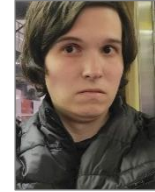




LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for FRIDAY, APRIL 17

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



KEITH FEUSTLE

KALI FRANCOIS

DAN ILLMAN

MACK PFEIFFER

JOHN PIASSEK

DAVE RODMAN

TIM TULLOCK

RACE 1:	10-7-8-5	8-10-4-11	10-11-7-5	2-7-4-1	7-1-10-5	1-7-4-11	7-8-4
RACE 2:	2-5-3-1	5-1-2-4	1-5-3-2	5-4-2-3	5-2-4-1	2-5-1-3	1-5-4
RACE 3:	7-4-6-2	2-1-7-6	1-7-5-4	4-2-7-5	4-7-1-6	4-2-1-5	7-2-1
RACE 4:	10-1-13-2	10-2-13-9	13-5-6-1	10-4-1-9	14-13-1-4	3-2-1-4	10-13-4
RACE 5:	7-5-8-6	3-8-5-6	5-6-3-8	8-6-5-2	5-8-3-2	6-1-8-5	5-6-8
RACE 6:	3-12-1-5	1-11-3-12	3-7-11-12	3-8-12-5	3-5-12-7	3-1-12-5	3-1-7
RACE 7:	1-6-9-3	6-1-10-9	9-7-6-5	6-10-9-11	3-11-1-12	6-11-5-4	6-1-12
RACE 8:	2-3-1-5	1-2-3-5	3-2-5-1	3-4-2-1	3-2-5-1	2-6-1-3	2-1-3
RACE 9:	6-3-1-4	3-1-6-7	3-6-7-5	3-1-6-4	6-3-7-5	4-7-6-5	6-3-1

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

- Catch TMJC's "Today at the Races" morning simulcast show LIVE on X [@LaurelPark](#) at 11AM ET for late changes, plus today's top tickets and best plays.
- Follow the action throughout the day on your preferred ADW, on X [@LaurelPark](#) and [@DanIllman_MJC](#), on Instagram [@marylandjockeyclub](#) and on TikTok [@marylandjockeyclub](#).
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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. BALTIC

2. MATTHEW'S TICKET

3. COWBOY ROY

First post is NOON with a LOW 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **BALTIC** switches surfaces as a half-brother to a turf winner, and their second dam is Grade 3-winning turf sprinter Jenny's So Great. Like Kantharos as a turf-sprint sire, and this gelding has enough speed to get up and on the pace. Also want to use **MATTHEW'S TICKET** in multiple-race wagers as he switches surfaces for his first start as a gelding. Bullet turf workout on 4/12 matches up with Phil Capuano's 4-year-old filly Mopo (83 turf Beyer). Perhaps they breezed in company. Arguably faced tougher competition in his first three dirt starts, and was up close to a fast pace last time in a race won by a deep closer. **COWBOY ROY** adds blinkers, and should appreciate moving back to turf. Chased a fast pace on synthetic last time in a race that was dominated by closers, and his best race, by far, came on turf in his career debut. SE THAR BARR drops in class and distance for his first start in six months. He faced two next-out winners in that 10/18 heat, as well as Juris Doctor, who then placed in a first-level allowance at Fair Grounds with an 82 Beyer. Expect a late kick for a barn that went 5 for the last 15 (33%, \$7.37 ROI) with horses moving from route to turf sprint. FLATTER MY DAD displayed good tactical speed when facing promising debut winners in both turf starts last year.

>> RACE 2

1. HOLLYWOOD IMPORT

2. CROSSINGTHECHANNEL

3. TOP MANIPULATOR

Turning back in distance works for **HOLLYWOOD IMPORT**, who might have found two turns a bridge too far in the Private Terms. Broke outward and was brushed, advanced to set the pace from the inside, then tired while racing off the rail. Expect positional speed, but hoping he can get off the inside, as he doesn't appear to like kickback. This barn went 10 for the last 30 (30%, \$2.45 ROI) when moving route to dirt sprint. **CROSSINGTHECHANNEL** was an impressive runaway winner at Colonial. Cleared off to set a slow (22.67 opening quarter) and uncontested pace along the rail, then breezed home under his own power. Figures up and on the pace once again for a barn that sent out repeat winner Pont Aven on 3/29. **TOP MANIPULATOR** tracked a quick pace from the pocket, was put on a hard chase on the turn, then grinded down the leader despite failing to change leads. Appreciate that he got time to recover from that grueling effort, and he can remain close to the pace. OUR DAY WILL COME is a six-time winner with a strong closing kick. This might be his toughest class test in a long time. MAGIC WALLET went unbeaten last year, and overcame some greenness to win the Dover at Delaware. Steadied in the early going to track from the pocket, angled outside, then overcame that speed-friendly track with a three-wide rally. That race didn't come back very strong, however, and he must deal with a long layoff this afternoon.

>> RACE 3

1. ROCKER ROLLER

2. STATELY GIRL

3. NICHE

ROCKER ROLLER (\$72,000 RNA yearling) is the first starter out of an unraced half-sister to stakes-winning dirt router Byhubbyhellomoney (79 dirt Beyer). Nice to see the recent five-furlong breeze for an excellent first-out barn that sent out debut winner Erice on 4/10, but she'll have to break quickly from the rail. **STATELY GIRL** gained valuable experience when wired in her Parx debut. Made a mid-race bid from in between, then stayed on gamely for second along the fence. Nice outside draw allows her to set up shop from stalking range while outside and clear of traffic for a barn that went 3-for-10 (30%, \$3.90 ROI) with second-out maidens. **NICHE** has angles moving turf to dirt and removing blinkers with enough speed to get up and on the pace. Chased a very

fast pace in her lone dirt start, a race won by a deep closer. The fifth-finisher from that heat hit the board in her next three with a 67 Beyer top. The barn went 4 for the last 11 (36%, \$2.67 ROI) moving turf to dirt. MALIBU'S RUMRUNNER returns from a long layoff with new Lasix after being wired by the favorite. She should show fresh speed. BLAME AND FORTUNE (\$300,000 yearling) is a full sister to Grade 3-winning turf router Beyond Blame, and a half to stakes-placed dirt router Blamethechampagne (67 dirt Beyer).

>> RACE 4

1. LADY LENA

2. POWER AND GLORY

3. RED HAIREG GAL

LADY LENA seems well-entered after never receiving a proper breather in her final start last year. Cleared off to set an uncontested pace through steady fractions (24.21; 24.53; 24.09), came off the inside in the upper stretch, and tired while hopping back to her left lead. Expect an aggressive ride from this outside post. **POWER AND GLORY**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 9/20, returns from 229-day layoff. Received a clever ride last time at Monmouth, as she raced outside at the back behind a solid pace, dropped down to the fence on the second turn, and passed some tired horses on the inside despite hopping back to her left lead. The eighth-finisher then placed in a \$7,500 "non-two" claimer at Meadowlands with a 72 Beyer. **RED HAIREG GAL**'s recent form seems somewhat dirtied-up with a couple of dirt races preceded by three starts over the quirky Meadowlands course. Ran okay over the summer at Monmouth last year, and would benefit from a quick pace for a barn that went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$2.55 ROI) moving sprint to route. **JUMPING JULIA** is a one-run closer that might receive faster fractions to attack than in her most recent start at Turfway. **WHATSYOURBIGIDEA** was likely overmatched in her lone turf start when wired sprinting. The third-finisher then won a \$30,000 "beaten" claimer with a 73 Beyer. Expect some early zip.

>> RACE 5

1. DANCING DENAE

2. FEELS SO RIGHT

3. FAYES HEART

DANCING DENAE repeats the route to sprint move that resulted in his open-lengths victory three back. Found a good stalking position going a mile last time, was urged along to split rivals, eased outside, and tried hard in the stretch despite being very late to make his final lead switch. The odds-on winner of that race then ran third in a \$40,000 claimer with a 67 Beyer. Kicks late for a barn that went 3 for 13 (23%, \$2.38 ROI) between 3/28 and 4/12. Hazlewood departs for Impressiveness. **FEELS SO RIGHT** broke sharply last month, pressed from in between rivals, attacked outside on the turn, then stayed for second behind the pacesetting winner despite being late to change leads. Should be squarely in the thick of things when they turn for home. **FAYES HEART** blasted out to an uncontested early lead, then was too good for bottom maiden claimers over a sealed, muddy track. This is a tougher test from a pace and class standpoint for a barn that went 19 for the last 71 (27%, \$2.04 ROI) when returning from 6-14 day layoffs. **POOR PEANUT**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 4/3, went right to the front over a speed-friendly track, and stayed strong in his debut before unseating his rider on the way back to the winner's circle. Expect similar speedy tactics.

>> RACE 6

1. WHAT SAY THEE

2. HITHEROADJAK

3. RUDDY BUDDY

Lots going on with **WHAT SAY THEE**, as he moves from synthetic to turf and adds blinkers in his first off the claim. Stalked in between last time, grabbed the pocket leaving the half-mile pole, split rivals three wide on the second turn under urging, then gained ground despite failing to change leads. He has back class, and might get a bit closer to the pace for a barn that went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$3.34 ROI) off the claim. **HITHEROADJAK** wasn't

embarrassed in his two turf races last year. Sat the pocket in that 11/15 heat, then failed to threaten a solid group. Has enough tactical speed to gain good position. **RUDDY BUDDY** might have been best in a conditioned claimer here last fall, and enters in good form after just missing at Sam Houston. Saved ground in midpack, tracked three wide/four path on the backstretch, advanced four deep under urging, and just missed. Acts like this extra distance is right up his alley. **RAMPAGIUS** beat two other next-out winners in his most recent turf start, and is extremely versatile from a surface, distance, and running style standpoint. Think he'll get close to the lead after breaking from the fence. **KING'S RIVER** beat McRavin in his final turf start last year, and that foe then won two in a row with Beyers of 86 and 92. He has a big late kick, and is looking for a strong pace up front. Substantial class relief for **SARDIS**, who got good last summer in Kentucky before facing some toughies.

>> RACE 7

1. LOVELIEST

2. SHE'S NO UNCLE

3. WAITTILMIDNITEHOUR

After a perfect-trip victory in her debut at Ellis Park, **LOVELIEST** hasn't had the easiest circumstances. First, she raced over the quirky Kentucky Downs strip. Then, she was in tough in Keeneland's Grade 2 Jessamine Stakes. Finally, she contended with a 155-day layoff when showing surprising early speed at Fair Grounds. Drops down in class and distance for this spot, and can rally late for a barn that went 16 for the last 68 (24%, \$2.01 ROI) when moving route to sprint. Sanchez lands here instead of Don't Fool With Me. Not interested at all in **SHE'S NO UNCLE**'s winter campaign, as she is a much better horse on turf. In her most recent grass outing, she set a fast pace over the course and distance before fending off a next-out winner. It will be interesting to see how her speed stacks up against other front-running types. **WAITTILMIDNITEHOUR** received a nice setup to score over the Tapeta at Gulfstream. There's a good chance she'll receive a similar quick pace to attack for a barn that went 5 for the last 17 (29%, \$2.36 ROI) with last-out winners moving from synthetic to turf. **READY FOR TROUBLE** deserves a look if able to escape the Also Eligible list. Expect fresh early speed from **AFTERNEATH** as she returns from a 152-day layoff for hot barn. All three of **BLAME THE BANKER**'s turf sprints with Lasix and blinkers are solid, and she would benefit from a quick pace up front.

>> RACE 8

1. GREEK HEIRESS

2. SASSAFRASSNESS

3. MAD FOR MADDY

GREEK HEIRESS set a pressured pace inside the sharp 2-1 winner while racing just off the fence, and held firm for second. That was a career-best performance from a mare that can get close to the pace once more for a barn that went 10 for the last 33 (30%, \$2.22 ROI) with horses showing three ascending Beyers. **SASSAFRASSNESS** finished behind the top pick last month, but she showed a new dimension by overcoming a slow start to post a rallying win two back. Perhaps she'll rate from off the pace to make one run in this spot for a barn that went 8 for the last 12 (67%, \$2.88 ROI) with horses exiting a Beyer top. **MAD FOR MADDY** was very impressive when pressing reasonable fractions in her first off the 198-day layoff, then disappointed when stretched out in distance. Looking for a nice outside stalking trip for a barn that already has two winners here this month.

>> RACE 9

1. BOLD ENDEAVOR

2. BIGTONTEN

3. DADDY YANKEE

Perhaps **BOLD ENDEAVOR** was aided by a speed-friendly track at Parx last month, but he looked pretty good drawing away to win by over eight. Prompted the 3-1 fourth-finisher from the rail, advanced to press a three-ply pace, then was too good for that group. Salty veteran might attempt tracking tactics this

afternoon. **BIGTONTEN** stalked off the rail, raced in between horses after a half-mile, made a three-to-four wide bid on the second turn, then only finished evenly. He's still searching for his first win around two turns. **DADDY YANKEE** prompted the favored winner, went on a hard chase on the turn under urging, floated three wide and in between, and stayed on without threatening. This barn scored with a 6-1 winner on 4/10 (also returning on two weeks' rest). **NIGHT TIME NAP** drops in class, drew the advantageous inside post position, and has enough speed to snatch the early lead. No match for Union Fleet last time, and that one that won for the \$44,000 claiming option with an 83 Beyer. **CATATUMBO** stayed relatively close to a fast pace last time out. Think he's more effective when making one run, and might revert to those tactics here.

KALI'S KEYS – by Kali Francois

Race 1: #8 Flatter My Dad

This is the most staying speed out of the rest of the field, so bonus points for that when it comes to this second wire distance. This one comes with one run leading up into this turf 2026 debut, (which is more than can be said for some) which if you compare to last year, they had no warm-up run off the bench in 2025. In that one run, lost to a Russell first-time starter he was supposed to lose to. He had a really good first try on the turf, too - only defeated by Parkes, who just ran great off the layoff last weekend.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: I have to ignore the two dirt efforts from King of Fog, and focus solely on the two turf efforts in Saratoga. While the mare and half siblings have been mostly dirt horses, the top of the pedigree could explain it. A fair price to take a shot in this maiden group. Brightshiniinglight tries the turf for the first time, where the class of his family stands out. Second off the bench and a bullet work leading into this may benefit.

R2: Hard to deny the consistency and ability we've seen from Crossingthechannel, a deserving short priced favorite. A good race to use in the multi-race wagers with a dependable single, perhaps play the double and use all of the maidens in R3. Our Day Will come has been very impressive over the winter and into spring, his trip from last out warrants consideration for the exacta.

R3: Malibu's Rumrunner should present a fair price in this solid maiden field. A full sibling to Malibu Hooch and Malibu Moonshine, this filly ran well in a troubled debut, and should benefit from added real estate today. Blame and Fortune has a strong family on both turf and dirt, although most have won over a route of ground. The work tab suggests this filly won't be lacking the speed needed for today's sprinting distance.

R4: Lien On Her makes her first start for new connections after being purchased in a recent digital sale. Try to demand no less than 5-1 in her first start against winners, first on the turf, and first routing effort. Rehoboth Avenue has recency on her side and looks to be getting back to a preferred surface here. Her other turf efforts were against tougher company and she may fit this group well.

R5: Impressiveness should appreciate the outer post where he won't be forced to rush into things. Since adding lasix, he is 2/3 in the winners circle. Feels So Right hasn't worked a comfortable trip but he has shown willingness and ability along the way. Sticking to this level and adding a bit more ground might bring all of the pieces together for him.

R6: What Say Thee arrives first off the claim and adds blinkers for the first time as an 8 y/o. He certainly has back class and a repeat of any of the last three outings should best this field. Smuggler's Gold screams turf horse, in only four tries on the grass, he has won twice. I choose to ignore all of his dirt tries. Sardis could be overlooked and needs to bring some value, he seems less than straightforward but his good races make him a contender here.

R7: Waittillmidnitehour is hard to deny with racing recency and the fact that she is proven over the course. I take interest in Bedazzle at 20-1 ML for Atras. Her two career starts aren't something to write home about but she looks the type who will appreciate this configuration and has room to improve with 2nd blinkers. Watch the tote, perhaps she is worth betting across the board at a price.

R8: Greek Heiress and Spencer Tiara should set an honest pace, both are proven to be able to sustain a duel on the front in recent efforts. Moonlit Drive returns for Michelle Nevin, who trained the multiple G1 winning dam By the Moon. While the second and third starts are questionable, the entire field from her second start has come back to win at least one stake...She looks well positioned to return here.

R9: Hard to deny Night Time Nap with class relief, he may ultimately end up a target for the Ness runner, but I find myself forgiving of the last two outings based on the company. Bold Endeavor is the other likely speed in here, who seems to fit this level and is holding very strong form. This 13x winner knows how to get the job done.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#5 - Se Thar Barr

Trainer Susan Cooney

Route to Turf Sprint: 5 for 15 (33%, \$7.37 ROI)

RACE 2

#1 - Hollywood Import

Trainer: Gary Capuano

Route to Dirt Sprint: 10 for 30 (30%, \$2.45 ROI)

RACE 3

#5 - Niche

Trainer: Rob Atras

Turf to Dirt: 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.67 ROI)

#7 - Stately Girl

Trainer: Michael Moore

Maidens, Second Start: 3 for 10 (30%, \$3.90 ROI)

RACE 4

#6 - Red Haired Gal

Trainer: Felix Flores-Coba

Sprint to Route: 3 for 11 (27%, \$2.55 ROI)

RACE 5

#3 - Feyes Heart

Trainer: John Robb

First After 6-14 Days: 19 for 71 (27%, \$2.04 ROI)

#5 - Dancing Denae

Trainer: Jose Corrales

Between 3/28 and 4/12: 3 for 13 (23%, \$2.38 ROI)

RACE 6

#3 - What Say Thee

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

First After Claim: 3 for 11 (27%, \$3.34 ROI)

RACE 7

#9 - Loveliest

Trainer: Eddie Kenneally

Route to Sprint: 16 for 68 (24%, \$2.01 ROI)

RACE 8

#2 - Sassafrassness

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Exiting a Beyer Top: 8 for 12 (67%, \$2.88 ROI)

#3 - Greek Heiress

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Three Ascending Beyers: 10 for 33 (30%, \$2.22 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 35K, 3-6YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#1 GARAGE BEERS	MSW, 5 1/2F, LRL, Good Turf, 11/08/25 – 6 th	Forward between horses leaving gate then steadied back a little ~5/8; chased hot early pace to ~1/2, then tapped on the brakes again; resumed hard chase 2-3W into lane, then ran evenly ~4L off the lead before steadying again ~1/16 pole; did not recover but galloped out okay.	This was a troubled trip full of light steadies. Not sure he was ever winning, but he was at least better than the beaten margin suggests. Adds lasix making debut for Perez off the layoff today.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #2 KING OF FOG had a rough break last out, but it made no difference to his trip or result. Needs much more returning to turf today. - #4 BRIGHTSHININGLIGHT raced slightly wider than ideal when returning from the layoff with another nice effort last time. Makes turf debut today. Note: his debut is deserving of a small pace upgrade. - #7 COWBOY ROY didn't do enough running at Turfway last out to earn an upgrade; however, we can be somewhat forgiving of his defeat as he was positioned close to a fast pace (that collapsed) early, between horses (often unideal), and racing on a closer friendly track. He wasn't hard ridden in the closing stages, exasperating the margin of defeat too, and a bounce back returned to turf today is very possible. - #10 BALTIC was again quite keen while showing early speed on the dirt last time and then tired quickly. He'll need to settle better if he's to handle today's long stretch on turf debut. 			

Race 2: OC 75K/NC Allowance, 3YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt			
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the Private Terms Stakes last out, #1 HOLLYWOOD IMPORT ran in a manner to suggest he'd be suited by today's cut back to one turn. Lasix added. - #2 MAGIC WALLET let the leaders go a little on the turn last out in order to create room for him to angle off the rail, then came with a visually impressive stretch run to win with something in hand. He seemingly has more to offer. Adds Lasix. - Aided by a good trip and setup, #3 TOP MANIPULATOR earned his second career victory last out despite not changing leads in the lane. Adds lasix. - Although you can knock #5 CROSSINGTHECHANNEL's win last out owing to the fact that he was able to set a slow, uncontested pace in front, there's no denying that he was tremendously impressive in victory and never really asked for any real effort. Seems there's much more to come from this guy. 			

Race 3: MSW, 3YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 STATELY GIRL	MSW, 6 1/2F, PRX, Fast Dirt, 03/18/26 – 2 nd	Bumped and broke slowly; chased fast pace in rear to ~9/16, then rushed up into contention entering the turn; dropped back again from ~3/8 pole; cut corner into lane, then re-bid for a closing 2 nd . Galloped out in front.	This effort is deserving of a small upgrade as she made a big and premature move into the fast pace (ideally, the rider would have sat and waited for the speed to come back without expending energy early). She did well to finish 2nd and galloped out nicely. Promising.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #5 NICHE was caught in a crazy speed duel (20.60, 45.04) sprinting on the turf at Fair Grounds last out and understandably tired late on. If transferring her ability back to the dirt and rationing out her speed more efficiently, she can likely improve. Blinkers off. - #6 THISISHOWWEDOIT's debut 3rd at Colonial may need downgrading slightly as there was a closer bias present this day, possibly helping her rally from off the pace. Her effort was still commendable, though, and her gallop out was very good. Adds Lasix returning off the layoff and making debut for Salvaggio today. 			

Race 4: Claiming 16K, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf**Other notes:**

- Speed held well in **#1 GRAVITY HILL**'s last turf race (09/26/25), with the top two finishers (at odds of 4/1 and 10/1) running 1-2 throughout, possibly entitling 'GH' to a tiny upgrade (as she closed form off the pace to finish 4th). Note: she seemingly did not handle the mud when returning from a layoff last time.
- **#2 TEA ROSE**'s last turf start (11/07/25) - in which she was beaten just 3 1/2L - is deserving of a small upgrade because after being roughed at the start, she sat a notably wide trip and had little pace to close into (24.95, 49.34). Returns to the grass today following a nice win on the dirt last time, aided by a good trip and setup.
- When racing on the turf in 2025, **#3 JULIA'S A FOX** consistently ran in a manner to suggest long on the turf (which she tries for the first time today) could be her best game.
- **#4 REHOBOTH AVENUE** did best of the speed last out (small upgrade), running a game race in defeat to get the better of **#11 LUMINOUS SECRET** (whose last turf start in November was slightly upgradable owing to a bad break and wide move into the lane). Both return to turf today.
- **#6 RED HAired GAL**'s bobble at the break last time was inconsequential. The surface switch needs to (and should) help her improve today.
- **#9 JUMPING JULIA** sat a notably wide trip at Turfway last time. Makes turf debut on first start for Boniface today.
- **#10 LIEN ON HER** was very late with her lead change in the stretch when breaking her maiden – aided by a good trip and setup – sprinting on the synthetic at Gulfstream last time. Her gallop out was poor.

Race 5: Claiming 20K, 3YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt**Other notes:**

- Hate to knock **#2 POOR PEANUT** too much for his likable debut winning effort; however, it does need to be noted that there was a speed bias present that day, possibly warranting a downgrade and/or reducing his scope for improvement second out.

Race 6: OC40K/N2X Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 CERTIFIED LOVERBOY (MTO)	Allowance, 1 1/8M, LRL, Fast Dirt, 03/01/26 – 5 th	Made early lead; set fast pace on rail; drifted out upper stretch; weakened.	The pace he set for this 1 1/8M contest was demanding and strongly favored closers. He did well to be beaten just 5 1/4L and is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE.
#6 LONESOME ROAD (MTO)	Allowance, 7F, CNL, Fast Dirt, 03/13/26 – 3 rd	Rushed up after breaking a fraction slow; dueled through fast fractions into the lane, then faded grudgingly while drifting out.	Although he may have been below his best, period, he still did well to be beaten just 4 3/4L considering the frenetic fractions (22.18, 43.99) he had dueled through – PACE UPGRADE

Other notes:

- **#1 RAMPAGIUS** flopped back to his left lead close home last out. Stretches back out to two turns and returns to the turf today.
- **#11 RUDDY BUDDY** was hung 4W on the far turn and then came 5W into the lane before rallying to miss by just a nose at Sam Houston last time. He lost more ground than the distance he was beaten by, and he probably shouldn't be running in this race (N2X).

Race 7: N1X Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 5 1/2 Furlongs, Turf**Other Notes:**

- **#3 BEST GIRL MAGIC**'s lone turf try (11/21/25) was a very likable and UPGRADABLE effort owing to her wide trip. Adding lasix last time at Turfway looked to backfire and lasix come back off today.
- **#4 DON'T FOOL WITH ME** was shuffled back a couple of times during her last race going 7F on the dirt, but it made little difference to the result. Makes turf debut off bench today.
- **#8 BLAME THE BANKER** found herself slightly boxed in on the turn sprinting 6 1/2F on the dirt at Aqueduct last time; she was also racing against a strong speed and actually ran with credit to be beaten just 3L. Returns to what seems to be her preferred surface off the layoff today.

- **#9 LOVELIEST** settled well in front when taking on stakes caliber runners off a layoff at Fair Grounds last time but seemingly failed to stay the distance, possibly not helped by a lack of recent match fitness. As a 2YO, she had been keen in her races and overall, seems to be a filly who will be suited by the cut back to 5 1/2F with a long stretch run here at Laurel. Note: she suffered a troubled stretch run at Kentucky Downs in August.
- Admittedly aided by a strong early pace, **#10 BEDAZZLE** showed a nice late kick when winning at Sam Houston last time and galloped out in a manner to suggest that today's extra 1/16 would be to her benefit.

Race 8: N1X Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- Although the pace wasn't frenetic for the class level (23.81, 48.40) in the route race that **#5 MAD FOR MADDY** exits, it played out like the pace was hot in front and closers really did come to the fore. She may therefore be deserving of a slight pass for her defeat as she was forwardly positioned throughout. Cuts back to the distance she was a smart winner over two-back today.
- Regarding **#6 NANCY MARY**'s last start going two-turns, you can ignore the short comment "steadied into first turn" – it was hardly a steady and made no difference to her trip or the result. Cuts back in distance today.

Race 9: Claiming 12.5K, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#1 NIGHT TIME NAP** underperformed last time and his effort is not deserving of an upgrade. However, he failed to adopt his preferred front running/forward tactics when outsped early (by two foes who, despite a strong early tempo, ran 1-2 throughout), and he was also slightly wider than ideal off the home turn, so there are some excuses to be made for him. Switches rider today.
- **#2 TOP BLOOD** was forced in notably at the start (by **#7 DADDY YANKEE**, who sat a fine trip himself) when sprinting 7F on the mud (which he might not have cared for) last time, but it made little difference to the result. Stretches back out making debut for McKenzie today.
- **#4 AMAZING BERNIE** under performed last out. However, he was unsuited by a crawling pace (25.67, 50.14) and should be able to at least offer a bit more in a more honestly run affair today.
- **#6 BIGTONTEN** stuck around with credit late on in his last race considering how hard he had pulled through the opening ½ of the contest. Cutting back to a flat mile today could be to his benefit.

Horses to Follow

R1: FLATTER MY DAD (5/1 ML)

FLATTER MY DAD made two starts on the turf last year and outran his odds with likeable efforts against open MSW company on both occasions. Being by multiple turf sprint stakes-winning sire RAINBOW HEIR—whose offspring hit at an impressive 29% in turf sprints—it seems likely that going short on the grass is his best game, and he gets that setup again in today's opener. Crucially, this will be his first try turf sprinting as a gelding and with Lasix—neither of which were in play for those prior grass runs—and that combination could bring out the best in him. He enters off back-to-back runner-up efforts on dirt in which he's posted career-best Beyers, and if he moves forward again for the surface switch under these new conditions, he could have a say at a decent price.

R8: SASSAFRASSNESS (3/2 ML)

SASSAFRASSNESS was no match for the re-opposing GREEK HEIRESS last time, but with a wicked pace forecast and paired Beyer tops of 78 behind her—often a sign a step forward is imminent—she may well be able to reverse form with that foe and take her record to 7-for-14 for the Jamie Ness / Hazlewood team, who strike at 32% together in dirt sprints

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

BETTER WATCH IT *(Breezed 3F - :37.20 at LRL on 4/12)*

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 *(Breezed 3F - :37.00 at LRL on 4/7)*

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.

BRUNO *(Entered at Laurel – SAT 4/18, Race 6)*

Trainer: Daniel Eubanks

Last Race: March 20, Race 3

Finish: 2nd by 1 1/4

Independence Hall colt showed promising workouts prior to his debut, then hooked up in an early speed duel before succumbing to a late runner that benefited from the quick pace. Earned a respectable

LYUDMILA *(Breezed 3F - :37.40 at TAM on 3/29)*

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 *(Breezed 4F - :48.20 at TAM on 2/22)*

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.

KISS THE RING

Trainer: Jesus Cruz

Last Race: March 20, Race 3

Finish: 4th by 6 1/2

Caught a pretty strong field for his second lifetime start, and was bumped shortly after the start after breaking slowly. Tracked outside, tried to advance in between rivals, but flattened out in the stretch. Might need a class dip into state-sired company, and has enough pedigree to appreciate more distance.

HOLLYWOOD IMPORT *(Entered at Laurel – TODAY, Race 2)*

Trainer: Gary Capuano

Last Race: March 21, Race 8

Finish: 4th by 4

Talented 3-year-old might have found two turns a trip too far when fourth in the Private Terms. Broke outward a bit, but was quick enough to recover and make the lead. Cleared off briefly on the second turn, but

69 Beyer Speed Figure, and will be tough right back against maiden special weight company.

CLEARLY SOPHIA

Trainer: Michael Gorham

Last Race: April 10, Race 6

Finish: 3rd by 1 1/2

Away from the gate with speed, then drafted back off the speed of eventual winner Erice. Chased willingly on the turn, and kept trying with a slight shift in mid-stretch. Should move forward in her second start of the year.

J C'S BOYS

Trainer: Robbie Bailes

Last Race: April 12, Race 6

Finish: 3rd by 5 3/4

Strong effort for the Maryland-bred first-timer. Breaking a bit outward from post 12 of 12, settled early well off the rail, gained mid-turn while four wide, angled six wide into the stretch, and stayed on for an even finish to the ground-saving winner, R J's Ice.

tired in between foes in the stretch. Think he's at his best between seven furlongs and a one-turn mile.

MAXPOWER (*Breezed 3F - 38.25 at Belmont on 4/9*)

Trainer: Panagiotis A. Synnefias

Last Race: Nov. 29, Race 6

Finish: 7th by 14 1/2

Outrun in the early stages of a \$16,000 maiden claimer, this 2-year-old was three wide and in between horses on the turn, then finished deceptively well while being over in behind horses in the stretch. This is a sprint family, but he might move up with more distance.

LANNISTER

Trainer: Jonathan Maldonado

Last Race: April 12, Race 5

Finish: 4th by 1 1/4

Lacked speed on turf for the first time, saved some ground early, then angled widest of all for the final furlong. Good late interest, beaten a little more than one length for all the money. Would like to see him try another grass sprint.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Yedsit Hazlewood - #6 - Regency Tale (MTO); #9 - Summerinthecountry (MTO) >>> **Hazlewood rides SUMMERINTHECOUNTRY**

Race 5: Yedsit Hazlewood - #5 - Dancing Denae; #8 - Impressiveness >>> **Hazlewood rides IMPRESSIVENESS**

Race 7: Angel Cruz - #1 - Hue - #10 - Bedazzle >>> **Cruz rides BEDAZZLE**

Race 7: Mychel Sanchez - #4 - Don't Fool With Me; #9 - Loveliest >>> **Sanchez rides LOVELIEST**

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

A recap of SUNDAY, APR. 12 action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: Money came in early and often on Graham Motion first-timer **Sassari**, who closed as the 7-10 chalk. It was money well-spent, as she made the front early and never looked back in an impressive victory. Stablemate Amaretto Queen, the only other debuter in the race, closed to complete the exacta at 10-1.

Race 2: **City Panda** closed stoutly on the inside to wear down early leader Ellinger, then held off the late surge of Tampa Bay Downs invader Searcy to win as the 9-5 favorite.

Race 3: Cairo Surprise, a 3-year-old making his grass debut against older horses, ran a huge race. He raced wide up the backstretch, moved towards the rail as they turned for home, and shot through to grab command. The classy veteran **Where's Ray** moved alongside and looked ready to roll by, but Cairo Surprise dug in and swerved out to keep that rival at bay. Cairo Surprise won a nosebob photo, but was disqualified for interference, elevating Where's Ray to victory. Both are worth watching all year long, with Cairo Surprise looking like a threat in stakes company on either surface.

Race 4: Shadow Surge opened up a clear early lead and almost took them all the way, but was run down late by **Wickeddevine**, who sat a great trip in the catbird seat. No one made up much ground in this race; the top five after the first quarter-mile were the first five under the wire.

Race 5: Elvis Himself set very ambitious early fractions, including a first half-mile in 44.09 seconds, and hung in gamely in the stretch. Ultimately, the closers got the best of him. Fair Grounds shipper **Contemplation** went the best, surging on the outside for the 5-1 victory. Third-place finisher Without Borders and seventh-place finisher Firmantown are ones to watch for next time; they both had horse but were forced to check.

Race 6: R J's Ice ran well on debut; not so much second time out. Those who still believed were rewarded, as he rallied up the rail on the turn and kicked away to win by 3 ¼ lengths at 7-1. Love Yourself and first-timer J C's Boys showed strong late interest, rallying for second and third, respectively.

Race 7: This race played out pretty much as one might've expected it to. Favorites **Italian Soiree** and Epic Style both raced off of a contested pace, came after the leaders at the top of the stretch, and rounded out the exacta. Sally's Gold ran the best of the early leaders, finishing nine lengths clear of fellow pacesetter Howler, who completely spit the bit in the last eighth.

Race 8: Double Airo was the lone speed on paper and ran like it. She opened up a long early lead and never looked back for an impressive victory.

Race 9: Copper Ghost got a perfect trip covered up behind the leaders on the rail. He angled into the three-path at the top of the stretch and kicked on to win, with fellow Mike Trombetta trainee Munny Problems second.

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. 15 – Fair

Mar. 20 – Fair

Mar. 21 – Fair (perhaps outside lean)

Mar. 22 – Fair (perhaps outside lean)

Mar. 27 – Fair

Mar. 28 – Fair

Mar. 29 – SPEED BIAS

Apr. 3 – Fair

Apr. 4 – Fair

Apr. 10 – Fair

Apr. 11 – Fair

Apr. 12 – Fair