# LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Friday, Mar. 13

**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: | 1-6-2-4 | 6-1-2-5 | 6-4-1-5 | 6-1-3-5 | 6-1-2-4 | 4-2-6-1 | 6-1-4 |
| RACE 2: | 1-4-5-2 | 5-2-1-4 | 1-4-5-2 | 4-5-2-1 | 2-5-1-4 | 4-5-1-2 | 5-4-1 |
| RACE 3: | 2-6-4-3 | 6-5-3-1 | 4-1-3-5 | 6-2-4-3 | 5-3-1-6 | 6-4-1-2 | 6-1-3 |
| RACE 4: | 6-1-5-4 | 5-1-2-4 | 1-6-5-3 | 1-4-6-5 | 1-2-5-6 | 5-4-1-6 | 1-5-6 |
| RACE 5: | 6-1-5-2 | 6-1-3-5 | 2-5-1-6 | 6-1-3-5 | 6-3-1-7 | 3-6-5-1 | 3-6-5 |
| RACE 6: | 5-1-9-10 | 5-10-2-9 | 2-5-10-8 | 5-10-8-3 | 10-2-9-6 | 4-10-3-5 | 5-9-10 |
| RACE 7: | 4-1-5-3 | 5-1-2-3 | 5-1-3-4 | 5-3-2-4 | 5-1-3-4 | 3-5-1-4 | 3-5-4 |
| RACE 8: | 5-6-1-2 | 2-5-3-6 | 6-1-2-3 | 1-5-6-3 | 6-1-2-5 | 1-6-4-2 | 6-5-4 |

# TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

### ⟩⟩ RACE 1

| 1. STYLISH GEM | 2. NAOMI AN RUTH | 3. TURKISH BREEZE |
|---|---|---|

First post is NOON, with a LOW 12% takeout on "Value" Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races). **STYLISH GEM** prompted a quick four-ply pace from the rail, was outpaced into the pocket on the turn under urging, cut the corner into the stretch, and was second best. She has a massive speed figure advantage over this field and should finish strong. **NAOMI AN RUTH** set a fast and pressured pace inside the 40-1 fourth-finisher, then faltered along the fence. Expect positional speed for a barn that went 5 for the last 17 (29%, $2.33 ROI) with third-out maidens in dirt sprints. In her debut, **TURKISH BREEZE** pressed the experienced odds-on winner from the outside, was floated outside turning for home, then tired in the final furlong. Expecting a "send" from the rail for a barn that went 5 for the last 14 (36%, $2.94 ROI) with second-out maidens in dirt sprints.

### ⟩⟩ RACE 2

| 1. NO MO MUFFINS | 2. YES PICNIC | 3. HONOR OUR COUNTRY |
|---|---|---|

**NO MO MUFFINS** tracked from in between rivals, then finished evenly when returned to the circuit. Expect more early speed for a barn that went 14 for the last 51 (27% $2.28 ROI) with horses making their third start after a 61-120 day layoff. **YES PICNIC** settled at the back, was urged along on the turn, swung widest into the stretch, then rallied to place ahead of the top pick. The winner of that heat next placed in a $40,000 claimer with a 54 Beyer. Late-kicker needs a bit of pace help up front. **HONOR OUR COUNTRY** fits very well at this level after chasing Ivy Girl, who then won the Main Line Stakes at Parx with a 58 Beyer. Respect her combination of tactical speed and closing kick, and she has no issues with this distance.

### ⟩⟩ RACE 3

| 1. PNEUMO WARRIOR | 2. CROSS OF VALOR | 3. LOVELY LOOKIN LILI |
|---|---|---|

**PNEUMO WARRIOR** broke well, pressed the odds-on winner from the outside, seemed outpaced from in between rivals on the turn, then stayed on gamely for second despite failing to change leads. She'll likely show early speed once again. **CROSS OF VALOR** tracked from the pocket, lost some ground on the turn, then made up some late lengths to place behind the top pick. Expecting her to settle just behind the early leaders while saving ground. **LOVELY LOOKIN LILI** was wired by the odds-on favorite last month. Tracked outside, made a three-wide bid on the turn, and gained a couple of lengths late. Lots of upside potential for a barn that went 3 for the last 11 (27%, $7.55 ROI) with third-out maidens. OLD FASHION CANDY was wired over a speed-friendly track by an experienced odds-on winner that returned to place in the Goldfinch Stakes at Prairie Meadows with an 83 Beyer. Must deal with a lengthy layoff, but it's too early to give up on her.

### ⟩⟩ RACE 4

| 1. D HOPPER | 2. ELLINGER | 3. BLO BY’EM |
|---|---|---|

**D HOPPER** finished ahead of four of these two starts back, then was wired in a sharp sprint at Charles Town. His speed should play better at this six-furlong distance for a trainer that sent out Buckin' Right to a chalky victory on 3/8. **ELLINGER**, listed as a Penn National vet scratch on 2/26, finished behind the top pick last time out, but he has good tactical speed, and an excellent attack post position. Think he'll get close to the pace while outside and in the clear. **BLO BY'EM** would benefit if the top-two selections hook up in a pace dispute. This barn went 4 for the last 11 (36%, $2.51 ROI) with horses exiting a top-three finish. RIGHT OF RUSH might have found the one-turn mile a bit too far over that sloppy track. He's a late-running sprinter that could use some hitting up front.

### ⟩⟩ RACE 5

| 1. ITS ALL GRAVY | 2. MONDRANACH | 3. MASTER SCHEMER |
|---|---|---|

**ITS ALL GRAVY** broke slowly in circuit debut, settled outside at the back, made a three-to-four wide bid on the turn under urging, and failed to threaten. Hoping for a better break at this longer distance for a barn that went 14 for the last 55 (25%, $2.20 ROI) with dirt horses racing with second-time Lasix. **MODRANACH**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 3/6, broke inward and was off slowly, went up to track outside, made a four-wide bid, and finished evenly despite being late to change leads. The winner of that race then placed in a $16,000 claimer with a 50 Beyer. The second dam won at a mile, and this gelding can get a bit closer to the pace. **MASTER SCHEMER** was wired over course and distance last month. Hopped at the start, stalked in between horses at the back, advanced inside on the turn, altered course back to the rail in upper stretch, and finished well with a good gallop-out. The sixth-finisher then placed in a $16,000 maiden claimer with a 47 Beyer. RIVER CITY RUNNER was wired by favored Caseofthemondays, who then placed in a $40,000 claimer with an 80 Beyer.

### ⟩⟩ RACE 6

| 1. MAGIC SPIN | 2. KERNESS K | 3. QUINCANNON |
|---|---|---|

**MAGIC SPIN** stumbled terribly at the start, rushed up to track the loose odds-on pacesetter, then finished evenly while drifting out a bit in the final sixteenth. He's developed a habit of breaking poorly, so he will need to get out of there better in order to utilize his tactical speed. **KERNESS K** drops in class with the speed to get close to the pace. Battled with two others from the rail last time, came off the inside into the stretch, then was geared down in the final hundred yards once beaten. The runner-up then placed in a $20,000 starter allowance with a 75 Beyer. This barn went 7 for 22 (32%, $2.92 ROI) between 2/19 and 3/8. **QUINCANNON** pressed quick fractions (23.80, 23.60) three wide, made a three-wide bid under confident handling to put away his pace rivals, then tired after hopping back to his left lead. Faced two next-out winners, with Mistical Curlin grabbing a $7,500 "beaten" claimer with a 71 Beyer. Tactical enough to work out a tracking trip despite cutting back in distance. MORE VINO seems well-entered after failing twice in New York. He had an underrated late kick, and would benefit from solid fractions.

⟩⟩ **RACE 7**

## 1. WICKEDDIVINE 2. PACO THE TACO MAN 3. GUAPONESS

**WICKEDDIVINE** tracked the 2-1 lone pacesetting winner, went on a hard chase on the turn, and stayed on for second. Nice outside post position gives the rider plenty of options, and he should be right there when the real racing begins. This barn scored with favored Tasty Time on 3/6. **PACO THE TACO MAN** battled for the lead with the favored third-finisher, then gamely kept on trucking to score last month. Figures to be forwardly placed for a barn that sent out an 8-5 winner on 3/7. **GUAPONESS** bounced right to the lead going a one-turn mile, set solid fractions of 24.55 and 24.25, and held second behind favored Joe the Jet, who then placed in a first-level allowance with a 78 Beyer. Respect his tactical speed for a barn that went 7 for the last 20 (35%, $2.08 ROI) moving route to sprint with horses exiting a top-three finish.

⟩⟩ **RACE 8**

## 1. Q GOT HOPS 2. RIO DEL VALLE 3. TUG

**Q GOT HOPS** broke quickly, prompted the pace three wide, altered course to the two path in upper stretch, then finished evenly without threatening. Wheels back on short notice, and can work out an outside stalking trip while clear of traffic issues. **RIO DEL VALLE** saved round in midpack, was urged along on the turn, eased outside, and finished in a one-paced fashion. Think he'll appreciate cutting back in distance for a barn that went 2 for the last 10 (20%, $5.62 ROI) with experienced horses adding blinkers for the first time. **TUG** finished ahead of a couple of these when placing behind the two favorites. This barn scored with 7-1 Hawkstone on 2/28.

## KALI'S KEYS – by Kali Francois

**All Are Box with the Favorite**

**Race 2: #2 Back Wall Bandit - 6/1**
While the Trombetta horse will be taking all of the money, you expand your bet to something a little more lucrative. While her granddam was third in the Albany at Ascot, she eventually came over to the states where the sole race she won was going over two turns. That two back effort coming fro off the pace at 5.5 was very telling. So telling, that Robb entered her on January 17th going this exact distance, but scratched. I have a feeling Robb killed two birds with one stone last out, just getting everything solidified in her head before stretching out.

**Race 3: #6 Old Fashion Candy - 4/1**
This is a personal thing for me - I really like when they run once and get some significant time off, regardless of circumstances. It shows that the connections are serious into the efforts that they put in backing a starter like this by means of one of the most valuable things: time. With the year layoff, I'm looking at this one as a brand new runner, but it helps that Trombetta is 9/49 18% with his second time starters. Typically amongst the bottom side of the family, they don't necessarily improve in their second start (an exception was one of the dam's half siblings). However, due to the time off, this one could buck the trend.

**Race 6: #10 Quincannon - 12/1**

While I'm not necessarily saying we're getting back to the ultimate right distance with this one (7f, by the way) today, it's a start in the right direction in the sense that it won't take much racing luck to get a good result. This will sound a little wild, but since this guy has to go wider, it gives him the room he needs to not have any tempo broken - he has enough gusto to handle the shorter distance and compete. In addition, this is a guy who loves being competitive the closer they get to the wire - regardless of whether he's winning or not. As long as this guy is NOT too close early on, very good chance at giving some value.

## MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Stylish Gem has figured out the task at hand and looked to run out of fitness when going the mile 2-back. Her outer post and recent company set things up for a strong outing here. Turkish Breeze missed out to a winner with racing experience on debut, class relief and her early speed will benefit in this group.

R2: Yes Picnic is one of two 2-time winners in this group, both her pedigree and running style suggest she may appreciate the one turn mile configuration. Honor Our Country takes significant class relief, a deserving 9-5 ML based on the career best number at this distance 2-back. Back Wall Bandit may present value in this group, her routing pedigree and recent bullet work going 5f are worth noting.

R3: Old Fashion Candy returns for her second start nearly one year after the debut, where the winner came back to finish second in stakes company with an 83 Beyer. The rest oof the field hasn't blown me away, but the work tab and outer post certainly catch my attention here. Keep an eye on her performance, the workmate will be out in R5 today. Peace Before Chaos might be worth a look for a value play, the half sibling Speightful Sis, was a 6x winner - over all three surfaces.

R4: D Hopper looks to be the main speed in this group and could get straight to it from the inside. A winner over a wet track and technically a 2x winner after his DQ in the first outing, a big player here. Ellinger makes sense based on the recent company but I find some concern for a repeat of the last out with his outer post. Who Says So has been competitive over a wet dirt in the past, he may benefit from landing just outside of the early speed here.

R5: Bigshot Ness had plenty of work to do in his first outing after bobbling at the start. He was overtaken when tiring late against a gate-to-wire winner, suspect the racing fitness will benefit him for the second start here. Master Schemer comes out of the same race, with his inside post today, I look for him to work a similar rail trip to the last out.

R6: Kerness K has proven competitive against tougher company but seems to have had a bit too much work to do in recent starts. His restricted allowance win in gate to wire fashion from October could be replicated with the class relief here. Quincannon seems to be holding good form but lost ground while stretching out last time. With a tactical early ride, he may benefit from the cutback. If faced with a wet track, he is proven to handle it.

R7: Paco the Taco Man and Guaponess look to be the speed of this group, Enzo may be forced to be involved from his position in between. I look to Wickeddivine to sit just behind the early pace, his career best was going this distance 3-back. Guaponess may be hard to shake off once he gets his head in front, and the cutback could help him sustain the run.

R8: Rio Del Valle adds blinkers here and takes the weight off, if able to get away from the inside post, he might appreciate the cutback in distance. Note, the stallion isn't known for his early winners and half siblings have been winners in sprinting distances. Poor Peanut has a win early family but the works are somewhat lackluster. Worth a look in the paddock.

## TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

**RACE 1**

**#1 - Turkish Breeze**
Trainer: Kieron Magee
Second-Out Maidens, Dirt Sprint: 5 for 14 (36%, $2.94 ROI)

**#4 - Naomi an Ruth**
Trainer: Jose Corrales
Third-Out Maidens, Dirt Sprints: 5 for 17 (29%, $2.33 ROI)

**RACE 2**

**#1 - No Mo Muffins**
Trainer: Brittany Russell
Third After 61-120 Days: 14 for 51 (27%, $2.28 ROI)

**RACE 3**

**#3 - Lovely Lookin Lili**
Trainer: Annette Eubanks
Third-Out Maidens: 3 for 11 (27%, $7.55 ROI)

**RACE 4**

**#5 - Blo By'em**
Trainer: Kieron Magee
Exiting a Top-3 Finish: 4 for 11 (36%, $2.51 ROI)

**RACE 5**

**#2 - Its All Gravy**
Trainer: Kieron Magee
Second-Time Lasix, Dirt: 14 for 55 (25%, $2.20 ROI)

**RACE 6**

**#5 - Kerness K**
Trainer: Brittany Russell
Between 2/19 and 3/8:
7 for 22 (32%, $2.92 ROI)

**RACE 7**

**#3 - Guaponess**
Trainer: Jamie Ness
Route to Sprint, Exiting Top-3 Finish: 7 for 20 (35%, $2.08 ROI)

**RACE 8**

**#1 - Rio Del Valle**
Trainer: Jonathan Maldonado
Experienced Horses, First-Blinkers: 2 for 10 (20%, $5.62 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 16k, 3YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt**

**Replay Notes:**

- **#1 TURKISH BREEZE** (on debut; prompted even pace to ~5/16, floated/drifted wide off turn, drifted in and weakened lane; not a horrible try until 3/16); **#2 ROSIE'S FORTUNE** (two-back (stumbled and unseated rider after being fidgety in the gate last time), chased pace and weakened); **#3 MODERNIS SILVER** (on debut; broke slowly and outwards, lugged out throughout back stretch and turn while tough to handle, seemingly wanting to head back to the barn area, no factor; Lasix off today); **#4 NAOMI AN RUTH** (worked forward to set honest fractions on the rail to ~5/16 pole, then gradually faded and was not persevered with late; Lasix off today); **#5 EASTCOASTGIRLSRHIP** (chased the even pace to ~3/8, then faded after making an early lead change on the bend); and **#6 STYLISH GEM** (prompted honest pace on rail to turn, dropped back a little bend, cut corner into lane, then stayed on willingly for 2nd), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

**Race 2: Claiming 25k, 3YO (F), 1 Mile, Dirt**

**Replay Notes:**

- Considering she was facing much tougher competition than she did two-back, **#3 DIAMOND N DRESS** probably didn't receive the best trip/ride last time (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/20/26): rushed up between foes, she lost ground racing 5W on the first turn, then rather than rating off the speed and catching a slight breather, the rider kept the revs up and continued to press on into a 1L lead racing through the back stretch while in the clear 3-4 deep, inevitably setting things up well for her rivals and leading to her tiring on the far turn. Feel that different circumstances can see her to better effect.
- After chasing the even pace from a detached last, then swinging 4-5W into the lane (noteworthy ground loss), **#4 YES PICNIC** stayed on and galloped out well enough last time (5 1/2F, LRL, 02/14/26) to suggest today's extra distance could bring about improvement.
- **#5 HONOR OUR COUNTRY**'s best efforts have come when she's racing in a forward position with daylight in front of her; she didn't get that trip last time (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/14/26), as she failed to make the front and was stuck in behind the leaders while tightly bunched between foes throughout – seemingly racing out of her preferred position, she may offer more with a wide post and different trip, down in class today.
- **#1 NO MO MUFFINS** (chased the even pace in the center to the turn, made brief headway in 3rd ~5/16 pole, then faded; nothing to suggest she really wants today's 1M distance); **#2 BACK WALL BANDIT** (with lasix first time; tracked honest pace to turn, made smooth headway while ~3-4W turn into lane, took over 1/8, then powered away under light handling late; gallop out only so-so); and **#6 ONLY MARIA** (four runner race; chased the hot pace throughout and failed to factor, despite trying and staying on well enough through the lane, gallop out okay), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

**Race 3: Maiden Claiming 45k, 4-6YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt**

**Replay Notes:**

- **#1 CROSS OF VALOR, #4 PNEUMONIA WARRIOR** and **#5 CHILLY GIRL** all exit the same race (6F, LRL, 02/13/26) in which speed held very well, and the running order hardly changed throughout, possibly raising questions about the validity of the form: **CROSS OF VALOR** tracked even pace 2W into turn, dropped back slightly approaching top of lane, then stayed on willingly inside; **PNEUMO WARRIOR**, at 21/1, vied for command through even fractions 2W into the turn, lost contact with the eventual winner on bend but stayed on willingly regardless to hold 2nd, despite remaining on left lead; and **#5 CHILLY GIRL** took a hefty bump at the break, chased pace while losing a little ground outside COV 3-4W, made an early lead change on the bend, then faded. It's possible that the pace flow/race shape helped **PNEUMO WARRIOR** and worked against her two re-opposing rivals slightly.
- **#3 LOVELY LOOKIN LILI** (chased even pace ~3W into lane, then stayed on willingly and galloped out in front; made another likable impression – debut was good too); and **#6 OLD FASHIONED CANDY** (on debut, was urged along chasing modest fractions from last too the turn, then gradually weakened; returns off layoff today), both sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

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

**Replay Notes:**

- **#2 A. L.'S BOY** deserves a small pace upgrade for his last effort (7F, CT, 02/25/26): he broke sharp from the rail, set fast, pressured, closer friendly fractions on the fence to the far turn, then faded grudgingly on his left lead but was game enough to hold 3rd. Seems capable of improving if able to save a little more for the lane; cut back to 6F today could suit.
- **#5 BLO BY'EM** lost ground racing 4-5W (widest of all the re-opposing runner from that race) from ~3/8 pole into the lane before staying on evenly on his left lead to split **#1 D HOPPER** and **#6 ELLINGER** last out (6F, LRL, 02/04/26) – the ground loss likely didn't cost him 2nd, but we can very slightly mark up his effort.
- **#1 D HOPPER** (two-back – last out replay unavailable; set honest pace in front to turn, extended lead bend, fought willingly stretch but was run down late, clear 2nd); **#3 RIGHT OF RUSH** (broke sharp from rail and set pace through opening 1/8, dropped back and chased pace on fence to ~3/8 pole, then gradually faded, despite trying hard); **#4 WHO SAYS SO** (broke sharp from outside, stalked pace 2W into turn, then gradually faded; no visible reason for sub-par effort); and **#6 ELLINGER** (tracked honest pace ~3W into lane, then faded grudgingly; no visible reason for sub-par effort), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

**Race 5: Maiden Claiming 25k, 3YO, 1 Mile, Dirt**

**Replay Notes:**

- After becoming outpaced on the bend and losing contact with the front three (who filled those positions throughout), **#3 CALL ME VICTORIOUS** stayed on well enough with a likable attitude last time (6F, LRL, 02/06/26) to suggest today's extra distance can see him to better effect.
- On debut last time (5 1/2F, LRL, 01/23/26), **#5 MODRANACH** brushed with a foe at the break and got away a beat slow; recovered and traveled well chasing the even pace from ~4L back in 4th; lost a little ground racing ~4W on the turn; then finished up with credit and galloped out nicely. Under the circumstances, this was a promising debut effort that he can build on today, while also shaping as if today's distance will be more to his liking.
- #6 BIGSHOT NESS made a likable debut last out (1M, LRL, 02/13/26): he was bumped hard at the start, bobbled and got away slowly, then rushed up and contested even fractions in the 2P to the top of the lane, battled hard between foes (often unideal, especially with debutants) into deep stretch, then steadied slightly ~1/16 which slightly checked his momentum (not much, but slightly). With the benefit of experience, a better break and a slightly more favorable trip, he's likely to improve today. It should be noted, however, that speed held well in that race, with the 6/1 winner wiring the field and the eventual runner-up (a 19/1 shot) never more than 2L back. The race flow arguably aided BIGSHOT NESS somewhat, while fellow exiters #1 MASTER SCHEMER (3rd) and #7 PAID VACATION (5th) might be deserving of extra credit. MASTER SCHEMER dropped back early but was still well in touch, advanced with a smooth trip 2W on the turn, cut the corner into the lane and stayed on willingly doing best of the closers; PAID VACATION, somewhat surprisingly, failed to get forward early, took a strong grip towards the rear heading to the turn, made smooth progress with a good trip into the lane, then finished evenly.
- **#2 IT'S ALL GRAVY** (off layoff and on the slop as a fresh gelding with lasix first time; chased the even pace from last to top of the lane, then failed to progress towards center lane; stretch out in trip could be to his advantage as he was simply not fast enough for 5 1/2F here, though gallop out was uninspiring – maybe he just needed the race off layoff?); and **#4 RIVER CITY RUNNER** (outrun rail, never involved), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

**Race 6: Claiming 7.5k, 4YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt**

**Replay Notes:**

- There was absolutely no visible reason as to why **#1 MORE VINO** ran below par last out (7F, AQU, 02/19/26): he had a fast pace to run at, and the track was playing favorably to closers. The drop looks necessary today as he makes his debut for Geralis.
- **#2 MAGIC SPIN** stumbled pretty badly out of the gate last time (6F, LRL, 02/15/26) but recovered quickly and sat a fine trip thereafter – result/speed fig seem fair.
- Having broken from the outside post on the slop last time (6F, LRL, 02/20/26), **#3 UNIWINNER** sat a wide enough trip (5W for entirety of bend) to warrant an UPGRADE. He ran a likable race in defeat.
- **#4 FIND FAITH** failed to hit the board last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 02/05/26) despite having saved ground throughout and been positioned close to a slow early pace that favored forwardly placed runners. He'll need to improve for the addition of blinkers to score today.
- Last out (5 1/2F, LRL, 02/13/26), **#5 KERNESS K** was hard sent to dispute the pace with the eventual winner on the rail, dropped back a little racing into the lane, then stayed on willingly but could not go with the top two from ~1/8 pole; his rider then stood up just inside the 1/16 pole, slightly exasperating the margin of defeat (by ~1L). Adding another 1/16 to the trip today, taking him back off the pace slightly, and/or getting off the rail (anything that allows him to just get a breath in mid-race), plus a stronger late stretch ride could see him improve slightly today.
- Last out (1M, LRL, 02/14/26), **#10 QUINCANNON** broke from the outside, pulled hard in the clear 3W while pressing an honest pace, dropped back slightly while conceding ground 3W on the turn, then stayed on well between foes for 4th, despite flopping leads close home. Nothing about his trip really entitles him to an upgrade for this effort, but it was commendable that, despite racing widest, he fared best of the three early front runners (even though the other two were well fancied at odds of 4/1 and 5/2); and at the same time, owing to the fact that he pulled hard early and tired slightly late on, his effort suggested that he'll be at least as effective back at 6F today.
- **#6 CATAHOULA MOON** (lacked speed, chased the honest pace from towards rear, was in a little tight along the rail and very lightly steadied (inconsequential, in the grand scheme of things) ~7/16, then finished evenly on his left lead without ever getting involved; drops today); **#7 PROM KNIGHT** (quickly became detached behind the slow pace and was eased for the second time in a row); **#8 KEEPING IT COUNTRY** (touch wide into lane but not enough to warrant an upgrade; tracked pace, gradual fade; cuts back today); and **#9 MISTER AGENT** (stalked even pace on rail, gradual fade to last), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

**Race 7: Allowance ®, 4YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt**

**Replay Notes:**

- **#4 CHANGE MY WORLD** (3rd) was positioned slightly farther off the slow early pace and raced a path wider on the turn than **#5 WICKEDDIVINE** (2nd) when they met last time (5 1/2F, LRL, 02/13/26). CMW was therefore at a slight disadvantage relative to 'WICKED' and may be able to narrow the gap today, but off that race alone it's a little difficult to see him reversing the form — 'WICKED' was clearly second best and was pulling away from CMW late.
- **#1 PACO THE TACO MAN** (broke sharp, contested even fractions 2W to top of lane, steadily pulled away despite drifting out a touch, then held off a fast-finishing foe late, fully extended); **#2 ENZO** (on turf; pressed even pace between foes in 2P, took over turn, emerged with clear lead in stretch, held advantage to close home, nailed; returns from layoff today); and **#3 GUAPONESS** (set even fractions with a clear, uncontested lead to turn, came under pressure and had lead reduced approaching top of lane, was overtaken ~3/16, gave way grudgingly, 2nd best; cuts back today), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

**Race 8: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 3YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt**

**Replay Notes:**

- **#4 BABBLE** isn't deserving of an upgrade for his last effort (1M, LRL, 02/27/26), but the ride likely didn't see him to best effect either: he was unhurried early (when he needed to be hustled) and dropped a long way (16L) behind, then made a big mid-race move from ~9/16 running into and around the bend (premature and badly executed, unideal) to be racing just 4L off the pace in a share of 3rd ~3/8 pole, 3W; he then lost ground floating 5W+ into the lane and faded. If keeping up early, having shown a little pace making the mid-race move and then failing to stay a mile, the cut back today might suit, along with a shaper ride, could suit.
- **#1 RIO DEL VALLE** (never traveled, always behind; cuts back today with blinks on); **#2 TUG** (disputed even fractions inside to 9/16, dropped back and switched out approaching bend, came under a ride and dropped to 3rd bend, weakened for a non-threatening 3rd stretch; cuts back today – possibly to his benefit); and **#6 Q GOT HOPS** (tracked modest early pace 3W to turn, was floated out ~6W (inconsequential when it comes to the result) racing to the top of the lane, cut back inside and then finished evenly), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

## Horses to Follow

### R3: LOVELY LOOKIN LILI (8/1 ML)

LOVELY LOOKIN LIL has made a nice visual impression in both her starts to date, staying on with good energy to hit the board each time. While today's step up to the $40k maiden claiming level will demand another forward move, she looks a progressive type who isn't far off the best of these on figures and remains far less exposed than some of her more fancied rivals. At 8/1, she appeals as a value play to run well in what looks an open contest.

### R5: CALL ME VICTORIOUS (9/2 ML)

Having become outpaced on the far turn sprinting six furlongs last out, CALL ME VICTORIOUS stayed on well through the lane to be beaten just 3 3/4 lengths in a race that has since seen the winner and third-place finisher return to post Beyers of 80 and 71, respectively. Only a small amount of digging into the pedigree is required to find ample route form to support the theory that this gelding will improve for today's stretch-out in distance, and if he does build on his most recent 63 Beyer, he could prove tough to stop.

### R6: KERNESS K (7/5 ML)

Despite the big field, there doesn't appear to be much speed signed on in today's six-furlong sixth, which should help KERNESS K find the winner's circle. This Brittany Russell trainee did well to hold on for third in a tougher starter allowance last time, having been hard pressed to stay with the early pace from the outset. With an extra sixteenth of a mile to work with today and a drop in class, he should prove tough to reel in under Hazlewood.

# 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.

**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 pacesetting winner, but did show some interest on the gallop-out. Thirteen-time winner deserves another shot in a $7,500 conditioned seller.

**PRINCE OF JERICHO** ***(Entered SUN 3/15 at Laurel – Race 10)***
**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.

**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**
**Trainer:** Greg Sacco
**Last Race:** Jan. 16, 7th race
**Finish:** 4th by 4 ¾ 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.

**IN AWE OF JUJU** *(Breezed 4F - :50.20 at DEL on 3/12)*
**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.

**LANNISTER**
**Trainer:** Brittany Russell
**Last Race:** March 7, Race 3
**Finish:** 2nd by 2
He's far from a star, but has been knocking on the door in his last two runs, and acts like a maiden win is in the offing. Tracked a pacesetting winner over a speed-friendly and muddy track, and couldn't make up the necessary ground in the stretch.

**GAELICHEARTOFGOLD**
**Trainer**: Ben Perkins Jr.
**Last Race**: March 7, 1st race
**Finish:** 3rd by 8
Broke slowly from the rail in his first start following a late-November layoff, then was wired by the favorite over a speed-favoring track in a race where they ran 1-2 all the way around. Eased out to split rivals turning for home, then finished with some interest and a very promising gallop-out.

**OUR DAY WILL COME**
**Trainer:** Gina Perri
**Last Race:** March 8, Race 2
**Finish:** 3rd by 3 3/4
Wonder if this five-time winner was truly at his best over muddy going. Tracked from the second flight, went on a hard chase after the leader on the turn, then flattened out from in between foes.

## JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Kevin Gomez - #3 - Modernis Silver; #5 -Eastcoastgirlsrhip >>> **Gomez rides MODERNIS SILVER**

Race 5: Jose Vargas - #1 - Master Schemer; #3 - Call Me Victorious >>> **Vargas rides MASTER SCHEMER**

Race 8: Pedro Pena - #3 - Star Fearless; #4 - Babble >>> **Pena rides BABBLE**

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

**A recap of SUNDAY, MAR. 8 action at Laurel Park.** Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piassek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

**Race 1: Buckin' Right** got a perfect setup chasing longshot early leader A P M Notion. She took advantage when that rival tired and fended off the rail rally of Maidstone to win.

**Race 2:** Caseofthemondays and Feels So Right dueled each other into defeat, setting it up perfectly for **Palacios**, who got the garden trip off the battle in third. Caseofthemondays ran by far the best race of the two pacesetters. He finished second by 2 ½ lengths, while Feels So Right faded to fourth, beaten 10 ¾ lengths.

**Race 3:** This race featured another early duel, as **Golden Eib Micrphn** and Skip Thru Da Fire battled each other in the early stages. Skip Thru Da Fire gave way on the turn and Golden Eib Micrphn opened up for a dominating 7 ¾-length win.

**Race 4:** Sticktothesystem raced wide a contested early pace and opened up on the turn. He was in front by three lengths at the top of the stretch and looked poised to pull an 11-1 upset. A host of closers swarmed in in the last eighth, and **Mister Roscoe** went the best of them. He gobbled up ground in the center of the track to win, while Sugar On Fire switched to the inside in the last eighth and missed by a neck. Sticktothesystem managed to hold third.

**Race 5:** Heavily favored Rio Grande didn't fire in his local debut, while **Pont Aven** lasted through consistent pace pressure to win in gate-to-wire style.

**Race 6:** For the second time this meet, **Aztec** won in dramatic fashion. He raced wide throughout, launched his rally on the far turn, and rallied in the center of the track to win by a neck over longtime leader Frosty the Giant.

**Race 7: Badge of War** was sent for speed from the outside post. He took a while to clear, as Joe the Jet had plenty of early speed of his own from the inside, but Badge of War finally made his way to the rail just before the half-mile point. He never gave up the lead from there, completing a training hat trick for Jamie Ness.

**Race 8:** Five of them were in with a chance as they passed the eighth pole. **Bay Street** struck the front in the last sixteenth, while **Book of Wisdom** rallied up the rail and surged in the final strides. The two hit the line together for the first dead heat for win of the season.

## 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
Feb. 27– Fair
Feb. 28 – Fair
Mar. 1 – Fair
Mar. 6 – Fair (slight outside lean)
Mar. 7 – SPEED BIAS
Mar. 8 – Fair