



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SUNDAY, MAY 31

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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TIM TULLOCK

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

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. SHE CALLED

2. IT'S HOT IN HERE

3. GRIPEN

The first post is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a low 12% takeout rate. There isn't much turf in **SHE CALLED**'s pedigree, but she has good early speed, and makes her first start for the high-percentage Ness barn following a couple of bullet workouts at Delaware. Both of those drills match up with the barn's 4-year-old Snookie Bear, a turf winner with a 78 turf Beyer top. Perhaps they breezed in company. In a bit tough last time on dirt at Oaklawn against Pink Ruby, who returned to win a ratings handicap by 8 1/4 lengths with an 83 Beyer. The barn went 6 for the last 18 (33%, \$3.03 ROI) with experienced horses racing on turf for the first time. **IT'S HOT IN HERE** seems well-entered with new blinkers after being wired at Gulfstream by an odds-on favorite. The runner-up then ran third in a \$35,000 "beaten" claimer at Gulfstream with a 65 Beyer. She must prove this distance isn't a bit too sharp, as all of her prior starts were route races. **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. Vargas departs for SERENE SPIRIT, who pushed the 10-1 fifth-finisher's quick early pace, then kept going in a nice "non-two" score. Expect her to be up close to the pace.

>> RACE 2

1. GIMME TWO SHOTS

2. FLYING TO WORK

3. EL PAPACITO

GIMME TWO SHOTS broke a beat slow, then rushed up to track the 12-1 runner-up's quick pace from the outside. Placed on a hard chase, he was urged along on the turn, split rivals, and tired in the final furlong. Expect him to be sharp from the gate in new blinkers. **FLYING TO WORK** was wired by an odds-on winner eight days ago. In a bit tight early, he saved ground at the back, was on hold entering the far turn, cut the corner into the stretch, and gained with every stride. He'll likely settle back and make one run this afternoon. **EL PAPACITO** tracked from the pocket, rode the rail every step, then finished evenly to place ahead of the top pick. Shouldn't be too far away when the real running begins.

>> RACE 3

1. ROADRUNNER THE CAT

2. SWEETER THAN WHISKEY

3. GASTOWN BABE

ROADRUNNER THE CAT wasn't away the best at Colonial last summer, but soon went up to set the pace along the rail before trying hard to finish a close second behind the favorite. Must deal with a lengthy layoff, but her early speed plays very well in this spot. **SWEETER THAN WHISKEY** finished ahead of four of these in her seasonal debut when second best behind the favored Wise and Elegant. Off a tad slow, raced in behind horses turning into the stretch, soon found a nice split, then swapped leads a couple of times when altering inside the drifting winner. **GASTOWN BABE** likely gained fitness from his seasonal debut when a wide fifth behind Sweetertanwhiskey. Kicks late for a barn that went 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$3.52 ROI) in the second after 120-180 day layoffs.

>> RACE 4

1. SILVERBULLETTWENTY

2. CITY PANDA

3. ADDY'S LADDY T N T

SILVERBULLETTWENTY broke slowly three weeks ago, saved ground from a loose pocket at the back, advanced up the rail into the stretch, and passed some tired foes. The break is the key for this gelding, as he is often a stride tardy out of there, but perhaps he's racing himself back into shape for this, his fourth start following 337 days on the sidelines. Ortiz lands here instead of Bonded. **CITY PANDA** boasts a strong advantage in speed figures and looks like the one to beat. Bumped leaving the gate last time, he raced at the back behind a moderate pace, made an inside advance on the turn, gradually eased to the outside, and finished evenly behind two next-out winners. Think this shorter distance enhances his late kick. **ADDY'S LADDY T N T** ran well off the layoff to place ahead of the top pick when wired by favored Cut Glass. The nine-time winner can get close to the expected moderate pace. **ECUMENICAL** drops in class after chasing solid splits. The third-finisher next ran third in an \$8,000 starter at Delaware with a 64 Beyer. He might be swift enough to take up the running at this level.

>> RACE 5

1. FRAPPART

2. BELLINI GOLD

3. NIECEY

FRAPPART double-drops into this strict "non-two" claimer after polishing off her 2025 campaign with a solid try against first-level allowance company. The ninth-finisher, six-time winner Waittildmidnitehour, has since compiled a 3-1-2-0 record with a 72 Beyer top on synthetic. Saved ground near the back, eased out to split rivals four wide into the stretch, and made up some late ground. Won off an even longer layoff in her seasonal debut last year. Toledo lands here instead of Hot Boss. **BELLINI GOLD** showed big speed in her turf debut to set an uncontested pace along the fence. Although late to change leads in the stretch, she always found a little more in the final furlong. The barn has three winners here since 5/3. **NIECEY** stalked outside on turf two back, made a three-wide bid on the second turn, then swapped back to her left lead when in between rivals. The third-finisher next graduated in a \$32,000 maiden seller at Tampa with a 55 Beyer. Both of her turf sprints last year were solid for a barn that sent out a winner at Delaware on 5/23. **FAHNEE** hasn't had the cleanest of trips in each of her last two starts. Might secure a pace-tracking, ground-saving position here.

>> RACE 6

1. NORFIE

2. WHITE SERIES

3. FIGHTERTOWN

Curious to see what we get from **NORFIE** after a solid winter campaign at Tampa Bay that saw the gelding hit the board in five of six sprint appearances. He was wired in his most recent start and might receive a stronger flow in this race. **WHITE SERIES**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 4/24, wired the field going two turns despite failing to change leads in the stretch. He doesn't need the lead to succeed for a new barn that sent out Mopo to a route-to-sprint win earlier in the month. **FIGHTERTOWN** was no match for an odds-on runaway and was flattered when Kerness K returned to win his fifth straight in an \$8,000 starter at Delaware with a 79 Beyer. He is part of the pace picture. **AZTEC** drops in class and should get the right setup after facing Formal Affair, who then won a \$7,500 conditioned claimer with a 67 Beyer. Vargas departs for **BIGTONTEN**. **JUST FOR THE MONEY** could be the speed of the speed, but might face extended pressure. Behind Daufuskie Island last time, and that one then ran third in an \$8,000 starter at Delaware with a 64 Beyer. Burnham lands here instead of Laddie Dance.

>> RACE 7

1. PUT A ROCK ON IT

2. BOOKITWITHHADDAD

3. LET'S DANCE AGAIN

This seems like an interesting spot for **PUT A ROCK ON IT**, who faces males in her return to the circuit. Had success in Texas this year, as she hit the board in six of seven, including a solid victory earlier in the month. Tracked a slow pace from the outside, made a three-wide bid, and was too good for that field. Did pretty well for Magee last year. **BOOKITWITHHADDAD** is better on turf and synthetic than dirt, and she moves back to the lawn after showing brief speed against a runaway over sloppy dirt at Aqueduct. Pushed the 5-1 third-finisher from the outside two back at Turfway, made the lead and the rail, and stayed strong. The sixth-finisher then took a \$12,500 claimer at Turfway with an 84 Beyer. Shouldn't be too far off the leaders for a barn that went 8 for 28 (29%, \$2.31 ROI) between 4/30 and 5/23. **LET'S DANCE AGAIN** cleared off to set an uncontested pace over Gulfstream's Tapeta, then poured it on against fillies and mares. She's won from just off the pace, and might opt for those tactics. **BODECREAM** must contend with a layoff, but he's run well fresh in the past and encountered some trouble in his final start last year. Expect a strong late kick. **GAME KEEPER**, listed as a Penn National vet scratch on 5/20, finished behind Ready to Fly in the most recent turf outing, and that one has since compiled a 5-2-2-1 record with an 86 turf Beyer.

>> RACE 8

1. CLAWLESS BRIT

2. BIG EARN

3. JUNIPER JUICE

CLAWLESS BRIT wasn't away the best, moved up to set a three-ply pace from in between foes, then stayed on in the stretch to notch her second straight victory. She might have to deal with a more difficult pace scenario this afternoon, but she has upside potential, and figures right there when they turn into the long stretch. **BIG EARN** stalked outside behind a quick pace, found a nice split three wide turning into the straight, then trudged on to finish second to the favorite despite being very late to change leads. That was a nice beginning to her turf season, and she should kick in the stretch. **JUNIPER JUICE** tracked from the inside, advanced to prompt outside the 4-1 runner-up on the backstretch, then flattened out in her first start following a 135-day break. Some angles adding blinkers and cutting back in distance for her second start of the year.

>> RACE 9

1. DOLICE VITA

2. TUFF LUCK

3. GUAPONESS

DOLICE VITA pushed a slow, three-ply pace from the rail, was placed in tight entering the second turn, and was outrun a bit, cut the corner into the stretch, and held second behind the overwhelming favorite. He'll have to be hustled out of there from a tough outside post position. **TUFF LUCK** finished behind the top pick when attempting to rally into a slow pace over a speed-friendly track. He returned 13 days later, sat in a nice spot behind the two pacesetters, angled three wide to take command on the turn, then drifted in and bothered the runner-up, causing a disqualification. This barn sent out a 4-1 winner here on 5/16. Sanchez departs for **GUAPONESS**, who looms as a dangerous contender after hitting the board in his last two races. He chased a quick pace at Parx last time, made a solid move on the second turn, then tried hard to the wire behind the favored winner. He's pretty quick from the gate and might attempt to secure the early lead. **NO MORE CALLS** took advantage of a hot pace to beat 3-year-olds. Not sure the fractions will be as swift for him to attack this time around.

>> RACE 10

1. MONDRANACH

2. REVOLUTION ROCK

3. PAID VACATION

MODRANACH tried to get out on the first turn of his two-turn debut, set a pressured pace inside the 18-1 ninth-finisher, again drifted off the fence on the second turn, and tired in the stretch. Perhaps if he opts for an outside stalking trip, he'll handle those turns better. **REVOLUTION ROCK** (\$17,000 yearling) is kin to five winners out of a half-sister to stakes-winning dirt router Rattlesnake Bridge (won debut; 100 dirt Beyer). Solid-looking work tab. **PAID VACATION** finished ahead of three of these after rating into the pocket in a race that was dominated by the two pacesetters. This barn sent out an 8-5 winner here on 5/23. **FLAMENCO STAR** broke through the gate prior to the start, then showed good early speed in his first start back from a lengthy layoff. Run down by a 53-1 shot in the lane, but likely needed that race. Figures close to the pace. Ruiz departs for **GOLF CART RYDER**.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#9 - She Called

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Experienced Horses, First-Turf: 6 for 18 (33%, \$3.03 ROI)

RACE 3

#11 - Gastown Babe

Trainer: Suzanne Stettinius

Second After 120-180 Days: 3 for 12 (25%, \$3.52 ROI)

RACE 7

#6 - Bookitwithhaddad

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

Between 4/30 and 5/23: 8 for 28 (29%, \$2.31 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+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Turf

Other notes:

- **#3 SERENE SPIRIT** lived up to her 4/5 odds in style last out, remaining on the bridle and traveling very powerfully (while her rivals were under heavy pressure) until the 1/8th pole before powering away to win by 3 lengths, seemingly with something in reserve. She may have more to offer again today.
- After sitting a smooth trip, **#6 GRIPEN** finished up full of run to win comfortably and then galloped out very nicely last time; she could have more to offer again today and should be suited by the extra 1/16.
- There was a strong speed bias present when **#8 PROBABLE ANGLE** finished 2nd of three, closing into a frenetic pace set by the gate to wire winner on the slop last week. Makes turf debut on short rest today.
- There was a closer bias present at Oaklawn when **#9 SHE CALLED** last ran, but she was really done too early and beaten too far for us to use that as an excuse (other speed horses fared much better). She'll need more today as she makes her turf but and first start for Ness.

Race 2: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 3YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#2 GIMME TWO SHOTS** broke slowly and then rushed up to press a very hot pace in the 3P before tiring last out; wonder whether his early expenditure – rushing up into the fast pace – led to him tiring sooner than would otherwise have been the case? Blinkers go on today.
- **#4 Q GOT HOPS** hopped, stumbled and lost all chance at the start last out; we can toss that race and assess him on his prior starts instead. Note: there was a speed bias present when he finished 2nd courtesy of a forward trip two back.
- **#5 RIO DEL VALLE** looked to be lugging in through the stretch when trying the turf last time. He'll need to step forward switching back to the main track this afternoon.
- **#6 FLYING TO WORK**'s runner-up effort on the slop last week isn't quite deserving of an upgrade because he had a wicked pace to chase (set by the 1/5 fav who just held on), and he managed to save ground throughout. However, he did also have to tap on the brakes just a little in the opening furlong as the speed crossed to the rail, which maybe resulted in him racing further back than would have otherwise been the case, and he also spent the entirety of the race on the rail which can often be slower when it gets sloppy. Considering he was only beaten a neck, both of these factors might have made a difference. Player right back.

Race 3: Claiming 16k, 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 SWEETER THAN WHISKEY	Claiming 16k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 04/25/26 – 2 nd	Broke in mid-pack; took strong hold behind foes tracking the even pace early, then steadied very slightly ~1/2; continued traveling powerfully in amongst foes 2W on the turn, then steadied a little again when in tight ~1/4; muscled her way between foes upper stretch, taking a small bump along the way, then finished well chasing the eventual winner to the wire for 2 nd .	Her trouble in this race was only minor and in no way deserving of a big upgrade; however, it wasn't a 100% perfect trip either and considering it was her first start back off the layoff too (had 6 works leading up), it would be somewhat surprising if she couldn't move forward off it this afternoon.

Other notes:

- Not sure how much stock we should put into **#5 NO MO MUFFINS** last start at Penn National: she had to tap on the brakes very slight entering the turn when a rival began to back up in front of her; we can't really use that as an excuse as it was only minor interference and she then didn't do any running after, but it did shuffle her back a touch. There was also a strong closer bias present that day and the pace she was chasing early was very strong, factors that led to a couple of fancied runners paddling close home. It was a muddling race and she's probably better assessed on her prior starts; switches to turf today.
- Although she sat a wider than ideal trip, we should not upgrade **#6 GRANUAILE**'s win last time owing to the fact that she had a phenomenal pace setup, closing into fractions of 21.72, 44.24 which took a toll on the top two betting choices late on.
- **#7 BEYOND QUESTION** only had four reported workouts leading into her return off the layoff last time, and she ran like a horse short of peak fitness – speed and fade. Look for her to step forward for that return effort. Note: her return effort last year was very similar to her return effort last month, and then she stepped forward to win next time.
- **#11 GASTOWN BABE** sat a wide trip when returning from the layoff with an even effort last time. Another wide post today, blinkers on.

Race 4: Claiming 7.5k, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, 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 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.	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 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. Cuts back in trip today.

Other notes:

- There were four sprint races run on the dirt at Tampa when **#6 ESTILO MAGICO** last ran, and all four were won by horses who were within a length of the lead throughout (three went gate to wire, including EM's race, won by a 5/1 shot). Seems like he was slightly against the track flow that day. Cuts back to 6F returning to Casey's barn today.
- After racing a fraction wide over a wet dirt track last time, **#7 ECUMENICAL** wasn't hard ridden through the final 1/16 last time, slightly exacerbating the margin of defeat. Player on the drop today.

Race 5: Claiming 16k, 3YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Turf

Other notes:

- The chart comment makes **#2 FAHNEE**'s trip last time sound much worse than it was – her steady around the ½ was fairly inconsequential and overall, she sat a fine trip closing into a red-hot pace (that favored her).
- **#3 NIECEY** was promoted to 1st (and lost her maiden tag) due to a medication violation by the winner of her last race on the dirt at Tampa. She ran a nice race in defeat there having waited a few strides longer than ideal on the turn when absent of a clear path and swung wider than ideal into the lane – tiny upgrade. Cuts back in trip and switches back to turf today. Note: her lone try on the Laurel Park turf was troubled and upgradable; her running style suits the long stretch here.
- There was a very strong speed bias present when **#7 TIPMANEE** posted her best Beyer and earned her lone victory in gate to wire fashion on the dirt last September. Makes turf debut off the layoff today.
- Racing on a heavily speed biased track and making her first start on the slop (which she seemingly didn't act on), **#10 STAY IN TUNE** was eased through the lane when clearly not going to finish better than 3rd of three last week, exacerbating the margin of defeat. Makes turf debut today.

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

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 TOP BLOOD	Claiming 7.5k, LRL, 1 1/16M, Sloppy Dirt, 05/23/26 – 4 th	Hustled from rail to take lead entering first turn; took firm hold and dragged rider through fast fractions (23.29, 47.70) to far turn; held advantage under pressure racing to the ¼ pole, then lost the lead and faded through the lane.	With blinkers added, he just did too much too soon and not for the first time, failed to stay around two turns. Still, this was an improved effort that pointed towards him being most effective at one turn with blinkers on (which he tries today); provided he can handle today's sharp turn around (which is a concern after this taxing effort), we may see more from him at 7F today.

Other notes:

- There was no visible reason as to why **#2 AZTEC** ran so far below par last time.
- Although he was already beaten at the time and seemingly below par, period, we should note that **#8 BIGTONTEN** was briefly short of room along the rail ~1/8th pole last time which hindered his momentum somewhat and possibly led to him being beaten further than would otherwise have been the case. Cuts back in trip with weight off today.
- The track was leaning to speed when **#9 WHITE SERIES** was last seen winning in wire fashion around two turns - maybe take that form with a pinch of salt. Cuts back in trip making his debut for Capuano today.

Race 7: Starter Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/8 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#10 BODECREAM	Starter Allowance, LRL, 1M, Good Turf, 11/09/25 – 6 th	Chased hot pace between foes in mid-pack to the far turn; came under a hand ride racing past the 3/8, then tried to angle out into the clear ~5/16 but was hemmed in and prevented from doing so; turned for home ~8L off the lead in rear, then again tried to forced his way out sharply ~3/16, costing him momentum as he bumped hard with a rival who was blocking him; finally in the clear towards the center, it was too late and he finished evenly.	It didn't seem like he was ever winning, but he still posted a speed figure that fits well against today's group despite a troubled trip in a race that came at the end of a long season. If ready off the bench, he should play a big role today.

Other Notes:

- Although **#8 THE LAST SCIP** got to within a 1/4L of stablemate **#3 CLASS PHOTO** and then galloped out past him when they finished 2nd and 1st, respectively, last out, it's easy to argue that the latter – running as a gelding for the first time – was definitely best of the two, owing to the fact that he sat far closer to the hot, closer friendly pace (23.07,

46.86). Saying that, however, while both will demand serious respect today making their second starts back from the layoff, #8 THE LAST SCIP could be better suited to this distance.

Race 8: Allowance, 3YO+ (F)®, 6 Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 LADY ENSIGN	Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/02/26 – 4 th	Pressed hot pace in the 2P while taking pressure on her outside racing into the stretch; came under a ride upper stretch, then brushed with a foe ~3/16 when finishing evenly before finding herself in very tight between horses ~1/8 pole, forcing her to steady; from there, she failed to recover.	Expecting her to take a big step forward from this return off the layoff for two reasons: firstly, she found herself in a tricky spot between foes here, receiving pressure which forced her to hold her position, even though she was already too close to the red-hot pace (22.21, 44.25) that set things up well for the closers; and secondly, she obviously had a troubled stretch run. Second back today with a more energy efficient ride and smoother trip, she should improve notably.

Other notes:

- **#1 JUNIPER JUICE** made a likable visual impression returning off the layoff last time; she could be suited by a strongly-run 6F today with Lasix off and blinkers on.
- The way **#4 CLAWLESS BRIT** went about making her first start against winner a winning one last time was quite impressive and borderline pace upgradable (none given though because the other top finishers were positioned quite close to the pace as well): she battled on the lead through solid fractions (22.88, 44.87) before opening up in the lane and then gamely holding off a pair of late challengers at the wire. While she didn't leave much room to take another huge step forward (laid it all down on the track), she's clearly trending in the right direction.
- **#6 OVER MY CENTS** sat much closer to the electric pace (21.72, 44.24) than the eventual winner who nipped him by a neck on the line last out; she could well have been best in there and will require a second look with the bug weight off today.
- **#7 BIG EARN** brushed with both #5 LADY ENSIGN and the eventual winner of her last race in the stretch, but neither incident hindered her momentum or made much of a difference to the result at all. Overall, she sat a good trip and received an excellent setup.
- **#8 MEG** possibly deserves some extra credit for her last start because, while accepting that she received a great setup as a closer, she managed to make up over 7L racing over a speed biased track. Returns to turf today.

Race 9: Allowance, 3YO+®, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Other notes:

- Although he was wide into the stretch, we still might need to downgrade **#1 NO MORE CALLS'** win last out as he took advantage of lethal fractions (23.61, 46.89) which led to a pace collapse and set things up perfectly for him closing from last.
- Having been prominently positioned in his three prior starts, **#4 HIXON** ended up much further back than he was used to after breaking from the rail in the Frederico Tessio Stakes last time; he showed a very professional and likable attitude to handle these circumstances in just his fourth start, and then finished nicely. What's more, he was also working against a speed bias in that race, for which he's deserving of some extra credit. Seems a big player with upside potential intact and Lasix going back on today.
- Although **#5 TUFF LUCK** was DQ'd from 1st after drifting in through the lane and impeding with a rival last time, he still ran a solid race and his speed figure is fair. Player.
- Similarly to #1 NO MORE CALL's, we might need to downgrade **#7 MARCAN LOVE's** win last time as he sat a very nice trip while taking advantage of hot fractions (23.68, 46.95) which took their toll on the 8/5 fav and set things up well for him to score as a closer.
- **#8 DOLCE VITA** was no match for the 1/9 fav BLUE KINGDOM last time – he was very much 2nd best; however, he still ran a very nice race in defeat despite having found himself in tight along the rail from the 9/16 into the turn. While this never forced him to check, it did slightly hinder his momentum and therefore, he might be capable of showing a fraction more today. Player.

Race 10: Maiden Claiming 35k, 3-6YO, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 GOLF CART RIDER	Maiden Claiming 35k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/15/26 – 4 th	Aggressively sent from gate 12; vied for hotly contested lead ~5 deep into the turn, then found himself in tight between foes and had to steady ~1/2, at which point he began to race greenly on the bend and looked a tough to control which resulted in him dropping over 10L back off the pace ~1/4; angled out in upper stretch, then finished well down the center for 4 th .	Making his first start off the layoff and turf debut, this was a troubled trip upon which he can likely improve, and he gave the impression that he'd handle today's step up in trip too. That being said, we shouldn't upgrade this run too much because, as a result of steadying back, he was actually then able to take advantage of a great setup closing into the hot pace that collapsed, and which he was originally pressing (he wouldn't have received the setup which aided him if he didn't steady). What's more, it did also seem like his greenness and the fact that he was difficult to ride on the turn meant that the effects of his trouble were somewhat exacerbated. Worth a second look, whatever the case.
#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 miss 5 th , beaten 3 1/4L for everything.	He wasn't beaten far in the end despite the fact that after a babyish start he was tasked with closing into a modest-slow pace that held very well (top four finishers filled those positions throughout), and he had to steady twice as well! He 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:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - #1 SILVER SABER finished evenly despite having wasted plenty of energy racing keenly and fighting his rider in behind horses when tracking a slow pace on his turf route debut off the layoff last time. Second out with a more honest pace signed on and fitness under his belt, he should be capable of stepping forward today. - #2 PAID VACATION and #5 SHAKIN MY HEAD finished 3rd and 4th respectively – both having sat good, forward trips - when last seen; while both ran well (extra credit to SHAKIN MY HEAD who was returning from a layoff), we might be best served placing an asterisk by that form because the pace was slow and the rail was set at 87 feet, which led to speed holding very well – the top four finishers, including these two – filled those positions throughout, and no closer managed to get involved. - #6 REGENCY TALE received an excellent pace setup as a closer (22.35, 46.55) when producing a career best Beyer last time. - #7 MODRANACH lugged out badly on the turn when making his turf debut last time. Cuts right back in trip today. - Pinned tight along the rail through the stretch after setting the pace throughout, #9 FLAMELCO STAR ran a big race off the bench last time and will unquestionably demand respect second back today. We should note, however, that speed did seem to hold well in that return race, with the eventual 53/1 winner having sat a close second until turning in, and the 18/1 third place finisher always close up too. 			

Horses to Follow

R3: SWEETER THAN WHISKEY (7/2 ML)

Having consistently held her own against starter and allowance company last year, SWEETER THAN WHISKEY dropped in for 16k when returning from a 169-day layoff last month and ran a big race in defeat, posting a co-second-fastest career Beyer while overcoming a less-than-ideal trip. With that comeback run now under her belt, she should strip fitter second time back this afternoon, and with hot-riding apprentice Vargas taking five pounds off her back, a little racing luck from the rail may be all she needs to get the job done.

R7: THE LAST SCIP (8/1 ML)

At a morning-line price of 8/1, THE LAST SCIP is hardly the obvious play in today's seventh, but there are reasons to believe he could offer value. Returning from a 188-day layoff last time, the 7-year-old gelding ran a very solid race to finish just behind his re-opposing stablemate CLASS PHOTO, who is likely to take plenty of money here

as the 5/2 morning-line favorite. Although aided by a strong pace setup as a closer, it was still an encouraging seasonal return and one that continued a long-standing pattern: THE LAST SCIP appears to do his best work early in the year. On the four previous occasions he's returned from layoffs of 100+ days, his first two starts back have produced form figures of 1,1,1,1,2,3,2 that have yielded numerous speed figures that make him very competitive against today's group. This time of year very much seems the time to catch him, and having also galloped out strongly past the wire last time, today's extra 1/8-mile should suit him well. Strengthening the case, Jeiron Barbosa gets back in the saddle today — notable given he's been the rider aboard for all five of this gelding's career wins. At a price, he's surely worth including on a few tickets.

R10: WICKHAM LANE (12/1 ML)

WICKHAM LANE may have finished only sixth on debut 21 days ago, but his effort was far better than the bare result suggests and hinted strongly that there's plenty more to come from this Tim Woolley trained colt. After a babyish start left him detached at the rear early, he then found himself hopelessly compromised by a slowly run race that saw the speed hold throughout, with the first four home occupying those positions the entire way around. Matters only worsened from there, as he had to steady at the 3/8 pole when a rival backed up in front of him, then again at the 3/16 when lacking a clear path. By the time he finally angled out and levelled off inside the final furlong, the race was effectively over, yet he still managed to make up roughly five lengths late on while posting a respectable 55 Beyer. The run suggested there's significantly more ability here than the PPs imply, and with a much stronger pace likely today courtesy of the likes of FLAMENCO STAR, a sizeable step forward second time out looks firmly on the cards. At morning-line odds of 12/1, there's plenty to like.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

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

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

MAGICAL MONDAYS

Trainer: Tim Woolley

Last Race: May 3, 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.

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.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1 - Jose Vargas: #3 - Serene Spirit; #6 - Gripen; **Vargas rides SERENE SPIRIT**

Race 3 - Sheldon Russell: #4 - Police Woman; #5 - No Mo Muffins >>> **Russell rides NO MO MUFFINS**

Race 4 - Yomar Ortiz: #1 - Silverbullettwenty; #2 - Bonded >>> **Ortiz rides SILVERBULLETTWENTY**

Race 5 - Jevian Toledo: #6 - Frappart; #9 - Hot Boss >>> **Toledo rides FRAPPART**

Race 6 - Jose Vargas: #2 - Aztec; #8 - Bigtonten >>> **Vargas rides BIGTONTEN**

Race 6 - Matilda Burnham: #3 - Just for the Money; #6 - Laddie Dance >>> **Burnham rides JUST FOR THE MONEY**

Race 7 - Forest Boyce: #1 - Cut the Cord; #3 - Class Photo >>> **Boyce rides CLASS PHOTO**

Race 9 - Mychel Sanchez: #2 - Guaponess; #5 - Tuff Luck >>> **Sanchez rides GUAPONESS**

Race 10 - Jorge Ruiz: #3 - Golf Cart Ryder; #9 - Flamenco Star >>> **Ruiz rides GOLF CART RYDER**

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

A recap of **SATURDAY, MAY 30** action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: Favored Freedom Glider ran a big race on the lead, fending off the challenge of Brighty, who pestered him throughout the last three-eighths. He won the battle but lost the war. While he held off Brighty, **West Mountain** overwhelmed both of them and got up to win his second race in a row in the last few jumps.

Race 2: River City Runner worked out a perfect trip pressing early leader Hooraw from his outside. He wore him down on the final turn and held clear to break his maiden at fifth asking. Divine Swagger, in his first start around two turns, made mild ground to complete the exacta.

Race 3: Don't Tell Kelly was forced to check at the start, then checked again briefly up the backstretch. Once she got in the clear at the top of the lane, she was unstoppable. Getaway Palace gave her a fight, but could no better than second, well clear of the rest. Mainstream Sellout flew late to round out the trifecta.

Race 4: Slewperstitus, who was second to Rerun Table at this level five weeks ago, turned the tables this afternoon. She made her move three-wide at the top of the stretch, struck the front at the three-sixteenths pole, and dug in when Rerun Table countered from her inside. Heavy chalk Lyudmila, in her first start of the year, didn't look comfortable in the early stages and was forced to check on the far turn. She did manage to salvage third and will assuredly run better next time.

Race 5: Let Her Pass By rated off the pace, then found an opening between horses in the stretch and prevailed. Forty Seven Smoker, making her third start of the season, closed well in the final eighth and missed by less than a length.

Race 6: Turkish Breeze cleared to the lead and the rail from the outside post, enabling **Christy My Love** to angle to her outside and press her. In the last eighth, Christy My Love wore down Turkish Breeze for the 12-1 upset.

Race 7: Your Lordship steadily gained ground on the rail up the backstretch, angled out for run at the top of the stretch, and kicked away to victory.

Race 8: She's Not a Lad established firm early control of the lead and the rail, and at the eighth pole, it looked like she would finish the job. However, her strides quickly shortened, and **Looks First** closed furiously for the win.

Race 9: Siege of Boston showed no signs of rust in his first race off a four-month layoff. He got a similar trip to Your Lordship earlier in the card: he saved ground all the way, angled off the inside at the top of the lane, and kicked away in the last eighth.

Race 10: For the second time in as many starts this year, **Barbadian Runner** got stuck behind a James Wolf-owned, Anthony Farnior-trained loose leader. Last time at Charles Town, it was Petingas Twin, this time, it was Indy Charges On. Unlike last time, where he lost by a neck, Barbadian Runner took control in the stretch and drew away for the first win of his 4-year-old season.

Race 11: Noble Jon lived up to his promise as the favorite, as he hit the front in the stretch and held sway from there. Upsidedown Man rallied well for second at 40-1, well clear of the others.

PAST TRACK TRENDS

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

May 22 – SPEED BIAS

May 23 – Fair