



# LAUREL PARK

## HANDICAPPING GUIDE for FRIDAY, MAY 29

### TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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RACE 1:	4-3-2-7	6-3-7-2	3-2-7-6	6-2-7-8	3-6-7-4	7-8-2
RACE 2:	4-3-7-5	2-1-7-6	5-7-1-2	7-6-1-5	5-4-3-2	7-4-3
RACE 3:	6-7-1-4	6-1-4-5	6-7-1-3	1-6-5-7	4-6-3-1	6-1-5
RACE 4:	4-5-3-1	3-4-2-7	4-1-3-7	4-1-2-3	5-4-3-1	7-4-3
RACE 5:	9-1-3-6	1-8-3-9	7-9-3-1	8-9-1-5	9-6-1-7	3-1-8
RACE 6:	6-2-8-4	6-2-8-1	6-3-10-2	6-9-3-2	8-2-4-3	10-2-8
RACE 7:	3-4-6-1	3-4-6-1	4-3-1-5	3-1-5-4	3-6-4-1	1-2-6
RACE 8:	6-5-8-3	6-1-9-2	5-8-6-1	6-9-8-5	5-6-3-8	8-1-6
RACE 9:	1A-3-7-4	8-7-1-4	5-1A-7-9	7-1-6-5	1A-6-3-7	3-1A-7

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

- TMJC's "Today at the Races" morning simulcast show LIVE on X [@LaurelPark](#) at 11AM ET for late changes + today's top tickets and best plays.
- Follow the action throughout the day on your preferred ADW, on X [@LaurelPark](#) and [@Danillman\\_MJC](#), on Instagram [@marylandjockeyclub](#) and on TikTok [@marylandjockeyclub](#).
- Get FREE PPs for today's card from *Daily Racing Form*! To access, visit [www.laurelpark.com/handicapping-wagering/](http://www.laurelpark.com/handicapping-wagering/) and scroll down.

## TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

### >> RACE 1

#### 1. JULIA'S A FOX

#### 2. WHATSYOURBIGIDEA

#### 3. RISK AND REGRET

The first post is NOON, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers (first five races; last five races), each with a low 12% takeout rate. Hoping **JULIA'S A FOX** can take a step forward after finishing behind a couple of these three weeks ago. Raced outside in midpack behind solid fractions (23.35; 23.19), tried to keep up as they sped through the third quarter in a solid 24.01, altered course to the outside in the upper stretch, and passed some tired horses with a promising gallop-out. **WHATSYOURBIGIDEA** ran very well when finishing ahead of the top pick. Set that quick pace from the inside, came off the fence turning for home, and faltered late. Swaps out blinkers for cheekpieces and might not have to work as hard to grab the lead this afternoon for a barn that went 4 for the last 10 (40%, \$3 ROI) when removing blinkers. **RISK AND REGRET** got a little hot going to the post prior to her final start last year, stalked outside, made a three-wide bid on the final turn, was forced outward slightly in the upper stretch, and made up three lengths late. That race produced three next-out winners, with the ninth-finisher taking a \$16,000 "non-two" starter with a 66 Beyer. Wonder if he'll need a race following a 208-day layoff.

### >> RACE 2

#### 1. DIAMOND SUE

#### 2. REHOBOTH AVENUE

#### 3. FIRE AT MIDNIGHT

**DIAMOND SUE** wasn't away the best, tracked a slow pace from the rail, was steadied several times when in tight on the inside, eased four wide into the stretch, then failed to rally in a race where the odds-on favorite wired the field. Far from dependable with a 1 for 27 record, and must get close to an expected slow pace, but isn't too far removed from the top contenders on paper, and should offer some value. **REHOBOTH AVENUE** ran well when placing ahead of the top pick. Stumbled at the start, went up to press the favored winner from the outside, then gamely battled back to finish second, although no match for the winner. Her tactical speed is a nice asset in a relatively paceless affair. **FIRE AT MIDNIGHT** may be slowly racing herself back into shape for this, her fourth start following a long layoff. Another who has had her share of chances, and her running style might not work in a slow-paced race. Vargas departs for CHICKIN LICKIN. VALERIE STREET races without front shoes again, and is quick enough to be involved in the early pace.

### >> RACE 3

#### 1. WHENIGETTOHEAVEN

#### 2. NOTHING BETTER

#### 3. WITTY

**WHENIGETTOHEAVEN** receives Lasix for the first time since a speedy victory last summer at Colonial. Set a pressured pace inside the odds-on third-finisher and was game all the way to the line. Likely gained some fitness when rallying for third last month in the King T. Leatherbury, his first start in almost four months. The Leatherbury produced two next-out winners, with the runner-up grabbing the Jim McKay Turf Sprint with a 93 Beyer. This barn went 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.24 ROI) between 4/26 and 5/24. **NOTHING BETTER** showed speed in his final start last year, a race that produced a couple of next-out winners (Heart Headed repeated via disqualification in a high-level Fair Grounds allowance with a 92 Beyer). He's run well fresh, and should be on or near the lead. **WITTY** returns from a 256-day layoff after being wired in a Colonial race run in a driving rainstorm. Broke a beat slow, saved ground at the back behind a slow quarter, swapped leads early on the turn, cut the corner into the stretch, split rivals, and rallied for third behind the two favorites. The runner-up then won the Grade 3 Belmont Turf Sprint with a 97 Beyer. Classy veteran has won his last two with Lasix for a barn that sent out a 5-2 "Lasix On" sprinting on turf earlier in the month.

## >> RACE 4

### 1. RED SPITFIRE

### 2. ELLINGER

### 3. WORLD ON FIRE

**RED SPITFIRE** was bumped at the start, tracked the pace while four wide, made a three-wide bid on the turn, gave the odds-on winner a strong challenge at the three-sixteenths pole, but was no match late. Finished ahead of three of these, and was flattered when Searcy repeated in an \$8,000 starter with a 70 Beyer. He has enough speed to get close to the pace from the opening bell. **ELLINGER** broke a beat slow and stumbled soon after the start, tracked from in between rivals, raced in the pocket under urging entering the turn, cut the corner into the stretch, and couldn't threaten the top pick. This barn sent out a 16-1 winner here on 5/15. **WORLD ON FIRE** stalked outside at the back, saved ground in midpack under urging on the turn, eased out into the stretch, then got up for third behind the two favorites. He's a late runner who needs some pace and race luck. **STICKTOTHESYSTEM** pressed the 17-10 runner-up under a fairly confident ride, was outpaced on the turn, then was eased in the final furlong against tougher allowance foes. Nice fit dropping in class and distance.

## >> RACE 5

### 1. LORDSHIP

### 2. DAIRAGO

### 3. SALTED CARMEL

**LORDSHIP** makes turf debut following a lengthy layoff, but the gelding has shown some life in his recent workouts, the last three going in company with Hardspun Reason, a 7-year-old gelding with an 89 turf Beyer top. Breezed inside that one on 5/22, finished a neck ahead, and galloped out a few lengths behind. The dam is a half-sister to Grade 2-placed turf router Street Ready, and stakes-placed turf router Robin Hood (87 dirt Beyer top). The second dam was a stakes-placed turf router (81 turf/synthetic Beyer). The barn went 4 for the last 11 (36%, \$2.13 ROI) with horses returning from 180-365 day layoffs following a trainer change. This will be a good class test for **DAIRAGO**, who leaps out of the claiming ranks after a solid "non-three" win last month. Tracked the 2-1 loose pacesetter (finished last), attacked from in between foes on the second turn, then drew off under a strong drive. His tactical speed should have him close to the pace. **SALTED CARMEL** (wore cheekpieces in last three jump starts on the page) finished third in a jump race at the Old Dominion Point to Point on 4/4, then showed some speed in two subsequent jump appearances. He was very competitive over the flat here last fall when finishing a game second behind the favored Hold Out. **DRILLING FOR GOLD** has excuses when beaten as the favorite. Pinched at the start, he raced far behind in a race controlled by a gate-to-wire winner. He made up some ground and is expected to be a great deal closer to the pace.

## >> RACE 6

### 1. LENDALFOOT

### 2. FIRESTREAK

### 3. SEGER SONGS

**LENDALFOOT** ran well without blinkers in her final start last year in New York. After being bumped at the start, she raced three wide and in between from midpack, dropped inside to cut the corner into the stretch, and made up a couple of lengths. Prepped for her seasonal debut with a fourth-place finish in a 12-furlong training flat at Green Spring Valley Point-To-Point on 3/29, then tired after chasing the pace with blinkers on. This barn has four "blinkers off" winners since 12/19. Tactical enough to work out a trip from close to the pace. **FIRESTREAK** debuted at Delaware on 9/27, was listed as a Laurel vet scratch 22 days later, and now returns from an eight-month layoff. Wired by a 72-1 shot, she showed late moxie over that yielding turf, and is expected to produce a late kick. **SEGER SONGS** closed out 2025 on a decent note at Laurel. Raced outside at the back behind a fast pace, altered course sharply outside, then finished evenly from in between while over in behind. Wired in a slow-paced race in her seasonal debut, she adds blinkers and drops into a

claimer. BAND ON THE RUN pressed the 5-2 third-finisher through a quick 22.45 opening quarter, then held on well for second behind a good-setup closer. She might not have to expend as much energy to build an early lead this time.

## >> RACE 7

### 1. HOLY SYNCHRONICITY

### 2. TALENTED MAN

### 3. DON'T WAIT UP

**HOLY SYNCHRONICITY** did some good things when trying a one-turn mile three weeks ago. Stumbled at the start, then rushed up to battle outside the 5-2 fourth-finisher through fast fractions of 23.95 and 22.94 over a closer-friendly track. No match for the favored winner, but he was clearly the second-best. He can get close to the pace for a barn that went 5 for the last 20 (25%, \$2.66 ROI) when moving from route to dirt sprints. **TALENTED MAN** has won two of three times when moving from turf to dirt, and repeats the move in the first start for Ness. A game winner in his most recent dirt outing, he bobbed at the start that day, then set a slow pace in a race where they ran 1-2 around the track. Made an early lead change on the turn, but dug in to score. The third-finisher then won two of his next three starts with a 91 Beyer top. His speed plays very well here for a barn that went 11 for the last 29 (38%, \$2.32 ROI) in the first after the claim. **DON'T WAIT UP** was wired by an odds-on favorite over a speed-friendly track. Settled at the back, saved ground every step, but failed to threaten. The winner then ran third in the Grade 3 Maryland Sprint with an 88 Beyer. This drop in class should work nicely.

## >> RACE 8

### 1. CRAB DADDY

### 2. SLAM NOTION

### 3. WORCESTER

**CRAB DADDY** won his last two starts with Lasix, and will receive the medication again after racing in two tough stakes. Looked pretty good in that race three back when finding a nice position tracking from the pocket. Angled four wide, then drove by favored Rampagius to score despite being late to change leads. Faced Ninetypercentmaddie last month at Parx, and that one repeated in a high-level allowance with a 90 Beyer. This barn sent out a 6-1 winner here on 5/14. **SLAM NOTION** enjoyed a very successful 2025 campaign, then was wired by classy Point Dume in his seasonal debut in the General George. Found another tough spot last time in his first following a three-month break. Tracked a quick pace from in between, was urged along on the turn, and finished evenly without threatening. Drew nicely for this assignment, and he shouldn't be too far away when the real racing commences, as he drops in class and adds Lasix. **WORCESTER** might be best around one turn, and he gets another chance at seven-eighths after a solid effort going two turns. Tracked three wide and in between, was urged along on the second bend, and popped back to his left lead when advancing into second. He's won two of three starts when moving from route to sprint, and should be kicking in the stretch.

## >> RACE 9

### 1. M D FIELDSTONE

### 2. HE'S ALL HEART

### 3. CHIMNEY SWEEP

**M D FIELDSTONE** still seems a little green, but he took a nice step forward in his turf debut. Broke slowly and was hustled hard to stalk three wide, he eased out into the stretch, and made up over three lengths despite swapping leads several times. Perhaps he'll rate back and try to make one run. Kentucky shippers generally do well here, and guessing that a sharp barn claimed **HE'S ALL HEART** for turf, as the sire was a multiple Grade 1 winner on grass. Didn't change leads in the stretch two back over Tapeta, a race that produced three next-out dirt winners. Chased a very fast pace on dirt at Keeneland last time, and tried hard for second. Sanchez lands here instead of Regency Tale. **CHIMNEY SWEEP** was hustled from the gate to prompt a quick pace while four wide, was forced outward entering the turn, was urged into the stretch, and swapped leads several times in the lane. Wonder if he

needed that race, his first start in seven months, and the barn went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$3.22 ROI) with horses making their second start following a 180-365 day layoff.

## KALI'S KEYS – by Kali Francois

### Race 5: #8 The Jackal

I'll get straight to what's likely making you step back - that short, 5 day turnaround for a horse who is going long on the grass...however, a barn trend of Jack Fisher is 16/39 at 41% 2nd off the layoff. The fact that he's pretty much cutting back in distance by half is a huge help. He had the right kind of trip at Fair Hill, and he was a good finish for first off the layoff. Trust in Jack a little, guys!

## TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

### RACE 1

#### #2 - Whatsyourbigidea

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Blinkers Off: 4 for 10 (40%, \$3.00 ROI)

### RACE 3

#### #6 - Whenigettoheaven

Trainer: Nolan Ramsey

Between 4/26 and 5/24: 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.24 ROI)

### RACE 7

#### #3 - Talented Man

Trainer: Jamie Ness

First After Claim: 11 for 29 (38%, \$2.32 ROI)

### RACE 7

#### #4 - Holy Synchronicity

Trainer: Jose Magana

Route to Dirt Sprint: 5 for 20 (25%, \$2.66 ROI)

### RACE 9

#### #7 - Chimney Sweep

Trainer: T J Aguirre

Second After 180-365 Days: 3 for 11 (27% \$3.22 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: Claiming 16k, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#2 <b>WHATSYOURBIGIDEA</b>	Claiming 16k, LRL, 1M, Firm Turf, 05/08/26 – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alert break; took fierce hold in front and dragged her rider through fast fractions all the way into the stretch; under a ride, held the lead to ~1/8 pole before the eventual winner swooshed by; continued on gamely but lost 2 <sup>nd</sup> close home.	<b>For the second time in a row, her effort is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE as she held 3<sup>rd</sup> after setting closer friendly fractions of 23.35, 46.54. Taking the blinkers off today should help her relax better and ration out her speed more efficiently.</b>
<b>Other notes:</b>			
- <b>#4 BACK WALL BANDIT</b> sat a wide trip when making her turf route debut last time; she may be capable of improving on that effort with a more ground saving trip today.			

Race 2: Claiming 12.5k, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Dirt			
<b>Other notes:</b>			
- <b>#1 FIRE AT MIDNIGHT</b> sat a slightly wider-than-ideal trip when last seen.			
- <b>#3 MARGARET P</b> didn't nearly do enough to earn an upgrade last time – beaten over 18L – and she will need to offer more today; however, that last effort wasn't without it's trouble as she checked back to last ~5/8 pole (when <b>#7 REHOBOTH AVENUE</b> oddly lost her action briefly) and she was then caught notably wide on the turn when floated out by <b>#5 DIAMON SUE</b> (who also encountered a little traffic ~5/8 and again on the turn; not enough to earn an upgrade though). More, from the position she found herself in, she was somewhat compromised by the slow (25.27, 49.62) fractions (which possibly aided <b>#7 REHOBOTH AVENUE</b> – downgrade?). Feel she can step back in the right direction today with a clean trip, but whether that's good enough to score...			
- <b>#4 CHICKIN LICKIN</b> was bumped hard at the start last time, but it's near impossible to say that <i>that</i> was the reason she finished tailed off with a 10 Beyer. Something seemed amiss; she wasn't persevered with in the lane and now has plenty to prove.			

Race 3: OC 55k/C Allowance, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 <b>WITTY</b>	Da Hoss Stakes, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/06/25 – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Step slow; trailed ~7-8L off the lead into the lane, then closed between foes for 3 <sup>rd</sup> but had too much to do.	<b>With the rails at 90 feet, all three turf sprints on this card were won in gate to wire fashion (including in this fairly paced race). WITTY was the only runner to do any running from the back in this contest and did well to get 3<sup>rd</sup> considering the track was playing against him. UPGRADE this effort a little. Returns off layoff with Lasix on.</b>
<b>Other notes:</b>			
- <b>#4 WHERE'S RAY</b> briefly found himself boxed in on the turn last out which forced his rider to wait a little longer than intended before commencing his run. It's tough to say that was the reason for his off-board finish though, because he then had plenty of time to make inroads through the stretch when clear, but was readily out-kicked by #3 INCINERATOR. Seems more likely that he was just simply below his best, possibly 'bouncing' off his big return effort.			
- While the chart comment correctly highlights how <b>#6 WHENIGETTOHEAVEN</b> met traffic in the lane when running a nice race to finish 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the King T. Leatherbury Stakes last time, we shouldn't upgrade his effort because he never had to check or steady (he just had to navigate some small gaps but never lost momentum) and he was not cost a position through traffic. Furthermore, he received a very favorable pace setup. Lasix on today.			

**Race 4: Claiming 12.5k, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt****Other notes:**

- **#1 ELLINGER** didn't do enough to earn an upgrade last out; however, he did stumble shortly after a slow break which left him much last and out of position early (his best races have come when he'd been forwardly positioned from the start), and he then had to exert energy early (rushed up) to recover. Reasons to believe he can offer more again today.
- Last out, **#4 RED SPITFIRE** was caught widest on the turn (3W) and then floated 5-6W off the bend by the eventual winner, costing him a little ground. Although he was very much second best that day, he still might be able to offer a fraction more today with a more ground saving trip. Player.
- **#6 ENGLISH DADDY** lugged out on the turn last time. He'll need to step forward for his return.

**Race 5: N1X Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/8 Miles, Turf**

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
<b>#1 DRILLING FOR GOLD</b>	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 04/19/26 – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pinched start and last away; trailed field ~15L off wire to wire winner through 1 <sup>st</sup> call; tipped out and steadily advanced towards the center of the track back stretch; continued his progress despite losing ground in the 4-6P far turn; straightened for the drive 6W ~6L off the lead, then rallied well but had too much to do.	<b>Following an upgradable effort two back (did best of speed in a fast-paced race; pace upgrade), he was left racing out of his preferred position after a troubled start in this race that saw speed hold relatively well with the rails at 70 feet; he did well to make up ~14L despite a very wide trip – UPGRADE.</b>
<b>#6 HANKSDIVININGRODE</b>	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 04/19/26 – 7 <sup>th</sup>	No speed; took hold chasing even pace on rail ~10L back into far turn; lacked room and shuffled back a little entering far turn, then checked off heels back into last ~1/4; turned for home ~12L off the lead in last having still not had an opportunity to advance, then worked off the rail into the center of the track (costing him a little momentum) before closing in vain to the wire.	<b>A troubled trip in which he was shuffled back into a hopeless position and prevented from advancing in traffic until it was all too late. Speed held relatively well in this race too. Expect more from him today under different circumstances.</b>

**Other notes:**

- A runner whose two best efforts have come closing into fast paces, **#4 NEON BORDEAUX (MTO)** has not nearly had enough pace to run at in his last THREE starts now, and can seemingly offer more if things heat up in front today.
- **#5 GO GREY** was only hand ridden through the lane when breaking his maiden last out (rider flagged the crop but never used it); while accepting that he did also sit a very nice trip, it appears there's more to come from him.
- Although the pace was honest when **#8 THE JACKAL** broke his maiden going 1 1/2M at Kentucky Downs last time, speed still held well in that race with the top five finishers (including horses with odds of 15/1, 17/1 and 23/1) filling those positions throughout; maybe take that form with a small pinch of salt. Returns off layoff back down in distance today.

**Race 6: Maiden Claiming 35k, 3-6YO (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf**

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
<b>#6 LENDALFOOT</b>	Maiden Claiming 35k, LRL, 1M, Firm Turf, 04/25/26 – 4 <sup>th</sup>	Away well; chased honest pace on the rail in 2 <sup>nd</sup> into the back stretch, then tipped out into the 2P and crept a little closer; took a narrow head lead while traveling well between foes in the 2P to upper stretch, then came under a ride and held the lead gamely to ~1/16 pole before losing positions in the final few jumps.	<b>The top three finishers in this race were 8, 12 ½ and 6 lengths off the lead after an opening ¼ of 22.94; the always prominent LENDALFOOT therefore ran a big race to be beaten just 1 1/2L, doing best of the speed in what was her first start for 164 days. Willing to give this effort a PACE UPGRADE; she should be dangerous second back today. Blinkers off.</b>
<b>#8 BAND ON THE RUN</b>	Maiden Claiming 32k, TAM, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 04/11/26 – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pressed hot pace in 2P to far turn; dropped back a little between foes racing to upper stretch, then stayed on well through the lane to regain 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	<b>Similar to above, this return effort off the layoff is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE as she managed to run 2<sup>nd</sup> after pressing hot (22.45, 47.13) fractions that set up well for the winner (7 1/2L back at 1<sup>st</sup> call). Entitled to respect second back.</b>

#9 LIGHT DE NIGHT	Maiden Claiming 25k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 11/01/25 – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bumped start, then steadied slightly shortly after; chased honest pace from ~6L back 3-4W into turn; crept closer under hold as field bunched but then found herself on heels ~3/8 and had to steady; dropped back off rivals racing to the top of the lane, then came 6W into stretch when ~7L back; stayed on evenly on left lead to ~1/8 pole, then kicked in the afterburners and flew down the outside but had too much to do.	<b>While accepting that she had a good pace setup, this effort is still deserving of an UPGRADE owing to her troubled start and her steadying on the far turn; she finished full of run and if ready off the bench, can surely improve with Lasix added.</b>
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**Other notes:**

- **#2 SPINNING CLASS** was no match for the winner last time, but she did stay on well after racing a little wider than ideal. Player right back.
- Although sent off at odds of 118/1, there was no fluke about **#3 FIRESTREAK**'s likable debut at Delaware last September; aided by a nice trip, she showed a willing attitude to close into an even pace and be beaten just 1/4L before galloping out in front. If ready off the layoff today, she'll demand respect for her new trainer.
- **#10 SEGER SONGS** didn't do enough to earn an upgrade last time but can likely improve on that return effort off the layoff as she did not get enough pace to run at given her running style. Note: the "steadied first turn" mentioned in the chart comment was negligible.

**Race 7: Claiming 30k, 3YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt**

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 HOLY SYNCHRONICITY	Claiming 30k, LRL, 1M, Fast Dirt, 05/08/26 – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Slight bobble start, speed; dueled through fast fractions to ~5/8, then edged away from sparing partner; continued to set hot fractions in front while riding the rail into the turn; held the lead while facing a challenge from the eventual winner racing to upper stretch; conceded the lead upper stretch, then stayed on gamely for 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	<b>He was no match for the 9/5 fav who romped, but he was still a clear 2<sup>nd</sup> best and held off all the closers despite having set fractions of 23.95, 46.89 in front. This effort is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE; he can likely improve on this if rationing out his speed more efficiently today.</b>

**Other Notes:**

- Speed held well in **#3 TALENTED MAN**'s last start (turf), with four of the top five finishers – including runners at odds of 10/1, 11/1 and 19/1 having filled the first four places at 1<sup>st</sup> call; take that form with a pinch of salt. Makes debut for Ness today.
- In almost all his starts this year, veteran **#5 KARAN'S NOTION** has run in a manner to suggest he'll be suited by today's extra 1/8<sup>th</sup>.

**Race 8: OC 55k/C Allowance, 3YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt**

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 HOWGREATISNATE	Allowance, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 03/15/26 – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Step slow from rail; lacked room inside ~5 1/2 and had to ease back when already in rear; this left him racing ~7L off the even pace early; angled outside ~5/8 and chased the pace into and around the turn before losing ground when floated out 5W approaching the 1/4; ducked back inside and then launched a late rally but had too much to do.	<b>He did best of the closers in this race that saw speed hold relatively well (top two finishers filled those positions throughout; winner was 20/1) despite experiencing some trouble early after a rail break and ending up further back than necessary, and losing ground with a wide trip on the turn. He galloped out in front, and his effort is deserving of an UPGRADE.</b>
#6 WORCESTER	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 05/02/26 – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chased even pace from ~4L back in the 3-4P between foes to the far turn; came under a ride while tight between horses in the 3P racing to the 1/4, then tipped out into the 4P and stayed on willingly for 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	<b>This game runner-up effort deserves a little extra credit as he was always in an often-tricky spot between foes, and racing against the speed bias present this day. Major player down in trip.</b>

**Other notes:**

- Typically a front runner/leader, **#2 TWELVE TREASURES** showed some nice tactical versatility at Tampa last time, rallying from well off the pace to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> with a career best Beyer. He was only 3/4L behind **#1 KHOZERIRESS**, who ran a big race himself having sat closer to the hot pace than #2 and raced wider on the turn, too.

- Other than racing on his left lead late, there wasn't much to dislike about **#4 GOODBYE NOTE**'s win last out in which he sat close to red-hot fractions of 23.95, 46.89 and then powered away late. He'll demand respect right back. Note: the key to him seems to be whether or not he gets forward and in the clear early.

### Race 9: Maiden Claiming 35k, 3-6YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
<b>#7 CHIMNEY SWEEP</b>	Maiden Claiming 35k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/15/26 – 3rd	Chased hot pace from ~1L back into the turn; dropped back a little while losing ground in the 4-5P racing to the top of the stretch; turned for home ~2.5L down, then stayed on willingly past the leaders but could not fend off a pair of deep closers and settled for 3 <sup>rd</sup> .	<b>The two horses who beat him in this closer-friendly race (fractions: 21.83, 45.00) were 6 ¼ and 15 ½ lengths off the lead at 2<sup>nd</sup> call; CS was just 1 ¾ lengths back which, coupled with the fact that he lost a lot of ground racing 4-5W on the turn, entitles him to a notable UPGRADE (pace and trip). Major player second off the bench today.</b>
<b>Other notes:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>#1 MODRANACH</b> lugged out badly on the turn when making his turf debut last time. Cuts right back in trip today.</li> <li>- The chart comment correctly highlights how <b>#3 BALLINACLASH</b> steadied at the ½ last time, but it was only very minor and of no consequence at all. Makes turf debut today. Note: he failed to switch leads in the lane last time, too.</li> <li>- <b>#4 RED SEA</b> sat a wide and troubled trip when returning from a layoff last time; while this would typically lead to an upgrade, the tape cuts out the trouble mentioned at the 1/8 pole and so it's impossible to know to what extent he was impeded. Furthermore, although he was wide on the turn, this potential for an upgrade is diminished by the fact that he had pace to run at and also lugged in through the lane. Whatever the case, on bare form, he's deserving of a second look this afternoon.</li> <li>- <b>#1A HE'S ALL HEART</b> ran a super race on the dirt at Keeneland last time, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> after chasing the loose leader through fast fractions in an isolated 2<sup>nd</sup> – a tricky position to be in. He was only caught by a deep closer after collaring the 5/2 leader and will demand respect making his turf and barn debut for McMahan today.</li> <li>- <b>#5 M D FIELDSTONE</b> sat a slightly wide trip when returning from the layoff to make his turf debut and first start as a gelding last time. He seems eligible to step forward off that run.</li> </ul>			

## Horses to Follow

### **R1: WHATSYOURBIGIDEA (2/1 ML)**

WHATSYOURBIGIDEA has done remarkably well to hit the board in her last two turf routes considering how hard she's pulled and the fractions she's set in front on both occasions. Trainer Lacey Gaudet now removes the blinkers, which should help her settle better and ration out that natural early speed more efficiently, potentially making her tough to peg back in the opener. Strengthening the case further, Gaudet has struck at 40% (4-for-10; \$3.00 ROI) over the last year when removing blinkers.

### **R7: HOLY SYNCHRONICITY (7/2 ML)**

Following a very solid front-running effort at a mile last time—in which he set closer-friendly fractions in front and still held on gamely for second—HOLY SYNCHRONICITY could prove very dangerous cutting back to his optimum trip of seven furlongs today while carrying nine pounds less than his rivals. Drawn tactically outside the other main speed, he looks poised for an ideal press-and-pounce trip into the winner's circle.

### **R9: CHIMNEY SWEEP (7/2 ML)**

Having spent his entire career competing at higher levels, CHIMNEY SWEEP dropped into the maiden 35k ranks when last seen returning from a layoff and produced a winning effort in defeat, overcoming a wide trip while holding off all but two deep closers after racing close to a hot early pace. The effort—produced off just a limited series of morning workouts—was better than the PPs suggest and confirmed that he's found a level at which he can shed the maiden tag. Second back today with Rocco Jr. retaining the ride and what appear slightly lesser rivals to contend with, it may simply be a case of tenth time lucky for this gelding.

## FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

### **BETTER WATCH IT** *(Entered at Laurel – SAT 5/30, Race 1)*

**Trainer:** Madison Meyers

**Last Race:** Nov. 16, 1<sup>st</sup> race

**Finish:** 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 8<sup>th</sup> race

**Finish:** 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **CLEARLY SOPHIA**

**Trainer:** Michael Gorham

**Last Race:** April 10, Race 6

**Finish:** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **MAGICAL MONDAYS**

**Trainer:** Tim Woolley

**Last Race:** May 3, 7<sup>th</sup> race

**Finish:** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **LYUDMILA** *(Entered at Laurel – SAT 5/30, Race 4)*

**Trainer:** Justin Nixon

**Last Race:** Nov. 21, 6<sup>th</sup> race

**Finish:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 7<sup>th</sup> race

**Finish:** 4<sup>th</sup> by 4 ¾ 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.

### **LOVELIEST**

**Trainer:** Eddie Kenneally

**Last Race:** April 17, Race 7

**Finish:** 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Jose Vargas (apprentice): #4 - Back Wall Bandit; #9 - Music on the Rocks >>> **Vargas rides BACK WALL BANDIT**

Race 2 - Jose Vargas: #1 - Fire At Midnight; #4 - Chickin Lickin >>> **Vargas rides CHICKIN LICKIN**

Race 4 - Raul Mena: #2 - Mose Smokin; #6 - English Daddy >>> **Mena rides MOSE SMOKIN**

Race 9 - Mychel Sanchez: #1A - He's All Heart; #8 - Regency Tale >>> **Sanchez rides HE'S ALL HEART**

Race 9 - Martin Chuan: #2 - Stark County; #4 - Red Sea >>> **Chuan rides STARK COUNTY**

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

**A recap of SATURDAY, MAY 23 action at Laurel Park.** Visit [theracingbiz.com](http://theracingbiz.com) for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

**Race 1:** Another rainy day saw all five scheduled grass races, including this one, get washed away to the dirt. The adage "gray horses on gray days" proved apt, as **Home Invasion** rallied from last with a bold move on the far turn, kicking away and ultimately winning by 11  $\frac{3}{4}$  lengths. Return Fire battled for the lead, disposed of his dueling partner, and opened up a clear advantage before getting run down by Home Invasion; he ultimately held second.

**Race 2:** The three experienced horses in this race finished 1-2-3. **Remembertheword**, second on debut, raced three-wide on the early pace and won an exciting stretch battle with ground-saving Pelican Pier.

**Race 3:** Like he always does, **Karma's Inthehouse** blasted out of the gate and opened up a clear early lead. Unlike his previous 17 starts, he held on to win. He was clearly leg-weary late, but had opened up enough of an advantage to withstand the frantic late rallies of Flying to Work and Star Atlas.

**Race 4: Rapidity** delivered at 6-1, the biggest price in the five-horse field. He stayed glued to the rail early on and hit the front when a hole opened up on the far turn.

**Race 5:** Top Blood opened up a long early lead and set honest fractions for the conditions. He gave way on the final turn, setting the stage for favored **Formal Affair**, who rallied from last, and 23-1 Likebelivingnmagic, who sat just off the pace. The longshot briefly led in midstretch, but Formal Affair, despite not changing leads, dug in and pulled clear late.

**Race 6:** Ten horses entered this race, but when it was washed away to the main track, only three wanted to stay in. One of them was **Hue**, who dueled for the lead with Ready for Trouble for most of the way but pulled clear late. Ready for Trouble finished a clear-cut second over Aldene, who never made an impact.

**Race 7:** Once again, an off-the-grass race was scratched down to a mere trio. Heavily favored **Creed's Vision** made the lead without drama and never gave it up.

**Race 8: Change My World** hadn't won in a while, but had also been running against the likes of Wickeddivine, Paco the Taco Man, and the aforementioned Creed's Vision. Without any of those rivals in his way, he found his task much easier. He sat off the pace on the inside, angled off the rail in the stretch, and drew away from there.

**Race 9: Weekend Wife** converted a perfect trip from the catbird seat to easily win. Mitole's Girl ran by far the best of the early leaders; she held second and finished 8 ½ lengths clear of her dueling partner. Favored Shine On Moon was bumped at the start and did not get involved from there.

## PAST TRACK TRENDS

Jan. 9 – Fair	Feb. 20 – Fair	Mar. 22 – Fair (perhaps outside lean)	Apr. 25 – SPEED BIAS
Jan. 10 – Fair	Feb. 21 – Fair	Mar. 27 – Fair	Apr. 26 – Fair
Jan. 16 – Fair	Feb. 22 – Fair	Mar. 28 – Fair	May 1 – SPEED BIAS
Jan. 17 – Fair	Feb. 27 – Fair	Mar. 29 – SPEED BIAS	May 2 – Fair
Jan. 23 – Fair	Feb. 28 – Fair	Apr. 3 – Fair	May 3 – Fair
Jan. 30 - (only 1 race)	Mar. 1 – Fair	Apr. 4 – Fair	May 8 – CLOSERS BIAS
Feb. 4 – Fair	Mar. 6 – Fair (slight outside lean)	Apr. 10 – Fair	May 9 – Fair
Feb. 5 – Fair (speed lean)	Mar. 7 – SPEED BIAS	Apr. 11 – Fair	May 10 – CLOSERS BIAS
Feb. 6 – Fair	Mar. 8 – Fair	Apr. 12 – Fair	May 14 – Fair
Feb. 12 – CLOSERS BIAS	Mar. 13 – SPEED BIAS (strong	Apr. 17 – Fair	🏆 May 15 – Fair
Feb. 13 – Fair (slight speed lean)	crosswind)	Apr. 18 – SPEED BIAS	🏆 May 16 – Fair
Feb. 14 – Fair	Mar. 15 – Fair	Apr. 19 – Fair	May 22 – SPEED BIAS
Feb. 15 – Fair	Mar. 20 – Fair	Apr. 24 – Fair	May 23 – Fair
	Mar. 21 – Fair (perhaps outside lean)		