



HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SATURDAY, APRIL 18

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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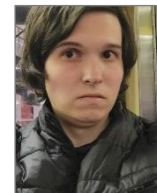
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DAN ILLMAN



MACK PFEIFFER



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

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

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 ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. CHRISTMAS JONES

2. QUEEN OF WANDS

3. FULL CARD

First post time is NOON with a LOW 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **CHRISTMAS JONES**, the beaten favorite in her last three, displayed good speed in most of her races last year. Set the pace along the fence in that 11/21 heat, and tired in the final sixteenth. The third-finisher then graduated in a Turfway maiden special weight with a 63 Beyer. Perhaps she matured over the winter and will show more stamina as a new 3-year-old. **QUEEN OF WANDS** pressed the odds-on winner's reasonable pace in her turf debut, then couldn't forge past that foe. The barn went 8 for the last 41 (20%, \$2.22 ROI) with turf horses returning from 180 to 365 day layoffs. **FULL CARD** (\$50,000 yearling) is out of Grade 2-placed turf router Danceland, herself a half-sister to French stakes-winning turf sprinter War Officer, French stakes-winning turf miler Doo Lang, and French stakes-placed turf router Verdura (89 turf Beyer). War Front - Tapit "nick" produced Grade 1-winning turf miler Halladay. Barn usually gives them a race before they strut their best stuff. **PAYNTED BY NANCY** was wired by a sharp first-time starter eight days ago. Expect a late kick against this group. **LUCKY LIS** adds Lasix and can liven up the early pace as she drops back into a claimer.

>> RACE 2

1. PALACIOS

2. BIG CUDDLE

3. BUDS NOTION

PALACIOS broke inward, tracked the pace from the pocket, angled four wide, then drew off to easily earn a career-best Beyer Speed Figure. Gets a class test for a barn that went 5 for the last 21 (24%, \$2.79 ROI) with horses making the second start following a 61-120 day layoff. **BIG CUDDLE** took advantage of a quick pace over a closer-friendly track in the Maryland Million Nursery. He beat two next-out winners, including Federico Tesio entrant Code of Silence. The barn went 8-for-25 (32%, \$2.27 ROI) with experienced horses getting Lasix for the first time. **BUDS NOTION** dueled with **CASEOFTHEMONDAYS** through fast fractions before settling for the place spot. Lightly-raced gelding might not have to work as hard to grab the lead here. **G Q WORTHY** was wired by an odds-on runaway in a slow-paced Colonial heat. The late runner is hoping for faster fractions to attack.

>> RACE 3

1. FASTFELD

2. VINO BELLA

3. VALERIE STREET

FASTFELD needs a Beyer boost, but she's hit the board in her last five, and seems equally capable sprinting or at this one-turn mile distance. Bobbled slightly at the start last time, tracked a quick pace while three wide and in between, was jostled in between entering the turn, waited for a seam, then rallied for second after altering course inside. Hoping for a solid late kick for an underrated trainer. **VINO BELLA** boasts the best Beyer Speed Figures, and looks like the horse to beat after chasing quick fractions at Colonial. Might have too much speed for this group for a barn that went 4 for the last 13 (31%, \$2.15 ROI) with horses adding blinkers after a top-three finish. **VALERIE STREET** (front shoes off for the second consecutive race) was wired by the favorite in a slow-paced event. Found a good spot tracking the three-ply pace, made a three-wide bid on the turn, and got up for second late. Can work out another nice tracking trip for a barn that had two winners here last week. **MODERNIS SILVER** dips slightly in class after battling for the lead with the 2-1 runner-up in a race won by a runaway favorite.

>> RACE 4

1. LORD'S LADY

2. ESPECIALLY

3. ENIGMATIC

LORD'S LADY tracked from the pocket, made an early rail-skimming bid into contention on the second turn, couldn't step with the favored winner, and settled for the runner-up position. Consistent filly has hit the board in her last nine starts, and might take back to make one late run against this group.

ESPECIALLY seems well-entered for her first start over the circuit after being wired in a race where they ran 1-2 around the track. Lemon Zest then hit the board in her next four starts, including a Grade 2 stakes race, with an 83 Beyer top. Demand some value as she returns from a 245-day layoff. **ENIGMATIC** steps up in class in search of her third consecutive victory. Prompted a quick pace (23.36; 23.41) from the outside, took over at will on the second turn, then drew off despite swapping leads several times in the stretch. Expect her to get close to the pace once more.

>> RACE 5

1. SHARMIN

2. PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

3. COACH MAZZULA

Curious to see what we get from **SHARMIN** as she returns from a 134-day layoff. She won her last three turf races last year, including a solid performance over course and distance two back. Set the pace while well off the rail in a race where they ran 1-2-3 around, put them to bed with a quick third quarter, and held firm despite drifting out. Like to see the barn work them a mile when they return from layoffs, and she figures close to the pace. **PROTECTIVE CUSTODY** ran very well over this course last year, and she received a fitness-builder in her seasonal debut at Gulfstream. The winner of that race then ran third in the Sand Springs Stakes with an 83 Beyer. Late-runner should receive a favorable race flow for a barn that went 5 for 21 (24%, \$2.18 ROI) between 2/22 and 4/8. Breezed inside 3-year-old Dark Assault (77 dirt Beyer) at Payson on 4/11 and finished a neck ahead. No real excuses for **COACH MAZZULA** last time. She set reasonable fractions (26.43 second quarter) before giving way. The pace will likely be quicker this time, so perhaps the lightly-raced filly will adopt rating tactics. HER MAJESTY broke slowly at Sam Houston, but took advantage of a quick pace to graduate. She has upside and is another that benefits from fast early fractions. Cruz departs for Jittier Girl. WAR BELLE took no prisoners when setting quick splits (23.37; 23.88) at Fair Grounds. She's part of the pace picture along with stretch-out sprinter JITTIER GIRL, who stretches out and switches surfaces after beating a weaker field at Turfway.

>> RACE 6

1. BRUNO

2. TAX AND TAGS

3. MIZNER

BRUNO was well-meant for his debut. Broke slowly, rushed up to duel with the 5-1 last-finisher, put that one away, and was kicked down by the more-experienced favorite. That pace rival returned to graduate for the statebred waiver with a 73 Beyer. Expecting a more patient ride this time. Toledo lands here instead of Tax and Tags and Dr. Buzzy. **TAX AND TAGS** (\$50,000 yearling) is out of a 14-time winner that is a half-sister to stakes-winning dirt router Saratoga Bob (83 dirt Beyer) and multiple stakes-placed dirt router Kaitain (92 dirt Beyer). Midshipman - Not For Love breeding nick produced multiple stakes-winning router (turf and synthetic) Anegada 93 turf Beyer) and multiple stakes-winning dirt performer Slip the Cable (won debut; 92 wet-dirt Beyer). Tough post, but he breezed in company on 4/4 with Federico Tesio entrant Close the Gate. **MIZNER** gave a nice try in first following a 189-day break. Chased the pacesetting winner's moderate fractions and almost grabbed second. Ramajay then ran third in a first-level allowance at Tampa with a 71 Beyer. The barn went 7 for the last 25 (28%, \$2.20 ROI) with second-time Lasix users in the second following a 180-365-day layoff. Expect a nice late

rally. Expect speed from COOL CUSTOMER, who set legitimate fractions in his first off the claim before succumbing to an odds-on winner. HOLY MOLY MITOLE (\$27,000 yearling; \$51,000 May juvenile) is out of Uruguayan Group 1-winning dirt router Sexy Reasons (won first three starts).

>> RACE 7

1. RIBALTAGAIA

2. SUMMERINTAHOE

3. CURLIN'S ANGEL

RIBALTAGAIA made the lead pretty easily in the Violet at Monmouth last summer, but was kicked down in the stretch by co-favored Breath Away, who then hit the board in two graded stakes with a 93 Beyer top. She showed the ability to rate and finish in her career debut in France, and might try to find some cover in the early stages. Breezed an easy five-eighths over the synthetic at Fair Hill on 4/12. **SUMMERINTAHOE** also faces a lengthy layoff, but her early speed should put her right up front in the early stages. Beat three next-out winners when wiring them in her final start last year (the fourth-finisher won a second-level allowance at Keeneland with an 88 Beyer). **CURLIN'S ANGEL** stalked three wide, made a four-wide bid into a quick third quarter in 23.74, and flattened out in a race where they ran 1-2 around. The third-finisher then took a first-level allowance at Aqueduct with an 83 Beyer. Lightly-raced mare provides a strong late bid.

>> RACE 8

1. SCHWARZMEIER

2. JEAN VALJEAN

3. DETERMINED KINGDOM

We'll learn more about **SCHWARZMEIER** as he steps back up against stakes company following a big-figure victory against second-level allowance foes at Fair Grounds. Cleared off to set a quick opening quarter of 21.32, and had no problems with that group in the stretch. Perhaps he's the speed of the speed for a barn that went 11 for the last 40 (28%, \$4.95 ROI) with last-out winners returning from 61-120 day layoffs. **JEAN VALJEAN**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (injured) on 5/4, returns from a whopping 525-day layoff, but he also has a good amount of early speed. Easily grabbed the lead at Aqueduct last time, came off the rail into the stretch, and stayed on gamely for a minor award. Alogon came out of that race to hit the board in four of his next five starts with a 97 Beyer top. There's a chance this pace gets hot, and **DETERMINED KINGDOM** would benefit from that scenario. Faced Dhabab last time, and that foe then placed in a high-level Churchill exacta with a 96 Beyer. The barn went 5 for the last 15 (33%, \$4.93 ROI) with horses removing Lasix. KING COVEE has an underrated kick and can charge late at a price. Cruz departs for CHASING LIBERTY.

>> RACE 9

1. JUMPING THE GUN

2. A. P.'S GIRL

3. THREE SIXTY

JUMPING THE GUN ran very well for second in the Grade 2 Demoiselle behind odds-on Zany, who then hit the board in her next two starts, including the Grade 1 Ashland with an 83 Beyer top. Tracked from the pocket, was urged along on the second turn, split rivals in the upper stretch, and refused to yield the runner-up position. Must avoid losing too much ground with the short run into the first turn. **A. P.'S GIRL** pressed the 7-2 runner-up's slow pace from the outside, took over turning for home, then changed back to her left lead while drawing away. This is a tougher spot from a class and pace perspective, but expecting her to revert to the closing tactics that worked well in her maiden win. This barn went 6 for the last 23 (26%, \$2.34 ROI) between 3/21 and 4/12. Breezed an easy half-mile at Keeneland on 4/7 while changing back to her left lead before the second wire. **THREE SIXTY** set a four-ply pace from the rail, cleared off after a sharp second quarter in 23.56, and drew off despite swapping leads several times in the stretch. The third-finisher then graduated in a Colonial maiden special with a 68 Beyer. She might be quick enough to make the lead.

>> RACE 10

1. CRUISE THE NILE

2. KING SIZE

3. NAPTOWN

CRUISE THE NILE set the pace in a second-level allowance at Gulfstream, displayed a nice turn of foot through a quick third quarter in 22.70, then stayed strong to notch his third consecutive victory. This is a pretty big class hike, but he has upside and might be as effective sitting off the leaders if necessary. Breezed in company on 4/12 with 4-year-old Light Mood (stakes-placed in France; 74 Beyer top), finished a head back, and galloped out in front for a barn that already has four winners this month. **KING SIZE** is also unbeaten around two turns and receives a pace and class test. This barn went 8 for the last 33 (24%, \$2.67 ROI) when moving from synthetic to turf. This pace should get hot, and that helps **NAPTOWN**, who returns to his preferred surface for his second start of the year. This barn sent out 49-1 winner Union Fleet on 4/11. NEAT was plagued by poor racing luck for most of last year, and he ran on pretty well in his return from a seven-month layoff. Give him a good trip, and he'll kick well in the stretch. HORSEPOWER hit the board in his last four starts. The third-finisher from his last race then placed in a \$50,000 starter-optional with an 88 Beyer. He's part of the pace along with MISCHIEVOUS ANGEL, who repeats the sprint to route move that resulted in his runner-up effort in this race last year.

>> RACE 11

1. CODE OF SILENCE

2. TAJ MAHAL

3. VOLENDAM

CODE OF SILENCE tracked outside at the back in the Private Terms, made an early three-wide bid to grab the lead in the upper stretch, then might have lost his focus just a bit when giving up that late advantage. Think he'll sit back and make one run stretching out to nine furlongs. Unbeaten **TAJ MAHAL** looks like the one to down after wiring them in the Private Terms. Cleared off to set an uncontested pace on the backstretch, took some pressure entering the turn, then refused to yield when beating three of these. Tactical enough to get close to the pace despite this tough outside draw for a barn that went 12 for the last 55 (22%, \$2.07 ROI) with last-out winners making their third lifetime start. **VOLENDAM** tracked from the pocket, was shuffled back to midpack, split rivals three wide into the stretch, then drew away in a nice-looking synthetic debut. There is dirt and some stamina in this pedigree, and he should show good early foot.

>> RACE 12

1. MIDNIGHTLOVEAFFAIR

2. WHATAREWEDOING

3. BALLYKEEFE

MIDNIGHTLOVEAFFAIR returns to the Levine barn for the first time since a good runner-up effort on grass last fall in New York. Squeezed at the start that day, tracked a quick pace outside, was on hold along the fence on the turn, eased out in the lane, and was second best inside the rallying winner. Finished behind Brittany's Way last time at Gulfstream, and that foe then took a \$35,000 "non-two" claimer with a 68 Beyer. Barn has four winners since 3/20. **WHATAREWEDOING** switches surfaces out of stakes-placed turf sprinter She's All Skeet (86 turf Beyer). The 4/11 work matches the barn's 6-year-old gelding McCullough (89 turf Beyer). Perhaps they breezed in company for a barn that went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$4.47 ROI) with last-out maiden winners trying turf for the first time. **BALLYKEEFE** broke well, tracked a quick pace four wide, was urged along on the turn, and finished evenly in between. She should receive a solid pace to attack with Lasix on. HIDDEN QUARRY might be set for her best in the third start following a three-month break. She should show speed. CHITCHITCHAT was hurt by a poor start at Gulfstream, a race that produced next-out winner I'mwishingonastar (69 Beyer on statebred first-level allowance on Tapeta). Her late kick plays well in this spot.

KALI'S KEY – by Kali Francois

Race 7: #1: Calamity - 8/1

A first-time turf Brendan Walsh at 8/1? This won't stick around long. She's won at two turns with two different styles (we love), and has also proven herself to be gutsy (three back). When it comes to turf breeding, it's there: half-sibling Stamkos missing winning his first start going long got the turf by a head and the dam won her third try in a KEE MSW going 1 3/16 on the grass for Christophe Clement.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Christmas Jones gets one more chance from me, after a few near misses the class relief could go a long way. One to keep an eye on for value is Ashwee. This filly had a troubled start and quick recovery on debut, cruising up to challenge a gate-to-wire winner dropping in from NY. Pedigree and price both work for me here.

R2: Two time winners go a long way in this type of race, especially when you have a stakes winner. Big Cuddle signaled his readiness for return with a bullet gate work, and he's guaranteed pace to ran at with stablemate Bud's Notion. The other 2x winner and proven closer is Palacios, who wowed me last out. The way he looked in the turn of that race, well, it's written on the page with an 85 Beyer.

R3: It feels like the type of group where a stranger might surprise, I look to l'mamaterialgirl as a possibility. A recent gate work, leading rider, and a half sibling who won on debut caught my eye. Valarie Street could be overlooked with the class relief on the rail, worth noting that she has yet to try sprinting on a fast track since adding Lasix.

R4: I didn't expect to land with Especially but after looking a bit deeper, she has a few excuses that I'm willing to forgive. The one-turn mile could present a more straight forward approach for her here today. The biggest question in this group: can Enigmatic make it three in a row? Honestly, her style from last out makes me think it is possible.

R5: Mambo Queen is a 3x winner who may need some forgiveness on her form. She impressed with the last outing, where she stayed close to strong internals and took command. Today's setup may allow for a repeat. Protective Custody should benefit from the pace setup she finds here, along with a second start off the bench. Some concern for her lack of a late kick, Boyce could make up for this with the trip.

R6: Bruno wasted no time on debut and sustained very well, just missing out to an experienced closer in the end. Worth noting, the debut effort was over a second faster than the Clm25 which ran immediately after. Mizner has every reason to benefit from his second start off the bench but I find some concern with him shortening up to the 5.5f distance. I wouldn't be surprised to see him benefit from added ground in the future.

R7: An alternative to the favorite, Mahra's Love looked to be finding her best strides when stretching out to middle distances in GB before transferring to the States. I like to give them a start here before passing judgement, her second outing could move things in the right direction. That being said, Summerintahoe looks to be the controlling speed, and I can't imagine she backs down easily.

R8: There is no shortage of speed in this group and the early stages of this race could be critical to the outcome. I look to the local horse, Had to Have Him, who returned a different type in 2025 after being gelded. His tactical speed and comfortable post position could work at the 6-1 ML odds. As for the speed, Doncho is hard to deny, just a question of whether the long stretch will do him in here. If Jean Valjean, picks up where he left off, he could cruise right along with Doncho.

R9: Miss Fulton Gal was able to handle shortening up last out and should appreciate getting back to 2-turns here today. Similar to Pay Billy from 2025, this filly looks to be peaking at just the right time. Jumping the Gun makes plenty of sense based on her 2 y/o campaign, but I have to give her room for a first start off the bench. Nonetheless, it is great to see her back in the afternoon.

R10: While Cruise the Nile may end up a short price, this race looks a wide open affair. With an abundance of speed in this group, it looks to be a bit more of a rider and trip race. Baby Max is the right price and opts to run here instead of the G1 Makers Mark Mile he was nominated to. Horsepower looks to be plenty tactical and may benefit from the slight cutback in distance here, try to demand at least 5-1 on him.

R11: Wild Warrior has a big gap to bridge with the undefeated Taj Mahal, however, his willingness was on full display in the Private Terms last out. Hard to deny he has room to improve at a reasonable price. Regardless, the race does look to run through Taj Mahal. While he has a few questions to answer in just his third start, I like that they set him up fairly with a race over his home track.

R12: Chitchatchitchat gets back to the turf where we saw her best work 2-back, which has produced improving next out performances. With a clean trip, she should appreciate the 5.5f distance and 3rd off the bench. Whatarewedoing has to answer a few questions, but the muddy track win and stakes placed turf sprinting mare suggest she might be better on the grass.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#9 - Christmas Jones

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

First After 180-365 Days, Turf: 8 for 41 (20%, \$2.22 ROI)

RACE 2

#2 - Big Cuddle

Trainer: Gary Capuano

Experienced Horses, First Lasix: 8 for 25 (32%, \$2.27 ROI)

#4 - Palacios

Trainer: John Salzman Jr.

Second After 61-120 Days: 5 for 21 (24%, \$2.79 ROI)

RACE 3

#1 - Vino Bella

Trainer: Michael Stidham

First After Top 3 Finish, Blinkers On: 4 for 13 (31%, \$2.15 ROI)

RACE 5

#11 - Protective Custody

Trainer: Shug McGaughey

Between 2/22 and 4/8: 5 for 21 (24%, \$2.18 ROI)

RACE 6

#7 - Mizner

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Second After 180-365 Days, Second Lasix: 7 for 25 (28%, \$2.20 ROI)

RACE 8

#10 - Schwarzmeier

Trainer: Peter Eurton

Last-Out Winner, First After 61-120 Days: 11 for 40 (28%, \$4.95 ROI)

#11 - Determined Kingdom

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

Lasix Off: 5 for 15 (33%, \$4.93 ROI)

RACE 9

#7 - A. P's Girl

Trainer: Peter Eurton

Between 3/21 and 4/12: 6 for 23 (26%, \$2.34 ROI)

RACE 10

#9 - King Size

Trainer: Michael Stidham

Synthetic to Turf: 8 for 33 (24%, \$2.67 ROI)

RACE 11

#10 - Taj Mahal

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last-Out Winner, Third Start: 12 for 55 (22%, \$2.07 ROI)

RACE 12

#6 - Whatarewedoing

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last-Out Maiden Winner, First Turf: 3 for 11 (27%, \$4.47 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 (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#3 RADIANT TONES	Maiden Claiming 30K [®] , 6F, CNL, Good Dirt, 03/13/26 – 3 rd	Broke in, bumped; tracked honest pace into turn; was squeezed along racing to top of stretch but didn't have enough room to build as much momentum as would ideally have been the case; remained without a fully clear path when ridden in the lane, then took a notable bump which shifted her onto her left lead and checked her momentum a little ~1/8 pole; she then stayed on with credit again late until the rider eased up in the final 50Y, costing her another 1/2L or so.	A messy trip that entitles her to a small UPGRADE. Recon she'd have finished closer under different circumstances, and she may be returning to her preferred surface today in better form than it would appear on paper. Note: her last turf start (10/18/25) saw her close into a pace that held very well for 3rd – upgrade.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #1 NAOMI AND RUTH lost ground when floated out on the turn last out, which could entitle her to a small upgrade; however, she was also positioned close to the pace (which although was fast, held well) on a speed bias track. That may well have helped her stick around for longer than she otherwise would have done. Makes turf debut today. - The chart comment notes how #2 BELLE'S BABY resented the kickback on debut, which she did. However, she only climbed and lost ground because of the kickback for a couple of strides after breaking from the outside post, and we can't use that as a full reason as to why she ran below par. Makes turf debut today. - #5 NATTIE'S BOSS actually ran well for a long way in a strongly run 7F dirt contest on the dirt at Colonial last time. She took a light bump when tiring ~1/8th pole and was not persevered thereafter, exacerbating the margin of defeat, but could be suited by 5 1/2F on the grass today. - We can be very forgiving of #13 ROCK TALK's debut on the dirt because she broke from the rail and did not handle the kickback at all, climbing through the air and dropping back to a detached last. She then ran evenly through the lane and galloped out okay when out of the dirt. Improvement seems inevitable switching to the turf second out. 			

Race 2: OC62K/N1X Allowance, 3YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#2 BIG CUDDLE	MD Million Nursery S., 6F, LRL, Fast Dirt, 10/06/25 – 1 st	Bumped, steadied and pinched at the break which left him in a detached last; shifted out and chased hot pace into turn; advanced smoothly despite conceding ground racing ~5W on the turn; swung 6W into the lane with impressive energy, then continued his rally to win snugly.	We could downgrade this effort owing to the fact that he had a wicked pace to close into on a closer bias track (as was the case on debut). However, he also made a big move into the fast pace (that wasn't in anyway stopping at the time) while very wide on the turn after a rough start (UPGRADE). Also, the visual impression he left was very good – he looked to be a man among boys and could be capable of far more now adding Lasix for his return.
#3 BUD'S NOTION	Allowance, 6F, LRL, Good Dirt, 03/27/26 – 2 nd	Rushed up between foes, then took a very strong hold in front on the rail while taking significant pressure on the lead; put away pace threat and briefly opened up at the top of the lane, then met a fresh challenger ~3/16 pole; lost the lead to that foe ~1/8 th pole but continued battling gamely to hold 2 nd .	He did well to finish 2nd in this race (doing best of the speed) considering the fast, pressured and closer friendly pace that he'd dragged his rider through early. He's entitled to a PACE UPGRADE for this effort and could be capable of offering more if settling/rationing out his speed more efficiently.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #5 CASEOFTHEMONDAY's was the foe who pressured #3 BUD'S NOTION on the lead last out. He too ran with credit to finish 3rd and is also deserving of a small pace upgrade. He'll seemingly need more if he's to reverse form with that foe, however. - #6 G Q WORTHY is deserving of a tiny slice of extra credit for his most recent try at Colonial as he didn't have quite enough pace to close into (speed held relatively well). He finished up nicely however and galloped out powerfully too. There could be more to come from him with a faster pace expected today. 			

Race 3: Maiden Claiming 12.5K, 3-6YO (F), 1 Mile, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 FASTFIELD	Maiden Claiming 12K, 6F, LRL, Fast Dirt, 03/20/26 – 2 nd	Bobbled out of gate; chased hot pace from ~2L back between foes racing to the ½, then she steadied entering the turn and lost a little momentum and a couple of lengths; was shuffled back to last on the turn and forced to wait in behind foes (when she really needed to be building momentum); upped the revs on the rail when finding a little daylight ~5/16, then cut the corner into the lane and steadily rallied with a game attitude but missed.	With a clean trip she probably wins this race and she's therefore deserving of an UPGRADE. Stretching back out in trip today should be of no consequence. Respected.
#8 VALERIE STREET	Maiden Claiming 12K, 5 1/2F, LRL, Good Dirt, 03/27/26 – 2 nd	Clean break; tracked slow pace behind foes on rail into turn; dropped back under patient handling bend; angled out off the rail ~5/16 and came ~5W into the lane, then stayed on evenly for 2 nd before galloping out with credit.	Today's entry going long (trainer intent), her stride pattern (to a degree), and a few of her past races point towards her being more effective at a route of ground. She would therefore ideally benefit from a strong pace sprinting, yet she didn't receive that at all in this race (24.65, 49.35 for 5 1/2F) and ultimately did well to finish 2nd under the circumstances, racing off the layoff. Look for her to step forward now making her first start routing with Lasix on.

Other notes:

- **#3 MODERNIS SILVER** was keen early and weak late when sprinting 6F last time. She'll need to settle better if she's to handle today's mile distance. Note: she rode a speed bias two-back.
- **#6 QUALITY SWAG** was slightly wider than ideal when running on the slop last time but was not wide enough to upgrade her past the re-opposing **#4 FASTFIELD** (who also sat a wide trip and beat her comfortably).

Race 4: N1X Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Dirt**Other notes:**

- The chart comment notes how **#1 MOON CACHE** "steadied ¼" last out, which she did; however, she was already on the retreat at the time, and her trouble was not significant enough to warrant an upgrade.
- **#3 FABIA** had a slightly rough beginning when sprinting last time, but it in no way cost her the race and she ran as expected at the distance. Stretches back out in trip today which should suit.
- The chart comment notes how **#4 C C COMMANDER** lugged in on her way to victory at Colonial last time, but that sounds worse than it was. She drifted in a path or two and bumped a rival ~1/8 pole (possibly out of greenness) but was corrected and went back to running straight thereafter – it's not something we should be concerned about. Overall, it was a nice effort in which she overcame a wider than ideal trip (tiny upgrade) and her gallop out was decent, offering hope that she'll handle today's stretch out. Do note that she was also hard to load into the outside gate last time which kept her rivals waiting and may therefore have been beneficial to her.
- **#5 IAMDEPENDINGONYOU** was only ridden using hands-and-heels when beating three rivals last time and seemingly won with something in hand.
- **#7 LORD'S LADY** sat a dream ground saving trip on her way to posting a career best Beyer last time. Makes debut for Payne today.

Race 5: N1X Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#9 WAR BELLE	Maiden Claiming 30K, 1M, FG, Fast Dirt, 03/14/26 – 1 st	Broke sharp and assumed lead on rail rounding first turn; set hot pace (23.37, 47.25) while cruising under a tight hold to the far turn; remained under a hold while her rivals began toiling in behind; turned for home with a 1-2L lead, then powered away.	She won impressively despite having set a swift pace in this race that played into the hands of closers (2nd & 3rd place finishers were 9th & 8th, respectively, and 2nd call; 2nd and 3rd place runners at 2nd call weakened to finish 7th and 9th). PACE UPGRADE. She could have more to offer as she makes her first start against winners today.

Other notes:

- **#2 HER MAJESTY** won nicely at Sam Houston last out despite having given her rivals a head start when breaking very awkwardly. We should be slightly reluctant to give her effort an upgrade, however, because she had a very favorable pace setup as a closer thereafter and sat a great closers' trip too. Nevertheless, she retains obvious upside.

- In a modestly run affair at Turfway last time, **#3 FIRE'S OUT** lacked the late pace to challenge sprinting 6F, instead finishing at an even pace. It wouldn't be a surprise if she was to offer more at two-turns on the turf (her prior turf sprints also pointed towards turf routes being her best game; toss her one turf route when something was evidently amiss).
- Not quite sure how to assess **#5 BINT MISCHIEF's** last effort (2nd) going two-turns at Gulfstream. The rails were out, the pace was slow and speed held very well (1-2-3 finishers filled those positions throughout) which, seeing as she was positioned in a stalking 3rd throughout, could warrant a downgrade. However, she was also boxed in of the far turn and unable to build momentum/pressure the leader, which ultimately made life easier for that foe to kick clear late and more difficult for BM to oblige as the fav.
- Something was clearly amiss with **#6 SHARMIN** last out (stopped fast on the far turn, eased and laid up since). We can likely toss that race and expect her to bounce back returning to the turf today. To what degree she bounces back is the question, though.
- **#7 RUBY HAMILTON** was in tight quarters ~1/8th pole and lost a length or two as a result when last seen in November (tiny upgrade). She was beaten at the time, however, and up to that point seemed to have benefited from a good trip and the flow of the race (forward inside stalking trip; speed held fairly well with rails out). Note: her two back effort was upgradable – she'd very likely have hit the board with a clean trip. Returns off layoff today.
- After sitting relatively close to a hot pace, **#12 JITTIER GIRL** showed a very likable attitude and made a pleasing visual impression, driving away for a cozy maiden breaking success. She then galloped out well enough to suggest she'll handle today's stretch out in trip as she makes her turf debut.

Race 6: MSW, 3YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 MIZNER	MSW, 6F, CNL, Fast Dirt, 03/14/26 – 2 nd	Unhurried off pace; took closer order on rail rounding the turn, then gave game chase while up against the fence through the lane before galloping out in front.	MIZNER is deserving of some extra credit for this effort: in a four runner race, the 6/5 winner quickly scampered clear, then set comfortable, uncontested fractions in front making MIZNER's task of trying to run him down all the more difficult. He was also tightly penned up against the fence through the majority of the lane which a lot of inexperienced horses would have backed out of. He only just missed 2nd, galloped out strongly and a step forward second off the bench in a strongly run affair today seems highly likely.

Other notes:

- With blinkers added, **#4 COOL CUSTOMER** became very keen and probably did a little too much too soon when last seen, making it all the more impressive that he hung around for 2nd and briefly had the talented winner under pressure in the lane. If settling just a touch better under Vargas (and provided he doesn't bounce), he could be difficult to reel in back down to 5 1/2F.
- Regarding **#5 DR. BUZZY's** debut effort at Charles Town, the chart comment "blew the first turn" is a bit of an exaggeration – he drifted a few paths wide entering the bend but was quickly corrected and really didn't lose any momentum or ground. The result and speed fig seem fair.
- **#6 BRUNO** made a likable impression on debut.

Race 7: The Dahlia Stakes, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 SHEILA'S LION	Allowance, 1M, FG, Firm Turf, 03/14/26 – 4 th	Unhurried from inside gate; chased modest pace from well back to ½; angled outside and made progress despite conceding ground ~5W far turn; came 6W into lane, then finished with credit to dead-heat for 4 th .	With the rails set at 28 feet, it paid to be forwardly positioned in this even-slow paced affair; she therefore deserves a small upgrade for closing – despite a wide trip – for 4th, and may be able to offer more with a stronger pace to run at. Lasix off.
#6 CURLIN'S ANGEL	Allowance, 1 1/16M, SAR, Firm Turf, 09/01/25 – 3 rd	Away slowly from gate 2; chased pace from a detached last into and around the first turn, then became keen on heels as the pace slowed dramatically in front and the field bunched tightly; waited in behind foes on rail racing into far turn, then checked off heels and stumbled a little ~3/8, losing a little momentum; regathered stride and worked out into the 6P when turning for home ~6L off lead, then rallied but had too much to do.	HER TWO-BACK EFFORT. (Had no major excuse last time but effort was followed by a lengthy layoff, suggesting something may have been amiss). She was pace compromised in this stop start race that favored closers, and she also met notable trouble on the far turn. UPGRADE this effort. Returns off layoff with lasix off today.

Other Notes:

- As she does in her homework, **#4 RIBALTAGAIA** pulled hard in front when last seen returning from a layoff in the Violet Stakes at Monmouth when last seen. She did well under the circumstances to only just fail. Returns from another layoff today.
- Admittedly aided by a good trip, **#8 MAHRA'S LOVE (IRE)** ran like she (understandably) wasn't at peak fitness when returning from a layoff and making her US debut at Turfway last time. She could easily strip fitter and therefore improve returning to turf today.

Race 8: The King T. Leatherbury Stakes, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#11 DETERMINED KINGDOM	Allowance, 5 1/2F, KEE, Firm Turf, 10/18/26 – 5 th	Away alertly; pulled hard without any cover and wide, just off the leaders racing into and around the turn; came under a strong ride in the lane and hung in there for a while but was eventually out-kicked and found himself in a little tight between closing foes and brushed on each side ~1/16 pole which did for his chances.	In a race where two closers came to the fore, this was just an unfavorable turf trip – he had no cover and pulled early while losing ground out wide and was then in a little tight close home when already on the retreat. At the end of a long season, it's easy to be forgiving of this defeat.
#13 WHENIGETTOHEAVEN	Janus S., 5F, GP, Firm Turf, 12/20/25 – 8 th	Missed break; chased pace along the rail into the turn, then had to tap on the brakes and was shuffled back a touch as a runner in front of him experienced trouble in running; fully on the back foot from then on, he just ran home evenly.	With the rails out sprinting 5F at Gulfstream, speed unsurprisingly held well in this competitive race which, after a slow start and brief trouble in running, gave him no shot at victory. His best runs have typically come away from GP (ran below par in the 2024 Janus too), and we can be very forgiving (almost toss) this race, expecting more from him back over 5 1/2F at Lrl today (though he does have to contend with a wide draw off the bench.

Other notes:

- Having been outrun early, **#1 EAMONN** finished up nicely in the 5F Silks Run Stakes at Gulfstream last time and galloped out well too. He may benefit from having an extra 1/16 to work with today.
- The chart comment notes **#3 KING COVEE** steadied at the ½ last time. While this did happen, the steady was insignificant and hardly cost him any ground or momentum. He was also slightly wider than ideal (5W) entering the lane, but as a closer (who benefited from a great pace setup), this was not devastating to his chances. Returns off layoff today.
- **#10 SCHWARZMEIER** was very impressive at Fair Grounds when last seen: he blasted through fast fractions in front, remained under a hold until the 3/16 pole, then scooted further clear when the rider shook the reins at him. Visually he looked as if he could have a little more to offer; however, it must be noted that this race was a “merry go round” race in which the running order never changed throughout (exactly what happened in the prior turf sprint on the card, too), raising slight questions about the race's validity.

Race 9: The Weber City Miss Stakes, 3YO (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#1 WIRETAPPED** spent the entirety of her last start at Gulfstream racing on the rail which, throughout the winter, was not the place to be (potential upgrade). Lasix off today.
- Similarly to above, **#2 LAW SCHOOL** was on inside throughout in the Beyond The Wire Stakes last out – there was a possible outside lean this day which have have hindered her finishing effort.
- **#4 THREE SIXTY** looked far from the finished article when breaking her maiden impressively at Aqueduct last time: after setting an honest pace in front (borderline pace upgrade), she coasted into the lane under a hold, then shied out ~3/16 pole when the rider asked her to put the race to bed, flashed her tail when receiving a backhand ~1/8 pole, and then flopped to her left lead late on. She still looks green and therefore may have more to offer. Returns off freshening to make her first start against winners today.
- A half to GSW FORT BRAGG who looks to have found her best game going long on the dirt sin blinkers, **#7 A. P.'S GIRL** made a very nice visual impression when winning her second straight race at Fair Grounds last time and she will demand respect today. It should be noted, however, that she only faced three rivals that day and was forwardly placed throughout in a slowly run race (25.42, 50.67), possibly warranting a downgrade.
- **#9 MOMAXIE** lost her back end when stumbling out of the gate last time, but it's hard to use that as an excuse for her defeat – she recovered very quickly and sat a perfect trip thereafter.

Race 10: The Henry S. Clark Stakes, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 VOTE NO	Colonel E. R. Bradley Stakes, 1 1/16M, FG, Good Turf, 01/17/26 – 10 th	Stalked slow pace; hounded both sides rounding far turn; briefly bumped when outkicked entering lane, then received a very half-hearted ride to the wire.	A gelding whose strength is his stamina (stake winner at 1 1/2M; tends to be seen to best effect closing into wicked paces over shorter), he was in no way benefited from the modest-slow pace of this race as it did not place enough emphasis on stamina; he also met a little trouble turning in and was hardly asked for any effort through the lane. He's better than this and we can expect more today.

Other notes:

- If handling today's surface switch and the removal of Lasix, **#4 BARTLETT** may be able to improve on his last start as he was close to a fast pace (22.78, 46.11) that eventually collapsed and also running off the layoff.
- **#5 HORSEPOWER** ran a very nice race on the synthetic at Gulfstream last out, holding on for 2nd after sitting close to a fast pace (23.41, 46.18). The talented winner was also forwardly positioned, so it's hard to upgrade his effort too much, but other heavily bet speed horses did not fare nearly as well (extra credit). Note: Timeform US also has the track listed as being slow/closer friendly this day too, but this was the lone synthetic race on the card, so while it may have been, it's a little hard to say for certain that it was.
- Both **#7 CRUISE THE NILE** and **#9 KING SIZE** won with good energy and galloped out nicely too in their respective last out front-running scores. Both hinted that they may still have more to offer (KING SIZE was running off the layoff too).
- The 5/1 gate-to-wire winner of **#11 BABY MAX**'s last race established an uncontested lead early and then set slow fractions in front; although BABY MAX sat a nice trip himself the pace evidently made his task of running down that loose leader much more difficult, and he can be excused for his even-money defeat (borderline upgrade). Lasix off for turf debut today.

Race 11: The Federico Tesio Stakes, 3YO, 1 1/8 Miles, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 WILD WARRIOR	The Private Terms Stakes, 1 1/16M, LRL, Fast Dirt, 03/21/26 – 1 st	Away alertly from outside post; dropped down from 6P rounding first turn and stalked even pace under tight hold from 1L back racing to the far turn; came under a ride and remained at an even pace as CODE OF SILENCE drew upsides passing the 5/16, then found himself in tight ~1/4 and had to take up; resumed his chase into the lane but was then absent of a clear path approaching the 1/8 and so had to concede a little momentum switching out; from there, he very gamely rallied from 1.5L down inside the final 1/8 to score.	His trouble at the 1/8 pole didn't hinder his momentum too much or loose him many lengths, and the momentum he lost angling off heels in the lane wasn't huge, so we probably shouldn't upgrade this effort too much. However, neither factor aided his chances at all, and he was better in victory than the neck margin over CODE OF SILENCE suggests. He galloped out very well too and should be capable of improving on this effort with a clean trip and extra 1/16 to work with today.
#7 CLASSIC NOFTY	Allowance, 1M, CNL, Good Dirt, 03/12/26 – 4 th	Away slowly; dropped well behind early while not striding out properly; passed 1/2 ~10L off leaders, then began gathering steam on the far turn and made a long sustained rally to finish a close 4 th before galloping out well.	This effort was much more promising than it appears on paper: making his first start on dirt and running off a 232-day layoff, he did not look entirely happy in behind the kickback early (wasn't striding out great; likely reason why he dropped so far back) but then made up an awful lot of ground in a race that saw speed hold very well. He then galloped out strongly and overall left the impression that there is far more to come from him. Potential flyer at a price.

Other notes:

- **#1 HIXON** was floated very wide off the turn before going onto score last time. The eventual runner-up was the horse who floated him out though (and so also lost ground) in this four-runner race, and there was a slight outside bias this day too, so the effort is not deserving of an upgrade. A nice performance, nonetheless.
- **#2 VOLENDAM** made a very nice visual impression when breaking his maiden sprinting on the synth at Turfway last time – whether he's as effective going long on dirt is another question (gallop out was okay), but he looks a runner.

- **#3 CHAYTON** also made a nice impression when kicking away from a next out winner with good energy to win on the synth at Turfway last time. Lasix off for dirt route debut today.
- There was a slight outside bias at Laurel on March 21 when **#5 LET'S GO LANDO** finished 3rd in the Private Terms. He spent the entire race on the rail and therefore may be deserving of a small upgrade/pass for his defeat as the 9/5 fav. His gallop out was nice enough (not as good as **WILD WARRIOR**, though), and he may also benefit from the extra 1/16 today.
- **#10 TAJ MAHAL** settled much better than expected and could not have displayed a nicer attitude when winning the Miracle Wood Stakes last time. With that level of determination and maturity between starts one and two, he needs to be taken seriously (duh!) once again.

Race 12: Claiming 30K, 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Other notes:

- **#3 GRANUAILE** did not look suited by the mile distance at Turfway last time. Cutting back to 5 1/2F and returning to the turf should help her rebound as she returns to Corrales' barn.
- **#4 CHITCHATCHITCHAT** was slammed at the break sprinting on the synth at Gulfstream last time, spotting the field a couple of lengths. While we can't say that this was the sole reason for her finishing last (she recovered quickly and was never far away), it certainly didn't help, and the kickback also looked quite back this day, which she may have resented. Returns to the grass (1-for-1 over) and drops in grade today. Note: she lugged in through the stretch when winning on the grass two-back.
- At even money, **#6 WHATAREWEDOING** duly obliged in nice fashion off the layoff at Charles Town last out. There's no denying she was best in that race and she deserves respect today. It does need to be noted, however, that there was a speed bias present at CT that last day, which may have helped her in one way or another. Note: her gallop out was fairly uninspiring, raising questions about her carrying her speed an extra 1/8 as she makes her turf debut today.
- There was a speed bias present when **#8 TURKISH BREEZE** won courtesy of a forward ground saving trip last time – potential downgrade. Makes turf debut and first start against winners today.
- **#9 BALLYKEEFE** ran a huge race at odds of 94/1 when last seen in October, finishing just 1 1/4L behind the winner despite having been positioned slightly wide than ideal throughout and closer to the fast pace than three of the four horses who beat her (borderline upgrade). Adds Lasix for her return today. (The fast pace in that aforementioned race was set by **#10 FLOYNESS**, who simply went too fast for her own good over 6F. Returns to the grass (now with Lasix) and cuts to 5 1/2F back today.

Horses to Follow

R5: PROTECTIVE CUSTODY (6/1 ML)

Trainer Shug McGaughey endured a tough spell during Gulfstream's Championship Meet, going 0-for-34 between December 1 and February 28. His runners were seemingly under a cloud, yet PROTECTIVE CUSTODY still managed to significantly outrun her 15/1 odds with a strong effort when returning from a layoff to make her first start against winners in South Florida on February 21, finishing fourth, beaten 2 3/4 lengths by MAGGIE GO, who returned to run third in the Sand Springs Stakes next time. With the barn now in much better form (3 wins and 7 placings from the last 12 starters), plus a wicked pace on offer for her to close into over a course she's shown an affinity for, PROTECTIVE CUSTODY could take a meaningful step forward as she makes her second start of the form cycle against slightly softer company this afternoon, and 6/1 looks more than fair.

R11: CLASSIC NOFTY (15/1 ML)

At what's likely to be a huge price, #7 CLASSIC NOFTY deserves a second look in today's Federico Tesio Stakes. A debut winner sprinting on the synthetic at Presque Isle last July, this gelded son of CLASSIC EMPIRE then returned from a 232-day layoff with a better-than-it-looks effort at Colonial last month. In what was his dirt debut, he didn't appear to handle the kickback particularly well in the early stages and dropped himself into a detached last, leaving him with plenty to do in a race that strongly favored those up front. Despite that, he began to build momentum on the far turn and made an eye-catching, sustained move against the flow before finishing 2 3/4 lengths fourth, just behind the highly regarded CODE REVIEW and I DID I DID, who subsequently finished fourth in the G3 Lexington Stakes at Keeneland. Given the race shape, the kickback, and the long layoff, he had plenty working against him there, yet still shaped with promise before galloping out strongly. With that effort under his belt and an extra 1/8 mile to work with, it's easy to see him taking a significant step forward off that 73 Beyer and outrunning big odds here. One to keep onside in vertical wagers.

R12: HIDDEN QUARRY (8/1 ML)

HIDDEN QUARRY ran some big races going long on the turf last year, including a third-place finish—beaten just 1 1/2 lengths—in the 1 1/16-mile Boiling Springs Stakes at Monmouth. The grass looks to be her preferred surface, and with plenty of natural early speed, sprinting on it in particular may just be her forte—a discipline she'll try for the first time in today's nightcap. Dropping in class and making her third start off the bench following a good effort on the synthetic at Turfway last time, she offers plenty of appeal at 8/1 on the morning line.

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

BRUNO *(Entered TODAY at Laurel – 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 69 Beyer Speed Figure, and will be tough right back against maiden special weight company.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1 - Matilda Burnham: #1 - Naomi an Ruth; #2 - Belle's Baby >>> **Burnham rides NAOMI AN RUTH**

Race 5 - Angel Cruz: #2 - Her Majesty; #12 - Jittier Girl >>> **Cruz rides JITTIER GIRL**

Race 6 - Jevian Toledo: #1 - Tax and Tags; #5 - Dr. Buzzy; #6 - Bruno >>> **Toledo rides BRUNO**

Race 8 - Angel Cruz: #3 - King Covee; #8 - Chasing Liberty >>> **Cruz rides CHASING LIBERTY**

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

A recap of FRIDAY, APR. 17 action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piassek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: At the eighth pole, early leader Baltic looked like she was in fantastic shape to pull off a 12-1 upset, while **Brightshininglight** was spinning her wheels after saving ground off the pace. However, Brightshininglight got the message in the last sixteenth and wore down Baltic to win her second start off a nine-month layoff. Third-place finisher See Thar Bar was one of the few to make up much ground on the lawn today.

Race 2: Top Manipulator caused about an eight-minute delay when he ran off in the post parade. He was cleared to race and proved no worse for the wear after his misadventure, getting past heavily favored early leader Crossingthechannel in the final sixteenth to win at 27-1, by far the biggest price in the five-horse field. The second-biggest price in the race, 15-1 Our Day Will Come, rallied three-wide to complete the exacta, while Crossingthechannel faded to fourth.

Race 3: Niche, recently arrived in the northeast after spending her winter at Fair Grounds, opened up a clear lead and never looked back. 22-1 Irish Jig, by far the biggest longshot in the race, chased the pace admirably and held second. Brittany Russell-trained firster Rocker Roller made what looked like a promising move on the turn, but flattened out and managed no better than third.

Race 4: Another near-wire job on grass here. Whatsyourbigidea set ambitious fractions and finished second, but couldn't hold off the sweeping closing rally of recent Florida arrival **Lien on Her**.

Race 5: Poor Peanut improved to 2-for-2 lifetime with this win. He set the pace on the inside, fended off the challenge of favored Feels So Right, and held on over the oncoming surge of Dancing Denae.

Race 6: What Say Thee sat a perfect trip in the catbird seat off the pace on the rail. He came over the top of early leaders Hittheroadjak and Sardis in the stretch for his second win in his last three races.

Race 7: Clawless Brit was pressed on the pace from her inside by Loveliest, with Finch and Waittillmidnitehour waiting in the wings. However, she only got stronger as the race got longer, opening up three lengths in the stretch and holding on. She paid \$16.60 to win, a rare occurrence for a Brittany Russell-trained runner.

Race 8: Nancy Mary gobbled up ground in the stretch, rallying from last to first for the 15-1 upset. Spencer Tiara led almost the whole way, but ultimately got caught by Nancy Mary and settled for second.

Race 9: If **Bold Endeavor** lost, there would've been a massive late pick 5 carryover for the Preakness Preview day card. However, the inconsistent gelding showed his best self and delivered at 4-5, emptying the pot to one winning ticket for over \$37,500.

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