



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SUNDAY, SEPT. 20

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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RACE 1:	7-5-4-6	5-10-6-7	6-5-8-9	5-2-7-6	9-5-6
RACE 2:	6-1-5-4	1-3-5-6	4-1-5-3	5-4-3-1	6-5-4
RACE 3:	3-2-7-5	5-2-4-9	5-8-9-3	4-7-9-10	9-3-5
RACE 4:	6-2-4-5	2-6-3-5	2-4-6-7	6-3-5-4	7-2-6
RACE 5:	1-3-10-9	9-10-3-1	10-9-7-2	7-9-6-3	9-1-7
RACE 6:	6-1-9-2	12-8-9-4	7-9-14-13	1-2-9-7	1-7-8
RACE 7:	1-3-4-8	2-6-8-7	7-5-1-3	7-3-8-5	3-7-2
RACE 8:	7-5-3-6	5-2-3-9	5-3-6-4	3-5-7-2	2-3-4
RACE 9:	7-1-3-2	7-4-1-5	7-1-2-4	4-5-2-1	4-1-7
RACE 10:	6-7-2-10	6-7-3-9	10-6-9-4	2-7-6-3	6-2-4

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.
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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. MARIA ELENA

2. GOLD BREW

3. PRETTY VIOLENT

The first post time is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout rate. Taking a guess with **MARIA ELENA**, a filly that is bred for turf on both sides. The second dam was a Group 3-placed turf sprinter in England. The barn sent out a debut winner around two turns on turf at Saratoga on 8/6. It looks like she caught a deep field, so ask for a fair price. Also want to use **GOLD BREW** in multiple-race wagers after a solid route debut. Raced outside in midpack behind a very slow pace (25.21; 26.84), stalked three wide and in between rivals after a half-mile, and made up three lengths in the stretch while in between foes. This barn went 11 for the last 46 (24%, \$4.26 ROI) with third-out maidens. **PRETTY VIOLENT** prompted those glacial fractions, went after the leader on the second turn, then seemed uncomfortable racing in between rivals, and was very late to make her final lead change. Might take back and attempt one-run tactics this afternoon. **CORDOVA** didn't break the best, then settled in a good stalking position behind a quick pace. Raced in behind horses turning for home, altered course outside, and rallied for second after being late to change leads.

>> RACE 2

1. SCARLET'S DREAM

2. WHY

3. TASTY TIME

SCARLET'S DREAM tracked two wide/three path at Saratoga, advanced in between horses through a quick second quarter in 23.06, and understandably tired in the stretch. She has enough speed to get close to the pace while outside and clear of traffic, and the barn went 6 for 23 (26%, \$4.09 ROI) between 9/3 and 9/16. **WHY** worked out a sweet stalking trip behind a contested pace when scoring at Colonial. She made a four-wide bid into the stretch under urging, then drew clear when it mattered. The barn went 8 for the last 26 (31%, \$3.30 ROI) with last-out winners making the first start after a trainer switch. **TASTY TIME** tracked four wide at the back, changed leads a couple of times on the turn, split foes, then flopped back to her left lead in the stretch. The runner-up next placed in a \$12,500 claimer at Delaware with a 67 Beyer. **SWEET HONEY BEE** hit the board in her last five starts and can get close to the pace. The third-finisher from her last race returned to win two in a row at Delaware with a 60 Beyer top. **LADY SRIRACHA** received a quick pace to attack when rallying for third at a short price at Parx. A true late-runner, she needs pace and a clean trip.

>> RACE 3

1. GOLD SOVEREIGN

2. RESOLUTE

3. MERITORIOUS

GOLD SOVEREIGN makes his first start since being purchased for \$85,000. Settled in midpack behind a quick pace going 1 1/2 miles at Saratoga, made a four-wide bid on the third turn, and flattened out in the final furlong. The fifth-finisher then graduated in a maiden special at Kentucky Downs with an 85 Beyer. This barn scored off the trainer switch with 4-1 Finn McSorley at Presque Isle Downs on 8/25. **RESOLUTE** earned a stakes-placing last month at Penn National. He faced seven-time winner Jes See Me that evening, and now drops into a straight maiden with the tactical speed to get close to the pace. **MERITORIOUS** returns from a whopping 530-day layoff as a new gelding. He was wired in his lone turf start by Tomasello, who has since won four races, including the Grade 3 Singspiel Stakes at Woodbine. Think he'll be fresh and close to the pace. **RIO GRANDE** faced Medici in his most recent turf start, and that foe returned to hit the board in his next three starts (two stakes) with an 84 Beyer top on synthetic. **SOUPER CHA CHING** took money and rallied pretty well in the stretch considering the slow early pace. This pace should be kinder to that running style. **WAR ACE** is a full brother to French stakes-placed synthetic router Wassail out of French Group 1-winning turf router Wonderment (won debut).

>> RACE 4

1. LEONIDAS STAND

2. COPERNIUM

3. TIZ THE GREAT

LEONIDAS STAND, listed as a Delaware vet scratch on 9/9, and a Parx vet scratch on 9/15, seems well-entered for his circuit debut. Stalked outside last time at Penn National, eased out in the stretch, then gave an even rally. The third-finisher next placed in a \$12,500 beaten claimer at Presque Isle with a 59 Beyer. Think we'll see better positional speed. **COPERNIUM** has won on turf, dirt, and synthetic, and the five-time winner takes advantage of today's "beaten" condition against a bunch of "non-three" older horses. Dueled with the 11-1 last-finisher in his most recent dirt start, put that one to bed, then tired from his early efforts. Faced two next-out winners, with the runner-up taking a \$25,000 "non-two" starter at Monmouth with a 77 Beyer. His speed plays very well here. **TIZ THE GREAT** worked out an excellent trip just behind a pace duel when winning around two turns at Charles Town, then was likely compromised by a wide trip at Timonium. Fayer Heart next ran third in a state-sired allowance at the Big T with a 66 Beyer.

>> RACE 5

1. ALL NESSED UP

2. PARKRIDGE

3. FUTILE GESTURE

ALL NESSED UP sat a good pocket trip against stakes foes at Colonial, then finished evenly on the fence while in just a bit tight. Perhaps he'll try to take back and make one run for a barn that went 3 for the last 10 (30%, \$2.28 ROI) with horses returning from 9-to-11-day layoffs. **PARKRIDGE** switches surfaces out of stakes-placed turf miler Chubby Star (84 turf Beyer). Sire-broodmare sire cross produced stakes-winning turf miler La Ville Lumiere (73 dirt Beyer). Claimed out of his last start on dirt, he shouldn't have a problem with turf racing. **FUTILE GESTURE** dueled from in between the favored last-finisher and the 3-1 fifth-finisher, put those horses away, then was worn down by a deep closer after hopping back to his left lead. Shouldn't be too far away when the real racing starts for a barn that went 7 for the last 22 (32%, \$2.28 ROI) in the second after 61-120 day layoffs. **MONTOUR** took all the money for his debut, was steadied back in the opening strides, made a three-wide bid in the stretch, then came with a resolute rally despite being very late to change leads. This is a tougher group, but this colt appears to have some talent. **BETTABE TOUGH** might have aimed too high when wired in Saratoga's Skidmore.

>> RACE 6

1. RAVEN DANCE

2. CONCEPTUALIZE

3. CHITCHATCHITCHAT

RAVEN DANCE broke well at Penn National two back, tracked three wide/four path, lost ground while three wide on the turn, and finished evenly. Her tactical speed should serve her well this afternoon. **CONCEPTUALIZE** must deal with a long, long layoff, but she looked good before going on the bench. Showed high speed in that most recent start and dug down gamely to prevail. Expect her to be up and on the pace once again. **CHITCHATCHITCHAT** didn't have the easiest trip at Colonial. Broke slow, pulled to stalk three wide at the back behind a slow pace, made a four-wide bid into the stretch, and finished evenly. Think this race sets up better from a pace standpoint. **JUST ADD WATER** and **CELESTIAL SPEED** deserve consideration if able to escape the Also Eligible list.

>> RACE 7

1. KISSEDBYANANGEL

2. DYNA SOAR

3. MARGARET P

KISSEDBYANANGEL was likely hurt by a wide trip when racing without Lasix at Timonium, but she gave a game try two back over a more conventional strip at Delaware. Pressed the 1-5 runner-up through fast fractions, went on a hard chase on the turn, then tried hard in between horses after switching back to her left lead. Figures close to the pace stretching back out to a mile. **DYNA SOAR** tracked from the pocket, was ridden along on the second turn, then finished evenly at Delaware. The winner of that heat then placed in a restricted stakes race there with a 76 Beyer. Rodriguez departs this one and Golden Eib Micrphn for Citana. **MARGARET P** made a wide bid into the teeth of the pace two back at Colonial before flattening out. She found trouble when trying those tight Timonium turns last time. Lots of minor awards on the page. MOON CACHE boasts back class and wouldn't mind a wet racetrack.

>> RACE 8

1. LET'S DANCE AGAIN

2. COZY ROSIE

3. UNWAVERING MONARCH

LET'S DANCE AGAIN has improved greatly since being allowed to stretch her legs around two turns on turf. The last race is tough to analyze, as the pace appeared hot (23.61; 22.97), but Let's Dance Again dueled with the runner-up all the way, and nobody came with a kick. Think she'll be up and on the pace again. **COZY ROSIE** pulled to track outside, made a three-wide bid on the second turn, then swapped leads a couple of times when rallying in between. This barn sent out two turf winners over the past couple of weeks. **UNWAVERING MONARCH** raced against stakes horses over testing ground in France. Hopped at the start last time, swung widest, and didn't change leads during the two-furlong stretch at Lion d'Angers. The winner of that race then placed in a Group 3 at Longchamps. Breezed heads-up inside 5-year-old mare Gipoia (Group 3 turf winner in Brazil) on 9/11, and can threaten with a late kick for a barn that went 6 for the last 20 (30%, \$4.09 ROI) with foreign shippers racing with first-time Lasix on turf. SLEEPWALKER won twice here in 2025, and might be ready for her best in the third start of the form cycle. The fourth-finisher from the last race then ran third in a first-level Kentucky Downs allowance with a 74 Beyer. Rating tactics didn't work for GRIPEN last time out. Perhaps she'll show the speed that led to her off-turf win two back.

>> RACE 9

1. GATSBY

2. ALL THE HARDWAYS

3. VEX

GATSBY, listed as a Finger Lakes vet scratch on 9/2, pressed the 7-2 runner-up while two wide/three path over a speed-friendly track, went on the attack in the stretch, and asserted his class late. That runner-up then won a \$12,000 starter there with a 79 Beyer. His position speed plays well from this outside post. **ALL THE HARDWAYS** broke slow two back over this course and distance, tracked a slow pace from in between rivals, then scooted up an open rail to prevail. Showed no rust after a short layoff to score at Timonium two back, but must break cleanly from the inside draw. **VEX** might have been aided by a gold rail when winning over muddy going at Charles Town two back, then ran well for second behind All the Hardways at Timonium. OMAR COMIN was wired at Colonial by Freedom Road, who then finished second in a restricted stake at Delaware with an 82 Beyer. CHANGE MY WORLD fits this level nicely and would benefit if this pace heats up. Multiple stakes-winner FASTER GATOR looks like the one to beat. Throw out the last race, as he was virtually eliminated at the start. FEAR NOTHING tried to rally at Timonium in a race where they ran 1-2-3 around.

>> RACE 10

1. AMBERIA

2. VOLUNTARY

3. AWESOME MCKINZIE

AMBERIA was wired in a slow-paced race last month. Found a decent placement in the pocket, eased outside, never stopped trying, and just missed on the line. Her tactical speed usually helps her find a good early position. **VOLUNTARY** tracked a quick pace from the pocket, was bumped hard, and was forced to switch leads a couple of times when trying to bull her way outside turning for home, then gamely wore down the leader. This seems like a strong class hike, but she can get close to the early lead. **AWESOME MCKINZIE** broke slowly from the rail, saved ground at the back behind a solid pace, angled outside to split foes, and rallied for a minor award behind the favored winner. The fifth-finisher then took a restricted \$16,000 "non-two" seller at Colonial with a 76 Beyer. Comfortable at this distance for a trainer-jock combo that had a maiden winner here on 9/12. **WETHERBY** broke nicely, tracked the 13-1 last-finisher through a quick opening quarter, made the lead into the stretch, and was never in serious danger after being geared down in the final furlong. The runner-up then graduated in a restricted \$16,000 maiden with a 66 Beyer. A similar trip is expected for a barn that went 4 for the last 16 (25%, \$6.65 ROI) with turf horses in the third start following 180-365 day layoffs. **VEKOMA'S WAR** receives needed class relief for her second start following a lengthy layoff.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Experience counts for quite a bit when we look at 2 y/o fillies going long on the turf. Gold Brew ran into tough company for her last outing but looks to be improving with blinkers on and added ground. We have to mention the family for Waves of Success, a half to Ultimate Love, who looked very green on debut. The question is how much experience will it take for her to understand the task at hand?

R2: Why may have given the wrong impression on the dirt when running into Tessellate on debut, a filly who is now a multiple stakes winner. A repeat of her last outing would win here.

R3: Souper Cha Ching made a promising debut as the only first time starter in a race that seemed to hold speed well throughout. With Boyce aboard and a mid-pack draw, he is likely to save ground and benefit from racing fitness.

R4: Copernium is the only 5x winner in this group and has already proven himself against older company on two surfaces. With the inside post he is likely to sit a close stalking trip but isn't devoid of speed if they need to use it.

R5: Montour hails from a strong turf family, no surprise we saw him take plenty of action on debut, and will likely do so again here. Futile Gesture ran well on debut in early turf season, when he looked to be going through a growth spurt. Holding his own while returning in stakes company deserves respect, while leaving room for improvement 2nd off the bench.

R6: Midsummer Mo looks to have been bogged down with inside trips but runs her best when able to get in the clear. Her recent class relief and an outer post catch my attention at 15-1 ML. Fahnee is likely to be the controlling speed in here, just a question of whether J. Rod can ration it out for the 5.5f distance.

R7: Moon Cache looks to find an ideal next step for a confidence boost, previously a winner going this distance, should appreciate new company here. Golden Eib Micrphn is no slouch though, a 17x winner who has handled a bit more ground this season without issue.

R8: Cozy Rosie may look a bit light on experience but the company lines offer plenty of depth. Last out, she just missed to a Clement runner who came back to hit the board with an 80 Beyer in stakes company.

R9: Rain or shine, Gatsby looks to be very well spotted in this group today. His early turn of foot and outside post look to be a winning combination based on the last two trips. Faster Gator demands respect while stepping down from stakes company, I just try to find a better price.

R10: If you are willing to forgive the soft turf sprinting effort last out, Vekoma's War may be worth a look at 10-1 ML. in her only 2 starts without blinkers while routing, she has put together strong efforts. Second off the bench leaves room for improvement here as well.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#5 - Gold Brew

Trainer: Robbie Bailes

Maidens, Third Start: 11 for 46 (24%, \$4.26 ROI)

RACE 2

#1 - Why

Trainer: Hugh McMahon

Last-Out Winners, First After Trainer Switch: 8 for 26 (31%, \$3.30 ROI)

RACE 2

#6 - Scarlet's Dream

Trainer: Keri Brion

Between 9/3 and 9/16: 6 for 23 (26%, \$4.09 ROI)

RACE 5

#1 - All Nessed Up

Trainer: Jamie Ness

First After 9-11 Days: 3 for 10 (30%, \$2.28 ROI)

RACE 5

#11 - Futile Gesture

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

Second After 61-120 Days: 7 for 22 (32%, \$2.28 ROI)

RACE 8

#3 - Unwavering Monarch

Trainer: Graham Motion

Foreign Shippers, First-Time Lasix, Turf: 6 for 20 (30%, \$4.09 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 (F), 1 Mile, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#5 GOLD BREW	MSW, CNL, 1M, Firm Turf, 07/09/26 – 3 rd	Broke cleanly from gate 9, then settled into mid-pack, ~4L off the very slow pace while 2W; raced between horses as the field bunched racing into the far turn, then found herself boxed in and unable to build the necessary momentum rounding the turn; managed to tip out into the clear 4W ~1/4 pole, then finished willingly for 3 rd .	She did well to finish 3 rd here in what was her second start and first route considering the slow pace (25.21, 52.05) worked against her, and she was prevented from building momentum or advancing on the far turn; recon she has more to offer and she's deserving of respect right back.
#10 WAVES OF SUCCESS	MSW, CNL, 1M, Firm Turf, 08/21/26 – 4 th	Chased honest pace from ~3L back into the far turn; responded to pressure and crept a little closer racing to the ¼ pole but then found herself boxed in and was on heels in upper stretch; steadied and then switched out into the center which hurt her momentum and put her 4L down at the 1/8 pole; rallied again late but had too much to do.	Liked the way that, after having her momentum halted in upper stretch and losing a couple of lengths at a pivotal moment, she then re-rallied to be beaten just 2L; feel she'd have gone very close with a clear path through and notable improvement and a form reversal with CORDOVA seems possible second out.
Other notes: - #2 SHE'S THE MOAMENT was under pressure from the start at Colonial on debut, continuously responded and stayed on well late; she very much left the impression that today's stretch out in trip will benefit her; player switching surfaces. - Not entirely sure how much difference it made to her finishing position, but #3 DOE'S LEMONADE steadied entering the turn when sprinting 4F at Timonium last time; switches surfaces and stretches out today. - #6 CORDOVA didn't have a bad trip at Colonial last time, but she did briefly lack room and was forced to wait a few strides racing into the lane; while she didn't have to check or steady, this brief pause allowed the winner to get the jump on her which, based on her finishing effort, very possibly cost her the race; respected right back.			

Race 2: Claiming 12.5k, 3YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt	
Other notes: - #3 LADY SRIRACHA received a good pace setup when just failing at Parx last out; her prior start to that, in which she finished 2nd, came over a heavily SPEED BIASED track. - #6 SCARLET'S DREAM was positioned close to a fast, closer friendly pace (22.91, 45.97) going 7F at Saratoga last out; she stayed on willingly despite losing position in upper stretch and not having been ridden hard in deep stretch; she has the potential to offer more than that if rationing out her speed more efficiently down in both class and trip today.	

Race 3: MSW, 3-6YO, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 SOUPER CHA CHING	MSW, CNL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 08/29/26 – 3 rd	Broke a beat slowly, then took a strong hold and settled in rear ~4L off a very slow early pace; advanced slightly between horses in the 2P racing to the far turn; kept revs up while in behind horses racing to the ¼ pole, then things got a little tight and he had to tap on the brakes in upper stretch; angled out and bumped notably with a rival upon straightening, now ~6L off the quickening leaders; from there, he finished very well down the center for 3 rd but had too much to do; galloped out well.	He managed to close into a slow pace (25.73, 50.74; speed held very well) despite having had some traffic trouble in upper stretch; it's easy to argue that he was actually best in here; massive player second out.
Other notes: - The chart comment correctly highlights how #2 RESOLUTE was carried out passing the 1/8 pole after sitting a 3W trip in a slowly run race at Penn National last time; while true that he was carried out, it was extremely minor interference and did not affect the beaten margin/speed fig at all; Lasix back on today.			

- Having received an excellent pace setup at Del Mar when making his turf debut last November, **#9 RIO GRANDE** was extremely rank and ran up on heels aggressively entering and rounding the first turn at Santa Anita in his most recent turf start which surely contributed to his very poor finishing effort; makes debut for Russell off a layoff and following a gelding operation today.

Race 4: Claiming 7.5k, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 BELTANE	Claiming 5k, TIM, 6 1/2F, Fast Dirt, 09/06/26 – 2 nd	Bumped start; sent and dueled through fast, pressured fractions on rail; light bump 3/8; entered far turn still in a duel, 6L clear of 3 rd ; continued dueling under pressure to the top of the lane, then put away pace rival but was collared by a deep closer and had to settle for 2 nd .	A simple pace upgrade can be awarded here as he very nearly got the job done despite having dueled through fast, closer friendly fractions throughout (winner, third and fourth place finishers were 9, 8 and 7 lengths off the lead at the 5/16 pole); possibly capable of more if able to ration his speed out more efficiently.

Other notes:

- **#5 BATTALION LEADER** endured a rough start at Timonium last time, but it's hard to say *that* was the train for his below par effort; needs more.
- After fading, **#7 ON THE LEVEL** was not ridden through the lane at Colonial last time, exacerbating the margin of defeat; drops in class making debut for Ness today.

Race 5: OC62k/N1X Allowance, 2YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#9 MONTOUR	MSW, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 08/23/26 – 1 st	Broke with field but was then put in tight shortly after and shuffled back to 6th; raced greenly into the turn, then made a steady 3W advance under pressure racing to the top of the lane; loomed with a threatening run upper stretch, then took some time to switch leads in the stretch but eventually did so and surged late for a comfortable score.	He suffered a troubled beginning to this race and then showed many signs of greenness; although sent off at 2/5 and expected to win this race, he still did well to do so under the circumstances and there is seemingly plenty more to come.

Other notes:

- As highlighted in the chart comment, **#3 PARKRIDGE** was bumped very hard ~5 1/2F pole last out, which wasn't ideal; however, his momentum was not hindered much at all and he sat a picture-perfect trip thereafter, so we should not upgrade the effort; switches surfaces making debut for De Paz today.
- **#1 ALL NESSED UP** received a perfect pace setup on debut at Colonial prior to a fine effort in a stake last time.
- **#1A METALLICAN** won at Timonium on debut despite shaping as though he'll be much better on a conventional track with longer straights and more sweeping turns; he increased his stride frequency through the short stretch, was never letting the runner-up by and seemed to have more to offer; likable.
- Despite having been caught in an often-unideal spot between horses early, **#10 FUTILE GESTURE** still managed to do best of the speed in a strongly run restricted Jamestown Stakes at Colonial last out; respected right back.

Race 6: Claiming 16k, 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 YO ADRIAN	Claiming 16k, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/04/26 – 3 rd	Unhurried from gate; chased slow pace from ~7L back in last racing into the turn; held position under patient handling racing to the top of the lane, then came under a ride, shifted off the rail and rallied well down the center but had too much to do.	He did extremely well to hit the board here considering the pace was slow and speed held very well; expecting him to offer more with a stronger pace likely today.

Other notes:

- Speed held really well in the fifth race at Colonial on September 04, possibly warranting downgrades for **#1 DALE'S BLUFF** and **#8 FAHNEE**, who were always prominent.
- Speed held very well and the running order hardly changed in the race that both **#4 DIANE LEE** and **#11 THISISHOWWEDOIT** exit at Colonial; while neither runner sat bad trips, maybe take that form with a pinch of salt.
- **#9 CHITCHATCHITCHAT** became worked up in the gate at Colonial last out, then sat a wide trip; seemed like an off day for her; wouldn't surprise if she today.

- Once again, **#12 MIDSUMMER MO** finished very well into an even pace to just get up at Penn National last time; she shapes as if today's 5 1/2F trip could be perfect.

Race 7: Ratings Optional Claiming (65-1), 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Turf

Other Notes:

- **#1 KISSEDBYANANGEL's** 1 1/4L defeat at Delaware two-back effort deserves a little extra credit as she was caught up in a speed duel early, and the track was favoring closers; she then sat a wide trip at Timonium last time; might be capable of more now stretching back out.
- The chart comment notes that **#4 MARGARET P** steadied entering the second turn at Timonium last time, but this hardly happened at all, and we can not attribute her poor performance to this; needs more.

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

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#8 GRIPEN	Allowance, CNL, 1M, Firm Turf, 08/23/26 – 5 th	Pulled hard between foes in behind a very slow pace early; shuffled back to 7 th entering far turn, then found herself on the back foot as the pace lifted; 5L down when taken very wide ~5/16 pole; came 5W into the lane, 5L off quickening leaders, then finished well but had too much to do.	Her effort, rallying from 5L down into the criminally slow pace (26.20, 51.23) when on the back foot and widest of all on the home turn, was actually very commendable, and with a more honest tempo today, she may well be able to improve on this debut turf route try.

Other notes:

- **#4 FIRE'S OUT** didn't have a bad trip on return last time but she did receive a bump when in search of room in upper stretch; in what was a slowly run race, she finished with good energy through the lane and galloped out well, seemingly with more in the tank; a nice prep run, she can step forward today.
- Exiting the same race as #8 GRIPEN, **#10 BUZZAWAY** appeared unsuited by the slow pace (26.20, 51.23), pulling hard while wide early and then getting caught flat footed late on; expecting more from her with a stronger pace forecast today.

Race 9: Ratings Optional Claiming (75-1), 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#4 FASTER GATOR** stumbled at the start and was bumped hard between foes last out which left him racing well behind the field early; as a typical speed horse, this was far from ideal and likely had an influence on his overall poor effort.
- Although **#5 FEAR NOTHING** was steadied slightly rounding the first turn at Timonium last time, it was fairly insignificant and absolutely not the reason as to why he performed below par.
- **#6 OMAR COMIN** found himself in a tight spot ~1/4 pole at Colonial last out; however, he was already well behind at this stage, and it didn't make *that* much difference to the result; cuts back in trip today.
- There was a strong speed bias present at Finger Lakes when **#7 GATSBY** scored courtesy of a forward trip last out, but that's not to say he wasn't still best at 8/5; debuts for Ness today.

Race 10: OC35k/SAL28k, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Turf

Other notes:

- Not sure what **#6 AMBERIA (IRE)** was doing at Colonial last time: after tracking a slow pace set by the eventual gate-to-wire winner, she was produced by to come with a run in the lane but hung while drifting/lugging inwards, right up until about 20Y from the wire, when she then decided to straighten out and surge with great energy only to miss; she appeared to be cheating her supporters there and while maybe a touch untrustworthy, she has the potential to improve on that try.
- Regardless of what she beat, the way **#9 WEATHERBY** went about breaking her maiden at Colonial last time was impressive: she tracked the honest pace in 2nd, cruised up to lead when everyone else was under the pump at the top of the lane, then exploded away under a mild hand ride when asked before easing down late; she ran a 63 Beyer but could have way more to offer.

Horses to Follow

R3: SOUPER CHA CHING (9/5 ML)

Mike Trombetta's well-bred SOUPER CHA CHING took money on debut at Colonial and really should have scored, but a slow pace and a little traffic forced him to settle for a fast-finishing third instead. The group he now faces in today's third looks a little tougher than his last, and one probably doesn't want to take any shorter than the 9/5 morning-line price, but the upside potential he retains is far greater than the other main protagonists and he's fired a bullet workout since his last run; he might simply be better than these.

R7: CITANA (9/2 ML)

CITANA finished just behind next-out stakes winner STARSHIP ATHENA on the turf at Delaware last out in what was a strong effort; she now gets a little class relief while switching from the turf to dirt. Motion doesn't boast great stats making this surface-switch move, but this gal was a G3 winner over the surface in her native Argentina and has worked lights out on the surface recently.

R8: GRIPEN (15/1 ML)

Although she's found herself in another tough spot, GRIPEN shouldn't be dismissed in today's eighth following a better-than-looks first turf route try at Colonial last time where she had her chance undone by a criminally slow pace. Kingsley brings her weight down to just 112 pounds and at 15/1 on the morning line, she should be worth including on tickets.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

LOVELIEST

Trainer: Eddie Kenneally

Last Race: April 17, Race 7

Finish: 8th by 6 3/4

Class drop might be in order after filly tired badly in a first-level allowance sprinting on the grass. She was bumped during the opening furlong while pressing the winner from the rail before giving way. She is quick from the gate, and that speed would play well at a lower class level.

PLENTY ON TAP

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.

FIERCE AND STRONG

Trainer: Michael Salvaggio Jr.

Last Race: September 13, Race 6

Finish: 4th by 1

YOUR LORDSHIP

Trainer: Graham Motion

Last Race: May 30, 7th race

Finish: 1st by 2 3/4

It could be a fun 4-year-old summer on the turf for the Graham Motion-trained runner. Racing as a first-time gelding, Your Lordship rated long with plenty of confidence throughout, waited to pounce in the upper stretch, and angled and swept clear for the win.

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

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.

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.

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.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

RACE 7 - Jaime Rodriguez: #3 - Dyna Soar; #7 - Citana >>> **Rodriguez rides CITANA**

PAST TRACK TRENDS

Apr. 3 – Fair
Apr. 4 – Fair
Apr. 10 – Fair
Apr. 11 – Fair
Apr. 12 – Fair
Apr. 17 – Fair
Apr. 18 – SPEED BIAS
Apr. 19 – Fair
Apr. 24 – Fair
Apr. 25 – SPEED BIAS
Apr. 26 – Fair

May 1 – SPEED BIAS
May 2 – Fair
May 3 – Fair
May 8 – CLOSERS BIAS
May 9 – Fair
May 10 – CLOSERS BIAS
May 14 – Fair
🏆 May 15 – Fair
🏆 May 16 – Fair
May 22 – SPEED BIAS

May 23 – Fair
May 29 – SPEED BIAS
May 30 – Fair
May 31 – Fair
June 5 – SPEED BIAS
June 6 – CLOSERS BIAS
June 7 – Fair
June 12 – Fair
June 13 – Fair
June 14 – SPEED BIAS
June 19 – Fair

June 20 – Fair
June 21 – Fair
June 26 – Fair
June 27 – Fair
June 28 – INSIDE SPEED BIAS
Sep. 11 – INSIDE BIAS
Sep. 12 – SPEED BIAS
Sep. 13 – Fair

