



LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Sunday, Feb. 15

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

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TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE TMJC TEAM



KEITH FEUSTLE



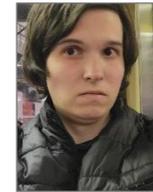
KALI FRANCOIS



DAN ILLMAN



MACK PFEIFFER



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

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

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. WOODLINE

2. B WEST

3. MISTER AGENT

First post is NOON, with a LOW 12% takeout on "Value" Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races). **WOODLINE** set a pressured pace inside the 8-1 sixth-finisher, soon cleared to the lead and the rail, and posted an easy second quarter in 23.94 seconds, then scored in "ridden out" fashion while avoiding a riderless horse. He might have to work harder to wire this field, but he has also won from just off the pace in the past. **B WEST** would benefit from strong fractions up front. They went quick for him last time (23.47; 23.42), and he made up some late ground after swinging five wide into the stretch. The eighth-finisher then placed in an \$8,000 starter with a 73 Beyer. Drops in class for a barn that went 11 for the last 35 (31%, \$2.14 ROI) with dirt horses going second after 61-120 day layoffs. **MISTER AGENT** broke awkwardly against open claimers, saved ground at the back, was urged along on the turn, split rivals in upper stretch, and was over in behind horses for most of the stretch before just missing third. He's tactical enough to find a good position behind the early speeds. KBCYA LATER might have aimed a bit too high for the \$8,000 starter level earlier in the month. Better fit here.

>> RACE 2

1. LAYSEN

2. PERKINS GEM

3. EL PAPACITO

LAYSEN set a reasonable (24.73 second quarter) pace inside two others, couldn't keep up on the turn, and tired badly in his New York debut. Purchased for \$10,000 after that race, he gets Lasix for the first time and seems better-entered over this circuit. Barring a quick first-time starter, he might be the controlling speed. **PERKINS GEM** is the first starter out of a debut-winning half-sister to multiple stakes-winning dirt performer Power of Snunner (90 dirt Beyer) and stakes-winning dirt sprinter Spring Dance (won debut; 88 dirt Beyer). The sire wins at a rock-solid 16% rate with debut runners. **EL PAPACITO** set a pressured pace inside the 5-1 winner before tiring along the fence. Might try tracking tactics after breaking outside the top pick. SWEET SPY gets class relief after debuting against Close the Gate, who returned to place in the Spectacular Bid Stakes with a 69 Beyer. The trainer-jockey combo sent out Albert Finnigan to win here on 2/6.

>> RACE 3

1. GOLDEN EIB MICRPHN

2. GIRVINIZED

3. I CAN DO IT

GOLDEN EIB MICRPHN was bumped lightly at the start, tracked a solid pace while two wide in the three path, attacked from the outside and took the lead inside the three-eighths pole, then was too good for that group. Twelve-time winner has the tactical speed to adapt to any race flow. **GIRVINIZED** went pretty quick (24.37; 24.31) up front, then held second behind a favored winner that returned to place in a quarter starter at Parx with a 66 Beyer. Expect her to get close to the pace. **I CAN DO IT** (wears a hood) broke two lengths slow after hopping straight up in the air, settled at the back behind a solid pace, made a strong three-wide bid into contention, and gamely procured second behind Golden Rocket, who then ran third in a \$20,000 starter with a 63 Beyer. Thought the rail was good on 10/25, and GINGER GIRL was hung outside chasing the pace. The third-finisher hit the board in her next two starts with Beyers of 71 and 79. Should show some speed here. Consistent ADE hit the board in her last six starts and would benefit if this pace heats up.

>> RACE 4

1. NIGHT TIME NAP

2. DEVIL'S CAY

3. HARD AS LIFE

NIGHT TIME NAP pressed a reasonable three-ply pace from in between, then let the speed go, and prompted that 15-1 last-finisher. Took over at the three-eighths under a confident ride and scooted clear along the rail. The barn scored on Thursday with newly-claimed Worcester, who was also taken from Brittany Russell. Drew the advantageous inside post position and can track the pace while saving valuable ground. **DEVIL'S CAY** set the pace along the fence, cleared off to an uncontested lead after a half-mile, came off the rail entering the second turn, and always found a bit more in the stretch. Might have to work harder to establish a clear early lead against this group. Sanchez lands here instead of Missouri River. **HARD AS LIFE** adds Lasix for the first time as he returns from a 309-day layoff. Broke three lengths slow in the Grade 3 Lexington, sat a loose pocket, was shuffled slightly entering the second turn, cut the corner into the stretch, and didn't change leads. The winner then placed in both the Grade 1 Preakness and Grade 1 Haskell with Beyers of 97 and 101. **BADGE OF WAR** drops in class after facing two horses that entered Saturday's Post Time Stakes. The seventh-finisher then ran third in a high-level Parx allowance with a 78 Beyer. He can show speed against this group. There's a chance this pace gets hot, which helps **AMY'S MUSIC**, who was wired in a slow-paced heat in New York last month.

>> RACE 5

1. WORLD ON FIRE

2. JUNGLE GLOW

3. CITY PANDA

WORLD ON FIRE broke well, tracked the pace two-to-three wide, attacked from the outside, and drew clear in the stretch. This is a tougher spot from a pace and class standpoint, but he's posted Beyer tops in his last two races and seems adaptable to any race flow. **JUNGLE GLOW** drops in class after being wired by favored Shadow Surge in a slow-paced race. The sixth-place finisher then ran third in a \$12,500 "non-three" seller at Parx with a 57 Beyer. **CITY PANDA** finished ahead of three of these when rallying well for third in his seasonal debut. The late runner could use some pace and race luck. **TRULLI WARRIOR**'s early speed plays well in this spot. Chased a pretty fast pace last time out against A Votre Sante, who then ran third in a first-level Parx allowance with a 64 Beyer.

>> RACE 6

1. BUCKIN' RIGHT

2. SWEET HONEY BEE

3. AERONYX

BUCKIN' RIGHT went out quickly up front to set a three-ply pace from between, snagged the rail on the turn, eased outside when beaten in the upper stretch, then tried hard for third. There's a chance she controls the pace. **SWEET HONEY BEE** was patiently handled behind that fast pace, then rallied well to place ahead of five of these, including the top pick. Respect her stretch rally. **AERONYX** worked out a nice closer's trip behind a fast pace to graduate in her circuit debut. The runner-up returned to win a quarter maiden by 5 3/4 lengths with a 60 Beyer. Mena departs for **CENTSAMILLA**, who should show good early speed.

>> RACE 7

1. MS NOTION

2. SASSAFRASSNESS

3. SPENCER TIARA

MS NOTION tracked or prompted the 4-1 runner-up in her career debut, went after that one under a confident ride, then drew off impressively. Put on the shelf for 435 days after unseating the rider in the Maryland Juvenile Filly Stakes, but shows some swift works for her return and can get close to the pace for a barn that went 8 for the last 23 (35%, \$2.49 ROI) with experienced dirt horses racing with Lasix for the first time. **SASSAFRASSNESS** set a three-ply pace from the fence, was pressured by the 4-1 fourth-finisher after a half-mile, opened a clear lead in the upper stretch, then faltered late. Should appreciate cutting back in distance and can sit a nice outside tracking trip for a barn that went 5 for the last 15 (33%, \$2.09 ROI) moving from route to sprint following a top-three finish. Hazlewood lands here instead of **SPENCER TIARA**, who was listed as a Laurel vet scratch (injured) on 12/27. Battled with two others from the rail through sharp fractions, then held second behind favored Itsamonstamash, who next placed twice with an 87 Beyer top. She might be the quickest from the stalls. **CHICKIN' LICKIN** faced a good field before going away for six months. The winner of that last heat then ran third in the Cathryn Sophia Stakes at Parx with a 77 Beyer.

>> RACE 8

1. BUGGED OUT

2. BAY STREET

3. SAPPHIRE BEAUTY

BUGGED OUT briefly prompted a four-ply pace from the fence, was soon outpaced to the pocket, cut the corner turning for home, and only finished evenly. She has some back races that would make her competitive against this group, and should offer solid value on the tote for a barn that sent out a 3-1 winner at Charles Town on 2/6. Barbosa lands here instead of Kissed At Dawn. **BAY STREET** placed ahead of four of these, including the top pick, when finishing behind the two favorites. The runner-up then took a \$7,500 "beaten" claimer by four lengths with a 52 Beyer. Think she can stay closer to the pace against this group. **SAPPHIRE BEAUTY** stalked three wide at the back, made a four-wide bid on the turn, and got up for second behind the front-running winner. Another runner that usually goes off at a square price. **JUDITH'S CROSS** hooked up in a wicked pace battle with the 3-1 fifth-finisher before tiring over a one-turn mile. Don't think she'll have to work nearly as hard to grab the lead here.

KALI'S KEYS – by Kali Francois

Value Underneath to be Considered:

Race 2: #1 U Crocs - 4/1

Maidens running for Pecoraro at Laurel tend to be underrated, however that 4/1 could go either way upon post time. While the dam did nothing sprinting over the synthetic, she won near-fronting it going a route on ground on the dirt in her only and final dirt run. The granddam was unraced but the great grand dam was on the Oaks trail for a spell, but eventually was second in the Dogwood. Bullet work leading up into things is always a plus, especially with the inside draw.

Race 3: #3 Boys Go to Jupiter - 20/1

Running third off the layoff last out to two horses who were essentially finding their way into easier company. Also getting pushed around a little bit in the break, went to go up the rail and somewhat got closed off (I only say somewhat because it was a horse that was going to finish ahead of him anyway, but regardless, it broke his momentum). The chute is his new bestie, having the better part of the best results on his form at this distance. I was pleased enough with the gallop out.

Race 5: #2 City Panda - 10/1

The horse's numbers against the group are slightly average, but let's take a look beyond the black and white: he overcame a trip that was not his style. After getting body slammed out and next to a rider that almost fell out of the tack, this one had to recalibrate and handled it well. He got going once a late lead change happened, and overall just expect a better trip for him that makes him competitive at this level.

Race 6: #9 Sweet Honey Bee - 6/1

By the margins of standard on the form, yes, this horse was behind first flight at the first quarter. However, this one in the first 8 jumps broke WAY faster than what looks like on paper! Came back, made a bit of a middle move, but still kept slugging on. For a horse that doesn't have a push-button turn of foot, that was a lot of back and forth in one race. With an outside post, should be getting smoother trip.

Go for It at a Price:**Race 5: #5 World On Fire - 6/1**

Interesting journey getting to this race. He's proven on a fast track, and by all accounts, should run well getting back to a fast track from the wet tracks in the last two: two back was harrowed, and burst onto the scene with a pattern change on a sealed track last out. He ate up the track with ease, and if there is a bounce, it will be EVER so slight.

Race 6: #3 Aeronyx - 12/1

Since coming into her own as a trainer, Sarah White has been on a roll and for a reason: she puts her horse in appropriate spots to win, not to protect in the claim game. Coming down from the 25 after the first win was logical, and kudos to Sarah off the layoff. It took him every single strip to get there, but his mind was sharp. He was ready to win by a couple of lengths, but he was body weary first off the layoff, and to be honest he's a heavy sort that looks like he needed a race anyways. Cruz is on a roll in addition in the saddle, so as long as he doesn't overdo it, looks pretty valuable here.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Backnthewoods may look to benefit from the outer post with inside speed to target. Last time he found this setup was against much tougher company. B West has every reason to improve with class relief and second off the bench. Deserving 9-5 ML.

R2: In a race where it feels justified to take a shot, I look to debut runner Perkins Gem. The first foal of Pearl Gem, who won on debut and followed it up with a strong performance in the MD Million Lassie. The second dam also won at second asking. Laysen will likely take plenty of play, understandably so with the class relief.

R3: Golden Eib Micrphn is one of those classic older horses that you can count on, she gives her best every single time. Outer post and tactical ability are key. I Can Do It has run some races that put her into consideration amongst this group, the late rally following a terrible start last out leave room for improvement in her 2nd off the bench.

R4: Night Time Nap makes a quick turnaround first after the claim, following a dazzling performance last out. He might catch the right type of allowance company here. Devil's Cay is one of two 5x winners in this group, the back class fits, especially with recent confidence building trips and the outer post.

R5: Trulli Warrior looks to be the controlling speed in this group, class relief and cutback work well enough for me. Curious what we will see from Rapidity, blinkers back on after a poor start last out. The 4-back effort surely fits.

R6: Aeronyx faces winners for the first time here and should offer value on that alone. I find myself intrigued for her second start without blinkers, maybe that was the trick. Buckin' Right has shown much greater speed since adding blinkers back on, recent class relief makes her a strong candidate here.

R7: Nancy Mary has faced solid company and solidified her place at this level with the last two outings. Shortening up to 5.5f shouldn't be an issue with her tactical ability. Ms Notion returns from over a year long layoff, always worth paying attention when connections invest that kind of time. She certainly showed promise with her 76 Beyer on debut as a 2 y/o.

R8: Sapphire Beauty has been the most consistent in recent form amongst this group, she should have the chance to be involved early here. Bay Street brings recent class to this group, some concern for her shortening up even further here today.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#3 - B West

Trainer: Kieron Magee

Second After 61-120 Days, Dirt: 11 for 35
(31%, \$2.14 ROI)

RACE 7

#6 - Ms Notion

Trainer: Phil Capuano

Experienced Dirt Horses, First Lasix: 8 for 23
(35%, \$2.49 ROI)

RACE 7

#7 - Sassafrassness

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Route to Sprint, First After Top 3 Finish: 5 for 15
(33%, \$2.09 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 7.5k, 4YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- **#2 MISTER AGENT** broke awkwardly, brushed with the gate and took a notable bump at the break last out (6F, LRL, 02/05/2026) which resulted in him getting away very slowly in last (gave the field ~3L head start). The break likely didn't cost him the race, and he sat a good trip thereafter; however, he did stay on well throughout and then gallop out in front, suggesting that a cleaner break and more prominent early position would have resulted in a better result. Suspect he can offer more with a better break today.
- **#3 B WEST** lost ground racing very wide (~6-7W- UPGRADE) from the 5/16 pole into the stretch last out (7F, LRL, 01/23/26) but it doesn't fully explain why he ran 11 points slower on the Beyer scale than he had the last twice (maybe he could have been a little more aggressively ridden from the gate). Drops in class and returns to 6F today.
- There was no visible reason as to why **#5 KBCYA LATER** ran so far low par last time (6F, LRL, 02/06/26); he needs to bounce back today.

Race 2: Maiden Claiming 25k, 3YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- Having broken slowly/bobbled a little from the rail, **#2 SWEET SPY** took an awful lot of sloppy kickback on debut (7F, LRL, 01/10/26) which likely contributed to her being outrun. Entitled to improve second out today.
- Having set a pressured opening ½ from the rail on debut (6F, AQU, 01/01/26), **#3 LAYSEN** was in tight against the fence ~1/4 pole when strongly challenged (intimidating for a debutant), then he showed a tendency to drift in towards the rail through the lane. Makes debut for Ness today, drops in class and adds Lasix (which his prior finishing effort suggests may help).

Race 3: OC20k/SAL12k, 4YO+F, 1 Mile, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- **#2 I CAN DO IT** hopped in the air leaving the gate last time (6F, LRL, 12/19/25) and was away slowly in last; chased the field from ~5L back into the turn, then gave away ground when launching a 4-5W+ bid (UPGRADE) around foes into 2nd on the run to the top of the lane; from there, she stayed on willingly to the wire (in a manner to suggest today's extra distance will suit, especially given a better break and more ground saving trip). Appears she has room to step forward today.
- The chart comment about **#5 GIRVINIZED**'s last effort (1 1/16M, LRL, 11/30/25) "pace rail, bumped 3/16, bumped 1/8, steadied inside 1/8, drifted" indicates that she endured a troubled stretch run. However, while the bumps and steadying did happen, they weren't detrimental to her effort (she only lost a minimal amount of momentum and was booked for 2nd regardless); more to the point, though, it should be noted that the bumps were solely a result of her lugging out badly around the home turn and all the way through the lane (she was drifting into the eventual winner and looked very difficult to ride). The apparent troubled stretch run was completely her own doing, and the effort is not worthy of an upgrade. Saying that, though, she did run well after setting a very honest pace in front and if she does run straighter today (for her new trainer Magee), she could improve today.
- There was no visible reason as to why **#6 GINGER GIRL** ran so far below par last out (7F, LRL, 10/25/25); the effort was followed by a layoff, however, so maybe something went amiss? Still, she'll need to bounce back off the bench today.

Race 4: N1X Allowance, 4YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- **#1 NIGHT TIME NAP** was a visually very impressive last out (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/05/26); he coasted into the lane on the bridle with his ears pricked, then readily extended away while receiving a few gentle underhand taps with the crop before coasting through the final 1/16; his gallop out was okay, and he seemingly won with more left in the tank; possible he hasn't peaked quite yet; makes debut for Magee today off 10 days rest.

- Suspect we'll see an improved effort from **#2 TONY ECLIPSE** today: last out (1M, LRL, 01/23/26), when returning from a 307 day layoff, he tried to go with a monster in LONESOME ROAD (who set fractions of 23.74, 47.28) early but that rival was in a different league to the others and 'TE' understandably then tired in the stretch. He was then not persevered with inside the final 1/8th, exasperating the margin of defeat. A step forward second off the bench looks likely. Note: despite his rider asking for the leg change, he only switched ~50Y from the wire in that last race too.
- **#3 AMY'S MUSIC**'s last start (1M, AQU, 01/10/26) can be fractionally UPGRADED: he didn't quite get enough pace to run at (he was stuck behind horses having broken from the rail and the 8/1 winner, who wired the field, steadied the pace considerably (24.74 second ¼) through the mid-portion of the race); he also lost ground swinging slightly wide into the lane before finishing well (in a manner to suggest today's extra distance would suit) down the center. Suspect he can offer a little more today.
- **#4 HARD AS LIFE** gave the field a length or two head start last out (1 1/16M, KEE, 04/12/25) when breaking poorly. In the grand scheme of things, though, it made no difference to the result (he was quickly back in contention and sat a perfect trip thereafter at odds of 52/1). Returns off the layoff today with lasix first time.
- There was no visible reason as to why **#6 BADGE OF WAR** ran below par last out (1M, PRX, 01/14/26) - he failed to switch leads in the lane and was flat throughout. Maybe he bounced off his big win two back? Live if back on song, but that's if...

Race 5: Claiming 12.5k, 4YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- The chart comment notes how **#1 RAPIDITY** broke slightly awkwardly last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 01/23/26) which he did, however, it wasn't catastrophic; he remained in contact with the field, sat a good trip thereafter and didn't have any real excuse. Blinkers on today.
- **#2 CITY PANDA** finished with good energy to place third last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 01/23/26) after enduring a rough beginning and then racing ~5W wide through the first half of the turn to the 3/8 pole. (Slightly) UPGRADE this effort.
- There was no visible reason as to why either **#3 TRULLI WARRIOR** (6 1/2F, PRX, 01/07/26) or **#4 SPEEDY ALEX** (1 1/16M, LRL, 12/27/25) ran below par in their respective last outs; both will need to bounce back today.
- **#6 CANDYCRUMBS** was caught ~4W on the turn, then floated 6W into the lane last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 01/23/26) before being beaten just 4 3/4L. UPGRADE his effort.
- **#7 JUNGLE GLOW** underperformed last out (6 1/2F, PRX, 01/13/26), period. However, he wasn't helped by the fact that he was caught behind a slow pace (that held very well) on a speed biased track. He wasn't persevered with either, exasperating the margin of defeat. Expect more down in class today.
- **#8 LOU'S BIRTHDAY** was checked leaving the gate last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 01/23/26) and gave the field a 2-3L head start, which, despite his trip thereafter being very good, possibly contributed to his flattening out late (he'd already used up his run to get to within 1 1/2L of the lead at the top of the lane). Entitled to offer a little more with a cleaner start.

Race 6: Claiming 12.5k, 4YO+F, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- Both **#2 OVER MY CENTS** (speed and fade) and **#8 READY FOR MAGIC** (who had pace to run at but failed to respond) lost ground racing 4-5W on the turn last out (6F, LRL, 01/23/26) but it doesn't fully explain either ran below par. Both horses will need to bounce back this afternoon.
- With blinkers removed, **#3 AERONYX** ran a nice career best breaking her maiden last out (6F, LRL, 12/26/25). However, she did also sit a great trip and have a very favorable setup, rating off a fast-paced duel contested by the 4/5 and 6/5 post time favorites that no doubt softened those two rivals up in the lane – she was arguably a fortunate winner. (Speed fig seems fair though, and there's no denying she improved for the removal of blinkers).
- Although she sat close to a hot early pace, there was no real reason as to why **#4 WORRIES UNFOUNDED** disappointed at odds of 7/2 last out (6F, LRL, 01/23/26); she'll need to bounce back today.
- **#7 CENTSAMILLA** set an honest pace in front to ~1/2m pole last out (7F, LRL, 12/28/25), then swapped her leads approaching the bend - all of which was fine; however, she then threw her head in the air suddenly which knocked her rider off balance slightly and checked her momentum a little entering the turn; from there, she stopped very quickly, plummeted back through the field and was eased through the lane. Not sure what happened, but something seemingly went amiss in this race, and we should probably draw a line through it and judge her on her previous form. Makes debut for Gorham today cutting back to 6F.

Race 7: MD-Bred Allowance, 4YO+F, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- **#2 CHICKIN LICKIN** uncharacteristically flopped to her left lead in the lane last time (1M, CNL, 07/19/25) and the effort was followed by a layoff, possibly indicating something went amiss in the race - maybe we can draw a line through the effort?
- The chart comment notes how **#3 ANITA BEER** took a bump at the top of the lane before going onto to score gamely in a nice effort last out (6F, LRL, 12/27/25); the bump was very minor though and made no difference to her speed figure/the winning margin. Do not upgrade the effort.
- Prior to unseating her rider when last seen in the 2024 MD Juvenile Filly Stakes, **#6 MS NOTION** really had been visually very impressive breaking her maiden on debut (6F, LRL, 11/15/24). Lengthy layoff is a concern, but she certainly looked a filly with talent.

Race 8: Claiming 7.5k, 4YO+F, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- The top two finishers (who were also the 6/5 and 2/1 fav and second choice) ran 1-2 the whole way around in **#2 BAY STREET**'s race on 01/09/26 (6F, LRL). She, however, was heavily restrained to race in rear, 6L+ off the even pace entering the far turn, then stayed on (with a good trip) into 3rd but had no chance of catching the front pair. She probably wasn't ever winning the race, but the tactics employed on her made it near impossible (to catch the two front running favs) from the start. She did well under the circumstances and could offer more. Note: she was also only hand ridden through the lane last out.
- **#3 SAPPHIRE BEAUTY** ran well despite a fractionally wide (4W turn) trip last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 02/04/26) – (tiny) UPGRADE.
- In his last race (4 1/2F, CT, 02/06/26), while full of run, **#4 KISSED AT DAWN** was forced to wait behind horses from ~1/4 pole to the top of the lane last out (a time when he'd ideally have been building momentum and advancing); he then found a split upon straightening and gamely got up for the win; easy to argue he was better than the winning margin suggests. Stretches back out in distance today.

Horses to Follow

R4: AMY'S MUSIC (6/1 ML)

In a head-scratching and wide-open fourth race today, AMY'S MUSIC deserves a second look at a price. This Michael Trombetta trainee has stepped forward nicely in his three starts since being gelded in October, but slow-paced affairs and wide trips have prevented him from showing his true potential. He now returns from New York and stretches out around two turns in what should be a ferociously run affair, all of which are factors that should help him find more improvement. Hazlewood gets aboard to take a valuable five pounds off his back, and with a few question marks hanging over some of his main rivals, he could be worth chancing at 6/1.

R6: AERONYX (12/1 ML)

Although AERONYX received a perfect trip and set-up when breaking her maiden for \$20k last out, the removal of blinkers by trainer Sarah White clearly helped this lightly raced daughter of FIRST MONDAYS take a step forward, and the 49 Beyer she earned puts her right in the mix in today's sixth. The race has already proven productive, with the only three runners to return producing a win and two seconds, each posting markedly improved figures (an average jump of 9.66 Beyer points). It's also worth remembering that she went into that effort with just one work since her October run three-back, so another forward move wouldn't surprise. With ample speed signed on to set things up and a cozy draw in gate three likely to secure another favorable trip, there are simply too many positives to dismiss her at a 12/1 morning line — even against tougher company.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

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.

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.

SUJO

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.

TAJ MAHAL

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: Feb. 6, 3rd race

Finish: 1st by 4 1/4 lengths

Expensive first-time starter worked well leading up to his debut. Broke slowly, but was allowed to find his stride before sweeping into contention with a wide run on the turn. Took over turning into the stretch, and drew away in the manner of a horse that can successfully step up in class next time.

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 Bay Downs.

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.

LADY LYDIA *(Breezed 4F - :51.40 at LRL on 1/23)*

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

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.

HELDISH

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.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 4: Mychel Sanchez - #5 - Missouri River; #7 - Devil's Cay >>> **Sanchez rides DEVIL'S CAY**

Race 6: Raul Mena - #3 - Aeronyx; #7 - Centsamilla >>> **Mena rides CENTSAMILLA**

Race 7: Yedsit Hazlewood - #1 - Spencer Tiara; #7 - Sassafrassness >>> **Hazlewood rides SASSAFRASSNESS**

Race 8: Jeiron Barbosa - #4 - Kissed At Dawn; #6 - Bugged Out >>> **Barbosa rides BUGGED OUT**

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

A recap of SATURDAY, FEB. 14 action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piassek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: Back Wall Bandit took advantage of a perfect setup off a contested pace and broke her maiden easily, giving Jerry Robb his first training win of the meet (he also saddled runner-up Stylish Gem). 6-5 favorite As the Bell Toles battled for the early lead and rapidly dropped back on the far turn, but rebounded in the stretch to get fourth.

Race 2: After three consecutive defeats at this level, **Miss Fulton Gal** broke through to clear her first-level condition. She rallied up the inside in the stretch and got by Tacit Value to win as the slight 2-1 favorite.

Race 3: Following three losses in a row as the heavy favorite, **Juniper's Jubilee** finally found a field she could beat. She rated off of early leader My Girl Back Home, took advantage when that rival faltered, and held off the rally of Hoof and Boots.

Race 4: Rerun Table and Kuaga battled each other down the stretch, but the former got the upper hand late and won for the second time in as many starts at the \$40,000 claiming level. Favored Barbados Bulldog had every chance to go by, but could manage no better than third.

Race 5: A very wide-open race on paper didn't quite play out that way in reality. **Bigtonten**, the fourth choice at 5-1, rated off the pace behind horses, angled for room on the turn, and kicked away once clear to win by 6 ¾ lengths for his second open-length win in his last three starts. Mistical Curlin and Catatumbo hit the wire together in a dead heat for second.

Race 6: Sometimes, a return home is all you need. **Atlantis Queen**, well-beaten in the Bay Ridge Stakes at Aqueduct last out, made her Maryland comeback a winning one in the Nellie Morse Stakes. She stalked the pace in the three-path and was asked for run on the second turn while chasing early leaders Complexity Jane and Late Nite Call. She worked her way past those two in the stretch and won going away, giving Yedsit Hazlewood his second stakes win of the meet. Sultry Lass rallied from well out of it past the embattled pacesetters for second.

Race 7: An already small four-horse field turned into three at the start when Surfside Moon unseated Julio Hernandez. The loose horse raced directly in front of the remaining trio and caused a bit of a ruckus when he forced **Jokestar** to check on the far turn. Jokestar was undeterred, however, and he rallied wide and kicked away to win the Post Time Stakes for Woodbine-based Kevin Attard and Pietro Moran.

Race 8: The Barbara Fritchie Stakes proved to be another heartbreaker for Takethemoneyhoney. She pressed early leader Dry Powder and eventually wore down that rival, but couldn't shake **Passage East**, who sat a great trip off the early leaders. Takethemoneyhoney and Passage East engaged in a thrilling battle down the lane, but Passage East ultimately got the upper hand and won by a nose. She's now won seven of her last eight starts and is 2-for-2 at the meet.

Race 9: Point Dume looked like the speed of the speed in the General George Stakes and ran like it. He made the front without much trouble, and no one, not even Quint's Brew or Slam Notion, could catch him. Blue Kingdom sat off the pace on the rail and managed to hold second.

Race 10: Run Tzu made 3-5 look like a gift, as he crushed the field in his local debut 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

Feb. 6 – Fair