



LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Saturday, Sept. 20

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



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TIM TULLOCK

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|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| RACE 1: | 7-1-6-4 | 4-2-1-7 | 1-7-3-6 | 3-6-1-4 | 1-4-3-7 | 4-7-3 |
| RACE 2: | 4-8-1-6 | 1-3-8-7 | 4-3-6-7 | 1-3-8-7 | 1-8-3-7 | 3-4-1 |
| RACE 3: | 2-10-8-4 | 10-4-9-1 | 8-2-4-9 | 10-4-1-9 | 2-10-5-4 | 10-1-4 |
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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. RISK AND REGRET

2. PEGSTER

3. ARISE MY LOVE

First post is 12:10 pm ET with a 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **RISK AND REGRET** enjoyed a perfect trip to graduate over course and distance eight days ago. Found the pocket entering the first turn, angled three wide, then grinded past the odds-on favorite. She gets a strong class test, but has improved drastically since being switched to turf for barn that sent out 5-1 last-out maiden winner Magical Mondays to score routing on turf at Delaware on 7/5. **PEGSTER** was a bit unlucky last month at Colonial. Found a good spot saving ground in the pocket, advanced to push the pace from the fence, was lightly shuffled back to the pocket, then raced in tight along the rail. Can get forward for barn that hit the board with four of their last six runners, including 29-1 Zevon routing on turf here on 9/14. **ARISE MY LOVE** tracked a solid pace (23.89; 23.70; 23.90) while three wide, then drove by maiden claimers despite being late to change leads. Barn went 4 for the last 7 (57%, \$9.40 ROI) with last-out maiden winners. DARK POOL took advantage of a hot pace to beat two next-out winners with the last-finisher taking a \$12,500 maiden seller here with a 69 Beyer. Not sure she'll get that sort of race flow here. Big class drop works for SLEEPWALKER, who got cooked pushing a third quarter in 23.59 going 9 1/2 furlongs at Colonial. I'M A SURE THING also plunges in class. Settled behind a quick pace in first off 198-day layoff, was outpaced four wide on the second turn, stayed in for the drive, then changed back to her left lead when over in behind rivals.

>> RACE 2

1. FIESTA LA LUNA

2. NOBLE STATUS

3. CURLENE'S SPIRIT

FIESTA LA LUNA (\$9,000 RNA yearling) is the first foal out of an unplaced half-sister to Grade 2-winning turf miler Hawkish (won debut), and stakes-placed dirt router Winaholic (95 dirt Beyer) from the family of Grade 1-winning turf runners Memories of Silver and Winter Memories. Barn went 5 for the last 25 (20%, \$2.20 ROI) with juvenile debut runners in maiden claiming dirt sprints. **NOBLE STATUS** (\$4,000 yearling) is out of multiple juvenile stakes-placed dirt sprinter Jump for Love (64 turf Beyer), herself a half to Grade 3-winning dirt sprinter Majestic Reason. The second dam was a juvenile stakes-winning dirt sprinter (won debut; 75 dirt Beyer). Barbosa departs for Lucky Lis. **CURLENE'S SPIRIT** is out of a winning half to Grade 3-winning dirt sprinter Javerre. The second dam was a multiple juvenile stakes-winning dirt sprinter (won first two starts; 76 turf Beyer). Barn sometimes gives them a race or two before they hit their best stride. PRINCESS CHARMING was wired in her debut, but should show improved early zip with blinkers on. Lopez lands here instead of Spirit of Zion. I'M A LIL WICKED is out of stakes-placed dirt sprinter Conjecture (80 dirt Beyer). SPIRIT OF ZION trailed in her debut, but is a half to juvenile stakes-winning dirt sprinter Shkhara Fire (68 dirt Beyer), and juvenile stakes-placed dirt router Buckey's Charm (70 dirt Beyer).

>> RACE 3

1. DEPUTY A. P.

2. THE HERO CODE

3. PIETRELCINA

DEPUTY A. P. appears to have been purchased privately since his last start 328 days ago at Churchill. Bumped at the start, he settled midpack, was outpaced while last on the rail, split rivals in upper stretch, then never threatened two next-out winners with Flying Mohawk returning to win a first-level Fair Grounds allowance with an 82 Beyer before placing in the Grade 3 Jeff Ruby Steaks on Tapeta with an 84. Barn went 3 for the last 13 (23%, \$7.66 ROI) with experienced horses getting Lasix for the first time, including Juniper Juice's 12-1 turf win last year returning from a 324-day break. **THE HERO CODE**

was steadied in between on the first turn, saved ground near the back, split rivals on the second turn, angled widest, then couldn't threaten Saratoga maiden claimers when wired by the co-favorite. Plenty of stamina in this pedigree as a half-brother to Grade 1-winning router Civil Union (10 furlongs). One more jump and **PIETRELCINA** would have won last time at Colonial. Wearing cheekpieces for the first time, he saved ground at the back, cut the corner, then just missed to the 7-1 pacesetter winner. Late-runner needs pace help for barn that sent out Mortal Sin to win an off-turf race at Delaware off a two-week layoff on 8/20. **HOMESTEAD** sheds 22 pounds after being nipped by co-favorite De La Cruz going 13 furlongs at Fair Hill. He has good early foot. Big class drop for **TATE'S WAR CRY**, who sheds Lasix and wheels back on short notice after being wired by favored Gulfstream shipper Bay of Bengal.

>> RACE 4

1. BOLD DIVERSION

2. EL DIVINO NINO

3. WICKEDDIVINE

BOLD DIVERSION broke a hair slow at Colonial, raced midpack and in between horses, altered inside in upper stretch, then finished evenly behind the two favorites when wired by Eastbostonbenny, who returned to just miss in a first-level allowance at Delaware. Doesn't have a ton of speed, and will need a bit of pace and race luck for barn that sent out three dirt winners between 8/31 and 9/14. Lyapustina lands here instead of **EL DIVINO NINO**, who returns to his favorite surface after just missing in two-turn sprint at Timonium. He has more tactical speed than the top pick, and should be in the thick of things when they turn for home. **WICKEDDIVINE** raced on the best part of the track when graduating 321 days ago. Returns with new Lasix for barn that sent last-out maiden winner Andras to repeat at 5-1 odds at Timonium on 8/29. **SUREMEANTTOBE** has shown good speed in the past, and those tactics would work well in this spot. **ALL THE HARDWAYS** was wired in a slow-paced race at Timonium, but should serve as a good prep for this, his second start following a 190-day break.

>> RACE 5

1. AMERICAN UNITY

2. GOLD FOOT

3. BRING ME A CHECK

AMERICAN UNITY worked out a good trip when bested by favored Rigel at Colonial. Found the pocket, tried to go with the winner through a quick third quarter in 23.29, then kept trying all the way to the wire. Think he's more effective letting others do the dirty work, and hoping he'll rate back and make one good late bid for barn that went 13 for 38 (34%, \$2.23 ROI) between 9/7 and 9/16 (including three turf wins here). Curious to see what we get from **GOLD FOOT** wheeling back in a week in first off the claim. Broke well last time, pulled to prompt the 3-1 third-finisher from the outside, then tired in the lane. Barn went 2-for-2 at Mountaineer on 9/14. Centeno departs for Coronova. **BRING ME A CHECK** broke sharp at Monmouth, prompted a slow pace from the fence, rated back to the pocket after a half-mile, soon eased outside to go after the 23-1 third-finisher, then gamely scored in between horses despite being late to change leads. Might have to deal with a quicker race flow.

>> RACE 6

1. LOVE YOU MORE

2. SHOUT TO THE LORD

3. DESTINATION

LOVE YOU MORE broke slow from the rail when wired by favored Biles over Woodbine's Tapeta surface. Saved ground near the back, eased out into the stretch, then finished evenly without threatening. That winner next ran third in a first-level allowance there with a 73 Beyer. Guessing she's a better horses on dirt, as both of her top Beyers came on the surface in New York earlier in her career. Perhaps we'll see a bit more focus adding blinkers for the first time. **SHOUT TO THE LORD** tried hard when facing two next-out winners in lone start 238 days ago. Broke slow, stalked a moderate pace three wide at the

back, wisely dropped to the fence on the second turn, then stayed on for second. The winner next grabbed a first-level allowance at Keeneland with an 89 Beyer. Owner-trainer combo went 4 for the last 12 (33%, \$3.95 ROI) after a barn switch, including three winners returning from 186-day breaks or greater. **DESTINATION** a very logical contender moving turf to dirt for her third following a whopping 461-day vacation. Ran well off the bench two back as she broke a beat slow, pressed the 13-1 fourth-finisher, made the lead in the stretch, then understandably tired. Expect good tactical speed for barn that went 13 for the last 38 (34%, \$2.51 ROI) moving turf to dirt. Russell lands here instead of Chilly Girl. **BELLA ITALIA** dueled with the more-experienced and favored winner in debut at Delaware. She might provide the pace stretching out to seven-eighths.

>> RACE 7

1. COILED

2. LAZLO

3. THE JACKAL

COILED broke a beat slow going 9 1/2 furlongs two back at Keeneland, saved ground near the back, split rivals and was bumped in upper stretch, then stayed on decently while over in behind horses. The third-finisher then placed in a first-level allowance at Churchill with an 85 Beyer. Returned from 133-day layoff without blinkers, but gets them again this afternoon, and should appreciate stretching way out in distance. Barn went 6 for the last 16 (38%, \$3.36 ROI) going second after layoffs between 120 and 180 days. Carrasco lands here instead of Zevon. **LAZLO** hit the board in his last five starts at various distances, and is tactical enough to get close to the pace. Chased the solid Naptown last time out, and that one then ran fourth in the Grade 1 Woodbine Mile with a 91 Beyer. **THE JACKAL** was purchased for \$37,000 last year, and immediately reeled off two wins for top trainer Jack Fisher. Not sure he beat the toughest field at Kentucky Downs last time, but he'll stay all day long. **JHIRSCH** faced two next-out winners with Souper Crunchy taking a \$40,000 "non-two" seller with a 74 Beyer. Perhaps we'll see early speed stretching out a half-mile in distance.

>> RACE 8

1. CONQUERTHOSEWECAN

2. G W'S GIRL

3. MAIDA

CONQUERTHOSEWECAN has won three of her last four, and think she was stuck on a dead rail when beaten in the Miss Disco two back at Colonial. Went right to the front in a race where positions never changed last month, then scooted home to score. She doesn't need the lead to succeed, and might sit behind a solid pace this afternoon. **G W'S GIRL** might be the horse to beat. Looked good knocking off two stakes at Oaklawn to kick off her season, then might have been overmatched in a pair of graded stakes. Might not have cared for being stuck inside last time, and should get a solid race flow to attack. **MAIDA**, unbeaten from two starts with blinkers, graduated in the manner of a public workout two back, then pressed the pace over a speed-friendly track to score at Delaware. Looks like the inside speed. **SAFE TRUST** was freshened after being wired by 1-20 shot Mystic Lake, who next won Charles Town's Pink Ribbon Stakes with a 95 Beyer. Forced to push that horse early, she'll likely revert to the late-running tactics that worked for her earlier in the year. **SOCIAL FORTRESS**, listed as a Penn National vet scratch on 8/29, returns from 350-day break after showing speed over a closer-friendly Aqueduct track in the Grade 1 Frizette. The fifth-finisher then won the restricted Shamrock Rose Stakes at Penn National with a 75 Beyer. She should show fresh speed here.

>> RACE 9

1. JURIS DOCTOR

2. RICHARD FEYNMAN

3. LUNAR LIGHTNING

JURIS DOCTOR chased a runaway winner's quick pace in career debut at Delaware, eventually reeled that one in, then was nosed out by a more-experienced 7-2 winner. Might not have to go as quick to establish the early lead here. **RICHARD FEYNMAN** saved ground in the pocket, angled three wide into the stretch, then tried hard when second to Divino, who next ran second in a first-level allowance at Colonial with a 79 Beyer. Breezed outside 3-year-old filly Hidden Presence (75 turf Beyer) on 9/12, finished a head up, then galloped out on even terms. Expecting another good tracking trip. **LUNAR LIGHTNING** tracked in between horses in turf debut, split foes in upper stretch, then gave his all to finish second. It was a nice step forward for the colt, who has shown good tactical speed in both starts. **MONTERREY** kicks late after being purchased privately. **MCRAVIN** is a half-brother to French Group 3-winning turf router War Dispatch, Grade 1-winning turf router Civil Union, and Irish Group 3-placed turf router U S S Michigan.

KALI'S KEY – by Kali Francois

Race 4: #6 All the Hardways

More of a gut feeling than a key for this card, as many of today's races are open to interpretation – making it an excellent betting card. A number of these Robb horses (both Gina's and Jerry's) have been coming back from the Timonium meet swinging a touch on the dirt, even ones you wouldn't expect. They had high standards for this one coming into 2025, but coming back to run an allowance at Timonium brings this one back in a really easy way, which is exactly what I think he was asking for.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Arise My Love will have to step forward first against winners and stretching out, but seems a reasonable ask with the late kick she has displayed. Boyce certainly will benefit her saving ground. Marathon type I'm a Sure Thing may be bet like one and should appreciate added ground.

R2: Lucky Lis adds blinkers after a competitive debut and looks to benefit from a bit more ground. Keep an eye on Noble Status, half to Society Ball and Closertotheheart, both half siblings and the dam hit the board on debut.

R3: Potentially the pace of the race, Homestead looks to have his way from the outside and I don't doubt his ability to get the distance. Returning to a firm turf course and blinkers on could prompt an improve from Super Chunk.

R4: Bold Diversion looks dangerous in this company, returning to Laurel may benefit with a pace setup. Decorum caught my attention in his July effort as a paddock standout, a generous reward in the 70-1 exacta. He has improved significantly since adding lasix, first against winners may be tricky, but he could step forward again.

R5: Tom Hagen did all of the early work in his last outing, fading late in his first off the bench. With plenty of pace company in the group, I look for him to land a tidy stalking trip similar to his April effort. Keep an eye on Mailman Money, who may prefer the mile here and benefits from the pace setup.

R6: Destination may look to benefit from the outside post and returning to the dirt where she can work a stalking trip. Keep an eye on Shout to the Lord, out of an unraced mare but the 2nd dam was a G1 winner at this distance.

R7: Jhirsch strikes me as the type who needs every bit of the distance he finds here today, last time out going the mile may have been just a bit too sharp. Keep an eye on Zevon, he may have run a big trying effort last weekend but looks to benefit from the distance.

R8: Maida steps up into stakes company after a commanding effort first against winners. Curious of the tactics, perhaps and inside-out trip could work here. Plenty of pace in the group, I look to Burner Account to possibly outlast the early pace while cutting back in distance.

R9: Juris Doctor looks to be the one to beat if he can run back to the debut effort. The winner already had a stakes win over fences and went on to finish 3rd in allowance company at KD. Keep an eye on debut runner McRavin, the pedigree certainly fits the distance, and Toner has a half-sibling in the barn.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#3 - Arise My Love

Trainer: Milan Milosevic

Last-Out Maiden Winners: 4 for the last 7 (57%, \$9.40 ROI)

RACE 2

#4 - Fiesta La Luna

Trainer: Claudio Gonzalez

Juvenile Debut Runners, Maiden Claiming, Dirt Routes: 5 for the last 25 (20%, \$2.20 ROI)

RACE 3

#8 - Deputy A. P.

Trainer: Kevin Boniface

Experienced Horses, First-Lasix: 3 for the last 13 (23%, \$7.66 ROI)

RACE 5

#2 - American Unity

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Between 9/7 and 9/16: 13 for 38 (34%, \$2.23 ROI)

RACE 6

#9 - Shout to the Lord

Trainer: Todd Beattie

Owner-Trainer Combo, First After Trainer Switch: 4 for the last 12 (33%, \$3.95 ROI)

RACE 8

#8 - Destination

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Turf to Dirt: 13 for the last 38 (34%, \$2.51 ROI)

RACE 7

#2 - Coiled

Trainer: Arnaud Delacour

Second after 120-180 Days: 6 for the last 16 (38%, \$3.36 ROI)

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

For Will Humphrey's Post-Race Trip Notes, please visit <https://inthemoneypodcast.com/maryland-jockey-club-trip-notes/>.

Race 7: Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/2M, Turf

| HORSE | RACE | TRIP NOTE |
|--------------|---|--|
| VAX A NATION | ALW, CNL, 1 1/4M, Firm T, 07/26/25 – 7th | 'VAN' settled into a mid pack/tracking position early, 4L of the slow pace while 2W. He traveled well under patient handling in this position to the 1/2M pole, then began to creep closer entering the bend. Having worked out into the clear 3W, he came under a ride and inherited third ~5/16 pole but failed to make up ground on the quickening leader. He then began dropping back again approaching the top stretch, straightened for the drive fully extended 6L behind and weakened to the wire. This was a subpar effort from 'VAN', though I feel the slow early tempo did not play to his strengths as he lacks a turn of foot late and is better suited by a strong pace. Also, this was a tough field he was facing. Suspect that in a more honestly run race he can show more, though it's hard to get away from the fact that he visually looked tired in the lane, raising concerns about him getting another 1/4M today. |
| COILED | ALW, CNL, 1M, Firm T, 09/03/25 – 8th | COILED took a bump at the start and was away slowly in last. Having then been hustled into stride, raced towards rear in the 2P around the first turn before working up to settle 4L off the even pace while in the clear 3–4W down the back stretch. He traveled well in this position to the far turn, then came under pressure as the pace increased but failed to offer much a response. He turned for home 5L off the lead in the 4-5P, then finished evenly to the wire. COILED had a fairly clean trip here and no real excuse, though he was slightly wide on both turns. Still, I think we'll see a much improved version of him today as he makes his second start off the bench; as was the case when he ran in Keeneland, he displayed qualities of a true 3 turn horse. He wasn't tiring towards the finish, but he just lacked the pace to get involved. Blinkers on today should help too and a notable step forward looks in store. |
| ZEVON | ALW, LRL, 1 1/16M, Firm T, 09/14/25 – 2nd | Following a clean break, ZEVON took a hold racing between horses in the 3–4P rounding the first turn, 2–3L of the lead. He then eased back into a mid pack position, 4–5L of the lead, racing down the back stretch. He was squeezed along to hold this position while chasing the honest pace to the far turn, then he began to build momentum while wide in the 3–4P on the bend. He advanced under a mild hand ride to take second passing the 1/4 pole and turned for home 2–3L off the clear leader. From there, he finished evenly to the wire to hold second. This was a respectable first start against winners from ZEVON. He was never beating the winner but a clear second best despite racing slightly wide on both turn which may suggest he can improve a little more for a more ground saving trip. He also showed a running style that will allow him to stay today's marathon trip. However, whether he'll be able to reproduce this effort of just six days rest is a slight concern, especially as he ran hard here. |
| OWHATANITE | SA, LRL, 1 1/16M, Firm T, 09/13/25 – 1st | OWHATANITE was hustled away from the inside gate but still failed to show speed and settled towards rear, 11L off the honest pace rounding the first turn. He then began advancing while in hand down the back stretch and hit the far turn just 5L off pace with momentum behind him. He then received the squeeze to progress further rounding the far turn on the rail but was briefly shut off ~3/8 pole and steadied which checked his momentum slightly and lost him a length or two. Having recovered, he then continued riding the rail into stretch and reengaged before finding a rail opening ~3/16 pole. From there, he came under a strong ride and accelerated impressively, inhaling the leader ~1/16 pole before drawing off impressively to the wire. OWHATANITE had a good set up in this race and was able to save ground throughout, but still, that doesn't take away from how visually impressive he looked. He hit the line going away with energetic strides and ears pricked - I strongly suspect he had more in the tank. He also had to briefly steady on the far turn, which cost him a length or two, so this run can be upgraded a little. He looks like he stay further, and although he still needs to get a little faster on speed figures, he shouldn't be ruled out. Main concern is the quick turnaround. |
| JHIRSCH | CLM50K, CNL, 1M, Firm T, 08/23/25 – 3rd | JHIRSCH broke alertly from the inside post but wasn't rushed and under heavy restraint, he eased back into a stalking position early. Having then been bumped around a little entering the first bend, he settled into a nice rhythm, 2–3L off the even/slow pace racing into the back stretch. He traveled powerfully in this position to the far turn, then he was forced to wait in traffic while full of run ~2L off the lead into the stretch. He didn't find clear sailing until the 3/16 pole, then he worked out into clear 4W, came under a strong ride and finished nicely for third, despite flopping leads in the lane. This run from JHIRSCH can be upgraded as he was bottled up when traveling best around the far turn to the 3/16 pole. When he finally found clear racing room, it was far too late. He hit the line in a manner to suggest he should stay further today, so long as he settles, and if he's granted a clean trip, he could be a major factor. |

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| WHISKEYINTHEJARO | SA, LRL, 1M, Firm T, 06/13/25 – 5th | WHISKEYINTHEJARO was not rushed from the gate and settled in rear early, 10L off the even pace while 2W around the first turn. He was patiently handled in this position to the 1/2M pole, then received a squeeze and advanced slightly heading into the turn. He then came under a stronger hand ride ~3/8 pole and remained in last but moved to within 5L of the lead at the top of the stretch with momentum behind him as the field bunched. From there, he began to finish nicely along the inside but met traffic when just 2.5L off the lead and had to steady ~1/8th pole. Having them altered out into the clear ~1/16 hole, he continued staying on nicely to the wire but had too much to do. This was an upgradable effort from WHISKEYINTHEJARO as he was absent of a clear path in the stretch and would have finished much closer with a clean trip. He finished like he should stay today's three turn test just fine and if ready off the layoff, granted a clean trip, he could be a major factor. |
| LAZLO | ALW, CNL, 1M, Firm T, 09/01/25 – 3rd | Following a good break, LAZLO settled into a stalking position, 5L off the loose leader while 3W around the first turn. He took a strong hold in this position and continued to chase the loose leader in a share of second from ~5L back to the far turn. From there, his rider slipped him some rein, and he began to reel in the leader, advancing in the 3P to be just 1L back ~1/4 pole, still in a share of second. He then came under a strong ride and finished well to the wire but was out kicked by the eventual 1-2 finishers and settled for third. LASLO was slightly wide on both turns but overall sat a great trip in this race. Still, that doesn't take away from his effort; this was a deep and competitive field and in no way did he disgrace himself. He showed in his start prior that he can handle these extended distances and if displaying a similar level of form today, he should have every chance. |
| THE JACKAL | MSW, KD, 1 1/2M, Firm T, 08/31/25 – 1st | 'TJ' broke alertly, then quickly crossed to the rail and settled into a tracking position in third, 1-2L off the lead around the first turn. He held this position along the inside to the dog leg turn, then a rival slipped up his inside and sandwiched him tightly between horses as the field reached the top bend. Still, he continued to travel powerfully on the leader's heels, despite being bumped around a little bit as the field began running downhill ~1/2M pole. As the field then began to spread out and he was gifted clear running room ~3/8 pole, his rider gave him a squeeze to maintain his stride. Having then worked out into the center of the track in the lane, he stayed on best to the wire, passing the tiring leaders and inheriting the lead ~1/8 pole. From there, despite lugging in, he held firm for a 3/4L score. This was a nice maiden breaking score from 'TJ' – he traveled powerfully in a great spot throughout and showed tremendous stamina late. However, it seemed that Kentucky Downs' unique and testing layout played to his strength's more than his rivals - he won this race purely with stamina rather than a turn of foot, which he may need back on a conventional track. Also, he did lug in through the lane, which was undesirable. He definitely shouldn't be ruled out today, but I'm just not sure how much more he has to offer and whether today's test will see him to such great effect. |
| MEG | MD ALW, TIM, 1 1/16M, Fast D, 08/30/25 – 2nd | MEG broke cleanly from the outside gate, then settled close to the slow pace while under heavy restraint in the 4P rounding the first turn and through the lane for the first time. She continued traveling well, 1-2L off the lead into the back stretch, then received a squeeze from her rider to stick with the leader ~3/8 pole. She gamely responded to pressure and held her position to the far turn, then came under a strong ride and stayed on nicely to the wire, chasing the eventual winner, but lacked the pace to land a threatening blow. She then galloped out strongly. This was a nice effort in defeat from MEG who traveled well throughout and showed both determination and stamina late. The slow early slow pace compromised her somewhat, as she was unable to reach the winner who had saved plenty in front and considering the way she galloped out past the wire, I feel that if the pace had been stronger, she would have won. Based off this effort, today's distance should be fine for her too. Thing is, though, today's competition is much tougher and on figures, she's going to need to take a sizable step forward. |

Race 8: The Weather Vane Stakes, 3YOF, 6F, Dirt

| HORSE | RACE | TRIP NOTE |
|------------|--|--|
| SAFE TRUST | Dashing Beauty S., DEL, 6F, Fast D, 07/17/25 – 3rd | Three runner race. 'ST' broke cleanly from the inside gate, then worked forward along the rail to press the slow early pace racing into the turn. She was then hustled along to hold her position from the 3/8 pole and just about so to the 1/4 pole. However, as the eventual winner then began drawing off at the top of the stretch, she was caught flat footed and faded to last. Although on paper this looks a disappointing effort from 'ST', I feel that she was unsuited by the slow early pace (her best efforts have come when she's set a strong pace in front or closed into a hot pace). She's going to need to find much more today and seems an unlikely winner, but her current level of ability is probably better than this run (or her prior two-turn/turf route efforts) suggest. |
| MAIDA | ALW, DEL, 6F, Fast D, 08/09/25 – 1st | MAIDA showed good natural speed from gate six and worked forward to press the pace while 3W into the far turn. She then took a slim advantage at the 3/8 pole and received a nudge from her rider to quicken. Having then repelled a challenge from the outside ~1/4 pole, she hit the top of the lane 1.5 L in front and despite drifting into the rail, drew off smartly towards the wire. Hard to fault this win from MAIDA, who showed natural speed had plenty left at the top of the stretch. The blinkers have no doubt helped her stepped |

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|--------------------|--|---|
| | | forward and as she remains lightly raced, there's a reason to leave that she could have more to offer today, even if she did have a great trip here. In a race that looks only fractionally tougher than her most recent, she's a leading player. |
| G W'S GIRL | Tyson Gilpin S., CNL, 7F, Fast D, 08/09/25 – 3rd | 'GWG' broke alertly from the rail, then settled back into a tracking position in the pocket, 1.5L off the hot early pace. She was gently squeezed along to hold this position racing to the 3/8 pole and did so, then she came under a stronger ride to go through a rail gap ~5/16 hole but was short of room and briefly had to tap on the brakes. She hit the top of the lane still 1L back on the rail, then came under a strong ride but could not go with the leading duo and finished well beaten in third. This was an OK effort from 'GWG'; she showed good speed and determination, and as she briefly had to pause at a crucial stage of the race, there's a reason to believe that she could improve slightly today. Also, having weakened through the final furlong, she should be suited by the cut back to 6F. However, this race did come back terribly slow on the Beyer scale, and she still needs to prove herself on the dirt away from Oaklawn Park. Worthy of respect but no lock. |
| CONQUERTHOSEWECAN | ALW, CNL, 6F, Fast D, 08/28/25 – 1st | CONQUERTHOSEWECAN was quickly into stride from the rail draw and took a slim lead early. She then traveled well with a head advantage while setting fast fractions to the turn. As a rival then loomed upsides her, she went head-to-head for the lead while being nudged along on the rail to the top of the stretch. She then came under a strong ride and showed good determination, fending off her rival and maintaining strong strides to the wire, drawing off professionally late. This was a big career best from CONQUERTHOSEWECAN; she set fast fractions while being pressed for the lead yet still was able to draw off powerfully to the wire. With this having been the only dirt race on the card, we don't know whether a bias was present, and she did save ground throughout, possibly reducing her scope for improvement. But still, she's proven that she can run to a level good enough to win today and she deserves plenty of respect. |
| BURNER ACCOUNT | ALW, PRX, 1M 70Y, Fast D, 08/19/25 – 4th | 'BA' was hustled away from the gate and took the lead entering the first turn before crossing down to the rail and setting even fractions with an uncontested 1-2L advantage to ~1/2M pole. She was then ridden to maintain this lead entering the bend and just about did so to the 5/16 pole, despite (possibly) trying to lug out on the turn. As her rivals then gained in behind, she lost the lead at the top of stretch and despite trying hard the wire, faded into fourth. 'BA' ran OK in this race and showed a likable attitude but really didn't have much of an excuse either as she got away with even fractions in front. Today's cut back in distance could help; however, she needs to take a step forward to be considered a win contender and with lasix coming off, plus enough other speed in the race to make her life difficult, it feels unlikely that we'll see that today. |
| VOLLEYBALLPRINCESS | CT Oaks (G2), CT, 7F, Fast D, 08/22/25 – 6th | VOLLEYBALLPRINCESS was hustled away from the outside gate, then raced towards the center of the track, 3.5 L off the pace into the first turn where she was then floated out into the 5-6P & lost a couple of lengths. Having then recovered and dropped back down to the rail ~5/8 pole, she raced comfortably in mid pack, 5L off the lead to ~3/8 pole. She then advanced a little closer heading into the turn before a coming under a ride. She seemed to be responding to pressure while riding the rail on the turn but failed to advance as the (talented) leaders quickened away. She chased them along the rail to the top of the stretch, then straightened for the drive 5-6L of the lead before flattening out through the lane. This was a tougher race than VOLLEYBALLPRINCESS will be competing in today and as she was floated wide into the first turn, I don't want to knock her too much for it. Back on a more conventional track with a cut back to 6F in her favor, granted a cleaner trip, I feel (based off this effort) a low 80s Beyer is within reach, and that should make her competitive. |
| ENDORSE | MSW, SAR, 1M, Fast D, 08/31/25 – 2nd | ENDORSE bobbed slightly at the break but still managed to show good early speed and take the lead early. Having then crossed to the rail, she set an even pace with an uncontested 1L advantage to the far turn, then she was slipped some rain and extended her advantage in hand to 3L at the top of the stretch. From there, she gradually came under a hand ride and held her lead into the final furlong but then began to tire and was worn down late by the 6/5 favorite. Although I don't like seeing horses throw away clear leads in the stretch, I thought ENDORSE lost little in defeat here. She traveled very well to the stretch, but just tired slightly in the final furlong and was caught late by the 6/5 favorite. She showed a likable attitude, she visually looked the part; the cut back to 6F today should be to her benefit and should see her improve; and her trainer's confidence to enter her in a stake as a maiden speaks volumes. Player. |
| SOCIAL FORTRESS | Frizette S. (G1), BAQ, 1M, Fast D, 10/05/24 – 3rd | 'SF' showed good speed while being ridden away from the gate and took the early lead. Having then crossed down to the rail, she said an honest pace with an uncontested 2L advantage to the 1/2M pole. As her rivals then crept closer rounding the turn, she was gently nudged along to maintain her diminishing lead and gamely did so to the 1/4 pole. She turned for home with a head lead, then came under a strong ride but could not go on and faded to a distant third. Hard to knock 'SF' too much for this effort as she was competing against some of the best two-year-olds in the country; she just wasn't good enough. Still, she showed great speed (enough for 6F) and I loved her attitude; the lengthy layoff is obviously a concern today as she makes her first start for her new trainer, but she |

clearly has some sort of talent, and if she has trained on into her three year-old year (fast works, suggest she has) she could return from a bang. Shouldn't be ruled out in a hurry.

Race 9: MSW, 3-6YO, 1 1/16M, Turf

| HORSE | RACE | TRIP NOTE |
|-----------------|---|---|
| LUNAR LIGHTNING | VA MSW, CNL, 1M, Firm T, 09/03/25 – 2nd | 'LL' took a slight bump at the break, then adopted a mid pack tracking position towards the inside, 2.5L of the slow early pace. He held this position into the backstretch, then moved out into the 2P and advanced to race between foes, tracking the leading duo. He traveled well in this position to the far turn, then briefly waited for a run behind horses as the pace quickened in front. Having held his position in slight traffic to the top of the stretch, he turned for home 1-2L off the lead, then stayed on gamely between rivals to the wire, snatching second on the line. He had no chance with the winner though. Although more was expected of 'LL' in this race (beaten as the 3/5 fav), I thought he still ran with credit. He traveled well into the contest, stayed on nicely towards the wire, and as he had to briefly wait on the turn, there's reason to believe that he can take another step forward as he makes his third start. He also finished as if he should be suited by today's extra 1/16M. Has work to do speed figure wise to content for win honors, but isn't ruled out, especially as an underneath type. |
| MONTERREY | MSW, KD, 1 5/16M, Firm T, 09/07/25 – 9th | MONTERREY broke slowly from gate 10 and fell well behind early while being squeezed into the bridle. He raced in a detached last, 12L off the lead while being nudged along to the top turn, then continued racing in a labored fashion while under a ride all the way to the wire. Although this race came on an unconventional track, this was an uninspiring effort from MONTERREY, which ever way you slice it. He never traveled, looked a little awkward and raced in a labored fashion throughout. Today's cut back in distance does not look certain suit and he needs much more to score. |
| JURIS DOCTOR | MSW, DEL, 1 1/16M, Firm T, 08/13/25 – 2nd | 'JD' showed good speed from gate two, then settled into second early, 5L off the loose, runaway leader. He traveled well chasing the place along the rail into the back stretch, then was gently encouraged to close the gap and did so. He hit the far just 1L behind with momentum behind him, then eased out into the 3P and readily took a 1L advantage on the turn. He held this lead while being hand ridden to the top of the lane, then came under a strong ride and gamely battled head-to-head with a fresh challenger to the wire, well clear of third, but he agonizingly lost the photo. This was a strong debut effort from 'JD' who displayed plenty of likable qualities. This race really fell apart, yet he managed to hold on for a second having been closest to the hot early fractions, only losing to a far more experienced rival. Visually he looked the part, and he showed a likable attitude too. Entitled to step forward for this debut, and if able to conserve a little bit more energy early, he could be tough to beat. |
| RICHARD FEYNMAN | MSW, DEL, 1 1/16M, Firm T, 06/14/25 – 2nd | 'RF' showed good natural speed, then crossed the rail and established a favorable tracking position in third, 2-3L off the pace early. He traveled powerfully in this position all the way to the 5/16 pole, then he came under a ride to go after the leading duo who had managed to get the jump on him while he remained under a tight hold on the rail. He then tipped out into the clear 3W off the bend and ran strongly to the wire but could not catch the winner who was away and gone. Although beaten at a short price in this race, I felt 'RF' lost nothing in defeat. He traveled well in a great position on the rail, but the winner got the jump on him on the far turn and he was unable to make up the ground late. (The winner is talented, too). Still, the blinkers no doubt helped him step forward, and if able to run a similar race today (or better, as he remains unexposed on the turf) he should be very competitive again. |
| SEVER | | DEBUTANT |
| MCRAVIN | | DEBUTANT |
| SE THAR BARR | VA MSW, CNL, 1M, Firm T, 09/03/25 – 4th | 'STB' was slightly short of room leaving the gate and fell back to rear before advancing in the 4-5P around the first turn to settle into a tracking position, 2L off the slow early pace. He traveled OK while in the clear in this position to the far turn, then he was squeezed along rounding the bend and, despite giving away ground in the 4P, managed to hold his position to the 1/4 pole. He then dropped back slightly as the leaders cut the corner and quickened into the lane. He turned for home ~3L back, then came under a strong ride, bumped with a rival ~1/8 pole after receiving a right-handed crop, then he finished evenly to the wire. Not a bad effort at 18/1 from 'STB', whose effort can be upgraded somewhat as he was very wide and without cover throughout. He took a bump around the 1/8th pole too which dented his momentum somewhat (though he was beginning to struggle at time) but still stayed on with credit towards the line. Needs to take a significant step forward figure wide to contend for win honors today and maybe best watched, but I suspect he'll be seen to better affect in a more honestly run race, saving ground, and there's no doubt more to come from him. |

Horses to Follow

R7: COILED (10/1 ML)

Today's seventh will see a well-matched group of allowance foes tackle three turns in a 1 1/2-mile marathon. There are multiple ways bettors can go in this race, including price horses such as JHIRSCH and WHISKEYINTHEJARO, both of whom ran upgradable races last out, as noted in the trip notes. Another big-priced runner to consider is COILED, a \$275k son of HARD SPUN, trained by Arnaud Delacour. Unlike several of today's competitors, COILED had a smooth trip when last seen finishing eighth at Colonial 17-days ago, and there seemed to be no excuse for his sub-par effort. However, he was returning from a 133-day layoff in that race, so was likely short of peak fitness, and he was also running over what was obviously an inadequate distance. As highlighted in the trip notes, he looked every part a three-turn horse that day; he stayed on evenly to the wire and his stride never shortened, but he just lacked the pace to be competitive over a flat mile. Prior to that run, he had romped in a MSW at Turfway with a 73 Beyer before finishing just four lengths behind five high-quality stake placed performers in a competitive 1 3/16-mile allowance at Keeneland, so it seems he has some ability. But to fully show what he's capable of, he needs three turns. He gets that for the first time today as he makes his second start off the bench and he also gets blinkers back on, which helped him step forward massively last year. With only five lifetime starts and two on turf, he has far more scope to improve than his rivals today and it would be disappointing if he didn't produce a much-improved effort. He's already run Timeform US figures that fit with this group, and with Delacour hitting at 29% with turf routers making their second start off 120+ day breaks (12-for-42; \$2.36 ROI), he's at least worth a second look.

R8: ENDORSE (5/1 ML)

It's fair to say that Todd Pletcher knows a good horse when he sees one, and so it has to be a good sign that he's willing to throw ENDORSE into today's featured Weather Vane Stakes as a maiden, right? Although the well-bred \$375k daughter of CURLIN has yet to find the winners' circle, she's already shown significant signs of promise. On debut, she was unlucky to bump into leading 3-year-old filly RAGTIME, who was beaten just a neck in the G1 Test Stakes when last seen, but she still ran with tremendous credit. Then, following a stumble at the gate that dispatched of her rider in career start number two and a 'too-bad-to-be-true' effort two-back, she ran another big race in defeat last time. As highlighted in the trip notes, ENDORSE bobbed slightly at the break but still showed good early speed to take the lead early. She then cruised through honest fractions like a stake-quality filly to the turn, opened up by three lengths at the top of the lane, and seemed to have the race in the bag. However, she began treading water in the final furlong of that one-mile contest and was nailed close home by the highly regarded 6/5 favorite, IVORY IN EBONY. It was a brutal loss for her supporters, but she showed a great attitude, visually looked the part, and lost nothing in defeat. For the effort, she earned an 80 Beyer that fits squarely with this group, but as that figure came over a distance that was seemingly too far, one has to think that she'll have more to offer cutting back to 6F today. Having subsequently worked heads up with G1 winner ANTIQUARIAN at Saratoga ([viewable here](#)), she's clearly been impressing Pletcher enough to warrant this entry, and with both early speed and a tactical outside post, she has the potential to significantly outrun her odds.

R9: JURIS DOCTOR (6/5 ML)

Over the last five years, trainer Michael Stidham has struck at 27% with second-time starters in MSW races on the turf who hit the board on debut (8-for-30; \$2.47 ROI), and he now looks to have an excellent chance to bolster those statistics in today's nightcap. JURIS DOCTOR, a \$450,000 son of CONSTITUTION and a grandson of seven-time G1-winning supermare SIGHTSEEK, was cut out to be good from day one, and he nearly made a perfect start to his career at Delaware last month. In fact, he ran too well to lose. As highlighted in the trip notes, following a sharp beginning, he raced in second, close to a blistering pace that eventually fell apart, then forged into the lead on the home turn before battling head-to-head with a far more experienced (and talented) deep closer through the lane. The front two pulled over six lengths clear of third but agonizingly for 'JD' and his backers, having done everything right and shown tremendous grit and determination in the stretch, he had his nose down at the wrong time and lost by the slimmest of margins in a tight photo finish. To emphasize how well 'JD' ran in defeat, the two horses who were positioned first and third at the half-mile pole in that

fiercely run contest were experienced and well fancied in the betting, sent off at odds of 7/2 and 4/1, respectively; they ended up fading to finish eighth and fifth. For the effort, he was rewarded with an 81 Beyer—the fastest figure on offer in today’s race. The form of that race has held up well and following a swift set of morning drills since, ‘JD’ could be tough to beat with a natural step forward expected in start number two. His trainer’s strong record with second-time starters speaks for itself and he could be a suitable single to round out the late sequences.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

MIKES MO TOWN

Trainer: Carlos Mancilla

Last Race: Mar. 21, 5th race

Finish: 6th by 13 3/4

Tracked in between rivals, dropped down to the pocket on the turn, then failed to threaten a pace-pressing runaway winner over a speed-friendly track. Perhaps he needs weaker company, so he's worth a follow at the dime maiden level here, or against nickel sellers at Charles Town.

THIS IS GOOD

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

Last Race: April 26, 3rd race

Finish: 3rd by 5

Off to an awkward break and pinched back at the start, yet demonstrated some grit and class while making up several lengths in the stretch run. Looking forward to his next turf sprint.

RERUN TABLE

Trainer: John Salzman Jr.

Last Race: Aug. 24, 4th race

Finish: 1st by head

Sharp debut speed while on the chase, then accelerated to catch a speed target in upper stretch, corrected her stride after shifting in under a right handed crop strike, then rallied in final yards to a determined victory. Galloped out to open a daylight gap after the finish, indicating this Blofeld filly will handle extended distances.

GO TO THE KINGDOM

Trainer: Cal Lynch

Last Race: Sept. 5, 1st race

LEVISA

Trainer: Richard Sillaman

Last Race: April 4, 8th race

Finish: 5th by 14

Set a pressured pace outside the 9-1 last-finisher, cleared to the rail to face a challenge from the 9-2 runner-up, then tired very badly as the favorite in a race won by a deep closer. She's inconsistent, but she's also fast, and she fits in a conditioned \$7,500 claimer that lacks other early speed.

CHESAPEAKE DREAM *(Breezed 3F - :38.00 at LRL on 8/24)*

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: April 25, 4th race

Finish: 3rd by 3

Sent up between horses early through a white-hot first quarter, then continued to duel through a strong half, tiring in the final sixteenth. Tab back in dirt allowance sprint up to 7 furlongs.

MEDAGOOCH

Trainer: Phil Capuano

Last Race: Aug. 31, 7th race

Finish: 3rd by 2 3/4

Dueled through an overheated quarter of 22:2, then shook free of rival after a salty half 46:2, cleared away around final turn. However, the relentless pace took its toll. Gave way grudgingly only in the final yards. Maryland-bred should be tough at 6 furlongs on dirt.

INCISIVE KITTEN

Trainer: Mike Trombetta

Last Race: Sept. 7, 5th race

Finish: 4th by 3 1/4

Broke from the far outside post in two-turn turf test and was floated wide going into the first turn. Settled near the back of the pack, angled widest into the stretch, and finished evenly on the far outside. Seems well-entered in the quarter "non-three" condition, and benefits if she gets a quick pace to attack.

PERSIAN (*Entered at Laurel – TODAY, Race 6*)

Trainer: Claudio Gonzalez

Last Race: Sept. 13, 1st race

Finish: 5th by 9

Gray filly had difficult trip in final start last year on dirt, then tried grass in first run off a long layoff. Claimed that day by Gonzalez, she'll return to dirt on Saturday, but might be more effective when returned against state-sired competition.

Finish: 7th by 5 1/4

Late-running filly needs pace help, and she didn't get it here as they ran 1-2-3-4-5 around the track after glacial fractions of 25.18, 50.31 and 1:15.47. Wound up last and in between horses on the second turn before finishing evenly on the fence. Hoping to catch a field with lots of speed influences, likely in a \$12,500 "non-two" turf event.

UNIWINNER

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Last Race: Sept 14, 2nd race

Finish: 2nd by 1/2

When the other speed didn't break, razor-sharp favorite Kissling had things his own way up front. Uniwinner tracked that one from a loose pocket, eased out in midstretch, and never stopped trying. He's hit the board in his last three dirt starts, and fits nicely at the \$12,500 "non-three" level.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 2: Jeiron Barbosa: #1 - Lucky Lis; #3 - Noble Status >>> **Barbosa chooses LUCKY LIS**

Race 2: Carlos Lopez: #7 - Spirit of Zion; #8 - Princess Charming >>> **Lopez chooses PRINCESS CHARMING**

Race 4: Tais Lyapustina: #3 - El Divino Nino; #5 - Bold Diversion >>> **Lyapustina chooses BOLD DIVERSION**

Race 5: Daniel Centeno: #4 - Coronova; #8 - Gold Foot >>> **Centeno chooses CORONOVA**

Race 5: Carlos Lopez: #7 - Covert Kat; #11 - Likebelivingnmagic >>> **Lopez chooses COVERT KAT**

Race 6: Sheldon Russell: #1 - Chilly Girl; #8 - Destination >>> **Russell chooses DESTINATION**

Race 7: Victor Carrasco: #2 - Coiled; #3 - Zevon >>> **Carrasco chooses COILED**

PAST TRACK TRENDS

PIMLICO:

May 9 – Fair

May 10 – CLOSERS BIAS

May 11 – Fair

May 15 – SPEED BIAS

🏆 May 16 – CLOSERS BIAS

🏆 May 17 – Fair

LAUREL:

May 23 – CLOSERS BIAS

May 24 – CLOSERS BIAS

May 25 – SPEED BIAS

May 26 – Fair

May 31 – Fair (Outside Lean)

June 1 – Fair (Outside Lean)

June 6 – CLOSERS BIAS

June 7 – SPEED BIAS

June 8 – Fair

June 13 – Fair

June 14 – Fair

June 15 – CLOSERS BIAS

June 20 – Fair

June 21 – SPEED BIAS

June 22 – Fair

June 27 – Fair

June 28 – Fair

June 29 – Fair

Sep. 5 – SPEED BIAS (Only 2 Dirt Races)

Sep. 6 – Fair

Sep. 7 – Fair

Sep. 12 – SPEED BIAS

Sep. 13 – Fair

Sep. 14 – Fair