. That scooped my \$6 “A” TEAM ticket but left me alive with \$1 payoffs to three “A” TEAMERS in the BES, and none of them were longshots.

## RACE #13 THE BLACK EYED SUSAN

<i>Selections For BES</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Recharge (7-2)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Corposo (5-2)
<i>Bombers</i>	Call Another Play (8-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
	#1 #2 #3 #6

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
7	Corposo (5-2)
8	Recharge (7-2)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
4	Call Another Play (8-1)
5	Gun Song (9-2)

I was alive with my three runners, as I promoted **GUN SONG** to the “A” TEAM despite my trepidation that trainer Mark Hennig could win a graded stakes. I had such an indifferent opinion of my trio that I went off them and played local entrant—**CALL ANOTHER PLAY**—in hopes of a 10-1 upset. After all, a local runner had just captured the Pimlico Special. Of course I **KNEW** that this was a folly wager because no local filly had captured the BES in at least 30 years. **GUN SONG** got it done with my play running 3rd...natch!

I cashed a \$0.50 P5 for \$800. Yup, more red ink thanks to a very chalky BES day.

### *Selections For Race 14*

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	10	Addison Pour (3-1)	Russell enters two; this one needs a pace to set up his late run. Curly Larry and Mo will play the “rabbit.”
<i>Value Plays</i>	4	Wonderful Justice (9-5)	On the fringes thus far in ‘24. May be underlaid.
<i>Bombers</i>	5	American Unity (8-1)	Great price for a turf win machine.
	8	Curly Larry and Mo (8-1)	First time gelding; gets Saez. Has back class.

I rarely play the finale on these big days but how could I pass up first time gelding **CURLY LARRY AND MO**? I knew he was going to play the rabbit for Brittany Russell’s plodding closer **ADDISON POUR** but maybe he keeps going just like **F THIRTY FIVE** did in Race 6. Naw. What a stooge. The rabbit folded up like an accordion but Russell came up a nose short at the wire with **ADDISON POUR**. Onward.