



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SATURDAY, MAY 23

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



KEITH FEUSTLE



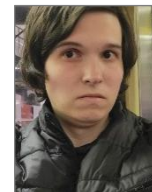
KALI FRANCOIS



DAN ILLMAN



MACK PFEIFFER



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN

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

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

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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. FRIDAYSWITHMURRAY

2. FINN MCSORLEY

3. OWHATANITE

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. **FRIDAYSWITHMURRAY** sat in a loose pocket in a slow-paced Monmouth race, cut the corner into the stretch, was checked while in tight, eased out a couple of times, and made up late ground. Believe he can adapt if the pace is slow again, and he's proven over wet turf. Hazlewood departs for Home Invasion. **FINN MCSORLEY** didn't do much over jumps last month, but he boasts solid back turf and synthetic form. Broke well at Turfway two back, saved ground in the second-to-third flight, angled outside, and finished second to the odds-on favorite despite being late to change leads. Finished ahead of two next-out winners, and has enough tactical speed to stay close to the expected moderate pace. **OWHATANITE** wasn't away the best in his seasonal debut, pulled to race at the back, eased outside, and got up for third. The runner-up then took a \$16,000 "non-three" claimer with a 71 Beyer. The barn went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$3.84 ROI) in the second start following a 120-180 day layoff. **RETURN FIRE** set the pace when returning to turf, was no match for the favored winner, but tried very hard to hold down second. Expect good early speed as he races out of conditions.

>> RACE 2

1. REMEMBERTHEWORD

2. ISLAND BANDIT

3. PELICAN PIER

REMEMBERTHEWORD prompted the pacesetter's slow fractions from in between rivals, was urged along on the turn, then held onto second despite being late to change leads. Barring a quick first-time starter, he might be fast enough to make the lead. Hazlewood lands here instead of Baru. **ISLAND BANDIT** is a well-bred colt who received a good education in his debut. He broke okay despite being bumped, took dirt in his face while racing in the pocket, cut the corner into the lane, and finished up with some interest. He should move forward with that race under his girth, and the barn sent out three winners between 5/10 and 5/15. **PELICAN PIER** broke outward, advanced to prompt the pace while three wide, then couldn't go with the top-two selections in the stretch. Must break alertly from the tricky inside post. **BARU** (\$3,000 yearling) is a half-brother to multiple stakes-winning turf miler Fulmineo (86 turf Beyer) out of stakes-winning dirt miler Starr of Quality (85 dirt Beyer).

>> RACE 3

1. GOODLUCK ROAD

2. KARMA'S INTHEHOUSE

3. HAWKSBURY HUSTLER

GOODLUCK ROAD was bumped at the start of his seasonal debut, pressed the favored runner-up from the outside, and finished evenly behind the two chinks. That runner-up then graduated for \$35,000 with a 64 Beyer Speed Figure. Seems tactical enough to find a good early position for a barn that went 3 for the last 15 (20%, \$3.25 ROI) with turf horses racing second after layoffs between 120-180 days. **KARMA'S INTHEHOUSE** (wears a hood), listed as a Colonial vet scratch on 3/14, went very fast on the lead in his most recent grass performance. The third-finisher then hit the board in his next three starts with an 80 dirt Beyer top. You'll know him early. **HAWKSBURY HUSTLER** (\$1,700 short yearling, \$18,000 RNA yearling; \$12,000 RNA May juvenile) is out of a half-sister to multiple stakes-placed turf router Pennington (96 turf Beyer). The May 15 gate work matches the barn's 8-year-old mare She Makes a Point (83 synthetic Beyer). Perhaps they breezed in company. **FIERY DEBUT** chased Kohoutek last time, and that gelding then compiled a record of 4-3-1-0 with a 74 Beyer top. Kicks late if the pace is hot.

>> RACE 4

1. PANAGIOTIS

2. FREEDOM MAKER

3. SPEEDY ALEX

PANAGIOTIS seems well-spotted for his return to the circuit after failing to threaten in New York. Tracked a moderate pace from the outside, was hard-ridden on the turn, altered course to the rail in the upper stretch, and never rallied. He can get close to the pace for a barn that sent out a 13-1 sprint-to-route winner at Monmouth on 5/17. Cruz departs for Cademan. **FREEDOM MAKER**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on both 4/11 and 5/2, tracked three wide at Penn National under urging, was floated out and forced to alter course inside a drifting leader, and rallied on the rail to place ahead of two next-out winners. He is capable at the distance with the tactical speed to sit just off the lead. **SPEEDY ALEX** tracked a moderate pace from in between horses, found a split turning for home, and finished evenly after being late to change leads. Late-runner would appreciate some pace to attack. **CADEMAN** was wired by the favorite at Tampa Bay, but he might be the one to set the pace as he stretches out in distance for the first time. The sixth-finisher from the last race then won a \$20,000 "non-two" claimer at Hawthorne with a 74 Beyer.

>> RACE 5

1. FORREST CITY

2. CITY PANDA

3. MISSION MIKE

FORREST CITY hasn't done much since returning from a lengthy layoff, but perhaps he's slowly racing himself back into shape. Tracked three wide and in between last time, was shuffled back at the half-mile pole, then never factored. He was in good form at this time last year, and might appreciate getting back around two turns for a barn that sent out a 2-1 winner on 5/10. **CITY PANDA** looks like the one to beat after finishing ahead of two of these, including the top pick. Bumped at the start, he raced at the back, made an inside advance on the turn, gradually made it to the outside, and finished evenly to just miss third. That race produced two next-out winners. **MISSION MIKE** saved ground in midpack in a Tampa sprint, made a three-wide bid under urging, and failed to threaten while in between. The third-finisher then placed in a nickel conditioned claimer there with a 67 Beyer. Think he's better around two turns for a barn that went 4 for the last 13 (31%, \$2.66 ROI) when moving from sprint to dirt route.

>> RACE 6

1. MOPO

2. RIVER SEINE

3. WISE AND ELEGANT

MOPO saved ground behind a quick pace, raced in behind horses in the upper stretch, altered course to split rivals, and rallied nicely to best state-sired allowance foes. Think she's found her niche as a turf sprinter, and should be charging in the stretch. **RIVER SEINE** ran very well in her first start after being purchased for \$60,000 at auction. Not away the best, she advanced to press odds-on Sunna, who then captured The Very One Stakes with a 90 Beyer. Couldn't go with that foe, but was easily second best, and might be the one to grab the early lead here. **WISE AND ELEGANT** found a perfect pocket position, eased outside into the stretch, then drew away despite finishing up on her left lead. Not sure that trip is available from this post position for a barn that went 7 for the last 25 (28%, \$2.11 ROI) with last-out winners. Hazlewood departs this one and Dale's Bluff for **READY FOR TROUBLE**.

>> RACE 7

1. THATAWAY

2. RYE DIGGITYDOG

3. ENZO

THATAWAY swaps out blinkers for cheekpieces for his first start of the year. Wonder if this sprint is merely a prep for something longer down the road, but he ran some decent races going short earlier in his career. Tracked three wide and in between last time, was outpaced on the second turn, and finished evenly outside. He might need some pace to attack for a barn that went 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$2.24 ROI) with horses moving from route to sprint in the first after a 120-day layoff or greater. Lyapustina departs for Brightshininglight. **RYE DIGGITYDOG** saved ground in midpack, angled three wide into the stretch, then grinded for second after swapping leads several times. Finished ahead of four of these, and is expected to put in a late run. **ENZO** put away two other pace rivals in his most recent turf outing and tried hard for second in a race that produced two next-out winners. The winner, Knockanara, then compiled a 4-1-2-1 record with an 88 Beyer top. He should be prominent when they swing for home.

>> RACE 8

1. EASY ACTION

2. CHANGE MY WORLD

3. AND SUM

EASY ACTION tried rating tactics last time out, and don't think that's his best running style. He broke well, but was wrestled back to track two wide/three path. Made a three-wide bid on the turn, then finished evenly on the outside. The winner then ran third in a first-level allowance with a 73 Beyer. He should be active from the start. **CHANGE MY WORLD** bobbed slightly at the start, tracked from the pocket, was urged along on the turn, cut the corner, and finished evenly behind the two favorites in a race where they ran 1-2-3 around the track. Paco the Taco Man then notched his third straight win in an open first-level allowance with an 81 Beyer. He has excellent tactical speed. Cruz lands here instead of Roll On Jesse. **AND SUM** makes his first start for a new barn after chasing Wickeddivine, who then won his third straight in a second-level allowance with an 88 Beyer. He's lightly-raced with upside, and is another that can get close to the pace. **ROLL ON JESSE** kicks late if the pace is hot. He faced Joe the Jet last time, and that horse then placed in a first-level allowance with a 78 Beyer.

>> RACE 9

1. GRIPEN

2. MINARI

3. LIEN ON HER

GRIPEN looked good in both starts on turf. Saved ground in midpack last time, split rivals on the turn, made a three-wide bid into the stretch, then drew off while drifting in slightly. Think there's enough pedigree for her to last the extra distance, and she can show early speed for a barn that went 5 for the last 17 (29%, \$2.44 ROI) when moving from sprint to route. Hazlewood departs for Lien On Her. Want to use **MINARI** in multiple-race wagers. Returning from a 280-day layoff, she settled at the back, made a three-wide bid, and was gaining in the stretch behind a gate-to-wire winner. **LIEN ON HER** saved ground in midpack behind a hot pace, angled four wide into the stretch, then drove them down to grab her turf and route debut. The fourth-finisher then placed in a \$12,500 "non-two" claimer with a 66 Beyer. **BOYS GO TO JUPITER** received a solid pace to attack when a big-priced runner-up earlier in the month. Not sure that sort of setup is available here.

KALI'S KEY – by Kali Francois

Race 3: #1 Flying to Work

Aside from this one to being a half to ultra-consistent Whitknuckleflyer, additional half-siblings have made good showcases in their turf debuts. With the fact that this one cannot make up ground over trouble on the dirt, this one can come from off the pace decently enough to relish in the second wire finish. I actually love the inside post for him - it takes a lot of pressure off.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Home Invasion looks close to career best form based on recent starts, third off the bench offers room for improvement, and leading rider sticking with the ride is encouraging. Should we be off the turf, Fairfield Bay impressed visually last out, and may be ready for another step forward here.

R2: Island Bandit didn't get away smoothly but tried willingly every step of the way. If he can break alertly, he may be tough to reel in. Remembertheword finished ahead of him in the same race, I don't love inexperienced types working back so quickly, and I take the wait and see approach today.

R3: Karma's Inthehouse is certainly flattered by Bring the Smoke returning to LRL to win on Preakness day. Class relief could go a long way as he finds himself outside of the likely pace here. Goodluck Road seems to be finding his way after a bit of class relief and adding lasix. Could continue to improve 2nd off the bench here.

R4: Panagiotis showed plenty of ability in his lone start at LRL, the gallop out was enough to suggest he should handle a bit more ground than. Now he looks outsprinted in NY, a logical transfer back to MD should serve him well. If the pace heats up Blo By'em may benefit while returning to the mile, a configuration which worked well in his 2-back win.

R5: Morning Thoughts should appreciate returning to 2-turns, with a questionable pace scenario, he could dictate terms early here. Some concern for the quick turn arounds in back-to-back races. Class relief could go a long way in the case of Formal Affair, just not enough that I trust him at such a short price.

R6: Mopo returned in a big way with her closing kick, and a gallop out that was even more impressive. With plenty of speed here, it's likely a fair pace which sets up for her late run. Hue has run races which make her very competitive in this group, her last outing doesn't seem to represent her ability.

R7: Creed's Vision ran into the much more experience Paco the Taco Man last out, who has found career best form. I give him a chance to get back to the winner's circle here. Brightshininglight may be facing winners for the first time, but his first try on the turf was visually impressive that he deserves a chance to step up here.

R8: Easy Action is well spotted in restricted company, the only 10x winner in this group has strong recent form and tactical speed to sit the trip. Change My World has been in very good form, some question of whether he will be forced to set the early pace in here.

R9: Speed could be a big question here, perhaps that is the approach for Shine On Moon. I look to Minari, who ran a career best in her season debut, rallying behind a gate-to-wire winner. In case we are off the turf, Mitole's Girl deserves consideration based on her wet track performances, and return to form in recent starts.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#4 - Owhatanite

Trainer: Suzanne Stettinius
Second After 120-180 Days: 3 for 11 (27%, \$3.84 ROI)

RACE 3

#6 - Goodluck Road

Trainer: Kevin Boniface
Second After 120-180 Days, Turf: 3 for 15 (20%, \$3.25 ROI)

RACE 5

#5 - Mission Mike

Trainer: Renaldo Richards
Sprint to Dirt Route: 4 for 13 (31%, \$2.66 ROI)

RACE 6

#10 - Wise and Elegant

Trainer: Hugh McMahon
Last-Out Winners: 7 for 25 (28%, \$2.11 ROI)

RACE 7

#10 - Thataway

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet
Route to Sprint, First After 120 Days+: 2 for 10 (20%, \$2.24 ROI)

RACE 9

#4 - Gripen

Trainer: Robbie Bailes
Sprint to Route: 5 for 17 (29%, \$2.44 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+, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#2 FRIDAYSWITHMURRAY	Claiming 16k, MTH, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 05/10/26 – 3 rd	Tracked slow pace on rail from ~4L back to far turn; crept closer under hand urging on rail bend; cut corner into the stretch, then tried to slip up the inside but was shut off and forced to check, losing significant momentum and a little ground; regathered stride inside final 1/8 and then made a commendable late rally but had too much to do.	He was beaten just 3/4L despite having had no pace to run at and having met significant trouble in the stretch. It's easy to argue he was best in here and his effort is deserving of a notable UPGRADE. Player right back third off the bench.
#6 HOME INVASION	Claiming 12k, LRL, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 05/02/26 – 2 nd	Bumped hard between start; tracked leader inside racing into the back stretch, then had to slam on the brakes ~3/4 and check as the leader slowed the pace rapidly in front of him; recovered and continued to track the pace into the turn; came under a mild hand ride to hold his position as the field bunched tightly ~3/8, then had to wait in traffic/halt his momentum ~1/4, losing a couple of lengths as the eventual winner kicked in front; cut the corner as a rail gap opened entering the lane, straightened for the drive ~3-4L off the leader, then ran home gamely but had too much to do.	Combining his slightly troubled trip - which resulted in him racing further back than intended and unable to advance into a prominent position until in the lane - with the dynamics of this race (it was a slow-paced race run over a speed biased track), he was unable to run to his full ability and all things considered, he did well to finish 2nd. We can mark up this effort and if transferring this form back to the turf, expect more from him today.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #3 IMAGINE IT ALL sat a wide trip in his return effort off the layoff last time. With a race under his belt and a more ground saving trip, he should be able to step forward this afternoon. - We can toss #8 GREEN BEANS last start before his recent layoff: running over a distance short of his best, he stumbled very badly at the gate and was left in a detached last early, facing an impossible task trying to close in to a pace that held incredibly well (top five finishers – including runner at odds of 36/1, 20/1 and 71/1 – were positioned 1,2,3,5,4, respectively, at first call). Provided he's ready off the bench today, we should see more from him with a better break at two-turns today. 			

Race 2: MSW, 2YO, 4 ½ Furlongs, Dirt**Other notes:**

- **#3 ISLAND BANDIT** looks the colt to take out of the MSW he, **#1 PELICAN PIER** and **#4 REMEMBERTHEWORD** exit on May 02: he stalked the pace setting eventual winner – who was being gently pressed by **#4 REMEMBERTHEWORD** through fractions that held well - on the rail into the turn, then crept closer under hand urging before having to briefly pause when absent of a clear path ~5/16 (momentum loss arguably cost him more than the head he was beaten); as the leader then began to kick away, he cut the corner into the lane and stayed on willingly while tight along the rail (often and intimidating spot, especially for a debuting 2YO), only just missing 2nd. The track had a slight speed lean this day and under different circumstances, it seems very possible that he can reverse form with REMEBERTHEWORD.

Race 3: Maiden Claiming 16k, 3-6YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf**Other notes:**

- **#1 FLYING TO WORK** didn't quite do enough to earn an upgrade last time; however, he was racing against the flow after a slow break (slow pace resulted in top 3 finishers filling those positions throughout), and he was also a touch wide on the turn. Easy enough to argue he was 2nd best in that spot. Makes turf debut today.
- The chart comment correctly highlights how **#2 FIERY DEBUT** had to steady slightly entering the turn in his last race, but it wasn't significant enough to suggest it cost him a position. Returns off layoff today.
- **#6 GOODLUCK ROAD** ran a likable race off the layoff last month, finishing 3rd at odds of 20/1, and he's deserving of respect today. Do note, though, that hardly any runner made up any ground in that race, and it was very difficult for closers to get involved, which likely aided him. Maybe just take that form with a pinch of salt.

Race 4: Claiming 12.5k, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 BLO BY'EM	Claiming 12k, LRL, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 05/02/26 – 4 th	Bumped start; took back from between foes and settled towards rear of tightly bunched field racing into the back stretch, then steadied and lost a little ground/momentum as a foe backed up into him ~3/4; switched outside and continued to track the tightly bunched field run last racing to the far turn; tried to advance far turn but struggled to do so while losing ground 5W, then finished evenly on his left lead for 4 th .	An UPGRADABLE first try at two-turns due to the fact that he met a little trouble, lost ground racing wide on the turn, and was trying to close into a slow pace over a track that was slightly favoring speed. With this two-turn experience behind him and a set of different circumstances to work with today, he might be able to remind us why he was sent off as the 2/1 fav last time.

Other notes:

- Considering he's often showed qualities of a runner who'd appreciate further, and connections are stretching him out to a mile today, we shouldn't knock **#2 PANAGIOTIS** for finishing last at Aqueduct when last seen because a slow opening ¼ led to the field simply out-sprinting him in the latter half of the race; he ran evenly to the 1/16 pole until he was eased late and overall, ran just about as well as could have been expected under the circumstances. Feel he'll offer more dropping in class and stretching out today.
- **#3 FREEDOM MAKER** was promoted to first at Penn National last time after the first past the post floated him ~5W off the home turn, forcing him to cut back inside entering the lane before launching a rally. Whether the DQ of the winner was just or not (these eyes suggest it was harsh), the interference FM suffered was not significant enough to warrant a speed figure upgrade, and his 62 Beyer seems a fair reflection of his effort. His overall trip was fine.

Race 5: Claiming 7.5k, 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 CITY PANDA	Claiming 7.5k, LRL, 1M, Fast Dirt, 05/02/26 – 4 th	Broke a beat slow and was bumped hard start, getting away in a detached last; chased even pace under restraint from ~9L behind into the turn; remained under a hold (while all his	Exiting sprint races and making his first start beyond 6F in a long time, he ended up much further off the even pace (that did not fall apart) than ideal after a troubled start, and then he was ridden too patiently (when

		rivals were under pressure) still well back in rear racing into the stretch, then began passing rivals under a hand ride before switching out ~1/8 pole, coming under a stronger ride and rallying to just miss 3 rd ; then galloped out nicely.	considering his late rally and likable gallop out – it seemed he finished with gas still in the tank). The track was also leaning to speed this day, which further strengthens the case that he seems capable of more than this. He'll demand respect at two-turns today.
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Other notes:

- **#4 MORNING THOUGHTS** was very wide on the turn last time, but that doesn't fully explain why he was beaten so far in last, and his Beyer dropped 14 points. It seems more likely that it was due to him failing to get the lead/a prominent position early (like he usually does), and he was also running back just 16 days after a big win, so it's possible that he bounced a little. Wouldn't rule him out of a bounce back today.
- **#5 MISSION MIKE** stayed on nicely through the lane going 7F at Tampa last time; he could be suited by today's return to two-turns.
- The chart comment correctly highlights how **#7 FORREST CITY** checked from between horses ~1/2 last time; while this did happen and lost him a length or two + a little momentum, he didn't really do enough running through the lane at odds of 21/1 (14.57 final 1/8) for us to confidently say he'd have fared much better without the interference.

Race 6: N1X Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 DALE'S BLUFF	Allowance, FG, 5 1/2F, Good Turf, 02/05/26 – 7 th	Chased even pace from 1L 2 nd in the 2P racing into the lane, then took a very hard bump in upper stretch which pinballed her off another rival and stopped her momentum; from there she was eased.	She met significant interference and was eased through the lane, explaining why she underperformed. While it's tough to know exactly how she'd have fared (and precisely what type of form she's in) with a clean trip, we're probably best served tossing this race and judging her off her prior starts instead. Returns to Capuano and returns from layoff today.
#9 MOPO	Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/02/26 – 1 st	Eased back from between foes early; chased hot pace on rail into turn; edged up onto leader's heels ~1/4, then briefly threatened to make an inside run entering the lane but the gap closed and she was forced to wait while boxed in on the fence until just before the 1/8 pole; found room and eased out 2W, then began to quicken under a hand ride; took a notable bump ~1/16 from eventual runner up but shrugged that off, edged past the leader and tipped away, still under a hand ride.	Returning off the layoff, she won this race comfortably under just a hand ride despite having met traffic in the lane and taken a bump in deep stretch. Second back with a clean trip and stronger ride late, it would be surprising if she didn't step forward from this likable return. Leading player.

Other notes:

- The chart comment mentions how **#2 HUE** steadied ~3/8 pole in her last race which did just about happen; however, it was a very minor and overall negligible steady, and we should not upgrade her effort as a result. What's more notable about her effort in that race was that she was racing against the flow that saw speed hold very well with the rails set at 70 feet. Blinkers back on today.

Race 7: Allowance, 3YO+ ♀, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Other Notes:

- After sitting a nice ground saving trip, **#3 BRIGHTSHININGLIGHT** tipped out and leveled off nicely in the final furlong to break his maiden on turf debut last time. He pricked his ears when hitting the front and didn't do a lot close home (looked to be waiting on company), so there's reason to believe that there's more to come from him as he makes just his fourth lifetime start and third off the bench today. It's also worth noting that he was fractious in the gate, which is often an undervalued reason as to why horses can improve (heart rate is already sky high before the race has begun which, among many other consequences of getting upset in the gate, typically leads to horses tiring much faster and earlier).
- Not for the first time, **#6 DYNAFLAME** took a strong hold and over-raced before fading late at two turns last time. His aggressive running style suggests that turf sprinting (especially with laurel's long stretch) could be his best game and see him improve.
- **#12 SCHRADER (MTO)** was consistently caught in less-than-ideal spots when recently going two turns on the dirt: he became keen on the rail when taken on by a 21/1 shot rounding the first turn; dropped back and tipped outside into the 2P but then had a foe join him on the outside down the back stretch, placing him tightly between foes which

prevented him from settling; after dismissing of that outside bid approaching the far turn, the eventual winner then quickly emerged and put him back in that awkward sandwich spot racing to the top of the lane; he finished admirably for 3rd but had no more to give late; a solid effort given the circumstances. Cuts back today.

Race 8: Allowance, 3YO+ ®, 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- Not sure quite what went wrong with **#4 AND SUM** last time: he bore in at the start and was away a little slower than usual, then looked to race awkwardly while a touch wide before fading tamely in the lane. He'd taken some kickback in his prior race and that didn't seem the issue, and you can't say that he was used too early either, for all the chart comment would indicate he was. Questions to answer now making his debut for Trombetta.
- While we'd usually knock horses who were allowed to set slow fractions in front, it may have actually worked against **#5 DANCING DENAE** last out because, after setting fractions of 26.12, 50.78 for a mile, he'd allowed the eventual 2.10/1 winner – who was completely unproven at a route of ground and exiting sprints – to save energy stalking in behind and then out-kick DD in the latter part of the contest. While you could say he was always booked for 2nd, a different ride may have given him a better shot at obliging as the fav. Cuts back to 7F today.
- Seemed like **#6 EASY ACTION** intentionally switched to rating tactics last time and he got beaten (still ran well though) as the short priced fav; expect him to be sent forward from the outside today.

Race 9: Claiming 30k, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 WEEKEND WIFE	Allowance, LRL, 1M, Fast Dirt, 04/18/26 – 4 th	No speed; chased slow pace from 10L+ back in a detached last into the lane, then stayed on willingly for 4 th , just 1L off 2 nd .	She never threatened for win honors but that wasn't surprising given she had no pace to run at (25.14, 49.46) and the track was presenting a speed bias; in fact, she did well to only just miss 2nd. Seems like if she handles the turf, she can improve on this UPGRADABLE effort.

Other notes:

- Although the pace was hot, speed still held well with the rails at 52 feet when **#3 LIEN ON HER** closed to break her maiden last time; there was no fluke about her win.
- After sitting a smooth trip, **#4 GRIPEN** finished up full of run to win comfortably and then galloped out very nicely last time, offering hope she'll handle today's stretch out in trip.
- **#5 BOYS GO TO JUPITER** couldn't have asked for a better trip when posting a career best 68 Beyer last time.
- Similarly to #3 LIEN ON HER, although the pace was hot/honest in **#7 MINARI**'s last race, speed held well with the top two finishers running 1-2 throughout (at odds of 12/1 and 2/1); MINARI did by far best of the closers and if stripping fitter today, should be a major player with an extra 1/16 to work with.

Horses to Follow

R1: FRIDAYSWITHMURRAY (9/5 ML)

FRIDAYSWITHMURRAY was beaten less than a length while posting a career-best 74 Beyer at Monmouth a fortnight ago, despite—as highlighted above—the race being a complete disaster from both a trip and setup standpoint. The effort strongly suggested he's stepped forward from three to four, and with a cleaner trip today, he should be capable of handling this group and registering his first win of the year as he makes his third start of the form cycle. A confident single to start the day.

R5: CITY PANDA (9/2 ML)

Making his first start beyond six furlongs since September last year, CITY PANDA was badly bothered leaving the gate and then ridden with perhaps a little too much patience into a modest pace over a speedy surface when last seen. Even so, he finished off well through the lane to pick up fourth, while his gallop-out suggested there was still more left in the tank. With that route tightener behind him now and a better break hopefully placing him into a more favorable early position in a race lacking much speed, he looks capable of stepping forward and going very close in today's fifth.

R6: MOPO (8/5 ML)

Following five reported workouts, MOPO cut back to 5 1/2 furlongs for her 2026 return and couldn't have been more impressive, overcoming traffic trouble and brushing off a stretch bump before drawing away under a hand ride. Today's field looks no tougher than the group she readily dismissed with something still in reserve last time, and her tactical speed should once again make her a major force to be reckoned with.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

BETTER WATCH IT *(Entered at FAIR HILL – SUN 5/24, Race 1)*

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.

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.

ROCKER ROLLER *(Entered at DELAWARE – Wed 5/27, Race 6)*

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.

LYUDMILA *(Breezed 5F - 1:01.80 at LRL on 5/16)*

Trainer: Justin Nixon

Last Race: Nov. 21, 6th race

Finish: 1st by 6

Gun Runner filly sold for a million dollars as a yearling, and was a professional debut winner. Pinched a bit at the start, recovered to track the pace outside, then ran by the odds-on favorite in the stretch. Expect her to winter at Tampa.

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

Trainer: Greg Sacco

Last Race: Jan. 16, 7th race

Finish: 4th by 4 3/4 lengths

First-time starter was pinballed from in between horses at the start, and dropped all the way back to last. Started to kick in at the eighth pole, angled to the fence, and just missed getting third on the wire with a nice gallop-out.

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.

DISCO RULES *(Entered at DELAWARE – Wed 5/27, Race 7)*

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.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1 - Yedsit Hazlewood: #2 - Fridayswithmurray; #6 - Home Invasion >>> **Hazlewood rides HOME INVASION**

Race 1 - Jeiron Barbosa: #4 - Owhatanite; #5 - Great Artist >>> **Barbosa rides OWHATANITE**

Race 2 - Yedsit Hazlewood: #2 - Baru; #4 - Remembertheword >>> **Hazlewood rides REMEMBERTHEWORD**

Race 3 - Hunter Rea: #4 - Broadside Salvo; #5 - Beautiful Quality >>> **Rea rides BEAUTIFUL QUALITY**

Race 4 - Angel Cruz: #2 - Panagiotis; #6 - Cademan >>> **Cruz rides CADEMAN**

Race 5 - Jevian Toledo: #1 - Top Blood; #4 - Morning Thoughts >>> **Toledo rides TOP BLOOD**

Race 6 - Yedsit Hazlewood: #5 - Ready for Trouble; #7 - Dale's Bluff; #10 - Wise and Elegant >>> **Hazlewood rides READY FOR TROUBLE**

Race 7 - Tais Lyapustina: #3 - Brightshininglight; #10 - Thataway >>> **Lyapustina rides BRIGHTSHININGLIGHT**

Race 7 - Mychel Sanchez: #7 - Enduring Gold; #8 - Creed's Vision >>> **Sanchez rides CREED'S VISION**

Race 8 - Angel Cruz: #2 - Roll On Jesse; #3 - Change My World >>> **Cruz rides CHANGE MY WORLD**

Race 9 - Yedsit Hazlewood: #3 - Lien On Her; #4 - Gripen >>> **Hazlewood rides LIEN ON HER**

Race 9 - Jose Vargas: #2 - Shine On Moon; #5 - Boys Go to Jupiter >>> **Vargas rides SHINE ON MOON**

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

A recap of **FRIDAY, MAY 22** action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: Half a Deck set the pace on the rail and looked to be in trouble at the top of the stretch when Barbed Wire Barbie loomed alongside her. However, Half a Deck shrugged her off and splashed away to an emphatic victory.

Race 2: Jerry Robb continued his dominance in early-season 2-year-old races with **The Stork Club**. That one pressed the pace and kicked by favored stablemate Island Bandit in the stretch.

Race 3: Hockey and Cha Cha Chukka dominated both the betting and the race. The former set the pace on the rail and kept going, while the latter chased her all the way around and held second, 20 ½ lengths clear of third.

Race 4: 13-1 Naomi an Ruth dueled for the lead in the two-path with 1-5 favorite Hylla, took control at the top of the stretch, and held off that resurgent rival for the upset win.

Race 5: Refund alert: Spresso Mar reared up behind the gate, ran off, and was scratched. Once the race got started, **Hurrah** sat a golden trip behind loose early leader Nattie's Boss and took advantage when she gave way. The only first-time starter in the field, Daenerys, rallied for second.

Race 6: Golden Sovereign showed no signs of rust in her first start since January. She opened a clear early lead and didn't look back.

Race 7: A trio of scratches cut this field in half. That suited **My Girl Back Home** just fine. She was six lengths in front after a quarter-mile and didn't look back from there. Probable Angle cut into the margin late but couldn't do better than second.

Race 8: Another race, another gate-to-wire winner. **Preacha Meyers** led all the way for his fourth consecutive victory.

Race 9: Favored Darty Time set the early pace, but his plan to become the fourth consecutive gate-to-wire winner of the day was thwarted by **Knock Knock**. He slid up the inside and applied pressure on the turn. He took control for good at the three-sixteenths pole. Dandy Vandy crossed the wire second, but was disqualified to fifth for causing interference in the stretch.

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

May 14 – Fair

🏆 May 15 – Fair

🏆 May 16 – Fair