



HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SATURDAY, MAY 30

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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

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.
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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. BETTER WATCH IT

2. FREEDOM GLIDER

3. BRIGHTY

The first post time is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers (first five races; last five races), each with a low 12% takeout. **BETTER WATCH IT** was bumped lightly at the break, pulled hard, and was steadied in the opening furlong, saved ground in midpack behind a solid pace, split rivals on the second turn, and finished evenly from in between. That was an oddly run affair as the winner controlled glacial fractions before really picking it up with a quick third quarter in 23.72 seconds. The eighth-finisher then won a \$15,000 "non-two" claimer at Turfway with a 71 Beyer. Seems like a nice fit at this class and distance. Demand value as the late-runner is at the mercy of race and pace luck, and must also deal with a lengthy layoff. **FREEDOM GLIDER** might be the controlling speed after wiring maidens in good time. Went quick through an opening quarter in 22.91 to secure an uncontested lead, got a backstretch breather, and was too good for that field. The barn went 5 for the last 14 (36%, \$3.50 ROI) in the third start after 61-120 day layoffs. **BRIGHTY** might have been pace compromised when attempting to rally in a heat where they ran 1-2 around the track. Faced five-time winner Dalinar that day, and now drops into this strict "non-two" event.

>> RACE 2

1. TRANSQUAKING

2. DIVINE SWAGGER

3. HOORAW

TRANSQUAKING cleared to an uncontested lead through a fast opening quarter in 22.89 seconds, came off the rail a couple of paths into the stretch, then stayed on for second behind the 8-5 second choice. There's plenty of stamina in this family, and he might try to make the lead in his first start around two turns. Vargas departs for Gonna Make It. **DIVINE SWAGGER** was forced out very badly on the first turn at Charles Town, raced at the back, made an inside advance late on the backstretch, angled outside, and passed some tired runners. Nice fit dropping back into a claimer, and has the tactical speed to race within striking range. **HOORAW** was in tight at the start, raced at the back behind a quick pace, made an early lead change when rallying on the second turn, cut the corner into the stretch, and was game to hold third. Doesn't have much speed, and will likely rally from the back. Uncoupled stablemate DEPUTY A. P. is a true stayer with a similar running style. Wired by a runaway in his lone dirt start.

>> RACE 3

1. DON'T TELL KELLY

2. BAY STREET

3. GETAWAY PALACE

DON'T TELL KELLY broke slowly when cut back to a sprint, made a four-wide bid through the turn, raced five deep into the stretch, then finished evenly with an okay gallop-out. She's often tardy from the gate, and needs to break better for a barn that went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$5.53 ROI) with horses racing third after layoffs of 120 days or greater. **BAY STREET** shook loose on an uncontested lead, then dug in gamely to best the top pick going two turns. The runner-up next placed third in a first-level allowance with a 77 Beyer. Seeks third straight victory for a barn that went 10 for the last 49 (20%, \$2.87 ROI) when moving from route to sprint. **GETAWAY PALACE** was sideswiped at the start, then was taken in hand to stalk a quick pace from the outside. Swung three-to-four wide into the stretch, made the lead, and was kicked down by a 2-1 shot. Think she'll race closer to the pace here. **BLESSED CANDY** was in too tough in her prior turf outing as the only 3-year-old in the field. The third-finisher then won her next three starts with an 80 turf Beyer top.

>> RACE 4

1. LYUDMILA

2. RERUN TABLE

3. MALIBU'S RUMRUNNER

LYUDMILA, a \$1 million yearling purchase, broke a beat slow over a closer-friendly track, tracked a quick pace while two wide/three path, made a three-wide bid on the turn, then drew away in a promising debut score. We'll learn more about her this afternoon, as she returns from a 190-day layoff against tougher competition. **RERUN TABLE** had things her way last month, as she grabbed the lead over a speed-friendly track, set slow fractions, and sprinted on home. She should be squarely in the thick of things when the field turns for home. **MALIBU'S RUMRUNNER** was wired by the favorite over a speed-friendly track in her career debut, then shrugged off a 238-day layoff to graduate comfortably at Penn National. She might have to settle a bit farther off the pace this time.

>> RACE 5

1. LET HER PASS BY

2. DON'T DO IT

3. GOOD AXE

LET HER PASS BY set the pace along the fence, and was game to save second despite being very late to change leads. Finished ahead of three of these, and was flattered somewhat when the winner returned to place third in a quarter "non-two" starter with a 55 Beyer. This barn sent out a 19-1 winner on dirt at Delaware on 5/23. **DON'T DO IT** adds Lasix and switches surfaces as a half-sister to five turf winners. Faced runaways in her last two, and might have matured greatly over the winter. **GOOD AXE** is a half-sister to stakes-placed dirt sprinter General Battle Axe (64 turf Beyer) out of a dam that won two grass races. There are strong turf bloodlines deeper in this female family. **FEEL THE BOLT** finished behind Hysterics in her most recent grass start, and that foe then graduated for \$16,000 with a 62 Beyer. Kicks late if the pace is hot.

>> RACE 6

1. DANNI'S RHYTHM

2. TURKISH BREEZE

3. READY FOR MAGIC

DANNI'S RHYTHM has plenty of angles as she drops in class and moves from turf to dirt in her second start following a 364-day layoff. Bumped several times with an inner foe while setting a four-ply pace from the fence on dirt two back, she soon grabbed the rail and a clear lead, and lasted over that muddy track. The third-finisher then placed in an off-turf maiden special with a 55 Beyer. She should get close to the pace for a barn that went 3 for the last 10 (30%, \$2.46 ROI) with horses going second after layoffs between 180 and 365 days. **TURKISH BREEZE** finished ahead of three of these when placing behind an odds-on winner that returned to run second in a \$12,500 "non-three" claimer at Parx on Wednesday. She's another that has shown good speed on the main track. **READY FOR MAGIC** was wired over an inside, speed-friendly Charles Town track two back, then rallied nicely for third when returning to this circuit. Lots of minor awards on her page. Lyapustina lands here instead of A P M Notion. **THE GREAT MAYBE** didn't break the best, then was wired by a runaway in her first start over the circuit. She might get a bit more pace to attack this time around. Ruiz lands here instead of Julie Belle.

>> RACE 7

1. STARMETAL

2. ORATOR

3. LORRAINE

STARMETAL was steadied in the early stages at Keeneland and wound up at the back of the pack. Grabbed a loose pocket on the second turn and lacked a late punch. That was a tough heat, as the winner then took a first-level allowance at Churchill with an 85 Beyer. This barn went 4 for the last 10 (40%, \$4.30 ROI) at Laurel. **ORATOR** ran solid flat races for Shug McGaughey last year, placed third in a 1 1/2-mile novice rider flat at Old Dominion Point to Point on April 4, then was pulled up in a maiden hurdle at the Virginia Gold Cup races on 5/2, and was pulled up again in another maiden hurdle at the Potomac Point to Point. Faced a nice horse in that flat try at Aqueduct last fall, as the winner then hit the board in his next two starts with Beyers of 89 and 86. **LORRAINE** makes her seasonal debut against males after giving a game try in her final start last year. Tracked a solid pace from in between, made an early bid to secure the rail and the lead on the second turn, and tried hard to the wire. This barn sent out a 19-1 winner on turf here on 4/19. **SKYCROSS** was hustled hard from the gate to secure a pocket position, then stayed on to place ahead of a next-out dirt winner. He should show good speed this afternoon.

>> RACE 8

1. SHE'S NOT A LAD

2. NANCY MARY

3. LOOKS FIRST

SHE'S NOT A LAD pressed the odds-on winner while two wide/four path, pressed two wide/three path at the three-eighths pole, then drifted in a bit when rebuffed in the final eighth. Think she's the one to grab the lead this time around. **NANCY MARY** stalked from in between horses when cut back to a sprint, split rivals under urging on the turn, eased three wide into the stretch, and wore them down to score. Dependable filly has been given plenty of time to recover from that career-best Beyer score, and goes out for a barn that had three winners between 4/24 and 5/14. **LOOKS FIRST** was wired by an odds-on favorite when returned to dirt. She was making up strong late ground for a barn that went 6 for 18 (33%, \$2.72 ROI) between 5/15 and 5/23.

>> RACE 9

1. HARDSPUN REASON

2. FUERTEVENTURA

3. JACK'S LEGEND

HARDSPUN REASON was stakes-placed on turf at Monmouth three back, then didn't do much in a two-mile marathon before failing to threaten over muddy dirt. He should appreciate getting back to a more reasonable distance on turf while adding Lasix for his seasonal debut, and he won fresh to kick off his 2024 campaign. Breezed without blinkers outside Lordship (scheduled to make turf debut on Friday) at Fair Hill on 5/22, finished heads apart, and galloped out better for a barn that went 22 for 108 (20%, \$2.73 ROI) between 12/19 and 5/25. **FUERTEVENTURA** is a multiple stakes-winner making his first start for the Ness barn. Saved ground in midpack behind a quick pace in Aqueduct's Knickerbocker, eased out into the stretch, then finished evenly from in between. Sanchez lands here instead of Miranda Rights. **JACK'S LEGEND** prompted the 4-1 fourth-finisher, then tired in the stretch. Should show fresh positional speed from the outset. **REGALO** was wired at Presque Isle Downs before going on the shelf for almost 300 days. The sixth-finisher then hit the board in his next three turf starts with an 89 Beyer top. He'll get close to the pace. **MIRANDA RIGHTS** saved ground behind a fast pace at Keeneland, split foes on the second turn, then finished evenly without threatening. Kicks on in the stretch.

>> RACE 10

1. BARBADIAN RUNNER

2. INDY CHARGES ON

3. UNION FLEET

BARBADIAN RUNNER was wired in a slow-paced race when returning for his seasonal debut in a two-turn sprint at Charles Town. Saved ground near the back, made an inside advance on the backstretch, angled outside into the stretch, and came with a good late rally. **INDY CHARGES ON** settled into a good spot behind the pacesetters, prompted three wide entering the second turn under a confident ride, made an early three-wide bid to the lead and the rail on the backstretch, then tired just a bit in the stretch. The sixth-finisher next hit the board in his last two races with an 85 Beyer top. He should show good early speed from the rail draw. Vargas lands here instead of **UNION FLEET**, who broke a beat slow earlier in the month, saved ground at the back, cut the corner into the stretch, then failed to threaten the four favorites.

>> RACE 11

1. CLAUDEE BOY

2. TOUGH WORKOUT

3. TIZ NO CLOWN

CLAUDEE BOY was likely overmatched against first-level allowance foes. Settled in midpack while racing three wide, made a three-to-four wide bid on the turn, then made up four lengths in the stretch despite hopping back to his left lead right on the wire. He was very competitive off the layoff over this course and distance two back, and should kick hard in the stretch. **TOUGH WORKOUT** was steadied along the fence to prompt a three-ply pace, was shuffled into the pocket entering the turn, split rivals and failed to threaten. He is quick from the gate and might attempt to grab the early lead. **TIZ NO CLOWN** is completely unexposed on turf, as his only prior two grass runs came against much tougher competition. He's listed as a first-time gelding and is tactical enough to work out a good tracking trip. **TRANSACTIONAL GUY** deserves strong consideration if able to escape the Also Eligible list.

KALI'S KEY – by Kali Francois

Race 1: #8 West Mountain

He was a 53-1 shot when he won, but he certainly looked like a much better price when I saw him in the paddock before that win. Flamenco Star is a nice Duarte Jr. horse and West Mountain's half, Luckman, won the Toronto Cup several years ago. If you watch a replay of how game this one was last out, you would think 10/1 is a steal.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#9 - Freedom Glider

Trainer: John Salzman Jr.

Third After 61-120 Days: 5 for 14 (36%, \$3.50 ROI)

RACE 3

#4 - Don't Tell Kelly

Trainer: Kenny Cox

Third After 120+ Days: 3 for 11 (27%, \$5.53 ROI)

RACE 3

#6 - Bay Street

Trainer: Damon Dilodovico

Route to Sprint: 10 for 49 (20%, \$2.87 ROI)

RACE 6

#10 - Danni's Rhythm

Trainer: Robbie Bailes

Second After 180-365 Days: 3 for 10 (30%, \$2.46 ROI)

RACE 7

#2 - Starmetal

Trainer: Michelle Nihei

Laurel: 4 for 10 (40%, \$4.30 ROI)

RACE 8

#5 - Looks First

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

Between 5/15 and 5/23: 6 for 18 (33%, \$2.72 ROI)

RACE 9

#3 - Hardspun Reason

Trainer: Graham Motion

Between 12/19 and 5/25: 22 for 108 (20%, \$2.73 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: Starter Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/8 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#11 BLACKTHORNE BRUSCA (AE)	Claiming 16k, LRL, 1M, Good Turf, 04/26/26 – 9 th	Saved ground chasing the even pace from ~10L in rear heading to ½; advanced slightly closer as field bunched entering far turn; continued to travel well (he looked full of run) when ~8L off lead rounding the far turn, then checked hard off heels ~1/4, losing a couple of lengths and momentum; recovered and tried to close late in the lane but was persistently denied a clear run and not hard ridden as a result, ultimately settling for 9 th but only 1 1/2L off 4 th .	He shaped with far more promise in this return off the layoff than the bare result would indicate, owing to his troubled trip – UPGRADE this effort and expect far more second off the bench today.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not sure it made a tremendous amount of difference to his finishing position as a 22/1 shot, but #1 TYSON'S DELIVERY was roughed around and consequently had his momentum checked slightly when angling out 5W ~5/16 pole between foes last time. It was his first route start since last September too, and so there's reason to believe that with a smoother trip he can move forward from that effort. - #7 LINO'S FIRE didn't have a bad trip at all when breaking his maiden on the dirt last out, but he's still entitled to a little extra credit for the fact that he was forced to wait on the far turn when he'd ideally have been building momentum from last, closing into slow fractions of 25.26, 50.57. He was game late on and is heading in the right direction. Makes turf debut today. - Making his second start off the layoff and second start on turf with blinkers (first came off the layoff when possibly short of peak fitness), #9 FREEDOM GLIDER ran out a very impressive winner last time: he set legitimate fractions (22.91, 47.77) in front before widening with good energy through the lane; seems like he could have more to offer again. 			

Race 2: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 3-6YO, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#3 TRANSQUAKING	Maiden Claiming 12k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Fast Dirt, 05/10/26 – 2 nd	Away well; crossed inside and set fast fractions under an aggressive ride into the lane; straightened for the drive ~1.5L up, then stayed on gamely to the wire but was collared ~1/16 pole and settled for 2 nd .	He turned away everyone (including the prominently positioned 4/5 fav) in this race except for the winner who closed into the hot fractions he set. PACE UPGRADE. Makes route debut with blinkers off today.

Other notes:

- **#2 DIVINE SWAGGER** didn't do enough at Charles Town last time to earn an upgrade; however, he didn't have a clean trip either as he was forced way out around the first turn which lost him multiple lengths; his prior starts may be a better guide to his ability. Makes route debut today.
- **#4 MY CAPTAIN** didn't factor when making his debut on the turf, but he did stay on well through the lane in a manner to suggest today's trip would be more to his liking. He had also become fractious behind the gate, which is often an underrated reason as to why horses can show more on another occasion. Blinkers go on today.
- **#8 DEPUTY A. P.** endured a rough start last time, but that wasn't the reason he was beaten over 21L.

Race 3: Starter Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 DON'T TELL KELLY	Claiming 20k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/08/26 – 5 th	Lacked speed; chased hot pace from ~8L last into the turn; advanced despite losing ground with a 5W move turn, then finished well but just missed the show.	While accepting that her running style over sprint trips is more often than not going to result in a wide trip, the ground she lost with the 5W move cost her two positions in this race and therefore, we can mark her effort up a little. She could be ideally suited by today's 6F distance.
#7 LADY ZETA	Starter Allowance, LRL, 6F, Firm Turf, 05/08/26 – 4 th	Stalked honest pace outside; 3W far turn; stayed on evenly on left lead between foes in stretch until steady and checking hard ~1/16 pole, ending any chance she had.	Returning off a freshening, she was a touch wide on the turn and then met significant trouble in the lane which almost certainly cost her 3rd – UPGRADE this effort and expect more today.

Other notes:

- The trip **#2 GETAWAY PALACE** sat in her last race wasn't bad enough to warrant an upgrade and she received a great setup; however, she was bumped fairly hard at the start and then shuffled back a little early before racing a fraction wider than ideal on the turn, so there is reason to believe that she can offer a little more today.
- The chart comment notes how **#3 AFTERMATH** checked entering the turn last time, which did happen to an extent. However, it wasn't a significant steady and the only reason it happened was because she failed to get the lead and then pulled very hard in behind horses before flattening out. Expecting her to be in front early today.
- **#8 FIVECOMMATWO** took a step back in the right direction when returned to turf last out, staying on nicely into and even pace before galloping out with credit. She could be suited by today's extra 1/16.

Race 4: OC 62k/C Allowance, 3YO (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#6 SLEWPERSTITUS	Allowance, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 04/25/26 – 2 nd	Firm rate tight between foes ~3L off slow pace; came under pressure while 3-4W turn, then stayed on willingly through the lane but had no chance of catching the winner.	Exiting the same race as #4 RERUN TABLE and making her first start off the layoff, she was facing a near impossible task here trying to close both into the slow pace and against the speed bias. It wouldn't be a surprise if she took a notable step forward off this effort.

Other notes:

- Although **#1 LAST GIFT** was best last out, period, it does have to be noted that there was a speed bias present that day which may have helped her somewhat. Steps up in class today.
- **#3 JUNIPER'S JUBILEE** was bumped at the start last out, but we can't use that as an excuse for his subpar effort; she seemed off color and will need to bounce back today.

- Similarly to #1 LAST GIFT, although **#4 RERUN TABLE** was seemingly much the best when winning last out, we can knock her based on the fact that she set slow fractions on an uncontested lead, and there was a speed bias present.
- **#5 LYUDMILLA** was tremendously impressive on debut, winning easily with something in reserve. Makes return off the layoff today with lasix added.

Race 5: Maiden Claiming 16k, 3-6YO (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#10 LUCKY TIN TIN	Maiden Claiming 16k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/01/26 – 5 th	Hustled but lacked speed; chased even pace from ~5L back between foes until checking in tight ~1/2; checked again 7/16 and dropped well back; turned for home ~12L off the lead, then finished evenly.	Don't think she was ever going to threaten in this debut effort, but she did have a troubled trip. With Lasix now added second out, she could be capable of taking a meaningful step forward.

Other notes:

- **None.**

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

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 READY FOR MAGIC	Claiming 12k, LRL, 7F, Fast Dirt, 05/09/26 – 3 rd	Chased even pace from ~3L back between horses into the turn; lacked daylight to advance and was forced back a little racing to the ¼ as the winner was advancing closer to the eventual runner up (ideally, she'd have been advancing with this foes but instead was losing ground under a hold); turned for home ~6L back in 6 th , then stayed on willingly between foes to finish 3 rd , beaten 3 1/2L.	Following an excusable defeat two back in which she was tasked with closing into a slow pace over a heavily speed biased track, she again ran slightly better than the result/speed fig would suggest here, doing well to pick up 3rd after – through no fault of her own – losing position and lengths on the eventual 1-2 finishers when absent of a clear path on the turn. She looks to be rounding into form and could have more to offer still.

Other notes:

- **#10 DANNI'S RHYTHM** didn't quite do enough to earn an upgrade on the turf last out (was beaten at the time of interference), however, she did find herself short of room along the rail in the lane which resulted in her rider giving her a very sympathetic ride through the final 1/8th, exacerbating the margin of defeat. Back on dirt second back today, she should be capable of moving forward.
- **#11 TURKISH BREEZE** showed a really nice attitude in defeat last time, holding off all but the 3/5 fav to finish 2nd. Logical player right back.

Race 7: MSW, 3-6YO, 1 1/8 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 LORRAINE (FR)	MSW, LRL, 1 1/8M, Firm Turf, 10/19/25 – 3 rd	Stalked honest pace to ½; cut inside, took lead and opened up a clear lead racing to the top of the lane; turned for home ~1.5L clear, then battled hard inside but was collared by the winner ~1/16 and also lost 2 nd by a nose on the wire.	A likable effort in defeat at 13/1 in which she did best of the speed in a race dominated by closers. Willing to give this a small PACE UPGRADE. Returns off the layoff today.
#5 WICKHAM LANE	Maiden Claiming 35k, LRL, Firm Turf, 1 1/16M, 05/10/26 – 6 th	Hesitated and tossed head start, away slowly in last; chased modest/slow pace from 8-9L back in last to far turn; slight steady 3/8 when a rival backed up in front of her; tipped out and came under very mild encouragement racing to the top of the lane; turned for home still ~9L back, then steadied again ~3/16 when absent of a clear path; angled off heels out into the center of the track ~1/8, then leveled off nicely through the lane to just muss 5 th , beaten 3 1/4L for everything.	She wasn't beaten far in the end despite the fact that after a babyish start she was tasked with closing into a modest-slow pace that held very well (top four finishers filled those positions throughout), and she had to steady twice as well! She was only able to level off ~1/8 pole and did very well to make up over 5L in that time; expecting a big step forward second out today. Respected. Cross entered Sunday.

Other Notes:

- **#9 SKYCROSS** caught the eye when making his second career start and turf debut last time: he stalked the even pace inside to the far turn, then dropped back and became outpaced racing to the top of the lane, seemingly with his chance fading, but then cut the corner into the stretch and rallied nicely for 2nd before galloping out well. He'd also become very worked up behind and in the gate, an often-overlooked reason as to why horses can offer more on another day. Not ruled out with upside potential intact.

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

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 LOOKS FIRST	Allowance ®, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 05/02/26 – 2 nd	In a little tight start; chased hot pace from ~8L back into the turn; held position under a hand ride racing to the ¼, then cut the corner into the lane and rallied strongly but missed before galloping out strongly in front.	While accepting that she had a hot pace to chase, we can still (maybe) UPGRADE this effort owing to the fact that she rallied against the speed bias. Strong gallop out, she seems a logical player right back.
Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #1 ANITA BEER simply did too much too soon last time, dueling through solid fractions with the eventual winner before tiring from the ¼ pole into 4th; she can likely improve on that effort with a more patient ride; however, we should also note that she was riding a speed bias too, which may have helped her carry her speed further. - There was a speed bias present when #2 SHE'S NOT A LAD posted a career best Beyer courtesy of a forward trip last time – maybe take that form and fig with a pinch of salt. - Although it looks a little suspicious on paper, the career best 79 Beyer #7 NANCY MARY produced last time was earned fair and square: she closed from rear into just an even pace that held well (early leading duo finished 2nd and 3rd) and the track was playing fair. Big player if reproducing this form today. 			

Race 9: OC 55k/C Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Other notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #1 MIRANDA RIGHTS sat a good closer's trip and received a very favorable setup at Keeneland last time. - The last time #3 HARDSPUN REASON ran off the layoff (06/21/25), he ran better than the PPs suggest owing to the fact that he closed into a slow pace (stalked by #6 REGALO) while wide, and he was also bumped hard ~1/16 pole - a very solid try under the circumstances. The only other time he came back off the layoff on turf, he won comfortably; seems he fires well fresh. - The trouble #6 REGALO encountered when last seen at Presque Isle in August, mentioned in the chart comment, was fairly inconsequential and not enough to earn him an upgrade - but didn't help him either. There was an extreme speed bias present this day too; feel we're best looking past this messy and muddling race and judging him on his turf tries instead as he returns from the layoff today. Note: he was aided by a slow pace when posting his career best 88 Beyer three back. - #7 FUERTEVENTURA sat a good trip and received a very favorable setup when last seen at Aqueduct in November – possible downgrade. Drops down in class and adds lasix making his return off the layoff for Ness today. - #8 SKY'S NOT FALLING had every chance to win in the stretch last time but faded late instead, so it's difficult to properly upgrade his effort. However, he did have to steady slightly ~3/8 pole (an aggressive steady, but it didn't hinder his momentum or position much at all) and then raced a fraction wide into the lane; it wasn't a completely perfect trip. Makes debut for Geralis today. 			

Race 10: OC 55k/C Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/8 Miles, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 INDY CHARGES ON	Allowance, CT, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 04/24/26 – 2 nd	Chased battling leaders in 3 rd early; crept closer while 3W second turn; took over 3/8 and was sent for home, opening up 2L briefly on the far turn before being swarmed by closers racing to the top of the lane; turned for home fully extended in 3-way share of lead, then battled very gamely to the wire for 2 nd .	He only just missed in this race that was dominated by closers (1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place finishers were positioned 6th through 9th at 1st and 2nd call) after sitting close to honest fractions early and then arguably having been sent for home a smidge too soon. He's entitled to a small UPGRADE here and could be very dangerous with weight off and not much rival speed signed on today.
#4 BARBADIAN RUNNER	Allowance, CT, 7F, Fast Dirt, 05/08/26 – 2 nd	Broke cleanly from the rail, then eased back to race in 5 th ; chased the slow pace from ~5L back while being nudged on to the far turn; remained well back racing to the 3/16, then tipped out ~4W entering the lane and rallied strongly – making up ~4L in the final 1/8 - but missed.	Over a distance short of his best and making his first start back off the layoff, he did very well to only just fail in this race given he had no pace to run at (winner went gate to wire after setting fractions of 24.29, 48.45). UPGRADE this effort and expect much more from him back out in distance second off the bench today.

Other notes:

- **#2 UNION FLEET** didn't quite do enough to earn an upgrade last time, but he was facing an uphill battle trying to close against a speed bias. He can likely do better on a fairer track.
- Similar to above and exiting the same race as #2 UNION FLEET, **#3 CROSSLAND** didn't do enough running to earn an upgrade last time, but we may be best served to draw a line through that effort as he was not only racing against the aforementioned speed bias too, but he also checked fairly hard ~1/2, from which he didn't recover. Note: his win three-back needs downgrading owing to the pace setup and collapse that he took advantage of, closing into blistering fractions of 22.65, 46.59.
- **#5 MARGIE'S FUN SON**'s last start at Aqueduct is deserving of a tiny UPGRADE as a result of his wide trip (lost more ground than the nose he was beaten for 2nd; he was 2nd best). Note: there was a closer bias present at Parx when he produced a career best 90 Beyer two back – place an asterisk by that effort.

Race 11: Starter Allowance, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 SPOTTED BULL	Starter Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/09/26 – 8 th	Step slow from outside post; advanced and tracked even pace towards center into turn; lost ground racing 4-5W bend; came 6W into lane, ~5L off the lead, then finished evenly to ~1/16 before checking off heels.	It never looked as though he was going to truly threaten in this race, but he was only beaten 4 1/2L at the wire despite having lost plenty of ground with a very wide trip and then having steadied close home. With Vargas taking over today, he should at the very least be able to narrow the gap on his re-opposing rivals.
#3 BIGDADDYSBOY	Starter Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/09/26 – 8 th	Unhurried from gate; chased even pace on rail from ~10L back in last to 5/16; crept closer on the rail racing into the lane, then advanced with a rail bid until the rider stood up at the first wire and eased him down, costing a position or two.	While accepting that he sat a great ground saving trip in this race, it's still worth highlighting this effort because he'd have gone very close to hitting the board (finished just behind #5 CLAUDEE BOY and #8 SUMMER BEE) if the rider hadn't stopped at the first wire. Especially if the pace is hotter today (was only even this day), a similar trip but stronger ride could make him a player at a price.
#10 TURBULENT FORCE	Claiming 20k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/15/26 – 7 th	Unhurried from rail; patiently tracked even/slow pace on rail into turn; waited while boxed in behind horses racing to the top of the stretch, then finished evenly (as the pace held well in front) inside without much room to work with.	He wasn't ridden aggressively from the rail and ended up in mid-pack/rear without any way of advancing, which compromised his chances as the pace ended up being slow and held well. He was also a little short of room in the stretch when racing in an intimidating spot along the rail. A wide post and more aggressive ride to get forward should see him to better effect today. High on shortlist.

Other notes:

- **#2 TOUGH WORKOUT** didn't do enough running in the lane last time to earn an upgrade; however, he was shuffled back a little and checked out of his forward position racing into the turn which, considering his only win on turf came in gate-to-wire fashion, maybe placed him out of position and cost him more than it would appear.
- **#5 CLAUDEE BOY** was caught slightly wider than ideal racing into the turn when last seen. Player down in class.
- **#6 ISLAND D'LITE**'s rider eased up at the first wire last time and was very lucky to hold on for the win; he'd likely have won by a little further if that hadn't happened and might be capable of offering more today second off the bench. It should be noted, however, that he couldn't have asked for a better trip in that race either, stalking the leaders in the pocket before taking advantage of a rail opening in upper stretch when the leader drifted off the turn and floated a number of re-opposing rivals out.
- A closer by trade, **#9 NOBLE JON** not only lost ground with a slightly wide trip last time, but he was also unsuited by the race flow/pace that held reasonably well. He's entitled to step forward making his second start for Geralis today, especially if the pace heats up.

Horses to Follow**R3: BAY STREET (9/2 ML)**

Bidding to make it three in a row this afternoon against rivals her form and figures stack up well against, BAY STREET possesses a beautiful blend of speed and stamina which, combined with her tactical versatility, should see her to great effect over six furlongs in today's second. Strengthening her case further is the fact that over the last year, trainer Damon Dilodovico has gone 3-4-1 from just nine starts (\$3.22 ROI) with last-out winners.

R7: YOUR LORDSHIP (2/1 ML)

Trainer Graham Motion and jockey Jorge Ruiz have combined at a remarkable 33% strike rate (35-for-107, 69% ITM) together on the Laurel turf over the last five years, returning a positive \$2.04 ROI in the process. Naturally, YOUR LORDSHIP (GB) demands a close look when he lines up in today's seventh. Thrice placed in England—including when beaten just a nose off the layoff last March—the well-bred son of LOPE DE VEGA failed to show much stateside last year, but the fact he was hammered into 3/1 favoritism for an aggressive debut spot at Saratoga suggests there's ability there. Since last seen in September, he's undergone a gelding operation which may help him take a significant step forward, and this looks a very winnable spot to begin again following a steady series of morning drills that should leave him sharp enough from the gate—a positive given the lack of pace signed on and the rails being set at 87 feet.

R8: LOOKS FIRST (3/1 ML)

LOOKS FIRST has shown a clear affinity for the Laurel dirt in her two starts over it, finishing second on both occasions. That's despite having no pace to close into when chasing home the talented 1/9 favorite MS NOTION on March 10, before then working against a speed bias when beaten just a neck by the 2/5 favorite ON A PROUD NOTE on May 2. Both efforts suggest we still may not have seen the best of this five-year-old mare locally, and another chance can be taken on her getting the job done returning to seven furlongs for her red-hot conditioner, Horacio De Paz (6-for-18, \$2.72 ROI over the last 14 days).

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

BETTER WATCH IT *(Entered at Laurel – TODAY, 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 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: 3rd by 1 1/2

LYUDMILA *(Entered at Laurel – TODAY, Race 4)*

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.

LOVELIEST

Trainer: Eddie Kenneally

Last Race: April 17, Race 7

Finish: 8th by 6 3/4

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.

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.

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 2: Jose Vargas - #1 - Gonna Make It; #3 - Transquaking >>> **Vargas rides GONNA MAKE IT**

Race 3: Jevian Toledo - #3 - Juniper's Jubilee; #6 - Slewperstitus >>> **Toledo rides SLEWPERSTITUS**

Race 6: Tais Lyapustina - #5 - Ready for Magic; #12 - A P M Notion >>> **Lyapustina rides READY FOR MAGIC**

Race 6: Jorge Ruiz - #7 - Julie Belle; #8 - The Great Maybe >>> **Ruiz rides THE GREAT MAYBE**

Race 6: Jose Vargas - #2 - Over My Cents; #6 - I'm a Lil Wicked >>> **Vargas rides I'M A LIL WICKED**

Race 9: Mychel Sanchez - #1 - Miranda Rights; #7 - Fuerteventura >>> **Sanchez rides FUERTEVENTURA**

Race 10: Jose Vargas - #1 - Indy Charges On; #2 - Union Fleet >>> **Vargas rides INDY CHARGES ON**

Race 11: Horacio Karamanos - #1 - Spotted Bull; #9 - Noble Jon >>> **Karamanos rides NOBLE JON**

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

A recap of **FRIDAY, MAY 29** action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: The off-the-grass field paid tribute to Seabiscuit and War Admiral by scratching down to a match race. **Back Wall Bandit** opened up a clear early lead and won by 3 ½ lengths over Julia's a Fox.

Race 2: 7-10 favorite Chickin Lickin was heavily pressed from her outside by **Diamond Sue** and Valerie Street. The former poked her head in front on the far turn and pulled away for an emphatic victory.

Race 3: The surface switch didn't slow down **Witty**; he's very capable on dirt or grass. The lovable veteran made his 7-year-old debut a winning one. He rated off the pace and swooped the early leaders in the three-path. He's now won 12 times from 35 career starts and is just \$52,115 shy of becoming a millionaire.

Race 4: They were stacked six across the track in the stretch, and odds-on favorite **Red Spitfire** was widest of all. That didn't slow him down one bit, as he got up in the last few strides to win over World on Fire.

Race 5: Another two-horse thriller. **Straight to Water** pressed early leader Neon Bordeaux and overwhelmed him at the top of the lane.

Race 6: It took 15 starts and a washed-off race, but **Cross of Valor** finally found a field she could beat. She opened up a long early lead and held clear, with Lendalfoot's mild rally the only scare.

Race 7: Early leaders Talented Man and Dewy's Beast faded to next to last and last, respectively. That set it up for **Jolly by Golly**, who sat off of them and got first jump on the rest of the closers.

Race 8: The Friday feature was a thriller. 16-1 Goodbye Note set the pace on the rail and dug in when challenged at the top of the stretch. It looked like he'd hold off everyone's rallies, including that of favored Slam Notion. However, recent Florida invader Twelve Treasures, surged in the final strides to prevail in a 17-1 upset. **Howgreatisnate** tried to split horses late, but was completely shut off and almost fell. He'll assuredly run better next time with smooth sailing.

Race 9: Another chronic maiden benefitted from a scratched-down, off-the-grass field. **Ballinaclash** set the pace and held on despite drifting out late. Isaiah Fiftythree made what looked like a menacing move, but couldn't seal the deal and finished second.

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 crosswind)	Apr. 17 – Fair	🏆 May 15 – Fair
Feb. 13 – Fair (slight speed lean)	Mar. 15 – Fair	Apr. 18 – SPEED BIAS	🏆 May 16 – Fair
Feb. 14 – Fair	Mar. 20 – Fair	Apr. 19 – Fair	May 22 – SPEED BIAS
Feb. 15 – Fair	Mar. 21 – Fair (perhaps outside lean)	Apr. 24 – Fair	May 23 – Fair

