



LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Sunday, Jan. 19

First post is 12:25 PM ET with 12% takeout on Value Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races).

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TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE TMJC TEAM



KEITH FEUSTLE



KALI FRANCOIS



DAN ILLMAN



MACKENZIE PFEIFFER



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

RACE 1:	3-8-6-5	3-4-8-2	3-8-4-6	3-8-4-9	3-4-6-8	8-3-4
RACE 2:	6-2-1-4	7-6-5-1	6-2-1-3	2-4-3-1	2-3-4-5	2-7-1
RACE 3:	3-4-9-1	1-8-9-4	9-1-6-4	4-3-9-1	4-3-1-8	3-1-4
RACE 4:	2-7-5-3	3-5-7-6	3-7-6-1	5-7-3-2	3-6-2-4	7-6-2
RACE 5:	8-4-6-5	8-4-5-3	8-5-3-6	6-8-4-3	6-4-8-5	4-3-6
RACE 6:	9-11-5-12	9-4-3-8	11-9-4-8	3-9-8-4	3-11-1-5	3-9-11
RACE 7:	6-1-9-8	6-2-1-7	6-5-1-7	7-4-5-1	7-5-6-8	1-5-6
RACE 8:	5-6-2-1	5-7-1-3	5-6-2-3	5-2-7-4	5-6-2-1	5-1-7
RACE 9:	6-3-1-7	3-6-1-7	7-1-6-3	3-7-1-6	7-3-1-5	3-1-7

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - By Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. Bold Diversion

2. Sir Chance A Lot

3. War Salute

First post is 12:25 ET with 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **BOLD DIVERSION** battled outside the odds-on fourth-place finisher, took over the lead on the turn, then faded in the stretch. Drops with the speed to be in the mix when they turn for home for barn that went 7 for the last 21 (33%, \$4.23 ROI) with experienced horses getting Lasix for the first time. **SIR CHANCE A LOT** also has some early zip, and he just missed the last time he raced at this class level. Bumped so hard at the start of that race that the jockey briefly lost the irons, then set the pace along the rail before digging in gamely for second with a good gallop-out. Might have aimed too high off the claim three weeks later, but is back where he belongs from a class perspective. **WAR SALUTE** was wired by favored Tiny Lake when shipped out to Penn National ten days ago. Good to see him back on short notice for barn that went 9 for the last 36 (25%, \$2.18 ROI) with second-time Lasix users on dirt. Too early to give up on LET FLY, who didn't break well against tougher in career debut. FINN D'ORO gets Lasix after chasing Set for Life, who then ran third in a \$40,000 seller with a 43 Beyer. REPEATINGOFCOURSE returns from 208-day break after facing two next-out winners. The winner of that heat then ran second in the restricted Dover Stakes at Delaware with a 65 Beyer.

>> RACE 2

1. Whatsyourbigidea

2. Candy Craze

3. Magically Vanished

WHATSYOURBIGIDEA was reclaimed by Gaudet after chasing Lottie Deno, who returned to win a \$12,500 "non-two" seller with a 61 Beyer. Immediately removes blinkers, and it's worth noting that her lone win came without the head gear for this barn in her second lifetime start. Should be closer to the pace as she stretches out in distance with enough pedigree to handle the trip for barn that went 5 for 17 (29%, \$2.58 ROI) between 12/1 and 12/29. Kentucky invaders generally do well on this circuit, and **CANDY CRAZE** makes circuit debut after just missing over the Tapeta at Turfway. Saved ground in midpack, gradually made her way to the outside in the stretch, and rallied to just miss. The fifth-finisher then ran third in a \$50,000 "non-two" claimer there with a 74 Beyer. More than capable on dirt and should kick late for barn that went 4 for 10 (40%, \$3.93 ROI) between 12/9 and 1/9. **MAGICALLY VANISHED** dominated \$20,000 maiden claimers in her career debut. Tracked from the pocket, went after the 4-1 runner-up on the turn, and ran up the score. She's been away seven months with a vet scratch in the interim, however.

>> RACE 3

1. Severn Run

2. Brewmaster

3. Mikes Mo Town

SEVERN RUN was bumped lightly at the start last month, stalked a solid pace while three wide, split horses on the turn, then couldn't threaten tougher waiver maiden foes. Expect improved positional speed at this reduced level for barn that went 6 for the last 14 (43%, \$3.49 ROI) with experienced horses getting Lasix for the first time. **BREWMASTER** saved ground in midpack, was urged along while making an early lead change on the turn, cut the corner into the stretch, then just missed. The third-place finisher from that race next graduated by 16 1/2 lengths in a Mahoning Valley special weight with a 65

Beyer. Barn sent out two winners here on 12/29. **MIKES MO TOWN** showed good speed in his circuit debut before finishing behind Brewmaster. Might carry that early foot longer for barn that went 8 for the last 27 (30%, \$4.81 ROI) adding Lasix on dirt. Torrealba departs for MERSIN HEAT, who makes first start for high-percentage Magee barn. If this pace gets hot, IMPERIAL SPY can rally from off the pace along with GEE POWER, who was wired by the chalk in most recent start at Penn National. BYE BYE WICKED EYE, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 12/22, drops in class after facing next-out winner Superness (35 Beyer in Parx dime maiden). Toledo lands here instead of Rick'swarmheart.

>> RACE 4

1. Just The Thing

2. Titian Tyrant

3. Princess Lucia

JUST THE THING is hard to trust with a 1 for 23 record coming into this event, but she enters in good form after hitting the board in her last three starts. Tracked from the pocket at Penn National in seasonal debut, raced in between horses after a half-mile, grabbed the pocket on the second bend, then eased out late in the game to finish a close second. This is a tougher group, but there isn't much speed in the race, and she has enough to stay close to the expected moderate fractions. **TITIAN TYRANT** might be racing herself back into shape for this, her third start following a 235-day layoff. Settled into a good tracking position along the rail last month, then couldn't go with them in the stretch. The third-finisher next placed in a dime "non-two" at Penn National with a 50 Beyer. He's pace-adaptable and can be a good deal closer to the lead stretching back out around two turns. **PRINCESS LUCIA** stalked three wide at the back over muddy going, was outpaced on the turn under urging, dropped inside turning for home, then finished evenly with a decent gallop-out. Been waiting for this one to stretch out in distance as a half-sister to stakes-winning turf router Debbie's Tude and stakes-placed turf router Cut From Class, and is another that should show stretch-out speed. **STYLE AND PROFILE** was taken out of her game when chasing a pacesetting winner at Penn National. Think she's at her best when taken back to make one run but needs pace help.

>> RACE 5

1. Pay Billy

2. Roll on Jesse

3. Urban Symphony

PAY BILLY, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (injured) on 12/28, has questions to answer regarding distance, but he has the body type to succeed going longer, and the grinding style he displayed last month gives hope that he can successfully stretch out. Bumped at the start, he prompted a slow three-ply pace in between, was jostled a bit when three wide and in between on the turn, then re-rallied to kick down the odds-on New York shipper. Think he needs to be ridden aggressively to obtain forward position for barn that went 4 for the last 14 (29%, \$3.60 ROI) with last-out maiden winners returning on dirt. **ROLL ON JESSE** settled back behind fast fractions, then got up for second behind runaway favorite Bestfriend Rocket. Not sure that race flow will be there for him this time around, but all three of his dirt races are good. **URBAN SYMPHONY** receives the Lasix and blinkers makeover in second start for De Paz. Finished behind Roll On Jesse last time, but might have been compromised by a wide trip over a wet track. He does have the speed to get close to the pace for barn that went 4 for 16 (25%, \$3.53 ROI) between 12/29 and 1/13.

>> RACE 6

1. Genieinabridle

2. Utterly Enchanting

3. Sapphire Beauty

Been chasing **GENIEINABRIDLE**, and she should get a hot pace to attack in this spot. Rank when checked and steadied very badly in the opening furlong four back, then got up for third in first off significant layoff. Stymied in traffic in midstretch three back, altered course to the outside, and came with a good

run. Didn't love the way she switched leads a couple of times two back, but still rallied for second behind odds-on Royal Seamstress. Tried to advance three wide over sloppy going last time before flattening out in the stretch. Seems like a nice fit at this level. **UTTERLY ENCHANTING** looms a logical contender after finishing ahead of the top pick. Saved ground at the back, was urged along on the turn, split rivals in upper stretch, then finished evenly in a race won by odds-on Anonymously. Veteran is another that should receive a favorable setup from off the pace. Maldonado lands here instead of Yumyum Eat Em Up. **SAPPHIRE BEAUTY** placed ahead of three of these in final start of 2024. She's pretty quick from the gate and should get the jump on the top-two selections turning for home. Cruz lands here instead of Molly of Stratford. **BEACH ISLAND** must deal with 164-day layoff, but she chased a hot pace over sloppy going at Delaware last time out against odds-on Peyton Elizabeth. The third-finisher then ran third in a \$20,000 claimer at Oaklawn with a 55 Beyer. **LEVISA** (see Horses to Watch section) drops with speed after being wired by odds-on Brzina, who then placed in a \$20,000 starter with a 72 Beyer. **YUMYUM EAT EM UP** might receive a stronger flow after being wired in a slow-paced race. The seventh-finisher then ran third in a nickel "non-three" at Charles Town with a 55 Beyer. Sixteen-time winner **DRINKS ON ME** has performed well on dirt, and gets a little class relief after racing on Tapeta at Gulfstream.

>> RACE 7

1. Tam Char

2. Skip Thru Da Fire

3. Always Laughing

TAM CHAR was hustled out of there to track from the pocket, eased out a couple of times in the stretch, then rallied well to place behind the odds-on winner. It was a promising performance and the gray mare can get up close to the pace stretching out to seven-eighths. **SKIP THRU DA FIRE** finished just behind the top pick over that sealed, sloppy track. Split rivals with a four-wide bid turning for home, but flopped back to her left lead when flattening out just a touch in the final sixteenth. Barn sent out 9-1 winner Fainor's Filets at Penn National on 1/3. Generally like horses cutting back to this distance, and **ALWAYS LAUGHING** drops in class and trip after tiring in a pair of two-turn routes. Despite shortening up, she has enough speed to be in the early mix, and might be rounding into form for this, her third start after a 147-day break. **DIVINE ROMANCE** is comfortable over this circuit, and seems well-entered after attempting to rally in a slow-paced Penn National allowance. **ALWAYS FORWARD** was in way too tough last time against 1-10 winner Pistol Liz Ablazen. She won the last two times she ran for a claiming tag.

>> RACE 8

1. Mindtap

2. Cataleya Strike

3. Wild Vine

MINDTAP fired a big shot returning from a 260-day layoff as a new gelding. Tracked the pace from the pocket while pulling ever so slightly, was moving sweetly on the turn, eased out a couple of times for optimal clearance, and drove past them to score in comfortable fashion. His tactical speed should play well for barn that went 6 for 13 (46%, \$2.40 ROI) with last-out winners going second after layoffs between six months and one year. **CATALEYA STRIKE** gets Lasix once again after trying a couple of tough stakes races. Looked good against second-level allowance foes three back as he was in a bit tight on the fence at the quarter pole, then squeezed on through to win despite hopping back to his left lead. Kicks late for barn that went 5 for the last 23 (22%, \$3.57 ROI) with dirt horses adding Lasix. **WILD VINE** earned a career 89 Beyer the last time he raced with Lasix, then rallied for second behind a pace-pressing winner over a speed-friendly Penn National surface. He has some speed and might offer value in this heat. Barn went 3 for 10 (30%, \$7.34 ROI) between 12/27 and 1/15. **BOUNCER** is eligible to display speed after facing three next-out winners (sixth-finisher won a high-level allowance with a 92 Beyer). Toledo lands here instead of Armando R.

>> RACE 9

1. Lottie Deno

2. Conquest Dancer

3. Kilo Road

LOTTIE DENO broke sharply in the final start of 2024, tracked 2-3 wide, made an outside bid to the front at the quarter pole, and stayed to her task despite drifting inward a bit in the final eighth. Must deal with a class hike, but has good tactical speed, drew a good outside attack post position, and might attempt to grab the lead. Hamilton departs for Kilo Road. **CONQUEST DANCER** should appreciate cutting back in distance after faltering at a one-turn mile. Prompted a slow pace while three wide, made a comfortable but early bid to the lead on the turn, then got a bit leg-weary in the final furlong. She has the tactical speed to stay within range. **KILO ROAD** chased a fast pace in a quality heat as the winner next placed in a state-sired allowance with a 66 Beyer. She might not have to work as hard to get forward in this spot.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

Race 1

TRAINER STAT: #3 - Bold Diversion

Trainer: Tim Keefe

Experienced Horses, First Lasix: 7 for the last 21 (33%, \$4.23 ROI)

TRAINER STAT: #4 - War Salute

Trainer: Kieron Magee

Second-time Lasix, Dirt: 9 for the last 36 (25%, \$2.18 ROI)

Race 2

TRAINER STAT: #6 - Whatsyourbigidea

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Dec. 1 - Dec. 29 - 5 for 17 (29%, \$2.58 ROI)

TRAINER STAT: #2 - Candy Craze

Trainer: Shane Meyers

Dec. 9 - Jan. 9 - 4 for 10 (40%, \$3.93 ROI)

Race 3

TRAINER STAT: #9 - Severn Run

Trainer: Phil Capuano

Experienced horses, First Lasix: 6 for the last 14 (43%, \$3.49 ROI)

TRAINER STAT: #6 - Mikes Mo Town

Trainer: Carlos Mancilla

Lasix On, Dirt: 8 for the last 27 (30%, \$4.81 ROI)

Race 5

TRAINER STAT: #8 - Pay Billy

Trainer: Michael Gorham

Last-out Maiden Winner, Dirt: 4 for the last 14 (29%, \$3.60 ROI)

TRAINER STAT: #3 - Urban Symphony

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

Dec. 29 - Jan. 13 - 4 for 16 (25%, \$3.53 ROI)

Race 8

TRAINER STAT: #5 - Mindtap

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last-out Winner, Second after 180-365 day layoff: 6 for 13 (46%, \$2.40 ROI)

TRAINER STAT: #6 - Cataleya Strike

Trainer: Rudy Sanchez-Salomon

Lasix On, Dirt: 5 for the last 23 (22%, \$3.57 ROI)

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

PERSIAN

Trainer: Linda Albert

Last race: Nov. 3, 4th

Finish: 4th by 7 1/4

Shuffled back to last on the rail behind a tiring pacesetter, she finished evenly along the fence in a race that produced three next-out winners.

LIL SEBASTIAN

Trainer: Justin Nixon

Last race: Dec. 20, 8th

Finish: 2nd by 1/2

Broke well going a one-turn mile over muddy going but rated four wide and lost ground through the turn and into the long stretch. Never stopped trying, however, and just fell short to an odds-on winner.

MURRAY

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

Last race: Dec. 6, 7th

Finish: 2nd by 3/4

Finished ahead of two next-out winners when nipped by favored On the Mark. Solid allowance type is knocking on the door and only needs a bit of pace help to adequately setup his late run.

WORCESTER (breezed Jan. 16)

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last race: Dec. 27, 7th

Finish: 1st by 2 1/2

Grade 3-placed California transplant joined the Brittany Brigade, then put things together with a sparkling 7 furlong win with "something in reserve" during the final week of December. Looks ready for stakes action in 2025.

LEVISA (Entered Today – Race 6)**Trainer:** Richard Sillaman**Last race:** Dec. 6, 1st**Finish:** 5th by 10 ¾

Might have aimed too high when wired by odds-on Brzina in return to the circuit. Looked good scoring at Penn National two starts back and can contend with a class drop.

PACO THE TACO MAN**Trainer:** Annette Eubanks**Last race:** Dec. 13, 1st**Finish:** 4th by 4

Might have been too aggressive in the early stages of recent \$30,000 “beaten” seller as he battled for the lead in a race that went to closers. He’s a proven commodity from off the pace and might opt for those tactics next time.

ARTILLERY GUNNAR (Entered – 1/24)**Trainer:** Hamilton Smith**Last race:** Dec. 14, 1st**Finish:** 1st by 4 1/4

Debut winner, overcame a rough start, taken 4 wide, then swept to command while widening in a solid final furlong. Has come back with a flashy 4F bullet work (49.20) on January 4.

LOVE ME TENDER**Trainer:** Michael Trombetta**Last race:** Nov. 30, 8th**Finish:** 7th by 6 3/4

Raced 4 wide in the City of Laurel, stalking a duel (22.43, 44.97), then made a slight run with one furlong to go. Should be able to score with slight step back in class.

PAY BILLY (Entered Today – Race 5)**Trainer:** Horacio De Paz**Last race:** Dec. 15, 5th**Finish:** 1st by 3/4

Pulled off a 15-1 upset when running down a favored New York shipper to graduate. The key may have been turning back to a sprint after a pair of route efforts. Worth a look in a first-level allowance.

PAST TRACK TRENDS

Nov. 1 - SPEED BIAS (DIRT)

Nov. 2 – Fair

Nov. 3 - OUTSIDE BIAS (DIRT)

Nov. 8 Fair

Nov. 9 - CLOSERS BIAS (DIRT)

Nov. 10 – Fair

Nov. 15 – Fair

Nov. 16 – Fair

Nov. 17 - CLOSERS BIAS

Nov. 28 - CLOSERS BIAS

Nov. 29 – Fair

Nov. 30 – Fair

Dec. 1 - CLOSERS BIAS

Dec. 6 – Fair

Dec. 7 – Fair

Dec. 8 – Fair

Dec. 13 – Fair

Dec. 14 – Fair

Dec. 15 – Fair

Dec. 20 – Fair

Dec. 21 – Fair

Dec. 22 - CLOSERS BIAS

Dec. 27 – Fair

Dec. 28 – Fair

Dec. 29 – Fair

Jan. 17 – Fair