



## LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Saturday, Feb. 28

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.
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### TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE TMJC TEAM



KEITH FEUSTLE



KALI FRANCOIS



DAN ILLMAN



MACK PFEIFFER



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

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

## TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

### >> RACE 1

#### 1. RAPIDITY

#### 2. AGENT KELLY

#### 3. DOCSGOTALLTHECANDY

First post is 11:57 AM ET, with a LOW 12% takeout on "Value" Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races). **RAPIDITY** was bumped at the break, tracked from the pocket, seemed uncomfortable racing on the rail on the turn, altered course to split rivals four wide turning for home, and failed to threaten. He should show a bit more speed stretching out in distance for a barn that went 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$4.30 ROI) with experienced horses routing for the first time. Demand value, as the pedigree gives mixed signals about his potential ability at one mile. **AGENT KELLY** broke slowly at Turfway, saved ground at the back behind a solid pace, raced over in behind foes briefly, then found a nice three-wide split in the upper stretch before finishing evenly on the fence. The tenth-finisher then won a \$7,500 "non-two" seller at Turfway with a 62 Beyer. He can get closer to the pace here. Torrealba lands here instead of Lucked In. **DOCSGOTALLTHECANDY** broke sharp, cleared off to set an uncontested pace, faced a challenge from the 7-2 fifth-finisher, was outpaced on the second bend, and got up for third despite being very late to change leads. Looks quick enough to make the early lead once again.

### >> RACE 2

#### 1. LORD'S LADY

#### 2. BLO BY THE FIELD

#### 3. MINT DRIVEN

**LORD'S LADY** raced at the back, stayed over in behind rivals on the upper stretch, found a nice split three-to-four wide in midstretch, squeezed through, and finished well despite hopping back to her left lead. That race produced four next-out winners, with The Goddess Factor repeating in a first-level allowance with a 67 Beyer. The late runner could use some pace help. Chuan lands here instead of Mint Driven. **BLO BY THE FIELD** prompted the 7-2 ninth-finisher and the 3-1 seventh-finisher while three wide, made an outside bid to the front, and tired after being late to change leads. She might not have to work nearly as hard to get close to the pace here. **MINT DRIVEN**, listed as a Turfway vet scratch (sick) on 2/21, saved ground in midpack, angled three-wide on the second turn, made a four-wide bid into the stretch, and finished evenly after being late to change leads. The winner then grabbed two more in a row on dirt at Delta Downs with Beyers of 63 and 74, respectively.

### >> RACE 3

#### 1. STARDUST BIGGY

#### 2. MY GIRL BACK HOME

#### 3. AMAMA

**STARDUST BIGGY** is out of an unraced full sister to multiple Grade 3-winning dirt performer Sir Greeley (111 dirt Beyer). This trainer-jockey combination sent out a 63-1 debut winner on turf at Colonial last summer. **MY GIRL BACK HOME** is strictly the one to beat as she drops to the lowest class of her career. Set a pressured, fast pace inside the odds-on winner, couldn't go with that foe at the three-eighths, eased outside in the stretch, and tired. Could be very tough to catch for a barn that went 6 for the last 22 (27%, \$2.91 ROI) with second-time Lasix users. **AMAMA** saved ground for most of the way behind a quick pace in a recent two-turn sprint at Charles Town. Wheels back in short order for a barn that went 4 for the last 17 (24%, \$3.19 ROI) with horses returning in 6-10 days. **TURKISH BREEZE** (\$1,000 RNA yearling) is out of stakes-placed dirt sprinter Breeze Off the Bay (won debut; 62 dirt Beyer).

## >> RACE 4

### 1. WOODLINE

### 2. MISTER AGENT

### 3. PIT STOP MAN

**WOODLINE** immediately made the lead, took no pressure, and stayed to his task despite failing to change leads in the stretch. He's in career form and figures right in the thick of things when they turn for home, but demand value as he may have to deal with Daufuskie Island early, and seven furlongs might be a bit far. **MISTER AGENT** broke a beat slow, saved ground in midpack, cut the corner into the stretch, then stayed on for second behind the top pick. He might more pace to attack here, and the barn went 5 for the last 14 (36%, \$3.36 ROI) with dirt horses exiting a top-three finish. **PIT STOP MAN** tracked a quick pace from in between, was outrun three wide on the turn under urging, and only mustered an even finish. Drops back down to the level of his most recent victory. **ROB THE RICH** tracked in between at the back, seemed outpaced on the fence under urging on the second turn, then never threatened going two turns at Parx. Kicks on in the stretch.

## >> RACE 5

### 1. TELL 'EM I'M COMIN

### 2. HELLO NEWMAN

### 3. BOLD MIRAGE

With 31 losses on his page, **TELL 'EM I'M COMIN** isn't the most trustworthy sort, but the gelding ran pretty well for second earlier in the month. Broke a beat slow, raced at the back, tracked in between horses after a half-mile, made a three-wide bid as the odds-on winner slowed the pace in a third-quarter crawl (26.48), then couldn't sprint home with that one when it mattered. Albert Finnigan flattered the form by repeating in a \$12,500 "non-two" claimer with a 55 Beyer. Lacks early speed and is usually at the mercy of race and pace luck. **HELLO NEWMAN** raced three wide in midpack behind a quick pace, stalked four wide and in between on the turn, made a three-wide bid on the turn, and didn't change leads in the stretch. The fourth-finisher then won two in a row in New York with Beyers of 73 and 78. Expect him to show improved speed as he drops in class for his circuit debut. **BOLD MIRAGE** was outsprinted to save ground in midpack behind a fast pace, made an early lead change on the turn, and got up for fourth on the wire. The third-finisher next graduated in a Charles Town special weight with a 43 Beyer. Gets closer to the pace at this added distance.

## >> RACE 6

### 1. SCHRADER

### 2. FIRMANTOWN

### 3. SQUARE SLICE

**SCHRADER** ran well as a first-time gelding. Broke well, prompted the favored winner from the rail through reasonable fractions, wound up in the pocket entering the turn, split rivals midway on the bend, and stayed strong for second. Both prior wins came sprinting for a barn that went 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.69 ROI) between 2/13 and 2/22. Hazlewood lands here instead of Square Slice. **FIRMANTOWN** set the pace outside the 11-1 fifth-finisher, cleared to the rail on the turn, and held sway earlier in the month. There's a chance he's the main speed once again. Cruz departs for Trulli Warrior. **SQUARE SLICE** had to return to the paddock for an equipment adjustment before his last start, saved ground at the back behind that moderate pace, made an early lead change on the turn, steadied slightly inside when rallying, and flattened out. He might get a bit more pace to attack as he cuts back in distance for the third start of the form cycle.

## >> RACE 7

### 1. MASTER OF NONE

### 2. BIGTONTEN

### 3. STATES UNITED

**MASTER OF NONE** was jostled leaving the gate, saved ground at the back, was steadied off heels when angling outside early on the backstretch, rushed up to track the pace four wide, took over with a wide, sweeping move at the three-eighths, and stayed strong to score his seasonal debut. Must deal with a class and distance hike this afternoon for a barn that went 7 for the last 31 (23%, \$2.17 ROI) off the claim. **BIGTONTEN** tracked from the pocket, angled four wide into the stretch, then got away from that field despite being very late to change leads. Tactical enough to remain close to the expected moderate pace. **STATES UNITED** tracked from in between horses over a closer-friendly track, eased outside into the stretch, and was too good for that conditioned claiming group. Drew a comfortable inside position and should be forwardly placed for a barn that sent out an even-money winner on 2/22. FAN CLUB attempted to rally into slow fractions earlier in the month. This class drop suits as well as the added distance. CUT THE CORD was walked off the course after being wired in a race where they ran 1-2 around the track. Late-runner could use some pace help.

## >> RACE 8

### 1. OUR DAY WILL COME

### 2. PRINCE OF DARKNESS

### 3. CAIRO SURPRISE

**OUR DAY WILL COME** is a five-time winner stepping up the claiming ladder after a solid score for \$40,000. Tracked three wide/four path at the back, made an outside bid, then drove home despite getting out a bit in the final furlong. He might have to deal with a faster pace at this shorter distance, but can be counted on to kick in the stretch for a barn that sent out a 2-1 winner on 2/22. Lopez lands here instead of Wall Art. **PRINCE OF DARKNESS**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 2/13, was bumped after the start, dueled outside the 10-1 third-finisher, grabbed the rail under a confident ride, then settled for second behind the top pick. The speedster might find company up front. Barbosa departs for The Big Lep. **CAIRO SURPRISE** battled for the lead with the 15-1 third-finisher through fast fractions, then stayed strong for second behind the favored winner. Adds Lasix as a new gelding for a barn that went 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$3.12 ROI) with horses exiting a Beyer top and returning from a 61-120 day layoff. THE BIG LEP hooked up in a fast duel over a closer-friendly track before tiring in the Maryland Million Nursery. That race produced two next-out winners, with the sixth-finisher taking two in a row with Beyers of 69 and 63. Likely on a send from the rail. OUR NOTION was wired at Aqueduct, but should get a stronger race flow to attack. WALL ART ran off in the post parade and was scratched on 2/13. Too early to give up on him, as he adds Lasix in his first start of the year.

## >> RACE 9

### 1. RAILROAD INN

### 2. MANSEEYASWAY

### 3. FURIOUS GEORGE

**RAILROAD INN** was off a beat slow, then was completely outsprinted behind a fast pace. Dropped inside on the turn, eased out into the stretch, and got up for second behind the odds-on winner. His lack of early speed is worrisome, but he's in good form with top-three finishes in three of his last four starts. **MANSEEYASWAY** sheds blinkers for the first time since his debut, a race where he was overmatched against Verifire, who returned to win two in a row with Beyers of 91 and 95. Drops a notch today after facing Zio Lino, who then placed in a \$40,000 "non-two" claimer with a 58 Beyer. **FURIOUS GEORGE** broke two lengths slow, tracked three and four wide in a slow-paced race won in gate-to-wire fashion, made a four-wide bid on the turn, and flattened out after hopping back to his left lead. Needs to cure his gate issues.

## KALI'S KEYS – by Kali Francois

### **Race 1: #1 Lucked In - 5/1**

Got very unnecessarily taken out five wide last time out - and the jock was hustling from the gate. Which means: this one will love getting back to his home of the one turn mile. He gets all the backside real estate he needs!

### **Race 4: #2 Mister Agent - 8/1**

Yes, this one had a very, very clear pathway on the rail on the race throughout. This one finds an inside post again, this gelding having a steady way of going. If Chuan gets luck on the rail, or doesn't go too wide, the gallop out on this one was sufficient that the 7f is much more suitable.

### **Race 6: #1 Trulli Warrior - 5/1**

Kieron is turning this one back around quick, because he recognizes this one is in good form and is just running with it. The front-half quickness combined with the fact that this one gets into that inside defensive position. So I think that this one will run well. BUT, I won't be surprised either way if he gets the battle early but loses the war potentially. Excellent box prospect!

### **Race 7: #6 Cut the Cord - 8/1**

While this one seems like a wildcard, a bit all over the place, I'm not going to sit there and argue with you. However, this one has the propensity to bounce back and forth between a good run and a not so good run. I think this one is ready to get back to a good run, and obviously with easier company. This one will likely get an aggressive ride from Lopez, which, if you look back to those wins, that's kind of what gets the job done.

### **Race 8: #8 Buds Notion - 4/1**

This 4/1 likely won't stay, but in the off chance it does - you have Gary Capuano who's deadly with his second time starters (7/17 41%), but also 8/22 from Delaware to Laurel (36%). The big question is: are we going to have better gate speed in this time off? He's going to need it with how quick Cal's trainee is in the first eighth. I already have the answer; the outside post and the slew of bullet works.

## MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Sincerito found a troubled trip last time out at the mile here, prior to that he was 3/3 ITM lifetime. With the recent freshening on his work tab, I suspect he moves forward here. Lucked In is the one who most fits this distance, I forgive the last outing going 2-turns, both lifetime wins have come at the mile distance.

R2: Stress Reliever battled in between horses most of the way last time out, with the opportunity to be the controlling speed here, she should take an early command. Lord's Lady comes out of the same race but it seems right to question whether she will find a true pace setup to target here today. Second off the bench here could move things along.

R3: My Girl Back Home takes a bit of class relief and tries Lasix for the second time here. Expect her to take an early command and not look back. Interesting debut runner in Turkish Breeze. Some concern for the inside draw but the mare was a debut winner and went 7/9 ITM lifetime.

R4: Daufuskie Island takes a bit of class relief and looks to be the sharpest of the speed in here. The outer post may provide a few options for the trip. Pit Stop Man found the winners circle in his last try over this distance and level, 3/8 lifetime going 7f. Inner post may set up a ground saving trip for him here.

R5: It's always hard to back a career maiden, but it looks like Tell 'Em I'm Comin may finally have his day here. The second wire finish gives him plenty of running room, as well as the last outing being solidified with the winner coming back to win against tougher. Hello Newman looks well placed after being outrun in sprinting efforts. The work tab is a bit light, but the barn does well with new runners.

R6: Plenty of speed signed on for this group, I look to Schrader to sit a pocket trip from inside. Draw a line through his last try at the distance, the start could be key here. Trulli Warrior steps up in company for new connections, he looks to be the speed of the speed and won't be shrugged off easily.

R7: Fan Club returns to a level and distance where we saw him run a career best Beyer 2-back. He might not need to top that fig, but striking in the 80's would work here. Cut the Cord is 5/6 ITM at this distance, class relief and new faces may suit him well today.

R8: Expect a strong pace amongst this group, some questions to answer with a few runners returning off the bench. Buds Notion, half to Rina Is Fire, returns for his first start as a 3 y/o and the work tab looks to have him well prepared. Hard to take a short price in one who lacks experience compared to the rest of this group, but the barn is trustworthy. Cairo Surprise looks to be the true speed in here, some question of how much pressure he will take, but 5.5f should suit him well.

R9: Manseeyasway looks to be outsprinted in previous efforts, blinkers off and class relief should put the pieces together here. Railroad Inn might be the best closer of this group, troubled trips have likely elongated his maiden career.

## TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

### RACE 1

#### #3 - Rapidity

Trainer: Joanne Shankle

Experienced Horses, First Route: 2 for 10 (20%, \$4.30 ROI)

### RACE 3

#### #5 - Amama

Trainer: Anthony Lucas

Returning in 6-10 Days: 4 for 17 (24%, \$3.19 ROI)

#### #6 - My Girl Back Home

Trainer: Phil Capuano

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

### RACE 4

#### #2 - Mister Agent

Trainer: Joanne Shankle

Exiting a Top-3 Finish, Dirt: 5 for 14 (36%, \$3.36 ROI)

### RACE 6

#### #2 - Schrader

Trainer: Hugh McMahon

Between 2/13 and 2/22: 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.69 ROI)

### RACE 7

#### #4 - Master of None

Trainer: Kieron Magee

First After Claim: 7 for 31 (23%, \$2.17 ROI)

### RACE 8

#### #4 - Cairo Surprise

Trainer: Cal Lynch

First After 61-120 Days, Exiting Beyer Top: 2 for 10 (20%, \$3.12 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: Claiming 12.5k, 4YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt**

#### **Replay Notes:**

- **#4 SINCERITO** was caught wide enough (~4W) on the turn last out (1M, LRL, 01/17/26) that his effort deserves a small upgrade.
- **#5 HAWKSTONE** conceded ground when caught wide on both turns before staying on (left lead) from mid-pack to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> last week (7F, CT, 02/21/26) – slightly upgrade the effort.
- Last out (1M, TP Synth, 01/09/26), **#6 ALREADY ENOUGH** broke slow; chased the even pace from rear around the first turn; shifted out entering the back stretch; advanced with a 4-5W move around horses on the far turn, then stayed on gamely in the stretch to get up by a neck. His slightly wide, sustained overland move entitles him a small upgrade, and it's worth noting that the pace did not collapse in this race – he ran the leaders down fair and square. His gallop out was good, and he'll be a player if transferring this form back to the dirt today.

- Having broken a beat slow from the rail last out (1M, TP Synth, 02/12/26) and then chased the pace inside from rear, **#7 AGENT KELLY** was forced to wait in behind horses slightly longer than ideal rounding the far turn into the lane (when he really needed to be building momentum/advancing more so than he was); he then found a seam ~1/8<sup>th</sup> pole and stayed on evenly for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Slightly upgrade this effort; he's a logical contender if transferring this ability back to the dirt today. Note: his action is a little 'turfy'.
- **#1 LUCKED IN** (slightly flat effort, stayed on to just miss the show spot behind DOCSGOTALLTHECANDY); **#2 DOCSGOTALLTHECANDY** (speed and fade, left lead lane; cut back today could suit) and **#3 RAPIDITY** (gradual fade, didn't look to be crying out for further) all sat relatively good trips in their respective last starts – their results/speed figs seem fair.

### **Race 2: OC20k/SAL20k, 4YO+F, 1 Mile, Dirt**

#### **Replay Notes:**

- **#2 BLO BY THE FIELD** did best of the forwardly placed runners last out (1M, LRL, 01/17/26) despite having been caught ~3-5W on the turn (minute upgrade); he was game in the stretch and ran a likable race in defeat; player right back.
- **#3 LORD'S LADY** was bumped a little leaving the gate and dropped well back; crossed to the rail and chased the even pace to the turn; advanced with good energy on the run to the top of the lane; stayed on very gamely while tight between foes in the lane; flopped leads close home and held safe for 2<sup>nd</sup>. Overall, her trip was pretty good for a closer – saved ground and kept her momentum up throughout – and her effort isn't deserving of an upgrade. But still, the ground she made up from rear (closing from 14L back into just an even pace), and the fact that she was bumped a little at the break and tight between foes in the lane (which isn't always ideal) while running off the bench makes this race worth highlighting for it's promise. Live contender right back if stripping fitter today.
- **#1 STRESS RELIEVER** (was slightly too keen); **#4 A COZY THING** (sat close to a fast pace and ran a very likable race in defeat – borderline upgrade); and **#5 MINT DRIVEN** (a fraction wide on the far turn but not enough to warrant upgrade), all sat relatively good trips in their respective last starts – their results/speed figs seem fair.

### **Race 3: Maiden Claiming 25k, 3YOF, 6 Furlongs, Dirt**

#### **Replay Notes:**

- **#4 EASTCOASTGIRLSHIP** was fractious in the gate last out (6F, LRL, 01/16/26), then pulled hard (over-raced) while contesting the hot pace three deep, lost ground racing 3-4W on the bend, then faded. Suspect her true ability is greater than this result suggests, but she needs to relax better pre-race and early on in the contest to be seen to best effect.
- Both **#5 AMAMA** (saved ground and ran evenly) and **#6 MY GIRL BACK HOME** (speed and fade) sat good trips in their respective last starts and were fully extended to the wire – results/speed figs fair.

### **Race 4: Claiming 7.5k, 4YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt**

#### **Replay Notes:**

- **#3 PIT STOP MAN** failed to capitalize on a good pace set up last time (6F, LRL, 02/06/26), just running evenly throughout. He was widest on the bend (~3W) but in the grand scheme of things that was relatively inconsequential. Stretching out to 7F on the drop could see him to good effect, though, and he's worthy of consideration regardless.
- **#6 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.
- **#1 FIGHTERTOWN** (contested pace, faded; could be suited by cut back); **#2 MISTER AGENT** (saved ground and ran evenly); **#4 ROB THE RICH** (tracked even pace and faded); and **#5 WOODLINE** (wire winner under hand ride though looked to be giving all; left lead lane) all sat good trips in their respective last starts – results/speed figs fair.

### **Race 5: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 4-6YO, 1 Mile, Dirt**

#### **Replay Notes:**

- **#2 BOLD MIRAGE** was out-spiced in a strongly run race last time (6F, LRL, 02/14/26) and dropped a long way back on the turn but then stayed on with credit through the lane to snatch 4th; he ran in a manner to suggest today's mile trip could see him improve slightly third off the bench.
- **#3 FREEDOM GLIDER** underperformed as the 9/5 fav when making his dirt debut last time (5 1/2F, LRL, 12/26/25); the fact that he was slightly wide on the turn seemed inconsequential – he was done early and will need more today, period. Saying that, though, he did race a little awkwardly on the run to the top of the lane when fading earlier

than he should have done if simply tiring; he wasn't really persevered with in the stretch; and he's had two months off since. Whether it was just the 5 1/2F distance being too short or something else, it feels as if this wasn't a true reflection of his dirt ability and it wouldn't be a complete shock if he was to rebound somewhat back at a mile today.

- **#4 TELL 'EM I'M COMIN** was slightly wide on the turn last out (1M, LRL, 02/06/26) and didn't quite get enough pace to run at following a slow break (he was forced to make a move into the slow pace approaching the far turn while the eventual wire winner was enjoying a breather in front; the wire winner then out kicked him from the top of the lane), so things weren't completely in his favor. However, he was very much second best, and his speed fig seems fair enough. Now 0-for-31.
- **#6 HELLO NEWMAN** looked flat out from the word go last time (6 1/2F, AQU, 12/26/25) and was under pressure to keep up throughout; continued trying with credit, despite losing ground coming wide on the turn, and stayed on evenly to the line, then appeared to gallop out okay (tape cuts short). He ran in a manner to suggest that today's stretch out in trip will help him improve as he drops down on debut for Foley. Player.
- **#1 UNDER THE RUG** (prominent early, then stopped ~1/2 and eased); **#5 KITTY'S SON** (chased and faded off the bench); and **#7 BROTHER BOBO** (pressed winner 2W, stopped turn) all sat good trips in their respective last starts – results/speed figs fair.

#### **Race 6: OC20k/SAL20k, 4YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt**

##### **Replay Notes:**

- **#6 SQUARE SLICE** advanced with credit along the rail from rear to narrowly take 4<sup>th</sup> ~1/8<sup>th</sup> pole last out (1M, LRL, 02/05/26), then hit a wall inside the final furlong and faded again; it seemed that he simply failed to see out the mile distance and he should be seen to better effect back at 6F today, third off the bench.
- **#1 TRULLI WARRIOR** (inside speed, game); **#2 SCHRADER** (nice first start as a gelding; cuts back); **#3 YOUTHFUL ENERGY** (chased evenly, finished well); **#4 FIRMANTOWN** (wire winner, all out); **#5 BRINDANO** (unhurried and lacked speed, slightly wide into lane, evenly past tired foes); and **#7 PARALEGAL** (pace, confronted ¼, extremely game in defeat off bench, entitled to step forward) all sat good trips in their respective last starts – results/speed figs fair.

#### **Race 7: OC12k/SAL8k, 4YO+, 1 1/8 Miles, Dirt**

##### **Replay Notes:**

- The bump **#4 MASTER OF NONE** took at the break last out (1 1/16M, LRL, 01/17/26) was fairly inconsequential, and the “steadied ¾” mentioned in the chart comment wasn't overly significant either (maybe cost him a length at most). However, the massive mid-race move he made – and sustained – was impressive and coupling that with the fact that he was 3-4W on the far turn does mean that his effort is worth of an UPGRADE. It was a smart performance; now makes debut for Magee.
- Not sure what happened with **#6 CUT THE CORD** last out – he never lifted a hoof, eased and walked off. In his start prior (1 1/18M, SQU, 01/01/26), he did steady shortly after the break, as highlighted in the chart comments, but then (as he had in his start three-back), he just completely dropped himself out and trailed in a well detached last – he was seemingly always going to end up that far back and it's very unlikely that the “steadied 8 ½” made any difference to the result/trip – he ran around in rear and passed tired foes late on, finishing a non-threatening 3<sup>rd</sup>, beaten 16 1/4L. Seems hard to trust, even taking this massive drop in class today.
- **#1 BOLD ENDEAVOR** (advanced steadily back stretch, took over far turn, fully extended); **#2 STATES UNITED** (always prominent between horses, drew level 3/16, steadily edged away driving, maybe with a little in reserve); **#3 FAN CLUB** (always prominent inside, outmatched but trying late, maybe bounced a little); **#5 BIGTONTEN** (tracked inside, tipped out top of lane, drew off full extended); and **#7 PRINCE KHOZAN** (hugged rail in rear, passed tired rivals – could benefit from a more aggressive ride early) all sat good trips in their respective last starts – results/speed figs fair.

#### **Race 8: OC62k/N1X Allowance, 3YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt**

##### **Replay Notes:**

- There was a strong closer bias present when **#1 THE BIG LEP** set blistering fractions in front and then tired in the MD Nursery S. last out (6F, LRL, 10/11/25) but he was done too early and beaten too far to really say that either the pace or track were the reason(s) for his poor showing. The effort was followed by a layoff, so maybe something was amiss? Whatever the case, he returns with Lasix on today and a couple of questions to answer. Note: there was also a strong speed bias present when he broke his maiden in wire fashion at Timonium.
- With Lasix first time, **#2 OUR DAY WILL COME** made quite an early move to the front while conceding ground 3-4W on the bend (tiny upgrade), then drew off under a strong ride in the lane to make it three wins in a row. He continues to improve with every start and left the impression that he might not be done yet.
- **#4 CAIRO SURPRISE** held on for 2<sup>nd</sup> last time (6F, PEN, 11/26/25) despite having dueled through very fast closer friendly fractions on a track presenting a closer bias – UPGRADE his effort. Returns from layoff as a gelding with first time Lasix today.

- **#5 WALL ART** was a good winner on debut, then looked to have either bolted or had a tack malfunction when last seen being pulled up (6F, DEL, 08/14/25) (no head-on available). He did not look to physically go 'wrong'. Returns from layoff with Lasix on today.
- **#7 WORKER BEE** was just nailed in the final strides of his last race (6F, LRL, 02/13/26) despite having set very fast, closer friendly fractions in front (he probably went a little too fast for his own good on the run to the top of the lane); cuts back to 5 1/2F today with a tactical outside post and the potential for more.
- **#8 BUD'S NOTION** instantly and impressively found another gear when asked for run at the top of the lane on debut (6F, DEL, 09/20/25), spurted away with good energy, then coasted through the final 1/8<sup>th</sup>, seemingly winning with something in reserve. A smart debut winner, he figures to be a player even off the bench today. Lasix on.
- Both **#3 OUR NOTION** (chased pace, stayed on willingly, cuts back today) and **#6 PRINCE OF DARKNESS** (speed, willing but 2<sup>nd</sup> best behind #2 OUR DAY WILL COME) sat good trips in their respective last starts – results/speed figs fair.

### **Race 9: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 4-6YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt**

#### **Replay Notes:**

- **#1 QUAHOG REPUBLIC** was bumped at the break, then slightly wide on the turn when attempting to come with a run last time (6F, LRL, 02/14/26); neither factor was significant enough to warrant an upgrade, though, especially as he had a great pace setup.
- **#2 FURIOUS GEORGE** gave the field a small head start when rearing at the break last time (1M, LRL, 02/06/26), then lost considerable ground racing 4-5W on the turn (he was possibly lugging out a little) before fading in the lane, seemingly failing to see out the distance (again). There are certainly areas in which he's entitled to find improvement and step back in the right direction cut back to 6F today.
- **#4 RAILROAD INN** had a great trip through when closing into a hot, closer friendly pace last out (6F, LRL, 02/14/26) – slightly downgrade his effort.
- **#3 FREE COSTS TO MUCH** (speed and fade); **#5 MANSEEWAY** (prominent between 2W, weakened grudgingly, blinks off today); and **#6 RILEY'S CRY BABY** (rank speed, dueled to ¼, early lead change, faded grudgingly, laid up since, returns with lasix on) all sat clean trips in their respective last starts – results/speed figs fair.

### **Horses to Follow**

#### **R5: HELLO NEWMAN (5/2 ML)**

Having previously shown promise at two turns on the turf, HELLO NEWMAN now gets the opportunity to go long on dirt for the first time in today's fifth, which, based on his prior sprint tries, could prove the key to unlocking his first career success. He also receives significant class relief, moving away from the salty New York circuit and dropping to the maiden \$12.5k level. Drawn tactically in gate six, he should secure a workable position early and looks capable of handling this field.

#### **R6: SCHRADER (7/5 ML)**

A versatile son of MOR SPIRIT who earned his career-best Beyer at today's six-furlong distance last April, SCHRADER ran a huge race in defeat when making his first start following a reported gelding operation at a mile last time, earning a 75 that stands out in today's sixth. Cutting back in trip with TRULLI WARRIOR, FIRMANTOWN, and PARALEGAL set to ensure an honest pace, the McMahon trainee projects to secure a perfect stalking trip under Hazlewood, who is currently hitting at a 31% clip for the trainer (2026: 5-for-16). This appears his best opportunity to deliver since he hosed up by eight lengths over this track and trip last April.

## **FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH**

### **BETTER WATCH IT**

**Trainer:** Madison Meyers

**Last Race:** Nov. 16, 1<sup>st</sup> race

**Finish:** 5th by 9

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

**Trainer:** Justin Nixon

**Last Race:** Nov. 21, 6<sup>th</sup> race

**Finish:** 1st by 6

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, 8<sup>th</sup> race

**Finish:** 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **LADY ZETA**

**Trainer:** Lacey Gaudet

**Last Race:** Feb. 4, 1st race

**Finish:** 5th by 5 1/2

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.

### **KINDA KRAZY**

**Trainer:** Lacey Gaudet

**Last Race:** Feb. 13, 6th

**Finish:** 3rd by 4 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.

### **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.

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**

**Trainer:** Greg Sacco

**Last Race:** Jan. 16, 7<sup>th</sup> race

**Finish:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 7<sup>th</sup> race

**Finish:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

### **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: J G Torrealba - #1 - Lucked In; #7 - Agent Kelly >>> **Torrealba rides AGENT KELLY**

Race 2: Martin Chuan - #3 - Lord's Lady; #5 - Mint Driven >>> **Chuan rides LORD'S LADY**

Race 5: Jose Vargas - #5 - Kitty's Son; #7 - Brother Bobo >>> **Vargas rides KITTY'S SON**

Race 6: Yedsit Hazlewood - #2 - Schrader; #6 - Square Slice >>> **Hazlewood rides SCHRADER**

Race 6: Angel Cruz - #1 - Trulli Warrior; #4 - Firmantown >>> **Cruz rides TRULLI WARRIOR**

Race 8: Carlos Lopez - #2 - Our Day Will Come; #5 - Wall Art >>> **Lopez rides OUR DAY WILL COME**

Race 8: Jeiron Barbosa - #1 - The Big Lep; #6 - Prince of Darkness >>> **Barbosa rides THE BIG LEP**

Race 8: Yedsit Hazlewood - #7 - Worker Bee; #8 - Buds Notion >>> **Hazlewood rides BUDS NOTION**

Race 9: Matilda Burnham - #3 - Free Costs to Much; #6 - Riley's Cry Baby >>> **Burnham rides RILEY'S CRY BABY**

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

A recap of **FRIDAY, FEB. 27** action at Laurel Park. Visit [theracingbiz.com](http://theracingbiz.com) for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

**Race 1:** In her first start since October 31, **Bella's Password** took advantage of a perfect trip just off the early leader and drew away to an impressive 8 ½-length win. Turfway Park invader Desperate Dreams and Kelsey Hill Girl, in her 2026 debut, rallied for second and third, respectively.

**Race 2:** Heat Check looked like a layover on paper, but paper isn't always real life. He broke a bit slowly, was rushed up to the lead, and couldn't protect the rail. That enabled **Dancing Denae** to draw off and win at 7-1, giving Jose Corrales a sweep of the early double.

**Race 3:** Favored Ballinaclash struck the front at the top of the stretch and looked ready to draw away. Unfortunately for his backers, he decided to do his best imitation of Maryland folk hero Spicer Cub and drifted to the center of the track. That enabled first-time starter **Time for America**, who was 12 ¾ lengths behind on the far turn, to complete his winning rally and get up in the final yards.

**Race 4: Union Fleet** made a strong last-to-first rally of his own and won without much drama under Yedsit Hazlewood.

**Race 5: Forward Move** took advantage of a four-way duel for the early lead. He took control at the top of the stretch and held on despite drifting out. El Divino Nino held second despite racing four-wide on that contested pace.

**Race 6: Talklessworkmore** did the hard work early. He made his way to the rail and the lead from the outside post and never looked back. Daddy Yankee closed well to get second at 13-1.

**Race 7: Pay Billy** finally put it all together in his fourth start off the layoff. He sat off the pace and wore down Indy Charges On, who battled for the early lead with Quick to Accuse, for the two-length victory.

**Race 8:** Just about everyone ended their day with a winner, in 4-5 favorite **Triathelon**. She rallied up the rail on the turn and kicked away in the stretch to win as much the best.

## 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