



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SUNDAY, JUNE 28

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



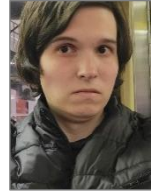
KEITH FEUSTLE



DAN ILLMAN



MACKENZIE PFEIFFER



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

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

MANDATORY PAYOUTS for VALUE PICK 5s, CHESAPEAKE PICK 6 and JACKPOT SUPER HI-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.
- Follow the action throughout the day on your preferred ADW, on X [@LaurelPark](#) and [@Danillman_MJC](#), on Instagram [@marylandjockeyclub](#) and on TikTok [@marylandjockeyclub](#).
- Get FREE PPs for today's card from *Daily Racing Form*! To access, visit www.laurelpark.com/handicapping-wagering/ and scroll down.

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. FRAPPART

2. FRYE ISLAND

3. DANCING BEAR

The first post time is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout rate. There are mandatory payouts in wagers with carryover potential. **FRAPPART** saved ground near the back, eased out to split rivals four wide, then made up a few lengths in her final start last year. The ninth-finisher returned to hit the board in her next three with a 72 synthetic Beyer top. That horse was a five-time winner, and Frappart now drops into a strict non-two claimer for her return from a seven-month break. She won off an even longer layoff last year. **FRYE ISLAND** might be set for her best in the third following a six-month break, and she might attempt to race closer to the pace. Wired by the favorite last time, she finished ahead of Hotline Blink, who then won a \$12,500 conditioned claimer at Mountaineer with a 67 Beyer. The barn went 4 for the last 11 (36%, \$2.31 ROI) in the third start after 61-120 day breaks. **DANCING BEAR**'s early speed should play very well in this heat. Pressed the 6-2 winner from the fence last time, seemed outpaced a bit on the turn, then re-rallied on the inside for the place spot. Finished ahead of three of these, and might not have to work as hard to get forwardly placed.

>> RACE 2

1. MARKET WATCH

2. MANSEEYASWAY

3. CAT FAST

MARKET WATCH set the pace from the fence in a two-turn sprint at Charles Town last month, took pressure from the odds-on winner, and grudgingly gave way in the stretch. The eighth-finisher then graduated in a special weight there with a 68 Beyer. Figures in the thick of things when they turn for home for a barn that went 6 for the last 14 (43%, \$3.31 ROI) with last-out maiden winners. Stablemate **MANSEEYASWAY** set fast fractions while pressured by the 5-2 sixth-finisher, enjoyed a clear lead in the upper stretch, then was kicked down by two closers three weeks ago. The barn went 9 for the last 29 (31%, \$2.03 ROI) off the claim. Vargas lands here instead of Manseeyasway. **CAT FAST** repeats the route to the sprint move that resulted in his maiden win two back. Failed to last going a mile over a speed-friendly track earlier in the month, but faced a good group, as the winner returned to place in a \$12,500 "beaten" claimer with a 67 Beyer. Might face a tougher race flow here. Rosario lands here instead of Vilaluz. A quick pace helps **NIGHT RAVEN**, who seems well-spotted after chasing Mad Banker, a next-out runner-up in a Delaware \$12,000 starter-optional with a 76 Beyer. Big double-drop in class to this strict "non-two" claimer.

>> RACE 3

1. QUALITY SWAG

2. MEREDITHSLIGHTNING

3. RYLNSLOOKINGLUCKY

QUALITY SWAG didn't have the cleanest trip when wired by the favorite three weeks ago. Bumped at the start, then banged into the rail going into the first turn when placed in tight. Saved ground in midpack, had to work to keep up through a quick third quarter in 23.69, then finished evenly without threatening. Showed some life on the gallop-out, gave a good try in her turf debut two back, and can kick late for a barn that went 3 for 13 (23%, \$2.03 ROI) between 6/12 and 6/25. **MEREDITHSLIGHTNING** makes her first start for a red-hot barn after finishing ahead of the top pick. Tracked from the outside, worked hard to keep up with that quick third quarter, then drifted out considerably in the lane. Think she can work out a similar pace-tracking trip. **RYLNSLOOKINGLUCKY** finished ahead of both of the top-two choices in that heat. Prompted the favored winner, went on a hard chase on the second turn, and stayed on gamely for second. She might be the one to make the early running this time.

>> RACE 4

1. VANILLA

2. SHE'S NOT A LAD

3. LA CHISMOSA

VANILLA broke on the back foot, advanced to prompt a moderate pace (23.61 second quarter) from in between rivals, seemed outpaced a bit on the turn, angled three wide into the stretch, and held second when wired over a speed-friendly track. She looks pace-adaptable for a barn that went 8 for the last 16 (50%, \$2.23 ROI) in the second after the claim. Hazlewood lands here instead of Cross of Valor and **SHE'S NOT A LAD**, who set a solid pace (23.31; 23.43) before tiring over course and distance last month. Consistent filly has never finished off the board, and figures on or near the lead again. There's a chance this pace heats up, and that suits **LA CHISMOSA** just fine. She didn't get the setup she craves last time, and still rallied well for third behind the top pick. Both of FABIA's wins came by using this route-to-sprint move, and she ran a bang-up race when second to the favorite around two turns at Delaware last month. Expect a late kick.

>> RACE 5

1. INDY CHARGES ON

2. WORCESTER

3. STRONSINO

INDY CHARGES ON set a reasonable pace going nine furlongs, but was no match for heavily-favored Barbadian Runner, who was entered in yesterday's Deputed Testimony Stakes. Expect similar pacesetting tactics for a barn that went 7 for the last 24 (29%, \$3.01 ROI) in the first start after the claim. Hazlewood departs this one and Sacred Thunder for Stronsino. **WORCESTER**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 5/29, tracked three wide and in between horses, eased out in the stretch, and rallied for second despite popping to his left lead against Deputed Testimony entrant Catalytic. He's a new gelding for a sharp new barn, but wonder if he's more effective as a late-running one-turn type. Stablemate **STRONSINO**, listed as a Colonial vet scratch on 7/31/25, returns from a whopping 380-day layoff. Set a three-ply pace from in between last time, cleared off under a confident ride on the second turn, and poured it on despite hopping back to his left lead right on the wire. Might attempt rating tactics this time.

>> RACE 6

1. MATTHEW'S TICKET

2. STORY OF RORY

3. NOTION IN MOTION

MATTHEW'S TICKET took a nice step forward in his turf debut. Jostled slightly while in between horses on the backstretch, he raced in a bit tight on the turn, altered course a couple of times when appearing green, and stayed on pretty well for fourth. The runner-up then placed in a \$40,000 maiden seller at Monmouth with a 67 Beyer. He's been freshened up since that race and can work out a good outside-tracking trip once clear of traffic. **STORY OF RORY** battled for the lead with the 7-1 fourth-finisher, eventually put that one away, and was kicked down in the shadow of the wire. That early speed should serve him well this afternoon. **NOTION IN MOTION** settled back behind a quick pace, angled outside, and finished well despite hopping back to his left lead. That was a promising way to kick off his 5-year-old campaign, and he can provide a late surge along with STREETCAR, who returns from a lengthy layoff after showing speed in two routes. BOLTON HILL switches surfaces out of stakes-winning turf router Bawlmer Hon (82 dirt Beyer top).

>> RACE 7

1. SPIDEY MAN

2. LAYSEN

3. CONNOR'S CREW

SPIDEY MAN bobbled lightly leaving the gate, rushed up to set a quick pace while off the rail, raced shoulder-to-shoulder with the rail-skimming winner in the stretch, and tired in the final eighth. That race produced two next-out winners, including Sculcos Folly, who then won four in a row in New York with a 94 Beyer top. Expect fresh early speed for a barn that went 7 for the last 15 (47%, \$2.28 ROI) in the first after a trainer switch. Hazlewood lands here instead of Mister Roscoe and Poor Peanut. **LAYSEN** took advantage of reasonable fractions over a speed-friendly track when wiring them earlier in the month. Earned a competitive number in that race, and figures on a send from the inside draw. **CONNOR'S CREW** gets Lasix for the first time after being wired by 1-5 favorite Shane's Wonder (next-out 93 Beyer when second in the Chick Lang Stakes). He might fall into a nice trip from just behind the speeds. **RED SPITFIRE**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 6/18, rallied from off a fast pace to beat two next-out winners (runner-up earned 67 Beyer in \$12,500 "beaten claimer"). Steps up in class off the claim.

>> RACE 8

1. NICK'S NOTION

2. AMERICAN TAPIT

3. SHORE WAR

NICK'S NOTION fell far behind a pretty quick pace while saving ground, altered course to the outside in the upper stretch, and made up almost five lengths while angling inside. Faced two next-out winners, and the seventh-finisher then placed in a first-level allowance with a 76 Beyer. A late runner like her is always at the mercy of race and pace luck. **AMERICAN TAPIT** pulled hard to save ground entering the first turn, prompted a solid pace from in between on the backstretch, then gamely wore down the leader in the stretch. She might get a good deal closer to the pace for a barn that went 12 for 46 (26%, \$2.58 ROI) between 5/16 and 6/25. Cruz lands here instead of Meg. **SHORE WAR** listed as a Saratoga vet scratch (sick) on 6/5, tracked the pace while three wide and in between, eased out to split foes turning for home, then finished evenly in between when wired by the favorite. Stretches out in distance with the tactical speed to push the pace.

>> RACE 9

1. PUDGE BOY PALACE

2. PIT STOP MAN

3. NORFIE

PUDGE BOY PALACE prompted the pace while two-to-three wide, went on a hard chase on the turn under urging to snatch the lead in upper stretch, then stayed on for second behind the odds-on winner. He's won moving from route to sprint in the past. **PIT STOP MAN** hopped slightly at the start, tracked a quick pace (23.04; 23.29) two-to-three wide, found a good spot racing off the rail on the turn, was urged along angling outside, and got up for second. The barn went 4 for the last 15 (27%, \$2.36 ROI) with newly-claimed horses returning on dirt. **NORFIE** sat a loose pocket at the back behind a fast pace, was asked to run on the turn, and finished in a one-paced fashion. **ECUMENICAL** wired the field last time out, and his speed should play very well this afternoon.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

- R1: Dancing Bear handled a strong pace behind gate to wire winner Elon last out, hard to imagine he finds that scenario in this group. Frappart faces the boys in her first outing for the season but it doesn't seem entirely out of reach here. She won in her first off the bench last year and proved competitive against much tougher when facing winners. Class relief could be key.
- R2: Market Watch may be transferring in from CT but it wasn't long ago he was competitive against the maiden 40 group in NY. Blinkers on looked to be the trick for the speedy Gimme Two Shots, question of whether he has his way alone on the front here.
- R3: Last out, Rylnnslookinglucky pressed strong internals for this level in just her second turf try, behind a gate-to-wire winner dropping in class. The race has already produced 2 winners and its unlikely she finds the same challenge today. Good Axe has pedigree to suggest today's distance will be more to her liking, watch the tote board on this one.
- R4: Vanilla was outsprinted when facing Spencer Tiara last out but could find a different setup today over the 7f distance. La Chismosa comes out of the same race where she didn't have the easiest start. Her races from this spring warrant consideration, especially if you think the outer post may help smooth some of her troubled trips.
- R5: Worcester arrives a first time gelding for the new connections following strong recent company. He looks to be the class of the field going 2-turns, if he can hold true to form. Indy Charges On has been forced to do the heavy lifting in most of his recent outings, curious to see if we have a change in tactics for the new barn today.
- R6: Before Barbados Buzz was a high ticket yearling purchase from the Saratoga Select sale, he was a \$285k weanling purchase. I'll be content if he sticks around the 7-2 ML. For a price, have a look at Mr. Handsome, the mare was a stakes winning dirt sprinter and this one looks to be working well into his debut. Some question of whether the turf will be his preferred surface.
- R7: Connor's Crew ran a race 2-back that looks good enough to get the job done here. The winner of his last outing came back to run huge in the Chick Lang with a 93 Beyer. Laysen stepped up in a big way when he took early command from the inside last out. He may have a similar opportunity here but I question whether he may take a bit more pressure early on.
- R8: Brat Pack has managed to find her way in races both with and without early pace, the latter of which could be the case in today's setup. I resign with the even money and improving type. Ixchel chased strong internals last out where the eventual winner came back with a 73 Beyer in stakes company. Suspect we may see more turn of foot with a different pace scenario here.
- R9: Pudge Boy Palace has proven himself at this level in recent starts and the recent company does flatter his form. Hard to deny Corrales and Hazlewood teaming up here.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#2 - Frye Island

Trainer: Anthony Farris

Third After 61-120 Days: 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.31 ROI)

RACE 2

#2 - Market Watch

Trainer: Anthony Farris

Last-Out Maiden Winners: 6 for 14 (43%, \$3.31 ROI)

#6 - Manseeyasway

Trainer: Anthony Farris

First Off Claim: 9 for 29 (31%, \$2.03 ROI)

RACE 3

#6 - Quality Swag

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

Between 6/12 and 6/25: 3 for 13 (23%, \$2.03 ROI)

RACE 4

#4 - Vanilla

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Second After Claim: 8 for 16 (50%, \$2.23 ROI)

RACE 5

#4 - Indy Charges On

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

First After Claim: 7 for 24 (\$3.01 ROI)

RACE 7

#6 - Spidey Man

Trainer: Jamie Ness

First After Trainer Switch: 7 for 15 (47%, \$2.28 ROI)

RACE 8

#3 - American Tapit

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

Between 5/16 and 6/25: 12 for 46 (26%, \$2.58 ROI)

RACE 9

#3 - Pit Stop Man

Trainer: Daniel McKenzie

First On Claim, Dirt: 4 for 15 (27%, \$2.36 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+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Other notes:

- **#1 LET FLY** received an excellent setup when winning off the layoff last time, closing into fractions of 22.19, 44.98 that set up nicely for off the pace types; while this type of setup would typically lead to a downgrade, we shouldn't in this instance knock his effort much at all because not only was he likely short of peak fitness, but he also made up a tremendous amount of ground while blowing right on by the two favorites, who had also received the same setup as closers; what's more, the shortest priced speed horse (who was 22/1) held on to finish 4th by 4 1/4L, and there have certainly been larger pace collapses than this one. Respected right back.
- **#3 CALL ME A CAB** didn't quite do enough to earn an upgrade last time, but he did sit a notably wide trip and closers struggled to really land a blow (speed held well – potential downgrade for **#5 DANCING BEAR?**), so maybe we can excuse his dull effort.
- The chart comment notes how **#4 TIK TOK DADDY** steadied at the ½ last out, but it's a real reach to call it a steady – his rider took a light pull racing into the turn but no more than that; he never lost position or momentum and overall sat a perfect stalking trip. Regardless, it was a nice effort and he's respected today.

Race 2: Claiming 12.5k, 3YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#6 MANSEEYASWAY	Claiming 12k, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 06/07/26 – 3 rd	Sent from rail; sparred through fast fractions inside foes to ~1/4 pole, then dispatched of his pace rivals and opened up at the top of the lane; from there, despite drifting out, he continued battling willingly to the wire and remained in front until deep inside the final 1/16 when two deep closers nabbed him in the last few strides.	The hot fractions he set (22.27, 46.65) led to a pace collapse, with the two early trailers who were 14 ½ and 10 1/2L back at first call (and 28/1 and 12/1) coming through to score late; he did very well to hang around as long as he did, doing best of the speed, and his effort is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE. Very much respected making his debut for Farrior today.

Other notes:

- **#2 MARKET WATCH** was promoted to first at Charles Town last time but he himself was not affected by the interference the winner caused; his speed figure is fair.
- **#3 GIMME TWO SHOTS** took well to the addition of blinkers last out, breaking his maiden by 7 3/4L; in his prior start, the following note had been made on his trip: “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?” Seems that was the case and he’s heading in the right direction.
- Although **#5 CAT FAST** is one of the more logical players in this race now cutting back in trip and will demand respect, we should note that he got away with setting modest fractions (that aided him) in front when just holding on at BAQ two-back, then he rode a speed bias in front here at Laurel last time.
- Making his first start against winner, **#7 GALLO** ran with credit last out having been pressed the aforementioned rapid pace set by **#6 MANSEEYASWAY** which led to a pace collapse; he’s deserving of respect with the bug weight off today.

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

- Although both **#1 RYLNNSLOOKINGLUCKY** and **#4 MEREDITHSLIGHTNING** sat close to an honest pace last time, speed still held well, with the top five finishers filling those places throughout; both horses ran well and will require a second look today, but we should maybe just take that form line with a small pinch of salt. Note: **#6 QUALITY SWAG** raced off the pace in that race and was therefore against the ‘flow’; maybe we can forgive her of that defeat?
- In a race that saw speed hold relatively well, **#3 KELSEY HILL GIRL** ran a nice race last time, rallying from 9 1/2L last to pick up 4th; she could be suited by today’s stretch out in trip.
- **#8 SUNDAY SENSE** did not have a clean trip when making her turf/route debut last time: she vied between horses into the first turn, then chased/pressed the even fractions in the 2P racing to the far turn; came under pressure to hold her position between horses racing to the ¼, then checked when in tight and was eased through the stretch, exacerbating the margin of defeat. There is no doubt at all that with a clean trip, she can improve on that troubled first try on the grass; however, we should note that at the point of her interference, she wasn’t exactly filling anyone with confidence that she was about to go and win her race (looked to be coming onto the back foot), and one would ideally have liked to have seen more of a fight back after the trouble occurred to be confident in her chances today.

Race 4: Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 7 Furlongs, Dirt**Other notes:**

- Although **#1 LOOKS FIRST** received a good pace setup when winning over 7F last time (closed into honest fractions of 23.31, 46.74 set by **#5 SHE’S NOT A LAD**, who ran a game race in defeat and might be capable of a little more if rationing out her speed a touch more efficiently), the speed did not collapse, with the pace setter holding on for 2nd and the 16/1 presser (**#6 DIVINE WORKS**) finishing 3rd – ‘LF’ won fair and square and will require a second look right back. Note: her two-back effort is deserving of an upgrade as she closed over a speed biased track.
- **#3 CROSS OF VALOR** was able to get away with setting very sustainable fractions (25.05, 49.80) on an uncontested lead before going onto break her maiden last time; that effort might need downgrading and she’s going to find things tougher today.
- Not sure it made any real difference to the result, but it might be worth noting that both **#4 VANILLA** (chased 2W, 4W ¼ pole, 2nd best) and **#7 LA CHISMOSA** (chased inside, evenly) exit a race run over a speed biased track. Note: **#4 VANILLA**’s two-back effort (a win over **#5 SHE’S NOT A LAD**) came over a speed favoring track too, but it’s hard to argue she wasn’t best.

Race 5: Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#6 WORCESTER	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 05/02/26 – 2 nd	Chased even pace from ~4L back in the 3-4P between foes to the far turn; came under a ride while tight between horses in the 3P racing to the ¼, then tipped out into the 4P and stayed on willingly for 2 nd .	This game runner-up effort deserves a little extra credit as he was always in an often-tricky spot between foes, and racing against a speed bias. Major player down in trip making his debut for Ness.

Other notes:

- **#1 CROSSLAND** did not have enough pace to run at for him to be seen to best effect last out and may be capable of playing a larger role if things heat up in front today. **#4 INDY CHARGES ON** was the pace setter in that last race and managed to establish an uncontested lead; he had no excuse but was just 2nd best to BARBADIAN RUNNER, to which there was no disgrace; he now makes his first start for Gaudet.
- **#5 CRAB DADDY**'s trip last time isn't bad enough to earn him an upgrade, but he was a little wide rounding into the lane and he then brushed with a foe mid-stretch; these factors combined may well have cost him 2nd, given he was beaten just a neck and a nose for that position. Exiting the same race, **#7 GOODBYE NOTE** ran a very game race in defeat; he looms as a logical contender once more.

Race 6: MSW, 3-6YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 STORY OF RORY	MSW, MTH, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 05/31/26 – 2 nd	Vied through honest fractions in the 2P to upper stretch, then battled hard in the lane before edging away inside the final 1/8 th , only for the rider to ease up a little late and get caught on the wire by a late closer who came flying like a rocket ship through the lane.	Making his first start with lasix on grass, he did best of the speed in this strongly run affair (that set up well for the eventual winner) and probably would have won if the rider had continued pushing harder through the lane. Player again right back.
#9 MATHEW'S TICKET	Maiden Claiming 35k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 04/17/26 – 4 th	Worked forward to chase the pace from ~3L back into the turn; took closer order racing to the top of the lane while actively trying to force a foe outside him to stay in their lane and not leave him stuck on heels; came under a ride in upper stretch but didn't have daylight in front of him; lost balance slightly when trying to switch lanes ~1/8 pole, then continued to race on the leader's tail before the rider eased up inside the final 100yds.	This wasn't a horrible trip; however, his rider consistently placed him in tricky/awkward spots and didn't help him as much as should have been the case in the lane; he visually looked to cross the wire with gas left in the tank and it wouldn't surprise at all if he stepped forward under Hazlewood today.

Other notes:

- **#7 NOTION IN MOTION** had to wait in traffic from ~3/8 pole to upper stretch before going onto finish 2nd when returning from a layoff last time; while the traffic trouble and potential lack of match fitness could well result in him improving off that effort second back today, we shouldn't upgrade his comeback run because he was very much 2nd best, and the hot pace (22.24, 44.73) collapsed, which seemingly aided him; still, he demands respect today. Exiting the same race, **#4 FORGET THE RULES** ran a solid race off the layoff having sat reasonably close to the hot fractions; he's entitled to step forward off that run.

Race 7: Allowance, 3YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt**Other Notes:**

- We might be best to take **#1 LAYSEN**'s win at 26/1 last time with a pinch of salt, seeing as he was able to set reasonable fractions on a largely uncontested lead while riding a speed bias and only carrying 110 pounds; suspect things will be tougher for him today. Exiting the same race, **#4 POOR PEANUT** bobbled a little at the break, then attempted to close into the modest pace that #1 LAYSEN set over the speedy track; there's a chance he improves on that try today.
- **#2 MISTER ROSCOE** ran a very solid race at Delaware last time considering he was a little wide and persistently taking pressure to his outside; respected right back.
- When returning from a layoff in a four-runner stake at Parx last out, **#3 CONNOR'S CREW** was hemmed in behind the leader after the first 3/16 and then appeared to be uncomfortable taking kickback (climbed a little and dropped back); especially if remaining in the clear today, it seems highly likely that he will step forward from that comeback with Lasix now added.
- **#5 RED SPITFIRE** overcame a very wide move into the lane to gamely justify his 4/5 odds last out, even though he failed to change leads in the lane; while his ground loss off the turn could entitle him to a slight upgrade, we should hold off doing so because he also received an excellent, closer-friendly pace setup. Makes debut for Capuano today.

- Despite being beaten at odds of 8/5, **#6 SPIDEY MAN** ran a solid race when last seen considering he'd set very honest, pressured fractions in front, and then endured a little argy-bargy with the winner through the stretch. Logical player making his debut for Ness off the bench today.

Race 8: Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Other notes:

- Although it appears impressive that **#1 NICK'S NOTION** made up so much ground in her last race, we should note that the pace completely fell apart, with the second-through-sixth place finishers (including 2x 15/1 shots and a 27/1 shot) all rallying from over 12 1/2L back at second call.
- In stark contrast to above, **#2 MINARI** ran a very solid race off the bench last time, closing from 11 3/4L back into a pace that, although hot, did not fall apart, with the top two finishers (including the 12/1 winner) running 1-2 throughout. She should be suited by today's extra 1/16. Note: although a little wide on the turns, staying in the clear actually helped her (more than if she'd gone inside, saved ground and waited for a run), because it allowed her to maintain her forward momentum.
- There was plenty to like about **#3 AMERICAN TAPIT's** very game maiden breaking win here last month in which she doggedly got the better of the longtime pace setter who had been afforded a notable breather (which AT didn't get) down the back stretch; she should relish today's extra 1/16 and is a logical win contender.
- **#4 IXCHEL** sat a wider than ideal trip last time.
- **#5 MEG** was never involved going 6F when returned to the turf last time: she lacked speed and then finished evenly; she did, however, then gallop out very strongly in front, suggesting that today's stretch back out in trip might see her take a meaningful step forward at a price.
- **#7 SHORE WAR's** trip last out doesn't quite entitle her to an upgrade; however, it was slightly rough as she found herself in tight amongst foes racing into the turn and then bumped with a rival when angling out into the clear in upper stretch before staying on nicely in tight between horses to the wire. She showed a likable attitude to run as well as she did and could be just as effective at two turns. Player.

Race 9: Claiming 7.5k, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- Prior to justifying 6/5 odds last time, **#2 ECUMENICAL** had endured a slightly wide trip over a wet track two-back and not been hard ridden through the final 1/16, which exacerbated the margin of defeat. Player right back.
- After an alert break, the rider on **#3 PIT STOP MAN** sensibly let the early speed (which was strong) go last out and rode a patient waiting race until the turn; however, the 8/5 winner (who formed part of the early speed) did not stop, and 'PSM' was then facing an uphill battle to reel him in while a little wide on the turn; he may have fared a little better if he'd actually stuck in range and saved more ground, but hind sight's twenty-twenty; player making his debut for McKenzie, whatever the case.

Horses to Follow

R5: WORCESTER (2/1 ML)

WORCESTER returned to two turns last time and produced an upgradable effort in defeat, closing into a speed-favoring track to finish second behind CATALYTIC while posting an 89 Beyer—the fastest last-out figure on offer in today's field. Claimed out of that race by Jamie Ness, who strikes at 30% first off the claim, the 6-year-old has also since been gelded, a change that can often bring about further improvement. With INDY CHARGES ON and GOODBYE NOTE likely to ensure an honest pace, the race should set up perfectly for him to notch a sixth career win over the Laurel Park oval.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

POWER GRID (Breezed 5F - 1:03.40 at LRL on 6/21)

Trainer: Jerry Robb

Last Race: Dec. 27, 8th race

Finish: 5th by 9 ½

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

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.

YOUR LORDSHIP *(Breezed 5F - 1:01.60 at FAI on 6/22)*

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

TRULY AN HONOR

Trainer: Anthony Farrior

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.

ITHADTOBEBLU *(Breezed 4F - :50.40 at CNL on 6/20)*

Trainer: Hugh McMahon

Last Race: May 22, 9th race

Finish: 3rd by 1 1/4

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.

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.

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.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Emanuel Rosario: #6 - Yercan Mero; #7 - Pencil Me In >>> **Rosario rides PENCIL ME IN**

Race 2 - Jose Vargas: #4 - Night Raven; #6 - Manseeyasway >>> **Vargas rides MANSEEYASWAY**

Race 2: Emanuel Rosario: #1 - Vilaluz; #5 - Cat Fast >>> **Rosario rides CAT FAST**

Race 3: Yedsit Hazlewood: #3 -Kelsey Hill Girl; #5 -Good Axe >>> **Hazlewood rides GOOD AXE**

Race 3: Jean Briceno: #7 - Snow Bella; #8 - Sunday Sense >>> **Briceno rides SNOW BELLA**

Race 4: Yedsit Hazlewood: #3 - Cross of Valor; #4 - Vanilla; #5 - She's Not a Lad >>> **Hazlewood rides VANILLA**

Race 5: Yedsit Hazlewood: #2 - Stronsino; #3 - Sacred Thunder; #4 - Indy Charges On >>> **Hazlewood rides STRONSINO**

Race 7: Yedsit Hazlewood: #2 - Mister Roscoe; #4 - Poor Peanut; #6 - Spidey Man >>> **Hazlewood rides SPIDEY MAN**

Race 8: Angel Cruz: #3 - American Tapit; #5 - Meg >>> **Cruz rides AMERICAN TAPIT**

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

A recap of **SATURDAY, JUNE 27** action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piasek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Race 1: Hold all tickets! Usually a frontrunner, Freedom Gilder showed a new dimension this time. He raced far off the pace while Vaya Jeffe and Tethered Soul zoomed away from the rest and engaged in a destructive duel. When those two tired on the far turn, the rest moved in, and Freedom Glider went the best of them. However, he bumped fellow closer **Oracle of Beaufort** in a stretch battle, resulting in his disqualification to fourth. Oracle of Beaufort was subsequently elevated to victory.

Race 2: Probable Angle hugged the rail all the way and outkicked favorites Tammy's Cruiser and Sunset Express for the victory.

Race 3: Favored Vinalia opened up a long lead in the stretch, and for a moment, it looked like she was home free. Unfortunately for her backers, the five-month layoff might've caught up with her. Her strides dramatically shortened in the last eighth, and first-time starter **Everyday's a Bonus** rushed by for the win.

Race 4: Off a strong second-place finish at Charles Town on debut, **Just Do Believe** took the necessary step forward to win at second asking. She moved to the front on the turn under confident Jeiron Barbosa handling and drew off to win by 6 ½ lengths. Gary Capuano firster Mirror in the Sky went off favored, but stumbled at the start and didn't get involved from there.

Race 5: The first ratings handicap race in Laurel Park history went to **Mongolian Apple**. He set honest fractions and held plenty left in the stretch, completing the gate-to-wire performance at 9-1. Hanksdiviningrod closed with great late interest to complete the exacta. Hunter Joe chased Mongolian Apple in the stretch after pressuring him early, but flattened out to third.

Race 6: Julian Pimentel got the most out of **It's Electric**. He rated him off the pace in the clear, then vigorously urged him to the front down the stretch and eventually wore down longtime leader Quain. For Pimentel, a region veteran, it was his first riding win since November 12, 2021.

Race 7: Maida, who won the Weather Vane Stakes impressively on this track last year, crushed the field in her 2026 debut, the Alma North Stakes. She got a late start to the season, but she nonetheless looks like a potential local star in the division.

Race 8: It's yet another stakes win at Laurel Park for **Barbadian Runner**, as he captured the Deputed Testimony Stakes in a determined effort. He rated off of early leader Catalytic and wore him down, then fended off the secondary challenge of Adero and hit the wire a nose in front.

Race 9: Thundering made his way to the rail and the lead in the Japan Turf Cup and never looked back, opening up in the stretch for the victory. Truly Quality, who was the heavy morning line favorite but went off as the second choice, closed well and got up for second. He'll be one to watch next time should he stretch out from 1 ⅛ miles.

Race 10: Faust and Celtic Contender dueled each other on the early stages of the DeFrancis Dash, while **Hymn** tracked them in the two-path. Celtic Contender held on well, but Hymn overwhelmed him in the stretch and drew off to an impressive 5 ½-length victory.

Race 11: My Captain raced on the pace and had more to give even when his fellow pacesetters tired. Farooq, who sat just off the first flight, chased My Captain down the stretch and completed the exacta.

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

May 14 – Fair

🏆 May 15 – Fair

🏆 May 16 – Fair

May 22 – SPEED BIAS

May 23 – Fair

May 29 – SPEED BIAS

May 30 – Fair

May 31 – Fair

June 5 – SPEED BIAS

June 6 – CLOSERS BIAS

June 7 – Fair

June 12 – Fair

June 13 – Fair

June 14 – SPEED BIAS

June 19 – Fair

June 20 – Fair

June 21 – Fair