



LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Friday, Feb. 27

First post is **11:57 AM 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 X [@LaurelPark](#) at 11AM 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



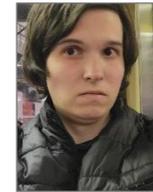
KALI FRANCOIS



DAN ILLMAN



MACK PFEIFFER



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

RACE 1:	2-7-6-5	8-1-6-7	6-7-2-5	3-2-8-6	4-7-6-8	5-7-2-6	6-4-8
RACE 2:	5-1-3-6	5-1-3-6	1-5-3-6	5-3-1-6	1-5-3-6	5-3-1-2	1-3-5
RACE 3:	8-6-7-1	7-8-3-	6-8-1-2	6-2-1-7	5-1-6-8	4-6-8-3	7-6-4
RACE 4:	7-6-5-2	2-7-6-5	5-6-2-7	6-5-2-7	1-7-6-2	6-7-5-1	7-6-2
RACE 5:	9-4-3-6	6-9-4-2	3-4-6-2	7-4-5-1	4-9-3-6	9-5-7-3	9-6-4
RACE 6:	3-9-4-8	5-3-4-9	3-5-4-9	2-3-6-5	5-3-4-8	9-8-5-3	9-4-3
RACE 7:	3-4-5-1	5-3-6-4	3-5-6-4	3-5-4-6	3-5-4-6	3-6-2-4	4-3-5
RACE 8:	7-1-3-4	1-7-3-2	1-7-3-4	1-7-6-3	1-5-3-2	3-6-1-7	1-7-5

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. PRINCESS AZARA

2. BELLA'S PASSWORD

3. SNOWBOARDER

First post is 11:57 AM ET, with a LOW 12% takeout on "Value" Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races). **PRINCESS AZARA** saved ground midpack behind a quick pace, was urged along on the outside, made a brief three-wide bid, and finished evenly. Expect improved speed as she drops in class. **BELLA'S PASSWORD**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) 11/9 and 11/22, prompted a fast pace three wide and in between, was forced into an early bid by a wider middle-mover, briefly made the lead and the rail under urging, then tired and hopped back to her left lead right on the wire. The runner-up then finished first in a \$40,000 maiden claimer with a 52 Beyer. Tactical enough to find a decent stalking position while outside and clear of traffic. Burnham lands here instead of Judy G. **SNOWBOARDER** set a fast pace while three wide, cleared to the rail on the turn, came off the inside, and tired. Should be forwardly placed for a barn that sent out a similar "second off the layoff" winner here at 6-1 odds on 2/13. DESPERATE DREAMS ran well on dirt four back in a race that produced four next-out winners. Her form seems dirtied-up recently, with a slop start followed by two synthetic ventures. The runner-up from the last race then placed in a \$30,000 maiden claimer at Turfway with a 53 Beyer. HIGH ANXIETY is a half-sister to stakes-placed dirt miler Oncourtcommentator (won debut; 81 dirt Beyer) out of multiple stakes-winning turf miler Curlin's Fox (won debut; 99 turf Beyer).

>> RACE 2

1. HEAT CHECK

2. CASEOFTHEMONDAYS

3. PAUL'S GUITAR

HEAT CHECK hustled hard to set a reasonable pace (24.01 second quarter) inside the 6-1 third-finisher, then stayed gamely for second along the rail in his first run after a 202-day layoff. Claimed out of that race, he figures to be close to the lead after breaking from the fence. **CASEOFTHEMONDAYS** hopped slightly at the start but recovered quickly and pulled forward to battle between horses. Tried hard in between all the way to the wire to prevail. The third-finisher then graduated for \$40,000 with a 70 Beyer. Figures right there when they turn for home for a barn that went 65 for the last 241 (27%, \$2.02 ROI) with dirt horses exiting a top Beyer effort. **PAUL'S GUITAR** bobbed at the start, recovered to duel inside the 17-10 runner-up, was outrun into the pocket on the turn, then kept trying behind the two favorites despite being late to change leads. Tactical enough to sit behind the speeds this time for a barn that went 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$5.34 ROI) with dirt horses off the claim.

>> RACE 3

1. BALLINACLASH

2. CAPITAINE

3. MATTHEW'S TICKET

BALLINACLASH was brushed leaving the gate, set a slow pace (24.25-second quarter) inside the 3-1 runner-up, came off the rail when beaten, and tired behind the three favorites. The winner of that heat then took the Miracle Wood Stakes with an 85 Beyer. Expect him to be close to the lead for a barn that went 4 for the last 20 (20%, \$2.51 ROI) with experienced horses racing with Lasix for the first time. Cruz departs for **CAPITAINE**, who was listed as a Parx vet scratch on 12/29. Wired by the favorite in his debut he hustled hard to track from the pocket, was urged along on the turn, cut the corner, and flattened out just a bit. The runner-up then placed in a \$75,000 maiden/optional at Aqueduct with a 69 Beyer. The barn went 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$2.65 ROI) with second-out maidens adding Lasix. **MATTHEW'S TICKET** broke in a bit and was bumped lightly at the break, went up to set a fast, uncontested pace, came off the rail turning for home, and lasted for third behind the top pick. Expect rail speed for a barn that went 6 for the last 22 (27%, \$2.91 ROI)

with second-time Lasix users. PRIME RANGER (\$160,000 yearling; \$55,000 May juvenile) breezed two furlongs in 22 2/5 prior to the recent auction and is out of stakes-placed turf router Party Starter (87 turf Beyer). Sanchez lands here instead of Go Grey.

>> RACE 4

1. UNCLE CAT

2. DON'T WAIT UP

3. BROTHER CONWAY

UNCLE CAT (wears a goggle) looked good wiring the field last month. Set a fast pace inside the 74-1 seventh-finisher, faced two challenges on the turn, then stayed to his task. Perhaps last time was the time at a big price, but think he can work out a comfortable trip while close to the lead for a barn that sent out an 8-1 winner here on 2/15. **DON'T WAIT UP** was reclaimed after hitting the board in three consecutive starts, and he had good success for this barn last fall. He's performed well at this distance for a barn that sent out 13-10 winner Albert Finnigan on 2/22. **BROTHER CONWAY** tracked a swift pace while three wide, found good position behind the leaders on the turn, blew past them turning for home, then lasted along the fence. This is a tougher spot, but respect his tactical speed and back class for a barn that went 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$2.92 ROI) with dirt horses after the claim. Expect early speed from IN THE CHASE, who steps up in class after setting solid splits in two-turn Charles Town score. SUPER ACCELERATE should appreciate dropping into a claimer for the first time. DEVIL'S CAY chased solid quick fractions (23.87; 23.80) against tougher allowance foes. He's won sprinting in the past.

>> RACE 5

1. HELDISH

2. PUDGE BOY PALACE

3. MASAKADO

HELDISH settled behind a fast pace while two wide/three path two back. He was outpaced a bit on the turn, swung five wide, then rallied for third behind two sharp ones in a race that produced three next-out winners (Freeze the Fire captured his next two against \$12,000 starters with Beyers of 90 and 86). Gets a mulligan for the last one, as he stumbled and lost the jockey at the start. Think seven furlongs is within his scope, and he should come running in the stretch. **PUDGE BOY PALACE** prompted the pace three wide, was outpaced four wide in upper stretch, then finished evenly against a tougher group. Wheels back on short notice and might revert to the rallying style that worked well four back. Gomez lands here instead of Daufuskie Island. **MASAKADO** set the pace along the fence in a two-turn heat, raced between after a half-mile, cut the corner, and switched back to his left lead in the final furlong. He doesn't need the lead to succeed and might opt for tracking tactics at this shorter trip. EL DIVINO NINO should show early foot, dropping in class in the second off the Farringham claim. WHITE SERIES prompted from between rivals, altered widest in the upper stretch, and failed to rally in the 2025 finale. The ninth-place finisher then took a \$16,000 claimer at Parx with a 73 Beyer. Freshened since that heat, he can kick if the pace is hot.

>> RACE 6

1. LADDIE DANCE

2. DEADPAN

3. SPOTTED BULL

LADDIE DANCE stalked three wide at the back behind fast fractions, split rivals with a three-wide bid on the turn, eased out for the drive, and made up late ground. This is arguably a tougher spot from a pace and class standpoint, but he's been in dependable form for a barn that sent out a 2-1 winner on 2/22. Hazlewood lands here instead of Majestic Tiger, Deadpan, and Spotted Bull. **DEADPAN** was pinched slightly at the start, then received an excellent race flow (fast 23.62-second quarter) after settling in midpack. Made a four-wide bid on the second bend and drew away from that Mahoning Valley group. Seems well-entered for his circuit return for a barn that went 6 for the last 28 (21%, \$2.03 ROI) with last-out winners. **SPOTTED BULL** looked good scoring over sloppy going two back. Broke slow from the rail last time, saved ground at the back behind that quick pace, then made up some late ground

after easing outside in the stretch. DADDY YANKEE has a bit more speed than he's shown in his last few races. The runner-up from the last start then took an \$8,000 starter with a 76 Beyer.

>> RACE 7

1. INDY CHARGES ON

2. FEELING WOZZY

3. QUICK TO ACCUSE

INDY CHARGES ON chased a quick pace (23.62; 23.70) over a closer-friendly track, was forced into an early three-wide move when the favorite loomed boldly on the rail, then stayed to his task over two turns. Think he can work out a similar trip here. Hazlewood lands here instead of Quick to Accuse.

FEELING WOZZY tracked a quick pace (23.23; 23.65) from the outside, found perfect position behind the pace battle on the backstretch, made a three-wide bid under confident handling, and got it done over three of today's rivals. It's nice to see he's found a rating gear. **QUICK TO ACCUSE** was wired in a slow-paced sprint in New York last time out, but think his speed plays better at these slightly longer distances. Gets Lasix once again for a barn that sent out an 8-5 winner here on 2/22.

>> RACE 8

1. TRIATHELON

2. BOSS LILY

3. RIO DEL VALLE

TRIATHELON pressed the pace while three wide, dueled with the 9-2 fourth-finisher at the three-eighths marker, and stayed on for second behind the favorite. The fifth-finisher then placed at this level with a 35 Beyer. Tactical enough to set up shop close to the pace for a barn that went 15 for the last 56 (27%, \$3.69 ROI) with second-time Lasix users. **BOSS LILY** raced at the back behind a lively pace, made a three-wide bid on the second turn under urging, and stayed on for a minor award. The winner then placed in a \$16,000 claimer with a 41 Beyer. This horse has steadily improved since being stretched out in distance. Villalobos departs for **RIO DEL VALLE**, who tracked three wide and in between, made a four-wide bid on the turn under urging, and finished evenly last week. Expect more early speed as he stretches out for the first time. PERKINS GEM might have aimed too high in the \$25,000 ranks. This class drop helps, and there is some stamina in his pedigree.

KALI'S KEYS – by Kali Francois

Race 1: #1 Judy G - 30/1

This is a total stab for a price to kick off this EVP5 at the low 12% takeout. After some time off, the two turns around the bullring seems to perk this one up. With a pattern change of showing heart, I have a feeling that, yes, this is a step up but while the Ness horse is logical in stepping down, there's a chance that this one will show her mettle. When the girls get game, they get game! With an inside post, just like she performs in best, she'll get to play the defensive, her preferred position.

Race 3: Time for America - 15/1

The Cal Lynch horse and the other Nihei horse will garner some attention, but this one's bullet gate work caught my attention and definitely worth putting underneath if it's anywhere near that 15/1. Second dirt efforts are touch stronger than the first run amongst the half sibling, with the exception of one.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Just a Click returns to LRL after trying AQU and CT, reason to believe the company may suit her here. High Anxiety, half to Oncourtcommentator, makes her debut and lands a comfortable outer post. Somewhat curious that connections opt not to protect her for debut.

R2: Caseofthemondays has held the right company and finally put the pieces together last out. Second start off the bench here and second time lasix, he looks well positioned to repeat. Paul's Guitar stepped up in company and ran willingly against Our Day Will Come, who was stringing together three in a row. This should be a solid middle ground for his next step forward.

R3: Ballinaclash has faced some of the best horses in Maryland in each of his four career starts, today may finally be his chance. The outer post could help set things up for a stalk and pounce move, after doing too much work too early in recent starts. Make It Quick is a half to Still Having Fun and Too Many Kisses, reason to believe a clean trip could move things forward for him today.

R4: Plenty of speed in this group, Uncle Cat looks to be the quickest of them all. Don't Wait Up is 2/3 at this distance and looked to run out of real estate when trying 5.5f last out. Second off the bench here may continue moving things forward. Worth noting he makes his debut for a new barn today.

R5: El Divino Nino may find himself caught in the middle of the outer speed but if he can sort this out, he looks to benefit from the class relief. Pudge Boy Palace has the opportunity to sit a stalk and pounce trip as we saw 2-back, I forgive the last outing where he was simply outclassed.

R6: Majestic Tiger cuts back in distance in his second start off the bench, the bullet work on 2/17 and sharp 2/4 work might signal a return to form here. Deadpan has proven versatile with his efforts sprinting and routing, class relief works, but the pace setup should be a bit stronger here than his last try at this distance. Demand value.

R7: Indy Charges On has improved steadily in each of his last four outings since being claimed. Previously a winner over this course and distance, his tactical speed is key to success here. Feeling Woozy impressed with new tactics last out, some question of whether he can build off of that here.

R8: Triathelon seems to run his better races going one turn, second time Lasix should move things in the right direction. Boss Lily also tries Lasix for the second time, this one may offer value while shortening up in distance.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 2

#3 - Paul's Guitar

Trainer: Jonathan Maldonado
First After Claim, Dirt: 2 for 10 (20%, \$5.34 ROI)

#5 - Caseofthemondays

Trainer: Kieron Magee
First After Beyer Top, Dirt: 65 for 241 (27%, \$2.02 ROI)

RACE 3

#1 - Matthew's Ticket

Trainer: Phil Capuano
Second-Time Lasix: 6 for 22 (27%, \$2.91 ROI)

RACE 3

#6 - Ballinaclash

Trainer: Phil Schoenthal
Experienced Horses, First Lasix: 4 for 20 (20%, \$2.51 ROI)

#8 - Capitaine

Trainer: Cal Lynch
Second-Out Maidens, Lasix On: 3 for 12 (25%, \$2.65 ROI)

RACE 4

#2 - Brother Conway

Trainer: Gina Perri
First After Claim, Dirt: 2 for 10 (20%, \$2.92 ROI)

RACE 6

#5 - Deadpan

Trainer: Anthony Farrior
Last-Out Winners: 6 for 28 (21%, \$2.03 ROI)

RACE 8

#1 - Triathelon

Trainer: Robbie Bailes
Second-Time Lasix: 15 for 56 (27%, \$3.69 ROI)

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

Trip Notes - Recent performances that deserve an asterisk. All others: trust the past-performances.

Race 1: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 3YOF, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- Having been hard used from the rail last out (6 1/2F, CT, 02/04/26), **#1 JUDY G** dueled through honest fractions to the far turn, gamely hung in there vying for the lead into the lane and then grudgingly dropped back a little before finding herself in tight through the final few yards which lost her ~1/2 to 3/4L; the trouble didn't cost her a position but she was very slightly better than the beaten margin suggests and it wouldn't be a shock if she were to improve slightly cut back to 5 1/2F today.
- **#2 SNOWBOARDER** set fast, closer friendly fractions in front last out (6F, LRL, 02/14/26), turned for home traveling well with a good-sized lead, then ultimately tired late on. He's deserving of a small PACE UPGRADE for his effort and should be suited by the cut back to 5 1/2F today.
- There was no visible reason as to why **#3 JUST A CLICK** ran so far below par last out (6 1/2F, CT, 02/12/26); she'll need to bounce back today.
- **#4 KELSEY HILL GIRL** had to check from between rivals at the top of the lane last time (5 1/2F, LRL, Turf, 11/07/25) which put an end to any chance she may have had; she was then not preserved with in the lane, exasperating the margin of defeat. Impossible to tell where she'd have finished had the interference not occurred, but she wasn't in contention at the time and seemingly underperformed, period. Makes dirt debut on first start for Geralis today with Lasix on off bench.
- **#5 DESPERATE DREAMS** broke out from the rail, bumped a rival hard and bobbed a little at the break last time (6 1/2F, TP Synth, 01/22/26); her poor start doesn't really explain why she ran poorly though – she never lifted a hoof thereafter and more will be needed today as she returns to dirt on debut for Salvaggio.

- **#6 PRINCESS AZARA** didn't get as forward early as she had been in prior starts having drawn the rail last out (6F, LRL, 02/13/26), then came fractionally wide into the lane and wasn't hard ridden through the final ~75Y which cost her 5th (beaten just a nose for that spot). Overall, however, her trip was fine, and she seemed to run to form, showing a likable attitude once again. Logical contender on the drop; wider post may help.
- **#7 BELLA'S PASSWORD** sat a fine trip last time (1M, LRL, 10/31/25) and was fully extended to the wire. Now cuts back in trip today (which could suit) off the bench.

Race 2: Claiming 25k, 3YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- **#1 HEAT CHECK** ran well off the bench in behind **#6 MISTER ROSCOE** last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 01/16/26); the early pace that he set was not fast though (23.19, 47.20) which led to speed holding well (top three finishers at odds of 5/1, 5/2 and 6/1 filled the top three positions throughout; **MISTER ROSCOE** coming from ~2L back in 3rd) and therefore, his effort needs downgrading a little. Still, he was game in defeat and is eligible to step forward second off as he makes his debut for Ness. Note: he raced a little awkwardly on the turn last out too (leaning out); the bump he took at the 1/16 pole was inconsequential.
- **#2 DANCING DENAE** sat a good trip last out (1M, LRL, 02/13/26) and was fully extended to the wire. Cuts back to 6F today (uncertain to suit).
- **#3 PAUL'S GUITAR** vied for command through even fractions on the rail last out (6F, LRL, 02/06/26), dropped back a little on the far turn, then raced awkwardly when taking kickback for the first time and lost slightly more ground than necessary before staying on well again through the lane (seemingly had a little more to offer); a wider, kick-back free trip, should help him improve on the drop today, especially if he can rate a little more early.
- Although very wide on the far turn, there was no true visible reason as to why **#4 PAYNTED LION** ran below par last out (1M, LRL, 02/04/26); he didn't particularly look fast enough to sprint and much more will be needed back at 6F today.
- **#5 CASEOFTHEMONDAYS** sat a good trip last out (6F, LRL, 02/06/26) and was fully extended to the wire, winning the bob gamely.
- Although one would still have liked to have seen a little more from him late on, **#6 MISTER ROSCOE** can be given a slight pass for his most recent effort (6F, LRL, 02/06/26): he settled off the even pace, then looked to be coming with run along the inside on the far turn but was short of room ~3/8 pole and forced to steady; he then continued to find himself stuck behind retreating foes on the run to the top of the lane and was shuffled even further back; after then finding little off the bridle when clear in the lane (disappointing), he was eased through the final 1/8th, exasperating the margin of defeat. He does now have a couple of questions to answer but regardless, granted a clean trip, a step back in the right direction today seems highly likely on the drop.

Race 3: MSW, 3YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- After boring in at the break and causing some issues inside, in first time blinkers, **#1 MATHEW'S TICKET** was very aggressively ridden on the lead last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 01/16/26) and probably ended up doing too much too soon; he showed a likable attitude and ran well regardless for 3rd but it seems he can probably step forward if rationing his speed out slightly better in start number three; contender.
- **#2 MAKE IT QUICK** ran slightly better than looks last out (6F, LRL, 01/16/26): he was carried out by a rival to his inside at the break and away a beat slow in last; he then used plenty of gas chasing/moving into the hot pace (set by #1 MATHEW'S TICKET) while giving away a little ground 3-4W on the turn; somewhat understandably, he then faded (grudgingly) in the lane. Suspect he'd have fared better if he'd allowed the speed to come back to him rather than pursuing it out wide on the turn (and if he'd had a better break, of course); eligible to step forward again today.
- **#6 BALLINACLASH** sat a fine front-running trip last out (6F, LRL, 02/06/26) and ran to form. He wasn't overly vigorously ridden through the lane, though (jock only used crop once) – potential room for more as Lasix go on today. Note: he did lug out slightly on the bend last time too; it was also mentioned in these lines prior to his last start that he appeared to have some 'hang' in him when beaten two back.
- **#8 CAPITAINE** sat a good ground saving trip last out (5 1/2F, PRX, 12/01/25) and was fully extended to the wire when making a professional debut. Lasix go on in start number two today.

Race 4: OC30k/SAL20k, 4YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- In his last start (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/15/26), **#1 DEVIL'S CAY** failed to get the lead (which his recent PPs suggest he may need) and he was a little wide (3-4W) on both turns too, warranting a tiny upgrade. Overall, however, he had no real excuse and ran to market expectations with a fine effort. Cuts back in trip today.

- **#5 UNCLE CAT**'s most recent effort – a win at 22/1 – (7F, LRL, 01/23/26) is worthy of a PACE UPGRADE: he took plenty of pressure in front and set closer-friendly splits yet still managed to pull away in the lane and hold safe. Doubt he'll improve on the effort today (he skimmed the rail throughout and was all out late on) but he'll no doubt be dangerous again today if in similar form right back.
- **#2 BROTHER CONWAY, #3 SUPER ACCELERATE, #4 IN THE CHASE, #6 DON'T WAIT UP** and **#7 UNION FLEET** all sat suitably fine trips in their respective last starts and were fully extended to the wire – their results and speed figs seem fair. Blinks on **#3 SUPER ACCELERATE** today.

Race 5: OC12k/SAL8k, 4YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- Last out (7F, LRL, 01/23/26), **#1 SHERIFF RONNIE** was caught between horses while wide on the turn (unideal) and then shuffled back a little when tight between horses at the top off the lane; however, he was struggling to hold his position from ~1/2m pole and had been heading in a backwards direction all the way around the turn; he looked flat throughout and although things didn't go 100% his way, there was no true reason as to why he underperformed. Needs to bounce back today.
- **#2 LET'S HAVE A PARTY** saved every inch of ground with a great trip when posting a career best Beyer (66) last time (7F, LRL, 01/16/26); don't want to knock him too much because it was a great effort in defeat (and he could have maybe done with even more pace to run at), but do be cautious about assuming he'll replicate the exact level of form again today.
- Prior to stumbling at the break and losing the jock last out, while accepting that he had a fast (closer friendly) pace to run at and the bug weight off his back, **#3 HELDISH** ran well to finish 3rd after sitting a notably wide trip (3-7W) before his layoff two-back (6F, LRL, 10/31/25). Slightly UPGRADE that effort. (FWIW: he romped without the jock last time!).
- **#7 EL DIVINO NINO** lost a little ground when caught slightly wide (3-4W) on the turn last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 02/13/26) but that doesn't really explain why he performed below par; back out to 7F today.
- **#8 DAUFUSKIE ISLAND** used up plenty of gas early when sent hard contesting fast fractions through the opening half of his last race (6F, LRL, 02/06/26) and so it wasn't a surprise to see him tire late on; however, the speed with which he stopped at the ¼ pole was a little concerning and the other speed kept on to the wire – he underperformed, period, and will need more today.
- **#9 FORWARD MOVE** was pace compromised (slow pace held well) on a speed favoring track last out (6 1/2F, PRX, 01/13/26); he wasn't hard ridden through the final 1/8th either, exasperating the margin of defeat – UPGRADE the effort and expect more at 7F today.
- **#4 PUDGE BOY PALACE, #5 WHITE SERIES** and **#6 MASAKADO** all sat suitably fine trips in their respective last starts and were fully extended to the wire – their results and speed figs seem fair.

Race 6: OC12k/SAL8k, 4YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- **#1 CATAHOULA MOON** was slightly wide and in tight between horses on the turn last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 02/20/26), neither of which helped his chances at 5 1/2F on the slop. His overall effort under the circumstances was fine though and the result/fig seemed a fair reflection of his effort; 7F should be more to his liking today if handling the short turnaround.
- Sure, he was 61/1 and returning from a freshening, but there was still no visible reason as to why **#2 MAJESTIC TIGER** ran quite so poorly last time (1M 70Y, PRX, 01/05/26) - he stopped very quickly on the far turn and was no factor. He has the connections and back class behind him to not to completely rule him out, but he does now have questions to answer.
- **#3 LADDIE DANCE** ran a nice race last out (6F, 02/06/26), staying on from rear with a smooth ~4W move to run 2nd; a repeat effort with an extra 1/8th to work with today should make him competitive again. It should be noted, though, that he also had a very favorable pace setup in that race which potentially aided his finishing position. In the same race, **#4 SPOTTED BULL** also took advantage of the fast pace while skimming the rail throughout – he had everything in his favor, and we should slightly DOWNGRADE his effort. **#7 PIT STOP MAN** similarly had a set up in that race but failed to capitalize on it with just an even effort. He did race wide on the bend (~3-5W) but in the grand scheme of things that was relatively inconsequential and he'll likely need more today.
- Although **#5 DEADPAN** had a very favorable pace setup when winning last out (1M 70Y, MVR, 02/04/26), potentially warranting a downgrade, it should be noted that he was also bothered at the break and consequently failed to get forward early like usual, then didn't look to be in love with the muddy kickback entering the first turn which led to his rider opting for a kickback free but real estate losing 3-6W trip throughout – should we upgrade or downgrade the effort, or do nothing with it and just accept that he visually looked as good as he has done for a while now? Cuts back to 7F today; respected.

- **#8 DADDY YANKEE** was caught 3-5W on the bend last time (1M, LRL, 12/06/25) – slightly UPGRADE his effort. Cuts back to 7F today.
- **#6 ARTILLERY GUNNER** and **TALKLESSWORKMORE** both sat suitably fine trips in their respective last starts and were fully extended to the wire – their results and speed figs seem fair. Based off his last effort, however, (showed handy pace before failing to quite see out the distance at 1 1/16M), the latter could be better suited by today's 7F distance.

Race 7: OC55k/C Allowance, 4YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- **#1 HITTHEROADJAK**, **#2 J D FACTOR**, **#4 PAY BILLY** and **#5 FEELING WOozy** all exit the same race (1 1/16M, LRL, 2/05/26) in which the early pace was wicked (23.23, 46.88): **#1 HITTHEROADJAK** sat a good trip and took advantage of the pace collapse, staying on evenly past beaten rivals from last for a non-threatening 3rd; doubt he'd have finished that close in an evenly run contest, possibly warranting a DOWNGRADE. **#2 J D FACTOR** was ridden aggressively from the outside gate, became very keen and then dueled through the unsustainably fast fractions before understandably tiring late on; he'd have finished closer in a more evenly run race and can be given a slight pass for his defeat; bounce back contender if the pace is slower today. **#4 PAY BILLY** and **#5 FEELING WOozy** were both suitably positioned and sat good trips – their finishing positions/figs seem fair.
- **#3 INDY CHARGES ON** was a touch wide last out (1 1/16M, LRL, 2/12/26) but overall sat a fine trip and was fully extended to the wire, winning well again – result/speed fig fair.
- **#6 QUICK TO ACCUSE** lost a little ground swinging wide into the lane and didn't quite get enough pace for him to show his best at the distance last time (7F, AQU, 2/14/25), potentially warranting a small UPGRADE; he ran well under the circumstances regardless and will demand respect as Lasix go back on and he stretches back out in trip today.

Race 8: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 3YO, 1 Mile, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- **#2 BABBLE** was chasing the field in rear at 41/1 when the rider's stirrup broke on the turn last out and he was eased; we learned nothing about how he can perform with lasix on. Prior to that in his two-back effort, FWIW, he was pinched at the start (6F, LRL, 01/09/26) which resulted in him getting away very slowly (unideal); however, he sat a great trip thereafter and had a fast pace to run at; at 93/1, the start likely made little difference to the result.
- Although slightly wide and caught between horses (often unideal) on the far turn last out (6F, LRL, 02/20/26), there was no real visible reason as to why **#3 RIO DEL VALLE** underperformed last time (maybe it was the sloppy track, but she didn't show any visible signs of resentment towards it); needs more stretching out to a mile off 7 days rest today.
- **#1 TRIATHLON**, **#4 TREASURE OUR TIME**, **#5 PERKINS GEM**, **#6 TUG** (although wide) and **#7 BOSS LILY** all sat okay trips in their respective last starts – their results and speed figs seem fair.

Horses to Follow

R5: FORWARD MOVE (3/1 ML)

FORWARD MOVE was pace-compromised on a speed-favoring track at Parx last out, chasing modest splits in a race shape that was never likely to show him in his best light. He can get back on track stretching out to seven furlongs in today's fifth. Although technically stepping back up in class, this group looks no tougher than the one he met last time, and from a wide draw Chaun should be able to settle him and produce a more sustained run into the lane. He appears well spotted to oblige for the Ness barn.

R6: TALKLESSWORKMORE (4/1 ML)

Having shown handy speed before fading grudgingly at route distances the last twice, TALKLESSWORKMORE could be well suited by today's cutback to seven furlongs as he makes his debut for Farrior (25% first off the claim) in the sixth. His outside post should aid him in establishing a forward position in a race that lacks any true front runners, and this is undeniably the softest group he's faced in some time. 4/1 looks a fair price.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

BETTER WATCH IT

Trainer: Madison Meyers

Last Race: Nov. 16, 1st race

Finish: 5th by 9

Sent off the favorite in a "non-two" starter allowance, he was bumped at the start and steadied in behind horses heading into the first turn. That left him saving ground in midpack behind a glacial opening quarter in 25.15. By the time he got a seam in the upper stretch, the runaway winner was long gone.

POWER GRID

Trainer: Jerry Robb

Last Race: Dec. 27, 8th race

Finish: 5th by 9 1/2

Appeared on the upswing, but threw in a puzzler in the Heft Stakes, where the pace situation was not to his liking. Forced to chase the gate to wire winner while 3 wide early, raced 4-5 wide leaving the 3/8 pole, then flat when asked.

HELDISH *(Entered TODAY at Laurel – Race 5)*

Trainer: Robin Graham

Last Race: Feb. 5, 6th race

Finish: DNF - lost rider

Looked to be sitting on a good performance, but stumbled at the start and lost the rider before running away from the field. Multiple stakes-placed gelding has a good amount of back class, and is a snug fit at the \$7,500 "beaten" claiming ranks.

KINDA CRAZY

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Last Race: Feb. 13, 6th

Finish: 3rd by 4 1/2

LYUDMILA *(Breezed 4F - :49.00 at TAM on 12/20)*

Trainer: Justin Nixon

Last Race: Nov. 21, 6th race

Finish: 1st by 6

Gun Runner filly sold for a million dollars as a yearling, and was a professional debut winner. Pinched a bit at the start, recovered to track the pace outside, then ran by the odds-on favorite in the stretch. Expect her to winter at Tampa.

SUJO *(Entered TODAY at Tampa Bay – Race 2)*

Trainer: Greg Sacco

Last Race: Jan. 16, 7th race

Finish: 4th by 4 3/4 lengths

First-time starter was pinballed from in between horses at the start, and dropped all the way back to last. Started to kick in at the eighth pole, angled to the fence, and just missed getting third on the wire with a nice gallop-out.

LADY LYDIA *(Entered SUN 3/1 at Laurel – Race 4)*

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: Jan. 9, 7th race

Finish: 4th by 13 1/4

Favored early in the wagering cycle, this Quality Road filly was caught in close quarters leaving the starting gate, taken to the 6 path in upper stretch, then came up empty late while continuing wide vs. romping 10-length winner Velocity Girl.

LADY ZETA

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Last Race: Feb. 4, 1st race

Finish: 5th by 5 1/2

Gave a solid try following a lengthy layoff. Sideswiped leaving the gate, then raced in a bit tight from the pocket entering the turn. Angled outside in the stretch, and finished evenly for a minor award.

BARBADOS BULLDOG

Trainer: Jose Corrales

Last Race: Feb. 14, 4th

Finish: 3rd by 2 1/2

Appeared to steady slightly at the three-eighths pole, then made a three-wide bid into contention before flattening out slightly in the final furlong. She fits best between \$20,000 and \$40,000 sprinting against fellow 3-year-old fillies.

PRINCE OF JERICHO

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: February 21, 5th race

Finish: 2nd by head

Broke sharp from the rail, put away two pace rivals, then tried hard when headed on the wire. Classy veteran has been knocking on the door, and is usually a nice fit sprinting against high-level allowance foes.

CATAHOULA MOON (Entered TODAY at Laurel – Race 6)

Trainer: Jose Magana

Last Race: February 20, 4th race

Finish: 5th by 5 1/2

Didn't have the easiest trip over sloppy going. Tracked three wide and in between at the back of a compact field, raced in between foes on the turn, and wound up in behind rivals at the three-sixteenths, altered course widest in the stretch, and failed to threaten. Seems well-entered at the \$7,500 conditioned claiming level.

Expected to be one of the speeds, she instead broke poorly and was last on the rail entering the turn. Swung widest into the stretch, and was no match for the pacesetter winner, but did show some interest on the gallop-out. Thirteen-time winner deserves another shot in a \$7,500 conditioned seller.

DON'T WAIT UP (Entered TODAY at Laurel – Race 4)

Trainer: Ferris Allen

Last Race: Feb. 13, 3rd

Finish: 2nd by 3/4

Bumped lightly at the start, then took plenty of dirt in his face while racing at the back. Split rivals turning into the stretch, and rallied nicely inside the winner. Reclaimed out of that race, he fits at the \$20,000 starter-optional level.

IN AWE OF JUJU

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last Race: February 21, 6th race

Finish: 5th by 6 1/2 lengths

Pressed an impressive winner from the inside, couldn't go with that foe on the turn, then just blew third in the final hundred yards. She's been ridden very aggressively in her last couple of starts, and might benefit from rating tactics against "non-three" claimers.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Matilda Burnham - #1 -Judy G; #7 - Bella's Password >>> **Burnham rides BELLA'S PASSWORD**

Race 3: Angel Cruz - #6 - Ballinaclash; #8 - Capitaine >>> **Cruz rides CAPITAINE**

Race 3: Mychel Sanchez - #4 - Go Grey; #7 - Prime Ranger >>> **Sanchez rides PRIME RANGER**

Race 5: Kevin Gomez - #4 - Pudge Boy Palace; #8 - Daufstukie Island >>> **Gomez rides PUDGE BOY PALACE**

Race 6: Yedsit Hazlewood - #2 - Majestic Tiger; #3 - Laddie Dance; #4 - Spotted Bull; #5 - Deadpan >>> **Hazlewood rides LADDIE DANCE**

Race 6: Martin Chuan - #2 - Majestic Tiger; #7 - Pit Stop Man >>> **Chuan rides MAJESTIC TIGER**

Race 7: Yedsit Hazlewood - #3 - Indy Charges On; #6 - Quick to Accuse >>> **Hazlewood rides INDY CHARGES ON**

Race 8: Ismerio Villalobos - #3 - Rio Del Valle; #7 - Boss Lily >>> **Villalobos rides RIO DEL VALLE**

THE ROUND-UP - by John Piasek, *The Racing Biz*

A recap of **SUNDAY, FEB. 22** action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: Tuff Luck got a perfect trip just off the pace and took advantage to win as the odds-on favorite. Armed N Dangerous closed with great interest to finish second in a big performance first off a 218-day layoff.

Race 2: Enigmatic looked like the main speed on paper and ran like it in real life. She made the front without much trouble and was never seriously challenged from there.

Race 3: Kuaga lasted through consistent pace pressure to prevail as the even-money favorite. Last Gift made what looked like a promising move at the top of the stretch, but flattened out and only managed second.

Race 4: Galpin Sunday made it a winning Sunday, as he set the pace on the rail and opened up to win his local debut. Zio Lino broke very well, quickly dropped back, but rallied with interest to finish second.

Race 5: Flirty Bajan, who ran a game third on a contested pace on debut, had an easier time on the lead this time. He pressed early leader Vida, took the lead when he tired, and won easily. Love Yourself ran the best of the four first-time starters, splitting horses late to get up for second at 14-1.

Race 6: The betting public saw this as a two-horse race between even-money chalk **Albert Finnegan** and 13-10 second choice Christmas Spirit. They saw it correctly, as Albert Finnegan shook off Christmas Spirit's stretch challenge and won for the second race in a row. Christmas Spirit held second, 1 ¾ lengths clear of third-place Maupasant.

Race 7: In her first start since November, Shout to the Lord pressed early leader Cruz Ramirez, then kicked clear entering the stretch and looked like she would pull away. However, a host of challengers soon came calling, including Fabia in four-path and **Flying Phyllis** in the center of the track. Under typically vigorous Yedsit Hazlewood urging, Flying Phyllis got up in the last few strides to win over Fabia, with Shout to the Lord holding third.

Race 8: Itsamonstamash, Spencerian, and I'm a Cutie Pie all battled for the early lead. None of them had much left to give for the stretch run, which set it up perfectly for **Grayson's Girl**, who rallied from last to first to win. I'm a Cutie Pie finished the best of the duelers, holding second.

Race 9: Fourth against similar last out, **Kittyup** turned the tables this time. She battled for the lead with Sweet Lexi, dispatched that rival on the far turn, opened up a long stretch lead, and held off Fastfeld's rally for the victory.

PAST TRACK TRENDS

Nov. 1 – Fair

Nov. 2 – SPEED BIAS

Nov. 7 – CLOSERS BIAS
(OUTSIDE LEAN)

Nov. 8 – SPEED BIAS

Nov. 9 – Fair

Nov. 14 – Fair

Nov. 15 – Fair

Nov. 16 – Fair

Nov. 21 - CLOSERS BIAS

Nov. 22 - Fair

Nov. 23 - CLOSERS BIAS

Nov. 27 – Fair

Nov. 28 – Fair (stiff tailwind
backstretch; headwind stretch)

Nov. 29 – Fair

Nov. 30 – Fair

Dec. 5 – Fair

Dec. 6 – Fair

Dec. 7 – Fair

Dec. 12 – Fair

Dec. 13 – Fair

Dec. 14 – Fair

Dec. 19 - Fair (stiff tailwind
backstretch; headwind stretch)

Dec. 20 - CLOSERS BIAS

Dec. 21 - Fair

Dec. 26 – Fair

Dec. 27 – Fair

Dec. 28 – Fair

Jan. 9 – Fair

Jan. 10 – Fair

Jan. 16 – Fair

Jan. 17 – Fair

Jan. 23 – Fair

Jan. 30 - (only 1 race)

Feb. 4 – Fair

Feb. 5 – Fair (speed lean)

Feb. 6 – Fair

Feb. 12 – CLOSERS BIAS

Feb. 13 – Fair (slight speed lean)

Feb. 14 – Fair

Feb. 15 – Fair

Feb. 20 – Fair

Feb. 21 – Fair

Feb. 22 – Fair