



## LAUREL PARK HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Saturday, Mar. 29

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 11:05 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/](http://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:	2-4-1-6	6-2-1-4	2-7-4-6	6-2-3-7	7-4-6-1	6-1-4
RACE 2:	5-4-1-2	5-4-1-3	4-3-5-1	5-1-4-3	1-5-4-3	4-3-5
RACE 3:	6-4-5-2	6-1-3-4	4-1-5-2	5-4-7-6	4-3-6-1	4-5-6
RACE 4:	3-7-2-1	2-1-7-6	6-2-1-7	1-3-2-6	2-3-6-1	2-1-6
RACE 5:	3-4-6-1	1-4-6-3	6-1-5-4	5-6-1-3	4-5-6-1	4-6-1
RACE 6:	8-7-3-2	2-8-3-5	7-3-8-1	3-7-2-8	7-2-1-5	7-3-8
RACE 7:	6-1-3-2	3-2-6-5	3-1-6-2	3-4-2-1	4-6-3-1	2-3-1
RACE 8:	3-5-2-1	5-1-2-3	5-2-3-6	3-6-5-2	5-1-6-2	6-1-2
RACE 9:	3-5-4-2	4-3-5-2	3-4-2-5	4-6-3-2	1-2-4-3	3-6-4

## TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

### >> RACE 1

#### 1. ISLAND DREAM GIRL

#### 2. FAIR TRADE

#### 3. STAR VENEZUELAN

First post is 12:10 ET with low 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **ISLAND DREAM GIRL** wheels back on short notice after walloping "non-two" claimers at Penn National. Tracked two wide/three path over a track that seemed to favor outside runners, attacked from the outside on the turn, and ran up the score. Jockey-trainer combo scored with odds-on Nobody's Zapper returning from an eight-day rest at Penn National on 3/21. Needs to stay close to the expected moderate pace. **FAIR TRADE** tracked a slow pace three wide, was late to change leads, then lost third in the shadow of the wire. This class drop should be just what the doctor ordered. **STAR VENEZUELAN** dropped back to last, then passed tired rivals to finish a non-threatening second behind the top pick. Not sure she can afford those tactics in this spot considering the moderate race flow. **TUNED TO THE MOON** showed improved speed in second start, a race where they ran 1-2-3-4 around. She is lightly-raced with upside, and that speed plays well here. **ECCENTRIC**, listed as a vet scratch (injured) on 3/9, drops with the speed to stay close to the pace. The runner-up from the last race returned to win two in a row with Beyers of 56 and 66.

### >> RACE 2

#### 1. AUTHENTICATED

#### 2. LEELINDA

#### 3. MISSY'S MAP

**AUTHENTICATED** battled outside the more-experienced 9-2 winner through reasonable fractions, then tired in well-bet debut. She's bred for extra distance as the dam is a full sister to Grade 1-winning turf miler Ring Weekend. Changes connections for this outing, but her early speed should prove a strong asset for barn that went 3 for the last 15 (20%, \$3.31 ROI) moving sprint to dirt route. **LEELINDA** is by a 17% debut stallion out of a dam that won four turf routes. The second dam was a stakes-winning turf router (98 turf Beyer). Needn't be a superstar to threaten this group for barn that sent out maiden winner Divining Smile here at 7-2 odds on 3/8. **MISSY'S MAP** broke slow earlier in the month, then rushed up to set a three-ply pace from the rail. Cleared off to an uncontested lead exiting the backstretch, then tired from her early efforts. Figures up close to the pace dropping to competitive level for barn that sent out four winners since 3/15.

### >> RACE 3

#### 1. ADMIT NOTHING

#### 2. RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

#### 3. PAPA FUNNY

**ADMIT NOTHING** stalked three wide, dropped inside to save ground in midpack, angled toward the rail in upper stretch, then finished evenly to crack the trifecta going a one-turn mile. The last-finisher from that race then placed in a dime "non-three" here with a 61 Beyer. He's a proven commodity around two turns, and can get closer to the pace this time around. Late-kicking **RUN FOR YOUR LIFE** is often dependent on pace and race luck, and he was wired earlier in the month in a race where the two favorites ran 1-2 around the track. Halves in price and charges late if the pace is honest. Stablemate **PAPA FUNNY** may have taken advantage of closer-friendly track when rallying to best "non-two" sellers in first start of the year. He's picked up his game since returning to dirt. **FORREST CITY** makes circuit debut after failing to rally over Turfway's All-Weather circuit. Expecting improved speed dropping precipitously in class for barn that went 3 for the last 13 (23%, \$9.98 ROI) moving sprint to route. **EARL OF DASSEL** also drops after finishing ahead of Run

for Your Life. The third-finisher next ran third in a \$16,000 starter at Parx with a 68 Beyer.

## >> RACE 4

### 1. SWIFTY DEVIL

### 2. MAGIC EXPRESS

### 3. CORINGA

**SWIFTY DEVIL**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 3/1, set pressured fractions of 23.32 and 23.41 outside the 2-1 runner-up over a closer-friendly track, then tired in between the two favorites. This might be a tougher spot, but he doesn't need the lead, and might work out a good trip tracking the speeds while outside and clear of traffic. Barn went 8 for 27 (30%, \$2.37 ROI) between 2/16 and 3/23. **MAGIC EXPRESS** looms the one to catch returning from 315-day layoff. Showed speed on Preakness Day, backed down the fractions, then finished a clear second. The third-finisher then compiled a 4-1-2-1 record with a 99 Beyer top. Barn went 3 for the last 13 (23%, \$2.08 ROI) with dirt horses returning from layoffs between six months and one year.

**CORINGA** was lightly steadied in the opening furlong, moved out to press the 5-1 last-finisher's reasonable pace, made the lead turning for home, briefly swapped leads a couple of times, then fought hard despite the jock dropping the stick. Stays close to the pace for barn that went 4 for 13 (31%, \$3.25 ROI) between 3/15 and 3/26. **WAR MASTER** repeats the route-to-sprint move that resulted in a win last fall. There's a chance this pace heats up, and he can kick on in the lane.

## >> RACE 5

### 1. HE'S IN CHARGE

### 2. GERRYS GEM

### 3. WHISKEY AND YOU

**HE'S IN CHARGE** might have been best when beaten less than a length at odds-on at Penn National. Tracked from the pocket, was locked behind horses at a crucial juncture, finally got the split, then rallied along the fence. The layoff is a bit concerning, and this seems like a jump up in class, but the veteran boasts a solid kick. **GERRYS GEM** has only started once in the past 777 days, but that was a good effort over the summer. Set the pace from the rail, then tired in between to place behind the favorite. The eighth-finisher next ran third in a second-level allowance with an 84 Beyer. He's quick from the gate and repeats the allowance to claiming move that resulted in a win back in 2022. Kocakaya departs for Full Irish. **WHISKEY AND YOU** hit the board in two of his last three, has tactical speed, and often is dismissed on the tote. **MAGIC SPIN** rallied behind Shape Note, who returned to win a quarter claimer at Colonial with a 76 Beyer. Kicks on in the stretch. **FULL IRISH** was shuffled back slightly in the early going over a wet track, saved ground every step, and finished evenly. The eighth-finisher next ran second in a second-level allowance with an 85 Beyer. Cozy fit at this level, and figures right there when they turn for home.

## >> RACE 6

### 1. MIDNIGHT RENEGADE

### 2. SUMO

### 3. MINISTER FOR MAGIC

**MIDNIGHT RENEGADE** received a nice ride when besting "non-three" sellers. Sat a loose pocket, angled to split rivals three wide, altered course back inside to advance in between when the initial seam didn't materialize, then gutted out the victory. Don't mind him cutting back to seven panels, and he can provide a solid late bid. Think seven furlongs will be good for **SUMO** after he charged late going shorter in his last two. Settled in midpack on the outside, made a three-wide bid under urging, angled widest, and closed to miss a length in a blanket finish. He has more speed than that and might get closer to the pace. Hamilton lands here instead of Captain Cardo. **MINISTER FOR MAGIC** is a proven commodity at seven furlongs, and enters in good form after finishing ahead of next-out winner Johnnyfrenchfri. He should work out a good trip from close to the pace. **ALILNALOT** might have found two turns a bridge too far at Parx. Set the pace on the rail over an inside-friendly track but couldn't contain the winner. His speed plays very well here. **CAJUN**

DREAM drops after being wired over a speed-friendly track in a race where they ran 1-2 around. Third-finisher then placed twice with Beyers of 75 and 67.

## >> RACE 7

### 1. TRES ARIES

### 2. BOURBON N LACE

### 3. GOLDEN AURORA

A little worried that **TRES ARIES** is a bit "dressed up" after her good-setup win. Sat a loose pocket at the back behind a hot opening quarter of 23.36, eased out to split rivals, wandered in midstretch once in front and finished in an okay fashion. This is a tougher spot from a pace and class standpoint, but she is one of only two multiple-race winners, and beat two of these last time. **BOURBON N LACE** has angles removing blinkers for her second start of the year. Completely outsprinted last month, she ran on in the stretch behind Moon Cache, who then finished first in the Beyond the Wire Stakes with a 67 Beyer. Like the top pick, she could use a bit of pace help up front. **GOLDEN AURORA** broke a beat slow, tracked in between at the back of a compact field, was urged along on the turn, then failed to threaten. The runner-up then placed in a dime "non-two" at Penn National with a 38 Beyer. Expecting good tactical speed stretching out in distance for barn went 7 for the last 23 (30%, \$2.26 ROI) going first off the claim. **FIRST PEARL** drops and sheds Lasix after facing two next-out winners with Green Eyed Monster repeating in a restricted first-level Colonial allowance with a 66 Beyer.

## >> RACE 8

### 1. S S SINATRA

### 2. TENEBRIS

### 3. CLASSIC JOKE

**S S SINATRA** is in career form, and he gave an excellent effort when just missing in the restricted Not For Love three weeks ago. Battled tooth and nail with favored Speedyness, then just missed to the rallying Circle P. The fifth-finisher then took an open second-level allowance with a 93 Beyer. Seems adaptable to any pace scenario, and might opt for tracking tactics adding Lasix this time around. **TENEBRIS** looks like the speed nearest the rail, and he placed ahead of two of these earlier in the month. Hooked up with the 7-1 last-finisher, never got a breather on the turn, then was game to hold onto second. Barn sent out 9-1 winner One Whirlwind Ride at Gulfstream on 3/23. **CLASSIC JOKE** broke slow two back, then pulled hard to track a moderate pace from in between. Gave a game try for second in that heat, then might have needed his most recent start, his first run in over two months. Barn went 6 for the last 17 (35%, \$2.31 ROI) going second after 61-120 day layoffs on dirt. **BOUNCER** set the pace over closer-friendly track, then tired badly around two turns. This shorter distance is more his speed.

## >> RACE 9

### 1. CLUCK CLUCK

### 2. UMBRAL

### 3. WHATSYOURBIGIDEA

**CLUCK CLUCK** tracked from the three path while closest to the rail through solid fractions of 23.87 and 23.82, raced in between rivals at the three-eighths, made a strong three-wide bid on the turn, then couldn't seal the deal when disappointing at odds-on. Good to see him back on short notice off the claim, and he can get close to the pace. Stablemate **UMBRAL** makes first start following 386-day layoff at a drastically reduced class level. Finished ahead of Naughty Favors last time, and that one then placed in a \$16,000 seller over Gulfstream's Tapeta with a 66 Beyer. **WHATSYOURBIGIDEA** turns back in distance after finishing ahead of Ballroom Eyes, who then ran third in a dime "non-two" claimer at Penn National with a 61 Beyer. Barn went 12 for 42 (29%, \$3.11 ROI) with dirt horses going second off the claim. **RASCALLION** showed good speed against bottom maidens, and is expected to be hustled out of there from the rail draw.

## KALI'S KEY – by Kali Francois

### Kali's Key: Race #4

This race is what I consider to be the early feature of the card.

You have a classic Russell off the long layoff: Last out we saw this one Preakness against the highly-touted at the time Mirahmadi and now resurgent Prado Road (who won back in February, now Russell can gauge where this one will fit).

Coringa, however, could potentially be looked over because of his trip. Hopefully Torrealba will be able to do an inside/outside trip (as Keith Feustle likes to say) like Rodriguez last time out. Coringa was all heart and doing everything he could to keep up with Exploration for eat 6f, I don't think the loss of the stick, in a front running trip where I think he flourishes more on a different style. Here's hoping he gets back to his winning style for the 7f.

The real question is, who to put for a tri? In my internal tug-of-war I put in War Master, who will appreciate getting back to one turn while holding his own against double turn allowance runners.

## MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Tricky group of 3 y/o, Tuned to the Moon was much the best in her last out but I give a bit of extra credit based on debut.

R2: Missy's Map drops back down in class and may benefit from improved trip here. Value inside with Noel's Dream, showed interest last out and may appreciate a different setup here.

R3: Lack of clear pace player, may work out for Admit Nothing. Riley Mott ship-in, Forrest City, may appreciate a change in scenery and company.

R4: Likely and deserving favorite in Magic Express, but feel free to demand a bit more value. Coringa stepped up willingly first time against winners despite losing the crop. Laddie Dance picked up right where he left off, and looks to continue improving here.

R5: Should have plenty of pace in here, I find Whiskey and You an attractive value with Torrealba back on and a bit of class relief.

R6: Midnight Renegade continues improving with class relief, this distance seems to be his specialty. I land with the tactical Minister for Magic, a 3x winner and never out of the money at this distance.

R7: Likely pace in Fitness, she gets a second try going 2-turns here today. Tres Aries should be able to sit a perfect tracking trip and keep Fitness within reach for a potential repeat of last out.

R8: Plenty of pace, S S Sinatra benefits from outside post, tactical ability, and shortening up to 5.5f. Forest Boyce may fit Classic Joke well for an improve 2nd off the bench.

R9: Cluck Cluck is back first after the claim on a quick turnaround. Stepping up in class feels a reason to ask for more value.

## TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

### RACE 2

#### **TRAINER STAT: #4 - Authenticated**

Trainer: Anthony Aguirre Jr.  
Sprint to Dirt Route: 3 for the last 15 (20%, \$3.31 ROI)

### RACE 3

#### **TRAINER STAT: #6 - Forrest City**

Trainer: Riley Mott  
Sprint to Route: 3 for the last 13 (23%, \$9.98 ROI)

### RACE 4

#### **TRAINER STAT: #6 - Swifty Devil**

Trainer: Michael Gorham  
Between 2/16 and 3/23: 8 for 27 (30%, \$2.37 ROI)

#### **TRAINER STAT: #2 - Magic Express**

Trainer: Brittany Russell  
First After 180-365 Days, Dirt: 3 for the last 13 (23%, \$2.08 ROI)

#### **TRAINER STAT: #1 - Coringa**

Trainer: Michael Trombetta  
Between 3/15 and 3/26: 4 for 13 (31%, \$3.25 ROI)

### RACE 7

#### **TRAINER STAT: #6 - Golden Aurora**

Trainer: Kieron Magee  
First After Claim: 7 for the last 23 (30%, \$2.26 ROI)

### RACE 8

#### **TRAINER STAT: #3 - Classic Joke**

Trainer: Richard Sillaman  
Second After 61-120 Days, Dirt: 6 for the last 17 (35%, \$2.31 ROI)

### RACE 9

#### **TRAINER STAT: #2 - Whatsyourbigidea**

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet  
Second After Claim, Dirt: 12 for the last 42 (29%, \$3.11 ROI)

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

For Will Humphrey's Post-Race Trip Notes, please visit <https://inthemoneypodcast.com/maryland-jockey-club-trip-notes/>.

### **Race 7: Claiming 20k, 3YOF, 1 1/16m, Dirt**

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
BOURBON N LACE	Clm40k, Lrl, 1 1/16m, fast, 02/22/25 – 4th	BNL was not rushed having been bumped on both sides leaving the gate & settled far back early. She was hustled along to keep up when ~16L off the pace heading down the back stretch before coming under a strong ride ~1/2 mile pole. She never factored but did stay well enough on past on tired horses to get 4 <sup>th</sup> late having swung wide into the stretch. <b>Bumped start, trailed throughout, passed beaten foes. Uninspiring.</b>
FITNESS	Clm20k, Lrl, 1 1/16m, fast, 02/23/25 – 3rd	FITNESS was ridden from the gate before settling into a stalking position 2W where she traveled okay. Her rider then asked her to close on the loose leader ~1/2 mile pole & she did so willingly to take the lead ~3/8 pole. Well off the rail, she turned for home with a 2L lead & then came under a strong ride through the stretch but could only run evenly late & lost two positions final 1/8 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Chased hot pace &amp; understandably tired late. Okay effort.</b>

TRES ARIES	Clm20k, Lrl, 1 1/16m, fast, 02/23/25 – 1st	TA crossed to the rail & let the speed go early, settling well back. She then crept closer along the rail though back stretch before building momentum behind horses under mild encouragement on the turn. She came under a strong ride ~5/16 pole & made a run between tiring rivals into the stretch where she then took the lead from a weary leader ~1/8 <sup>th</sup> pole. She drifted slightly late but was always doing enough. <b>Perfect trip &amp; pace set-up. Decent effort. A grueling race for all.</b>
FIRST PEARL	Clm40k, Lrl, 6f, fast, 02/21/25 – 7th	FP broke slowly from the outside gate & was then ridden in rear while wide heading into the turn. She was ridden hard in a detached last 5W around the turn but offered nothing & was well beaten. <b>Never lifted a hoof. V uninspiring.</b>
GOTANOTHATHINGCOMN	Clm20k, Lrl, 1 1/16m, fast, 02/23/25 – 4th	Following a sharp break, GOT settled comfortably in 3 <sup>rd</sup> ~6L off the hot pace early before creeping closer under minimal urging down the back. She then advanced further to be just 1L off the pace 3W around the far turn where she was nudged along to hold her position to the top of the stretch. Under a strong ride late, she then looked tired, offered no more & was not hard ridden final 1/8 <sup>th</sup> , fading into a distant 4 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Wide throughout. Made steady headway to the stretch but then stopped. Uninspiring.</b>
GOLDEN AURORA	Clm12k, Lrl, 7f, fast, 03/09/25 – 4th	GA was not rushed & settled in rear early where she took a strong hold behind a slow pace. She then became outpaced & came under a strong ride while 2W on the turn as the pace quickened. Still in a share of last turning for home, she stayed on one paced to the wire but never threatened. <b>Outpaced from the turn onwards. Tried but looked like needed further.</b>

**Race 8: OC 40k/N2X, 4YO+, 5 1/2f, Dirt**

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
RADICAL RIGHT	Alw, Lrl, 6f, good, 02/15/25 – 3rd	RR broke out & bumped his rival hard leaving the gate before closely stalking the pace in between horses early. He advanced 2W entering the turn to sit on the leader's shoulder before coming under a ride ~3/8. Having fought gamely to hold his position in between horses to the top of the stretch, he then stayed on well to the wire & landed his nose down at the right time to hold 3 <sup>rd</sup> . <b>Bump break. Good early speed &amp; finishing effort in between horses. Game &amp; likable effort.</b>
TENEBRIS	Alw, Lrl, 6f, fast, 03/09/25 – 2nd	TEN showed good early speed despite not being rushed & vied for the lead along the rail heading into the turn. He travelled well along the rail rounding the turn & took a slim lead ~3/8 pole before coming under pressure ~1/4 pole. Under a hard ride through the stretch, he battled gamely & did well to hold 2 <sup>nd</sup> , even though the 8/5 winner proved too much. <b>Rail trip. Good speed &amp; attitude. Likable in defeat.</b>
CLASSIC JOKE	Alw, Lrl, 6f, fast, 03/09/25 – 3rd	CJ was bumped at the break but showed decent speed in between rivals regardless. He then became a touch outpaced & was shuffled back heading into the far turn while being nudged along to keep up. Admirably, he responded well to his rider's urgings on the bend & re-found stride to travel powerfully in behind horses ~5/16 pole. Swung 5W into the stretch, he then came under a strong ride & finished well for 3 <sup>rd</sup> . <b>Bumped break; shuffled back slightly far turn, then came wide. Finished well. V solid effort</b>
DON'T WAIT UP	Alw, Lrl, 6f, fast, 03/09/25 – 4th	DWU was bumped a couple of strides after the break but didn't lose any momentum before settling in the clear behind the speed early. He then came under encouragement when becoming a touch outpaced & dropping back slightly heading into the far turn which he took 4W. Under a strong ride from the top of the stretch, he stayed on well but ran out of real estate to really get involved. <b>Bumped start &amp; wide turn. Outpaced from bend, looked like needed further.</b>
S S SINATRA	Not For Love S., Lrl, 6f, fast, 03/08/25 – 2nd	SSS broke well & pressed the pace along the rail early before engaging in a head-to-head duel into & around the far turn where he was kept to task. He then came under a strong ride ~1/4 pole & gamely fought off sparing partner ~1/16 pole, only to agonizingly get nailed by the eventual winner wire. <b>V game effort - dueled throughout, only to get nailed late. Ran a winning race.</b>
BOUNCER	Alw, Lrl, 1 1/16m, fast, 01/26/25 – 6th	BOUNCER broke V sharp from the outside gate, cleared, crossed to the rail & set a slow pace early. He traveled well with an uncontested lead to ~3/8 pole where he was then challenged & came under a ride. He could offer no more from the top of the stretch & gently faded into a distant 6th. <b>No excuse having set a slow &amp; uncontested pace.</b>
HEAVEN'S GOT FIRE	Alw, Lrl, 6f, fast, 03/01/25 – 4th	HGF sped to the lead early & crossed to the rail where he set the pace under a tight hold into the turn. He was then challenged 3/8 pole & came under a ride but could not respond & gradually weakened into last. <b>Rail trip. Good early speed but had little from halfway. Finished tired.</b>

**Race 9: Claiming 25k, 4YO+F, 6f, Dirt**

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
RASCALLION	MC12k, Lrl, 1m, fast, 02/21/25 – 1st	Having been hustled from the gate, RASC took a keen hold just off the pace early before pulling her rider into the lead ~1/2 mile pole. She was allowed to go on with it thereafter & opened up around the bend but was then challenged strongly ~5/16 pole & came under a ride. She drifted in the stretch but that didn't stop her seeing off her rival & opening up again to the wire, despite switching leads 2x inside final 3/16. Keen. <b>Had to work as 1.30/1 fav but got the job done. Not impressive visually &amp; switched lead 2x late.</b>
WHATSYOURBIGIDEA	C1m25k, Lrl, 1m, good, 02/14/25 – 4th	WHAT wasn't rushed & settled close in behind the pace under a tight hold early through the back stretch. She rode then the rail in behind horses around the far turn where she traveled well before coming under a ride as the field fanned out at the top of the stretch. Having traveled well, she didn't find much off the bridle & could only stay on one paced for a non-threatening 4 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Traveled well but found little late. No excuse.</b>
CLUCK CLUCK	C1m12k, Lrl, 7f, fast, 03/21/25 – 2nd	CC showed good early speed before easing back to settle into a tracking position 2W heading into the turn. She was then nudged along to hold her position rounding the far turn & did so comfortably, despite leaning out a touch. She was 1L off the pace with a clear run when coming under a ride top of the stretch, from where, she gradually wore into the leader's advantage & poked a nose in front late but then hung & lost the bob on the wire. <b>No excuse. Got to lead but hung late.</b>
UMBRAL	C1m35k, GP, 6gf, fast, 03/08/24 – 2nd	UMB showed decent gate speed & settled nicely on the leading duo's heels in between horses early. She traveled well in behind the speed to the 5/16 pole before easing out into the clear 3-4W & coming under a ride. She stayed on well through the stretch & showed a good attitude but could not reach rail skimming winner. <b>Travelled well &amp; finished gamely. Ran a winning race in defeat.</b>
JUST THE THING	C1m12k, Lrl, 7f, fast, 03/21/25 – 3rd	JTT was settled well off the pace early before making headway along the rail to be just 1L off the leaders & going well heading into the far turn. Her rider then put her in a bad spot which resulted in the pair getting shuffled back & losing momentum around the turn. To recover, they had to swing 6W into the stretch from where, under a strong ride, JTT rallied gamely into 3 <sup>rd</sup> . <b>Ridden into a bad spot far turn – shuffled back, lost momentum, then came wide &amp; re-rallied. Upgradable effort.</b>
BIG WANDA	C1m40k, Lrl, 6f, good, 01/31/25 – 6th	BW chased the speed in the clear 5W heading into the far turn & was only 1L off the lead ~3/8 pole when coming under a ride 4W. From then on however, she offered nothing & gradually weakened out of contention. <b>Wide throughout but no real excuse. Uninspiring.</b>

**Horses to Follow****R7: GOLDEN AURORA (6/1 ML)**

Over the past year, trainer Kieron MaGee has crushed it with first-off-the-claim horses at Laurel, posting a 28%-win rate (14-for-50, 60% in the money) and a healthy \$2.58 ROI. Today's seventh race—a \$20k claimer over 1 1/16 miles—gives him a prime chance to bolster those numbers even further with GOLDEN AURORA. The 3-year-old GOLDENCENTS filly floundered last out, running home fourth at 8/5 odds. But the above trip notes paint a fuller picture: she didn't fold - in fact she ran a game race in defeat- she just couldn't find the required gears when a moderate early pace heated up going 7 furlongs, staying on in a way that screamed for extra distance. Two starts ago, she proved that distance is what she's after, notching a career-best 52 Beyer at a mile, nosed out by FITNESS until the stewards handed her the crown. Stretching her to two turns for her barn debut, MaGee clearly sees her as a router and if she can now build on that mile effort two back, she can win this race at an inflated price. With the scorching Kocakaya in the irons, she's a live player worth considering.

**R8: CLASSIC JOKE (6/1 ML)**

Today's eighth race—a high-quality 5 ½-furlong allowance sprint—brings TENEBRIS, S S SINATRA, and HEAVEN'S GOT FIRE into the fray, possibly handing CLASSIC JOKE the perfect setup for a bold run at enticing odds. The Ricky Sillaman trained 4-year-old gelded son of PRACTICAL JOKE's last outing was highly commendable and as the above trip notes suggest, possibly worthy of an upgrade: knocked at the start and then shuffled on the turn, he was forced wide into the stretch and all things considered, did well to finish as close as he did, gamely rallying into third late on. That gritty grind



makes his career-best 82 Beyer—the second-quickest last-out figure in this pack— open to further improvement, and as he now returns to make his third start of the form cycle – often a sweet spot for peak performance - he’s looks primed to go well again. Jockey Forest Boyce, torching the meet at 30% (11-for-37), steps up for the ride and at this price, CLASSIC JOKE is a live wire with a chance.

### **R9: JUST THE THING (9/2 ML)**

JUST THE THING may carry a 1-for-27 lifetime record, but dismissing this Jose Corrales trained daughter of GOLDEN LAD completely in today’s nightcap—a 6-furlong, \$25k claiming event—could prove costly. Her March 21 outing, as captured in the above trip notes, tells a story of perseverance: the 4-year-old settled into a cozy stalking position behind the leader, only to get shuffled way back on the far turn which set her firmly on the back foot. Swinging six-wide into the stretch, she had no shot at the top pair but regardless, still unleashed a spirited late rally to secure third—a performance that punches above its placing. She’s stepping up in class today off a brisk 8-day rest, a quick turnaround that might raise eyebrows. Yet her recent consistency—hitting the board in six of her last seven starts—shouts toughness, and with most of her rivals logging huge question marks, she’s a shot of dependability. A 10-pound weight break courtesy of her rider only sweetens the deal and Corrales’ stats back her up: he’s 8-for-32 (25%, \$4.34 ROI) with claiming dirt sprinters returning within 14 days of an in-the-money effort. In the hope that she drifts up slightly from her 9/2 ML, JUST THE THING looks worthy of use in some way, shape or form.

## **FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH**

### **PERSIAN**

**Trainer:** Linda Albert

**Last race:** Nov. 3, 4th

**Finish:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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 *(Breezed 4F – 49.20 at LRL on 3/23)***

**Trainer:** Justin Nixon

**Last race:** Dec. 20, 8th

**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **SPIRIT AND TRUTH *(Entered at LRL– Fri 3/30, Race 1)***

**Trainer:** Donald Barr

**Last Race:** Feb. 22, 6th

**Finish:** 5<sup>th</sup> by 7

### **JASIEL *(Breezed 5F – 1:02.00 at LRL on 3/26)***

**Trainer:** Katy Voss

**Last race:** Jan. 24, 8th

**Finish:** 3<sup>rd</sup> by 2 1/4

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.

### **PACO THE TACO MAN**

**Trainer:** Annette Eubanks

**Last race:** Dec. 13, 1st

**Finish:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **LOVE ME TENDER**

**Trainer:** Michael Trombetta

**Last race:** Nov. 30, 8th

**Finish:** 7<sup>th</sup> by 6 3/4

Protected in a maiden special weight in first after long layoff, she chased a solid pace while saving ground in a loose pocket, was handled conservatively on the inside on the turn, then finished with sneaky-good interest and a decent gallop-out. Expect her to be sharper for her next assignment, potentially on turf.

### **KILO ROAD**

**Trainer:** Hugh McMahan

**Last Race:** Feb. 22, 6th

**Finish:** 6<sup>th</sup> by 6

Lost her positional opportunity with a slow break. She regained her composure when angled off inside in the stretch run, only to encounter traffic at a pivotal juncture. Deserves another chance in a dirt sprint.

### **SPEEDYNESS**

**Trainer:** Jamie Ness

**Last Race:** Mar. 8, 8th

**Finish:** 3<sup>rd</sup> by 1/2

Cut back three furlongs for the Not For Love and never got a breather dueling outside through fractions of 22.68 and 22.84. Only tired very late in the game while in between horses and should appreciate stretching back out in distance.

### **DOUBLE AIRO**

**Trainer:** Robbie Bailes

**Last Race:** Mar. 14, 8th

**Finish:** 6<sup>th</sup> by 4 1/4

Sent to engage a speedy rival in hot fractions, bid forward to lead with confidence mid-turn, then burst away to win as much as the best March 1st at Laurel Park. Jostled at the start 14 days later in her next run at Colonial, costing her a contending position as third wagering choice.

### **CACTUS**

**Trainer:** Kieron Magee

**Last Race:** Mar. 21, 4th

**Finish:** 5<sup>th</sup> by 9 3/4

Didn't break the best over speed-friendly track and was wired by the odds-on winner after chasing three to four wide around the track. Claimed out of the race by a high-percentage barn, he can move forward when dropped to a conditioned \$7,500 seller.

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.

### **SHE'SAROLLINGSTONE**

**Trainer:** Jamie Ness

**Last Race:** Mar. 23, 4th

**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> by 1

Tracked from in between rivals, dropped down to the fence on the second turn, angled three wide to produce a prolonged bid to the lead in midstretch, then succumbed to a solid class-dropper in the final sixteenth. Good fit at the \$20,000 starter-optional claiming level.

### **BEE A SKY BEAM** (*Entered Today at Charles Town -Race 4*)

**Trainer:** Elliot Sullivan

**Last Race:** Mar. 8, 2nd

**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> by 4/1/4

Beaten at 9-5 or less in three of his last four starts, but appears to have found his proper class level at the maiden \$12,500, and appears to be racing himself back into shape after a lengthy layoff.

### **OURDAYDREAMINGGIRL**

**Trainer:** Lou Linder

**Last Race:** Feb. 22, 7th

**Finish:** 4<sup>th</sup> by 2 1/2

Steadied in opening stages of the Wide Country Stakes, angled out six wide entering the stretch, then closed willingly while drifting out.

### **MIKES MO TOWN**

**Trainer:** Carlos Mancilla

**Last Race:** Mar. 21, 5th

**Finish:** 6<sup>th</sup> by 13 3/4

Tracked in between rivals, dropped down to the pocket on the turn, then failed to threaten a pace-pressing runaway winner over a speed-friendly track. Perhaps he needs weaker company, so he's worth a follow at the dime maiden level here, or against nickel sellers at Charles Town.

**CLUCK CLUCK** (*Entered Today - Race 9*)

**Trainer:** Claudio Gonzalez

**Last Race:** Mar. 21, 8th

**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> by nose

Disappointed at odds-on when dropping in class, but just missed a head bob after looming boldly throughout the entire stretch. Claimed out of the race, it appears she's found her proper class level against \$12,500 "non-two" company.

**EL DE LARRY**

**Trainer:** Robbie Bailes

**Last Race:** Mar. 23, 3rd

**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> by 2

Never received a breather when the beaten favorite as he set a pressured pace inside the 13-1 seventh-finisher, opened up a clear lead turning into the long stretch, then couldn't contain a razor-sharp winner. He's a good fit at eight furlongs or 1 1/16 miles against \$8,000 starter allowance company.

**JOCKEY CALLS**

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

Race 5 - Gokhan Kocakaya: #1 - Gerrys Gem; #4 - Full Irish >>> **Kocakaya rides FULL IRISH**

Race 6 - Weston Hamilton: #4 - Captain Cardo; #8 - Sumo >>> **Hamilton rides SUMO**

**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

Feb. 21 - Fair

Feb. 22 - Fair

Feb. 23 - Fair

Feb. 28 - Fair

Mar. 1 - Fair

Mar. 2 - Fair

Mar. 7 - CLOSERS BIAS

Mar. 8 - Fair

Mar. 9 - Fair

Mar. 21 - SPEED BIAS

Mar. 22 - Fair

Mar. 23 - Fair