



LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Sunday, Mar. 8

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



KALI FRANCOIS



DAN ILLMAN



MACK PFEIFFER



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

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

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. BUCKIN' RIGHT

2. MAIDSTONE

3. READY FOR MAGIC

First post is NOON, with a LOW 12% takeout on "Value" Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races). **BUCKIN' RIGHT** was wired last month, but might wind up much closer to the pace in this spot. Broke inward and was bumped at the start in that 2/15 heat, tracked in between, was steadied lightly in between on the turn, eased four wide, and failed to threaten. Equaled the Beyer par for this level when getting close to the pace three back, and a repeat of that effort would make her tough. **MAIDSTONE** wasn't away the best going one mile, but rushed up to set an unpressured pace through solid fractions. Ridden confidently on the turn, she came off the inside, and was second best to a rail-skimming winner that returned to finish third in a state-sired allowance with a 62 Beyer. Newly-claimed filly has upside and positional speed. **READY FOR MAGIC** finished ahead of the top pick when wired by Centsamilla, and would benefit if this pace gets hotter than expected. Stalked three wide and in between, was steadied slightly before splitting rivals on the turn, then made up a few lengths. Expect a good late bid. **MARGARET P** drops in class after being wired for \$50,000. The runner-up then placed in a state-sired allowance with a 66 Beyer. Fits very well at this level.

>> RACE 2

1. OUR DAY WILL COME

2. PALACIOS

3. CASEOFTHEMONDAYS

OUR DAY WILL COME, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 2/28, is the lone five-time winner in this heat. Tracked three wide/four path at the back last time, made an outside bid, then drove home despite getting out a bit in the final furlong. Kicks late for a barn that went 7 for the last 24 (29%, \$2.78 ROI) with second-time Lasix users. **PALACIOS**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (injured) on 2/6, gave the top one all he could handle last time. Broke a beat slow from the rail, found good position tracking from the pocket, snuck through along the fence turning for home, then just missed. The barn went 5 for the last 16 (31%, \$2.26 ROI) with experienced dirt horses racing with Lasix for the first time. **CASEOFTHEMONDAYS**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 2/27, broke okay despite hopping slightly at the start, pulled his way along to battle in between foes, then dug down gamely to prevail. His speed should play very well after breaking from the outside post for a barn that went 8 for the last 35 (23%, \$2.06 ROI) on dirt with last-out maiden winners exiting a Beyer top effort.

>> RACE 3

1. ATLAS STRONG

2. MINT DRIVEN

3. GOLDEN EIB MICRPHN

ATLAS STRONG bobbled at the start, stalked two wide/three path, made an outside bid on the turn, then gamely fought it out to prevail. Claimed out of that race, she returns at her favorite distance, and is adaptable enough to stay close to the expected moderate pace. **MINT DRIVEN**, listed as a Turfway vet scratch (sick) on 2/21 and 2/28, saved ground in midpack in her final start of 2025, angled three wide on the second turn, made a four-wide bid into the stretch, and finished evenly despite being late to change leads. The winner of that heat returned to win two more in a row with Beyers of 63 and 74, respectively. She must prove she is as effective on dirt, and is one who would benefit if the pace is quicker than anticipated. **GOLDEN EIB MICRPHN** was wired last time out. Prompted three wide, attacked the winner from the outside on the turn under urging, altered course to the rail in the upper stretch, then hopped back to her left lead right on the wire. Appears to have more positional speed than the top-two picks for a barn that went 4 for the last 17

(24%, \$2.17 ROI) in the second after the claim.

>> RACE 4

1. HOPPETOSSE

2. SUGAR ON FIRE

3. RAGING CAJUN

HOPPETOSSE, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 2/12, broke inward and was bumped at the start, recovered to track a solid pace while three wide, and was too good for that maiden bunch. The runner-up then hit the board twice in a row with a 52 Beyer top. Should get a solid pace to attack for a barn that went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$2.49 ROI) with horses returning from 61-120 day layoffs. Perez lands here instead of Sticktothesystem. **SUGAR ON FIRE** pressed the 63-1 third-finisher from the outside, went after that one in earnest on the turn, and drew clear of maiden foes. Perhaps he's the speed of the speed for a barn that went 4 for 13 (31%, \$2.71 ROI) between 2/5 and 2/28. **RAGING CAJUN** takes a significant drop in class after facing five-time winner Our Day Will Come. He can settle back and make a late run for a trainer-jockey combination that scored with a 6-1 shot on 2/21. **MISTER ROSCOE**, the lone two-time winner in the field, hooked up in a fast duel with the odds-on third-finisher, and understandably tired nine days ago. Think he'll revert to more patient tactics here.

>> RACE 5

1. FALCON JET

2. RIO GRANDE

3. PONT AVEN

FALCON JET might have been in too tough over the Southern California circuit. Pressed three wide over a speed-friendly Los Alamitos track last time, then tired in the stretch. Should show early speed for a barn that went 7 for the last 13 (54%, \$2.62 ROI) with horses returning from a 61-120 day layoff in the first after a trainer switch. Stablemate **RIO GRANDE** also ships in from Baffert's barn with new Lasix. Tracked in between horses on dirt three back, was urged along on the turn, then only finished evenly behind the two favorites. Expect a solid late kick. **PONT AVEN** faced a promising one in Taj Mahal, who then grabbed the Miracle Wood Stakes with an 86 Beyer Speed Figure. Think he'll show more early speed against this group for a barn that went 6 for the last 28 (21%, \$2.92 ROI) going second after the claim. **REALLY READY** (\$20,000 yearling) is a half-brother to Grade 3-placed dirt router Put Da Blame On Me out of stakes-winning dirt router Roman Chestnut (80 dirt Beyer).

>> RACE 6

1. AMAZING BERNIE

2. PEEK

3. WORK HARD

AMAZING BERNIE tracked from the pocket over a closer-friendly track, split rivals on the second turn, eased three deep into the stretch, then drew away confidently despite hopping back to his left lead. Gets a class test in this spot, but is in excellent form with the positional speed to work out his own trip. Sanchez departs for Aztec. **PEEK** tracked outside, split foes on the second bend, altered course outside to split rivals three-to-four wide, then couldn't go with them when wired at Parx. Seems well-entered for circuit debut for a barn that went 13 for the last 63 (21%, \$2.44 ROI) with dirt horses in the second after the claim. **WORK HARD** hustled out of there to track outside, went on a hard chase to go after the winner's slow pace on the second turn under urging, then faltered in the drive. The runner-up then nabbed a \$20,000 starter with an 81 Beyer. This barn won five races since 2/13. **FROSTY THE GIANT** is expected to utilize his potent early speed from the advantageous inside post. The winner of the last race then ran third in a \$20,000 starter with a 73 Beyer.

>> RACE 7

1. GEORGIA MAGIC

2. BADGE OF WAR

3. JOE THE JET

GEORGIA MAGIC gets blinkers once again after a one-race experiment without them didn't pan out as expected. Racing with blinkers two back, he hooked up in a speed duel with the favored runner-up when facing two next-out winners (the sixth-finisher took a first-level allowance in New York with a 94 Beyer). He looks fast enough to grab the early lead for a barn that went 3 for the last 14 (21%, \$3.39 ROI) adding blinkers. **BADGE OF WAR** prompted a fast pace (23.87; 23.80) while three wide, battled the 3-1 third-finisher and the 5-2 last-finisher, made the lead at the three-eighths, and finished gamely on the fence. Expect him to get close to the leader for a barn that went 6 for the last 10 (60%, \$3.50 ROI) with horses exiting a top-three finish. **JOE THE JET** tracked the pace while four wide, attacked the stubborn 5-2 runner-up from the outside under a very confident ride, then drew off when it mattered. Gets tested for distance stretching out to nine furlongs for the first time. Hazlewood lands here instead of Chileno.

>> RACE 8

1. BOOK OF WISDOM

2. INFASTUATION

3. SAPPHIRE BEAUTY

BOOK OF WISDOM was wired over a speed-friendly track at Aqueduct. Stalked outside at the back, raced widest turning for home, and made up some late ground. The third-finisher from that heat then placed in a dime claimer in New York with a 57 Beyer. Late-runner could use a little pace aid.

INFASTUATION was wired by sharp R Averie Lynn after posting a game score versus "non-winners of three" claimers two starts back. Expect her to get close to the pace. **SAPPHIRE BEAUTY**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 3/1, faced a runaway pacesetter winner last month. Veteran appears to be rounding back into form, and looks adaptable to any race flow.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Buckin' Right looks to be the speed in this group and has proven herself at the level. Slight cutback in distance here should benefit. Margaret P is not without ability but takes a big step down in company, where she should excel.

R2: Our Day Will Come stands out as the only 5x winner of this group, he is a perfect 3/3 at this level, deservedly the 8-5 ML favorite. Caseofthemondays has never run a bad race in all 5 lifetime starts. The outer post and 2nd time Lasix should continue moving things forward in second start off the bench.

R3: Golden Eib Micrphn certainly knows how to win, she's the only 12x winner in this group. Second time off the claim here, she looks well positioned to find the winners circle today after chasing a gate-to-wire winner last out. Atlas Strong seps up in company but warrants consideration, despite her turf resume, she is 4/8 on the main track.

R4: Sugar On Fire has been gutsy and hard trying since adding blinkers. Second time Lasix and a career best Beyer last out could signal he is on the improve. Hoppetosse has early speed but the outer post may present him with options. First time Lasix here, the work tab suggests he is ready to get back to the races.

R5: Falcon Jet and Rio Grande will take plenty of action as the recent transfers from Baffert to Russell, hard to dismiss them from any multi-race wager. I lean a bit more towards Rio Grande, who has a work over the surface and a 79 career best Beyer on the dirt, topping this group. Pont Aven has held the

right company but I find myself intrigued by the recent blinkers off and Lasix on. Recent 5f bullet work looks to be in company with the highly regarded Crossingthechannel. Worth noting, Lonesome Road is ranked 3rd on this work day.

R6: Work Hard has earned his recent step up in company with the improving form, unfortunately running into much tougher company taking class relief last out. With the next out Beyers in the mid-70's and a winner with an 81 Beyer, he should jump back into form here. Peek tried PRX for the first time in his last outing, where he just didn't run his race. Second off the bench here may help him return to the 70+ Beyer range. I can't discount Aztec's win 2-back, but I need to demand a bit of value with the stretch out.

R7: Badge of War comes out of a very compelling effort where he faced the impressive Hard as Life, who's prior start was in graded stakes company. After challenging the early pace he fought back willingly against the winner with every step. Hazlewood lands inside with Joe the Jet, a horse who has run his career best figures with Hazlewood aboard. The pair is a perfect 3/3 and will find out if they cant repeat while adding ground here.

R8: Infastuation was caught chasing in her last outing against the very in form R Averie Lynn, who has since come back to win with a 60 Beyer. Expect to see Infastuation kick on early here. Bay Street arrives second off the claim and may appreciate a touch more ground here versus the 5.5f effort last out, where she chased a gate-to-wire winner every step of the way.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 2

#2 - Palacios

Trainer: John Salzman Jr.
Experienced Dirt Horses, First Lasix: 5 for 16
(31%, \$2.26 ROI)

#3 - Our Day Will Come

Trainer: Phil Capuano
Second-Time Lasix; 7 for 24 (29%, \$2.78 ROI)

#6 - Caseofthemondays

Trainer: Kieron Magee
Last-Out Maiden Winners Exiting Beyer Top: 8
for 35 (23%, \$2.06 ROI)

RACE 3

#2 - Golden Eib Microphn

Trainer: Jamie Ness
Second After Claim: 4 for 17 (24%, \$2.17 ROI)

RACE 4

#4 - Sugar On Fire

Trainer: Carlos Mancilla
Between 2/5 and 2/28: 4 for 13 (31%, \$2.71 ROI)

#7 - Hoppetosse

Trainer: John Robb
First After 61-120 Days: 3 for 11 (27%, \$2.49
ROI)

RACE 5

#2 - Pont Aven

Trainer: Michael Trombetta
Second After Claim: 6 for 28 (21%, \$2.92 ROI)

#4 - Falcon Jet; #7 - Rio Grande

Trainer: Brittany Russell
First After Trainer Switch; First After 61-120
Days: 7 for 13 (54%, \$2.62 ROI)

RACE 6

#4 - Peek

Trainer: Rudy Rodriguez
Second After Claim, Dirt: 13 for 63 (21%, \$2.44
ROI)

RACE 7

#4 - Georgia Magic

Trainer: Ray Handal
Blinkers On: 3 for 14 (21%, \$3.39 ROI)

#6 - Badge of War

Trainer: Jamie Ness
Exiting Top Three Finish: 6 for 10 (60%, \$3.50
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+F, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- The chart comment regarding **#1 READY FOR MAGIC**'s last start (6F, LRL, 02/15/26): "light steady early, light steady 3 ½"; both of these light steadies did happen, however, the were very light and in the grand scheme of things didn't make much difference to the result. Still, it wasn't a 100% clean trip and speed did hold well in the race, so maybe she can offer a just a little more today.
- The chart comment notes how **#2 MARGARET P** "lightly steadied 3/8" last out (6F, LRL, 02/13/26); while this did happen, it only happened because she was struggling to hold her position on the rail and ultimately found herself in a little tight when being overtaken/backpedaling. The small interference did not impact her finishing position, and her result/speed fig seem fair.
- **#3 ANY FOOLS GOLD** lost ground racing slightly wide last out (7F, CT, 02/12/26) but that does not explain why she performed below par. It looked more a case of, having just three reported works leading into her return from the layoff, she simply got tired (and underperformed somewhat). Needs to step forward for the return today.
- When last seen (7F, CT, 08/02/25), **#5 PAPERBACK EDITION** stumbled at the start, then never lifted a hoof and has been on the sidelines since – as well as the poor break, it seems like something was amiss here and we can probably draw a line through the effort, judging her on her prior starts instead. Returns from layoff today.
- Following a bump at the break which resulted in her briefly losing her back end, **#6 BUCKING RIGHT** was not sent for the lead (like usual – connections seemingly wanted to try rating her); that didn't seem to work out though, as she never really traveled with her usual zest and then stopped particularly quickly when facing kickback on the turn; suspect she'll go back to adopting her front running tactics today and therefore, she could well return to the level of form she showed in her prior couple of starts. On the dirt, she looks a 'need-the-lead' type.
- **#4 MAIDSTONE** (traveled well on an uncontested lead but could not hold on stretch, despite trying; could be suited well by the cut back today; blinkers off); **#7 AMADEA** (prominent towards outside early, gradually retreated from ~1/2; needs more cut back today); and **#8 A P M NOTION** (chased between horses, inconsequentially shuffled very slightly entering turn, lacked rally thereafter), 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 40k, 3YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- **#2 PALACIOS** finished just a nose behind **#3 OUR DAY WILL COME** in his last start (6F, LRL, 12/28/25). In that race, **OUR DAY WILL COME** gamely won despite having racing wider than **PALACIOS** (was 2-4W on the bend; **PALACIOS** skimmed the rail), warranting the smallest of upgrades. Meanwhile, **PALACIOS** possibly had to wait longer than ideal when traveling strongly in behind horses on the rail racing to the top of the lane, then took a minor bump ~1/8th pole. His trip overall was a good ground saving one, but considering he missed by just a nose, it's possible that if he'd built momentum earlier and not received that bump (or been stuck tight against the rail in the lane as the outside horse is often the braver of the two), he'd have won (though remember, **OUR DAY WILL COME** also lost more ground than he did on the bend). Based on that race alone, it's tough to split **OUR DAY WILL COME** and **PALACIOS**. Lasix on **PALACIOS** today.
- With Lasix first time, **#3 OUR DAY WILL COME** then followed up in style last time (6F, LRL, 02/06/26): settled off pace, advanced smoothly ~3W around foes turn and drew off driving lane, despite drifting out slightly in the lane. Good trip, result/fig seem fair.
- **#5 PAUL'S GUITAR** vied for command through even fractions on the rail last out (6F, LRL, 02/06/26), dropped back a little on the far turn, then raced awkwardly when taking kickback for the first time and lost slightly more ground than necessary before staying on well again through the lane (seemingly had a little more to offer); a wider, kick-back free trip, should help him improve today.
- **#1 IRISH JUBALEE** (chased winner 2W, proved to be second best, left lead lane); **#4 FEELS SO RIGHT** (set even fractions on an uncontested lead, drifted out lane, second best; cuts back in trip today); and **#6 CASEOFTHEMONDAYS** (vied for command through even fractions, between horses turn, very game between horses lane, won bob, fully extended), all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

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

Replay Notes:

- **#1 MINT DRIVE** (on TP Synth; settled mid-pack inside; advanced slightly far turn, angled out slightly wide but okay when launching steady bid into lane, stayed on stretch but missed show; solid effort in defeat); **#2 GOLDEN EIB MICRIPHN** (prompted even pace 2-3W, floated out a little top of lane but okay, stayed on willingly but 2nd best); **#3 ADE** (took hold ~3L off even pace behind foes to turn, moved inside and gradually dropped back turn, weakened further stretch; below par with no visible reason as to why – was running off slightly short rest;); **#4 SKIP THRU DA FIRE** (under pressure chasing honest pace inside to ¼, shifted out slightly entering lane, stayed on evenly past tiring foes for 3rd, gallop out not strong enough to confidently say she'll appreciate today's stretch out; short turn around); **#5 GINGER GIRL** (running off layoff with run-out blinker on; prompted even pace to turn, then gradually retreated; needs to step forward second off); and **#6 ATLAS STRONG** (settled off even pace early, made smooth progress 3-4W turn, took over top of lane, steadily pulled away with a game attitude lane, fully extended); all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

Race 4: Claiming 16k, 3YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- After sitting close to a fast opening ¼, **#3 MISTER ROSCOE** lost significant ground racing widest of all (4-6W) around the turn last out (6F, LRL, 02/27/26), warranting a small UPGRADE. Although well beaten in the end, he showed a likable attitude and continued trying throughout. Returns off short rest today.
- With Lasix on first time, **#6 RED SPITFIRE** was ridden just a little too aggressively last time (6F, LRL, 02/12/26): he clocked off solid fractions while maintaining a large, clear lead into the lane, then despite trying hard, tired in deep stretch and was nailed; feel he can improve slightly if rationing out his speed a little better.
- **#7 HOPPETUSE** broke in a real tangle last time (5 1/2F, LRL, 11/30/25), but in the grand scheme of things, it made no real difference to his trip or the result (he recovered quickly, sat a great stalking trip thereafter and still won in convincing style, fully extended); returns off brief layoff with Lasix first time today.
- **#8 STICKTOTHESYSTEM** simply went too fast for his own good last time (1M, LRL, 02/04/26): sent hard and with no restraint from the rider, he clocked off solid fraction on a clear lead, opened up by 12L on the far turn, then inevitably hit a wall in the lane; this wasn't a fair reflection of his ability; cuts back to 6F today making his debut for Campbell.
- **#1 RAGING CAJUN** (inconsequentially bumped between early, rated off even pace, gradually dropped back turn, weakened further stretch; Lasix first time on the drop today); **#2 IN HONOR OF JEFF** (with Lasix first time; no speed from rail, chased honest pace to turn, worked a smooth trip advancing turn, angled out and stayed on with credit for 3rd but was never a true threat); **#4 SUGAR ON FIRE** (with Lasix first time; prompted even pace, 2P turn, dueled into lane, then gamely dug in and drew off, fully extended); and **#5 THOSEWERETHEDAYS** (sent up outside foe, cleared entering turn, rail bend, extended lead and ran professionally through lane, fully extended; returns from layoff with Lasix first time today); all sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

Race 5: MSW, 3YO, 1 Mile, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- Considering the slow early fractions and his even running style (he's seemingly one paced and therefore unsuited but he lifting of tempo in slow-early run races), **#1 TWIN LAKES** was probably settled a little too far off the pace last time (1M, LRL, 02/04/26), and he then lost plenty of ground racing 4W to the ¼ and 6W into the lane before staying on for 3rd. A stronger pace, more ground saving trip and the addition of blinkers could help him step forward today.
- Granted, the winner is talented, and he was slightly wide on the turn (not always a bad thing at Los Al, though), it was a touch disappointing to see **#4 FALCON JET** fade into a distant 3rd last time (6 1/2F, LRC, 12/06/25) considering the early pace was not suicidal for the quality of the MSW and speed held very well. His stride pattern (quite a quick turnover) also (to this eye, at least) doesn't really scream router. Saying that, though, his stride didn't look to shorten too much in the lane and despite no gallop out being available, his chances today seem fairly obvious as he makes his debut for Russell with first time Lasix at a mile.
- **#6 RIO GRANDE**'s last start (1M, SA, 12/29/25) was a disaster as the 8/5 fav: he broke a step slow, then latched onto the bit and ran up on heels racing into the first turn, was extremely hard to handle rounding the first turn and taken sharply to the outside in order to prevent an accident, dragged his rider halfway down the back stretch while wide, then got caught 3W on the far turn and fell in a hole, switching leads back and forth in the lane. What's more, speed held very well in that race, with the top four finishers (at odds of 7/2, 35/1, 5/1 and 6/1) filling those positions throughout, which compromised his chances coming from off the pace. That race is not a fair reflection of his ability. In his prior start on turf, he hadn't looked completely comfortable on the surface (switched leads a number of times, wasn't striding out great), which would possibly be why he switched leads again in the lane last out too – maybe he's just not a turf horse and we can toss both his last two starts? In his three-back effort going 6 1/2F on dirt, he'd again taken a firm hold and over-raced slightly before tiring late – he'll need to settle better than that to get a mile, but maybe not in these calmer waters; he certainly looked better on the surface. The removal of blinkers (help him settle), return to dirt (his preferred surface), and addition of Lasix should help him step forward today and he's an obvious contender, but he is also quite a slightly tricky horse to get a read on.

- **#2 PONT AVEN** (traveled well in behind the modest early pace, continued to go well 2P turn, was forced to wait briefly behind foes ~5/16 pole (inconsequential, in the grand scheme of things), cut corner and took advantage of wonderful split into stretch, then finished evenly; gallop out only okay); and **#5 MARGIE'S LAST** (pulled fairly hard while 3-4W (not wide enough, in the grand scheme of things, to have made an impact on the result), dropped back between horses turn and weakened on left lead lane); both sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

Race 6: OC20k/SAL12k, 4YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- Last out (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/12/26), **#3 AMAZING BERNIE** traveled powerfully tracking the even pace on the rail to the far turn, waited in behind horses, tipped to the outside ~1/4, loomed upside handily, then drew off under a fairly motionless Michael Sanchez, not asked for full effort at all – he dusted his rivals with a 78 Beyer and seemingly had more in the tank which he may show today. Saying that, though, he did also flop leads close home and his gallop out was only okay at best – maybe Sanchez was deceiving us and not actually sitting on a ton of horse? He's a big player today, whatever the case.
- On the slop last time (1M, LRL, 02/20/26), **#5 AZTEC** sat a wide enough trip (4-6W turn) to earn a slight upgrade. He also drifted out in the lane close home when staying on to finish 2nd behind a winner who saved more ground.
- If you watch his three-back effort, you'll notice Karamanos – the then rider of **#6 ARMANDO R** – pushing and shoving on him to stay engaged throughout. In **ARMANDO R**'s last start (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/05/26), when making his debut for Magee, the new rider was not nearly as forceful and allowed **ARMANDO R** to do what he does when given the opportunity – dawdle around in his own time. Okay, maybe he also wasn't at his best last time, but the rider didn't really help, period, especially as the pace was slow up front, and an improved effort can likely be expected from him with Lopez taking over today.
- Off the layoff last time (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/12/26), **#7 MORNING THOUGHTS** was caught wide on both turns and then tired in the lane, possibly as a result of only having four recent reported works leading into the race. A more ground saving trip with race fitness on his side should see him improve back in the right direction today.
- **#1 FROSTY THE GIANT** (promoted the hot pace set by the eventual winner 2W to ~3/8 pole, then stopped; two-turns a question mark today); **#2 WORK HARD** (settled close enough to moderate pace ~3 deep to far turn, hard chase 2P to ¼, weakened lane); **#4 PEEK** (off layoff; nudged along chasing even pace 3W, evenly into lane, trying but no more to offer late); and **#8 ARROW SPEED** (stalked even pace inside, 2P turn, angled out and weakened lane; no visible explanation for his 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 7: N1X Allowance, 4YO+, 1 1/8 Miles, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- Although there was a slight closer bias present, speed held really well in **#2 CHILENO**'s last race (7F, 02/19/26), compromising his chances as a closer running over a distance likely short of his best (he was under pressure to keep pace throughout and failed to ever get involved, running evenly). Expecting more back at two-turns today.
- Although **#3 MISSOURI RIVER** lost a little ground racing wide on both turns last time (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/15/26), he also had a wicked pace to run at which undoubtedly helped him achieve a better finishing position (off pace chasing throughout, passed weary foes without ever getting involved); tough to see him moving forward from that effort.
- **#4 GEORGIA MAGIC** was a touch slower than usual from the gate last time (1 1/8M, AQU, 02/06/26), then had to very briefly tap on the brakes as the field crossed heading into the first turn; further back than ideal, he then swung very wide (~6W) around the first turn; as the pace then slowed in front and the leaders caught a nice breather down the back stretch, he had to work a little to get forward; he then lost a little ground when slightly wide again on the far turn before fading. While it would have been nice to have seen him offer a little more late on, his wide trip and the race flow was slightly working against him in this race (minor upgrade), and it seems that, with blinkers back on (taken off for last start), he can probably offer a little more today.
- While 3W, **#6 BADGE OF WAR** pressed, and then contested a fast pace that favored closers (setting things up well for the 9/2 winner) last time (1 1/16M, LRL, 02/15/26) before battling hard through the lane, only to fall a nose short. He did best of the speed and is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE. Easy to argue he was best in that spot and he's deserving of respect today.
- **#1 JOE THE JET** (stalked even pace, made smooth progress 2-3W turn, took over top of lane and drew off under a strong stretch ride; fully extended, solid effort); and **#5 FORMAL AFFAIR** (inconsequentially bore in slightly start, chased even pace towards center, made brief advance while a little wide (not detrimentally wide, though) far turn, then weakened on left lead lane despite trying; needs more today), both sat perfectly fine trips in their respective last starts and were ridden through the line – their results/speed figs seem fair.

Race 8: Claiming 7.5k, 4YO+F, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Replay Notes:

- **#4 BOOK OF WISDOM** not only lost ground racing 4-6W on the turn last out (6 1/2F, AQU, 02/05/26), but as a closer, she was also running against the speed bias present – the tape shows a much more likable effort than the PPs suggest and her performance can be upgraded.
- Having broken a touch slowly and then chased the pace from behind horses to the turn, **#6 KISSED AT DAWN** briefly lacked the room to advance when she really needed to have been doing so ~1/4 last time (4 1/2F, CT, 02/27/26); she then worked a good trip and stayed on after finding daylight shortly after entering the turn, but she was also working against the speed bias which may have prevented her from finishing closer. She ran home in a manner to suggest today's distance would be more to her liking and provided she copes with the short turn around, a better effort can be expected today.
- **#1 BAY STREET** (saved ground chasing even fractions, angled out under ride 5/16, evenly lane, never a threat; rider did stand up ~60Y from wire, maybe exasperating beaten margin by ~1L but no more; trip may have been a little short but there was no real reason for her sub-par effort); **#2 FIVECOMMATWO** (contested even fractions between, stopped quickly 5/16; no visible reason for sub-par effort; returns to dirt today); **#3 INFASTUATION** (chased even pace, brief bid 2-3W turn, made slight but inconsequential contact with foe top of lane, finished willingly but just evenly); and **#5 SAPPHIRE BEAUTY** (saved ground chasing pace into lane, finished willing despite getting out through the lane, second best); 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

R4: RAGING CAJUN (4/1 ML)

RAGING CAJUN brings something to today's ultra-competitive fourth that several of his rivals lack: consistency. The Ned Allard trainee has finished outside the first four only once in eight career starts and has steadily moved forward on the Beyer scale, rattling off five straight figures in the 42–46 range before stepping up to a career-best 51 last time. That effort came in a red-hot \$40k claimer following his maiden-breaking win two back, against rivals who simply proved too strong. He now drops sharply to the \$16k level and adds first-time Lasix, and with a ground-saving trip closing into what projects to be a lively pace, he should be seen in a much better light this afternoon. The case is further strengthened by the fact that Allard has struck at a 41% rate (7-for-17) when dropping dirt sprinters by 50% or more in claiming price.

R8: BOOK OF WISDOM (3/1 ML)

BOOK OF WISDOM ships in from New York for today's nightcap and, if the 3/1 morning-line holds, could represent excellent value. This three-time winner faced an uphill task last time at Aqueduct, hung very wide while racing against a speed bias that worked firmly against her late-running style. Even so, she still earned a 51 Beyer — the fastest last-out figure in this field — and her overall profile stacks up favorably against these. While she may not quite get the ideal setup this afternoon, it may not matter, as this is comfortably the softest group she's faced in well over 18 months.

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.

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.

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.

KINDA KRAZY (*Entered THU 3/12 – Colonial Downs, Race 3*)

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Last Race: Feb. 13, 6th

Finish: 3rd by 4 1/2

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

BARBADOS BULLDOG

Trainer: Jose Corrales

Last Race: Feb. 14, 4th

Finish: 3rd by 2 1/2

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

PRINCE OF JERICHO

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: February 21, 5th race

Finish: 2nd by head

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

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.

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.

IN AWE OF JUJU

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last Race: February 21, 6th race

Finish: 5th by 6 1/2 lengths

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

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 2 - J G Torrealba: #1 - Irish Jubalee; #5 - Paul's Guitar >>> **Torrealba rides PAUL'S GUITAR**

Race 4 - Xavier Perez: #7 - Hoppetosse; #8 - Sticktothesystem >>> **Perez rides HOPPETOSSE**

Race 6 - Mychel Sanchez: #3 - Amazing Bernie; #5 - Aztec >>> **Sanchez rides AZTEC**

Race 7 - Yedsit Hazlewood: #1 - Joe the Jet; #2 - Chileno >>> **Hazlewood rides JOE THE JET**

Race 8 - Yedsit Hazlewood: #1 - Bay Street; #2 - Fivecommatwo >>> **Hazlewood rides BAY STREET**

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

A recap of **SATURDAY, MAR. 7** action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piassek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: Robert's Moon cleared to the rail and the lead from the outside post and couldn't be caught, winning for the second time in 22 tries.

Race 2: More Ransom dueled for the early lead with Genieinabridle, shook her off in the last eighth, and held off the late challenge of Watch Your Tone to win it.

Race 3: Majorca showed no signs of rust in his first start off a 258-day layoff, taking them gate-to-wire as the 8-5 second choice.

Race 4: The lightbulb has gone on for **Juniper's Jubilee**. After starting her career 0-for-5, she's now won two in a row, taking this one as the 4-5 favorite.

Race 5: Old Bay made the rail and the lead, dispensed the challenge of Moon Cache on the far turn, and won easily.

Race 6: Takethemoneyhoney picked up her second Maryland-restricted stakes win of the year in the Conniver Stakes. She let Dwelling Legacy set the early pace and easily overpowered her on the turn for an impressive five-length victory.

Race 7: Quint's Brew and Blue Kingdom continued their budding rivalry in a thrilling renewal of the Not For Love Stakes. Quint's Brew set the early pace, while Blue Kingdom moved to engage him from last. Blue Kingdom put a head in front late, but Quint's Brew called on his class and determination to win by a neck. He passed the \$500,000 mark in career earnings with that victory.

Race 8: Turfway Park shipper **Baytown Bruiser** overwhelmed the locals. He rated off the pace and drew off to a dominant 7 ½-length win.

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