



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



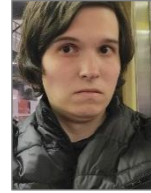
KEITH FEUSTLE



DAN ILLMAN



MACKENZIE PFEIFFER



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

RACE 1:	4-5-1-10	4-5-10-9	4-9-7-10	7-11-1-8	4-5-7-8	4-10-9
RACE 2:	2-5-3-4	5-3-6-1	6-2-5-3	5-3-6-2	5-2-4-3	5-6-3
RACE 3:	5-11-3-10	9-5-11-10	5-9-3-1	8-6-1-4	5-3-2-9	5-11-12
RACE 4:	2-5-7-4	4-2-7-1	2-7-5-4	7-2-3-4	2-7-4-5	7-3-2
RACE 5:	9-11-4-1	11-12-2-10	12-10-9-6	10-3-8-2	4-11-12-1	9-12-4
RACE 6:	2-3-4-6	5-1-6-3	10-2-3-7	3-6-2-8	7-6-3-10	4-6-3
RACE 7:	10-3-5-12	9-3-11-2	9-2-1-5	9-1-7-11	3-10-11-12	5-3-9
RACE 8:	1-2-6-7	2-1-7-8	2-7-5-1	5-2-1-7	7-2-1-8	2-8-1
RACE 9:	3-2-8-4	6-8-5-2	8-3-2-11	9-4-3-15	4-3-8-11	8-4-2

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](#).
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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. JERSEY CORN

2. AFTER ALL

3. DO THE RIGHT THING

First post time is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout. **JERSEY CORN** (\$90,000 RNA weanling; \$45,000 RNA yearling; \$50,000 May juvenile) is out of an unraced full sister to Grade 1-winning turf miler Bolo. That dam is also a half to stakes-winning dirt sprinter Build to Suit (101 dirt Beyer), and Grade 3-placed dirt router Let Me Go First. The first-crop sire has gotten off to a nice start, and the barn went 9 for the last 28 (32%, \$2.35 ROI) with juvenile debut runners. **AFTER ALL** showed good speed in his turf debut, and he was simply second best to a promising, odds-on debut winner. That race hasn't come back very strong just yet, but his speed plays well in this spot. **DO THE RIGHT THING** pushed the pace while three wide in the restricted Jamestown Stakes at Colonial, then was checked when likely already beaten in the midstretch. Breezed outside unraced 3-year-old Center at Fair Hill on 9/19, finished a half-length behind, and was a couple lengths back on the gallop-out. **LONGFIELD** is a half to juvenile stakes-winning dirt sprinter Catahoula Moon (88 dirt Beyer).

>> RACE 2

1. KALEA BAY

2. SOHANDSOMETOME

3. J C'S BOYS

KALEA BAY saved ground at the back, swapped leads a couple of times early on the turn when perhaps intimidated by racing on the fence, angled to split horses three wide, and finished evenly in between rivals. That race hasn't come back strong just yet (four next-out runners; none hit the board; 68 Beyer top), but he faced multiple-race winners in that spot, and now double-drops with the speed to get up and on the lead. **SOHANDSOMETOME** tracked from in between rivals, dropped to the fence on the turn and made an early lead change, then rallied along the fence to finish behind the two favorites. Finished ahead of two next-out winners, with the seventh-finisher next dominating a \$20,000 starter here with an 81 Beyer. **J C'S BOYS** advanced to press the pace two wide/three path, made a three-wide bid on the turn, then hopped back to his left lead when tiring in between rivals. Toledo departs for UPSHOT.

>> RACE 3

1. TOO LOOSE LA TREK

2. DIAMOND N DRESS

3. PRETTY LAVISH

TOO LOOSE LA TREK received a beautiful closer's trip and ride when winning her second consecutive turf start. Saved ground most of the way, eased out for clear running into the stretch, and kicked down the leaders. The fifth-finisher then took a \$16,000 "non-two" claimer at Colonial with a 70 Beyer. Late-runner always needs the right sort of pace and trip, so demand value on the tote for a barn that went 3 for the last 10 (30%, \$2.06 ROI) with last-out winners. **DIAMOND N DRESS** earned a very competitive speed figure when returning from a two-month layoff at Colonial. Wired by the favorite in a race where they ran 1-2 around the track, she faced the likes of Evershed, a next-out Grade 3 winner at Saratoga with a 91 Beyer. Think she'll get close to the pace for a barn that sent out two winners in August, including a 38-1 shot. She's the lone four-time winner in the field. **PRETTY LAVISH** pulled very hard for the opening half at Saratoga, swung five wide into the stretch, and finished evenly while in between. The winner of that race then ran third in a first-level allowance there with a 79 Beyer. Class drop works for a barn that went 9 for 44 (20%, \$3.15 ROI) between 8/7 and 9/20. **ENDLESS VOW** stayed close to fast fractions (23.42, 23.90), then dug in gamely to beat two next-out winners (runner-up grabbed a \$16,000 "non-two" claimer at Colonial with a 66 Beyer). She's fast enough to try and make the early lead. **KOBE'S HOPE** might have needed her last race, her first start of the year. Late-runner could use some pace.

>> RACE 4

1. FINAL ENGAGEMENT

2. DANNI'S RHYTHM

3. LEGAL LIGHTNING

FINAL ENGAGEMENT tracked from the pocket over a speed-friendly Delaware track two back, altered three wide under a hard hand ride into the stretch, then got up for second behind a filly that returned to place in her next two starts with a 55 Beyer top. Ending up pushing the pace with the favored fifth-finisher before faltering going two turns at Timonium earlier in the month. Her speed plays well in this spot. **DANNI'S RHYTHM** looked good when winning over muddy going here three back. Bumped several times with the inner foe while setting a four-ply pace from in between, grabbed the lead and the rail, and held firm. Tried turf in first start in almost a year, then improved to finish ahead of the top pick at Timonium (fourth-finisher next won a dime "non-two" claimer here by seven with a 58 Beyer). Another that can get close to the expected moderate pace, and the barn is going very well right now. Briceno departs for I'mamaterialgirl. **LEGAL LIGHTNING** was wired going two turns at Parx. Very eager in the pocket, she was urged along on the second turn, then only finished evenly. The runner-up next ran third in a \$16,000 starter there with a 64 Beyer. **GOD I NEED A FAVOR** couldn't step with Miss Fulton Gal, who has subsequently won three races with an 81 Beyer top. Late-runner needs pace help.

>> RACE 5

1. MOONBLAZE

2. ALDENE

3. TAKE CHARGE BOO

MOONBLAZE was wired by the favorite at Monmouth. Saved ground near the back, altered course to the outside, then made up some late ground to finish behind the two chalks. The runner-up next placed in a first-level allowance at Saratoga with an 85 Beyer. Kicks late for a barn that went 3 for the last 14 (21%, \$4.01 ROI) at Laurel. Ruiz departs this one and Sin Boldly for Big Earn. **ALDENE** pushed the pace at Colonial, then tired to finish behind two next-out winners (Life's Dynamic repeated in a second-level allowance at Belmont with an 86 Beyer). **TAKE CHARGE BOO**, listed as a Parx vet scratch on 9/2, gave a career-best effort when rallying for second in her turf debut. This looks like a strong class hike. **WHISKEY LULLABY** went quick up front in a recent two-turn route, and now turns back to a more appropriate distance. The runner-up returned to win a dime starter at Delaware with a 76 Beyer. She'll show speed here.

>> RACE 6

1. MISCHIEF MIND

2. SIDE HUG

3. VENTUROUS

Guessing with **MISCHIEF MIND** (\$20,000 weanling; \$19,000 RNA yearling; \$45,000 May juvenile), the first foal out of an unraced half-sister to juvenile stakes-winning dirt sprinter Meru (won first two starts; 95 Beyer top). The fourth dam was a Grade 1-winning dirt router, and the first-crop sire has gotten off to a nice start at stud. The barn sent out two juvenile debut winners last year (7-1 and 10-1 odds at Parx). Cruz departs for Venturous. **SIDE HUG** was wired in a race where they ran 1-2-3 around the track. Broke a beat slow, stalked three wide and in between, was urged along on the turn, made an early lead change, then finished evenly without threatening. Might get a bit more pace to attack here. **VENTUROUS** pressed three wide, battled with the favored runner-up from the outside on the turn, then stayed on for third in a race won by a deep closer. He did a lot of heavy lifting in that race, and figures right there when they turn for home for a barn that went 3 for the last 10 (30%, \$2.45 ROI) with second-out maidens. **WINSLOW** prompted the odds-on winner from the outside, seemed a bit green when urged along on the turn, then tired while drifting slightly toward the rail. Expect good speed here. **INDYSCRIPT** (\$23,000 RNA yearling) is out of juvenile stakes-winning dirt sprinter Miss Nondescript (won first two starts, 70 dirt Beyer).

>> RACE 7

1. SAXTON

2. JUNGLE GLOW

3. AMOUDI BAY

SAXTON exits a tough heat at Colonial. Stalked outside, eased three wide into the stretch, and finished evenly. That race produced Spirited Sol, who returned to upset the Da Hoss Stakes there with a 94 Beyer. He's won over this track, and can contend with a late kick. Rocco lands here instead of Green Beans. **JUNGLE GLOW** might be the one to beat in the first start following the Ness reclaim. Taken off the rail early to prompt the 13-1 eighth-finisher through moderate fractions, he made an early lead change on the turn, then kicked clear. He's won three of his last four starts. **AMOUDI BAY** likely found 6 1/2 furlongs too far over that quirky Kentucky Downs turf course two back. Set a fast and pressured pace inside the 4-1 last-finisher at Saratoga two back, then swapped to his left lead while tired late. Figures in the thick of things when they turn for home along with BUSHIDO, who set a three-ply pace at Colonial, then tired after being late to change leads. **GREEN BEANS** was wired going two turns. The fourth finisher then won a restricted handicap at Delaware with a 78 Beyer. Kicks late if the pace is electric.

>> RACE 8

1. NEXT LEVEL

2. PAY BILLY

3. OTAGO

NEXT LEVEL has won two of his last three dirt starts, and repeats the turf-to-dirt move that resulted in a victory last fall. Rallied for second over synthetic going three back behind an odds-on gate-to-wire winner in a race that produced two next-out winners (Grounded returned to repeat in a \$40,000 optional with a 79 Beyer). Kicks late for a barn that went 6 for the last 21 (29%, \$3.08 ROI) between 8/29 and 9/20. **PAY BILLY** was freshened after being wired by an odds-on favorite over a speed-friendly track. That heat produced two next-out winners, and Phileas Fogg repeated in the Grade 2 Suburban with a 114 Beyer. He's a tactical sort that can get close to the expected moderate pace. **OTAGO** is 2 for 2 when moving from turf to dirt, and he repeats the move in the first start off the claim. Rallied into quick fractions to win that off-turf heat at Churchill three back. This barn went 7 for the last 28 (25%, \$2.58 ROI) in the first after the claim. Rodriguez departs this one and Union Fleet for **JUST A FAIR SHAKE**, who drops a notch after facing Omaha Omaha (next-out second with 79 Beyer in second-level allowance at Delaware). **BRIGHTY** was wired by the favorite at Penn National, but might be the one to grab the early lead here.

>> RACE 9

1. FOLLOW MY HART

2. AWESOME LAW

3. NO LAW

FOLLOW MY HART doesn't have a ton of blacktype close in the pedigree, but his fourth dam was an Irish Group 1 winner from the family of Irish champions El Prado and Entitled. The dam won a couple of two-turn turf events, and she has foaled one debut winner. The 9/20 breeze matches the barn's 2-year-old Betterpartofvalour (34 Beyer on turf). Perhaps they breezed in company. **AWESOME LAW** broke a beat slow at Colonial, advanced into the pocket, tracked from in between after a half-mile, eased out into the stretch, and flattened out just a bit late. Drop in class coupled with his good tactical speed makes him a logical danger. **NO LAW** steadied on the first turn while racing outside in midpack, swung five wide into the stretch, then swapped back to his left lead when facing tougher in New York. **AJAX THE GREAT** and **GAEL MY BOY** deserve consideration if able to escape the Also Eligible list. **NOVA KNICKS** broke slow, saved ground at the back, and only finished evenly at Colonial. Seems like a good fit at this level. **PIG TRAIL** switches surfaces as a half-brother to stakes-placed turf miler Saline River (94 turf Beyer).

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Jersey Corn comes from a well producing family and makes his debut for a barn that has proven quite strong with first time starters. Worth watching the board in this race.

R2: J C's Boys has shown plenty of speed in his last two outings, prompting me to think he may be able to press the matter with the ML favorite Kalea Bay. Meanwhile, Vintur may sit a close stalking inside trip and benefit from the early pace duel.

R3: Diamond N Dress posted a career best Beyer when switching back to the turf in her 2-back try. With a bit more recency underneath of her, and class relief, she may be a reasonable price to use here.

R4: Danni's Rhythm gets back to LRL after a convincing effort last out. Now making her second start off the bench, she has room to improve while sticking to this level.

R5: Profound Change might be overlooked in this group as she switches surfaces off a long layoff, while the pedigree suggests she should be just fine. Her win last out was impressive as she always looked to be the best, simply cruising by and doing it for fun. At 15-1 ML she might be worth considering.

R6: Bet Me entices for more than just his name on debut, especially for a barn that can be sneaky with first time starters. He is out of a debut winning mare and has a bit of class from the second dam, a graded stakes winner.

R7: Saxton looks to be finding his best in recent starts and maybe developing his style along the way. No longer pressing the early pace, he has knocked heads with some of the best throughout his career and may benefit from this spot.

R8: While there is plenty of class amongst this field, Next Level is a standout with his dirt resume. With the inner draw he is likely to save ground for his stalk and pounce style.

R9: When looking at 2 y/o's going long on the turf, experience matters. Awesome Law has two efforts going a route of ground and nearly won at first asking before trying tougher company. Back to the level makes him a logical player.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#4 - Jersey Corn

Trainer: Michael Pino

2-Year-Old Debut Runners: 9 for 28 (32% \$2.35 ROI)

RACE 3

#9 - Too Loose La Trek

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

Last-Out Winners: 3 for 10 (30%, \$2.06 ROI)

RACE 3

#11 - Pretty Lavish

Trainer: Amelia Green

Between 8/7 and 9/20: 9 for 44 (20%, \$3.15 ROI)

RACE 5

#11 - Moonblaze

Trainer: Kathleen Demasi

Laurel Park: 3 for 14 (21%, \$4.01 ROI)

RACE 6

#6 - Venturous

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

Maidens, Second Start: 3 for 10 (30%, \$2.45 ROI)

RACE 8

#2 - Next Level

Trainer: Hugh McMahon

Between 8/29 and 9/20: 6 for 21 (29%, \$3.08 ROI)

RACE 8

#7 - Otago

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

First After Claim: 7 for 28 (25%, \$2.58 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: MSW, 2YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#10 DO THE RIGHT THING	Restricted Stake, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 08/29/26 – 5 th	Broke sharp from outside gate; pressed honest pace while 3W to upper stretch, then was finishing evenly until put in tight ~1/8 pole and forced to check hard, ending all chance.	He was in an unideal spot early, pressing the honest pace while losing ground out wide, and then he had his race essentially ended at the 1/8 pole; he can offer much more than this with a better trip and is respected back in MSW company.
Other notes: - #7 MOJOHNNYMOJOHNNY was bumped entering the turn while setting a pressured pace going 4F at Timonium on debut, but this bump wasn't very significant and did not impact the finishing result; still, it was a likable debut; switches to turf today. - #8 BELOV became quite worked up in the inside gate on debut, then took a lot of kickback in the race which, for a first out 2yo, isn't always ideal; he still showed a willing attitude in defeat though and now switching to the turf, it wouldn't be a surprise to see him step forward.			

Race 2: OC40k/SAL32K, 3YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#5 KALEA BAY	Allowance, CNL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 08/28/26 – 4 th	Trailed even pace from ~6-7L back inside to turn; took slightly closer order 3/8, then switched out 5/16 pole (which cost him a little momentum) and came 3W into the lane, still well behind; from there, he finished well between foes but had too much to do.	Colonial's dirt track was favoring speed all meet, and speed certainly held well in this race; he therefore did well to finish as close as he did switching from his typical tactics to race as a deep closer; he finished like 7F could suit third back.
Other notes: - Although eventually beaten at a short price, #2 VINTUR deserves credit for his most recent try at Colonial given he did best of the speed in a strongly run race over testing, yielding turf; switches to dirt and moves up to 7F (which could suit well) making debut for Richards today. - #6 J C'S BOYS actually ran a super race when facing winners for the first time last out as he was asked to press the pace while losing ground 4-5W before staying on willingly late; he left the impression that he might have more to offer still.			

Race 3: Claiming 16k, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#11 PRETTY LAVISH	Starter Allowance, SAR, 1 1/8M, Firm Turf, 08/02/26 – 5 th	Raced awkwardly, pulled, rank while settled ~5L off the SLOW pace racing to the far turn; tipped outside far turn and made a 4-6W bid around horses, then stayed on willingly down the center but lacked the required late pace to run at.	She was compromised by the slow pace (25.82, 51.73) in this race in more ways than one (failed to settle, then lacked pace late) and also lost plenty of ground racing wide on the far turn; all things considered, she did well to finish as close as she did; big player with seemingly more to offer down in class today.
Other notes: - #2 ENDLESS VOW did really well to win when last seen given how much energy he wasted fighting the rider (keen) while positioned close to the hot, closer friendly pace; the next three home were all better settled and much further back early; mark that performance up a touch; returns off freshening today. - #4 BOYS GO TO JUPITER didn't nearly do enough to earn an upgrade last out; however, the race setup was completely against her, with a slow pace leading to a very tightly bunched field (in which she was at the rear) and a sprint to the finish, and she also had to steady very slightly in the lane; she's capable of more than that with the right setup on the right day. - The rider on #5 DIAMOND N DRESS committed to a rail run mid-turn on the dirt at Delaware last time, but the room wasn't really there for the pair and they were forced to wait a longer than ideal when really, they'd have been advancing with momentum; switches back to turf today; contender. - While accepting that #9 TOO LOOSE TO TREK couldn't have asked for a better rail run through last out, she still impressed when scoring at 21/1 given she went last to first in a race that did not feature a strong pace (24.73, 49.49); she's really putting things together and could have more to offer again with more pace to run at.			

Race 4: Claiming 12.5k, 3YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes: - After setting a slow, uncontested pace (24.54, 49.10; possible downgrade), #1 SPRING TRAINING opened up at the top of the lane and was set to record an easy victory but instead, after switching leads in upper stretch, she instantly switched back and lost her balance, hitting the rail notably and losing momentum; odd as it was, she did well to then stay on again late; the main thing to note is that, without her stretch antics, she would have won by a little further and so therefore, a little more <i>could</i> be seen from her today. - #2 DANNI'S RHYTHM ran a super race off the bench at Timonium last time, only just getting run down late after pressing an honest pace three wide; big player second back. - The rider on #3 I'MAMATERIALGIRL lost the crop ~1/8 pole last week which very possibly cost her 2nd; a solid run nevertheless; back again down in trip on short rest.			
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Race 5: Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf**Other notes:**

- **#1 WISE AND ELEGANT** might simply have been below par last out, period; however, she also steadied out of position early, then lacked a setup while also widest on the turn, so things certainly didn't go right for her either; possibly capability of bouncing back.
- **#8 CHARMED HOUR (MTO)** hardly came out of second gear and won with any amount in hand by 9 1/4L at Timonium last time.
- The chart comment makes **#9 BIG EARN**'s most recent trip sound much worse than it was: sure, she was headstrong and a little rank in behind the modest pace early, but she then worked outside and had every opportunity to go on and score from the 5/16 pole home but instead, she failed to switch leads and faded; we shouldn't blame the trip for her subpar effort at all; demands respect today whatever the case.
- **#11 MOONBLAZE** finished really nicely at Monmouth last out; she could be suited very well suited to Laurel's long stretch.

Race 6: MSW, 2YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt**Other notes:**

- **#3 WINSLOW** looked to lug in on debut.

Race 7: Ratings Optional Claiming (75-1), 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#10 FIERCE AND STRONG	ROC, LRL, 5 1/2F, Good Turf, 09/13/26 – 4 th	Tracked even pace from ~5L back on rail to 3/8; advanced to be racing on heels, just 3-4L back rounding into the lane; briefly had room to launch a challenge but that gap disappeared again as fast as a British Prime Minister and for a good 1/16 miles he found himself pinned to the rail under a hammerlock, trying to avoid heels; finally got clear again ~1/8 pole and switched out before having to steady off heels again 1/16 pole; surged late but had way too much to do; beaten a length, full of run.	An absolutely BRUTAL trip; he really could have won this race with a clean run through, and his effort can be UPGRADED significantly; player right back if holding this level of form.
#11 AMOUDI BAY	Allowance, SAR, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 08/02/26 – 4 th	Hustled hard start; set fast, pressured fractions on a short lead into the lane; put away his pace rivals under a drive 3/16 but could not fend off closers; stayed on well enough late to hold 4 th though.	His two-back effort prior to a try at KY Downs last time (a track he did not appear to handle): A simple pace upgrade can be awarded here as he did best of the speed in a very fast run race (21.87, 44.72; other speed horses were legit: JEAN VALJEAN, BRINGTHEBANDHOME, NOTHING BETTER); first three finishers were 6th, 7th, 8th at first call; leading pace player today.

Other Notes:

- **#2 CACTUS** found himself in an often-unideal position last out, sandwiched between rivals in a pressured spot on the front end; he ran well considering; makes debut for Maldonado today.
- Although **#4 FORE HARP** did have to steady when the field bunched tightly ~3/8 pole last out at Penn National, it didn't make any real difference to his overall effort or the result; Lasix on today.
- **#6 GREEN BEANS** endured a very rough stretch run at Colonial when going two-turns last time; he wasn't a real threat at the time and we shouldn't use the trouble as the sole reason for his defeat; however, we also shouldn't take that result/speed fig literally; cuts back today.
- **#8 ALEXIS ZORBA** was a little wider-than-ideal when running a gallant 2nd at Colonial last out; player.

Race 8: Ratings Optional Claiming (75-1), 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 NEXT LEVEL	Handicap, CNL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 08/22/26 – 6 th	Unhurried; tracked even pace from ~7-9L back on rail racing to far turn; crept slightly closer under patient handling behind horses racing to upper stretch, then found himself in terrible traffic shortly after straightening and was forced to check hard ~1/8 pole when seemingly still full of run; got clear late but his chance was already gone.	A very troubled stretch run here; it's tough to say where he'd have finished with a clean trip, but he appeared to have run at the time of interference and one suspects he could have gone close to hitting the board at least; upgrade this effort; switches back to dirt today.
Other notes: - Not sure it made a great deal of difference to his finishing position, but there was a slight lean to speed at Delaware on 09/05/26 which worked against #9 BRINDANO.			

Race 9: Maiden Claiming 25k, 2YO, 1 Mile, Turf			
Other notes: - #2 NOVA KICKS stayed on well enough sprinting at Colonial on debut to suggest today's stretch out could be to his advantage. - #3 PIG TRAIL dropped back the second he was first faced with kickback rounding into the stretch on debut at Timonium; he then galloped out nicely; that run suggested today's conditions could be more to his liking.			

Horses to Follow

R4: DANNI'S RHYTHM (2/1 ML)

DANNI'S RHYTHM ran a very encouraging second off the layoff at Timonium last out, only getting run down late after setting an honest pace in front. She scored an eleven-point improvement between her first and second starts back off the bench last year, and with only four recent works leading into her last start, there's a chance that she'll do the same again and be very tough to beat in today's fourth.

R5: MOONBLAZE (5/1 ML)

MOONBLAZE has strung together four strong efforts sprinting on the turf this year, closing strongly late on at both Penn National and Monmouth - two courses which often lend a hand to speed. Laurel's long stretch run at 5 1/2 furlongs should really play to her strengths, and she shouldn't be overlooked at a respectable price.

R10: PIG TRAIL (6/1 ML)

Hot trainer Justin Nixon allowed PIG TRAIL to get his feet wet at Timonium three weeks ago, sending him out in a four-furlong sprint around the bullring dirt track. Other than appearing to resent the kickback somewhat, the son of VINO ROSSO put forth a pleasing debut effort, sticking to his task well and galloping out nicely. He now switches to the turf and stretches right out to a mile which, although being quite a drastic change, is a move that Nixon seemingly thinks is the right one for this juvenile. His pedigree, being a half to multiple stakes-winning turf router SALINE RIVER and with plenty of turf form on his dam's side, supports the move too. He shouldn't dip much below 6/1 and could be worth including on tickets.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

YOUR LORDSHIP

Trainer: Graham Motion

Last Race: May 30, 7th race

Finish: 1st by 2 3/4

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.

PLENTY ON TAP (Entered SUNDAY 9/27 at Laurel – Race 4)

Trainer: Tim Woolley

Last Race: Sept. 11, 5th

Finish: 3rd by 2 3/4 lengths

Didn't break the best, then raced three wide and in between rivals on the backstretch before being shuffled back, cut the corner into the stretch, then was over in behind horses for most of the stretch before rallying belatedly to just miss second.

BLO YOUR MIND

Trainer: Tim Keefe

Last Race: September 12, 3rd

Finish: 1st by 3 1/2 lengths

In a field full of first-time starters, this Blofeld filly proved best despite looking a bit green. She pushed the pace while three wide, took over into the stretch, and drew out despite failing to change leads.

LINETTE

Trainer: Tim Woolley

Last Race: September 13, 1st

Finish: 2nd by head

First-time starter stumbled from in between horses when racing in tight on the backstretch, and that forced her rider right out of the irons for several strides. The filly stayed to task, however, as she angled widest into the stretch, and rallied gamely to drop a photo to a logical and favored winner.

SCARLETT'S HALO

Trainer: Chad Brown

Last Race: September 19, 7th

Finish: 2nd by 3 1/2

Hung out to dry from the start of this one-turn mile, she raced extremely wide for most of the way and tried her best to finish second to the co-favorite. She's a big, strong filly capable on turf and dirt, and might appreciate stretching out around two turns for her next start.

RIVER TAY

Trainer: Bruce Brown

Last Race: September 19, 10th

Finish: 3rd by 1 1/4

Brushed the side of the gate at the start of this turf sprint; she then stayed inside for most of the way and was stuck in traffic throughout the long stretch. Showed some life once clear late in the game and can win going short or long.

AJAX THE GREAT (Entered TODAY at Laurel - Race 9)

Trainer: Ollie Figgins III

Last Race: August 29, 3rd (Charles Town)

Finish: 6th by 21 3/4 lengths

Probably too early to give up on this 2-year-old half-brother to Kenny Had a Notion (stakes-winner sprinting on both turf and dirt), and the feeling is that this gelding will enjoy switching to turf for his next start. The workout on September 10 matches up with the barn's 4-year-old filly Hale Bop, who earned a 66 Beyer when fourth in a \$12,000 starter on Delaware turf six days later. Perhaps they breezed in company.

NOAH CHANCE

Trainer: John Robb

Last Race: September 13, 6th

Finish: 5th by 1 1/2

Tracked the pace from in between horses, was bottled up turning into the stretch, and was stymied in behind horses; finally altered course to the outside and made up some late ground.

FIERCE AND STRONG (Entered TODAY at Laurel – Race 7)

Trainer: Michael Salvaggio Jr.

Last Race: September 13, Race 6

Finish: 4th by 1

Last on the rail for most of the way, he was stuck in behind rivals for most of the stretch, had to alter course several times, and still kicked on with interest.

D J ABS

Trainer: Lindsay Schultz

Last Race: September 19, 8th

Finish: 2nd by 4 1/4

Juvenile filly has some turf pedigree, and she gave a strong try in her grass debut. Showed decent speed from the start, but had the misfortune to face a sharp, gate-to-wire winner. Stayed on strongly to the wire, and it looks like she's found a home on the green stuff.

GOLD SOVEREIGN

Trainer: Thomas Garner

Last Race: September 20, 3rd

Finish: 8th by 6 1/2

Likely purchased by his current connections for future races over hurdles, but this gelding showed decent turf form in longer-distance races in New York and had no chance in his local debut. Fell to his face at the start, then was wired in a paceless heat where they ran 1-2 around the track.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 2: Jevian Toledo - #1 - Upshot; #6 - J C's Boys >>> **Toledo rides UPSHOT**

Race 4: Leandro Briceno - #2 - Danni's Rhythm; #3 - I'mamaterialgirl >>> **Briceno rides I'MAMATERIALGIRL**

Race 5: Jorge Ruiz - #6 - Sin Boldly; #9 - Big Earn; #11 - Moonblaze >>> **Ruiz rides BIG EARN**

Race 6: Angel Cruz - #5 - Mischief Mind; #6 - Venturous >>> **Cruz rides VENTUROUS**

Race 6: Jevian Toledo - #7 - Tiz a God; #8 - Replicate >>> **Toledo rides TIZ A GOD**

Race 7: Joe Rocco Jr. - #6 - Green Beans; #9 - Saxton >>> **Rocco rides SAXTON**

Race 8: Jaime Rodriguez - #4 - Union Fleet; #6 - Just a Fair Shake; #7 - Otago >>> **Rodriguez rides JUST A FAIR SHAKE**

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

A recap of last week's action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piassek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Friday, Sept. 18

Race 1: In her first start since going down in a spill at Delaware Park on July 4, **Sugar Bee** found her way back to the winner's circle. She saved ground throughout and rallied up the rail for the victory.

Race 3: 13th time proved the charm for **Chimney Sweep**, who set the early pace and never looked back. Repurpose raced wide throughout and didn't change leads until the final sixteenth; he may well have gotten there if he had done so sooner.

Race 4: The Great Maybe picked up her first win since her maiden-breaking score on debut at Saratoga in August 2022. She swooped the field at the top of the stretch and drew off for an easy seven-length victory. Holy Fit nosed out I'mamaterialgirl for second; Leandro Briceno, who rode the latter, lost the whip at the eighth pole.

Race 5: Jeiron Barbosa seized the early lead with **Vaya Jeffe**, set very modest early fractions, and led the field all the way around in a gate-to-wire victory. Leave Me and Snookie Bear closed well from off that slow pace to get second and third, respectively.

Race 6: Crab Mentality won like a 4-5 shot should, inhaling the field with a dramatic, wide brush in the stretch. Broadway Musical ran well in his second start off a 10-month layoff. He pressed the pace while wide and opened up a clear lead in the stretch. While he was no match for Crab Mentality, he fended off the others and was second by a half-length.

Race 8: Supercruiser took advantage of the long stretch run, getting up in the last sixteenth over Brightshininglight. That one won the battle but lost the war with Matthew's Ticket, with whom he dueled with in the early stages.

Race 9: Great Quality, a full brother to top local sprinter Haileysfirstnotion, has begun to carve out a reputation of his own. He got a great trip stalking a duel and took advantage on the turn, drawing off to a 6 ¼-length win for his second consecutive victory. Favored Supercruiser held second after battling for the lead, outfinishing his dueling partner by 9 ½ lengths.

Saturday, Sept. 19

Race 2: The lightbulb has begun to come on for **Tell 'Em I'm Comin'**. After starting his career 0-for-31, he's won three times this year, including two of his last three races. He rallied from off slow fractions to win going away, with favored Edelweiss no better than third.

Race 3: Rylnnslookinlucky set the pace and fought off Dream Overture in the stretch despite never seeing the rail. The only one who rallied at all was Cool Hard Breeze, who flew from last to grab third.

Race 4: Biker Baley dazzled on debut last November, breaking his maiden by 15 lengths without being asked for his best. He hadn't recaptured that form since then until last Saturday, when he battled for the lead off the rail and easily dominated this field. If he can maintain that form, he won't be in against starter optional claiming types for much longer.

Race 5: First-time starter Epic Warrior was well-bet and led most of the way after setting the pace, ultimately finishing second to pace-stalking **Trinity**. Both are worth watching for next time.

Race 6: This race completely blew up, as the leaders set blazing early fractions and all finished well up the track. Second choice **McCullough** rallied from last and won going away, but none of the top three's efforts were as impressive as they might look on paper. Fourth-place finisher Zevon was the only one who was somewhat close to the destructive early pace who finished within ten lengths of the winner.

Race 8: After showing speed and fading in her first three starts on dirt, **Scabiosa** easily took to grass. She broke on top and cleared to the front from the outside post and never gave the others a chance. This Pennsylvania-bred filly will likely be seen in stakes company in her home state in the near-future, but watch out should she return to grass next spring.

Race 9: Slewperstitus captured the Weather Vane Stakes and finally earned her first stakes win of her 3-year-old season. She pressed the pace on the outside and got the jump on favorites Sneaky Good and French Fiction, the latter of whom ran well despite getting thrown out of her element at the start. The winner's likely Maryland Million Distaff-bound.

Race 10: Boujee Bubblez took advantage of a perfect stalking trip and held off the late rallies of Golden Rocket and River Tay. The latter had nowhere to go in the stretch and squeezed through a narrow opening to lose by less than a length.

Sunday, Sept. 20

Race 1: Motocross set the pace on the rail and showed lots of heart, fending off almost everyone for second. **Gold Brew** went best of the lot, however, as she stormed five-wide in the center of the track for the victory.

Race 3: Meritorious broke on top and led the whole way, while Rio Grande raced in second throughout. The latter looked to have Meritorious collared in the stretch, but couldn't get by and lost by a nose. **Executive** went the best of the closers, rallying for third while racing on the rail almost the whole way.

Race 5: Metallican improved to 2-for-2 lifetime, overcoming a poor start to nail Joke Teller in the final strides.

Race 6: Chitchatchitchat acted up a bit in the gate and broke a bit slowly, but was still able to work out a great trip off the pace on the outside. When asked for run on the far turn by Jorge Ruiz, she put her pent-up power to good use and kicked on to victory. None of the early leaders finished in the superfecta.

Race 7: Kissedbyanangel won three times as a 2-year-old en route to the Maryland-bred champion 2-year-old filly title, but hadn't won since then until this race. She broke on top from the inside post, set easy fractions, and couldn't be caught.

Race 8: Gripen opened up a long early lead and set modest fractions, but couldn't last in the stretch and got swarmed. **Unwavering Monarch**, in her American debut, gobbled up ground in the center of the track for an impressive last-to-first win. It wouldn't be surprising to see her in stakes competition down the road.

PAST TRACK TRENDS

Apr. 3 – Fair	May 1 – SPEED BIAS	May 23 – Fair	June 20 – Fair
Apr. 4 – Fair	May 2 – Fair	May 29 – SPEED BIAS	June 21 – Fair
Apr. 10 – Fair	May 3 – Fair	May 30 – Fair	June 26 – Fair
Apr. 11– Fair	May 8 – CLOSERS BIAS	May 31 – Fair	June 27- Fair
Apr. 12 – Fair	May 9 – Fair	June 5 – SPEED BIAS	June 28 - INSIDE SPEED BIAS
Apr. 17 – Fair	May 10 – CLOSERS BIAS	June 6 – CLOSERS BIAS	Sep. 11 – INSIDE BIAS
Apr. 18 – SPEED BIAS	May 14 – Fair	June 7 – Fair	Sep. 12 – SPEED BIAS
Apr. 19 – Fair	🏆 May 15 – Fair	June 12 – Fair	Sep. 13 – Fair
Apr. 24 – Fair	🏆 May 16 – Fair	June 13 – Fair	Sep. 18 – Fair
Apr. 25 – SPEED BIAS	May 22 – SPEED BIAS	June 14 – SPEED BIAS	Sep. 19 – Fair
Apr. 26 – Fair		June 19 – Fair	Sep. 20 – Fair

