



HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SUNDAY, APRIL 19

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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

2. FAHNEE

3. OVER MY CENTS

First post time is NOON with a LOW 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **CHEESE**, listed as a Meadowlands vet scratch on 9/26, must deal with a seven-month layoff, but she ran a solid race when wired at Monmouth late last summer. Raced outside in midpack, was outpaced on the turn, dropped inside and cut the corner into the stretch, and had to alter course back to the rail with a good late bid. The sixth-finisher then took a \$7,500 "non-two" claimer at Meadowlands with a 65 Beyer. Expect a stretch kick for a barn that went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$3.18 ROI) following a trainer switch. Briceno lands here instead of Julie Belle. **FAHNEE** was unratable when attempting two turns in her final start of 2025, set very fast fractions, and understandably tired. She seems better suited to this shorter distance for a barn that went 3 for the last 14 (21%, \$2.09 ROI) when returning from 120-180 day layoffs. **OVER MY CENTS** has excuses for the lone turf try as she had been away for 312 days, and was wired by the favorite in a race where they ran 1-2 around the track. Her recent dirt form is good, and she has tactical speed for a barn that had two winners last week. EACHPEACHPEARPLUM deserves strong consideration if able to escape the Also Eligible list. Cedeno lands here instead of Vanaka.

>> RACE 2

1. REGENCY TALE

2. UPSHOT

3. BALD CYPRESS

REGENCY TALE dueled from the rail with two others, was urged along on the turn, then easily held second behind the prohibitive favorite. Might let others do the dirty work up front this time around, and should be tighter in the second start after 239 days off. **UPSHOT** was bumped lightly at the start, saved ground at the back behind a solid pace, eased out under urging, then got up for third on the far outside. He's only run in spots in both starts, but those were some fast races, and he should make his presence felt in the stretch. **BALD CYPRESS** gets a mulligan after being wired in a slow-paced race over a speed-friendly track. The runner-up then graduated for a quarter with a 68 Beyer. Hit the board two back when rallying on a gold rail. **SUMMERINTHECOUNTRY**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (unsound) on 4/4, should show speed from the rail after finishing ahead of Cool Customer (next-out second in a special weight with a 69 Beyer).

>> RACE 3

1. FREEDOM GLIDER

2. OXFORD UNION

3. ALL FRUITS RIPE

FREEDOM GLIDER, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 2/28, ran pretty well in lone turf start for this barn last year. Bobbled at the break, tracked three wide, made a three-wide bid from in between on the second turn, then passed some tired horses after popping to his left lead. Faced two next-out dirt winners that afternoon, and seems tactical enough to find a similar pace-tracking position for a barn that went 7 for the last 15 (47%, \$2.81 ROI) when returning from 61+ day layoffs. **OXFORD UNION** was bumped at the start on turf two back, saved ground behind a fast pace, squeezed through a tight spot on the rail in upper stretch, then finished evenly inside. Late-runner needs pace and race luck. **ALL FRUITS RIPE**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch on 9/21, must overcome a 226-day layoff. Found a good position stalking on the rail sprinting last time, eased out into the stretch, and finished evenly after changing back to his left lead. The winner then ran third in a \$16,000 starter with a 64 Beyer. Burnham lands here instead of Band Tour. **GORDITO** deserves a look if able to crack the main body of the race. **VIGNON MANOR** ran well for a tag two starts back, then broke through the gate and ran off for a

furlong before failing to threaten special weight foes. The last-finisher then ran third in a Tampa special weight with a 65 Beyer.

>> RACE 4

1. SWEET HONEY BEE

2. THE GREAT MAYBE

3. DIAMOND SUE

SWEET HONEY BEE was bumped lightly leaving the gate, tracked from the pocket, eased out into the stretch, altered back to the fence, and was game to get up for second. She can get close to a moderate pace this afternoon. **THE GREAT MAYBE** is the one to beat as she exceeded today's Beyer par in each of her last nine starts. Brushed at the start last time, she saved ground in midpack, split rivals on the turn under urging, then finished evenly in a race where they ran 1-2-3 around the track. Tactical enough to find good position while just behind the leaders for a barn that went 3 for 14 (21%, \$2.76 ROI) between 3/20 and 4/16. Cruz lands here instead of Tasty Time. **DIAMOND SUE** was squeezed at the start, tracked from in between horses, was urged along on the turn, and never threatened when wired racing a mile. She gets some distance relief here, but could use some pace to attack. **TASTY TIME** broke outward and was bumped at the start, was taken in hand to prompt from the rail, eased off the inside to press the leader under urging, then tired in the stretch. Her speed plays well here.

>> RACE 5

1. ALAKAN

2. EDGERTON

3. DRILLING FOR GOLD

ALAKAN, listed as a first-time gelding, didn't have the most comfortable trip at Gulfstream. Pinched back at the start in a race won in gate-to-wire fashion, he saved ground at the back, cut the corner into the stretch, then rallied while weaving his way through traffic. Nice workout on 4/11 as he breezed inside 3-year-old Turf Star (Grade 2-placed 76 turf Beyer), always moved in hand, finished a neck ahead, and galloped out several lengths in front. This barn went 4 for the last 12 (33%, \$6.43 ROI) with turf horses exiting a Beyer top. **EDGERTON** looked good when rallying from off the pace to beat Calibrate, who returned to win a \$30,000 "beaten" claimer at Fair Grounds with an 87 Beyer. **DRILLING FOR GOLD** chased a fast pace at Fair Grounds, and stayed on very gamely for second. He should show speed for a barn that went 9 for the last 20 (45%, \$2.50 ROI) with horses exiting a Beyer top and returning from a 61-120 day layoff. **SPRING DECISION** switches surfaces out of stakes-placed turf router Promise of Spring (92 dirt Beyer top).

>> RACE 6

1. KEEPING IT COUNTRY

2. BEACH COWBOY

3. TINY LAKE

KEEPING IT COUNTRY enjoyed an excellent trip and setup at Penn National, as he settled in midpack while they went pretty quick up front. Beat a next-out winner in that spot, and might have been compromised by a speed-friendly track when wired at Laurel two back. He'll run on in the stretch if the pace is fair-to-fast. **BEACH COWBOY** had a potential claim voided by the vet after just missing over sloppy going. Chased a quick pace last time, and should be squarely in the thick of things when they turn for home. Hazlewood lands here instead of Magic Spin. **TINY LAKE** saved ground at the back, eased off the rail under urging, and gave a one-paced finish behind a runaway pacesetting winner. **LET'S HAVE A PARTY** drops in class after facing odds-on Kerness K, who then won a \$7,500 starter by 9 1/4 lengths with an 83 Beyer.

>> RACE 7

1. CHILLY GIRL

2. DISNEY BELLE

3. NICK'S NOTION

Perhaps **CHILLY GIRL**'s recent improvement was simply the result of controlling slow fractions over a speed-friendly and muddy track, but she looked strong striding out in the stretch, and can make the lead again as she stretches back out in distance. There are some European turf influences way back in the female family, and the barn went 9-for-34 (26%, \$5.44 ROI) with experienced horses racing on turf for the first time. Gomez lands here instead of Sonic Sass. **DISNEY BELLE** owns a strong turf pedigree. The dam won on grass and is a half-sister to Grade 1-winning turf router Red Knight and multiple stakes-winning turf router Macagone (104 turf Beyer). Should show some stretch-out speed for a barn that sent out a 7-2 winner last Sunday. Barbosa departs for **NICK'S NOTION**, who was listed as a Colonial vet scratch on 7/17. Returns from a 303-day layoff, but ran pretty well on turf two back. Saved ground behind a quick pace, angled five wide, and got up for second. This barn went 30 for the 139 (22%, \$2.06 ROI) between 6/28 and 4/12. **PLANET CLARE**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick on 2/13), was purchased for \$22,000 late last year, and can show positional speed off the layoff. The sixth-finisher from her last start then ran third in a \$40,000 synthetic claimer at Turfway with an 81 Beyer. Chuan lands here instead of Go Mischievous.

>> RACE 8

1. WHO'S THE KING

2. REYNOLDS CHANNEL

3. MAJORCA

WHO'S THE KING had things go his way last month as he controlled moderate fractions over a speed-friendly Parx surface. Set a pressured pace from in between horses, cleared off on the second turn under a confident ride, and drew away driving. He'll find the sledding tougher from a pace standpoint, but he's paired up Beyer tops in his last two starts, and seems in career form. Also want to use **REYNOLDS CHANNEL** in multiple-race wagers after a nice try in New York. Hung out four wide every step of the way, he tried hard to miss by only a length. Should receive a favorable race flow for a barn that went 6 for the last 20 (30%, \$2.46 ROI) exiting a top-three finish. **MAJORCA** showed no rust when returning from a lengthy layoff, as he controlled slow fractions over a speed-friendly and muddy track. Not sure if he's fast enough to snag the lead here. **TONY ECLIPSE** pressed a fast pace from in between and lasted for a minor award. The runner-up then took a first-level allowance at Parx with an 82 Beyer. Figures up close to the lead.

>> RACE 9

1. READY AS EVER

2. BOLD STATEMENT

3. MR. HINX

READY AS EVER was purchased for \$25,000 at public auction, then went on the shelf for a whopping 531 days before returning on a new surface for a high-percentage barn. The dam is a half-sister to stakes-placed turf router Jinni (93 turf Beyer). Ness sent out a 5-1 winner returning from a 421-day layoff on dirt at Parx on 4/6, and is 8 for the last 31 (26%, \$2.06 ROI) with experienced horses moving to turf for the first time. **BOLD STATEMENT** returns as a gelding from a 183-day layoff, and might have been compromised by glacial fractions when wired last time out. The runner-up then graduated in a special weight with a 56 Beyer. This barn went 5 for the last 11 (45%, \$3.33 ROI) with horses returning from 180-365 day layoffs, and racing with first Lasix. There isn't much grass in **MR. HINX**'s pedigree, but he ran pretty well when wired in his debut, then was no match for a runaway winner at Colonial. **VAYA JEFFE** and **PLAZA DEL SOL** are automatic contenders if able to escape the Also Eligible list. **RIVER CITY RUNNER** switches surfaces out of stakes-placed turf miler River Gal (70 turf Beyer).

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Fahnee may benefit from her inside post and early speed, just a question of how far she can carry it today...but speed has been working on the turf this weekend. Gripen has a bit of pedigree to suggest the turf shouldn't be an issue, and might just move her forward here.

R2: Upshot should benefit from added ground here, especially when you consider the company he tried to run down last out. A clean trip would have made a big difference in his final margins of the last trip. Summerinthecountry benefits from experience and may have found the right group here but I struggle to back him at even money.

R3: I have been waiting patiently to see Plenty on Tap try routing on the turf, he is out of a stakes winning mare who excelled in this setup. Vignon Manor is worth the intrigue at 12-1 with class relief and lasix. Last out he broke through the gate before the race and never seemed to find his trip.

R4: Hard to deny odds on The Great Maybe after her near misses at FG. Third start into the form cycle should bring the pieces together here.

R5: Drilling for Gold found his career best form last out with an 83 Beyer, just missing at the wire to a more experienced runner who came back with a 90 Beyer. Both Koru and Zevon impressed me throughout the 2025 season, both reasonable prices here and worth strong consideration.

R6: Hard to deny Beach Cowboy when he lands outside and has plenty of opportunities to dictate terms in this group. He just missed last out to a horse with plenty of back class. Keeping It Country has had trouble working a trip in recent starts, after seeing him jump back into form last out, I suspect he can continue building on it here.

R7: Pegster stepped up willingly after notching her maiden win in her 2nd off the bench of 2025 and looks competitively placed for her return today. Don't be fooled, she has a race under her belt already from the Old Dominion point to point. Kataarzyna may benefit from racing recency, with her inside draw and tactical ability, she looks like a reasonable price that will stick around.

R8: Reynolds Channel transfers in from NY with strong form, a fresh group of faces should benefit him. Straight to Water seems to be finding more versatility after his winning two-turn effort last out. He is tactical enough against this group that he should be able to work the right trip.

R9: Modranach arrives first off the claim and has reason to benefit from 2nd lasix and 2nd route today. Note, the 2 mile turf work and a bullet on 4/7 suggest McMahan has tightened things up for this first try on turf. River City Runner improved in the second start after being entirely outsprinted on debut. The distance and surface make a lot of sense for 12-1.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#2 - Fahnee

Trainer: Suzanne Stettinius

First After 120-180 Days: 3 for 14 (21%, \$2.09 ROI)

#3 - Cheese

Trainer: W. Thomas McMahon

First After Trainer Switch: 3 for 11 (27%, \$3.18 ROI)

RACE 3

#9 - Freedom Glider

Trainer: John Salzman Jr.

First After 61+ Day Layoffs: 7 for 15 (47%, \$2.81 ROI)

RACE 4

#2 - The Great Maybe

Trainer: Michael Stidham

Between 3/20 and 4/16: 3 for 14 (21%, \$2.76 ROI)

RACE 5

#5 - Alakan

Trainer: Graham Motion

Exiting a Beyer Top, Turf: 4 for 12 (33%, \$6.43 ROI)

#10 - Drilling for Gold

Trainer: Brittany Russell

First After 61-120 Days, Exiting Beyer Top: 9 for 20 (45%, \$2.50 ROI)

RACE 7

#6 - Nick's Notion

Trainer: Robbie Bailes

Between 6/28 and 4/12: 30 for 139 (22%, \$2.06 ROI)

#2 - Chilly Girl

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

Experienced Horses, First Turf: 9 for 34 (26%, \$5.44 ROI)

RACE 8

#10 - Reynolds Channel

Trainer: Amelia Green

Exiting Top 3 Finish: 6 for 20 (30%, \$2.46 ROI)

RACE 9

#4 - Ready as Ever

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Experienced Horses, First Turf: 8 for 31 (26%, \$2.06 ROI)

#5 - Bold Statement

Trainer: Jorge Duarte Jr.

First After 180-365 Days: 5 for 11 (45%, \$3.33 ROI)

TRIPS AND TIPS – by Will Humphrey, *In The Money Media*

Trip Notes - Recent performances that deserve an asterisk. All others: trust the past-performances.

Race 1: Claiming 16K, 3YO (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#13 EACHPEACHPEARPLUM	Maiden Claiming 16K, 5 1/2F, LRL, Good Turf, 11/08/26 – 2 nd	Stalked fast pace into turn; drew level for the lead going well 3/8; took command and opened up a clear lead in the lane; held healthy advantage to well inside final 1/16 but then flopped leads and was nailed by a fast finishing closer.	HER TWO-BACK EFFORT AND LAST ON TURF. On turf listed as “good” (harder on speed horses), the pace in this race was very hot for the class level (22.71, 45.94) and the race ultimately set up well for closers. She did remarkably well to hold on for 2nd considering the 1st, 3rd and 4th place runners at 1st call tired to finish 7th, 8th and 9th, respectively (two of those runners were fancied). This effort is therefore deserving of a PACE UPGRADE. Returns off layoff today.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considering the pace she set for the class level (23.50, 47.26), #2 FANHEE actually did relatively well to finish sixth when last seen trying a mile on good ground in November. She wasn't ever winning that contest though, and her natural speed points towards her being suited by today's cut back. Note: she suffered a couple of troubled trips sprinting on the grass last year. Drops in class off layoff. - Cut back to 5 1/2F for the first time, #3 CHEESE ran home very nicely to finish 4th at 19/1 when last seen at Monmouth in September. She could be suited by Laurel's long stretch run to the second wire over 5 1/2F. Blinkers on today. - #7 JULIE BELLE sat a very wide trip on the dirt last time, but it's tough to say that that was the reason for her defeat. Switched to turf today. Note: her lone dirt win and career best effort came in wire-to-wire fashion (the only time she gained the early lead). That may suggest that she dislikes kickback and therefore, could improve for the surface switch. Maybe. 			

Race 2: Maiden Claiming 35K, 3-6YO, 7 Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#2 BALD CYPRESS	Maiden Claiming 25K, 7F, LRL, Muddy Dirt, 03/07/26 – 3 rd	Patiently handled chasing slow pace in a detached last into turn; advanced along rail bend, then switched out in the lane and continued chasing the top two home gamely.	Racing off the layoff, he had no pace to close into (considering other times on the day) and was racing against a significant speed bias (23.86, 47.21; speed held very well). Second out and under different circumstances, it would be disappointing if he could step forward (maybe significantly) on this effort.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the second time in as many starts, #6 UPSHOT ran in a manner to suggest he'd be suited by today's 7F distance when performing well against open MSW company last time. He'll demand respect today. Note: the short comment “steadied in tight quarters start, swung 5 wide upper” makes his trip sound worse than it was – his break wasn't that bad, and he lost nothing angling out into the lane. - #7 PAID VACATION was floated notably wide off the turn before staying on gamely for 2nd when last seen over a mile in March (he deserves a little extra credit for that). He was forwardly placed throughout over the speed biased track that day too, but the pace was hot enough that the race played fairly. Cuts back in trip today (which isn't guaranteed to suit). 			

Race 3: Maiden Claiming 16K, 3-6YO, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf			
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #1 GONNA MAKE IT stayed on at an even pace when sprinting on the dirt last out and then galloped out pretty nicely. That effort suggests he should benefit from the return to two turns today. Note: he was forwardly placed in closer friendly (fast paced) races two and three back. Makes turf debut. 			

- Regarding **#3 OXFORD UNION**'s last turf start (11/27/25), we can largely ignore the chart comment "brief wait upper" because it really was very, very brief (negligible). Overall, he sat a great trip closing into a pace that collapsed and played right into his hands, helping him run 3rd (potential downgrade). Returns off layoff today.
- **#7 VIGNON MANOR** sweated up, then broke through the gate pre-race before underperforming against open MSW company when last seen in November. He seemed off-color that day and is probably best judged on his prior turf tries. Adds Lasix for his return off the bench today.
- **#13 BABBLE**'s (AE) two-back effort sprinting on the dirt is deserving of an upgrade as he rallied against a speed bias into a pace that held well. Makes turf debut today if drawing in.

Race 4: Claiming 12.5K, 3YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 THE GREAT MAYBE	Maiden Claiming 30K, 6F, FG, Fast Dirt, 03/19/26 – 4 th	Settled 4-5L off the pace racing into the turn; advanced 2W between racing to the top of the lane, then stayed on evenly for 4 th .	Although the pace was even in this race and she sat a fine trip, speed held exceptionally well (top three finishers – at odds of 4/1, 7/1 and 25/1 – ran 1-2-3 throughout). She was racing against the flow for over half of the contest and is therefore deserving of a small upgrade. Drops in class today.

Other notes:

- **#1 READY FOR MAGIC** didn't quite do enough running to earn an upgrade for his latest try at Charles Town, but an asterisk does need to be placed by that effort because the pace was slow and there was a significant speed bias present, making her task of closing from off the pace near impossible. She's probably better judged on her prior efforts.
- **#3 MAP TO THE MOON** endured a fairly rough beginning last out. It's hard to say that, with a fast pace to close into and a good trip sat thereafter, it made that much difference to her result as a 99/1 shot.
- Prior to a solid 2nd place finish last time, **#5 SWEET HONEY BEE** had raced on a dead rail over a distance that was simply too far for her on 03/06/26. We can toss that race.
- **#6 ELUSIVE SIONNA** was quite keen in the early stages of her last race going a mile before showing a willing attitude to run 2nd. She has speed and cutting back to 6F shouldn't hinder her chances too much.
- **#7 TASTY TIME** failed to see out the mile distance in her last start; cutting back in trip today should be to her benefit.

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

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 ALAKAN	Allowance, 1M, GP, Firm Turf, 03/12/26 – 5 th	Slammed start and away slowly; patiently handled racing ~11L off pace; advanced steadily on rail far turn and then rallied through the lane before galloping out in front.	Although the pace was hot, with the rails set at 73 feet, speed held very well in this race run over the speedy Gulfstream turf course. ALAKAN was therefore racing against the flow from the get-go after being hampered at the start and did well to finish as close as he did - UPGRADE. Liked his gallop out. Gelded since.
#6 EDGERTON	Starter Allowance, 1 1/16M, FG, Firm Turf, 02/07/26 – 1 st	Settled ~5L off even pace; 3W first turn; advanced smoothly ~4W outside foes far turn; angled out 6-7W off turn into lane, then rallied gamely to win by a neck.	He overcame a wide trip to win this competitive starter allowance – small upgrade.
#10 DRILLING FOR GOLD	Allowance, 1 1/16M, FG, Firm Turf, 02/12/26 – 2 nd	Away alertly from outside post; crossed and took hold tracking hot pace 2-3W far turn; continued to pull and drew level with leader while continuing to skip through fast fractions back stretch into far turn; came under a ride upper stretch and kicked nicely into a clear lead; held advantage into deep stretch; nailed last jump.	This hot pace (23.15, 47.83) really set up well for closers. He did best of the speed (despite having pulled hard with no cover after breaking from outside post) and well to only just fail – PACE UPGRADE.

Other notes:

- **#7 LONG LEGGED LUIS** raced wider than ideal on the turn when facing winners for the first time last out – small upgrade. Note: he physically looks like he could be suited by the switch to turf (light frame).

- Not sure what went wrong with **#11 PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL** last out, but his effort was simply too bad to be true and we may be wise to assume something was amiss – he stopped very quickly on the far turn and was eased in the lane, exacerbating the margin of defeat. Returns to turf today.

Race 6: Claiming 7.5K, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#2 PROM KNIGHT** took a step back in the right direction last time (6F, LRL, 03/13/26 – 4th), though you do wonder whether him sitting relatively close to a modest early pace on a speed bias track helped him hold fourth late? Ideally need to see it again from him.
- **#5 KEEPING IT COUNTRY** ran home very strongly to win well at Penn National last time and is deserving of respect again today. It should be noted, however, that the pace fell apart somewhat in that spot and the race set up very favorably for him – potential downgrade.
- There was a strong speed bias present at Charles Town when **#6 MAGIC SPIN** last ran which, after a troubled beginning left him trailing the field early, made his task of getting involved much tougher. While he may have also underperformed somewhat, we can be forgiving of the defeat. Note: he was also running off just 5 days rest.
- Similarly to above, there was a speed bias present at Laurel when **#7 FIND FAITH** last ran, making his life difficult as a closer in that particular spot. Given an honest pace (the pace was also slow last out) and a fair track, we can probably expect more today.
- **#8 SILVERBULLETTWENTY** lost his back end ~3/4 pole last time and was no factor thereafter. Something seemed amiss and we may be able to expect a little more second out today. He does have questions to answer, though.
- **#9 BEACH COWBOY** showed a nice attitude in defeat last time, battling between foes (often unideal) around the turn and through the lane while a touch wide too.
- **#11 SAILOR'S RETURN** didn't do enough running last out to warrant an upgrade, but he was extremely wide on the turn and into the lane which entitles him to a little extra credit.

Race 7: Claiming 30K, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Turf

Other Notes:

- After a rough beginning, **#2 CHILLY GIRL** was able to set slow fractions in front while also riding a speed bias on her way to victory sprinting 6F on the dirt last time – although best, this is a possible downgrade. Makes turf debut going long today.
- **#3 KATARZYA** was forwardly placed in a modestly run affair last time, which almost certainly helped her fend off the fast-closing 1/1 fav (who was tasked with closing from well off the pace) late on. It seems she was a little fortunate to have broken her maiden in that spot.
- **#4 GO MISCHIEVOUS** didn't do enough running late to earn an upgrade last time, but it should be noted that she spent the majority of that contest bottled up behind a slow pace on the rail which was not ideal. A stronger pace forecast, class drop and addition of blinkers could help her step forward today. Note: speed held very well in her two-back effort when she was forwardly positioned – downgrade that effort.
- **#5 PEGSTER** was boxed in on the rail rounding the far turn and then briefly hemmed in when searching for room at the top of the lane last time. Her finishing effort wasn't quite strong enough to confidently say she'd have fared better with a different trip (had plenty of time to hit the board when clear in the lane), but for a filly who seemingly lacks a solid late punch, lacking the ability to move closer to the pace earlier may have hindered her chances a little. Returns off bench today.
- The wicked early pace (23.52, 46.68) that was set in **#6 NICK'S NOTION's** last turf start (05/24/25) completely fell apart late and benefited him tremendously. Therefore, although he was wider than ideal on the turn, we should downgrade that effort somewhat. Returns off layoff today.
- **#7 DISNEY BELLE** had to steady back out of a speed duel when things got a little tight ~1/2 pole last time which didn't cost her the win, but did cost her 2nd (beaten a nose for that spot). Stretches out in trip for turf debut today.
- **#8 RUNSWEETLY** finished evenly sprinting 6F on the dirt last time and then galloped out fairly well – the extra distance could be her friend today as she returns to turf.
- Not quite sure how to assess **#11 BINT MISCHIEF's** (AE) effort going two-turns at Gulfstream (03/05/26). 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.

Race 8: N1X Allowance, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 TONY ECLIPSE	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 02/15/26 – 3 rd	Dueled through fast fractions 2W first turn; took additional pressure from outside foe when continuing to spar through fast fractions between horses into the far turn; saw off initial pace rival entering far turn, dropped to rail and continued to battle for lead into lane, then stuck to his task gamely but could not go with the top two.	A tricky trip in which he was sandwiched between foes after dueling around the first turn; this meant that he was unable to relax or take back off the heated tempo (23.87, 47.67), ultimately setting thing up well for the off-the-pace winner. He did well to hold on for 3rd under the circumstances and is deserving of an UPGRADE. He could well improve on this effort (especially if the pace is softer) today as he makes his third start off the bench.
#7 STRAIGHT TO WATER	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 03/22/26 – 1 st	Broke sharp, then settled 3-4W first turn; patiently tracked slow pace from ~4L back racing to far turn; made smooth progress under minimal urging while 4-5W far turn; drew level for lead upper stretch, then bravely fended off the stubborn 8/5 fav and got the bob.	He had no pace to run at in this race (25.42, 50.52) and also gave away ground while racing widest on both turns. Although never far off the pace, he did remarkably well under the circumstances to run down more fancied runners who were better positioned throughout, and it's easy to argue he was more comfortably best in here than the nose margin of victory suggests. UPGRADE.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both #1 JAMES P SULLIVAN and #2 BRINDANO were well positioned in slowly run races last time which may have benefited them a little exiting sprint. Both still ran well, period, though. (JPS clearly improved for stretch out). - Following an UPGRADABLE effort two-back (against flow, wide), #5 MARCAN LOVE won by 8 1/2L here at Laurel last time under just a mild hand ride through the lane (also 4W turn). He seemingly has more to offer. Makes debut for Robb today. - #6 WHO'S THE KING hit the line with good energy at Parx last out and appeared to gallop out nicely too (video cuts short). It wouldn't be a surprise if he was to move forward off his paired-up Beyer tops (88) today. - #8 MAJORCA established an uncontested lead and set slow fractions in front while also riding a strong speed bias on his way to victory last time. While he may have been best regardless and is entitled to strip fitter second off the layoff today, we do need so downgrade his return effort. - #10 REYNOLDS CHANNEL sat a wider than ideal trip (widest of all) when running well at Aqueduct last time – small UPGRADE. 			

Race 9: Maiden Claiming 35K, 3-6YO, 1 Mile, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 BOLD STATEMENT	MSW, 1M, LRL, Firm Turf, 10/18/26 – 5 th	Restrained shortly after break; settled on rail ~5L off slow-pace racing into far turn; briefly waited behind struggling foe and lost a length or so as leaders began to quicken ~3/8 pole; turned for home ~8L back, then finished evenly on left lead.	Although his effort was only borderline upgradable (didn't really do enough late running), it's worth fleshing out this trip... with the rails at 17 feet, he had no pace to close into after being restrained early (25.22, 51.05), lost a little ground when unable to advance on the far turn, and then showed his inexperience by not changing leads in the lane – three things that made his chance of winning very difficult, opening up room for him to improve as he returns as a gelding (physically looked a big colt who'd improve for a gelding operation when last seen) with Lasix added and a much better pace forecast.
#13 PLAZA DEL SOL (AE)	Maiden Claiming 30k, 1M, FG, Firm Turf, 03/05/26 – 4 th	Shuffled back start; chased honest pace from mid-pack/rear on rail into the far turn, then dropped back as the race for home began; turned for home ~8L off the lead (more than the running line says), then switched off the inside and finished up very nicely for 4 th before galloping out strongly.	With the rails set at 17 feet, speed held fairly well in this race which, after a tardy and troubled start, instantly put him at a disadvantage (small UPGRADE). Not sure why he then fell back like he did when asked to quicken on the far turn (maybe just green?), but he did some nice late work through the lane and then galloped out strongly in front. We can likely expect more from him today. Live.
Other notes:			

- **#4 READY AS EVER** raced on closer friendly tracks in all his last three start, possibly aiding him last time and three-back (he also had a good pace setup three-back). Makes turf and barn debut off lengthy layoff today.
- After steadying at the start last time, **#7 MODRANACH** was left racing against a speed bias track when last seen; however, the pace was strong enough in that race that the contest played fairly (no upgrade). He also looked to be lugging out around the turn and through the lane. Makes turf (could suit) and barn debut today. Note: **#8 ITS ALL GRAVY** (set fast pace (too fast), gave way upper, eased late) and **#10 RIVER CITY RUNNER** (chased in mid-pack, dropped back rail turn, then stayed on evenly passed tried foes, decent effort) both also exit that race run over the speed bias track.
- On tape, **#11 DREAMSDOCOMETRUE** looks quite a “leggy” and light frame individual who may well improve for the switch to turf (and class drop) today.

Horses to Follow

R3: PLENTY ON TAP (6/1 ML)

PLENTY ON TAP’s lone turf try came in just his second lifetime start and yielded a Beyer of 40—a figure he failed to match in four subsequent starts on the dirt until running a strong second last time (49 Beyer). It appears the turf may in fact be his best surface, and now that he’s putting things together—equipped with Lasix and blinkers, neither of which were present for that lone grass effort—another step forward seems highly possible. With Hazlewood retaining the mount and allowing the Tim Woolley-trained gelding to get in with just 112lbs, plus a fitness edge over his chief rivals and a perfect inside stalking trip on offer, he could provide value at 6/1 on the morning line.

R5: ALAKAN (5/1 ML)

With the rails set at 73 feet, speed unsurprisingly held very well in ALAKAN’s last race over the quick Gulfstream Park turf course, compromising his chances as a deep closer following a troubled beginning. He did well to finish as close as he did—beaten just 1 1/4 lengths—before galloping out strongly in front, and that effort is deserving of an upgrade. He’s worked extremely well since undergoing a gelding operation following that run, comfortably handling GSP performer TURF STAR last week, and with plenty of speed signed on in today’s fifth, he looks to have an excellent chance of delivering at a fair price for the Graham Motion team.

R9: PLAZA DEL SOL (5/1 ML)

After enduring a rough start at the Fair Grounds on debut, PLAZA DEL SOL hinted at ability by rallying strongly against the pace flow through the lane to finish fourth, before galloping out strongly in front of the field. He looks to have much more to offer than that debut 60 Beyer, and if drawing in from the AE list, he should play a major role in today’s nightcap.

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

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

BRUNO

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.

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.

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.

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: Jean Briceno - #3 - Cheese; #7 - Julie Belle >>> **Briceno rides CHEESE**

Race 1: Carol Cedeno - #13 - Eachpeachpearplum; #14 - Vanaka >>> **Cedeno rides EACHPEACHPEARPLUM**

Race 3: Matilda Burnham - #2 - Band Tour; #8 - All Fruits Ripe >>> **Burnham rides ALL FRUITS RIPE**

Race 3: Yedsit Hazlewood - #3 - Plenty On Tap; #4 - Kitty's Son >>> **Hazlewood rides PLENTY ON TAP**

Race 3: Wilson Vargas - #11 - Soo Handsome; #13 - Babble >>> **Vargas rides BABBLE**

Race 4: Angel Cruz - #2 - The Great Maybe; #7 -Tasty Time >>> **Cruz rides THE GREAT MAYBE**

Race 5: Jevian Toledo - #7 - Long Legged Luis; #12 - Koru >>> **Toledo rides KORU**

Race 6: Yedsit Hazlewood - #6 Magic Spin; #9 - Beach Cowboy >>> **Hazlewood rides BEACH COWBOY**

Race 6: Paul Luna - #2 - Prom Knight; #10 - Uniwinner >>> **Luna rides UNIWINNER**

Race 7: Kevin Gomez - #2 - Chilly Girl; #9 - Sonic Sass >>> **Gomez rides CHILLY GIRL**

Race 7: Jeiron Barbosa - #6 - Nick's Notion; #7 - Disney Belle >>> **Barbosa rides NICK'S NOTION**

Race 7: Martin Chuan - #4 - Go Mischievous; #10 - Planet Clare >>> **Chuan rides PLANET CLARE**

Race 8: Angel Cruz - #2 - Brindano; #5 - Marcan Love >>> **Cruz rides BRINDANO**

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

A recap of **SATURDAY, APR.18** action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piassek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: Full Card, the lone first-time starter in the field, rated off the pace, took control towards the top of the stretch, and held clear to kick off Preakness Preview Day with a 9-1 upset. This was trainer Rudy Sanchez-Salomon's first win with a first-time starter since September 12, 2020. He had lost 44 races in a row with first-timers in the interim.

Race 2: Maryland Million Nursery winner Big Cuddle went off as the 6-5 favorite in his first start since his heroic performance last October. However, the "other" Gary Capuano trainee, **Buds Notion**, was best here. He broke on top and didn't look back. Big Cuddle, after another awkward break, rallied well in the last eighth and got up for second.

Race 3: The addition of blinkers helped 4-5 favorite **Vino Bella**, who made the front early on and took them gate-to-wire to break her maiden at eighth asking. Second choice Valerie Street gave her a challenge at the top of the stretch, but Vino Bella shook her off without much trouble.

Race 4: The 245-day layoff was no problem for **Especialty**. She made her first start for the Brittany Russell barn a winning one, converting a stalking trip for an easy 7 ¾-length win.

Race 5: Sharmin set an ambitious early pace, going a first quarter-mile in 22.72 and a first half-mile in 47.36. She tired from her efforts on the far turn, which set it up perfectly for **Coach Mazzula**. She ran 1 1/16 miles in 1:40.75, a new track record for that distance on the Dahlia course.

Race 6: Brittany Russell completed a natural training hat trick with heavily favored **Mizner**, who set the pace and never looked back. Holy Moly Mitole ran a huge race on debut, chasing Mizner throughout and holding second at 44-1.

Race 7: The first stakes race of the day, the Dahlia Stakes, went to **Summerintahoe**. She set ambitious early fractions, but had enough to give, holding off the dramatic late surge of Mahra's Love.

Race 8: Another grass race, another new track record! **Outlaw Kid**, making his season debut in the King Leatherbury Stakes, saved all the ground he could and charged through up the rail to get past the embattled pacesetters. He ran the distance in 1:01.59, the fastest time run at that distance on the Dahlia course.

Race 9: Ivy Girl dawdled in the early stages of the Weber City Miss Stakes, racing five or six lengths behind the rest of the field up the backstretch. However, she got going when it counted. She gobbled up ground in the stretch and won by a half-length over the pacestalking A.P.'s Girl. It was the second consecutive stakes win for the Amelia Green trainee, who went off at a generous 26-1.

Race 10: The 3-year-olds weren't the only future stars on the card. **Cruise the Nile**, a 4-year-old Jersey-bred trained by Graham Motion, served notice that he's a horse to watch with a professional victory in the Henry Clark Stakes. He drafted in midpack towards the center of the track in the early stages, while Jorge Ruiz sat cool and calm in the saddle. Ruiz timed his move just right and got up by a neck over Horsepower. He's now 4-for-5 lifetime and looks bound for bigger targets.

Race 11: Once **Taj Mahal** hit the first quarter-mile point in front by four lengths in 23.93 seconds, the Federico Tesio Stakes was over. He cruised to a dominant win by 8 ¼ lengths, opening up again on the final turn after some of his rivals closed the gap on the turn. He was supplemented to the Triple Crown for \$6,000 a few weeks ago, and that certainly looks like money well spent.

Race 12: Chitchatchitchat let her running do the talking in the finale, as she kicked away in the stretch for an easy victory. Seren Spirit chased the pace throughout and rounded out the exacta at 9-1.

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

