

FORT ERIE - October 6, 2026 - Race 3

CLAIMING - Thoroughbred
FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NOT WON A RACE IN 2026 OR WHICH HAVE NEVER WON FOUR RACES. Three Year Olds, 120 lbs.; Older, 124 lbs. Claiming Price \$5,000, if for \$4,750, allowed 2 lbs. (Races Where Entered For \$4,000 Or Less Not Considered In Eligibility)(Waiver Claiming Exempt) (Colts And Geldings Preferred)(*Plus Up To \$540 Ontario Bred/Ontario Sired Breeders Awards). (C) **Claiming Price:** \$5,000 - \$4,750
Distance: Six And One Half Furlongs On The Dirt **Current Track Record:** (Hey Cue - 1:14.33 - September 29, 2025)
All money values represented in Canadian currency unless noted otherwise

Purse: \$20,250
Includes: \$4,050 Ontario Sired / Bred Breeders Awards
Includes: \$2,700 State Bred
Available Money: \$20,250
Value of Race: \$15,417 (US\$10,811) 1st \$8,100 (US\$5,680) , 2nd \$4,050 (US\$2,840) , 3rd \$1,755 (US\$1,231) , 4th \$810 (US\$568) , 5th \$702 (US\$492)
Weather: Clear, 55° C **Track:** Fast
Off at: 1:18 **Start:** Good for all **Timing Method:** Electronic

[Video Race Replay](#)

Last Raced	Pgm	Horse Name (Jockey)	Wgt	M/E	PP	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin	Odds	Comments
21Sep26 ⁴ FE ²	4	Heat Merchant (Johnson, Kirk)	122	L b	4	4	2 ¹ 1/2	1 ² 1/2	1 ³	1 ⁸ 1/4	0.50*	3-p str, much the best
21Sep26 ⁴ FE ⁵	5	Cooler Man (Cheyne, Brian)	122	L b	5	5	4 ¹ 1/2	4 ² 1/2	4 ¹	2 ¹ 3/4	7.50	3-p str, up for place
29Sep26 ² FE ⁵	3	Boston Bay (Gaskin, Da-Sean)	122	L bf	3	1	3 ¹	3 ²	2 ^{1/2}	3 ^{Nose}	23.10	3-path str, held show
15Sep26 ⁷ FE ⁴	2	Bongino (David, Michael)	124	L b	2	3	5	5	5	4 ⁴ 1/4	14.50	4p str, no real threat
17Aug26 ¹ FE ³	1	Commander Joe (Vanek, Helen)	122	L bf	1	2	1 ^{Head}	2 ² 1/2	3 ^{1/2}	5	2.05	5-p str, flattened out

Fractional Times: 23.26 45.80 1:10.83 **Final Time:** 1:17.44 **Time from Gate:** 1:18.13
Split Times: (22:54) (25:03) (6:61)
Run-Up: 16 feet

Winner: Heat Merchant, Gray or Roan Gelding, by Kobe's Back out of Red Velvet, by City Zip. Foaled Apr 17, 2019 in Kentucky.
Breeder: CRK Stable, LLC
Owner: David J. Mathes
Trainer: Mathes, Julie

Claiming Prices: 4 - Heat Merchant: \$4,750; 5 - Cooler Man: \$4,750; 3 - Boston Bay: \$4,750; 2 - Bongino: \$5,000; 1 - Commander Joe: \$4,750;

Scratched Horse(s): Awe Inspired (Veterinarian)

Total WPS Pool: \$39,387

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
4	Heat Merchant	3.00	2.10	2.10	\$0.20 Pick 3	2-4-4/6 (3 correct)	12.79	6,658
5	Cooler Man		3.40	2.30	\$0.20 Triactor	4-5-3	3.43	10,522
3	Boston Bay			4.90	\$1.00 Daily Double	4-4	7.30	2,732
					\$1.00 Exactor	4-5	3.75	22,985
					\$0.20 Superfecta	4-5-3-2	8.69	5,809

Past Performance Running Line Preview

Pgm	Horse Name	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin
4	Heat Merchant	4	2 ^{Head}	1 ² 1/2	1 ³	1 ⁸ 1/4
5	Cooler Man	5	4 ² 1/2	4 ⁷	4 ⁴	2 ⁸ 1/4
3	Boston Bay	1	3 ¹ 1/2	3 ⁵	2 ³	3 ¹⁰
2	Bongino	3	5 ⁴	5 ⁹ 1/2	5 ⁵	4 ¹⁰
1	Commander Joe	2	1 ^{Head}	2 ² 1/2	3 ³ 1/2	5 ¹⁴ 1/4

Trainers: 4 - Mathes, Julie; 5 - Agostino, Roy; 3 - Humber, Joseph; 2 - Mileni, Jr., Nick; 1 - Mileni, Jr., Nick

Owners: 4 -David J. Mathes; 5 -Mary-Lynn A. Agostino; 3 -Joy K. Elkins; 2 -Bruno Schickedanz; 1 -Nick Guy Mileni, Jr.;

Footnotes | [View Glossary Of Terms](#)

HEAT MERCHANT stalked the early leader, took command on the turn and from the three path at the top of the stretch was much the best. COOLER MAN was in range, roused on the turn and from the three path at the top of the stretch was up for place. BOSTON BAY was away alertly, raced evenly on the turn and from the three path at the top of the stretch held show. BONGINO was off the pace, trailed the field on the turn and from the four path at the top of the stretch was no real threat. COMMANDER JOE showed speed from the inside and was a factor on the turn but from the five path at the top of the stretch flattened out.