



LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Sunday, Mar. 9

First post is **12:10 PM ET** with 12% takeout on Value Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races).

- Catch TMJC's "Today at the Races" morning simulcast show LIVE on YouTube [@Maryland Racing](#) at 11:05 AM ET for late changes, plus today's top tickets and best plays.
- Follow the action throughout the day on your preferred ADW, on X [@LaurelPark](#) and [@DanIllman_MJC](#), on Instagram [@marylandjockeyclub](#) and on TikTok [@marylandjockeyclub](#).
- Get FREE PPs for today's card from *Daily Racing Form*! To access, visit www.laurelpark.com/handicapping-wagering/ and scroll down.

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE TMJC TEAM



KEITH FEUSTLE



KALI FRANCOIS



DAN ILLMAN



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

RACE 1:	5-3-2-1	4-5-2-3	2-5-7-6	5-6-7-4	5-7-2
RACE 2:	4-1-3-5	1-3-5-4	4-7-5-3	1-3-5-4	3-4-1
RACE 3:	3-4-2-7	3-5-1-7	3-7-1-2	4-3-2-6	4-2-3
RACE 4:	2-4-3-1	3-4-2-7	3-6-5-2	4-5-3-1	3-4-7
RACE 5:	1-4-2-7	4-8-1-5	1A-7-4-2	1-2-7-4	1-4-2
RACE 6:	3-5-4-1	5-3-4-6	2-6-5-1	4-3-1-5	3-4-1
RACE 7:	6-2-1-3	2-4-6-3	5-6-3-2	2-6-1-5	6-2-1
RACE 8:	7-4-6-5	4-5-7-6	7-4-6-5	3-4-2-6	4-7-3

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. BUDS ISLAND

2. ARTILLERY GUNNAR

3. TINY LAKE

First post is 12:10 ET with 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **BUDS ISLAND** is unbeaten since Lasix was added to the equation, and he looked sharp wiring five others around two turns two weeks ago. Set the pace inside the favored fifth-place finisher, took some pressure at the half-mile pole, then kept on going to score by four. Might have to rally from off the pace this time for barn that went 4 for the last 11 (36%, \$5.40 ROI) with last-out winners moving route to dirt sprint. **ARTILLERY GUNNAR** tracked a quick pace battle from the pocket, made a three-wide move on the turn, and strode away in the lane to beat two of these. Boasts a versatile running style for barn that went 6 for the last 19 (32%, \$2.23 ROI) off the claim. **TINY LAKE** battled with the 9-1 last-place finisher through a quick opening quarter, then stayed on gamely for second behind Artillery Gunnar. Must avoid another early battle as he stretches out to seven-eighths for barn that went 9 for 31 (29%, \$2.08 ROI) between 2/7 and 3/2. **BUOYANT** overcame a stumbling start to grab the lead over a speed-friendly track. Set legitimate fractions and was too good for them at a mile. This is a tougher spot.

>> RACE 2

1. VINO'S VALENTINE

2. MISSED THE TURN

3. BERNIE THE STAR

Taking a guess with **VINO'S VALENTINE** (\$34,000 RNA short yearling), \$7,000 yearling, \$19,000 June juvenile, who breezed a furlong in 10 3/5 prior to the most recent auction. He's the first foal out of an unraced full sister to Grade 3-winning dirt sprinter Jackson (won debut). The dam is also a half to stakes-placed turf miler Catfight Cowgirl from the family of Grade 1-winning dirt miler Dixie Brass. Shows a steady series of works since early November for barn that sent out 17 1/2-length debut winner Mr. Pesce at 5-2 odds on 11/16. Lots of changes for **MISSED THE TURN**, who adds Lasix as a new gelding while taking advantage of the Maryland-bred waiver condition. Hung out four wide tracking moderate fractions at Churchill last fall, then tired badly. The fourth-finisher then placed in an Oaklawn special weight with an 85 Beyer. Barn sent out 2-1 winner Speitful Sam following a 61-day layoff at Mahoning Valley on 2/12. **BERNIE THE STAR**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 2/8, set a very fast pace before tiring in final start of 2024. The winner of that race then placed twice in first-level allowances with Beyers of 81 and 76. Expect early speed. **SMUGGLER'S GOLD** appears to be rounding into form, and can be counted on to kick in the stretch. **LUCKY ONE TIME** is a half to multiple stakes-placed dirt sprinter Onemoregreattime (93 dirt Beyer). Gomez lands here instead of Klimt Master.

>> RACE 3

1. GOLDEN AURORA

2. STAR VENEZUELAN

3. WHY NOT GRACE

GOLDEN AURORA is one of two multiple-race winners in the field after being put up by disqualification. Broke well in that mile heat, but was taken in hand to track three wide. Went after the even-money leader entering the turn, then was herded out and bumped by that one during the drive. Might be

most effective when taken back to make one run, so could use a bit of pace luck. Repeats the route to sprint move that resulted in her maiden win for barn that sent out 2-1 winner Double Airo here on 3/1. **STAR VENEZUELAN** broke slow in that heat, pulled forward to track four wide, angled to the rail under urging, and finished with mild interest. The break could be key for barn that scored with route-to-sprint winners Optimistic Nate (12-1 at Penn National on 12/20) and Graft (16-1 at Charles Town on 1/17). Villalobos departs for Can Do. **WHY NOT GRACE** was taken in hand to track from the pocket, pulled her way along to track in between was outpaced on the bend, then hopped back to her left lead when tiring. Barn went 5 for 13 (38%, \$3.48 ROI) between 2/16 and 3/2. CAN DO drops with the speed to pose a dangerous pace threat. THUNDER IN PARIS went too fast on the lead in two-turn test. Should relax better in the early stages of this shorter trip.

>> RACE 4

1. IN MY MEMORIES

2. NEW BOOTS

3. LIFT THE LID

IN MY MEMORIES is the only three-time winner in the field, and she gets needed class relief after disappointing as the favorite when entered for the \$62,500 claiming option. Didn't break well, tracked from the pocket at the back of the compact field, was on hold behind rivals turning for home, then lacked a strong kick when finding clear sailing in between horses. With a better start, she can get closer to the pace for barn that sent out three winners at Mahoning Valley between 3/4 and 3/5. **NEW BOOTS** graduated from here to Baltimore when dropped to the bottom by the Russell barn, then was in over her head against stakes competition in first start for DeMario. We'll learn more about her overall quality as she drops back in for a tag but note that the big run came in her only start with Lasix, and she'll get the medication again today. **LIFT THE LID** was also claimed from Russell after dropping in class. Went quick up front to secure the lead and always found just a little more in the tank. That speed plays well here. GAGA'S HAMSOME received a strong pace to attack when third in circuit debut. Looks like the type that needs pace and race luck.

>> RACE 5

1. GROUP TICKET

2. SARAH'S CANDY CANE

3. FUN LOVIN CRIMINAL

GROUP TICKET was wired over a speed-friendly Parx strip by stakes-winner The King Cheek. Hopped at the start, stalked three wide all the way around, and stayed tough for a minor award. The sixth-finisher returned to win for the \$20,000 starter option here by 7 1/4 lengths with an 83 Beyer. He'll have to be quick out of there from a tough outside post but does have the tactical speed to stay within range. **SARAH'S CANDY CANE** looks like the controlling speed after wiring optional claimers in a two-turn sprint at Charles Town. He was hustled out of there to set an uncontested pace, received a nice breather, and sprinted on home. Wired them in lone prior appearance on the circuit, but this distance is a bit of a question mark. **FUN LOVIN CRIMINAL** returns on short notice after being elevated via disqualification. Broke slow, tracked in between, made a four wide bid, then was herded out by the pacesetting favorite. Kicks late for barn that went 19 for the last 62 (31%, \$2.45 ROI) off the claim on dirt. AGARRAMESIPUEDES was outrun in the early stages, made a prolonged four-wide bid into contention, then just missed against favored Everett's Song. Might get the right setup here.

>> RACE 6

1. COAL MINE

2. ALWAYS FORWARD

3. CONCRETE FAZE

COAL MINE tracked from the pocket, advanced up the inside turning into the long stretch, altered out of tight quarters when likely beaten, then held gamely for third with an okay gallop-out. Believe she's adaptable enough to stay within range of a moderate pace for barn that scored with "claiming to allowance" winner Cap Com at 5-1 on 2/22. **ALWAYS FORWARD** tracked from in between foes, seemed outpaced a bit on the turn, then finished with some interest in between going a one-turn mile. Barn sent out 18-1 winner Top Blood on 2/28 returning in less than two weeks rest. **CONCRETE FAZE** pulled to stalk a slow pace two back, wound up four wide on the turn and floated even wider under urging turning into the stretch, then just missed to a rail-skimming winner in a key race. Faced males last time out, and again didn't have the cleanest trip. That race produced two next-out winners with the third-finisher taking a first-level allowance with an 80 Beyer. Makes first start for high-percentage Ness outfit. Rodriguez lands here instead of Quit Quay and stablemate ROWSIE EXPRESS, who should show fresh speed in first after 225-day break. Chased Mavilus last time, and that one then compiled a 3-1-0-2 record with a 74 Beyer top.

>> RACE 7

1. DON'T WAIT UP

2. SHERIFF RONNIE

3. CLASSIC JOKE

DON'T WAIT UP didn't break great from the rail, was hustled up to track from a tight pocket, was outpaced a bit through a quick second quarter of 23.22, eased outside on the turn and never made an impression. He earned a good Beyer three back when scoring over this course and has enough tactical speed to sit a good outside stalking trip. **SHERIFF RONNIE** could be the one to beat after a very good try against odds-on Worcester. Broke well, was taken in hand to prompt from in between, found the pocket on the turn, made a strong three-wide bid under urging to get into contention, then just couldn't go with the chalk while placing ahead of the top pick. Kicks late for barn that went 6 for 23 (26%, \$2.19 ROI) between 2/7 and 3/1. **CLASSIC JOKE**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 2/15, exits an underrated try. Broke slow, pulled to track a moderate pace from in between, split foes on the turn, then tried hard for second behind Suga Steve, who then won a first-level allowance with an 84 Beyer. Barn went 6 for 28 (21%, \$2.71 ROI) between 1/1 and 3/2. **TENEBRIS** prompted four wide, made a three-wide bid to the lead on the turn, and held firm over "good" going. Might try to set the pace here.

>> RACE 8

1. SKIP THRU DA FIRE

2. R AVERIE LYNN

3. TAM CHAR

SKIP THRU DA FIRE was overmatched in a short field of first-level allowance rivals last week. Tracked outside at the back of the pack, was urged along on the turn, then tried her best despite hopping back to her left lead. She's getting the class drop she needs but could use a bit of pace help in this sharp sprint. **R AVERIE LYNN** can get a bit fractious before the start, but she looked good beating two of these over sloppy going. Stayed within range of a quick pace, then ran down the leader without much fuss. Figures right there when they turn for home for barn that went 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$2.43 ROI) with last-out winners. Stablemate **TAM CHAR** was ridden aggressively to clear off and set fast fractions last week. Had a clear lead in the stretch, but tired late and succumbed to a rail-skimming winner. Might opt for the rating tactics that have worked for her in the past.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

***Trainer Stat: #2 - Buds Island**

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last-Out Winners, Route to Dirt Sprint: 4 for the last 11 (36%, \$5.40 ROI)

***Trainer Stat: #5 - Artillery Gunnar**

Trainer: Kieron Magee

First After the Claim: 6 for the last 19 (32%, \$2.23 ROI)

***Trainer Stat: #7 - Tiny Lake**

Trainer: Rudy Sanchez-Salomon

Between 2/7 and 3/2: 9 for 31 (29% \$2.08 ROI)

RACE 3

***Trainer Stat: #1 - Why Not Grace**

Trainer: Michael Gorham

Between 2/16 and 3/2: 5 for 13 (38%, \$3.48 ROI)

RACE 5

***Trainer Stat: #4 - Fun Lovin Criminal**

Trainer: Kieron Magee

First After the Claim, Dirt: 19 for the last 62 (31%, \$2.45 ROI)

RACE 7

***Trainer Stat: #6 - Sheriff Ronnie**

Trainer: Tim Kreiser

Between 2/7 and 3/1: 6 for 23 (26%, \$2.19 ROI)

***Trainer Stat: #3 - Classic Joke**

Trainer: Richard Sillaman

Between 1/1 and 3/2: 6 for 28 (21%, \$2.71 ROI)

RACE 8

Trainer Stat: #4 - R Averie Lynn

Trainer: Michael Gorham

Last-Out Winners: 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$2.43 ROI)

TRIPS AND TIPS – by Will Humphrey, *In The Money Media*

Trip notes for Laurel Park's late double today, plus three horses to follow. For Will Humphrey's Post-Race Trip Notes, please visit <https://inthemoneypodcast.com/maryland-jockey-club-trip-notes/>.

Race 7: OC40k/N2X, 4YO+, 6f, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
WHISKEY AND YOU	OC30k/SAL20k, Lrl, fast, 6f, 02/28/25 – 2nd	Away well, not rushed, decent natural speed; settled ~2L off pace 3W back stretch into turn, nudged along to hold position; 2-3W bend, began building momentum under hand ride, drew to within 1L of lead; came under strong ride ¼ pole, then swung 3W into stretch; V game through stretch, would not quit & valiantly closed in on tiring leader while holding closers at bay, just missed. Perfect trip, no excuse but a V solid effort regardless.
TENEBRIS	OC40k/N2X, Lrl, good, 6f, 02/15/25 – 1st	Broke well from outside gate, not rushed, good natural speed; crossed over to settle ~1L off pace early while 5W heading into turn; traveled well 4-5W bend, gradually looming upsides leaders under minimal urging ~5/16 pole; going much the best while 4W top of lane, nosing into narrow lead ~1/8 pole when coming under ride; kicked away from rivals late & held firm to wire. Perfect trip though slightly wide. V solid effort.
CLASSIC JOKE	Clm45k, Lrl, fast, 5 1/2f, 12/27/24 – 2nd	Step slow & bumped, last away, not rushed; recovered from slow start & took firm hold back stretch into bend, pulling rider forward to race tightly in between horses 2W ~3L off pace into bend; 2W bend, came under hard ride 5/16 pole & began building momentum; 2W into stretch, came under strong ride & stayed on powerful into 2 nd but had no chance with winner. Got too far back in slowly run affair following slow start. Finished well. Decent effort off bench.
BERNIE'S MITTS	OC16k/N1X, Prx, muddy, 6 1/2f, 02/12/25 – 1st	Broke sharp, good natural speed, dropped to rail & quickly established lead; traveled well in front back stretch into far turn; still under hold ~1L in front far turn, had rivals on back foot; gently nudged along ~1/4 pole, turned for home with healthy lead, going best; came under strong ride stretch, was late with the lead change & didn't kick away but was always doing enough & ground out the W. Controlled race on lead. Always doing enough but was made to work hard. Not overly impressive visually.
DON'T WAIT UP	OC40k/N2X, Lrl, fast, 7f, 01/26/25 – 4th	Broke clean from rail draw, ridden away but lacked speed to get to lead; settled back behind horses ~3L off pace back stretch into turn, traveled okay; taken 2W bend, was nudged along to close ~3/8 pole but lacked immediate response, simply held position; angled out 4-5W into stretch & came under strong ride; plugged on one paced to wire for a poor fourth. Lacked speed & was never really involved. No excuse. A poor fourth.
SHERIFF RONNIE	OC40k/N2X, Lrl, fast, 7f, 01/26/25 – 2nd	Sent hard from gate, rider intent on establishing forward position; crossed to rail & eventually settled on leader's heels under tight hold back stretch into bend; nudged along to hold position in behind horses bend, responded well; tipped out 3W at 5/16 pole, then came under strong ride & quickly drew up alongside leaders; hard ridden stretch, poked head in front but could not fend off 3/5 fav, eventually settling for clear 2 nd . Good trip. Not good enough to beat winner but ran a winning race in defeat. V likable effort.

Race 8: Claiming \$7.5k, 4YO+F, 5 1/2f, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
JAVA'S LUCKY LADY	Clm10k, Pen, fast, 6f, 02/28/25 – 3rd	Broke cleanly, ridden away; crossed to 2P & settled on leader's heels ~1L off lead back stretch; nudged along to hold position heading into turn as loose horse darted through inside, became outpaced & dropped back slightly but did respond willingly to rider's urgings; angled 3W into stretch & came under strong ride; briefly running awkwardly, had little to offer through stretch, stayed on for a poor 3 rd . No real excuse. Cheap speed. Unexciting.
SPEAK YOUR MIND	OC12k/SAL8k, Lrl, sloppy, 6f, 12/28/24 – 7th	Slight bump break but away okay, aggressively ridden from gate; crossed to 2P & dueled for lead back stretch into turn, squeezed to hold position; 2W while being nudged along bend, began losing position in between horses approaching ¼ pole; 2W turning in, dropped to last V quickly & was not hard ridden thereafter. Was entitled to get tired having dueled for lead but stopped quicker than one would like to see. Not V encouraging.

FORGOTTEN GIFT	Clm7.5k, Lrl, sloppy, 6f, 02/16/25 – 7th	Broke cleanly, hard sent from outside gate; dropped to rail & sped to clear lead back stretch; no holding back from rider, ~4L clear entering far turn, traveled well; lead drastically reduced by ¼ pole, instantly came under hard ride when challenged; had nothing left to give top of stretch & stopped. Went way too hard earl & understandably stopped V quickly.
R AVERIE LYNN	Clm7.5k, Lrl, sloppy, 6f, 02/16/25 – 1st	Broke well, drifted in shortly after start while being hurried, corrected; was out-footed for lead by outside rival who crossed down to rail; sharply switched out into 2P; kept to task while chasing loose leader into bend; kept to task turn, willingly built momentum & wore into leaders advantage, drawing level top of lane 2W; late lead change, came under strong ride stretch & stuck on well to find herself clear late. Perfect trip. Solid effort, clearly has an affinity for a wet track (3-6-1 from 12 starts).
FAINOR'S FILETS	Clm7.5k, Lrl, fast, 6f, 03/02/25 – 3rd	Broke well, good natural speed; settled in between horses ~1L behind lone leader back stretch into turn, traveled well; dropped to rail bend, was nudged along 5/16 pole but became outpaced & dropped back slightly; came under strong ride 5/16 pole & re-engaged, staying on well through stretch to finish a solid 3 rd without threatening for the win. Clean trip. Likable attitude. Looked as if she'd be suited by further.
TAM CHAR	Clm7.5k, Lrl, fast, 6f, 03/02/25 – 2nd	Broke in & bumped start but away okay, hard ridden from outside gate; good speed, established clear lead back stretch & crossed to rail heading into turn, traveled well; extended lead round bend while traveling best; still going well ~4L clear ¼ pole, was then shaken up to put race to bed; strong ride stretch, tried V hard but became leg weary & was caught by rail skimming closer; saved by wire for 2 nd . Did too much too soon & understandably got tired. Good attitude to hold 2nd. Tough race to come back from on 7-days rest.
SKIP THRU DA FIRE	Atw, Lrl, fast, 6f, 03/02/25 – 3rd	Awkward start from outside gate, away slow; lacked speed racing ~9L behind leading duo back stretch into bend, not rushed; 2W bend, was encouraged to get closer ~3/8 pole before coming under strong drive 5/16; stayed on well through the stretch but had no shot at getting to front two; clearly 3 rd best. Four runner affair with two separate races taking place – STDF was the winner of the slower one. Clean trip. Tried but was simply outclassed by top two.

Horses to Follow

R4: ADE – Rudy Sanchez-Salomon, Tais Lyapustina

Although the 9/5 morning line favorite IN MY MEMORIES looks as if she'll be tough nut to crack in today's fourth – a claiming 30k going 6-furlongs – don't completely rule out the chances of the High Schticking Thoroughbreds owned 3-year old daughter of HOPPERTUNITY, ADE. Following a convincing win two starts back, ADE made her debut for the Sanchez-Salomon barn on February 21 and following the race, was flagged up in [In the Money Media's post race trip notes](#) for a less than perfect trip. Having broken in a tangle which resulted in her racing towards the rear early, she was then caught very wide on the home turn before checking sharply off heels as a rival cut across her at the top of the stretch. She lost all momentum as a result of the interference and therefore all chance, meaning that her lowly speed figure can be somewhat forgiven. Now returning to make her second start for the barn and taking a slight drop in class, the Maryland-bred has a good opportunity to put that troubled last run behind her and return to the level of form that she had been displaying beforehand, giving her a legitimate chance of victory today. With a cleaner break, she should be able to establish a more prominent position early and as Lyapustina and Sanchez-Salomon have been striking at 26% (5-for-19, \$4.28 ROI) over the last 75-days, she shouldn't be dismissed lightly.

R5: FAN CLUB – Claudio Gonzalez, Andres Chavez

Especially if playing any vertical wagers, make sure to take a second look at FAN CLUB in today's fifth – an OC2 20k/SAL12k going 1 1/16-miles. The 7-year-old gelded son of STREET SENSE, who was purchased for \$325k as a yearling back in 2019, was flagged up in [In the Money Media's post-race trip notes](#) for what was an eye-catching run in defeat, February 16. Under today's rider, Andres Chavez, he stumbled at the break and found himself last behind a slow pace early, before meeting traffic on the home bend which shuffled him back at a crucial stage of the race. He did exceptionally well, all things considered, to regather his momentum not once, but twice, finishing with interest along the rail into second before galloping out strongly. He was never beating the 9/5 winner, AMITY ROAD, but there's no doubt that his effort was better than the margin of defeat/speed figure would suggest, and as he now stretches back out to 1 1/16-miles – his preferred distance at which he has a 3-1-3 record from nine career starts – he looks set to run another big race at an inflated price. Although his recent speed figures leave him with something to find with the top players in today's contest, he has back-class that gives him a squeak and as Gonzalez hits at 26% in allowance races with dirt routers at Laurel who hit the board last out, he could be a horse to use on your tickets at a respectable price.

R7: CLASSIC JOKE – Ricky Sillaman, Angel Cruz

A tremendously competitive field of six are set to line up in today's seventh - an OC40k/N2X allowance going 6-furlongs – where CLASSIC JOKE looks to be sitting on another big effort. Having made a promising start to his career, breaking his maiden at the third time of asking before beating future G1 runner-up and Kentucky Derby contender CATALYTIC next out, the son of PRACTICAL JOKE lost his way a little throughout 2024. Therefore, in an attempt to rekindle his spark, connections decided to geld him last May, and if his last run is anything to go by, that's done the trick nicely. As you can see in the above trip notes, off a 180-day layoff, he ran a super race in defeat last time, overcoming a troubled start and a slow pace to close powerfully into second. He was the only horse to make up any considerable ground in the race and for the effort was rewarded with a career best 81 Beyer – a number validated when the winner returned to score again next out with an 84 Beyer. With that comeback run now behind him, Ricky Sillaman's trainee can be expected to take a step forward today, especially if getting away from the gate better, and if he does, he'll have every chance of scoring. He's worked well since that recent effort, including when he fired a fastest of forty-four bullet drill on January 17, and with Sillaman hitting at 33% (3-for-9, 67% ITM, \$4.60 ROI) with sprinters making their second starts back from 180+ day layoffs, he's not a horse to be taken lightly.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

PERSIAN

Trainer: Linda Albert

Last race: Nov. 3, 4th

Finish: 4th by 7 1/4

Shuffled back to last on the rail behind a tiring pacesetter, she finished evenly along the fence in a race that produced three next-out winners.

LIL SEBASTIAN

Trainer: Justin Nixon

Last race: Dec. 20, 8th

Finish: 2nd by 1/2

Broke well going a one-turn mile over muddy going but rated four wide and lost ground through the turn and into the long stretch. Never stopped trying, however, and just fell short to an odds-on winner.

CREED'S VISION (*Entered Today, Race 2*)

Trainer: Tom Morley

Last race: Jan. 25, 6th

Finish: 3rd by 3

Off a bit slow, angled out at the 1/4 pole, stymied at a crucial moment, then offered a big kick once clear of traffic in the final furlong.

JASIEL

Trainer: Katy Voss

Last race: Jan. 24, 8th

Finish: 3rd by 2 1/4

Stepping up to face multiple winners at 17-1 from his maiden run, the half-brother to stakes winner Galerio (\$687,000) overcame a rocky start, then fanned 7 wide into the stretch.

DERBYNESS

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: Feb. 22, 5th

Finish: 2nd by nose

Although beaten at a short price, this was a creditable effort as he proved that he can come from off the pace (usually a front runner) and was possibly a touch unlucky to have been beaten just a nose after been floated out in late stretch. Broke touch slow, not rushed; 4W under very tight hold first bend ~2-3L off pace; traveled very powerfully backstretch, eased outside leading duo 3W ~9/16 pole; still under hold when head-to-head with foe turning for home 2W, came under strong drive ~1/16 pole; was unable to quicken & engaged in battle stretch; fought hard stretch while marginally being floated into ~5P final 1/16; lost bob.

LOVE ME TENDER

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

Last race: Nov. 30, 8th

Finish: 7th by 6 3/4

Raced 4 wide in the City of Laurel, stalking a duel (22.43, 44.97), then made a slight run with one furlong to go. Should be able to score with slight step back in class.

PACO THE TACO MAN

Trainer: Annette Eubanks

Last race: Dec. 13, 1st

Finish: 4th by 4

Might have been too aggressive in the early stages of recent \$30,000 “beaten” seller as he battled for the lead in a race that went to closers. He’s a proven commodity from off the pace and might opt for those tactics next time.

ZIO LINO (*Entered CNL – 3/13, Race 9*)

Trainer: Damon Dilodovico

Last race: Feb. 21, 1st

Finish: 2nd by head

Making his debut, Zio Lino was arguably the best horse in the race. Broke very sharp from outside gate, crossed to 2P and set fast pace. Traveled well, dropped to the rail on the bend, was nudged along when taken on for lead at the three-eighths, responded willingly to turn away challengers at top of stretch, and kicked away to clear lead under largely hand ride. Well-clear in the final furlong, but the rider put crop away and hand rode final 100yds, seemingly unaware of strong closing winner. Nailed on the wire.

SHAPE NOTE (*Entered CNL – 3/13, Race 4*)

Trainer: Anthony Farrior

Last race: Feb. 21, 5th

Finish: 1st by 2 1/2

Looked the part on the track during warmup. Ranged up with a 3-4 wide bid, then dueled around the turn. Kicked away to win with mild encouragement.

TAKETHEMONEYHONEY

Trainer: Mike Moore

Last race: Feb. 22, 6th

Finish: 1st by 2

Demonstrated composure in a restricted allowance race victory, despite a stumbling start and 227-day layoff. The Maryland-bred daughter of Golden Lad held her ground despite pace pressure for a half-mile to make it 2 for 2 lifetime.

MATTITUDE (*Entered CNL – 3/13, Race 6*)

Trainer: Joe Magana

Last Race: Feb. 14, 6th

Finish: 4th by 5

Prompted 10-1 Peak of Chic (finished sixth) and 5-1 Winkiwinki (finished fourth) while three wide, then never stopped trying when finishing behind the three favorites in \$40,000 optional claimer. Veteran mare might fit slightly better in a starter allowance, especially in a race devoid of speed.

ADE (*Entered Today, Race 4*)

Trainer: Rudy Sanchez-Salomon

Last race: Feb. 21, 6th

Finish: 6th by 11 3/4

While the bad trip didn’t cost Ade the race here, her trip was bad regardless and her low speed figure can be forgiven somewhat. Broke in a tangle, hit gate, and was away slow. Tracked pace 5W backstretch, squeezed forward 4-5W ~3/8 pole and began losing ground Raced 6-7P top of stretch, forced to check sharply off heels when rival drifted out violently ~3/16 pole, lost significant momentum & all chance.

KILO ROAD

Trainer: Hugh McMahan

Last Race: Feb. 22, 6th

Finish: 6th by 6

Lost her positional opportunity with a slow break. She regained her composure when angled off inside in the stretch run, only to encounter traffic at a pivotal juncture. Deserves another chance in a dirt sprint.

TWICE GOLD

Trainer: Hugh McMahan

Last Race: Feb. 21, 2nd

Finish: 3rd by 2 1/2

Making his third start for the barn, Twice Gold’s performance was possibly better than looks owing to a very wide trip. Broke touch slow and dropped to rear early. Taken 3-4W entering bend while traveling well, he made steady ground around horses under tight hold. Nudged along ~1/4 pole, lost significant ground when floated into the 7P top of stretch, minor bump with rival; came under strong L-hand drive stretch & finished well into 3rd; galloped out well.

OURDAYDREAMINGGIRL

Trainer: Lou Linder

Last Race: Feb. 22, 7th

Finish: 4th by 2 1/2

Steadied in opening stages of the Wide Country Stakes, angled out six wide entering the stretch, then closed willingly while drifting out.

JOCKEY CALLS

At Laurel Park, jockeys can be named on more than one horse on the original overnight.

Race 1 - Angel Cruz (#1 - Grey Flannel Boss; #3 - Hot Stott).

Cruz rides GREY FLANNEL BOSS

Race 2 - Kevin Gomez (#2 - Klimt Master; #6 - Lucky One Time).

Gomez rides LUCKY ONE TIME

Race 3 - Ismerio Villalobos (#4 - Can Do; #7 - Star Venezuelan).

Villalobos rides CAN DO

Race 6 - Jaime Rodriguez (#4 - Rowsie Express; #5 - Concrete Faze, #7 - Quit Quay).

Rodriguez rides CONCRETE FAZE

PAST TRACK TRENDS

Dec. 1 – CLOSERS BIAS

Dec. 6 – Fair

Dec. 7 – Fair

Dec. 8 – Fair

Dec. 13 – Fair

Dec. 14 – Fair

Dec. 15 – Fair

Dec. 20 – Fair

Dec. 21 – Fair

Dec. 22 - CLOSERS BIAS

Dec. 27 – Fair

Dec. 28 – Fair

Dec. 29 – Fair

Jan. 17 – Fair

Jan. 18 – Fair

Jan. 24 – Fair

Jan. 25 – Fair

Jan. 26 – CLOSERS BIAS

Jan. 31 – SPEED BIAS

Feb. 1 – SPEED BIAS

Feb. 2 – CLOSERS BIAS

Feb. 7 – SPEED BIAS

Feb. 8 – CLOSERS BIAS

Feb. 9 – Fair

Feb. 14 – Fair

Feb. 15 – SPEED BIAS

Feb. 16 – Fair

Feb. 21 – Fair

Feb. 22 – Fair

Feb. 23 – Fair

Feb. 28 – Fair

Mar. 1 – Fair

Mar. 2 - Fair