



LAUREL PARK



HANDICAPPING GUIDE for FRIDAY, MAY 15

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



KEITH FEUSTLE

KALI FRANCOIS

DAN ILLMAN

MACK PFEIFFER

JOHN PIASSEK

DAVE RODMAN

TIM TULLOCK

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

Today's first post is **11:30 AM ET**

****12% takeout on ALL Pick 5 wagers****

- "Today at the Races" morning simulcast show LIVE on X [@LaurelPark](#) at 10AM ET for late changes, today's top tickets and best plays.
- Follow the action throughout the day on your ADW, and on X [@PreaknessStakes](#), [@LaurelPark](#) and [@DanIllman_MJC](#).
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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. GOOD MAN DAN

2. J C'S BOYS

3. ISAIAH FIFTYTHREE

First post time is 11:30 ET, and there are low 12% takeout rates on Pick 5 wagers. **GOOD MAN DAN** must overcome a 202-day layoff, but he raced wide over a rail-friendly track in his final start last year. Tracked four wide, bid from that path through the turn, and finished evenly behind the three favorites. The winner of that race then hit the board twice in a row with Beyers of 61 and 74. **J C'S BOYS** stumbled at the start and broke outward in career debut, stalked three wide, made a four-to-five wide bid under urging, and passed a couple of rivals late. Expecting a cleaner start for a barn that went 6 for the last 27 (22%, \$3.15 ROI) with second-out maidens. **ISAIAH FIFTYTHREE** prompted the 53-1 eighth-finisher from the outside, attacked while three wide and in between on the turn, then tired after failing to change leads. Figures up and on the pace for a barn that went 7 for 16 (44%, \$4.90 ROI) between 5/1 and 5/10. **REGENCY TALE** battled with 17-1 Summerinthecountry (finished fifth) and 11-1 Guerrilla Magic (last) through quick fractions before tiring going seven-eighths. Perhaps he'll attempt to sit back off the pace this time. **DR. BUZZY** drops in class after being wired by odds-on Mizner over a speed-friendly track. **HIT ZERO** (\$95,000 RNA yearling; \$82,000 yearling) is out of stakes-winning dirt miler Victory Rally (82 dirt Beyer). **BOLD FACT** gets class relief after facing Sovereign Law, who then placed in a first-level allowance at Churchill with a 92 Beyer.

>> RACE 2

1. WITHOUT BORDERS

2. BIG TANKNESS

3. KOHOUTEK

WITHOUT BORDERS saved ground behind a quick opening quarter, eased out to split rivals turning into the long stretch, squeezed through a tight spot, and finished well with a solid gallop-out. Figures to get close to the pace, and might be racing himself back into shape for this, his third start following a lengthy layoff. **BIG TANKNESS** might have found a home on turf. Prompted a 14-1 shot from the outside, then stayed on gamely despite swapping leads a couple of times in the stretch. Another that should be in the thick of things when they turn for home for a barn that went 5 for the last 10 (50%, \$2.14 ROI) with last-out winners. Hazlewood lands here instead of Built by Khozan. **KOHOUTEK** is a tactical sort capable of working out good trips, and he's won three of his last four starts over this course and distance. This jockey-trainer combination sent out a 5-1 turf-sprint winner last Friday. **BENNY HAVENS** acted up prior to his final start last year, a race that produced War Humor (next-out third with 76 Beyer in second-level allowance). Kicks late if the pace is lively.

>> RACE 3

1. LONESOME ROAD

2. STATESMAN

3. MAJORCA

LONESOME ROAD, listed as an Aqueduct vet scratch (sick) on 4/25, broke slowly at Colonial, then rushed up to set a fast and contested pace (22.18; 21.81) inside the 18-1 runner-up before tiring. The winner of that race repeated in an allowance at Keeneland with a 96 Beyer. Repeats the sprint to route move that proved successful here two back, and the half-brother to multiple Grade 1 winner Mindframe might not have to work as hard to make the lead this afternoon. **STATESMAN** was away awkwardly at Gulfstream, stalked three-to-four wide at the back, was steadied slightly entering the turn, cut the corner into the stretch, and finished evenly behind the two favorites. Faced two next-out winners, with Vibe repeating in a second-level allowance at Keeneland with a 96 Beyer. He brings a strong late kick to the race. **MAJORCA** pressed the 13-10 fifth-finisher through solid splits (23.78; 23.87), then

stayed strong through the long stretch of the one-mile run. He's been on a roll since returning from a long layoff, but steps up significantly in class this afternoon.

>> RACE 4

1. BARZINI

2. HUNTER JOE

3. NOAH CHANCE

Demand value on **BARZINI**, listed as a Colonial vet scratch on 8/2, as he returns from a 310-day layoff at a reduced class level. Wired at Colonial last summer, he finished ahead of Incinerator, who then grabbed a second-level allowance there with an 86 Beyer. Pulled early to track from in between, altered course to the fence in the upper stretch, eased outside the winner in the late stages, and was making up ground. This barn went 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$3.33 ROI) with turf horses returning from 180 to 365 day layoffs. **HUNTER JOE** has a tendency to act cranky behind the starting gate, and there's a chance that he'll need one returning from a winter vacation. Tracked a quickening pace (23.62 third quarter) in two-turn turf heat two back, and the winner that day returned to finish third in Woodbine's Grade 3 Valedictory over Tapeta with a 92 Beyer. **NOAH CHANCE** performed well to just miss the last time he raced second after a layoff, and he ran on nicely to finish ahead of three of these when wired by odds-on Bushido in his seasonal debut. The barn went 3 for 10 (30%, \$5.02 ROI) between 4/26 and 5/10. Expect good early speed from TRANSACTIONAL GUY as he returns to turf following a gate-to-wire triumph. Conversely, POINT LIAM is a one-run closer that would benefit if this pace is very fast.

>> RACE 5

1. COUNTRY BUMPKIN

2. HARD STANCE

3. BRIGHT TIME

Wish there was a bit more turf in **COUNTRY BUMPKIN**'s family, but he is a full brother to one turf winner. Showed some ability when facing seven other first-time starters in his career debut. Wired that day, he broke a beat slow, made a four-wide bid into the stretch, and made up 4 1/2 lengths despite racing greenly. Wasn't away the best when returning from a seven-month layoff last month. This barn went 4 for the last 16 (25%, \$2.20 ROI) with horses racing second after 180 to 365 day layoffs. **HARD STANCE** switches surfaces as a half-brother to two grass winners. Had a potential claim voided by the vet after taking advantage of a hot pace to rally into third against two next-out winners. **BRIGHT TIME** is out of a half-sister to multiple stakes-placed dirt performer Aggregation (100 dirt Beyer). There's some turf deep in this pedigree, and the dam's best race came on the grass. This barn went 5 for the last 24 (21%, \$10.05 ROI) with first-time starters. CHIMNEY SWEEP finished ahead of Katmandu in his most recent turf outing, and that foe then compiled a record of 5-1-2-1 with a 67 Beyer top. Should show good tactical speed here. SE THAR BARR wasn't away the best in his seasonal debut, wound up outsprinted to the back of the pack, then made up late ground in between foes. Expect a late bid. RED SEA appeared rank when stalking the pace at Saratoga last summer. Altered course widest into the stretch, and made up a couple of lengths. The runner-up then won her next two starts with Beyers of 72 and 80. Nice fit at this level with Lasix on.

>> RACE 6

1. RESORT

2. DARING GRACE

3. SOTA SUMMERS

RESORT tracked the pace from in between rivals at Gulfstream, obtained the pocket on the far turn, then finished evenly on the fence with an okay gallop-out. This barn doesn't claim many, and they went 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$4.08 ROI) with horses returning from 61 to 120 day layoffs. **DARING GRACE** ran an American-style race when second over the synthetic at Dundalk. Showed good speed from the start, set a pressured pace on the fence, then tried

hard despite swapping leads a couple of times late. Breezed a half-mile inside 3-year-old filly Themis (47 dirt Beyer) on 3/7, finished slightly ahead, then fell back a bit on the gallop-out. This barn went 11 for 46 (24%, \$2.69 ROI) between 1/16 and 5/9. **SOTA SUMMERS** settled in midpack last year, then hopped back to her left lead when finishing evenly. Faced two next-out winners, with the runner-up taking a special weight at Saratoga with a 76 Beyer. Moves to the Russell barn, and they went 5 for the last 10 (50%, \$2.06 ROI) with horses returning from 180 to 365 day layoffs. GUM finished ahead of two next-out winners at Delaware last year, and the third-finisher then placed in a Monmouth special weight with a 75 Beyer. Perhaps we'll see some fresh tactical speed.

>> RACE 7

1. NAPTOWN

2. KING SIZE

3. SARDIS

NAPTOWN had a productive 2025, winning four races, finishing fourth in the Grade 1 Woodbine Mile, and placing in Aqueduct's Knickerbocker Stakes. He's had a couple of starts this year to knock off the rust and should get a solid pace to attack in the late stages. **KING SIZE** might have lost his best chance at the start of the Henry Clark when the speedster wasn't away the best. Give him a clean break this afternoon, and the lightly-raced colt should get close to the lead. Those tactics led to his two previous victories. **SARDIS** took a nice step forward in his circuit debut when finishing second to the favored What Say Thee. He seems adaptable to any pace flow. **MCCULLOUGH** drops in class with a good late kick and dirtied-up form. Didn't care for snowy dirt last time, and was wired over Tapeta two back. Ran very well for second over this turf course last fall with a competitive Beyer Speed Figure.

>> RACE 8

1. LIGHTS OUT LENI

2. LITTLE MISS CURLIN

3. TESSELLATE

LIGHTS OUT LENI was no secret in her career debut, as she took a good amount of money before speed-popping that field. Set the pace outside the 2-1 third-finisher, received a nice breather through a reasonable second quarter in 23.23, then sprinted home to beat Directive, who returned to graduate by 7 3/4 lengths with a 91 Beyer. Expect good speed for a barn that went 4 for the last 12 (33%, \$3.12 ROI) with last-out maiden winners. **LITTLE MISS CURLIN** tracked from in between horses, made an early lead change on the turn, split foes with a nice bid, and drew clear on the fence. She's tactical enough to find a good position while just behind the leaders for a barn that went 4 for the last 20 (20%, \$3.42 ROI) with dirt runners in the first after a trainer switch. **TESSELLATE** tracked three wide at Tampa, then was mostly ridden out as the odds-on favorite at Tampa Bay. The runner-up next placed in a statebred stakes at Gulfstream with an 81 Beyer. Expecting a late kick here.

>> RACE 9

1. BRAT PACK

2. ULTIMATE LOVE

3. COACH MAZZULA

BRAT PACK stalked a moderate pace from in between rivals, swung outside into the stretch, and was plain overmatched in the Grade 3 Herecomesthebride. The fifth-finisher then placed in the Grade 3 Limestone at Keeneland with a 91 Beyer. She can be a bit feisty in the paddock and post parade, but is a well-bred filly with some ability. Breezed an easy solo five furlongs on 5/9. **ULTIMATE LOVE** is the horse to beat after an excellent 2-year-old campaign that saw her go favored in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. She was bumped leaving the gate, saved ground in midpack, split rivals on the second bend, and hopped back to her left lead when in a bit tight in between horses. The fourth-finisher hit the board in her next two starts, including a win in the Grade 2 Edgewood Stakes at Churchill. **COACH MAZZULA** prompted the 7-2 seventh-finisher from the outside, attacked on the

second bend, and stayed strong despite hopping back to her left lead. This barn went 12 for the last 56 (21%, \$2.45 ROI) with last-out winners removing Lasix. Expect early speed from I LOVE GIRAFFES as she stretches out in distance.

>> RACE 10

1. WAVELESS

2. COMPLEXITY JANE

3. OURDAYDREAMINGGIRL

WAVELESS tracked three wide, advanced on the backstretch to push the leaders, made an outside bid on the far turn, and was too good for that field. She'll receive a class test in her stakes debut, but boasts a nice combination of stamina and tactical speed for a barn that went 8 for the last 22 (36%, \$2.80 ROI) with last-out winners removing Lasix. **COMPLEXITY JANE** cleared off to set a slow and uncontested pace in the Heavenly Cause, then faltered along the inside. Wonder if she's a bit more effective when she has a target to track. This barn went 14 for 40 (35%, \$2.03 ROI) between 4/9 and 5/10. **OURDAYDREAMINGGIRL** wasn't away the best in the Doubledogdare, made an inside advance late on the backstretch, and finished evenly on the fence. There's a chance she received a quick race flow. Expect early speed from LATE NITE CALL, who set the pace versus males in the Native Dancer. The runner-up then placed in a high-level Aqueduct allowance with an 88 Beyer.

>> RACE 11

1. SUNNA

2. LOST AND FOUND

3. STRUTHERSTUFF

SUNNA, unbeaten from two turf starts, set a pressured pace inside the 9-1 runner-up, then stayed strong in a field that didn't feature much from the back of the pack. Reformed claimer gets a major class test this afternoon, but she's quick from the gate, and should be in strong contention when they turn into the long stretch. **LOST AND FOUND** sold for \$140,000 at public auction, then paid immediate dividends two days later with a gate-to-wire score over Turfway's synthetic surface. Set a reasonable pace inside the 7-1 sixth-finisher, and always had a bit more in the stretch. Versatile in surface and running style, she fits very well from a speed-figure perspective. Keep an eye on **STRUTHERSTUFF**, who ran an excellent race when scoring around two turns last summer. Tracked a very fast pace from a loose pocket, attacked in between horses entering the turn, and kept on going. Beat three next-out winners that day, is proven at these shorter distances, and can come with a late burst. Perhaps SATURDAY FLIRT needed her last race, the first run in seven months. Stalked in between horses, then never threatened while in between and over in behind. The runner-up then ran third in Churchill's Grade 2 Unbridled Sidney Stakes with a 90 Beyer. LES REYS faced a good field in her final start last year, as the runner-up then won Turfway's My Charmer Stakes with an 88 Beyer. Have always liked her as a late-running sprinter, and she displayed a strong burst of speed to win two back.

>> RACE 12

1. YO DADDY

2. NAVAJO WARRIOR

3. SAN SIRO

YO DADDY stalked a slow pace from the outside, made a four-wide bid into strong contention, then drew away to win the Excelsior. He's a true stayer who can adapt to any pace scenario. **NAVAJO WARRIOR** tracked from the pocket at the back of a compact Gulfstream field, was urged along on the second turn, split rivals into the stretch, then drew away from odds-on Gosger. He can get close to the pace, and his grinding style plays well at this distance for a barn that went 34 for 133 (26%, \$2.04 ROI) between 3/26 and 5/10. **SAN SIRO** wasn't away the best in Keeneland's Ben Ali, saved ground at the back, swung six wide under urging into the stretch, then finished evenly behind the two favorites after being late to change leads. Late runner could use pace help for a barn that went 10 for the last 41 (24%, \$2.70 ROI) between 4/23 and 5/11.

>> RACE 13

1. A.P.'S GIRL

2. MY MISS MO

3. HOLLY'S HOLIDAY

A.P.'S GIRL stalked solid fractions from in between horses, angled outside to advance into the teeth of the pace, made the lead at the sixteenth pole, then couldn't fend off the late-kicker. The barn went 5 for 23 (22%, \$2.19 ROI) between 4/22 and 5/10. **MY MISS MO** set the pace inside the 31-1 fifth-finisher, and held second despite being very late to change leads. Expect an aggressive early ride from this outside post for a barn that went 14 for the last 47 (30%, \$2.22 ROI) in the third following a 61-120 day layoff. **HOLLY'S HOLIDAY** showed multiple gears when winning her stakes debut at Oaklawn. Broke well, settled into a nice pocket position, split foes turning into the stretch, and drew away late. This barn went 5 for the last 24 (21%, \$2.66 ROI) with last-out winners in the third after 120-180 day layoffs. **IVY GIRL** beat three of these, including the top pick, when taking advantage of that hot pace in the Weber City Miss. Pinched back at the start, settled at the back, eased out into the stretch, and kicked down A.P.'s Girl. Not sure the pace will be that swift here.

>> RACE 14

1. TARTABULL

2. STREET PARTY

3. HIGHER SENSE

2. XX

TARTABULL was far from embarrassed when trying a synthetic surface in the Rushaway at Turfway Park. The third-finisher then won the Grade 3 Lexington at Keeneland with an 85 Beyer before finishing third in the Grade 3 Peter Pan at Aqueduct with an 86. Ran well two back on dirt at Aqueduct, as he was bumped at the start, tracked from the pocket, angled three wide into the lane, and flattened out just a bit. Faced two next-out winners in that New York race, with the fourth-finisher taking two in a row with a 100 Beyer top. **STREET PARTY** pushed the runner-up's pace at Keeneland before surging clear in the final sixteenth. That runner-up then placed in a \$100,000 maiden claimer at Churchill with a 78 Beyer. He's improved since being gelded. **HIGHER SENSE** gets Lasix again after being wired over a speed-friendly track in the Tesio. Solid try with Lasix two back when chasing odds-on Pont Aven, and should be part of the pace picture. **NO MORE CALLS** was wired in a slow-paced race by a 1-10 older stakes horse. Much better fit from a class and pace standpoint here. **BALA DE PLATA**, listed as an Aqueduct vet scratch (sick) on 4/25, should show speed stretching back out in distance. Faced two next-out winners in that last start, with the runner-up taking a state-sired allowance at Parx with an 86 Beyer.

KALI'S KEYS – by Kali Francois

Passionate Price Plays:

Race 5: #12 Golf Cart Ryder - 15/1

Trombetta on the turf? No trouble there. (13-47, 27%). While having racing experience, this will be his first turf start, and he gets an advantageous outside post. A bullet work leading in is giving me all kinds of great signs, and you can trust Luis Saez to get the job done in getting this one up in the field! But the real sell? This one is a half to **YO ADRIAN**, who narrowly missed winning in her first start, which was right here going the second-wire finish at Laurel Park.

Race 7: #3 Noted - 15/1

Going back on the form, this one doesn't give you too much confidence about returning back to the turf. However, two of those trips were not ridden to this guys' particular style, and in the one that was sort of there? He hit the gate. Hard. Ouch. First run in the barn, Jamie Ness has the one back on track, and put in the right place mentally. I feel if you repeat that trip from the win last out and put it on the turf, and you have yourself a nice price.

Race 13: #2 Ivy Girl - 15/1

Ivy Girl's number per Thorograph is the best compared to any other runner in this race. I think she has more to show from that effort last out. She broke well, but two jumps out was completely shut out - not ideal for her particular sense of style. She's a bit of plodder - so with her having to make up so much ground and get the job done says something - and by the gallop out the longer distance will suit even better. Remember, she'll have a better trip. Don't be alarmed if you see Victor scrubbing early - she only gives and good as she gets and with particular instructions from Ameia, like every race..."keep pedaling!!!"

Race 14: #4 Make It Quick - 30/1

Strictly for a price underneath, this lone is bred for it. This one a half to Still Having Fun (G2 Woody Stevens) & Too Many Kisses (Conniver). An additional third out of four other half siblings first time routing? If they didn't win, they were just a half a length away from doing so. His connections state he can go all day with the way he trains.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Bold Fact is out of a mare who was able to win going 5.5f at second asking and ultimately handled the stretch out well. The back to basics move works well for this barn, I take interest here. Regency Tale would not go quietly when the closers reached him last out, cutting back could benefit.

R2: Reasonable 4-1 price for Without Borders, this gelding has shown speed but his willingness on the turf last out was compelling, he may not be a one trick pony. Not a race where I'll take too short a price on anyone.

R3: Lonesome Road makes his return to LRL where he is a perfect 2/2. While he has plenty of speed, he does have some questions to answer with the stretch out here. Derbyness, a 7x winner, looks to be sitting on his best race 3rd off the bench here.

R4: Noah Chance likely has an edge over the favorite with a start under him, his tactical speed could be key here. Have a look at Noble Jon for a price, he faced tough company throughout 2025 and the barn is 31% 1st after the claim.

R5: Se Thar Barr has only tried sprinting on the turf twice in his 6 career starts, on debut and first off the bench. I prefer the shorter distance based on the last outing, and he has every reason to improve 2nd off the bench.

R6: La Devita had a learning opportunity when things didn't go well at the start of her debut. A bit more ground and blinkers on could tidy up the trip for her, the protect move is encouraging here.

R7: King Size never had much trip in the Henry Clark, a race where front runners held their position well. He has every reason to improve again here. Worth taking notes on this group as several of the runners could flatter Cruise the Nile in the Dinner Party for Saturday.

R8: Tessellate draws just outside of the likely speed, setting her up to use her tactical speed. The slight cutback in distance is no concern for me. Lights Out Leni may not have the experience but the figures are on her side. She's one who I use but hope for a better price, a bit to prove in my eyes.

R9: Ultimate Love has been both professional and consistent in all four career starts, a true standout here considering she didn't have a great trip in the Breeders Cup. I can't quite bring myself to single her, Coach Mazzula is on the improve and has racing recency to her advantage.

R10: Margie's Intention picked up exactly where she left off, especially after she faced very tough company in her first start against older types in NY. Respect her even at a short price.

R11: High speed Julee's Legacy and Sunna are likely to fizzle each other out before the second wire finish, setting things up perfectly for the short favorite in Saturday Flirt. Prices to consider include Somnium (half to Caravel and Witty) and Sporting Lady (11/13 ITM).

R12: Navajo Warrior might be a single for plenty of people; his tactical speed and 50% win rate is hard to ignore. San Siro looks to be in stronger form than his campaign leading up to this race last year, hard to deny his chances if the day goes smoothly for him. I wouldn't excuse Maclean's Rook here, his second dam (Life At Ten) was a multiple G1 winning dirt router.

R13: I find it easy to make a case for My Miss Mo to revert to the stalking style we saw early on in her career. The inside post for her 3 y/o starts has likely forced the issue and she finds other speed to target here today. Should the pace melt down, Ivy Girl is the most likely to benefit, she is a perfect 2/2 since adding blinkers.

R14: Tartabull returns to MD and cuts back slightly in distance after a wide trip in stakes company. The one-turn mile looks to fit this one in style, his career best Beyer 2-back is complemented by the winner returning to win in stakes company next out. Close the Gate has faced Taj Mahal in 2 of his last 3 starts - enough said.

SPECIAL TWO DAY WAGERS!

Black-Eyed Susan/Preakness Double:

FRIDAY R13 – Black-Eyed Susan + SATURDAY R13 – Preakness

Preakness All Stakes TWO DAY Pick 5:

FRIDAY Leg A: R11 – The Very One Leg B: R13 – Black-Eyed Susan
SATURDAY Leg C: R11 – Gallorette Leg D: R12 – Jim McKay Turf Sprint Leg E: R13 – Preakness

Preakness All Dirt TWO DAY Pick 5:

FRIDAY Leg A: R10 – Allaire duPont Leg B: R12 – Pimlico Special
SATURDAY Leg C: R7 – Chick Lang Leg D: R8 – Maryland Sprint Leg E: R13 – Preakness

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#6 – J C's Boys

Trainer: Robbie Bailes

Maidens, Second Start: 6 for 27 (\$3.15 ROI)

#2 – Isaiah Fiftythree

Trainer: Ferris Allen

Between 5/1-5/10: 7 for 16 (44%, \$4.90 ROI)

RACE 2

#11 – Big Tankness

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last-Out Winners: 5 for 10 (50%, \$2.14 ROI)

RACE 4

#7 – Noah Chance

Trainer: John Robb

Between 4/26 and 5/10: 3 for 10 (30%, \$5.02 ROI)

#8 – Barzini

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

Turf, First After 180 to 365 Days: 3 for 12 (25%, \$3.33 ROI)

RACE 5

#1 – Country Bumpkin

Trainer: Kieron Magee

Second After 180 to 365 Days: 4 for 16 (25%, \$2.20 ROI)

#9 – Bright Time

Trainer: Milan Milosevic

First-Time Starters: 5 for 24 (21%, \$10.05 ROI)

RACE 6

#7 – Sota Summers

Trainer: Brittany Russell

First After 180 to 365 Days: 5 for 10 (50%, \$2.06 ROI)

#8 – Daring Grace

Trainer: Arnaud Delacour

Between 1/16 and 5/9: 11 for 46 (24%, \$2.69 ROI)

#9 – Resort

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

First After 61 to 120 Days: 3 for 12 (25%, \$4.08 ROI)

RACE 8

#1 – Little Miss Curlin

Trainer: Steve Asmussen

Dirt, First After Trainer Switch: 4 for 20 (20%, \$3.42 ROI)

#3 – Lights Out Leni

Trainer: Chad Summers

Last-Out Maiden Winners: 4 for 12 (33%, \$3.12 ROI)

RACE 9

#3 – Coach Mazzula

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last-Out Winners, Lasix Off: 12 for 56 (21%, \$2.45 ROI)

RACE 10

#4 – Complexity Jane

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Between 4/9 - 5/10: 14 for 40 (35%, \$2.03 ROI)

#7 – Waveless

Trainer: Todd Pletcher

Last-Out Winners, Lasix Off: 8 for 22 (36%, \$2.80 ROI)

RACE 12

#2 – Navajo Warrior

Trainer: Saffie Joseph, Jr.

Between 3/26 - 5/10: 34 for 133 (26%, \$2.04 ROI)

#3 – San Siro

Trainer: Brendan Walsh

Between 4/23 - 5/11: 10 for 41 (24%, \$2.70 ROI)

RACE 13

#3 – Holly's Holiday

Trainer: Kenny McPeck

Last-Out Winner, Third After 120-180 Days: 5 for 24 (21%, \$2.66 ROI)

#9 – A.P's Girl

Trainer: Peter Eurton

Between 4/22 - 5/10: 5 for 23 (22%, \$2.19 ROI)

#10 – My Miss Mo

Trainer: Saffie Joseph, Jr.

Third Start After 61-120 Days: 14 for the last 47 (30%, \$2.22 ROI)

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

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

Race 1: Maiden Claiming 35k, 3-6YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#1 GOOD MAN DAN	MD MSW, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 10/25/26 – 4 th	Clean break from outside post; stalked even pace towards center of track into turn; held position under hand urging in the 4-5P racing to the top of the stretch, then stayed on gamely towards the center but just missed the show.	A very likable second-out effort in which he sat a wide enough trip to earn a small UPGRADE. (Ground loss likely cost him a position or two). Returns off layoff with Lasix added today.
#4 REGENCY TALE	Maiden Claiming 35k, LRL, 7F, Good Dirt, 04/19/26 – 3 rd	Led early; joined ~3/4; pressed fast pace between horses 2W into the turn; dueled to upper stretch, then fended off pace rivals 3/16 and briefly poked his head in front but was quickly confronted by the eventual winner thereafter; continued battling hard in 2 nd until losing that place late.	Despite being caught in an often-unideal spot between horses, he did best of the speed in this fast run race (other pace setters – including the 8/5 fav – faded to last and second last) that set up well for off-the-pace types – UPGRADE.
#6 J C'S BOYS	Maiden Claiming 35k, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 04/12/26 – 3 rd	Broke out from outside post; chased even pace from mid-pack 4-5W into turn; held position despite losing ground in the 4-6P racing to the ¼; came 7W into the lane, then finished with credit for 3 rd .	Another notably wide trip that's deserving of an UPGRADE. While he mightn't have been cost a position by the ground loss, he does have plenty of scope to improve second out today.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #2 ISAIAH FIFTYTHREE failed to switch leads in the lane when outrunning his odds with a speed and fade effort on debut. Eligible to improve. - There was a speed bias present when #3 DR. BUZZY last ran which led to the top four finishers (at odds of 2/5, 44/1, 5/1 and 12/1) running 1-2-3-4 the whole way around. Take that form with a pinch of salt. - #9 TAX AND TAGS was very green and raced awkwardly on debut, possibly resenting the kickback; seems he can only improve. 			

Race 2: N1X Allowance, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#4 CLAUDEE BOY	Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/09/26 – 2 nd	Tracked in mid-pack/rear early; switched out and held his position despite losing ground while ~5W turn; came 6-7W into the lane still well back in rear, then rallied nicely down the center on his left lead but missed.	He lost more ground with his wide trip than the neck margin he was beaten by and therefore, this return effort off the bench is deserving of a small UPGRADE. Do note: the winning rider misjudged the finish line and eased up, allowing 'CB' to finish closer than would otherwise have been the case. Wheels back into this tough spot on very short rest.
#7 BUILT BY KHOZAN	Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 04/12/26 – 2 nd	Reluctant to load; quickly into stride; chased lone speedster through blistering fractions into the lane, then reeled in that foe and poked his head in front 1/8 pole but was then nailed late on.	Did best of the speed in this frenetically run race (21.61, 44.09), just failing. PACE UPGRADE. Dangerous right back with lesser pace signed on today. *
#10 WITHOUT BORDERS	Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 04/12/26 – 3 rd	Chased hot pace from ~4L back on rail racing into the lane, then tried to stay on/advance in the 2P but was persistently denied adequate room until it was too late.	Although he never had to check or steady, he'd likely have finished closer (possibly beaten BUILT BY KHOZAN) with a clear path - UPGRADE. He also deserves some extra credit for sitting as close as he did to the red-hot early pace. *
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As highlighted in the chart comment, #3 FIRMANTOWN had to steady inside the final 1/16 when returned to the turf last time; this likely cost him a position or two, but he was seemingly on the back foot at the time anyway and was doing himself no favors by lugging in through the stretch too. Reluctant to upgrade his effort, even if he was a place or two better than his finishing position suggests. 			

- **#5 BENNY HAVENS** had a very slightly troubled stretch run when last seen in November; it wasn't bad enough to earn an upgrade, but it may have cost him more than the 1/4L he was beaten by for 4th. Returns off layoff today.
- * Although the pace was red-hot in the common race **#1 PARKES, #3 FIRMANTOWN, #7 BUILT BY KHOZAN** and **#10 WITHOUT BORDERS** all exit, it should be notes that considering the fractions (21.61, 44.09), with the rails at 87 feet, the speed did stick around for much longer than would usually have been the case.

Race 3: OC 40k/N2X Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 LONESOME ROAD	Allowance, 7F, CNL, Fast Dirt, 03/13/26 – 3 rd	Rushed up after breaking a fraction slow; dueled through fast fractions into the lane, then faded grudgingly while drifting out.	Although he may have been below his best, period, he still did well to be beaten just 4 3/4L considering the frenetic fractions (22.18, 43.99) he had dueled through – PACE UPGRADE
#6 SURFSIDE MOON	Allowance, 1M 70Y, PEN, Fast Dirt, 03/25/26 – 1 st	Pinched and steadied break, away very slowly in last; chased honest pace from ~10L+ behind while being scrubbed on rounding first turn; steadily advanced while remaining under pressure back stretch and 4W far turn; under strong ride ¼, he continued to find under pressure and took the lead upper stretch before drawing away.	Although he was meant to win this race as the 1/5 fav, the manner in which he did it – consistently advancing into the hot pace while wide - after a horrible start was very impressive – UPGRADE this effort. Note: the fractions were hot in this race, but speed still held fairly well (8/1 pace setter finished 2nd), adding even more credit to his performance.
#7 STATESMAN	Allowance, 1M, GP, Fast Dirt, 03/14/26 – 3 rd	Chased even pace from last into turn; cut to rail and started to creep closer on turn, then steadied briefly off heels ~7/16; regrouped and restarted his advance passing 3/8, then cut corner into then lane and stuck on gamely for 3 rd .	His steady ~7/16 was only minor and didn't cost him a position, but combining it with the fact that he then perused a bid along the dreaded 'dead' inside rail through the stretch and overcame these things to run 3rd does mean he's entitled to some extra credit and a small UPGRADE. Note: McGaughey's barn was cold at GP this winter.

Other notes:

- Although **#2 DERBYNESS** was a mile the best and won with something in hand last time, it should be noted that he sat a very favorable trip closely stalking fractions of 25.67, 50.14 which benefited him. Circumstances project to be different today.
- Speed held extremely well in the race **#4 HITTEROADJAK** exits going two-turns on the turf; he was seemingly aided by the flow, and we might want to approach that form line skeptically as he returns to dirt.

Race 4: Claiming 20k, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#8 BRAZINI	Allowance, 5 1/2F, CNL, Good Turf, 07/09/25 – 2 nd	Pulled in behind horses ~3L off the even pace early set by the eventual gate-to-wire winner; waited while boxed in 2W rounding the turn as the leader built a clear advantage; dove to the rail in the lane and the launched a rally at the clear wire winner but had too much to do.	Judging by the rate at which he was reeling the winner in through the stretch, it seems that if he hadn't been forced to wait in behind foes on the turn - allowing the winner to build up an unassailable lead – and gotten out earlier, he may well have caught that foe – small UPGRADE. Returns from lengthy layoff today.

Other notes:

- **#1 TURBULENT FORCE** didn't do enough running to earn an upgrade at Turfway last out and will need more to score today; however, it should be noted that he was facing a stiff task that day trying to close into a slow pace over a speed biased track. Returns to the grass switched back to Feliciano's barn today.
- Similarly, **#10 POINT LIAM** didn't quite do enough running to earn an upgrade last out; however, he was really bumped around hard at the start which consequently left him racing in a detached last early and on the back foot throughout. He then came wide in the lane and did some creditable work in the final 1/16 before galloping out okay. Following this effort and his forgivable defeat two back (trying to close into the same aforementioned slow pace as #1 TURBULENT FORCE over a speed biased track), he may be sitting on a respectable effort today.

Race 5: Maiden Claiming 35k, 3-6YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 GARAGE BEERS	Maiden Claiming 35k, 5 1/2F, LRL, Firm Turf, 04/17/26 – 7 th	Bumped leaving inside post; traveled strongly tracking even pace from ~5L off the even pace heading into the turn; was ridden to creep closer inside passing 3/8, then steadied a little off heels ~5/16 before properly checking and getting knocked around ~1/4, losing his back end, momentum and a few lengths; from there he wasn't knocked around and received a fairly sympathetic ride to the wire.	A troubled comeback effort; tough to assess quite where he'd have finished without the interference but still, given a cleaner trip today and this extra fitness under him, he should improve notably second off the bench today.

Other notes:

- Provided he handles the turf, **#1 COUNTRY BUMPKIN** should be capable of improving on his return effort off the layoff last time as he hopped at the start and gave his eleven rivals a head start, then caught a slightly wide trip chasing on the turn before flattening out late. He should strip fitter today and a better break/more ground saving trip can see him improve.
- Considering the pace was just even and didn't fall apart, plus the fact he was running off the layoff, it was quite encouraging to see how much ground (aided by a fine trip) **#5 SE THAR BARR** made up to finish 3rd last month. A logical player second off, he could be especially dangerous if the pace heats up.
- After hopping at the start and then showing zero early speed, **#7 HARD STANCE** shaped with promise at Colonial on debut, closing over the speedy track to pick up 3rd late. While he was aided by the fast pace, over that track speed actually held well and we shouldn't knock him too much.
- With blinkers added, **#13 RED SEA** produced a career best effort when last seen at Saratoga despite a wider than ideal trip after breaking from the outside post. It's also worth noting that he looked to have a very 'light mouth' and was tossing his head frantically when the rider took a hold early, making the rider's task all the more difficult. Makes debut off bench for Allen today.

Race 6: MSW, 3-6YO (F), 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#10 KIMMY GOT GLASSES	VA MSW, 1M, CNL, Firm Turf, 09/11/25 – 4 th	Lacked speed from outside post; very patiently ridden in a detached last ~11L off the even pace racing into the far turn; switched out into the 4-5P far turn but remained in last (!?) and under a hold, then made a nice late run under hand and heels while bobbing and weaving through traffic before galloping out well.	Her last run on turf. The tape suggests that she is capable of far more than this owing to the fact that she was ridden with far too much patience, raced unnecessarily wide on the far turn and then finished nicely despite the rider never lifting the crop as he was focused on steering her through traffic (which possibly hurt her momentum a little). She galloped out very well and if ready off the layoff today will be deserving of respect returned to the grass.

Other notes:

- **#5 LA DEVITA** really didn't show much at all on debut; however, she did take up slightly at the start which put her on the back foot, and she then caught a wide trip on the turn, neither of which aided her cause. Outpaced going 5 1/2F, it seems she can only improve second out going two turns with blinkers on.
- **#6 GUM** stumbled at the start when last seen in June at Delaware; this resulted in her racing further off the pace than would otherwise have been the case, but given the fine trip she then sat closing into the hot pace (that favored closers), we can't really use that as an excuse. Returns off lengthy layoff today.
- There was loads to like about **#8 DARING GRACE (GB)**'s last effort going 7F on the synthetic at Dundalk (Ireland) when last seen: she set honest fractions in front, had the entire field under pressure in deep stretch and then showed a very commendable attitude late, only just getting picked off in the final 100Y. Respected making turf debut with Lasix added for Delacour today.

Race 7: OC 40k/N2X Allowance, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 WINE COLLECTOR	Claiming 20k, 1M, TAM, Firm Turf, 04/04/26 – 3 rd	Settled early chasing even pace 4-5W first turn; dropped back into a detached last racing into the far turn, then came under pressure ~5/16 when ~8-9L off lead; swung	His wide trip almost certainly cost him 2nd in this race - UPGRADE; this was more just an eye-catching effort than a poor trip though as he really finished nicely into the even pace that did not fall apart – he looked to have zero shot turning in. With a faster pace projected today, he could well improve on this.

		4-5W into the lane still in a detached last, then rallied very nicely down the center for 3 rd .	
#7 MCCULLOUGH	Allowance, 1 1/16M, LRL, Firm Turf, 11/15/25 – 2 nd	Unhurried out of gate; trailed the field racing ~14L off the even pace into the far turn; began to build steam racing to the ¼, then swung 6W into the lane and rallied for 2 nd .	His last run on grass. This wasn't a bad trip, but his effort is still deserving of an upgrade/some extra credit as he ran just as well as the talented winner, only he was given too much to do following a passive ride out of the gate. He was ~3L off the winner (who was 10L off the lead) passing the ½ and followed that one's run all the way to the wire, eventually beaten just 1 3/4L. If returning to this level of form switching back to the grass today, he'll play a major role today.

Other Notes:

- **#2 CADEAU D'ARGENT** had a slightly troubled beginning to his last race going 7F on the dirt; as a closer by trade though, he was always destined to end up in the early position that he did and we cannot use it as an excuse for his defeat. Makes turf debut today.
- **#4 FROSTY THE GIANT** just simply did too much too soon last time, opening up a 10L+ lead after first call. He'll need to ration out his speed better switching to the turf today if he's to hold off these allowance foes.
- **#9 HOLD OUT** did have to steady very slightly entering the first turn last time, but it was a fairly inconsequential steady and overall, he sat a nice ground saving trip. Lasix back on today.
- Impressed by **#12 LIGHT MOOD (FR)**'s courage to quicken up through a very small rail gap before kicking away for a nice score on USA debut last year; he left a nice visual impression. Returns from lengthy layoff today.

Race 8: The Miss Preakness Stakes (G3), 3YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 GETTING CLOSER	Maiden Claiming 100k, 6F, KEE, Fast Dirt, 04/15/26 – 1 st	Broke sharp; set fast pace inside to upper stretch, then put away nearest pursuer and held firm to the wire comfortably fending off late closer.	She won comfortably here despite setting a fast pace (22.45, 46.02) that set up well for closers (2nd & 3rd place finishers 8 & 6 lengths off pace respectively at 1st call; nearest pursuers at 1st call – including 8/5 fav – faded and were well beaten). This effort is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE.

Other notes:

- Although she did manage to establish an uncontested lead early and that mightn't be the case today, there really wasn't much to dislike about **#3 LIGHTS OUT LENI**'s debut victory at Aqueduct last month – she got her rivals on the back foot rounding the far turn and opened up a clear lead, then held firm to the wire under just a hand ride with the jock simply showing her the crop late on.
- **#5 TESSELLATE** was ridden with plenty of confidence last time, only coming off the bridle ~1/8 pole before kicking away nicely under a mild hand ride. She seemingly has more to offer.

Race 9: The Hilltop Stakes, 3YO (F), 1 Mile Turf

Other notes:

- **#1 USE ME**'s maiden breaking win last out was even more impressive on tape than the PPs suggest as she dropped back a little when angling out off the home turn but then quickly and easily reeled in the 9/2 second choice – who had formed part of the modest early pace and wasn't tiring at all in the lane - to win with plenty in hand. She seems a real runner. Note: her debut effort in which she closed from 8th into slow fractions for 2nd is deserving of an UPGRADE. Lasix off today.
- While the chart comment correctly highlights how **#7 I LOVE GIRAFFES** was bothered at the break sprinting 5F on the turf at Gulfstream last time, she then didn't do enough running for us to use that as an excuse and she now has things to prove off Lasix trying two turns for the first time.

Race 10: The Allaire DuPont Distaff Stakes, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/8 Miles, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 MARGIE'S INTENTION	Shantel Lanerie Memorial Stakes®, 1M 70Y, FG, Fast Dirt, 03/22/26 – 2 nd	Out-sprinted by the eventual winner from the gate, then tucked in behind that foe rounding the first turn; her two rivals then boxed her squarely into the rail entering the back stretch while allowing the leader to continue on an uncontested lead; remained boxed in while her rider clearly wanted to advance on the far turn; finally shifted off heels but lost a couple of lengths as a result entering the lane, then rallied nicely but couldn't quite reach the winner in time.	Unfortunate to find trouble in a four-runner race, she was prevented from advancing at all from the ¾ pole until it was too late and the leader – who had massively benefited from her misfortune - was away and gone. Run this race again and she very possibly comes out on top. UPGRADE this effort and expect improvement second off.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worth noting that there was a slight speed bias present at Aqueduct when #7 WAVELESS produced a career best speed figure/performance courtesy of a forward trip last time. Lasix off today. 			

Race 11: The The Very One Stakes, 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 STRUTSHERSTUFF	Allowance, 1M, LRL, Firm Turf, 06/27/25 – 1 st	Settled well chasing the runaway leader while leading the main body of the field; quickly reeled in the leader approaching the far turn before taking the lead ~5/16 and opening up in the lane to win well.	Not sure how relevant this mile allowance win 322-days ago is to today's 5 1/2F stake, but it's still worthy of an UPGRADE as she sat closest to the furious pace (2.93, 46.01) in an often tricky position, then took first shot at the leader before that foe really began treading water and held off all the closers late. Note: her last start sprinting on turf (04/19/25) is deserving of some extra credit too as speed held very well and she closed from dead last to finish 3rd.
#7 MALIBU HOOCH	Allowance, 6F, LRL, Muddy Dirt, 04/12/25 – 3 rd	Prompted fast pace 2W; bid 3/8; dueled into upper stretch where she was then floated out 4-5W; took narrow lead ~1/8, then battled hard to the 1/16 before succumbing to two late closers.	Again, not sure how relevant this dirt allowance 398-days ago is to today's 5 1/2F sprint, but it's still an effort that deserving of an UPGRADE as she did best of the speed after pressing hot fractions over a closer biased racetrack. Makes turf debut today.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #5 SATURDAY FLIRT was never given a strong ride when returning off the layoff in the Giants Causeway Stakes (G2) at Keeneland last time. With that run under her belt and a stronger ride, one imagines she'll improve today. - #6 SOMNIUM overcame a slightly wider than ideal trip to win going away with something in hand at Penn National last time; don't think we saw a peak effort there from her and with an extra 1/16 to work with today, she may well offer more. Lasix off. - While accepting that #8 SUNNA was sent off at odds of 1/5, facing only four rivals and had a fairly comfortable time of things on the lead, the manner in which she strode away through the lane under just a mild hand ride was impressive. She looked to have more to offer. 			

Race 12: The Pimlico Special (G3), 3YO+, 1 3/16 Miles, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 SAN SIRO	Ben Ali Stakes (G3), 1 3/16M, KEE, Fast Dirt, 04/18/26 – 3 rd	No speed; trailed even pace in a detached last ~3W racing to far turn; came under ride and advanced while angling out into the 5P far turn; forced out 6-7W upper stretch while continuing to advance, then stayed on well for 3 rd before galloping out in front.	The even pace in this race – set and stalked upon by live and talented runners – did not fall apart late on, yet he was still able to make up a ton of ground from last – despite a very wide trip – and hit the board. Not so much an upgradable effort as just an impressive one in defeat; he could be very dangerous if the pace gets lively today.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was loads to like about #1 MACLEAN'S ROOK's latest victory at Colonial as he circled the field from last with a 5-6W move on the turn (extra credit deserved) before edging away in the lane. Logical contender today. 			

Race 13: The George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan Stakes (G2), 3YO (F), 1 1/8 Miles, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 IVY GIRL	Weber City Miss Stakes, 1 1/16M, LRL, Fast Dirt, 04/18/26 – 1 st	Pinched and taken up start, away slowly; chased in a detached last ~11L off the honest pace racing to the far turn under encouragement; began to build momentum on the far turn and advanced; turned for home fully extended ~5L off the lead 2W, then rallied strongly through the lane while angling out ~1/8 and nailed A P'S GIRL close home.	Sure, she had pace to run at in here and managed to save ground while closing which is a luxury for a closer, but her effort is still deserving of an UPGRADE due to the fact that she rallied from a hopeless position against the speed bias present this day. On a fairer track she might have won by even further and she should appreciate today's extra 1/16.
#6 HAUTE DIVA	Gulfstream Park Oaks (G2), 1 1/16M, GP, Fast Dirt, 03/28/26 – 7 th	Veered out from outside post; chased even pace from rear 6W+ rounding first turn; took closer order as field bunched racing to far turn; began dropping back under a hand ride while 5-6W far turn, then received a very sympathetic ride in the lane.	While she didn't do enough running to earn an upgrade it's still worth highlighting this extremely wide trip and the sympathetic ride her jock gave her in the lane, because these factors provide legitimate reasons for her speed figure drop. Almost willing to toss this effort and expecting her to offer more today.

Other notes:

- There was a speed bias present at Parx when **#4 SAVOR IT** won in front running fashion last out – possible downgrade.
- After making quite an early 4W bid for glory on the far turn to briefly take the lead in upper stretch, **#7 JUMPING THE GUN** then simply looked to tire in her first start off the layoff last time. Expecting her to strip fitter today.

Race 14: OC 62k/N1X Allowance, 3YO, 1 Mile, Dirt**Other notes:**

- **#3 TARTABULL** didn't have any real excuse in the Rushaway Stakes last time, but he did have to briefly tap of the brakes and shift off heels ~1/8 pole before he stayed on well again to the wire, possibly costing him 3rd. Lasix back on today.
- **#4 MAKE IT QUICK** is capable of more than he showed in a troubled effort last time when he took up sharply ~1/2 and was not persevered with in the lane. Still, he looked on the back foot from the word go in that race, failing to show his customary early speed and he then found nothing when encouraged to regather his stride rounding the turn. While we can toss that effort, he still has things to now prove stretching out.
- Wrestled back to last leaving the gate and content to settle almost 10L off the lead early, a very slow pace (25.73, 50.41) gave **#5 NO MORE CALLS** absolutely no shot last time despite him trying hard late on. He can almost certainly improve on that run (possibly getting back to something near his two-back effort) with a stronger pace forecast today.
- There was no visible reason as to why **#6 CLOSE THE GATE** underperformed like he did last out; he'll need to bounce back today.
- **#7 BALA DE PLATA** did not look happy in behind kickback when failing to get the lead (like he usually does going long) cut back to 6 1/2F last time. With a wide post and a return to a mile today, there's reason to believe that a kickback free trip can see him get back on track.

Horses to Follow**R3: STATESMAN (6/1 ML)**

STATESMAN posted an 85 Beyer when finishing third in a high-quality allowance during Gulfstream's Championship Meet in March, despite meeting traffic on the far turn and finding himself stuck down on the dreaded dead rail. Shug McGaughey's barn also endured a quiet winter by its usual standards, so there are reasons to believe STATESMAN can step forward from that effort. With a fast pace expected in today's fourth, he should get every chance to produce a major effort at an attractive price.

R7: LIGHT MOOD (6/1 ML)

The French-bred LIGHT MOOD made a strong impression when quickening smartly along the rail to score on his U.S. debut in a tough Delaware allowance last year. He hasn't been seen since, but he's been working steadily for his return, including a heads-up move with South African star ONE STRIPE last week. With plenty of untapped potential still to explore, this looks a very workable starting point back.

R10: MARGIE'S INTENTION (1/1 ML)

G1-placed MARGIES INTENTION endured a torrid trip when returning from a layoff at Fair Grounds in March, yet still failed by just half a length while posting an 85 Beyer that stands out as one of the fastest on offer in today's Allaire DuPont Distaff Stakes. Second off the bench with a cleaner trip anticipated, she could prove tough to get past for the dangerous combination of Brad Cox and Irad Ortiz Jr.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

BETTER WATCH IT *(Breezed 4F - :49.60 at LRL on 5/8)*

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.

MAXPOWER *(Entered at Monmouth – SAT 5/16, Race 1)*

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.

BRUNO *(Entered at Laurel – SAT 5/16, Race 14)*

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 4F - :49.80 at LRL on 5/10)*

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.

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 *(Breezed 4F - :50.00 at KEE on 4/19)*

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.

J C'S BOYS *(Entered at Laurel – TODAY, Race 1)*

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.

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.

LOVELIEST

Trainer: Eddie Kenneally

Last Race: April 17, Race 7

Finish: 8th by 6 3/4

Class drop might be in order after filly tired badly in a first-level allowance sprinting on the grass. She was bumped during the opening furlong while pressing the winner from the rail before giving way. She is quick from the gate, and that speed would play well at a lower class level.

ROCKER ROLLER *(Breezed 4F - :49.40 at LRL on 5/3)*

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: April 17, Race 3

Finish: 3rd by 9 1/2

City of Light filly wasn't away the best from the rail draw in her career debut, saved ground in midpack, then never threatened along the inside. Think she gained a good amount of experience from this effort, and she acts like she'll appreciate longer distances.

BALTIC *(Breezed 5F - 1:02.00 at FAI on 5/8)*

Trainer: Cal Lynch

Last Race: April 17, Race 1

Finish: 2nd by 3/4

Kantharos gelding ran well in turf debut when dropped into a \$35,000 maiden claimer. Showed good early speed, opened a clear lead in the upper stretch, and was kicked down in the final furlong. He looks like he's found his niche sprinting on grass.

DISCO RULES

Trainer: Flint Stites

Last Race: April 24, 9th race

Finish: 3rd by 7 1/2

Raced in between horses for most of the way, was lightly bumped from his inside entering the turn and briefly raced on hold behind foes, angled three wide into the stretch, and churned on for a minor placing. Not sure he cared for the deep, sealed track that afternoon, and deserves another chance around two turns against allowance competition.

MAGICAL MONDAYS

Trainer: Tim Woolley

Last Race: May 3, 7th race

Finish: 3rd by 3

Returning from an October layoff, this 4-year-old was wired in a slow-paced race controlled throughout by the two pacesetters. He was the only horse making up meaningful ground after racing wide through the second turn and into the stretch.

TODAY'S JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 2 - Yedsit Hazlewood: #7 -Built by Khozan; #11 - Big Tankness >>> **Hazlewood rides BIG TANKNESS**

Race 5 - Carlos Lopez: #4 - Really Ready; #6 - Kuhner; #8 - Typhoon Kuhn; #10 - Guerrilla Magic >>> **Lopez rides TYPHOON KUHN**

Race 6 - Jose Ortiz: #1 - American Tapit; #4 - Raisin Weekend >>> **Ortiz rides AMERICAN TAPIT**

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

A recap of THURSDAY, MAY 14 action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piassek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: An overnight thunderstorm knocked today's scheduled grass races, including this one, to the main track, which was labeled as GOOD. This suited **Fairfield Bay** just fine. He sat off an early duel between Triathelon and Raging Cajun and took advantage when they tired. Maupansant rallied from 14 ¼ lengths out of it to complete the exacta.

Race 2: Hell Ofa Hillbilly worked out a great trip pressing early leader Zio Lino in the two-path. He poked a head in front at the top of the stretch, but Zio Lino fought back and gave him all he could handle. In the last sixteenth, Hell Ofa Hillbilly pulled clear to win by a length, with Zio Lino a game second. None of the other three made up much ground.

Race 3: Only three of this race's 14 entrants wanted to hang around when it was moved from grass to dirt (and all of them were gray or roan). One of those was **Sterling Cat**, who eventually overhauled longtime leader Christmas Jones to break her maiden at second asking.

Race 4: Beauxbatons, a Whit Beckman-trained first-time starter, took all the money and went off as the 11-10 favorite. She got a perfect trip stalking the leaders on the rail, and when the rail opened up at the top of the stretch, she looked poised to run away from them. However, she couldn't kick on and faded to fifth. Meanwhile, another first-time starter, **Brief Affair**, loomed three-wide and hit the front at the eighth pole. She fended off two of Maryland's favorite maidens, Cross of Valor from her inside and Pnuemo Warrior from her outside, and got the job done.

Race 5: It wouldn't be Maryland's biggest week of racing if Jamie Ness and Yedsit Hazlewood didn't team up to win a race. They did so with **Magical Ways**, but it wasn't easy. The gelding raced off the rail most of the way and had to fight hard with Night Time Nap, who rode the rail off the pace almost for almost the entire mile. In the last few jumps, Magical Ways stuck his head in front for good.

Race 6: It looked like a riding double for Hazlewood when he rode Tuff Luck to an apparent off-the-pace win. However, the stewards ruled that Tuff Luck's interference to early leader **El de Larry** at the top of the stretch was disqualification-worthy. That elevated the Robbie Bailes-trained gelding to victory in his 2026 debut.

Race 7: Mizner was impressive in his maiden-breaking score last out, and proved it was no fluke against first-level allowance runners. He sat off longshot leader Laysen, took advantage when he tired, and held off the determined late rally of Palacios to win. Keep in mind that Holy Moly Mitole, who was second to Mizner last out, is back in race 14 on Saturday. Favored Wonder Mist was reluctant to load and hesitated slightly when the gates opened. He didn't show much late kick and ended up third.

Race 8: Paco the Taco Man has eaten well all year long. He's now won four times in his last five races. Here, he raced to the outside of early leader Surgical Precision and drew off under a drive.

Race 9: Refund alert: Sin Boldly was a late scratch, which knocked this field down to a trio. **Boost** made the early lead and held off the late rally of first-time starter Music Box, giving Bailes a training double.

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

Apr. 17 – Fair
Apr. 18 – SPEED BIAS
Apr. 19 – Fair
Apr. 24 – Fair
Apr. 25 – SPEED BIAS
Apr. 26 – Fair
May 1 – SPEED BIAS
May 2 – Fair
May 3 – Fair
May 8 – CLOSERS BIAS
May 9 – Fair
May 10 – CLOSERS BIAS