



# LAUREL PARK

## HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SUNDAY, MAY 3

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



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

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

### **MANDATORY PAYOUTS TODAY!**

- Catch TMJC's "Today at the Races" morning simulcast show LIVE on X [@LaurelPark](#) at 11AM ET for late changes, plus 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. MY LIFE STORY

#### 2. A G DIAMOND

#### 3. GREAT ARTIST

The first post is NOON ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout rate. There are mandatory payouts on any wagers with carryover potential. **MY LIFE STORY** had a potential claim voided by the vet after scoring by open lengths over Turfway's Tapeta. Kentucky shippers generally do well here, and this veteran is a proven commodity sprinting on turf. Kicks late for a barn that went 6 for the last 20 (30%, \$2.19 ROI) with last-out winners returning from 61-120 day layoffs. **A G DIAMOND**'s best races came on turf and synthetic, and he'll move back to turf following dirt efforts out of town. He chased fast fractions in his last two, and his early speed should have him up and on the pace at a square price. This pace should be solid, and that helps **GREAT ARTIST**, who makes a seasonal debut after attempting to rally in a race where they ran 1-2-3 around. Wired by an odds-on winner that day, he raced over in behind horses two back when rallying mildly. This barn sent out Gift of Gab to win a turf sprint following a similar layoff on 4/25. **UPTOWNEAGLESLANDED** has the tactical speed to sit just off the early leaders. Finished behind Devil's Mischief last time, and that foe then ran third in a quarter "non-three" claimer at Lone Star with a 69 Beyer.

### >> RACE 2

#### 1. ADE

#### 2. IT'SFIFTYSHADETIME

#### 3. DUBSTEP

**ADE** tracked from the pocket at Penn National, altered course to split rivals three wide and was steadied slightly on the second turn, altered course back to the rail in the stretch, and finished evenly behind the two favorites. A three-time winner over this surface, she might be slightly more comfortable around this one-turn configuration. **IT'SFIFTYSHADETIME** was completely outsprinted behind a hot pace (23.36; 23.51), eased widest into the stretch, and made up late ground without threatening the winner. Split two next-out winners, as the fifth-finisher then won an open \$7,500 claimer with a 68 Beyer. Looks like the best pure closer in the race. **DUBSTEP** ran well two starts back, then may have been too aggressively handled last time out. Rushed up to set a three-ply pace from the rail, battled inside the 9-1 fourth-finisher under urging, then tired badly. Should appreciate getting back to a conditioned claimer, and might revert to the rating tactics that worked well for her in the past. Note that she ran a good second off a similar short layoff at Gulfstream in 2024 (12-1 odds).

### >> RACE 3

#### 1. VALERIE STREET

#### 2. RYLNNSLOOKINGLUCKY

#### 3. MILLIE MCCALL

**VALERIE STREET** (runs without front shoes) was wired by an odds-on winner over a speed-friendly track. Bumped at the break, tracked three wide and in between horses, went after the winner on the turn, then swapped leads several times while drifting to the fence. Perhaps we'll see early speed from the rail draw. **RYLNNSLOOKINGLUCKY** pressed from the outside, was hard-ridden on the turn, dropped to the fence, and tired when finishing behind the top pick. She's another that can race close to the pace. **MILLIE MCCALL**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 4/25, broke outward badly when returning from a lengthy layoff at Colonial, then was completely outsprinted through fast fractions. Faced three next-out winners in that race, with As the Bell Toles repeating by eight lengths in a dime "non-two" claimer at Penn National with a 48 Beyer. Nice fit against this group. **BELLE'S BABY** goes out for a barn that usually gives them a couple of races before they strut their best stuff, and she might be primed in her third go-around. Finished behind Stylish Gem in dirt

debut and that one then hit the board in her next two starts with a 33 Beyer top.

#### >> RACE 4

### 1. RED SPITFIRE

### 2. SEARCY

### 3. ELLINGER

**RED SPITFIRE** tracked a reasonable pace while three wide/four path, made an outside bid under pretty confident handling, and drew away in the late stages of muddy track "non-two" heat. Has the tactical speed to get close to the early lead for a barn that sent out three winners in April at odds ranging from 5-2 to 10-1. Vargas lands here instead of Ellinger. **SEARCY** chased a quick pace in the circuit debut and finished ahead of three of these when necked out for the victory by the favorite. Shouldn't be too far away when the field swings into the stretch. It appears he's found the sweet spot at this class level over this circuit. **ELLINGER** ran well going turf to dirt earlier in his career, and repeats the move after being overmatched on the sod. Carved out those quick fractions two back before finishing behind Searcy. Don't think he'll have to work as hard to grab the early lead here.

#### >> RACE 5

### 1. TAKE A HINT

### 2. PRINTRACK

### 3. WAR MASTER

**TAKE A HINT**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 11/28, must deal with a long 191-day layoff, but he was in pretty good form before the break. Pressed a reasonable four-ply pace from in between horses last time out, cleared off to an uncontested lead under confident handling, and stayed strong to the finish. Restricted stakes-winner figures to be fresh right out of the gate for a barn that went 34 for 96 (35%, \$2.46 ROI) between 10/31 and 4/26.

**PRINTRACK** showed no rust when returning from a 421-day layoff. Bounced right to the lead, set moderate fractions, and kept going to score at Parx. He figures up close to the pace once again. **WAR MASTER** likely gained a good amount of fitness from his last start, his first run in 139 days. Stayed close to slow fractions before tiring behind Paco the Taco Man, who then won a state-sired allowance with an 87 Beyer. Expect him to take back and stalk the speeds this time. **FACTOR IT IN** returns from 283-day break after attempting to rally into slow fractions in two-turn Charles Town heat. The winner then took a \$40,000 starter at Timonium with a 77 Beyer. Gets a kinder race flow here.

#### >> RACE 6

### 1. KERNESS K

### 2. PIT STOP MAN

### 3. WALDRIP

**KERNESS K** seeks his fourth straight win after scoring like a deserved 1-10 shot last month. Bumped after the start, he tracked in between rivals, made a three-wide bid on the turn, and drew away in "ridden out" fashion. Think we'll see a speedy try here. Hazlewood lands here instead of Pudge Boy Palace and Waldrip. **PIT STOP MAN** appreciated returning to the Farrior shed row, as he took no prisoners with an eight-length gate-to-wire score. He's just as effective from off the pace for a barn that went 5 for the last 12 (42%, \$2.37 ROI) with last-out winners in the second after the claim. **WALDRIP** returns to his preferred surface after trying two turns on turf. Ran well for second on dirt two back against Masakado, who then repeated in a \$7,500 claiming allowance with an 81 Beyer. This barn went 6 for the last 23 (26%, \$7.67 ROI) when moving from turf to a dirt sprint. **PUDGE BOY PALACE** returns to a more manageable class level after being overmatched against first-level allowance types. **FIGHTERTOWN** seeks his third straight win after displaying good speed at this distance.

## >> RACE 7

### 1. DALINAR

### 2. MAGICAL MONDAYS

### 3. BRIGHTY

**DALINAR** won moving from sprint to route to kick off his 2025 campaign, and he'll repeat that pattern for his seasonal debut this afternoon. Set a very easy pace (23.90 first quarter) while in between rivals last time, made the rail on the turn, came out under left-handed urging, and just missed. The third-finisher then placed in a state-sired allowance with a 79 Beyer. Would like to see him try to make the lead once again. **MAGICAL MONDAYS** (wears a hood) adds blinkers and regains Lasix for his 4-year-old debut. He won his maiden when adding Lasix, and seems well-entered after facing two next-out winners in the Maryland Million (Jack's Legend won a second-level allowance with an 85 Beyer). Expect a strong late kick. **BRIGHTY** chased a runaway leader's quick pace, made an early move to the lead, and dug in gamely to just miss. He shouldn't be too far away when the real racing commences.

## >> RACE 8

### 1. FLYING TO WORK

### 2. RAILROAD INN

### 3. EL PAPACITO

**FLYING TO WORK** tracked the pace from in between rivals, went on the attack on the turn, and put a head in front, then stayed on for second inside the winner. Stalker owns very competitive Beyers and should come with a solid late bid. **RAILROAD INN** hit the board in his last five starts, and just missed with a rallying finish last month. Wired by the favorite that day in a slow-paced race (24.77 seconds), he finished ahead of two of these and might receive faster splits to attack this time. The barn won two dirt races between 4/12 and 4/19. Vargas lands here instead of **EL PAPACITO**, who chased the favored pacesetter from the outside over an inside, speed-friendly Charles Town course. The sixth-finisher then placed in a maiden special weight there with a 34 Beyer. Expecting a speed try with new blinkers.

## MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: My Life Story transfers in for his turf debut after a voided claim last out. Somewhat suspect today for a short price. Have a look at A G Diamond, who tries sprinting on the turf for the first time with blinkers and lasix on.

R2: Ginger Girl has been begging for the front end, with recent class relief she has come close but hasn't quite gotten there. Her outer post may relieve some of the pressure from her last out.

R3: Rylnnslookinglucky found a messy trip but stayed on willingly in her last outing. The recent confidence could continue to show through here.

R4: Searcy has the back class to suggest the return to form may stick around here. Ever since Red Spitfire added lasix, the efforts have been very convincing. The fast track should benefit.

R5: Take a Hint looks to benefit from the inside speed, a similar setup to his win last out. With a string of bullet works coming into his season debut, it's hard to deny he will be ready. If there is a pace meltdown, Factor It In may ultimately benefit. Class relief looks to go a long way for this 10 y/o, who has 15 lifetime wins.

R6: Kerness K will be hard to deny sticking to the starter allowance, the question remains if he can extend his speed to the 7f distance here. Based on the last out, I'd say yes. Plenty of other pace to contest with, Seven's Eleven may benefit at a price. The distance looks to be within reach after his mile try last out.

R7: Brighty found career best form last out when narrowly missing out to a Motion trainee, shortening up in distance with a similar setup should benefit him here. Magical Mondays put together an impressive campaign last year after winning in his season debut. Blinkers go on today, suggesting he won't have quite as much ground to make up in the later stages.

R8: Railroad Inn has not always finished off the way you'd like an even money horse to do, but last time out he proved very game. If he can handle the slight cutback have may keep improving here. If you focus on the sprinting efforts, Flying to Work has steadily improved over the winter. His last outing was a very modest opening but may encourage him to sit a bit closer again here.

## TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

### RACE 1

#### #5 - My Life Story

Trainer: Michael Maker

Last-Out Winner, First After 61-120 Days: 6 for 20 (30%, \$2.19 ROI)

### RACE 5

#### #4 - Take a Hint

Trainer: Gary Capuano

Between 10/31 and 4/26: 34 for 96 (35%, \$2.46 ROI)

### RACE 6

#### #2 - Pit Stop Man

Trainer: Anthony Farrior

Last-Out Winners, Second After Claim: 5 for 12 (42%, \$2.37 ROI)

### RACE 6

#### #4 - Waldrip

Trainer: Charles DeMario

Turf to Dirt Sprint: 6 for 23 (26%, \$7.67 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 30k, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf, 3YO+			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#8 D HOPPER	Claiming 5k, 6 1/2F, CT, Fast Dirt, 04/17/26 – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Broke sharp from the rail and set a swift solo pace in front; held advantage under a strong ride rounding the far turn into the lane; he was then collared ~1/16 pole and faded grudgingly to 3 <sup>rd</sup> .	<b>He did well to hold 3<sup>rd</sup> - only just failing – after setting closer friendly fractions in front (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place finishers were 10 ½, 9 ½ and 13 1/2L off the lead at first call) – PACE UPGRADE. Switches back to turf today.</b>
<b>Other notes:</b>			
- Following a big performance two-back, <b>#4 UPTOWNEAGLESLANDED</b> really had no excuse last out... might he have bounced? While his 03/06/26 race is fast enough to make him live today, he does have questions to answer. Note: speed held very well in that race two-back (possible downgrade).			

- **#5 MY LIFE STORY** may be entitled to some extra credit for his last start on turf (10/17/26) as he did by far the best of the closers despite losing ground with a wider than ideal trip into the lane; only beaten a neck for everything, it's easy to argue he was best in there (as he was when winning on the synth at Turfway last time).
- Although he didn't do enough running to earn an upgrade, we can still be forgiving of **#7 GREAT ARTIST**'s defeat when last seen facing starter allowance foes because speed held incredibly well in that race with the rails out (top five finishers including horses at odds of 36/1, 20/1 and 71/1 filled the top five positions throughout; nobody closed) and so after finding himself in a little tight at the start, he was racing completely against the flow at 42/1. He's better than that and may be able to show so as he returns off the layoff sin blinkers today.

### Race 2: Claiming 7.5k, 1 Mile, Dirt, 3YO+ (F)

#### Other notes:

- Not sure what happened last time, but **#2 DUBSTEP**'s two-back effort is deserving of a small PACE UPGRADE as she did best of the speed after forming part of an honest early pace (23.40, 47.89; horses positioned 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at first call both faltered to finish 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, respectively, beaten over 20L).
- The track at Penn National was marginally favoring closers when **#5 GINGER GIRL** last ran, but we can't really use that as an excuse for her 20-point Beyer drop, and she does now have questions to answer. Note: **#6 ADE** was never that far behind GG in that same race and ran stayed on nicely for 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Race 3: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 1 Mile, Dirt, 3-6YO (F)

#### Other notes:

- Following an upgradable effort off the bench two-back (closed into slow pace), **#1 VALERIE STREET** ran well to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> last time behind a wire-to-wire winner who was riding the speed bias present (VS's task of defeating that foe was made more difficult by the track). Logical contender third back.
- **#3 MILLE MCCALL** didn't do a lot of running when returning from a layoff at Colonial last month... wonder how much we should trust that race though, as speed held well (winner went gate to wire; not much order change in behind) despite maiden claimers posting fractions of 22.46, 45.62 for a one-turn mile (meaning that MM was against the flow)?
- **#4 BELLE'S BABY** showed a little bit of late interest and galloped out okay when returning from a layoff and making her turf sprint debut last time. That effort left the impression that further could be better for her, but a possible concern is that she did not handle the kickback at all when trying dirt the time before.
- The chart comments highlight how **#5 HEY ALEXA** "steadied" at the start in both her last two starts... while true (to an extent), neither of these steadies were significant or cost her a position – do not upgrade her efforts. Stretches back out returned to turf today.
- Exiting the same race as **#1 VALERIE STREET**, **#6 RYLNNSLOOKINGLUCKY** pressed the pace over the speed friendly track, then already on the retreat when lightly bumped twice in the stretch; while these bumps may have cost her 3<sup>rd</sup> (promoted to that position), she was well beaten by VS and will need more to reverse form today.

### Race 4: Claiming 12.5k, 6 Furlongs, Dirt, 3YO+

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
<b>#2 SEARCY</b>	Claiming 12k, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 04/12/26 – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sent hard from rail; pressed fast pace inside until getting shuffled back a little ~1/2; chased leader on rail to 5/16, then tipped out and made a 2-3W bid into the lane (while the eventual winner nicked a couple of lengths cutting the corner and took the lead); from there, he made a game run but missed.	<b>This effort is deserving of a (tiny) UPGRADE as he did best of the speed (sat close to fast fractions of 22.90, 46.67 set by #3 ELLINGER, who faded to be beaten 5 1/4L; winner was 5 3/4L back at 1<sup>st</sup> call) despite having been shuffled back a touch entering the bend. A likable effort that makes him live right back.</b>

#### Other notes:

- **#4 ENGLISH DADDY** experienced some trouble at the start of his last race as he stumbled, and the rider briefly lost an iron. While the incident certainly didn't help his chances, we can't totally use it as an excuse for his dull effort, though, as he never lost contact with the field, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher was 2 1/2L behind him at the 5/16 pole (he wasn't in an impossible position). Even with a better start, he'll need more returning form another layoff today. Note: his last win (08/16/25) came over a speed biased racetrack.

**Race 5: Claiming 30k, 6 Furlongs, Dirt, 3YO+****Other notes:**

- **#3 KARAN'S NOTION** lost enough ground on the turn last time to cost him 4<sup>th</sup> – small upgrade.
- Typically at his best going further than 6F, **#5 WAR MASTER** was unsuited by a slow pace in his last race as he then lacked the late pace to challenge, instead finishing evenly with a willing attitude. His last win came closing into a hot early pace, and if given that setup today, he should be capable of stepping forward on his last effort second off the bench.
- **#6 TENEBRIS** hardly did any running when last seen, possibly due to the fact that he failed to get to the lead/keep his head clear of kickback early on. He ran with his head higher than usual in behind horses and wasn't striding out properly. While he does now have questions to answer, if the kickback/lack of a forward position was the reason for his dull recent effort, a wide post (with no speed outside him) may help him get back on track this afternoon.
- **#7 FACTOR IT IN** stumbled a little out of the gate and then sat a wider than ideal trip when last seen at Charles Town, possibly entitling him to a small upgrade. Returns from lengthy layoff today.

**Race 6: Starter Allowance, 7 Furlongs, Dirt, 3YO+**

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
<b>#3 ARTILLERY GUNNER</b>	Claiming 7.5k, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 04/19/26 – 1 <sup>st</sup>	Saved ground tracking contested (but even) pace to turn; waited under a tight hold until tipping out 4W upper stretch; then powered away.	<b>This wasn't necessarily a bad trip at all, but we can still upgrade it a little/possibly expect more from him as he makes his third start of the form cycle today because he was forced to wait in behind horses for longer than the rider seemingly would have liked rounding into the lane, and his late kick left the impression that if he had been able to get out earlier, he would have won by further. An extra 1/8 today shouldn't be an issue.</b>
<b>#4 WALDRIP</b>	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 04/19/26 – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Clean break from rail; settled inside in mid-pack ~7L off even pace racing to the far turn; checked and got shuffled back a little behind a retreating foe ~1/4; cut corner into lane and then tried to make a rail bid but was shut off and checked again; from there, he was not persevered with.	<b>This was a bad trip and in no way a fair reflection of his current ability. We can toss this turf effort and judge him instead on his prior dirt tries.</b>

**Other notes:**

- **#2 PIT STOP MAN** crossed the wire with good energy and looked to have something left in reserve when dusting his rivals by 8L last time. Contender right back.
- **#5 KERNESS K** was again mightily impressive last out, sprinting through the lane with great energy and winning by daylight with the fuel tank seemingly far from empty. It was encouraging to see him employ different tactics this time too, closing from last after going gate-to-wire the twice prior. Logical win contender once again.
- The ultra consistent **#9 QUINCANNON** won well last out after contesting some hot early fractions. We cannot award the effort a pace upgrade, though, because there was a speed bias present on 03/29/26 which resulted in the first four home filling those positions throughout.

**Race 7: Allowance, 1 Mile, Turf, 3YO+**

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
<b>#2 BRIGHTY</b>	Claiming 30k, LRL 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 04/24/26 – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sent forward early; chased runaway leader through fast splits in a clear 2 <sup>nd</sup> to ~5/8, then advanced smoothly upsides the leader ~1/2 before taking the advantage under a hold farm turn; turned for home traveling well with ~1L lead, then scooted away into a 3L lead ~1/8 pole; held clear lead deep inside the final 1/8 but was then agonizingly nailed on the wire by a late flying runner.	<b>He did all but win this race despite his rider arguably sending him for home (into the fast pace) a little too soon. His effort and is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE as he only just failed, despite having sat closest to the hot pace that favored closers (winner, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place finishers were all 10L+ off the lead at both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> call). Wheels back on short rest today.</b>

**Other Notes:**

- **#3 PLAY IT COOL**'s last start on turf (10/18/25) is deserving of a small upgrade as he showed some late interest to get 4<sup>th</sup>, despite having had no pace to close into (25.22, 51.05). He seems a better horse now Lasix have gone on, and can seemingly improve on that October effort returning to the grass today.
- **#4 KITTY'S SON** finally got the maiden broken when returning to the turf last time. While it was a nice effort and great for him to get off the mark at the 25<sup>th</sup> attempt, he did receive a fabulous pace set up closing into fractions of 23.46, 47.70 which favored closers – potential downgrade.
- Running as a gelding for the first time, **#8 ITALIANO KID** was a good winner over today's course and distance last week and it's hard to knock his effort too much. However, it might just be worth noting that with the rails out, nobody did any serious running from the back in that spot, while the 64/1 pace setter held on for 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Race 8: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt, 3-6YO**

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
<b>#6 RAILROAD INN</b>	Maiden Claiming 12k, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 04/11/26 – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bumped hard both sides start; chased modest pace from last 4W into the turn; steadily advanced 4W on the turn; turned in just 1L down, then made a game outside bid to the wire but could not get by.	<b>He closed into a modest/slow pace to just miss, despite losing ground when wide on the turn – UPGRADE.</b>

**Other notes:**

- After dueling with the eventual winner early, **#2 EL PAPACITO** failed to hold onto even a share at Charles Town last time, despite a strong speed bias being present. Blinkers go on today.
- In his last start on dirt, **#4 QUAHOG REPUBLIC** was also racing off the modest/slow pace that #6 RAILROAD INN managed to close into for 2<sup>nd</sup>. QH's chances may have been dented by the pace and can potentially improve for a different setup today. However, his steady at the 5/16 pole was insignificant, and he'll need seemingly more to reverse for with RL.
- Although beaten at a short price, **#5 FLYING TO WORK** showed a nice attitude in defeat last week after sitting closer to the honest pace than either the winner or third. Logical contender right back.

**Horses to Follow**

**R4: SEARCY**

Despite being shuffled back slightly entering the turn, SEARCY did best of the speed when finishing a head second three weeks ago—an effort that came just 14 days after a run at Tampa and the often-taxing ship back north. Better rested now and making her second start for Justin Nixon, she has the tactical speed to secure a favorable position from gate two and looks well placed to deliver in race four.

**R7: MAGICAL MONDAYS**

A winner off the layoff last year, MAGICAL MONDAYS established himself as a solid allowance-level turf router in 2025, posting two wins from five starts and a game fourth in the Maryland Million Turf. Returning off a consistent work pattern with blinkers added this afternoon, the Tim Woolley trainee looks set to receive a favorable pace setup in today's seventh and has every chance of notching a third career win—again under leading rider Ruiz.

**R8: RAILROAD INN**

The ultra-consistent RAILROAD INN produced another big effort closing into a slow pace while wide last month, but once again had to settle for second. Aided by EL PAPACITO adding blinkers, he should receive a more favorable setup in today's nightcap, and with Vargas taking a handy five pounds off, he may finally break through.

## FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

### **BETTER WATCH IT** *(Breezed 4F - :49.40 at LRL on 5/2)*

**Trainer:** Madison Meyers

**Last Race:** Nov. 16, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 8<sup>th</sup> race

**Finish:** 5<sup>th</sup> by 9 1/2

Appeared on the upswing, but threw in a puzzler in Heft Stakes, where the pace situation was not to his liking. Forced to chase the gate to wire winner while 3 wide early, raced 4-5 wide leaving the 3/8 pole, then flat when asked.

### **LADY ZETA** *(Entered at Laurel – Fri 5/8, Race 7)*

**Trainer:** Lacey Gaudet

**Last Race:** Feb. 4, 1st race

**Finish:** 5th by 5 1/2

Expected to be one of the speeds, she instead broke poorly and was last on the rail entering the turn. Swung widest into the stretch, and was no match for the pacesetter winner, but did show some interest on the gallop-out. Thirteen-time winner deserves another shot in a \$7,500 conditioned seller.

### **BRUNO** *(Breezed 4F - :49.40 at LRL on 4/11)*

**Trainer:** Daniel Eubanks

**Last Race:** March 20, Race 3

**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> by 1 1/4

Independence Hall colt showed promising workouts prior to his debut, then hooked up in an early speed duel before succumbing to a late runner that benefited from the quick pace. Earned a respectable 69 Beyer Speed Figure, and will be tough right back against maiden special weight company.

### **CLEARLY SOPHIA**

**Trainer:** Michael Gorham

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

### **LYUDMILA** *(Breezed 4F - :50.80 at TAM on 4/26)*

**Trainer:** Justin Nixon

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

### **KISS THE RING** *(Breezed 4F - :50.00 at KEE on 4/19)*

**Trainer:** Jesus Cruz

**Last Race:** March 20, Race 3

**Finish:** 4th by 6 1/2

Caught a pretty strong field for his second lifetime start, and was bumped shortly after the start after breaking slowly. Tracked outside, tried to advance in between rivals, but flattened out in the stretch. Might need a class dip into state-sired company, and has enough pedigree to appreciate more distance.

### **MAXPOWER** *(Breezed 4F - 51.29 at BEL on 4/18)*

**Trainer:** Panagiotis A. Synnefias

**Last Race:** Nov. 29, Race 6

**Finish:** 7th by 14 1/2

Outrun in the early stages of a \$16,000 maiden claimer, this 2-year-old was three wide and in between horses on the turn, then finished deceptively well while being over in behind horses in the stretch. This is a sprint family, but he might move up with more distance.

### **LANNISTER**

**Trainer:** Jonathan Maldonado

**Last Race:** April 25, 2nd race

**Finish:** 3rd by 1 1/2

Away from the gate with speed, then drafted back off the speed of eventual winner Erice. Chased willingly on the turn, and kept trying with a slight shift in mid-stretch. Should move forward in her second start of the year.

**J C'S BOYS** *(Breezed 4F - :50.20 at LRL on 4/24)*

**Trainer:** Robbie Bailes

**Last Race:** April 12, Race 6

**Finish:** 3rd by 5 3/4

Strong effort for the Maryland-bred first-timer. Breaking a bit outward from post 12 of 12, settled early well off the rail, gained mid-turn while four wide, angled six wide into the stretch, and stayed on for an even finish to the ground-saving winner, R J's Ice.

**ROCKER ROLLER**

**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.

**FLYING TO WORK** *(Entered TODAY - Laurel, Race 8)*

**Trainer:** Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon

**Last Race:** April 24, 2nd race

**Finish:** 2nd by 1/2

Tracked the pace from in between horses, made a solid bid to the lead on the turn, and was kicked down in the final furlong. Seems comfortable at the bottom maiden claiming level between six furlongs and one mile.

**ROSIE'S FORTUNE**

**Trainer:** Irvin Flores

**Last Race:** April 25, 6th race

**Finish:** 10th by 11 1/4

The running line doesn't look pretty, but this one was pressured on the lead through solid fractions when making her turf and route debut. Didn't have anything in the tank when it mattered, but think she deserves another opportunity sprinting on the lawn against bottom maiden claimers.

**Finish:** 8th by 26

Lacked speed on turf for the first time, saved some ground early, then angled widest of all for the final furlong. Good late interest, beaten a little more than one length for all the money. Tried dirt last time out, and didn't run well at all. Would like to see him try another grass sprint.

**BALTIC**

**Trainer:** Cal Lynch

**Last Race:** April 17, Race 1

**Finish:** 2nd by 3/4

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

**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**

**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.

## JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 4 - Jose Vargas: #3 - Ellinger; #5 - Red Spitfire >>> **Vargas rides RED SPITFIRE**

Race 6 - Yedsit Hazlewood: #1 - Pudge Boy Palace; #4 - Waldrip; #5 - Kerness K >>> **Hazlewood rides KERNESS K**

Race 8 - Jose Vargas; #2 - El Papacito; #6 - Railroad Inn >>> **Vargas rides RAILROAD INN**

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

A recap of **SATURDAY, MAY 1** action at Laurel Park. Visit [theracingbiz.com](http://theracingbiz.com) for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

**Race 1:** The Derby day opener was a merry-go-round. **The Money Monkey**, in his Maryland debut, set the early pace and never gave up the lead to win at 12-1. Devastating chased the pace in the two-path and made his move on the turn, but couldn't get by The Money Monkey and settled for second.

**Race 2:** John Salzman Jr. winning an early season 2-year-old race is a rite of spring in Maryland. He won one here with **Call Me Micky J**, who was pressed on the pace and kicked away for the win.

**Race 3:** This was an unusually run race. Notmyfirstrodeo set a slow early pace, too slow for Your Mission, who made a dramatic mid-race rush in the center of the track for the lead. The effects of that premature move wore him out and he ended up well-beaten, but it softened up Notmyfirstrodeo. That played into the hands of **Dats My Pharoah**, who rated off the pace between horses, made the front on the final turn, and pulled clear in the stretch.

**Race 4:** **Vanilla** looked like much the best on paper and ran like it in real life. She battled for the early lead on the rail with She's Not a Lad and pulled away in the stretch to win at 4-5. She's Not a Lad managed to hold second after her early exertions.

**Race 5:** **Be Better** called on his class and determination to win this race. He emerged from a pace-stalking scrum to rally down the center of the track and pull clear in the stretch. This was his first win in a while after a series of near-misses. Collection Day set the pace and held well for second.

**Race 6:** Latin Rebel set the pace and led almost the whole way, but couldn't hold off the four-wide sweep of **Summer Vibes**, who rallied from next-to-last to prevail as the favorite.

**Race 7:** **Catalytic** ran against the likes of Skippylongstocking, Knightsbridge, and Disruptor in his last three starts in Florida. He got tons of class relief in

his first start for the Brittany Russell barn and took advantage of it, racing off the pace and drawing away in the stretch. The slight favorite, Worcester, was making his first two-turn start in a long time. He ran on well after a wide trip, but ultimately proved no match for the winner.

**Race 8:** After finishing second six times in nine starts last year, **Mopo** got her 2026 season started on a winning note. Biscuitwiththeboss set the pace and remained clear late, but Mopo took advantage of her ground-saving trip and rallied in the last eighth to win by a length.

**Race 9: On a Proud Note** was hounded throughout by Anita Beer, but shook clear of that rival and held off the late rally of Looks First to win for the sixth time in her last eight races.

**Race 10:** Second off an 8 ½-month layoff proved the winning angle for **Lifting**. He made the rail and the lead from the outside post and never looked back from there.

## 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