



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for THURSDAY, MAY 14

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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	KEITH FEUSTLE	KALI FRANCOIS	DAN ILLMAN	MACK PFEIFFER	JOHN PIASSEK	DAVE RODMAN	TIM TULLOCK
RACE 1:	1-4-2-8	1-9-5-4	8-1-4-11	8-1-5-9	11-1-13-2	4-5-6-8	4-8-6
RACE 2:	2-6-1-5	6-1-4-5	1-5-4-6	6-1-3-2	3-1-6-5	3-6-2-1	6-5-3
RACE 3:	9-4-6-12	3-6-8-5	4-7-8-11	9-4-6-11	6-4-7-9	8-4-6-12	6-4-10
RACE 4:	5-7-6-1	5-6-2-7	5-3-7-6	2-5-3-6	5-6-3-1	5-7-1-3	8-5-6
RACE 5:	12-10-1-2	12-10-6-7	12-1-3-6	12-3-2-10	12-10-2-1	3-8-6-2	12-10-3
RACE 6:	4-14-8-2	12-15-7-2	8-14-3-4	12-14-3-8	14-3-8-5	8-4-14-2	12-14-2
RACE 7:	4-5-1-7	4-8-1-6	4-1-5-8	4-8-1-5	4-8-1-7	1-7-6-5	4-8-9
RACE 8:	5-1-4-3	5-1-6-2	5-1-2-4	1-6-2-5	6-5-1-2	5-1-2-3	1-5-6
RACE 9:	1-6-7-8	6-7-8-1	6-3-7-8	6-7-8-3	8-7-3-6	8-7-2-1	8-7-1

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

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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. BETTER WATCH IT

2. TRIATHELON

3. DERZ SMART

First post is 12 pm ET with a LOW 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" (first five races; last five races) wagers. There are mandatory payouts on all wagers with carryover potential. **BETTER WATCH IT** was bumped lightly at the start, pulled early, and was steadied just a bit passing the stands for the first time, saved ground in midpack behind a solid pace, split rivals on the second bend, and finished evenly in between. Really liked her performance two back when second to odds-on Bourbonator. Must deal with a six-month break, but she ran well following 147 days off last year, and should get pace to attack. **TRIATHELON** finished ahead of four of these when returning to turf. She has a versatile running style, but might be forwardly placed from the rail draw for a barn that sent out a couple of odds-on winners here last week. **DERZ SMART** might prefer firm going, and he caught good ground last time when moving back to grass. Tried to mount a three-wide bid on the far turn, but flattened out racing on his left lead. Might be set for his best in the third of the form cycle for a barn that sent out a 5-2 turf winner last week. **ATTRAYANT** deserves a look if able to escape the Also Eligible list. Keep an eye on **SNEAKING SUSPICION**, as his lone win came following a 160-day break, and he returns from 179 days on the bench with a good closing kick. Finished behind Agent Kelly last time, and that foe then placed in a \$15,000 "non-two" claimer at Turfway with a 68 Beyer. Major class relief into this strict "non-two" claimer for **MAJESTIC BLUE**, who finished behind Elvis Himself (next-out 73 Beyer in \$30,000 "non-three" claimer) in a recent turf sprint.

>> RACE 2

1. ZIO LINO

2. CLAVIN

3. KITTY'S SON

ZIO LINO, listed as a Laurel vet scratch on 4/3 and 4/26, was wired in his most recent outing. Broke very well, but was outpaced to a solid tracking position behind the two leaders. Made a three-wide bid on the turn, remained well off the rail, and tried hard for second. Expecting fresh speed from the inside post for a barn that went 4 for 16 (25%, \$3.88 ROI) between 3/8 and 5/9. **CLAVIN** tracked outside in his first against winners, found a nice spot stalking by his lonesome, made an inside bid under urging, angled four wide while making an early lead change, then didn't threaten. Perhaps he'll appreciate cutting back in distance. **KITTY'S SON** finished second at 21-1 odds moving from turf to dirt last year, and repeats the pattern after being overmatched against state-sired foes. Wired by the favorite in the most recent dirt start, he was bumped at the break that day, tracked a slow (24.77) pace while three wide, split rivals under urging, and finished evenly from off the rail. The runner-up from that race next graduated for \$12,500 by 13 1/2 lengths with a 73 Beyer. Hazlewood departs for **NEVERWORKEDADAY**, who was snatched up and steadied in the early stages of first start following a four-month break.

>> RACE 3

1. MAGIC BEAM

2. FIRESTREAK

3. SNOW BELLA

MAGIC BEAM worked out a decent trip when cracking the exacta in her career debut. Settled at the back, saved ground every step of the way, then finished evenly on the fence with a solid gallop-out. Expecting a strong late kick for a barn that sent out two turf winners earlier this month. **FIRESTREAK**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch on 10/19, returns from a 229-day layoff after a promising debut. Wired by a 72-1 shot, he traveled nicely while saving ground, angled widest into the stretch, and rallied determinedly late. **SNOW BELLA** switches surfaces, and is out of a half-sister to stakes-winning turf miler Giza

Goddess (91 turf Beyer). The barn went 4 for the last 10 (40%, \$9.86 ROI) with experienced horses racing on turf for the first time. BOYCE departs for SPINNING CLASS. CHRISTMAS JONES stretches out and adds Lasix with the speed to grab the early lead. STERLING CAT switches surfaces as a half to multiple stakes-placed turf sprinter Abyssinian (89 turf Beyer). WOMAN ENTICED tries grass as a half to multiple stakes-winning turf router Way to Be Marie (90 turf Beyer).

>> RACE 4

1. BEAUXBATONS

2. PNEUMO WARRIOR

3. TRULY THRILLING

BEAUXBATONS (\$37,000 short yearling; \$52,000 yearling) is a half-sister to stakes-winning dirt sprinter Ethical Lady (in Puerto Rico) out of a half to Grade 3-winning dirt router Tip Top Thomas (won debut), multiple stakes-winning dirt performer Gray Attempt (95 turf Beyer), and Grade 2-placed dirt router Dua (won debut). This barn went 6 for the last 17 (35%, \$5.86 ROI) with first-time starters. **PNEUMO WARRIOR** was squeezed at the start two back, then was wired in a slow-paced race over a speed-friendly track (they ran 1-2 around). Stalked from in between, made a three-wide bid, and didn't change leads. The runner-up then graduated for \$25,000 with a 55 Beyer. **TRULY THRILLING** has plenty of angles, moving turf to dirt and adding blinkers for her second of the form cycle. Made a four-wide advance on the turn two back, and couldn't step with the runaway winner while drifting inward. The third-finisher then won two in a row with a 60 Beyer top. She can get close to the pace for a barn that went 7 for the last 32 (22%, \$2.68 ROI) moving from turf to dirt. **CROSS OF VALOR** pulled hard to duel inside the 3-1 third-finisher, was outpaced on the turn, tried to get outside but eventually altered back to the fence, and changed back to his left lead in a one-turn mile heat. He's looking for some pace help. **LUX** (\$20,000 yearling; \$17,000 RNA October 3-year-old) is out of Grade 3-winning dirt router Sweet Repent.

>> RACE 5

1. MAGICAL WAYS

2. REGAL KINGDOM

3. CREATE TROUBLE

MAGICAL WAYS hasn't won in over two years, but perhaps moving back to turf can help him get back on track. Faced tougher on grass on 9/27 at Aqueduct, as the winner then placed in three of his next four with a 92 turf Beyer top. All in all, he had a good trip in that race. Saved ground near the back, then rallied up the rail for fourth. Needs to work out a trip from a tough outside post for a barn that went 5 for the last 16 (31%, \$2.63 ROI) with horses moving dirt to turf in the second after 61-120 day layoffs. **REGAL KINGDOM** ran very well off a 453-day layoff to hit the board here two back, then went on the bench for almost 200 more days. Prepped for this over the jumps for a barn that had two turf winners last week. **CREATE TROUBLE** exits a productive synthetic race at Gulfstream that produced One More Brew, a next-out runner-up in a \$15,000 starter-optional claimer over Woodbine Tapeta with an 85 Beyer. Think he's better on turf, and this barn went 4 for 13 (31%, \$2.37 ROI) between 4/25 and 5/10. There isn't a ton of speed in this race, and that helps **NIGHT TIME NAP**, who hit the board in his lone turf start last year, and is pretty quick from the gate. **MORE VINO** showed speed in both prior turf starts against much-tougher company in New York. **SELL SOMETHING** was wired in his seasonal debut. He's a late-runner that needs pace and trip luck.

>> RACE 6

1. DAIRAGO

2. OUTRUNNER

3. SUN ABOVE

This will be a good class test for **DAIRAGO**, who leaps out of the claiming ranks after a solid "non-three" win last month. Tracked the 2-1 loose pacesetter (finished last), attacked from in between foes on the second turn, then drew off under a strong drive. Has tactical speed for a new barn that went 4 for 14

(29%, \$2.59 ROI) between 4/12 and 5/9. **OUTRUNNER** returns from 173 days on the bench after earning two Grade 3 placings against 3-year-olds. Finished ahead of two next-out winners in the Commonwealth, as well as Troubleshooting (next-out second in a Keeneland allowance with a 99 Beyer). The barn went 5 for the last 11 (45%, \$3.67 ROI) when adding Lasix. **SUN ABOVE** showed a strong late kick to win his debut, then faced a good field in the Central Park at Aqueduct (third-finisher hit the board in his next four starts, including the Grade 1 American Turf with a 92 Beyer top). He should display a nice stretch rally with Lasix on. **STICKTOTHESYSTEM** likely shows early speed at a price. The fourth-finisher from the last race then ran third in a \$16,000 "non-three" seller with a 74 Beyer.

>> RACE 7

1. WONDER MIST

2. PALACIOS

3. R J'S ICE

WONDER MIST prompted the 5-1 runner-up from the outside, advanced to set the pace from in between horses, then drew away from starter allowance company at Aqueduct. It will be interesting to see what sort of trip he can pull with other quick ones in the field. The barn went 8 for the last 17 (47%, \$3.96 ROI) with last-out winners going third after layoffs between 61-120 days. Hazlewood departs for Caseofthemondays. **PALACIOS** was wired over a speed-friendly track last month. Broke a beat slow, tracked three wide, then flattened out in between horses. Earned a strong Beyer Speed Figure two back, and might receive a positive pace flow for a barn that went 5 for the last 13 (38%, \$3.77 ROI) with horses going third after 61-120 day layoffs. **R J'S ICE** broke sharply, tracked from the pocket, moved through an inviting rail opening to make the lead, and stayed to his task in a good-trip maiden win. The barn has sent out two nice-priced winners since 4/25. **G Q WORTHY** rallied against the bias to place ahead of two of these, and should get plenty of pace to attack here.

>> RACE 8

1. PACO THE TACO MAN

2. SURGICAL PRECISION

3. FEAR NOTHING

PACO THE TACO MAN set the pace inside the favored runner-up, then kept on trucking in a race where they ran 1-2-3 around the track. He's paired up Beyer tops in his last two starts, and looks like the controlling speed once again. **SURGICAL PRECISION** looks like a logical contender after a promising return from a 383-day layoff. Didn't break the best, saved ground at the back, moved through inside in the upper stretch, and finished evenly for second. The fourth-finisher then placed in a first-level allowance here with a 91 Beyer. He'll run on in the stretch. **FEAR NOTHING** is a consistent sort that has hit the board in his last eight dirt outings. This barn sent out a 9-5 winner on 5/8.

>> RACE 9

1. MARITAL TRUST

2. LUCKY LIS

3. SIN BOLDLY

MARITAL TRUST raced three wide in midpack, swung very wide into the stretch, then made up some late ground against a pair of first-time starters at Turfway. Breezed an easy solo half-mile at Fair Hill on 5/7 for a barn that went 5 for 11 (45%, \$7.75 ROI) between 4/18 and 5/9. **LUCKY LIS** cleared off to set an uncontested pace from the rail, then tired going two turns. Might revert to tracking tactics as she cuts back in distance for a barn that went 5 for the last 21 (24%, \$2.53 ROI) when moving from route to sprint. **SIN BOLDLY** was wired by the favorite in her first start of the year. Stalked three wide and finished pretty well despite hopping back to her left lead. **CHARLOTTE'S CAY** (\$425,000 yearling) is a half-sister to multiple stakes-winning dirt router Dash Attack (won debut; 101 dirt Beyer).

KALI'S KEYS – by Kali Francois

PRICE PLAYS:

Race 5: #10 Fully Booked - 8/1

Fun, competitive field here, and I like where Green spotted this one. Smart claim from Brown, with an unsuccessful dirt try before getting back to a surface quite frankly that suits him and what he's bred for (dam was just shy of being a stakes winner at Woodbine). The dam's half sibling just missed the Key Cents last fall at Aqueduct by half a length. Outside of that, the two wins were extremely similar, and this one will likely hold a price due to the fact that players will be skeptical about the cutback to the mile. Rest assured, that Turfway Park win was so wide around the turn and he had the race right around the eighth. Had an excuse in that off the layoff in the fall at AQU when Green claimed him.

Race 4: #6 Peace Before Chaos - 12/1

While I think there is a clear winner of the race, I'm going to try and find you guys a price underneath for some value. Wish me luck on hanging around this 12/1 morning line price. A fruitful field from that last start of Peace Before Chaos: a winner in the second-place finisher from that field, All Fun N Games (4th) was a good second next out, Nit Witness (5th) a next out winner. The race itself was pretty straightforward for PBC, I saw that she was physically getting tired, but found a second surge and kept going on the sealed track. The big question is: will this one bounce after the sealed track effort? With the way the gallop-out went, I think she'll be just fine. In addition, half-sibling Speightful Sis was able to perform well next out after running on a muddy surface.

Race 3: #8 Snow Bella - 15/1

A first-time turf starter for Meyers, the season hasn't gone too bad that way, as she's at a barn trend of 5/13, 38% with her first-time turf starters. The dam's half Giza Goddess made a good effort in her first turf try, won a listed turf stakes in California in her second turf try and nearly won a Grade Three on the turf. The best sampling we've seen of this filly is in her latest start, where she was fidgety on her feet in the gate right before they opened. She's petite like a turf filly, and she ran like a petite turf fill would run on the dirt: Forest had her hang back, she got a great dirt schooling, and she made up great ground on the straightway. Forest conserved her on the gallop-out for better things to come, as this was just to get a race in her. While I would have loved her shorter for the first time on the turf, expect her to run better than the dirt start for sure, as we can expect Forest to time things right.

Race 1: Maupansant - 15/1

If you like Triathlon at 4/1, you have to like Maupansant at a price as well. Second to Triathlon last out, I was out of town for that fractious moment and I didn't get to see it. He's the "lope along to get along" type of grinder in the race, and he had a similar trip to Triathlon, Maupansant just got the shorter end of the stick being on the rail. I don't think that helped him. He's getting two things he needs: 1) Longer distance 2) an outer post. Depending on what price he's coming at, he's a price I would play strictly underneath for any exotics - but do not count him out.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Kingsley is looking for her first win in Maryland and it seems only fitting that it should be on the turf given her background. Better Watch It has proven competitive at this level and the barn certainly can send them out ready to run first off the bench. He finds very different company here than he faced last season. With questionable pace, Triathelon may ultimately benefit from the inside post and an opportunity to be involved early.

R2: Neverworkedaday benefits from his outer post with inside speed to target, as well as a start off the bench. Early trouble has caused a bit of extra work, less time in the gate may serve him well here. Zio Lino faced an impressive runner in his first against winners, slight class relief while remaining protected looks to be a huge benefit here.

R3: Kinda Clever is exactly how I'll feel if I can get this filly home at 20-1. Blinkers on, 43% strike rate for the barn, and 2nd time Lasix on the turf catches my attention. Magic Beam didn't have the sharpest of starts but found her way into the race with an impressive bid on the rail. With lone speed from Christmas Jones, there is some concern she may have her way out front for a barn that is 23% when going sprint to route.

R4: In a race where Beauxbatons is likely to take plenty of action, I find interest in another first time starter who might drift up from the 10-1 ML. Lux has a bullet gate work and comes out for a barn who sent out a first off the bench winner at a price on Sunday. The family has shown early ability and perhaps the barn might be picking up momentum here. Peace Before Chaos also presents value based on her willingness last out, my only concern is whether the wet track has been to her benefit.

R5: Not the most straightforward of races. Magical Ways has plenty of turf races that make him stand out in this group, it does prompt the question of whether he can fill such a significant gap in the Beyer figs based on his last outing. Sell Something is the only runner in this group who stays protected, perhaps signaling that he really did need a start off the bench.

R6: Drilling for Gold seemed to lose all chances from the start of his last outing, where he was forced to find new tactics. Despite this, he put together a strong rally from off the pace, and may benefit from it here. A value to watch is Sun Above, who won impressively on debut before trying stakes company with some of the best 2 y/o turf runners last year - Attfield and Honey Dutch, just to name a few.

R7: If Wonder Mist is able to repeat his last out, he may find himself a perfect 3/3 on the dirt here. With an abundance of speed in this race, Palacios is a must use in the exacta/trifecta for me, the lone closer may benefit as he did 2-back.

R8: In his first off the bench following a lengthy layoff, Surgical Precision improved off of the debut win, and proved he hasn't lost a thing. With outside speed, this 4 y/o gelding should be able to sit a patient trip similar to his debut. Roger Roger cuts back in distance and has shown more speed since adding blinkers. The outer post looks to be where he runs his best races.

R9: Martial Trust may appreciate a change in scenery after difficult trips and tough company. I give her one more chance at the 5-2 ML price. Lucky Lis cuts back in distance and showed new tactics when sprinting 2-back. The winner of her last outing, Lovely Lookin Lili, did so impressively and faces allowance company this weekend.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 2

#1 - Zio Lino

Trainer: Damon Dilodovico

Between 3/8 and 5/9: 4 for 16 (25%, \$3.88 ROI)

RACE 3

#8 - Snow Bella

Trainer: Madison Meyers

Experienced Horses, First Turf: 4 for 10 (40%, \$9.86 ROI)

RACE 4

#5 - Beauxbatons

Trainer: Whit Beckman

First-Time Starters: 6 for 17 (35%, \$5.86 ROI)

#7 - Truly Thrilling

Trainer: Mary Eppler

Turf to Dirt: 7 for 32 (22%, \$2.68 ROI)

RACE 5

#3 - Create Trouble

Trainer: Rick Dutrow

Between 4/25 and 5/10: 4 for 13 (31%, \$2.37 ROI)

#12 - Magical Ways

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Dirt to Turf, 2nd After 61-120 Days: 5 for 16 (31%, \$2.63 ROI)

RACE 6

#8 - Dairago

Trainer: Robbie Bailes

Between 4/12 and 5/9: 4 for 14 (29%, \$2.59 ROI)

#14 - Outrunner

Trainer: Jorge Duarte Jr.

Lasix On: 5 for 11 (45%, \$3.67 ROI)

RACE 7

#1 - Palacios

Trainer: John Salzman Jr.

Third After 61-120 Days: 5 for 13 (38%, \$3.77 ROI)

#4 - Wonder Mist

Trainer: Wesley Ward

Last-Out Winners, 3rd After 61-120: 8 for 17 (47%, \$3.96 ROI)

RACE 9

#3 - Lucky Lis

Trainer: Jose Magana

Route to Sprint: 5 for 21 (24%, \$2.53 ROI)

#6 - Marital Trust

Trainer: Arnaud Delacour

Between 4/18 and 5/9: 5 for 11 (45%, \$7.75 ROI)

TRIPS AND TIPS – by Will Humphrey, *In The Money Media*

Trip Notes - Recent performances that deserve an asterisk. All others: trust the past-performances.

Race 1: Claiming 16k, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#2 BLACKTHORNE BRUSCA	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; he then 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.
#7 DATS TAP	Claiming 16k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 04/24/26 – 9 th	Chased even pace from mid-pack/rear 3W into the lane, then met all sorts of traffic while possibly lugging in a little through the lane; hardly came off bridle.	A troubled stretch run (possibly self inflicted as he was lugging in a little). We shouldn't take this race as a guide to his current ability because he's better than the result suggests and his prior turf route races are likely a better gauge. At least he'll have gotten some fitness out of this return effort.

Other notes:

- **#6 SNEAKING SUSPICION** sat a wider than ideal trip and made a premature move before fading when last seen taking on starter allowance foes in November. Even if he was an 11/1 shot and not destined for victory, the trip didn't help him, and he was running back just 21 days after his career best Beyer earning effort, too – a possible bounce at the end of a long season? Feel we can be forgiving of that below par effort. Returns off layoff today.
- After breaking from the rail, **#8 BETTER WATCH IT** over-raced and had to check slightly off heels when stuck inside behind a very pedestrian opening ¼ of 25.15 last time. While he was never beating the winner and eventually checked in 5th, he was only a 1/2L off 2nd and without that early trouble might have hit the board. A different set of circumstances can see him to better effect as he returns from the bench today and his overall form is a better guide to his ability than this back-end effort alone.
- **#9 MAUPANSANT** was fractious before the start of his last race – and often overlooked reason as to why they possibly underperformed and why they can possibly offer on a different day. Returns from layoff today.
- **#11 MAJESTIC BLUE**'s effort in his lone turf route start in the Laurel Futurity last September might need downgrading slightly as he was positioned close to a slow pace that held well. He was then completely outrun over an inadequate 5 1/2F last time, but he did maintain stride well to the wire and then gallop out nicely in front – expect him to move forward off that effort back at two turns today.
- Similarly, **#12 KITTEN'S PLOY**'s maiden breaking effort when last seen in October should have an asterisk placed by it as he took command early in the back stretch and then led the field through a front-runner-favoring half of 50.69 which led to speed holding relatively well. The rail was also way out at 35 feet that day. Returns off layoff facing winners today.

Race 2: OC 30k/SAL 20k, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#6 NEVERWORKEDADAY	Starter Allowance, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 04/26/26 – 4 th	Sluggish break from rail; sent up inside, then checked hard as a foe came across him ~5/8, losing him a couple of lengths and some momentum; regrouped, then chased hard inside before tipping out 3-4W upper stretch and finishing evenly to ~1/16; he was then not persevered with.	The interference he suffered did not cost him the win as the 3/5 fav, but it did cost him enough to earn a small UPGRADE and for us to expect more from him second off the bench today. A slow striding type, he'll benefit from a hot early pace.

Other notes:

- **#1 ZIO LINO** lost ground swinging unnecessarily wide off the turn when last seen – small upgrade.
- As disappointing as **#3 LANNISTER**'s effort was over a speed favoring track last time, the distance may be used as a legitimate excuse: he began dropping back while wide on the far turn and was not persevered with in the lane, exacerbating the margin of defeat. Although he now has questions to answer, a bounce back to form returned to 6F today wouldn't surprise.
- **#4 KITTY'S SON**'s maiden breaking effort going two-turns on the grass two-back might need downgrading slightly as he took advantage of a pace collapse closing from ~11L back to simply picked up the pieces late on. Note: he was forwardly placed in a slowly run race (the pace benefited him) when sprinting on the dirt last month. Cuts back and switches surfaces today.
- Although he didn't quite do enough running to earn an upgrade, we might be forgiving of **#5 CLAVIN**'s last effort facing winners for the first time as he was taking on much more experienced foes, trying two turns for the first time, caught slightly wide on the turns and crucially, he was also racing against a speed bias. He ran a likable race in defeat regardless and needs respecting cut back in trip today.

Race 3: Maiden Claiming 30k, 3-6YO (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf**Other notes:**

- After pulling quite hard in behind foes and consequently tipping out and off heels racing down the back stretch, **#6 SPINNING CLASS** lost a little ground racing 4-5W on the far turn when last seen, possibly costing her 2nd to the re-opposing **#4 MAGIC BEAM**, who skimmed the rail throughout.
- Although sent off at odds of 118/1, there was no fluke about **#7 FIRESTONE**'s likable debut at Delaware last September; aided by a nice trip, she showed a willing attitude to close into an even pace and be beaten just 1/4L before galloping out in front. If ready off the layoff today, she'll demand respect for her new trainer.

- **#12 WOMAN ENTICED** was outpaced early sprinting on the dirt on debut but then stayed on with credit through the lane and galloped out in front. She should appreciate today's extra distance. Switches to the turf and returns from a freshening.

Race 4: MSW, 3-6YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- Although never truly a factor, an asterisk/some extra credit can be awarded to **#3 PNEUMO WARRIOR** for her last start on dirt (03/13/26) as she was caught wide while trying to close into a slow pace over a speed friendly track – factors that prevented her from showing her true ability.
- **#7 TRULY THRILLING** was twice pushed out into the center of the track through the stretch when racing on the turf last time, possibly costing her 2nd. Returns to dirt with blinkers added today. Note: she was (rightly) DQ'd from 2nd and placed 3rd for drifting in through the stretch in her last dirt race. Her speed figure from that race is fair, though.

Race 5: Claiming 20k, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Turf

Other notes:

- Although his effort is only borderline upgradable (tough to say he was better than his finishing position), we should see an improved effort from **#2 SELL SOMETHING** today as he makes his second start off the layoff, owing to the notably wide trip he sat last time.
- Returned to the turf, **#8 BARNSTROMING** ran well for a long way before tiring inside the final furlong last out. The cut back to a flat mile today should be to his benefit.
- Although **#10 FULLY BOOKED** raced notably wide on the far turn before going onto score at Turfway when last seen, it's difficult to upgrade that effort due to the fact that he had a great pace setup (fast pace aided closers) and there was also a closer bias present. Returns to turf off the bench today.
- **#11 NIGHT TIME NAP**'s lone try on turf is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE as he held 3rd after pressing red-hot fractions (23.00, 46.67) that set up well for closers. Returns to the surface for just the second time off two dull recent dirt tries today.

Race 6: N1X Allowance, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 SUN ABOVE	Central Park S., AQU, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 11/07/25 – 6 th	Sluggish break; over-raced in behind horses in rear rounding the first turn and had to check slightly; then he fell onto the back foot as the body of the field stepped on the gas after the ½, dropping him into a detached last; sent on the chase, he made the ground back up and advanced smartly with a rail skimming run along the rail on the turn and then through the lane to be beaten just 2 1/4L, despite having to slightly alter course off heels in the stretch, and despite the fact that with the rails out, speed held reasonably well (was largely racing against the flow; the three leaders at 1 st and 2 nd call ended up filling three of the top four positions at the wire).	This wasn't a terrible trip, and his effort is only borderline upgradable, but it was still an eye-catching second career start in which things weren't entirely in his favor (he checked slightly, was put on the back foot, raced against the flow, and altered course late) that highlights his talent as he wasn't beaten far by nice horses. A promising effort, he'll demand respect adding lasix for his return today.
#11 HANKSDIVININGROD	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 04/19/26 – 7 th	No speed; chased even pace from ~10L back on the rail into the far turn; lacked inside when trying to advance far turn and was shuffled back a little before checking ~1/4; lost momentum and a couple of lengths; turned for home hardly yet to be asked/allowed to advance but still ~12L off the wire-to-wire winner in last, then switched out and offered a late rally to be beaten 4L before galloping out well towards the head of the field.	Although it's tough to gauge how he'd have fared with a clean trip in this race as an 18/1 shot, this was a troubled trip that, after a nice late stretch run and gallop out, entitles his effort to an UPGRADE. Expect more today.
#12 DRILLING FOR GOLD	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 04/19/26 – 5 th	Pinched start and last away; trailed field ~15L off wire to wire winner through 1 st call; tipped out and steadily danced towards the center of the track back stretch; continued his progress despite losing ground in the 4-6P far turn; straightened for the drive 6W ~6L off the lead, then rallied well but had too much to do.	Following an upgradable effort two back (did best of speed in a fast-paced race; pace upgrade), he was left racing out of his preferred position after a troubled start in this race that saw speed hold relatively well with the rails at 70 feet; he did

remarkably well to make up ~14L despite a very wide trip – UPGRADE.

Other notes:

- In all four of his most recent starts sprinting on the synthetic, **#10 FALFURRIAS** has run in the manner of a horse who needs two-turns to be seen to best effect; his prior efforts going long on turf – which make him live in this spot – are a better guide to his chances today.
- **#13 STICKTOTHESYSTEM** had to pause when in a little tight ~1/4 pole in his last start; while it didn't help his chances and he may have finished a touch closer otherwise, it's hard to argue that it cost him a position or that his effort needs upgrading.

Race 7: OC 62k/N1X Allowance, 3YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 G Q WORTHY	Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Fast Dirt, 04/18/26 – 3 rd	Clean break from outside post; angled inside early; failed to keep pace and dropped back ~8L off the gate-to-wire winner rounding the turn; angled sharply off heels into the 3-4P passing the 5/16, then rallied strongly through the lane for 3 rd before galloping out well.	He rallied against the speed bias present this day to only just miss 2nd and do best of the three horses (who raced more prominently throughout) to exit this race running back today – UPGRADE.

Other Notes:

- Exiting the same race as **#7 G Q WORTHY**, **#1 PALACIOS** was also racing against the speed bias and deserves a little extra credit for making up four lengths from 1st call (not as much as G Q WORTHY, though); **#6 CASEOFTHEMONDAYS** (4th) on the other hand rode the speed bias and will have to offer more to reverse the form today.
- Although he was very much the best at odds of 3/5, it may be worth placing an asterisk by **#4 WONDERMIST**'s win at Aqueduct last month as there was a speed bias present that day which may have aided him/his final time somewhat. Note: he was also forwardly placed in a slowly run race when breaking his maiden three back – his only other start on dirt. Hugely respected, whatever the case.
- As seems to be the theme in this race, following a very likable effort two back, **#8 MINZER** also raced over a speed biased track when wiring a field of eight last time. An asterisk should be placed by that effort, even though it's hard to argue he wasn't the best in that race and he'll still demand respect today.
- As was the case when he broke from a low draw on debut, **#9 FLIRTY BAJAN** backed up and didn't do much running when outsped from the rail and faced with kickback last time. He kept his face clean when running well two and three back... maybe that's the key to his success, avoiding kickback? If so, a wide post should be beneficial to him today.

Race 8: N1X Allowance, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#1 SURGICAL PRECISION** was in tight at the break and consequently away slowly before running a very likable 2nd on his return at Colonial last time; suspect he can show more early speed from the rail today with a cleaner break.
- As highlighted in the chart comment, **#4 OUTDOOR CAT** had to briefly tap on the brakes ~3/8 pole last time; it wasn't significant though and didn't cost him a position or much ground at all.
- **#6 ROGER ROGER**'s fastest Beyer earning effort sprinting on the dirt – an 82 achieved at Aqueduct on 01/02//26 – is actually deserving of an UPGRADE as he closed into a slow pace over a heavily speed biased track for 2nd despite racing 4-5W on the turn; a return to that level of form will give him a shot today. Note: he then rode a speed bias when breaking his maiden two back. He simply failed to stay going two-turns last time.

Race 9: MSW, 3-6YO (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Other notes:

- **#6 MARTIAL TRUST** sat a slightly wide trip when running a nice race off the layoff at Turfway last out. She's entitled to step forward from that this afternoon.

Horses to Follow

R1: MAJESTIC BLUE (5/1 ML)

Although you can poke holes in MAJESTIC BLUE's fourth-place finish in last year's slowly run Laurel Futurity, where he was aided somewhat by the pace scenario, he still held his own at stakes level on both surfaces, and there's something to be said for that as he takes a massive class drop today. Wildly outpaced over 5 1/2 furlongs last time, he never landed a blow and was well beaten, though he did gallop out strongly toward the head of the field. Stretching back out around two turns on the turf today—the first time he's gone long on the grass with Lasix—a significant step forward looks likely as he makes his third start off the layoff in much calmer waters.

R3: KINDA CLEVER (20/1 ML)

A neck second against open MSW company at Delaware last year, KINDA CLEVER shaped with plenty of promise switched back to the turf in a competitive \$35k maiden claimer at Gulfstream when last seen, sticking to her task well through the final furlong. With another 1/16 to work with today and blinkers added, a step forward looks highly possible as she makes her third start off the layoff, and that could be enough to get the job done here. It's also worth noting that over the last year, Michael Matz is 3-for-5 (60%, \$6.88 ROI) when adding blinkers to route runners, with an additional third-place finish at 7/1.

R6: SUN ABOVE (15/1 ML)

SUN ABOVE may have his work cut out in today's ultra-competitive sixth, but he's certainly worthy of respect and deserves a close look for vertical exotics. Trained by Madison Meyers, the son of OPTIMIZER overcame a troubled break and wide trip to score at odds of 10/1 on debut, then confirmed that promise when beaten just 2 1/4 lengths in a strong edition of the Central Park Stakes at Aqueduct despite another less-than-ideal trip. Returning off a steady worktab with Lasix now added, he should receive a favorable pace setup under the in-form Forest Boyce, and his upside remains considerable.

R7: G Q WORTHY (6/1 ML)

With so much speed signed on in today's seventh, G Q WORTHY could be worth keeping onside at a price, especially for vertical players. The multiple stakes-placed son of BEAU LIAM has made just two starts sprinting on dirt with both Lasix and blinkers on, but neither effort appears a true reflection of his ability as he encountered speed-favoring tracks and modest paces on both occasions. Still, he stuck on well to hit the board each time, including when beating two of today's rivals last month. Given a fairer setup and another 1/16 to work with, today's race shape could bring out the best in him and see him go close at a square price.

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

LYUDMILA *(Breezed 4F - :49.80 at LRL on 5/10)*

Trainer: Justin Nixon

Last Race: Nov. 21, 6th race

Finish: 1st by 6

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

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

Trainer: Greg Sacco

Last Race: Jan. 16, 7th race

Finish: 4th by 4 3/4 lengths

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.

MAXPOWER *(Entered at Monmouth – SAT 5/16, Race 1)*

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.

BRUNO *(Entered at Laurel – SAT 5/16, Race 14)*

Trainer: Daniel Eubanks

Last Race: March 20, Race 3

Finish: 2nd 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 *(Entered at Laurel – TODAY, Race 9)*

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.

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.

ROCKER ROLLER *(Breezed 4F - :49.40 at LRL on 5/3)*

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: April 17, Race 3

Finish: 3rd by 9 1/2

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.

J C'S BOYS *(Entered at Laurel – FRI 5/15, Race 1)*

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.

LANNISTER *(Entered at Laurel – TODAY, Race 2)*

Trainer: Jonathan Maldonado

Last Race: April 25, 2nd race

Finish: 8th by 26

Lacked speed on turf for the first time, saved some ground early, then angled widest of all for 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 *(Breezed 5F - 1:02.00 at FAI on 5/8)*

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.

DISCO RULES

Trainer: Flint Stites

Last Race: April 24, 9th race

Finish: 3rd by 7 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.

Raced in between horses for most of the way, was lightly bumped from his inside entering the turn and briefly raced on hold behind foes, angled three wide into the stretch, and churned on for a minor placing. Not sure he cared for the deep, sealed track that afternoon, and deserves another chance around two turns against allowance competition.

MAGICAL MONDAYS

Trainer: Tim Woolley

Last Race: May 3, 7th race

Finish: 3rd by 3

Returning from an October layoff, this 4-year-old was wired in a slow-paced race controlled throughout by the two pacesetters. He was the only horse making up meaningful ground after racing wide through the second turn and into the stretch.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1 - Raul Mena - #5 - Raging Cajun; #12 - Kitten's Ploy >>> **Mena rides KITTEN'S PLOY**

Race 2 - Yedsit Hazlewood - #4 - Kitty's Son; #6 - Neverworkedaday >>> **Hazlewood rides NEVERWORKEDADAY**

Race 3 - Forest Boyce - #6 - Spinning Class; #8 - Snow Bella >>> **Boyce rides SPINNING CLASS**

Race 7 - Yedsit Hazlewood - #4 - Wonder Mist; #6 - Caseofthemondays >>> **Hazlewood rides CASEOFTHEMONDAYS**

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

A recap of SUNDAY, MAY 10 action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: Middleburg made the early lead and set very ambitious fractions, well clear of Beekman Street, who was in turn far in front of the others. That played right into the hands of the closers. **Patrick's Promise** went the best of them. He made a four-wide move on the turn and held off the last-second charge of Desperate Proposal, who rallied from last to second.

Race 2: Transquaking set an uncontested early pace and looked poised to pull the 12-1 upset. However, **Gallo** worked his way past him at the eighth pole to win. Favored Gimme Two Shoes began a sneeze slow, was rushed up to race close to the pace, and flattened out.

Race 3: The 15th field of **Hysterics**'s career proved the one she could beat. She raced wide most of the way and loomed large at the top of the stretch. Hotter Than Fire and Rylnnslookinlucky, both of whom raced close to the pace, fought gamely, but Hysterics proved best, giving Jorge Ruiz yet another grass winner. The winner was the only one who made up much ground.

Race 4: The drop from \$20,000 claimers to \$7,500 types proved the winning formula for **Cut Glass**, as he won in gate-to-wire style. Addy's Laddy T N T, in his first start since August, gave him a scare at the top of the stretch, but flattened out and finished second. He's one to watch for next time.

Race 5: After bearing out at the break, Elon zoomed out to a long early lead and ran out of gas at the eighth pole. That set it up for the closers, and 19-1 **Hoppetosse**, who sat second off the freewheeling leader, got the first jump and pulled the upset. Favored Then What Time was forced to check at the break when Elon bore out and managed to rally for second in his first race since October.

Race 6: Vaya Jeffe tried to clear to the early lead from his outside post, but couldn't do it and was forced to sit in second behind Tasker. That worked out just fine, and Tasker tired in the stretch and Vaya Jeffe prevailed. This was another race where no one made up a lot of ground; Win Street looked promising in the stretch but flattened out.

Race 7: Tethered Soul set the early pace while Greyline Station tracked in the catbird seat. For most of the race, it looked like the winner would be one of those two, but **Marcan Love** wore down Greyline Station in the last sixteenth to complete a gate-to-wire rally.

Race 8: The complexion of this race changed on the first turn when the saddle slipped on Tacit Value. She subsequently went to the front and set the pace, and while she hung in gamely in the stretch, she couldn't hold off the perfect-trip favorite **Making Daisys**.

Race 9: Dona Luna set the early pace and no one closed that well late. That enabled her to pull off a 12-1 gate-to-wire upset and give apprentice jockey Hunter Rea his first winner in Maryland.

PAST TRACK TRENDS

Jan. 9 – Fair

Jan. 10 – Fair

Jan. 16 – Fair

Jan. 17 – Fair

Jan. 23 – Fair

Jan. 30 - (only 1 race)

Feb. 4 – Fair

Feb. 5 – Fair (speed lean)

Feb. 6 – Fair

Feb. 12 – CLOSERS BIAS

Feb. 13 – Fair (slight speed lean)

Feb. 14 – Fair

Feb. 15 – Fair

Feb. 20 – Fair

Feb. 21 – Fair

Feb. 22 – Fair

Feb. 27 – Fair

Feb. 28 – Fair

Mar. 1 – Fair

Mar. 6 – Fair (slight outside lean)

Mar. 7 – SPEED BIAS

Mar. 8 – Fair

Mar. 13 – SPEED BIAS (strong crosswind)

Mar. 15 – Fair

Mar. 20 – Fair

Mar. 21 – Fair (perhaps outside lean)

Mar. 22 – Fair (perhaps outside lean)

Mar. 27 – Fair

Mar. 28 – Fair

Mar. 29 – SPEED BIAS

Apr. 3 – Fair

Apr. 4 – Fair

Apr. 10 – Fair

Apr. 11 – Fair

Apr. 12 – Fair

Apr. 17 – Fair

Apr. 18 – SPEED BIAS

Apr. 19 – Fair

Apr. 24 – Fair

Apr. 25 – SPEED BIAS

Apr. 26 – Fair

May 1 – SPEED BIAS

May 2 – Fair

May 3 – Fair

May 8 – CLOSERS BIAS

May 9 – Fair

May 10 – CLOSERS BIAS