



HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SATURDAY, JUNE 20

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



DAN ILLMAN



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TIM TULLOCK

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

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. CHANTICO

2. GRIPEN

3. BLAMES HONEY

The first post time is NOON, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout rate. **CHANTICO** must deal with a 209-day layoff, but she ran pretty well in her final start of 2025. Pressed the 2-1 fifth-finisher, attacked on the turn, then was second best to the favorite despite being late to change leads. Think she'll show fresh positional speed, and shouldn't be too far away when the real racing commences. **GRIPEN** was wired in a slow-paced race. Broke a beat slow, pulled her way forward to track three wide and in between, went after the winner under a confident ride, then changed back to her wrong lead late. She's hit the board in her last four starts, and might get a stronger pace to attack for a barn that has two turf winners since 6/7. Barbosa departs for **BLAMES HONEY**, who switches surfaces as a full sister to a three-time turf winner out of a multiple stakes-placed turf sprinter (94 synthetic Beyer top). She should be close to the pace for a barn that went 6 for the last 26 (23%, \$2.11 ROI) with last-out winners.

>> RACE 2

1. FIGHTERTOWN

2. JOLLY BY GOLLY

3. BRINDANO

FIGHTERTOWN set a pressured pace inside the 4-1 third-finisher while racing in the four path, set a three-ply pace from in between at the three-eighths pole, stayed off the rail into the stretch, then was outkicked by a rail-skimming winner. The extra distance is a question mark, but he can navigate it under the right circumstances, and he might attempt to set or prompt moderate splits for a barn that won two races here on 6/14. **JOLLY BY GOLLY** pressed quick fractions of 22.93 and 23.12, then stayed strong in the stretch over speed-friendly track. The third-finisher next placed in a \$40,000 optional claimer with an 86 Beyer. Another that can race close to the pace for a barn that went 10 for the last 15 (67%, \$3.99 ROI) with last-out winners moving from sprint to dirt route in the first after the claim. Hazlewood lands here instead of Pudge Boy Palace. **BRINDANO** was wired by an odds-on winner in a slow-paced race over a speed-friendly track. He's hoping for a bit more pace to attack this time around.

>> RACE 3

1. PUT A ROCK ON IT

2. SYNERGISM

3. HAPPY THIS DAY

PUT A ROCK ON IT gave a game try against males. She stalked while racing slightly off the rail, saved ground in midpack after a half-mile, eased to split horses three wide on the second turn, found a nice split four wide into the stretch, then tried hard to just miss behind the favorite in a photo finish. She has a strong kick and should appreciate getting back in with fillies and mares for a barn that has two winners since 6/12. **SYNERGISM** saved ground near the back behind a quickening pace (23.69; 23.34), was urged along three wide on the second turn, swung widest, and rallied well in her most recent turf appearance. Wheeled back a dozen days later to score on dirt. She drew well for this, and can work out a pace-tracking, ground-saving trip for a barn that went 9 for the last 18 (50%, \$2.14 ROI) with last-out winners. Hazlewood lands here instead of lamdependingonyou. **HAPPY THIS DAY** stalked three wide on turf two back, avoided going any wider turning for home, then made up a few lengths despite being very late to change leads. Might be racing herself back into shape for this, her third start off the break. **PRINCESS JAVONICA** deserves a look if able to escape the Also Eligible list.

>> RACE 4

1. BISCUITWITHTHEBOSS

2. CLAWLESS BRIT

3. LADY ENSIGN

BISCUITWITHTHEBOSS set a fast pace in her return to the circuit, displayed a nice turn of foot to briefly spurt clear, then tired behind Big Earn, who next won a restricted allowance with an 88 Beyer. She doesn't necessarily need the lead to win, and should be right there when they turn for home. Uncoupled stablemate **CLAWLESS BRIT** took a light bump after the start, settled into the pocket, eased out into the stretch, then tried hard for second behind favored Big Earn. That was a promising try for a horse that had previously done her best running from on the lead, and her versatility should serve her well. **LADY ENSIGN** set the pace from the fence, hopped back to her left lead, then couldn't step late with Clawless Brit. Perhaps she's ready for her best in the third start off the layoff, and will be up close to the pace. There's a chance this pace heats up, and that helps **SECURE'S HOPE**, who makes her second start following a six-month break. Bumped at the start last time, she pulled to stalk the pace outside, eased three wide into the stretch, then stayed on despite hopping back to her left lead. The eighth-finisher next placed in a second-level allowance with an 80 Beyer.

>> RACE 5

1. LORD'S LADY

2. SUNFLOWER STATE

3. GINGER GIRL

LORD'S LADY did some good things when scoring at Penn National. Settled at the back behind a moderate pace, split rivals entering the second turn, eased out into the stretch, and grinded down the leaders. She's been given plenty of time to recover, has run well over this track, and should display a late kick. **SUNFLOWER STATE** returns to her preferred surface after a failed turf experiment. Found an excellent position tracking a three-ply pace two back, found the pocket midway on the turn, eased out and bumped a foe in the upper stretch, then was second best behind a runaway, odds-on winner. That race produced two next-out winners, with More Than Grace taking her fifth in a row with an 88 Beyer. She can get close to the pace as she stretches out past seven furlongs for the first time. Her dam had no problem with a mile. **GINGER GIRL** battled inside the 5-1 fifth-finisher, set a pressured pace inside that one at the three-eighths, came off the rail, and lasted. Up in class and distance for a barn that went 6 for the last 19 (32%, \$2.57 ROI) with last-out winners. **ENIGMATIC**, listed as a Delaware vet scratch (sick) on 5/29, repeats the sprint to route move that resulted in her most recent victory. The winner of the most recent start then placed in an \$8,000 starter with a 55 Beyer. Chuan lands here instead of Fitness.

>> RACE 6

1. GETTING CLOSER

2. GOLDEN SOVEREIGN

3. CHILLY GIRL

GETTING CLOSER has only raced once on turf, and that came against tougher competition in Southern California. Tracked outside that day, advanced to prompt three wide on the turn, then tired. That race produced two next-out winners, with Counterbalance taking the China Doll Stakes with an 82 Beyer. Perhaps we'll see some early speed for a barn that sent out a 7-1 maiden-turf winner last Saturday. **GOLDEN SOVEREIGN** switches surfaces with plenty of grass in her pedigree. The sire hits at 15% with turf sprinters, and the dam is a half-sister to stakes-winning turf miler Conquest Hardcandy (94 turf Beyer). The second dam was a Grade 3-winning turf router. This barn went 7 for the last 30 (23%, \$2.43 ROI) with last-out maiden winners. **CHILLY GIRL** turns back in distance after sneaky-good route. Tracked a hot pace (23.69; 23.34) while three wide, attacked and poked a head in front on the second turn, then understandably tired late. The seventh-finisher next placed in a first-level allowance with a 76 Beyer. She'll get close to the pace. **THISISHOWWEDOIT** deserves a big look if able to escape the Also Eligible list.

>> RACE 7

1. MALIBU HOOCH

2. BIG EARN

3. BOUJEE BUBBLEZ

MALIBU HOOCH gets a mulligan for her turf debut, as she faced tough open stakes horses in her first start following a whopping 398-day layoff. The favored winner got away with an easy pace that day, and Malibu Hooch wound up stalking three wide before tiring. Breezed a bullet on turf six days ago, and has enough speed to get close to the pace. Hazlewood departs for Boujee Bubblez. **BIG EARN** prompted three wide, attacked from the outside on the turn, then was too good for restricted allowance foes despite failing to change leads. Tactical enough to work out an outside tracking trip for a barn that went 9 for the last 42 (21%, \$2.82 ROI) with last-out winners removing Lasix. **BOUJEE BUBBLEZ** sat an excellent pocket trip when making her seasonal debut, eased out to split foes turning for home, then gamely prevailed despite hopping back to her left lead. Figures right there when they turn for home for a barn that went 6 for the last 26 (23%, \$3.22 ROI) in the second after 180-365 days. MOPO (wears a hood) sat in the pocket, cut the corner into the stretch, altered course outside, then just missed to a gate-to-wire winner. Expect a strong late surge.

>> RACE 8

1. WHERE'S KEVIN

2. SEVEN'S NITRO

3. ROAD CAT

WHERE'S KEVIN is a half-brother to a three-time dirt winner out of stakes-placed turf miler Fortunate Girl (78 turf Beyer). He's from the first crop of the speedy Jack Christopher, who already has a debut winner this year. The 6/13 bullet matches the barn's 3-year-old Dynacito (48 dirt Beyer). Perhaps they went in company for a barn that went 18 for the last 64 (28%, \$2.38 ROI) with juvenile debut runners. **SEVEN'S NITRO** is a half to three dirt winners out of a dam that won seven races. The second dam was a stakes-placed dirt sprinter (81 wet-dirt Beyer), and the third dam was a Grade 3-winning turf router. His last three works match the barn's juvenile filly Martiniwithatwist, who finished second in her debut at Delaware on 6/17. They likely worked together for a barn that went 14 for the last 31 (45%, \$3.12 ROI) with juvenile debut runners. Hazlewood departs this one, Road Cat, and King Xisco for Good Lookerness. **ROAD CAT** is a half to stakes-placed dirt router Run Away Rojo (83 dirt Beyer), and stakes-placed Summer Pleasure (in Panama) out of juvenile stakes-placed turf sprinter Aunt Sherri (won debut; 76 synthetic Beyer). That dam is a full to Grade 3-winning synthetic sprinter Time to Get Even (101 synthetic Beyer). EL PANTERA is out of stakes-placed turf sprinter Eye On Berlin (78 turf Beyer).

>> RACE 9

1. TIDEWATER

2. WHENIGETTOHEAVEN

3. WITTY

TIDEWATER finished a close second in this race two years ago, and might be set for an improved performance in his third of the year. Saved ground in midpack in the open Jim McKay Turf Sprint, split rivals in the upper stretch, then finished evenly from in between. The sixth-finisher from that heat next won a high-level allowance at Saratoga with an 85 Beyer. Think he'll be closer to the pace for a barn that sent out a 17-1 winner on 6/6. Barbosa departs for Witty. **WHENIGETTOHEAVEN** won this race the last two years, and he gave a good try in his seasonal debut in the King T. Leatherbury. Bumped lightly after the start, he stalked a fast pace from the outside, split foes under urging, swapped leads a couple of times when in a bit tight, then was running late when angled clear. Faced two next-out winners, with Chasing Liberty returning to win the Jim McKay with a 93 Beyer. He might get a more aggressive early ride. **WITTY** showed no rust when returning from the layoff to take an off-turf allowance heat last month. He won this race in 2023, and ran well in his most recent turf start. Broke a beat slow in a Colonial race run in a rainstorm, saved ground at the back behind a slow pace, swapped leads early on the

turn, cut the corner into the lane, split rivals in midstretch, and got up for third behind the two favorites. Alogon then took a Grade 3 in New York with a 97 Beyer.

>> RACE 10

1. WORLD ON FIRE

2. EDELWEISS

3. IN HONOR OF JEFF

WORLD ON FIRE was bumped lightly after the start, stalked a quick pace while three wide, split rivals with a four-wide bid turning into the stretch, then finished a game second inside the odds-on winner. Earned a career-best Beyer Speed Figure while finishing ahead of a next-out turf winner, and can find a good stalking position while outside and clear of traffic. **EDELWEISS** found a perfect spot tracking a pace dispute, raced in the pocket entering the turn, floated three wide, and was too good for conditioned claimers despite hopping back to his left lead right on the wire. There doesn't appear to be much speed in this race, and he can get close to the pace despite cutting back a furlong in distance. **IN HONOR OF JEFF** received an excellent ride and race flow when scoring earlier in the month. Broke out a bit, but recovered to save ground behind an electric pace. Eased out to split rivals turning for home, altered course widest in midstretch, and kicked them down. Not sure that kind of pace is available to him this afternoon. Lots of minor awards OF BLO BY'EM, who chased Speedy Alex last time, and was flattered when that one then grabbed a \$7,500 "beaten" claimer with a 60 Beyer.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#7 - Blames Honey

Trainer: Anthony Farris

Last-Out Winners: 6 for 26 (23%, \$2.11 ROI)

RACE 2

#2 - Jolly by Golly

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last-Out Winners, Sprint to Dirt Route, First After Claim: 10 for 15 (67%, \$3.99 ROI)

RACE 3

#1 - Synergism

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last-Out Winners: 9 for 18 (50%, \$2.14 ROI)

RACE 5

#1 - Ginger Girl

Trainer: Joanne Shankle

Last-Out Winners: 6 for 19 (32%, \$2.57 ROI)

RACE 6

#8 - Golden Sovereign

Trainer: Michael Gorham

Last-Out Maiden Winners: 7 for 30 (23%, \$2.43 ROI)

RACE 7

#6 - Boujee Bubblez

Trainer: Hugh McMahon

Second After 180-365 Days: 6 for 26 (23%, \$3.22 ROI)

RACE 7

#8 - Big Earn

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

Last-Out Winners, Lasix Off: 9 for 42 (21%, \$2.82 ROI)

RACE 8

#4 - Where's Kevin

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Juvenile Debut Runners: 18 for 64 (28%, \$2.38 ROI)

RACE 8

#7 - Seven's Nitro

Trainer: Gary Capuano

Juvenile Debut Runners: 14 for 31 (45%, \$3.12 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), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#4 SERENE SPIRIT	Starter Allowance, LRL, 6F, Firm Turf, 05/31/26 – 3 rd	Tracked slow pace in the pocket racing to the turn, then checked sharply at the ½, losing momentum and a length or two; recovered and continued to chase the leading pair on the rail into the lane, then stayed on well for 3 rd but was never closing the deficit.	The trouble she encountered entering the turn allowed the top two finishers to get the jump on her; in this slowly run race, that meant that it was near impossible for her to then regain the lost ground because her rivals were not stopping in front late on. Although this effort is only borderline upgradable and it'd be a reach to say she was ever beating the re-opposing GRIPEN, she should still be capable of improving with a clean trip today.
Other notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Something seemed amiss with #1 YO ADRIAN when he returned from a layoff last time: he was readily outpaced early, then lugged out badly off the turn and was distanced. We know he's better than that, but he is now a little tough to trust. Blinkers go on. - Although we knocked #3 GRANUUAILE in these lines for her effort two-back as she took advantage of a pace collapse to score, she then made us eat our words when producing a career best effort in just an evenly paced affair last time (aided by a great trip, admittedly). She's clearly thriving right now and will require a second look again. - Although she was comfortably beaten in the end, there's a chance that if we reran #8 GRIPEN's last race she'd at least get closer to the winner because she pulled hard in behind the slow pace early (the slow pace really helped the 7/1 wire winner who was conserving energy while GRIPEN was tugging at the reins); then took a slight bump between horses in the 3-4P entering the bend (this didn't hurt her momentum though); raced a touch wide into the lane; and then she was drifted way out into the center of the track through the stretch before treading water in the final 1/16 of the 6F contest. While it's a stretch to say her trip cost her the race and her effort isn't quite upgradable, we probably can expect a fraction more from her today. 			
Race 2: Starter Allowance, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt			
Other notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There's reason to believe that #1 FORREST CITY's big win last week was no fluke: Gaudet removed lasix three starts back, seemingly with the idea that it'd help the gelding step forward, but then he had a troubled trip over a speed favoring track (05/02) before he caught a sloppy track (which he seemingly have disliked) two back. Last week was the first time he'd had a clean trip on a fast track without lasix, and he romped. Not a trip note per se, but interesting, nonetheless. - #3 FIGHTERTOWN only just failed at 7F last time after doing some heavy lifting in front; a likable effort. - #5 RAPIDITY was caught slightly wider than ideal when rallying to finish behind #1 FORREST CITY last week. - Tough to assess how much if any difference it made to the result, but it could be worth noting that #6 BRIDANO's last effort (a four runner race at two turns) featured a very slow early pace and a heavily speed biased racetrack. Cuts back to one turn today. 			
Race 3: Starter Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 PUT A ROCK IN IT	Starter Allowance, LRL, 1 1/8M, 05/31/26 – 2 nd	Settled nicely tracking the even pace from ~4L back towards the inside racing to the far turn; advanced a little closer entering far turn, then found herself boxed in 2W racing to the ¼ pole (when she really needed to be getting out and rolling); tipped out into the clear 4W upper stretch which cost her significantly as the winner snuck through along the inside and quickly gained 2-3L on her; she then rallied strongly through the center of the track but missed.	Getting trapped in the pocket on the far turn and then coming slightly wide cost her far more than the nose she was beaten in this race and it's very easy to argue she was best; her late kick was impressive and with the potential of more to come, she has to be taken very seriously this afternoon.

#4 HOCKEY	Claiming 16k, LRL, 1M, Firm Turf, 05/01/26 – 3 rd	Pulled very hard pressing honest pace 3W to the far turn; just about held her position while 3W to ¼; came 4W into the stretch, then stayed on very willingly to the wire despite having been put in a little tight between foes ~1/8 pole.	*Her last start on turf. She did well to stay on for 3rd in this race and do best of the leading trio after over-racing early and having been caught wide on both turns – UPGRADE. Today’s post could help her settle better, save more ground, and step forward. Note: there was a strong speed bias present when she wired the field in an off-turf event last time.
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Other notes:

- There’s no denying that **#1 SYNERGISM** ran a great race in his last start on turf (05/16/26) and off the back of it, she’ll demand respect today, especially with an extra 1/16 to work with down in class; however, we should note that there was a complete pace collapse in that race (which she took advantage of), with runners positioned 10th, 11th, 12th & 13th (all over 13L off the lead) at the first three points of call rallying to finish 2nd through 5th; maybe just take that 77 Beyer with a small pinch of salt. Note: she seemed to win with something in hand last time in an off-turf allowance at Delaware, comfortably scoring under just a hand ride.
- **#5 HAPPY THIS DAY** didn’t quite do enough to earn an upgrade in her last turf start (04/26/26); however, she was caught wide and out of cover which resulted in her pulling hard early and understandably (as she was returning from a layoff), she therefore tired late. Expecting more from her with a covered-up trip third back on grass today.
- **#9 LET’S DANCE AGAIN** was notably wide on the turn sprinting last week before staying on evenly through the stretch; a more ground saving trip at a route of ground today could see her to better effect.

Race 4: Allowance, 3YO+ (F) [®], 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 DIANE LEE	Starter Allowance, LRL, 6F, Firm Turf, 05/31/26 – 4 th	Tracked slow pace from ~3L back between horses to the ½, then steadied as a rival backed up in front of her, costing her a length or two; recovered stride, then waited in traffic before swinging out in upper stretch and staying on evenly to the wire.	Returning off a layoff, she was shuffled back entering the turn and then forced to wait in traffic which, given the pace was slow and the rails were at 87 feet, made her task of regaining the deficit near impossible. She may be capable of improving notably on this effort second back today.
#7 BISCUITWITHTHEBOSS	Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/02/26 – 3 rd	Sped clear early; set fast pace inside-2W racing into the lane; held a clear advantage into deep stretch; hooked 1/16, then faded late on.	A straightforward PACE UPGRADE can be awarded for this effort as she set hot fractions (22.21, 44.25) that set things up well for the eventual top two finishers (both 5 1/2L back at 1st call); might be capable of improving on this run if rationing out her speed more efficiently.

Other notes:

- With the rails at 87 feet, **#2 DESTINATION was** allowed to set a slow, uncontested pace (23.94, 46.84) in front before going on to score when returned to the turf last time; while there’s no denying that she was game in victory and ran through the line well, the pace scenario did seem to help her and we might want to downgrade that effort.
- Returning from a lengthy layoff, **#8 DIVINE WORKS (MTO)** ran a nice race at 7F last time, holding 3rd from #9 NANCY MARY (who closed while a fraction wider than ideal) after sitting close to a fast pace early (small pace upgrade).

Race 5: Starter Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#8 LORD’S LADY	Allowance, PEN, 1M, Fast Dirt, 05/08/26 – 1 st	Slight bobble start, lacked speed; chased even-slow pace from ~5-7L back in last racing to the far turn; advanced between foes 2W racing to the 5/16, then tipped out 4W entering the lane ~2L back and rallied strongly towards the center to score.	A very likable win that is deserving of a small upgrade given she closed into a pace that was not overly strong (speed held fairly well) and ran by the 2/5 pace setter powerfully late on. With more speed signed on in today’s contest, it wouldn’t be a surprise to see her improve off this effort again. Note: her two back effort is also deserving of an upgrade (a larger one) as she had no pace to close into, and the track was presenting a speed bias.

Other notes:

- Under just a mild hand ride through the lane, **#1 GINGER GIRL** possibly won with something in hand courtesy of a forward ground saving trip at 7F here two weeks ago.

- **#2 EASY COME EASY GO** had a beautiful trip and setup when last seen at Tampa, closing into fractions of 23.12, 45.92 (the pace fell apart) while saving ground on both turns; wouldn't take it for granted that she'll replicate that level of form today.
- There is no full race replay available, but it's clear from what we can see that **#6 SUNFLOWER STATE** endured a troubled trip on the turf last time and we can probably toss that race. In her effort prior on the dirt, she had run multiple races that suggest today's stretch out may be to her benefit.
- Prior to her likable win in a slowly run off-turf event last time, **#7 WEEKEND WIFE** had run an upgradable race two back. Trip note from 04/18: "She never threatened for win honors but that wasn't surprising given she had no pace to run at (25.14, 49.46) and the track was presenting a speed bias; in fact, she did well to only just miss 2nd and it seems she can improve on this UPGRADABLE effort."

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

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#9 DALE'S BLUFF	Allowance, FG, 5 1/2F, Good Turf, 02/05/26 – 7 th	Stalked even pace from 1L back in the 2P to upper stretch, then she was sideswiped by a rival and knocked all over the place, significantly denting her momentum; from there, she wasn't persevered with.	We can toss this race as a result of the significant interference she suffered; judge her on her prior stats instead. Returns to Capuano's barn off the layoff today; player.

Other notes:

- Returning off the layoff with Lasix added for the first time, **#1 HALF A DECK** ran out a visually very impressive winner last time and with some turf in her pedigree, she'll demand a second look today; it does have to be noted, however, that there was a strong speed bias present at Laurel that day, slightly raising questions about the validity of the form. Note: in the second division of that maiden claimer on May 22, **#8 GOLDEN SOVEREIGN** also took advantage of the speed bias to score off the layoff (not nearly as impressively as HALF A DECK); take that form with a pinch of salt, too.
- Seemed like **#2 AWESOME MCKINZIE** was lugging in a touch through the stretch last time; she had no excuse in that particular race (trip and setup was good), but still might be capable of offering more now making her second start back with Lasix added.
- We can be very forgiving of **#3 CHILLY GIRL**'s last effort as she was positioned wide and out of cover while forming part of a fast pace that completely collapsed late on; she could be more effective as a closing sprinter and shouldn't be ruled out dropping in class.
- Probably a moot point given she was 23/1 and beaten over 13L, but **#6 GETTING CLOSER** really was facing an impossible task against tough foes last time, trying to close into a slow pace over a speed biased dirt track; expecting more from her back on turf today.
- **#7 VINO AMORE**'s two back effort is deserving of an upgrade as she closed from last for 2nd over a heavily speed biased track; chance her last race (beaten 2nd at odds of 8/5) then came back too quick (14 days rest), as she's never performed well on short rest.

Race 7: The Jameela Stakes, 3YO+ (F) ®, 6 Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 SPORTING LADY	The The Very One Stakes, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/15/26 – 7 th	Bumped hard start, lacked speed; tracked slow pace from ~6L back in rear racing into the far turn; steadily advanced under a hold between horses in the 2P racing to the top of the lane; briefly waited in behind horses upon straightening, then angled widest in the stretch and tried to rally but was hampered and steadied ~1/8 pole which cost her momentum and from there, she failed to threaten (not helped by her rider standing up at the first wire) despite continuing willingly.	She actually did well to only be beaten 4L in this race given the significant lack of pace she had to run at and the fact that she was hampered ~1/8 pole (by #7 MALIBU HOOCH). Upgrade this effort (and her effort two back when she closed into a slow pace for 2nd), and expect more from her if the pace is stronger today.
#4 GIFT OF GAB	Starter Allowance, DEL, 5F, Firm Turf, 06/10/26 – 2 nd	Pinched start and away slowly; chased pace from ~8L back inside to upper stretch, then angled out to the center and rallied strongly but missed.	Although the early posted fractions appear quick, the pace of this race actually increased in the second half of the contest and therefore, we can UPGRADE her effort as she closed from last while racing against the flow; today's 6F trip should be more to her liking.

Other Notes:

- Not for the first time, **#2 MOPO** finished in a manner to suggest today's 6F trip (the first time she'll try it) will be her optimum. Player third back.

- Not sure how relevant it is to today's contest (because it came 433 days ago in a mile contest on the dirt), but **#5 GOLD DIGGING BROAD**'s last start is deserving of an upgrade as she closed from 10L back while very wide to finish a clear 2nd, despite a speed bias being present.

Race 8: Maiden Claiming 35k, 2YO, 5 Furlongs, Dirt

- All debutants.

Race 9: The Bens Cat Stakes, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#6 WITTY	Da Hoss Stakes, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/06/25 – 3 rd	Step slow; trailed ~7-8L off the lead into the lane, then closed between foes for 3 rd but had too much to do.	*His last start on turf prior to a solid return off the layoff in an off-turf event last time. With the rails at 90 feet, all three turf sprints on this card were won in gate to wire fashion (including this fairly paced race). WITTY was the only runner to do any running from the back in this contest and did well to get 3rd considering the track was playing against him. UPGRADE this effort a little.

Other notes:

- Regarding **#1 WICKEDDIVINE (MTO)**'s last start (a very likable win going 6F), the chart comment notes how he lightly steadied ~1/4 pole; while this did happen, it was negligible interference and we should not upgrade his effort as a result of it. Logical player regardless if this race comes off the grass.
- It was suggested in these lines that when **#2 BRIGHTSHININGLIGHT** broke his maiden three back, he didn't do a lot when he hit the front (waited on company) and may have had more in the locker; once again, in his last start, he left that same impression as he hung when drawing level for the lead, then rebid to be beaten just a head after being passed. Feel he still has more to offer; maybe wait until blinkers go on before we bet him next?
- Regarding **#3 TIDEWATER**'s last start, we shouldn't mistake the short chart comment "steadied 3-1/2" for a bad trip – he was very strong in behind horses early, but he never had to truly steady or check and overall, sat a perfectly fine trip.
- While the chart comment correctly highlights how **#5 WHENIGETTOHEAVEN** met traffic in the lane when running a nice race to finish 3rd in the King T. Leatherbury Stakes last time, we shouldn't upgrade his effort because he never had to check or steady (he just had to navigate some small gaps but never lost momentum) and he was not cost a position through traffic. Furthermore, he received a very favorable pace setup. Still, he looms as a logical win contender following what was a solid return effort.
- Having been reluctant to load, **#7 HAD TO HAVE HIM** then endured a slightly wide trip last time; while he didn't do enough to earn an upgrade, we may still be able to expect more from him third back today.

Race 10: Claiming 12k, 3YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 BLO BY'EM	Claiming 12k, LRL, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 05/02/26 – 4 th	Bumped start; took back from between foes and settled towards rear of tightly bunched field racing into the back stretch, then steadied and lost a little ground/momentum as a foe backed up into him ~3/4; switched outside and continued to track the tightly bunched field run last racing to the far turn; tried to advance far turn but struggled to do so while losing ground 5W, then finished evenly on his left lead for 4 th .	*His last start on a fast dirt track, two-back: An UPGRADABLE first try at two-turns due to the fact that he met a little trouble, lost ground racing wide on the turn, and was trying to close into a slow pace over a track that was slightly favoring speed. With this two-turn experience behind him and a set of different circumstances to work with today, he might be able to remind us why he was sent off as the 2/1 fav 04/04/26.

Other notes:

- **#1 FIGHTING WORDS** raced wider than ideal on the turn when staying on for a well beaten 4th in a race that saw speed hold well (top three finishers filled those positions throughout) at Gulfstream last time; chance he offers a fraction more today.
- The hot pace set by the 7/5 fav in **#2 IN HONOR OF JEFF**'s last race led to a pace collapse which set things up perfectly for him as a deep closer (along with the 12/1 runner up who was 10 1/2L off the lead at 1st call); he had a smooth trip in that race too and as likable as the story was, we do need to downgrade his effort somewhat. Note: we can forgive his effort two back when he tried to close into a slow pace over a speed biased track.

- Not sure it made much difference if any, but **#5 MOSE SMOKIN** was persistently caught tight in behind and between foes last time which mightn't have been ideal. Makes debut for Sanchez-Salomon today.
- Not sure it made a huge amount of difference to the result on either occasion (he ran very well both times), but it might be worth noting that there have been speed biases present the last twice **#6 EDELWEISS** has run. Logical contender.
- The chart comment notes how **#7 WORLD ON FIRE** steadied at the ½ last time, but it's a real stretch to call it a steady and we shouldn't upgrade his effort because of it. He did race wide on the turn which warrants some extra credit, but he wasn't as wide as the winner and he also received a great pace setup. In short, the result and speed fig seem fair.

Horses to Follow

R3: PUT A ROCK IN IT (5/2 ML)

PUT A ROCK IN IT has done little wrong this year, carrying a strong run of form from Texas back to Laurel where she was arguably unlucky not to score last time. Caught in a pocket on the far turn before being swung wide into the stretch, she missed by just a nose in a tougher starter allowance than the one she meets today. With tactical versatility and the potential to offer more than her latest 78 Beyer, she could prove tough to deny.

R4: SECURE'S HOPE (4/1 ML)

Never out of the money in four turf sprints at Laurel, SECURE'S HOPE was an improving filly last year and appears to have carried that progression into 2026. Returning from a layoff off a limited series of workouts on Preakness Day, she ran a big race to finish third in a strong allowance and should strip fitter for the effort. This field doesn't look quite as deep and, provided she can work out a trip from the rail, she ought to have enough pace to run at and make her presence felt late.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

POWER GRID *(Breezed 5F - 1:01.60 at LRL on 6/14)*

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.

LOVELIEST

Trainer: Eddie Kenneally

Last Race: April 17, Race 7

Finish: 8th by 6 3/4

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

Trainer: Greg Sacco

Last Race: Jan. 16, 7th race

Finish: 4th 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.

ITHADTOBEBLU

Trainer: Hugh McMahan

Last Race: May 22, 9th race

Finish: 3rd by 1 1/4

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.

RERUN TABLE

Trainer: John Salzman Jr.

Last Race: May 30, 4th race

Finish: 2nd by 3/4

Maryland-bred displayed her tactical speed while rating 3 wide, bid between horses on the turn, then fought gamely with eventual winner Slewperitus to the wire. She continued with plenty of stamina on the gallop out.

PUT A ROCK ON IT

Trainer: Kieron Magee

Last Race: May 31, 7th race

Finish: 2nd by nose

Tackled males in her first start back from Texas, and gave a strong late rally to just miss the favored Class Photo. She seems very comfortable at distances ranging from a mile to nine furlongs on turf, and would benefit from getting back in with fillies in a starter allowance spot.

COME TO MAMA

Trainer: Sarah White

Last Race: June 13, 7th

Finish: 7th by 10 lengths

Don't take this running line too seriously, as this race was merely an experiment to see if she can handle dirt. She can't, and she'll likely return to her preferred turf surface for her next race, probably in a \$20,000 claiming or starter allowance.

Bumped eventual winner Knock Knock when stumbling and coming out at the start in a dirt sprint taken off turf. She recovered to save ground, putting in a steady rally to finish third. Look for a better effort on turf or dirt going long.

YOUR LORDSHIP

Trainer: Graham Motion

Last Race: May 30, 7th race

Finish: 1st by 2 3/4

It could be a fun 4-year-old summer on the turf for the Graham Motion-trained runner. Racing as a first-time gelding, Your Lordship rated long with plenty of confidence throughout, waited to pounce in the upper stretch, and angled and swept clear for the win

FINN MCSORLEY

Trainer: Niall Saville

Last Race: June 13, 5th

Finish: 3rd by 4 3/4 lengths

He was rated back early in a race where the pacesetting winner got away with easy fractions of 23.70 and 24.11 seconds. Saved ground in midpack, was held up briefly in between horses at the quarter pole, then rallied decently nearer to the rail to just miss second. Fits racing on turf against \$16,000 "non-three" claimers.

TRULY AN HONOR

Trainer: Anthony Farris

Last Race: June 13, 10th

Finish: 3rd by 5 3/4 lengths

She lost a valuable position early when bumped and jostled at the start, and wound up last on the rail after the opening quarter mile. Saved ground into the stretch, eased out for racing room, and tried her best for third behind a pacesetting winner. She's versatile enough to compete in maiden claimers going long or short, on dirt and on turf.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Jeiron Barbosa: #7 - Blames Honey; #8 - Gripen >>> **Barbosa rides BLAMES HONEY**

Race 2: Yedsit Hazlewood: #2 - Jolly by Golly; #4 - Pudge Boy Palace >>> **Hazlewood rides JOLLY BY GOLLY**

Race 3: Yedsit Hazlewood: #1 - Synergism; #10 - Iamdependingonyou >>> **Hazlewood rides SYNERGISM**

Race 3: Angel Cruz: #6 - Atlas Strong; #8 - The Goddess Factor >>> **Cruz rides THE GODDESS FACTOR**

Race 5: Martin Chuan: #3 - Enigmatic; #4 - Fitness >>> **Chuan rides ENIGMATIC**

Race 7: Yedsit Hazlewood: #6 - Boujee Bubblez; #7 - Malibu Hooch >>> **Hazlewood rides BOUJEE BUBBLEZ**

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

A recap of **FRIDAY, JUNE 19** action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: It was a Tim Keefe exacta, with his two doing well with opposite styles. **Butler Road** made the early lead from the rail and led for every step, while first-time starter Penelope Road charged from last to get second. Favored Lucky Lis loomed large on the turn, but flattened out to third.

Race 2: Tipmanee briefly dueled with Julie Belle from her inside, cleared to the front before the far turn, and never looked back in a dominating victory.

Race 3: Isivunguvungu didn't show much rust in his first start since August 9. He rated off of early leader Where's Ray, then moved alongside that rival at the top of the stretch without much urging from Jorge Ruiz. At the eighth pole, Ruiz had to nudge his mount to get by Where's Ray, but he responded in kind and won by a half-length.

Race 4: Bigshot Ness set the pace and pulled clear in the stretch, but the one-turn mile shows mercy for no one. He faded in the final strides and Florida shipper **Vekoma Velocity** got up to win.

Race 5: Truly Thrilling lived up to her name with a dramatic victory. 30-1 Lux led most of the way and was still in front by a length as they charged towards the wire, but Truly Thrilling got up in the last jump.

Race 6: Endless Vow was full of horse going up the backstretch, pulling hard on the inside under Angel Cruz's restraint. Cruz got her settled and angled

her out at the top of the stretch, overtaking early leader Fahnee and taking command. **Risk and Regret**, who also saved ground in the early stages, provided a fresh challenge, and the two favorites dueled down the stretch. While Endless Vow was tenacious, the nosebob was won by Risk and Regret.

Race 7: The early leaders fell apart, setting it up for the closers. Shaft's Bullet and S S Sinatra got the first jump and looked like the main contenders at the eighth pole, but thanks to a well-timed ride from Tais Lyapustina, **Bold Diversion** came over the top to win. Shaft's Bullet completed the exacta over S S Sinatra.

Race 8: New York shipper **Alexis Zorba** bounced back from a disappointing 2026 debut. He made the early lead and had plenty left to hold off the late rally of Jungle Glow.

PAST TRACK TRENDS

Jan. 9 – Fair	Feb. 27– Fair	Apr. 4 – Fair	May 14 – Fair
Jan. 10 – Fair	Feb. 28 – Fair	Apr. 10 – Fair	🏆 May 15 – Fair
Jan. 16 – Fair	Mar. 1 – Fair	Apr. 11– Fair	🏆 May 16 – Fair
Jan. 17 – Fair	Mar. 6 – Fair (slight outside lean)	Apr. 12 – Fair	May 22 – SPEED BIAS
Jan. 23 – Fair	Mar. 7 – SPEED BIAS	Apr. 17 – Fair	May 23 – Fair
Jan. 30 - (only 1 race)	Mar. 8 – Fair	Apr. 18 – SPEED BIAS	May 29 – SPEED BIAS
Feb. 4 – Fair	Mar. 13 – SPEED BIAS (strong crosswind)	Apr. 19 – Fair	May 30 – Fair
Feb. 5 – Fair (speed lean)	Mar. 15 – Fair	Apr. 24 – Fair	May 31 – Fair
Feb. 6 – Fair	Mar. 20 – Fair	Apr. 25 – SPEED BIAS	June 5 – SPEED BIAS
Feb. 12 – CLOSERS BIAS	Mar. 21– Fair (perhaps outside lean)	Apr. 26 – Fair	June 6 – CLOSERS BIAS
Feb. 13 – Fair (slight speed lean)	Mar. 22 – Fair (perhaps outside lean)	May 1 – SPEED BIAS	June 7 – Fair
Feb. 14 – Fair	Mar. 27 – Fair	May 2 – Fair	June 12 – Fair
Feb. 15 – Fair	Mar. 28 – Fair	May 3 – Fair	June 13 – Fair
Feb. 20 – Fair	Mar. 29 – SPEED BIAS	May 8 – CLOSERS BIAS	June 14 – SPEED BIAS
Feb. 21 – Fair	Apr. 3 – Fair	May 9 – Fair	
Feb. 22 – Fair		May 10 – CLOSERS BIAS	