



LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Sunday, Mar. 22

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



DAN ILLMAN



MACK PFEIFFER



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

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

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. ONE TRUE DUDE

2. LOU'S BIRTHDAY

3. PARALEGAL

First post is NOON, with a LOW 12% takeout on "Value" Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races). **ONE TRUE DUDE**, listed as a Timonium vet scratch (sick) on 8/15, must overcome a seven-month layoff, but he showed some promise once switched to dirt last summer. Hustled hard to set a quick pace going two turns at Charles Town last time, fended off two early challengers from off the rail, then drove home as best. The runner-up hit the board in his next four starts at that track/level with a 69 Beyer. Demand value as he might have trouble receiving a similar front-running trip off the bench. **LOU'S BIRTHDAY** pressed the winner from the outside, attacked that foe under urging, then tried gamely for second. Figures right there when they turn for home. **PARALEGAL** blasted out to the lead last month, couldn't move with the winner on the turn, and steadily tired. This seems like a slight class drop, and he should show speed from the fence.

>> RACE 2

1. RYLNNSLOOKINGLUCKY

2. FEEL THE BOLT

3. HEY ALEXA

RYLNNSLOOKINGLUCKY cleared off to set the pace, then gamely battled the length of the stretch to finish second. She should be close to the lead once again for a barn that went 4 for the last 18 (22%, \$3.27 ROI) with horses exiting a top-three finish and showing three ascending Beyer Speed Figures. **FEEL THE BOLT** raced at the back behind a slow pace (25.18 second quarter), squeezed through in between rivals while three wide into the stretch, and finished evenly without threatening the top favorites. Expect better gate speed as she stretches back out in distance. **HEY ALEXA** tracked that slow pace from the fence, cut the corner into the stretch, and failed to rally when behind the runner-up. Her dam won a couple of routes, so perhaps this extra distance is just what the doctor ordered.

>> RACE 3

1. SELF TAUGHT

2. COLLECTION DAY

3. BE BETTER

SELF TAUGHT broke slowly, saved ground at the back, cut the corner into the stretch, then finished in a one-paced fashion. Ten-time winner was claimed out of that heat, and can rally if the pace is swift for a barn that sent out 19-10 winner Bay Street on 3/8. **COLLECTION DAY** set the pace inside the favored sixth-finisher, was urged along on the turn, then stayed gamely for second behind the 5-2 winner. He's a very tactical sort that can race close to the pace for a barn that went 10 for the last 44 (23%, \$2.19 ROI) with routers exiting a top-three finish. **BE BETTER** has back class, and is a proven commodity at this demanding nine-furlong distance. He's on a long losing streak, but kicks hard in the stretch on his best day.

>> RACE 4

1. UNION FLEET

2. HOLY SYNCHRONICITY

3. FROSTY THE GIANT

UNION FLEET tracked three wide/five path at the back, attacked two-to-three wide on the turn, then drew off racing seven furlongs. Although the pace didn't seem very swift that afternoon, it's worth noting that the top-two finishers came from last and next-to-last after the opening quarter. He's done his best work moving from route to sprint, but is capable at the mile and has returned from a six-month layoff in excellent form. **HOLY SYNCHRONICITY** set reasonable fractions going two turns over a sealed, sloppy track at Charles Town, and tired when it mattered. He's always seemed better over fast ground, and might opt for more patient early tactics here. **FROSTY THE GIANT** set fast fractions of 23.40 and 23.52, then was just kicked down by the favorite in the final furlong. He might not have to work as hard to grab the early lead this afternoon. **NOTED** receives class relief after being wired in New York. The third-finisher then ran third in a \$30,000 claimer there with an 82 Beyer. **NIGHT TIME NAP** hooked up in a quick (23.87, 23.80) multi-horse pace battle before tiring badly. The runner-up then took a first-level allowance with an 82 Beyer.

>> RACE 5

1. ON A PROUD NOTE

2. DINE AND DASH

3. ROYAL SEAMSTRESS

ON A PROUD NOTE prompted a fast, three-ply pace from the rail, wound up in the pocket on the turn, cut the corner into the stretch, and rallied for second behind Greek Heiress, who returned to place in a first-level allowance with an 82 Beyer. Figures on or near the lead against this group. **DINE AND DASH**, listed as a Penn National vet scratch on 7/10, returns from a 294-day layoff after being wired over this course and distance. The runner-up from that heat then compiled a record of 4-1-2-1, including two stakes placings and an 87 Beyer top. She is likely to show fresh early zip. **ROYAL SEAMSTRESS** was too quick for \$6,000 conditioned claimers last month. She doesn't necessarily need the lead to succeed, however, and might attempt to track while outside and in the clear. Curious to see if this distance is too sharp for **ATLAS STRONG**, who just ran well against Golden Eib Microphn, a next-out 88-Beyer winner of a dime starter at Parx. Kicks on in the stretch.

>> RACE 6

1. QUICK TEMPO

2. FREEZE THE FIRE

3. DADDY YANKEE

QUICK TEMPO, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 3/6, set a fast and pressured pace inside the 10-1 last-finisher, then tired in the stretch. Seventeen-time winner has enough speed to get to the front for a barn that went 6 for the last 25 (24%, \$2.10 ROI) with newly-claimed runners exiting a top-three finish. **FREEZE THE FIRE** looks like the horse to beat as he drops significantly in class. Had a four-race win streak snapped when a good second two back. Hopped at the start in that heat, sat a loose pocket behind a fast pace, was briefly in behind horses, angled four wide, and rallied for second behind the pacesetting winner. Toss the last race as he was in too tough in the General George. Consistently strong from a speed figure perspective, he goes out for a barn that went 8 for the last 24 (33%, \$2.45 ROI) adding Lasix. **DADDY YANKEE** settled midpack behind a solid pace, stalked three wide at the back, was urged along on the turn, and rallied well for second. Faced two next-out winners and boasts a strong late kick. **JOLLY BY GOLLY** wheels back on short notice after being wired by tougher at Colonial. **BROTHER CONWAY** should fare better dropping in class and distance. He has several back races that would make him competitive against these.

>> RACE 7

1. SPENCER TIARA

2. MEG

3. WEEKEND WIFE

SPENCER TIARA recovered quickly after bobbling at the start, set the pace inside the favored third-finisher, and stayed on nicely for second along the fence. That third-finisher then won an open first-level allowance with an 87 Beyer. Looks like the controlling speed, and has enough pedigree and body type to last the longer distance. **MEG** had no real excuses when stretched out to a one-turn mile. Got away with an easy early lead (25.03 seconds) and tried hard only to be kicked down by the favorite. Perhaps she'll benefit by rating from just off the pace. **WEEKEND WIFE** ran pretty well when behind Meg, as she had to rally into those slow fractions. She's improved since stretching out in distance and should kick in the stretch. **BOURBON N LACE** has an underrated late bid, and would benefit if this pace is hot. Mena departs for **NANCY MARY**.

>> RACE 8

1. STRAIGHT TO WATER

2. TUFF LUCK

3. GUAPONESS

STRAIGHT TO WATER tracked from the pocket at the back, split rivals on the turn, made an early lead change at the quarter pole, then popped back to his left lead in midstretch. Not sure he truly cared for that sealed, muddy strip, and he seems to have enough tactical speed to find a stalking position while outside and clear of traffic into the first turn. Barn sent out Master Schemer (3-1) and Crab Daddy (5-2) to wins earlier in the month after exiting top-three finishes. **TUFF LUCK** took a light bump at the start, tracked the pace from the outside, battled in between rivals after a half-mile, poked a head in front at the three-eighths marker under a confident ride, and held sway under hands and heels urging. Drew an advantageous inside post position, and Hazlewood lands here instead of Formal Affair. **GUAPONESS** broke slowly over a speed-friendly track, stalked at the back by himself, was urged along inside on the turn, then only finished in a one-paced manner. His early speed plays much better at these longer distances.

>> RACE 9

1. FLYING TO WORK

2. VIDA

3. TIZ THE GREAT

FLYING TO WORK was bumped lightly soon after the start, pressed the pace from in between horses, went on a hard chase while tracking from off the rail, altered course inside the favored runner-up turning for home, then finished evenly behind the two favorites. Late-runner needs pace help, but has some upside for a barn that went 3 for the last 14 (21%, \$2.06 ROI) with horses exiting three ascending Beyer performances. **VIDA** broke sharp at Colonial, tracked four wide, made a three-wide bid on the turn, then didn't change leads in a race where they ran 1-2-3 around the track. He should show more early lick against this group. **TIZ THE GREAT** set the pace from the rail, cleared off to an uncontested advantage at the three-eighths, came well off the inside, and finished ahead of the top pick despite being late to change leads. Perhaps he's finally found his spot for a barn that went 9 for the last 44 (20%, \$2.30 ROI) with horses exiting three consecutive ascending Beyer performances. **TIZ IS PONTE** drops in class and adds Lasix after debuting over sloppy going.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Paralegal and Lou's Birthday post the best last out Beyer figs of 61 in this group and look to be holding form. I lean toward Paralegal, who should benefit from class relief and looks to be the speed of the speed. Inside draw will help him get straight to it. Ecumenical may appreciate returning to the 6f distance but I find some concern for a potentially wide and flat trip at a short price.

R2: Rylnnslookinglucky was able to capitalize on the outer post last time out and held strong in her third start off the bench. She may have caught the right field to repeat again here. Tea Rose showed aa closing turn of foot in her 3-back effort but couldn't repeat last out. Her racing experience may benefit greatly in this group.

R3: Be Better may appreciate the added ground going 9f in today's setup, his back class and experience at the distance stands out. Collection Day showed a return to form when aggressively ridden from the gate in his last outing, he sustained very well and may build off of the confident last outing.

R4: Union Fleet looks to have jumped back into form after a freshening, 3rd off the bench could improve him again here. In a group where there should be an honest pace with close pressure, Union Fleet may pick them off late. Tops the Chart shortens up in distance and could work a similar trip in his second off the bench, suspect he sits a bit closer. Night Time Nap has every reason too bounce back, but I find some concern that he may do too much too early, at a short price.

R5: Hard to argue against On a Proud Note after stepping up willingly last out. If she can continue to hold her form, she looks hard to deny. Anita Beer found herself chasing a very strong pace against much tougher last out, a race that has already produced a next out winner. Class relief looks to benefit her greatly here and she should be a fair price.

R6: A great handicapping race with this deep field. I suspect Pudge Boy Palace won't stick to the 15-1 ML, but he presents plenty of value in this group. He was in very strong form heading into the winter and couldn't work a trip when stepping up in company for the last two outings. The inner post could be key for him. Freeze the Fire is a deserving even money ML based on his resurgence in form this fall and winter. Outside of the General George, this looks to be his toughest task since being claimed.

R7: Weekend Wife entices at 6-1 ML, her recent improve in form could be attributed to the added ground, and the 2-turns may suit her well. Dazzy has plenty of experience at the distance but I wonder if the abundance of stretch out speed in this group may help or hurt her. The outer post leans in her favor and I expect her to be forward with Hazlewood aboard.

R8: Dolice Vita should looks in need of a clean trip based on the last two outings, he certainly has the tactical ability to best this group. Boyce gets back in the tack and has produced very strong results with him. Tuff Luck may have found the right field to try stepping up in company here, especially after the improving types he has faced throughout the fall and winter.

R9: Vida tries this level for the first time after honest efforts against much tougher. With speed to the inside, he should be able to sit close and kick by. Tiz the Great is hard to justify at a short price as his best races have been over a wet track. Try to demand a bit of value while he cuts back in distance.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 2

#6 - Rylynnslookinglucky

Trainer: Kenny Cox

Exiting a top-three finish, 3 straight ascending

Beyers: 4 for 18 (22%, \$3.27 ROI)

RACE 6

#6 - Quick Tempo

Trainer: Kieron Magee

First After Claim, Exiting Top 3 Finish: 6 for 25

(24%, \$2.10 ROI)

RACE 9

#2 - Tiz the Great

Trainer: Henry Walters

Exiting Three Ascending Beyers: 9 for 44 (20%,

\$2.30 ROI)

RACE 3

#4 - Collection Day

Trainer: Michael Gorham

Routers, Exiting Top 3 Finish: 10 for 44 (23%,

\$2.19 ROI)

RACE 8

#8 - Freeze the Fire

Trainer: John Salzman Jr.

Lasix On: 8 for 24 (33%, \$2.45 ROI)

RACE 6

#6 - Flying to Work

Trainer: Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon

Exiting Three Ascending Beyers: 3 for 14 (21%,

\$2.06 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+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP	NOTE
#5 ONE TRUE DUDE	Allowance, CT, Fast Dirt 08/15/26 – 1st	Set fast, pressured fractions on rail into far turn; turned back other pace runners, then gamely held off the closers in the lane.	The fractions he set were fast and favored closers, yet he still managed to gamely hold on for the win. This effort is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE. If ready off the bench today, he might be able to improve on this effort if rationing out his speed more efficiently.

Other notes:

- **#6 SQUARE SLICE** ran okay up until ~1/8 pole last out (6F, LRL, 02/28/26 – 7th), but his rider then seemingly felt something amiss and eased him through the final furlong, exasperating the margin of defeat and drop in speed figure. Assuming that he's A1 for today, we can probably expect something more like his par.
- **#1 PARALEGAL** (sped clear, set honest pace into lane, succumbed stubbornly); **#2 WORLD ON FIRE** (chased pace from ~2L back into lane, evenly); **#3 RAPIDITY** (tracked even pace inside, evenly; cuts back today); **#4 LOU'S BIRTHDAY** (pressed even pace outside winner, game in defeat; blinkers on today); **#7 DOCSGOTALLTHECANDY** (set even fractions on uncontested lead into lane, then weakened grudgingly on left lead; cuts back today which might make securing the lead more difficult, if he needs it?); **#8 CITY PANDA** (light bump start, chased even pace on rail to ¼, tipped out and finished evenly; extra 1/16 today could suit); and **#9 ECUMENICAL** (chased even pace 2W to ¼, 4W into lane, evenly), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

Race 2: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 4-6YO (F), 1 Mile, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP	NOTE
#3 HEY ALEXA	Maiden Claiming 12k, 6F, LRL, Muddy Dirt, 03/06/26 – 4th	Chased modest pace on rail; cut corner into stretch; gradual fade.	She wasn't particularly helped by the slow pace in this race (she's seen to best effect when closing into hot fractions), and she also spent the entire race stuck on the 'dead' inside rail which was far from ideal. Following two decent tries beforehand, she's likely worth giving another chance to. Mixed feelings about the step up to a mile though.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aided by a good trip, #5 FEEL THE BOLT stayed on evenly enough from rear last out (6F, LRL, 03/06/26 – 3rd) to suggest she's worth another go at a mile today. - #1 TEA ROSE (stalked even pace 2W to 3/8, gradual fade); #2 WHISKEY BREW (broke outward from outside post, outrun while wide throughout); #4 MY EMI SHIRAZ (sent 2W early, led to 7/16, then gradually faded and was not persevered with late; needs more); and #6 RYLNNLOOKINGLUCKY (established clear lead early, set even fractions on uncontested lead, met bid 5/16, dueled grudgingly, solid try), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair. 			

Race 3: Claiming 7.5k, 4YO+, 1 1/8 Miles, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP	NOTE
#3 MORNING THOUGHTS	Claiming 7.5k, LRL, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 02/12/26 – 5th	Chased pace 4-5W first turn, advanced in clear towards center back stretch, entered far turn ~1/2L back 3-4W; dropped back slightly when 4-5W from 5/16, then faded and was not hard ridden from ~3/16.	This was a wide enough trip to warrant an UPGRADE. With a more ground saving trip, plus extra fitness as he makes his second start off the layoff, and if he's given a stronger ride in the lane, he can surely improve on this effort today.
#6 BE BETTER	Claiming 7.5k, LRL, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 03/01/26 – 3rd	Tracked even pace from rear; angled out into ~4P 7/16 and advanced steadily; came ~5W into lane, then stayed on willingly into 3 rd .	He lost enough ground racing wide from the 7/16 pole to warrant a tiny upgrade here. There was less between him and #4 COLLECTION DAY (who skimmed the rail throughout) than the PPs suggest; wouldn't be a shock if the form was reversed today.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The chart comment notes how #5 HAY CHIEF was "squeezed start" last out (1M, LRL, 12/21/25); while this did happen, it wasn't significant interference and owing to the fact that he's a deep closer by trade – he was always going to be in rear – the break was fairly inconsequential and definitely not the reason for his 10 point Beyer drop; some questions to answer off layoff today. - #1 SELF TAUGHT (chased even pace on rail from rear, advanced slightly far turn, evenly to 1/8, then flattened out); #2 MAJESTIC TIGER (tracked pace setting winner on rail to ¼, cut corner into lane, ran evenly to 1/8, then faded; stretches back out today); #4 COLLECTION DAY (established clear lead early, set even fractions on rail to 7/16, dueled on rail into lane, edged away again ~1/8, then succumbed grudgingly to fresh challenger late; solid); and #7 PRINCE KHOZAN (3W between horses first turn, lost position back stretch, done shortly after ½), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair. 			

Race 4: OC30k/SAL20k, 4YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP	NOTE
#1 FROSTY THE GIANT	Starter Allowance, 1 1/16M, LRL, Muddy Dirt, 03/08/26 – 2 nd	Broke sharp and took early lead; kept ~3W and set fast fractions in front to far turn; extended lead racing into lane, then drifted out through the stretch while tiring and was nailed by a closer.	Having set such demanding fractions in front (23.40, 46.92), he did remarkably well to only just fail and is deserving of a notable PACE UPGRADE. Seems capable of improving if rationing out his speed a little more efficiently (which will likely help him run straighter in the lane, too).
#5 UNION FLEET	Starter Allowance, 7F, LRL, Fast Dirt, 02/27/26 – 1 st	Patently handled off slow pace in last; advanced despite losing ground 4-6W far turn; joined leaders 3/16, then powered away.	A very smart performance in which he closed into a slow pace while wide – UPGRADE. Off this effort, he figures to play another leading role today. Note: his gallop out after the wire last out was poor, suggesting he put a lot of effort into earning the win.

Other notes:

- **#2 TOPS THE CHART** was arguably a little too close to the red-hot pace (that collapsed) racing down the back stretch last time (1 1/8M, LRL, 03/01/26 – 6th); while it's unlikely he'd have hit the board at 13/1, he probably could have finished stronger if ridden a little more patiently. Drops in class and distance today.
- There was no visible reason as to why **#3 NOTED** ran so far below par last time (1M, AQU, 02/15/26 – 6th) – he had a wicked pace to chase on a closer friendly track, yet failed to make any inroads rounding the home turn and finished tailed off; he needs to rebound in a big way today. Makes debut for Ness.
- Having broken from the rail and then been sent, **#4 NIGHT TIME NAP** probably ended up doing too much in front setting a pressured pace (that favored closers) last time (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/15/26 – 7th); while on would still have liked to have seen a little more from him, it wasn't a surprise to see him tire late, especially as he was running back off just 10-days rest (bounced?). Strong chance he can rebound today (his wide draw and cut back should help).
- **#6 TEN GAGUE** (raced prominently to even pace 2W to far turn, then faded gradually); and **#7 HOLY SYNCHRONICITY** (broke alertly, set controlled fractions to far turn, then dropped back and finished evenly), both sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

Race 5: Starter Allowance: 12.5k, 4YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP	NOTE
#5 I CAN DO IT	Starter Allowance, 1M, LRL, Fast Dirt, 02/15/26 – 3 rd	Took a hefty bump and got away slowly in rear; pulled hard and advanced between horses 4W racing to far turn; chased while ~4W racing to top of lane, then stayed on willingly through lane.	While the bump at the break and slightly wide trip weren't ideal, the main reason for highlighting this (good) effort is that she really did run like a closing sprinter trying to go slightly further than ideal (keen early, then failed to quite stay the distance late). Provided the pace is hot enough (which is important), she can likely improve on this try back at 6F today.
#6 ON A PROUD NOTE	Starter Allowance, 6F, LRL, Fast Dirt, 02/12/26 – 2 nd	Bobbled break but still got away okay; pressed hot pace inside to far turn, then shuffled/eased back a little entering bend; went on the chase far turn and built momentum advancing again to ¼, then lacked room and had to wait until finding a rail split top of lane; from there, she stayed on very willingly but missed.	She was beaten just a neck despite having lost ground when easing back entering the far turn, then being forced to wait for ~1/16 of the race approaching the stretch which really halted her momentum (and negatively outweighed the benefit of saving ground); this effort is worthy of an UPGRADE, and she should probably be entering today's contest off a win.

Other notes:

- **#3 CONQUEST DANCER** traveled powerfully in a good position behind the even pace into the lane last out (1M, LRL, 02/15/26 – 4th), then looked to simply fail to stay the mile distance; off this effort alone, it seems she'll be suited (can improve) by the cut back today.
- **#1 A P M NOTION** (sent hard from outside, clear entering turn, met bid 5/16, faded lane); **#2 ANITA BEER** (chased even pace on rail into lane, then faded; drops in class today); **#4 DINE AND DASH** (chased honest pace 3W into lane, stayed on well to 1/8, then faded grudgingly; returns off layoff today); **#7 ATLAS STRONG** (tracked even pace from ~3L back into lane, then stayed on but was no match for winner; cuts back today); and **#8 ROYAL SEAMSTRESS** (vied through even fractions to turn, opened up clear lead approaching stretch, then continued widening, fully extended; up in class today), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

Race 6: Starter Allowance: 12.5k, 4YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP	NOTE
#6 QUICK TEMPO	Starter Allowance, 6F, LRL, Fast Dirt, 02/06/26 – 3 rd	Rushed up along inside; dueled through very fast fractions with 10/1 shot to turn; dismissed of pace rival ~3/8, then met fresh bid approaching 1/4; dueled again into lane, then weakened late.	He fractions that he ended up setting as a result of the 10/1 outsider engaging with him in an early speed duel set things up very well for the closers in this race; although he was never beating the winner, he did well to hold 3rd and is entitled to a PACE UPGRADE. Makes debut for Magee today.
#9 DADDY YANKEE	Starter Allowance, 7F,	Patently handled off honest pace towards center early; steadily advanced under ride	Although the pace was honest, speed held well in this race and the running order hardly changed throughout (others than DY's move); therefore, coupling the fact that he was the

	LRL, Fast Dirt, 02/27/26 – 2 nd	while 4W turn, then rallied gamely through lane but could not get up in time.	only horse to make up ground in this contest with the fact that he was slightly wide on the turn, his effort is worthy of an UPGRADE. Needs pace to run at back at 6F today.
#10 NIGHT PREACHER	Starter Allowance, 4 1/2F, CT, Sloppy Dirt, 03/06/26 – 4th	He was bumped at the break and away slowly; trailed by many into the turn, then began an advance and stayed on nicely through the lane before galloping out well.	Not only did the bump he took at the start result in him racing out of his preferred position (typically a front runner), but it also put him way too far back to make an impact over this distance, especially as there was a speed bias present. Everything was against him in this race; he did well to finish as close as he did and his effort is deserving of an UPGRADE. Expecting more today.

Other notes:

- Overall, **#5 SEVEN'S ELEVEN** sat a good ground saving trip on his way to victory last time (5 1/2F, LRL, 02/20/26); however, he did very briefly have to tap on the brakes when a little short of room ~5/16 and at the top of the lane, for which he can be awarded a little extra credit.
- The rider accepted defeat a very long way out on **#7 JOLLY BY GOLLY** last time (7F, CNL, 03/13/26 – 5th) and did not ask her for any effort from ~5/16 pole home, massively exasperating the margin of defeat. Maybe something was amiss, but assuming she's A1 today, we can likely expect more from her for a stronger ride.
- **#1 TALKIN PHAROAH** (chased pace between horses to turn, then dropped back and was empty lane; not certain to be suited by 6F distance today); **#2 LADDIE DANCE** (after being aided by a fast pace two-back; stalked wire winner, bid under ride ~1/4, turned back, then faded grudgingly lane); **#3 PUDGE BOY PALACE** (off 7-days rest; close up between horses in tight bunch early; chase ~3W turn, then faded tamely stretch); **#4 ARTILLERY GUNNER** (nudged along chasing even pace on rail into stretch, then weakened; needs more off bench today); **#8 FREEZE THE FIRE** (stalked slow pace early, dropped back between horses 3P turn, weakened lane; drops in class with lasix back on today), and **#10 BROTHER CONWAY** (vied through slow fractions on rail to turn, then stopped; below best with no visible reason as to why, needs to bounce 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 7: Allowance, 4YO+ ® (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP	NOTE
#1 NANCY MARY	Allowance, 5 1/2F, LRL, Fast Dirt, 02/15/26 – 5 th	Hesitated badly start; trailed even pace by 19L at first call, then steadily advanced to wire and galloped out well.	Place a massive asterisk beside this race because she didn't break at all and lost all chance at the start. She did still manage to make up quite a significant amount of ground, though, and then galloped out well, offering hope that, provided she breaks today, she can get right back on track at two turns. She wasn't below par at all in this race, and the speed figure drop was not because she's out of form/losing ability.
#4 WEEKEND WIFE	Allowance, 1M, LRL, Muddy Dirt, 02/21/26 – 3rd	Chased modest pace on rail from mid-pack/rear into lane, then finished evenly despite drifting out from ~1/16.	Although her drifting out late was undesirable, this was still a decent effort considering that she did not have nearly enough pace to close into to be seen to best effect (she was pace compromised as a closer – UPGRADE). Provided the tempo is swifter today, we should expect more at two-turns.

Other Notes:

- **#2 MEG** ran a nice race back up in trip last time (1M, LRL, 02/21/26 – 2nd); however, the fact that she was able to establish an uncontested lead on the rail and got away with slow early fractions (25.04 opening ¼) did seem to help her cause and therefore, we probably need to downgrade the effort a little.
- After breaking sharp, setting even fractions into the lane, battling hard but losing the lead ~1/16 pole and settling for 2nd last time (5 1/2F, LRL, 02/15/26), **#3 SPENCER TIARA** then actually galloped out well enough to offer at least some hope that she'll cope with today huge distance change.
- **#5 DAZZY** worked 3-4W to establish lead first turn, dropped to rail and set even fractions to 7/16, then faded; below par with no visible reason as to why; needs to bounce back.
- After chasing the even pace 2W into the lane, **#6 BOURBON N LACE** threatened to come with a run from between horses in the lane last time (7F, LRL, 02/22/26 – 5th) but was then quite aggressively forced towards the rail ~1/8 pole and weakened thereafter. Despite the interference, she never had her momentum checked and the rate at which she stopped suggests that she wouldn't have hit the board regardless (no upgrade necessary), but the interference was still notable and didn't help her chance.

Race 8: Allowance, 4YO+ ®, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP	NOTE
#2 GUAPONESS	Allowance, 6F, LRL, Muddy Dirt, 03/13/26 – 4th	No speed; hugged rail chasing modest pace into lane; evenly.	Although he was below his best, period, it's still possible to forgive him this defeat and/or award him a slight UPGRADE because the pace he was trying to close into was slow early and favored front runners, and he was also racing against the speed bias. Stretches right back off short rest out today.

Other notes:

- The running line on **#1 TUFF LUCK**'s last start (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/22/26 – 1st) suggests that he was tiring through the final furlong, as he went from 2 1/2L up at the 1/8 pole to just 3/4L up at the wire, but that wasn't the case; he opened up off the turn, then was only mildly hand ridden through the lane (not sure the rider knew he had someone closing him down) and not all out. If anything, he actually won with something in hand.
- **#4 DOLCE VITA**'s slight trouble at the start last time (1M, LRL, 02/21/26 – 4th) was inconsequential and he had no real visible excuse; however, he was running on a muddy surface and his record on off tracks is poor – maybe that was the reason for his dull try?
- **#3 FORMAL AFFAIR** (outrun off fast pace on rail throughout, never a factor); and **#5 STRAIGHT TO WATER** (chased even pace on rail, dropped back a little entering turn, under ride 2P bend, stayed on willingly despite failing to switch leads lane, solid try), both sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

Race 9: Maiden Claiming 16k, 3YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP	NOTE
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Other notes:

- **#4 EL PAPACITO** broke very sharply last time (5 1/2F, LRL, 02/15/26 – 3rd) but his rider seemingly didn't want the lead and instantly dragged him back, conceding the lead to the 1/1 fav and eventual winner, who proceeded to set just even fractions with another foe in front; this meant that EP was tasked with running the fav down while also conceding ground in the 3P on the turn (he'd likely have been saving ground if he'd have gone on with it at the break and crossed to the rail). Not going to upgrade this effort and he was probably 3rd best regardless, but the rider didn't give him the best opportunity to win, and we might be able to expect more as he drops in class today.
- **#5 VIDA** deserves a little extra credit for his last try (6F, CNL, 03/13/26 – 3rd as he lost a little ground racing ~4-5W throughout the turn. He also failed to switch leads in the lane, however, and was seemingly third best regardless.
- **#1 TIZ IS PONTE** (chased even-modest pace from ~3L back 2W, steadily faded from 5/16; lasix on today); **#2 TIZ THE GREAT** (showed speed from rail, set even pace to turn, extended lead turn while drifting off rail, came wide into lane, then finished evenly, second best); and **#6 FLYING TO WORK** (traveled well chasing even pace, 3P turn, floated out a little from ~1/4 into lane, then finished evenly to the 1/8 before tiring; could be suited by cut back today), 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

R1: PARALEGAL (12/1 ML)

For the second time in as many starts since returning from a lengthy layoff in January, PARALEGAL massively outran his odds when facing starter allowance foes last time. Aggressively ridden from the outside post, he sped clear early, then took heat on the run to the top of the lane before tenaciously holding on for fourth at 18/1. The form of that race is holding up well, with all three horses to run back having hit the board, including FIRMANTOWN—whom he beat by over three lengths—who returned to win Friday's opener. Scratched out of a winnable-looking spot at Penn National to take up this assignment, PARALEGAL could shake loose on the lead from the rail this afternoon and prove tough to catch at 12/1 on the morning line, dropping back into the claiming ranks for his third start off the layoff.

R2: HEY ALEXA (5/1 ML)

HEY ALEXA took a step in the wrong direction when last seen sprinting six furlongs in the mud on March 6, but that effort came with legitimate excuses: she was unsuited by a modest early pace that made it difficult to close from the rear, and spent the entire race stuck inside on the "dead" rail. In her two prior starts, however, the four-year-old daughter of MO TOWN had shown enough promise to mark her down as a live player in today's second, galloping out strongly on both occasions to

suggest she'll appreciate the stretch out to a mile. This field looks notably weaker than the company she's been facing lately, and at 5/1 on the morning line, she looks fairly priced.

R7: WEEKEND WIFE (6/1 ML)

Following a dominant win over a mile two back, WEEKEND WIFE did well to improve her Beyer to a 62 and finish a close third behind re-opposing barn mate MEG when stepped up in class last time, having had absolutely no pace to close into from the rear. She looks set to build on that effort in today's seventh as she stretches out to two turns for the first time in a race with plenty of early speed signed on. Steadily improving since blinkers went on in December, she's not far behind the main players here, and another step forward could see her cause a mild upset at around 6/1.

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

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 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.

IN AWE OF JUJU (*Entered TODAY at Aqueduct - Race 5*)

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.

GAEELICHEARTOFGOLD

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.

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.

STYLISH GEM

Trainer: John Robb

Last Race: March 13, Race 1

Finish: 2nd by 3/4

It's easy to be disappointed when they get beaten at odds-on, but this filly was probably best on Friday the 13th. Broke sharply, but never saved ground at any point when wired over a speed-friendly track. Raced five wide at the back of a compact field at the half-mile pole, made a four-wide bid on the turn, floated five deep into the stretch, then rallied nicely to just miss with a positive gallop-out. There's a maiden claimer with her name on it.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1 - Yedsit Hazlewood: #7 - Docsgotallthecandy; #9 - Ecumenical >>> **Hazlewood rides ECUMENICAL**

Race 7 - Raul Mena: #1 - Nancy Mary; #6 - Bourbon N Lace >>> **Mena rides NANCY MARY**

Race 8 - Yedsit Hazlewood: #1 - Tuff Luck; #3 - Formal Affair >>> **Hazlewood rides TUFF LUCK**

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

A recap of SATURDAY, MAR. 21 action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piassek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: Pichu took advantage of a contentious early duel and took control in the last sixteenth for the victory.

Race 2: How much the best was **Ineedyoubabe?**! She broke in the tangle and was way out of it on the first turn, but made a strong, wide move up the backstretch, took command on the final turn, and held off the resurgent A Cozy Thing for her third consecutive victory.

Race 3: Dubstep and Missy Boss battled each other for the lead, setting it up perfectly for **Watch Your Tone** to convert a stalking trip. Dubstep ran a giant race on the lead; while Missy Boss stopped badly, Dubstep held tough until the last sixteenth and finished a clear-cut second.

Race 4: Play It Cool set the early pace, and it looked as if he had put away heavily favored **Fowl Mouth** on the far turn. However, Yedsit Hazlewood never stopped riding the chalk, and he urged him on up the inside in the stretch for the victory. Play It Cool held tough and won a three-horse photo for second.

Race 5: Crossland may have won, but Secret Zipper served notice that he's back. He engaged in a torrid early duel with Hagrid's Flame, setting brutally fast fractions while more than 10 lengths clear of the rest. While Hagrid's Flame backed up badly. Secret Zipper held sway until Crossland mowed him down in the last eighth. That's the first time in a long time that Secret Zipper held on that well after getting pressed on the lead. It portends well for a potentially big season.

Race 6: New York shipper **Dolly's Jolene** lasted through pace pressure to break her maiden at fourth asking. Runner-up Maggie's Moon might have been best; she was blocked in traffic for most of the stretch and rallied well once clear.

Race 7: Miss Fulton Gal turned in an enormous effort to win the Beyond the Wire Stakes. She looked like she was in trouble at the eighth pole, but she found her best gear, split horses in the final strides, and got up. Favored Peach Tie, previously undefeated on dirt, ran on well for second, while Some Ride made a strong move on the turn and pulled clear, but flattened out to third.

Race 8: When in doubt, trust in Hazlewood. Of the three Gary Capuano trainees, he landed on **Wild Warrior**, who emerged victorious in the Private Terms Stakes after racing off the pace. He checked at the top of the stretch, got in the clear in the stretch, and wore down Code of Silence in the final jump. Code of Silence held second; fellow Capuano runner Let's Go Lando was third.

Race 9: Twice Gold hit the front and held off the late rally of Enough Already to complete a riding hat trick for Yedsit Hazlewood.

PAST TRACK TRENDS

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

Mar. 13 – SPEED BIAS (strong crosswind)

Mar. 14 – No racing

Mar. 15 – Fair