



LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Friday, Feb. 21

First post is **12:10 pm ET** with 12% takeout on Value Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races).

- Catch TMJC's "Today at the Races" morning simulcast show LIVE on YouTube [@Maryland Racing](#) at 11:10 AM ET for late changes, plus 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 SELECTIONS FROM THE TMJC TEAM



KEITH FEUSTLE



KALI FRANCOIS



DAN ILLMAN



MACKENZIE PFEIFFER



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

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

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. WHERE'S MY CHEW

2. SEVERN RUN

3. FAST TALKIN MAN

First post is 12:10 ET with 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **WHERE'S MY CHEW** (\$11,000 yearling) is out of a half-sister to stakes-winning dirt sprinter Laddie Liam (82 dirt Beyer). Feb. 15 workout matches barn's 3-year-old Minister (34 Beyer). Perhaps they worked in company. **SEVERN RUN**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 2/7, tracked a quick pace three wide and in between, made a three-wide bid under urging, then just couldn't finish off the 3-1 winner. Improving with each start for barn that went 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$2.58 ROI) with second-time Lasix runners. **FAST TALKIN MAN** didn't have the easiest trip in debut. Broke a beat slow from the rail, rushed up to push the pace, and raced in tight in the stretch. Must deal with the inside post once again. **FURIOUS GEORGE** is a half to stakes-placed dirt sprinter Wildhunch (77 dirt Beyer).

>> RACE 2

1. SQUARE SLICE

2. RAPIDITY

3. MEDAGOOCH

SQUARE SLICE must overcome a tricky rail draw returning from a 336-day layoff, but he double-drops into this strict "non-two" claimer after facing the likes of Catahoula Moon, who returned to win a first-level allowance with an 88 Beyer. Pinched back slightly at the start, he settled at the back over the closer-friendly track, saved ground every step, and finished evenly for third. Late-runner needs pace and race luck for barn that went 6 for the last 26 (23%, \$4.55 ROI) with sprinters returning from layoffs between six months and one year. Also want to use **RAPIDITY** and **MEDAGOOCH** in multiple-race wagers. The former prompted a three-ply pace from in between, split foes in the stretch, then was second best to the pacesetting winner. Good to see him back on short notice for barn that went 10 for the last 31 (32%, \$2.16 ROI) with horses racing second after layoffs between two and four months. **MEDAGOOCH**, listed as a Pimlico vet scratch on May 26, returns from a 286-day break. Didn't break well from the rail last time, saved ground at the back, then didn't threaten while racing over in behind rivals. The runner-up then placed in a state-sired allowance with a 75 Beyer. Respect his tactical speed for barn that went 4 for the last 16 (25%, \$4.83 ROI) with sprinters returning from layoffs between six months and one year. **MALIBLUE** may have taken advantage of speed-friendly track in maiden score, but his early zip should play well here.

>> RACE 3

1. PRINCESS LUCIA

2. LOOKING FOR WATER

3. VODOO PRIESTESS

PRINCESS LUCIA appeared to relish stretching out around two turns when receiving a clever ride to score last month. There wasn't much speed on paper in that heat, and she was gunned to the front from her outside post. Received a nice breather on the backstretch, and had plenty left in the final two furlongs. Figures up close to the pace once again. **LOOKING FOR WATER** double-drops into this strict "non-three" claimer after being wired over a speed-friendly track. Stalked that moderate pace three wide at the back, was urged along on the turn, then finished evenly for fourth. Good fit a this class level for barn that went 12 for the last 49 (24%, \$2.22 ROI) with horses returning in two weeks or less. **VOODOO PRIESTESS** was outrun to save ground in midpack over muddy track, cut the corner into the stretch, then faltered late. That race produced two next-out winners with Neolithica grabbing an \$8,000 starter-optional with a 69 Beyer. Hit the board at big odds in her last two around two turns. **LILLY LIGHTNING** gets a slight class dip. Lone win came without blinkers, and she'll remove them this afternoon.

>> RACE 4

1. BIRDIEJUICE

2. LATE NITE CALL

3. PASSAGE EAST

BIRDIEJUICE (\$42,000 weanling; \$80,000 yearling) is the first foal out of a dirt-route winner from the family of top Australian turf horses Redoute's Choice, Manhattan Rain and Platinum Scissors. Feb. 11 work matches 3-year-old filly Silver Trinket (49 Beyer top). Perhaps they breezed in company for barn that went 10 for the last 30 (33%, \$2.47 ROI) with debut runners in dirt routes. **LATE NITE CALL** showed improved speed at Parx when tackling males in first start around two turns, set the pace inside 14-1 Anything Buy Mine, then held second behind the odds-on winner. **PASSAGE EAST** stalked a quick pace while three wide, made a four-wide bid under urging on the turn, then rallied for second behind the favored, rail-skimming winner. Think she can get close to the pace for barn that went 5 for the last 25 (20%, \$5.04 ROI) with first-time routers on dirt. **READY FOR MAGIC** pushed the favored winner's solid pace over muddy going earlier in the month. Expect a speedy try stretching back out in distance. **CHATTOLANEE SPRING** overcame a moderate pace to rally for second behind the favorite. Kicks on late if the pace is legitimate.

>> RACE 5

1. IRISH WARLOCK

2. SHAPE NOTE

3. WHISKEY AND YOU

IRISH WARLOCK was bumped and sideswiped after the start, stalked outside, was ridden along on the turn, altered course widest into the stretch, then finished evenly behind the three favorites. The third-finisher then won a \$16,000 "beaten" at Penn National with an 80 Beyer. Can get closer to the pace given an alert break for barn that went 19 for the last 57 (33%, \$2.67 ROI) with dirt horses off the claim. **SHAPE NOTE** was wired over speed-friendly track by 17-time winner Borracho. Might not have cared for being down inside, and drew a better attack post position here. **WHISKEY AND YOU** placed behind the top pick three back, usually offers a good price on the tote, and has several races on the go-back that would make him competitive with these. Figures to get close to the expected moderate pace. **THE JUDGE AND JURY** seems well-entered after finishing ahead of Dream Knight, who then ran third in a quarter "beaten" at Parx with a 74 Beyer. **B WEST** was wired over speed-friendly track in a race where they ran 1-2 around. Needs a little pace and race luck.

>> RACE 6

1. ITSAMONSTAMASH

2. GREEN EYED MONSTER

3. CAN DO

ITSAMONSTAMASH, listed as a vet scratch (sick) on Jan. 26, set a pressured pace inside the 3-1 runner-up, then drew away under a drive in solid maiden score. Demand value on the tote, however, as she is taking a big step up from a class and pace perspective. Barn went 8 for the last 41 (20%, \$3.73 ROI) with last-out maiden winners returning on dirt. Also want to use **GREEN EYED MONSTER** and **CAN DO** in multiple-race wagers. The former placed ahead of a couple of these when second to favored Field of Roses. Can work out a nice tracking trip in second off a 140-day break. **CAN DO** set a three-ply pace from between horses over a closer-friendly track, couldn't go with the winner on the turn, altered outside that one, and lasted for third. Her early speed should play well here for barn that had three winners between 2/13 and 2/16. **FIRST PEARL** was wired by a favored runaway over speed-friendly track. Cuts back to an appropriate distance, and kicks late if the pace heats up.

>> RACE 7

1. MOR MOR MOR

2. GRACEFUL ROSE

3. FEELIN SO LUCKY

MOR MOR MOR had some things go her way three weeks ago. Broke sharp over a speed-friendly track, received a wonderful second-quarter breather in 24.96 seconds, then sprinted away from them in the stretch. Might have to work a bit harder from the inside this time, but figures right there when they swing into the stretch. **GRACEFUL ROSE** gets class relief after being wired at Aqueduct in a race that produced two next-out winners. The runner-up from that heat then won a starter/first-level allowance there with an 87 Beyer. Kicks on in the stretch. **FEELIN SO LUCKY** battled for the lead with favored third-finisher Lottie Deno before tiring in a bit in the final quarter-mile. Doesn't need the lead to succeed, and might opt for the patient tactics that led to a win last fall. **DISSOLUTE** drops in class after facing Stop the Cap, who then ran second in a second-level allowance with a 71 Beyer.

>> RACE 8

1. CROSSLAND

2. SECRET ZIPPER

3. LITTLE LANCE

CROSSLAND broke sharp, prompted a four-ply pace from in between horses, was wisely taken in hand to save ground in midpack behind the pace skirmish, made a four-wide bid on the turn, and stayed strong in the stretch. This is a tougher field, but he's in good form and usually offers a fair price on the tote. **SECRET ZIPPER** looks like the one to catch and beat after impressive pace-pressing score to cap off a hat trick. Pushed the 13-1 third-finisher's early pace, took over at will entering the turn, and was on his way. It looks like he retains a good amount of upside potential. **LITTLE LANCE** is rounding into form with top-three finishes in his last two starts. Expect a late kick if the pace is legitimate. Hamilton departs for **YOUR ANALYSIS**, who might be the best pure closer in the field. **MAGIC MICHAEL** gets slight class relief, and has plenty of back races that would make him very competitive.

>> RACE 9

1. RASCALLION

2. STORM CREED

3. CUNDI

RASCALLION never received a breather in first start of the year. Set a three-ply pace from in between, went after the 9-5 fourth-place finisher from the outside on the second turn under urging, then held second behind the favored winner. Finished ahead of three of these, and can set up shop from just off the lead cutting back to a one-turn mile. Hamilton lands here instead of Third Tuesday. **STORM CREED** has had her share of chances, and she couldn't get to the top pick earlier in the month. Competitive at this level two back when getting closer to the pace. **CUNDI**, often fractious before the start, doesn't have much speed, but she can take a step forward in her second start of the year for barn that went 3 for 15 (20%, \$2.39 ROI) between 2/7 and 2/16. **THIRD TUESDAY** chased the favored winner's hot pace in first off the claim, and has enough speed to grab the top from this advantageous inside post for barn that went 6 for the last 30 (20%, \$2.58 ROI) going second after the claim.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

Trainer Stat: #2 - Severn Run

Trainer: Phil Capuano

Second-Time Lasix: 3 for the last 12 (25%), \$2.58 ROI

RACE 2

Trainer Stat: #4 - Rapidity

Trainer: Kieron Magee

Second After 61-120 Day Layoff: 10 for the last 31 (32%), \$2.16 ROI

Trainer Stat: #1 - Square Slice

Trainer: Robert Klesaris

Sprinters, 180-365 Day Layoff: 6 for the last 26 (23%), \$4.55 ROI

Trainer Stat: #6 - Medagooch

Trainer: Robbie Bailes

Sprinters: 180-365 Day Layoff: 4 for the last 16 (25%), \$4.83 ROI

RACE 3

Trainer Stat: #6 - Looking for Water

Trainer: Bruno Tessore

Two Weeks Or Less Layoff: 12 for the last 49 (24%), \$2.22 ROI

RACE 4

Trainer Stat: #2 - Birdiejuice

Trainer: Brittany Russell

First-Time Starters, Dirt Routes: 10 for the last 30 (33%), \$2.47 ROI

First Route: 16 for the last 48 (35%)

RACE 5

Trainer Stat: #1 - Irish Warlock

Trainer: Anthony Farrior

First After Claim, Dirt: 19 for the last 57 (33%, \$2.67 ROI)

RACE 6

Trainer Stat: #3 - Itsamonstamash

Trainer: Jerry Robb

Last-Out Maiden Winners, Dirt: 8 for the last 41 (20%), \$3.73 ROI

RACE 7

Trainer Stat: #2 Graceful Rose

Trainer: Michael Gorham

Ship Aqueduct to Laurel: 3 for the last 5 (60%)

Trainer Stat: #4 Dwelling Legacy

Trainer: Gary Capuano

Blinkers On: 4 for the last 10 (40%)

Trainer Stat: #6 Vicountess

Trainer: Erin McClellan

Synth to Dirt: 4 for the last 11 (36%)

RACE 9

Trainer Stat: #5 - Cundi

Trainer: Jose Corrales

Between 2/7 and 2/16: 3 for 15 (20%), \$2.39 ROI

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

For every day of live racing conducted by the Maryland Jockey Club, Trip Notes from Will Humphrey of *In The Money Media* will be provided for key runners throughout the card, plus full trip notes for all runners in any stakes races. He will also provide three highlighted “horses to follow” for each day’s card. For Will Humphrey’s post-race Trip Notes, please visit <https://inthemoneypodcast.com/maryland-jockey-club-trip-notes/>.

Race 6: Claiming 40k, 3YO F (6f, Dirt)

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
GAGA'S HAMSOME	Clm25k, Aqu, fast, 6f, 02/07/25 – 2nd	Broke okay, content to settle mid-pack 3W early; gradually crept closer to pacesetter while under hold into & around bend; nudged along 5/16, responded; came under vigorous ride top of stretch & showed good attitude to wire; never beating winner.
ESROH	Clm40k, Lrl, fast, 6f, 02/02/25 – 5th	Stumbled from inside gate, instantly on the back foot, last early while being squeezed forward; traveled okay into & around bend while in behind tightly bunched group; came under pressure ~5/16 but found little; stuck on one paced through stretch.

ITSAMONSTAMASH	MC30k, Lrl, fast, 6f, 12/08/24 – 1st	Broke well, good speed, encouraged to take lead early while crossing down to rail; nudged along to maintain 1/2L lead into bend, responded; challenged more seriously 3/8 pole while still being nudged along; came under ride ¼ pole, dismissed foe & quickly opened up while kept to task stretch. Won as 1-2 fav should.
RAPIDO ROSA	OC 62k/N1X, Lrl, fast, 5 1/2f, 01/17, 25 – 5th	Broke okay; bumped hard with outside foe shortly after break, didn't lose momentum though & quickly formed part of contested early pace in 2P; head to head with foe under tight hold into bend to ¼ pole; came under ride ¼ pole when inside rival began edging away; floated into 4-5P & gradually weakened stretch while drifting around slightly.
CAN DO	Clm40k, Lrl, fast, 6f, 02/02/25 – 3rd	Broke well, good natural speed to share early lead with outer rival; traveled well, took clear advantage entering bend 2W; left rail open for rival to slip inside ~3/8 pole, joined outside also; squeezed along in centre of three-way go for lead 5/16; came under L-hand urging ¼ pole, taking clear 2 nd 3/16; no chance with winner, stuck on to wire but was nailed for 2 nd late.
GREEN EYED MONSTER	Clm40k, Lrl, fast, 6f, 02/02/25 – 2nd	Slightly messy break but away okay, not rushed, good natural speed; traveled well on leader's heels in centre of tight back into & around bend; nudged along & lost ground slightly when leaders quickened ~3/8 pole; tipped out into 4P off bend, came under L-hand ride; responded to pressure stretch & stayed on well to nab 2 nd late.
ADE	Clm20k, Lrl, fast, 5 1/2f, 01/26/25 – 1st	Broke well, good natural speed, not rushed; under hold while chasing leading duo 3-4W into bend; slipped some rein & gradually made stealthy headway 3W to join leading pair top of stretch; slightly messy lead change, fell back a touch 3/16; came under L-hand urging stretch & gradually wore down leaders to get up in time. Good attitude but made hard work of things.
FIRST PEARL	Clm40k, Lrl, muddy, 1m, 02/01/25 – 2nd	Broke out & bumped rival break; decent natural speed, content to settle mid-pack back stretch 3W; nudged along to keep tabs on leaders 2W bend; more vigorous hand ride 7/16 pole, tipped out to 3-5P; plugged on one paced through stretch to go a poor 2 nd 1/8 pole. Did not look a sprinter.

Race 7: Claiming 40k, 4YO+ F (6f, Dirt)

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
MOR MOR MOR	Clm40k, Lrl, good, 6f, 01/31/25 – 1st	Broke sharp, encouraged to take slim lead while crossing down to 2P, rival ~1/2L behind inside; gradually edged into clear 1L lead & dropped to rail entering bend; got rivals on back foot while increasing tempo rounding for home; moved into 2P top of stretch, came under strong R-hand ride & drew away to win impressively.
GRACEFUL ROSE	SA55k, Aqu, fast, 6 1/2f, 01/23/25 – 4th	Broke okay but lacked any speed & quickly dropped to last while being scrubbed on; ~5L detached back stretch, still being ridden; ridden throughout, did not pass a rival until the 1/8 th pole; stayed on one paced past tiring foes late on. Uninspiring, looked uninterested; needed further.
DISSOLUTE	OC 40k/N2X, Lrl, fast, 7f, 01/24/25 – 8th	Broke cleanly, not rushed, good natural speed; settled ~1/2L off pace while keen, ~4W back stretch; nudged along ~3/8 pole, no response; shuffled around & bounced into 5P top of stretch while retreating quickly; found nothing stretch, not hard ridden late on. Well beaten, uninspiring.
DWELLING LEGACY	Clm30k, Lrl, fast, 6f, 06/28/24 – 5th	Not standing square, bumped hard with inner rival break but lost little momentum, not rushed, good natural early speed; took keen hold on rail, ~2L off pace early; squeezed to hold position entering bend, responded well; traffic behind horses when going well ~3/8 pole, shuffled back; came under hard ride when finally clear top of stretch; showed willing attitude but could not close & had too much to do; not hard ridden final 1/16. Forgivable effort.
FEELIN SO LUCKY	Clm25k, Lrl, good, 6f, 01/31/25 – 4th	Broke well from rail, good natural early speed; rushed up along rail shortly after start to duel for lead back stretch; dropped ~1/2L behind rival entering bend, nudged along, responded well; dropped back again slightly ~1/4 pole & came under more vigorous ride; fought gamely along rail through stretch but was outmatched. Not beaten far, likable effort in defeat.
VICOUNTESS	Clm30k, TP, synth, 6 1/2f, 01/01/25 – 8th	Broke slow, not rushed, content to settle towards rear early; nudged along entering bend, little response; well behind 4W turning for home; came under L-hand ride & plugged on one paced. Uninspiring.
KILO ROAD	Clm30k, Lrl, sloppy, 6f, 11/28/24 – 4th	Broke cleanly, hard sent from outside post before settling ~3L behind dueling leaders 2W back stretch into bend; asked to close in on leaders ~3/8 pole & did to an extent; tipped out into 4P top of stretch & came under hard ride; didn't change leads, plugged on one paced through lane while drifting around slightly; rider gave up just after 1/16 pole.

Race 8: OC 40k/N2X, 4YO+ (1 1/16m, Dirt)

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
SECRET ZIPPER	Alw N1X, Lrl, good, 1 1/16m, 01/31/25 – 1st	Broke okay, encouraged forward, good natural speed to establish close stalking position in 2nd while 2W first bend under tight hold; traveled V well back stretch into turn; joined leader ~7/16 pole, quickly took over; asked to extend away ~5/16 pole & did; turned for home with healthy advantage, drifted into 3P & came under L-hand drive; extended away impressively. Much the best.
CROSSLAND	MD Alw, Lrl, fast, 1m, 01/24/25 – 1st	Broke well, good speed, quickly moved down towards rail, settling between horses 2W & within a length of pace early; content to let speed go heading into bend, then got shuffled back slightly ~1/2 pole; nudged along thereafter, tipped 3W bend, responded well & built good momentum outside horses; 5W turning in, drew level with leaders, came under L-hand asking & poked head in front; hard ridden stretch, showed good attitude to hold firm.
CURLIN'S MALIBU	OC 40k/N2X, Lrl, fast, 1m, 12/15/24 – 7th	Broke well, not rushed, content to drop back to rear early; gradually lost ground back stretch while drifting towards rail; nudged along ~1/2 pole but little response; came under R-hand ride stretch; stayed on one paced while drifting to centre. Never involved.
YOUR ANALYSIS	OC 40k/N2X, Lrl, fast, 1m, 12/15/24 – 5th	Broke okay, ridden to get forward early while crossing to 2P; eventually settled ~4L off pace back stretch while being squeezed to keep tabs open leading bunch; rushed up in between horses entering bend 2W, responded & moved to within 2L of pace 3/8 pole; angled 5W into stretch, came under strong R-hand ride, found little, well beaten without excuse.
MAGIC MICHAEL	OC 55k, Lrl, fast, 1 1/16m, 01/26/25 – 5th	Broke okay, not rushed, content to settle mid-pack early 2W; squeezed forward to hold position back stretch, more aggressively so ~1/2 pole; found little & dropped back bend coming under R-hand drive; taken 8W stretch, plugged on pone paced. Never traveled or involved.
JUST CALL RAY	OC 55k/N1X, Prx, fast, 1m, 01/29/25 – 9th	Broke okay from wide draw, hustled & sent to get into a forward position 4-5W first bend; traveled well 4W back stretch; nudged along 1/2 pole, little response; weakened V quickly bend & never factored thereafter. Possibly something amiss?
LITTLE LANCE	MD Alw, Lrl, fast, 1m, 01/24/25 – 2nd	Broke well from outside gate, not rushed, content to settle ~3L off pace 5W back stretch; nudged along entering bend, responded with early 3W move; 1L behind in 2 nd when coming under stronger ride 5/16 pole, moved to within a neck of lead top of stretch; quickly overtaken by winner; floated into centre of track & fought back gamely but couldn't wear down winner.

Race 9: MC 12k, 4-6YO F, (1m, Dirt)

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
AUTUMN IN VERMONT	MSW, CT, fast, 4 1/2f, 12/14/24 – 7th	Slow start, erratic strides when hit with kickback, quickly dropped to last; ridden & taken V wide back stretch into bend; ridden in 4-5P bend, little response; passed tired rivals stretch. Uninspiring.
THIRD TUESDAY	MC12k, Lrl, fast, 6f, 02/02/25 – 3rd	Broke out & hit gate start but showed good speed regardless; pressed pace setter into bend; lost ground on leader bend, ridden ~3/8 pole; came under strong ride 1/4 pole, responded willingly while floating 3W into stretch; no chance with winner, gradually weakened late but not for lack of trying. Nice attitude to hold 3 rd .
STORM CREED	MC12k, Lrl, fast, 1 1/16m, 02/02/25 – 5th	Slowish break, pin balled shortly after, eased back to settle towards rear on rail early; taken 2W, traveled well back stretch, inched slightly closer under hold; nudged along 3W ~7/16 pole, more aggressive ride ~5/16; floated 7-8W off bend into stretch when still well behind; late lead change, plugged on one paced through stretch, never involved.
TIA MAYIN	MC12k, Lrl, fast, 1 1/16m, 02/02/25 – 7th	Sharp break, encouraged to form part of 3-way go for lead while 3W first bend; dropped back off pace slightly entering back stretch but was quickly sent forward to re-engage leading pair 3W; began losing ground ~1/2 pole, nudged along; gradually weakened bend; floated 6W & came under R-hand ride top of stretch; came home in own time while remaining on L lead.

CUNDI	MC12k, Lrl, fast, 1 1/16m, 02/02/25 – 6th	Broke inwards & bumped with rival leaving gate, not rushed, eased back to settle in an isolated last first bend & back stretch; unhurried while detached back stretch; V patiently ridden, squeezed forwards to close ~3/8 pole, marginal response; hugged rail into stretch, came under strong ride but found nothing. Uninspiring.
RASCALLION	MC12k, Lrl, fast, 1 1/16m, 02/02/25 – 5th	Broke okay, bumped both sides shortly after but lost no momentum; encouraged forward to become centre party in 3-way go for lead first bend through back stretch, keen; traveled well to 3/8 pole, then came under ride, responded well; head-to-head for lead turning in 4W, came under strong L-hand ride; slim lead 3/16, quickly passed by winner, stayed on to hold 2 nd late. Likable effort considering she did so much early.
AUNT MARGARET	MC12k, Lrl, fast, 5 1/2f, 12/07/24 – 7th	Broke inwards & bumped rival hard break, lost little momentum & showed good speed to take clear lead early while dropping to rail; taken on for lead approaching 1/2 pole, rushed forward to hold position; gradually weakened under hand ride around bend; stuck to rail, came under R-hand drive turning for home but found nothing stretch, even after the late lead change. No excuse.

Horses to Follow

R2: MALIBLUE (9/2 ML)

Although taking a hike in class and facing winners for the first time, it could be worth siding with MALIBLUE in the second today. Trainer Miguel Penaloza put blinkers back on the 4-year-old gelding last time which helped him carry his natural early speed straight into the winners' circle for the first time. He showed a clear affinity for the Laurel Park surface and with such little pace pressure in opposition today, it seems that, while high on confidence, he could take this group pillar-to-post once again. Note that over the last 14 months, Penaloza has struck at 30% (3-for-10) with dirt sprinter who won last out, boasting a healthy \$5.16 ROI.

R6: CAN DO (6/1 ML)

Especially if playing vertical wagers, make sure to give CAN DO a look in today's sixth race. Note the above trip note and how, while using lasix for the first time, he ran a super race in defeat last out. He was pressured for the lead by the 3/2 favorite that day before he then found himself tight in between rivals rounding for home – a position in which a lot of horses wave the white flag. He didn't surrender though and instead, stayed on gamely for third, just losing the place spot by a neck in a likable effort. With just three runs behind him, all of which have seen him improve his BSF, he remains open to more improvement than the majority of his rivals today and could well be able to build on that last effort to go close, especially as his chief pace rival has drawn inside of him. Note that over the last year, with dirt sprinters who have run three consecutive improved Beyers, trainer Kieron Magee has hit at 40% with a \$3.20 ROI. (12-for-30; 83% ITM).

R8: SECRET ZIPPER (1/1 ML)

With a cozy rail draw and absolutely no pace threats in opposition to his early zip today, SECRET ZIPPER looks a logical single in the late sequences. He's won his last three starts by a combined 16 1/2 lengths and, while the tack did favor his running style last time, there's no denying the fact that he recently looked mightily impressive. Considering that over the last year trainer Gary Capuano has hit at 43% (9-for-21; \$3.12 ROI) with dirt routers who won last out, he appears to have every chance of wiring this group again to make it four on the trot.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

PERSIAN

Trainer: Linda Albert

Last race: Nov. 3, 4th

Finish: 4th by 7 1/4

JASIEL

Trainer: Katy Voss

Last race: Jan. 24, 8th

Finish: 3rd by 2 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.

CREED'S VISION

Trainer: Tom Morley

Last race: Jan. 25, 6th

Finish: 3rd by 3

Off a bit slow, angled out at the 1/4 pole, stymied at a crucial moment, then offered a big kick once clear of traffic in the final furlong.

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.

SUMO

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Last race: Jan. 25, 1st

Finish: 2nd by 1/2

Despite his hulking frame, think this veteran is better at shorter distance, and he gave a good try against a pacesetting favorite when cut back to three-quarters. Outrun to race in between horses near the back, he advanced on the fence, eased out into the stretch, then ran on well to just miss after being herded out a bit in the final eighth. Good fit for \$7,500.

Stepping up to face multiple winners at 17-1 from his maiden run, the half-brother to stakes winner Galerio (\$687,000) overcame a rocky start, then fanned 7 wide into the stretch.

HONOR THE CROSS

Trainer: Gary Capuano

Last race: Jan. 25, 3rd

Finish: 4th by 7 1/4

Bobbled slightly at the start, then rushed up to battle for the lead through fast fractions of 23.49 and 23.20. Still in the thick of things at the quarter pole, but understandably tired through the long stretch. Keep an eye on him at the 20-16K "non-two" level.

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.

CRAB DADDY

Trainer: Linda Albert

Last race: Jan. 25, 9th

Finish: 2nd by head

Post parade standout survived a bumpy start, seemed eager to go with new blinkers, advanced willingly on the turn, then fought to the finish for second in the Spectacular Bid.

DIVINE CHILD

Trainer: Carlos Mancilla

Last Race: Feb. 14, 1st

Finish: 4th by 2

Outsprinted from the start in a race won by a sharp pacesetter, he split horses turning for home, raced over in behind rivals for most of the stretch, then finished willingly in between before galloping out in front. He can threaten a similar "non-two" quarter claimer if there is some pace for him to attack.

BILL OF RIGHTS

Trainer: Joanne Shankle

Last race: Feb. 14, 4th

Finish: 4th by 1 3/4

Didn't break great from the rail in sharp sprint, was steadied and taken back to the pocket after the opening quarter mile, raced on hold on the turn, altered course to the fence, then stayed on evenly in a fast-paced race dominated by deep closers. A bit more distance and/or a better outside post position should help at the \$7,500 "beaten" level.

MATTITUDE

Trainer: Joe Magana

Last Race: Feb. 14, 6th

Finish: 4th by 5

Prompted 10-1 Peak of Chic (finished sixth) and 5-1 Winkiwinki (finished fourth) while three wide, then never stopped trying when finishing behind the three favorites in \$40,000 optional claimer. Veteran mare might fit slightly better in a starter allowance, especially in a race devoid of speed.

PAST TRACK TRENDS

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

Jan. 18 – Fair

Jan. 24 – Fair

Jan. 25 – Fair

Jan. 26 – CLOSERS BIAS

Jan. 31 – SPEED BIAS

Feb. 1 – SPEED BIAS

Feb. 2 – CLOSERS BIAS

Feb. 7 – SPEED BIAS

Feb. 8 – CLOSERS BIAS

Feb. 9 – Fair

Feb. 14 – Fair

Feb. 15 – SPEED BIAS

Feb. 16 – Fair