



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for FRIDAY, OCT. 9

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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TIM TULLOCK

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

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. BALLYKEEFE

2. AWARDS CEREMONY

3. REGAL MISS LILY

The first post time is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout rate. **BALLYKEEFE** saved ground in midpack, angled outside, ran by the leader, then was just nipped on the wire by the 4-1 late closer. Midsummer Mo next ran third in a \$7,500 "non-three" claimer at Meadowlands with a 64 Beyer. Seems adaptable to any race flow. Rodriguez lands here instead of Belle of Liberty. I also want to use **AWARDS CEREMONY** in multiple-race wagers. Sat a loose pocket behind a quick pace last month, cut the corner, and failed to menace. The runner-up next won a \$20,000 "non-two" seller here with a 67 Beyer. Breezed inside 3-year-old filly maiden Daring Grace at Fair Hill on 10/3, and always seemed to be going better. Expect early speed for a barn that went 4 for 11 (36%, \$7.46 ROI) between 9/7 and 10/4. **REGAL MISS LILY** finished behind the top pick at Penn National, but that race went to closers, and she raced close to the early pace. Tactical enough to work out a stalking trip while outside and clear of traffic for a barn that has had three winners since 9/19. YAMMY YAMMY BELLA finished ahead of three of these when cut back to a sprint. She doesn't have much speed, so will need some pace and race luck from the back.

>> RACE 2

1. CALL HER BLUFF

2. INEEDYUBABE

3. ALWAYS FORWARD

CALL HER BLUFF was protected from being claimed in a pair of allowance races on turf when returned from a whopping 407-day layoff, and might now be set for her best switching back to her preferred surface and dropping in class. Wired by the favorite over a speed-friendly track in her most recent dirt start, she broke outward slightly, tracked three wide after a half-mile, then was easily second best. She has the tactical speed to stay close to the pace for a barn that went 8 for the last 20 (40%, \$2.31 ROI) when moving from turf to dirt. **INEEDYUBABE** hasn't been off the board over this surface, and she was wired by a 2-1 shot last month. She's won half of her starts, but I wonder if she's a bit pace-dependent. **ALWAYS FORWARD** wheels back on relatively short notice after being wired by the favorite in a two-turn mile at Delaware. All six of her wins have come around two turns.

>> RACE 3

1. MR GERSON

2. METALLICAN

3. JOKE TELLER

MR GERSON showed big speed when graduating in a turf sprint at Horseshoe Indianapolis. Immediately cleared to the lead through splits of 20.86 and 22.78, and kept rolling. Purchased for \$70,000 at public auction after that race, he was entered in an Ellis Park stakes on turf (scratched - sick) before failing as the favorite on dirt in the first run for his connections. Gets back to grass and can stay close to the pace for a barn that went 4 for the last 20 (20%, \$2.61 ROI) when adding blinkers for the first time to non-debut runners. **METALLICAN** was bumped at the start, settled outside near the back, split rivals on the turn, eased outside, and stormed past the leaders despite hopping back to his left lead. Should get a solid race flow for a barn that went 5 for the last 16 (31%, \$2.18 ROI), with last-out winners returning for the third start. **JOKE TELLER** tracked the leader while slightly off the rail, made a clear lead, and was just kicked down by Metalican on the wire. Should be right there when they turn for home. FROST ROCKET graduated nicely on turf at

Woodbine, then might have aimed a bit too high in that stakes at Presque Isle Downs (winner was odds-on; runner-up then placed in a \$62,500 optional there with a 65 Beyer).

>> RACE 4

1. STRONG SUSPICION

2. REMEMBER THE WORD

3. GOOD LOOKERNESS

STRONG SUSPICION prompted a reasonable pace while three-wide, attacked two-wide/three-path on the turn, then gamely bested Walt's Notion despite being bumped by that rival in the stretch. That foe returned to win the James F. Lewis III Stakes here with a 76 Beyer. A repeat of his last speed figure makes him very tough from close to the pace. **REMEMBER THE WORD** moves from turf to dirt in the third start of the form cycle. Finished ahead of Prince of Peace in his dirt race two back, and that foe then came back to hit the board in his next two, including a second in the Lewis with a 73 Beyer. **GOOD LOOKERNESS** doesn't have much early speed, but he acts as if this extra distance will suit, and he tried to rally last time out in a race where the pace held up. DAY MADE showed big early speed when graduating in an off-turf affair two weeks ago. This outside post gives his rider options.

>> RACE 5

1. CALL ME ANDY

2. START TAPPIN

3. BIG BOLTON

CALL ME ANDY worked out a nice trip when just missing last month. Saved ground every step of the way, slipped through along the inside, and tried hard when nosed out by an eight-time winner. He could use a bit of pace help in this spot. **START TAPPIN** stalked a quick pace from the outside on turf two back, swung four wide into the stretch, and wore them down despite being late to change leads. The fourth-finisher then won a starter/first-level allowance at Colonial with a 78 Beyer. Forgive the dirt try last time out, as he certainly prefers the turf, and he can get close to the pace this afternoon. **BIG BOLTON** broke slowly from the rail, found the pocket, cut the corner into the stretch, then finished evenly in his first start after 252 days on the sidelines. Likely gained a ton of fitness from that start. This barn sent out a 6-1 winner here last Friday. RYE DIGGITYDOG was bumped at the start, saved ground at the back, altered widest into the stretch, then swapped leads several times while making up three lengths. Kicks in the stretch if the pace is quicker than anticipated. Marquez departs for WORLD ON FIRE.

>> RACE 6

1. BOLTAGE

2. CACTUS

3. BLAME THE TUX

BOLTAGE must overcome a tough outside post, but the Grade 3-placed performer takes a drop in class for his circuit return. Broke outward slightly last time in Indiana, saved ground every step, and finished evenly. The eighth-finisher then placed in a second-level allowance at Keeneland with an 86 Beyer. Ran well (fourth in Laurel Dash, and close fourth in tough second-level allowance) in both prior starts here. **CACTUS** dueled between the 21-1 last-place and 10-1 seventh-finisher, made an early lead change, then stayed gamely in between for third when last seen on turf. Washed off the grass two weeks ago, he'll do better getting back to the green, and should be close to the early lead. **BLAME THE TUX** was banged around on the first turn at Colonial when wired by a 2-1 shot. The runner-up then placed in a \$20,000 starter-optional at Delaware with a 79 Beyer. Appears to be rounding back into form for this, his third start following a lengthy layoff. KALAHARI NOT SORRY was cooked in a hot-paced duel going two turns over soft going. Should show speed

cutting back to a sprint. BRIE'S IN TOWN drops in class for his first start in six months. Finished behind Firmantown last time, and that foe has since compiled a 5-1-3-0 record with a 79 Beyer top.

>> RACE 7

1. ENGAGED IS BETTER

2. ARUMA Ariba

3. SLIGHTLY MOTIVATE

ENGAGED IS BETTER prompted a three-ply pace from the rail, then held second on the wire when returning on short notice last month. Expecting early zip for a barn that sent out four winners between 9/18 and 10/4. **ARUBA Ariba** dueled just to the outside of the top pick while in between rivals and stayed on well to finish slightly behind that foe. I like that he draws outside Engaged Is Better, and he can turn up the heat on the turn for a barn that went 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.53 ROI) between 9/25 and 10/4. **SLIGHTLY MOTIVATED** (\$1,000 weanling) is out of a half-sister to stakes-winning turf miler Rap Tale (79 turf Beyer) and stakes-placed dirt miler Cherokee Rap (107 dirt Beyer). The second dam was a stakes-placed dirt router (91 dirt Beyer). This barn sent out an 8-1 debut winner at Timonium.

>> RACE 8

1. MAXIMO MADNESS

2. AMERICANDREAMMAKER

3. DON'T TELL DEREN

MAXIMO MADNESS disappointed at Meadowlands in a race dominated by Saratoga shippers, but I'm more interested in her start two back at Penn National. Brushed at the start, she was bumped between rivals on the first turn, was on hold in between on the far bend, eased outside, and just missed second. Finished behind the two favorites and displayed a solid gallop-out for a barn that sent out seven winners between 9/21 and 10/6.

AMERICANDREAMMAKER prompted the 34-1 last-finisher, grabbed the lead and the fence after a half-mile, opened a strong advantage, and was kicked down after changing back to her left lead at the stretch gap. Her early speed should play well in this spot. **DON'T TELL DEREN** broke well, tracked a run-off leader whose jockey lost the irons, raced in a very loose pocket, went right by that foe through a slow (25.14) third quarter, and stayed strong to the wire. Consistent with excellent tactical speed, she should be in prime contention once the real racing starts. **CAN'T FOOL ME** gets some class relief after trailing two weeks ago at Belmont. When she's on her game, she boasts a strong late bid. Barbosa lands here instead of Love Yourself.

>> RACE 9

1. BILL OF RIGHTS

2. INTOGATE

3. ROLL ON JESSE

BILL OF RIGHTS was wired by the favorite over a wet track. Bumped after the start, he tracked three wide while between horses, made an outside bid on the second turn as the pace quickened, and stayed on for second. Placed ahead of a next-out winner that afternoon, and appears adaptable from a pace standpoint. **INTOGATE** is lightly raced with upside potential, and he should show good early speed stretching out to a mile for the first time. There appears to be enough pedigree for him to last the extra distance. **ROLL ON JESSE** hit the board in his last three starts, and he boasts a strong late kick. Won't be surprised if he's primed for his best in the third start following a layoff line.

>> RACE 10

1. OVER MY CENTS

2. SAY YOU LOVE ME

3. VALERIE STREET

OVER MY CENTS might have dirtied up form after competing on turf and over that quirky surface at Timonium in his last three starts. She hit the board in her prior four dirt appearances and earned a very competitive figure at Charles Town on 8/7. Her sole win came over this course and distance, and she switches to J-Rod here. **SAY YOU LOVE ME** returns to dirt, as she makes her third start after a long 645-day layoff. Settled in midpack behind a quick pace in the last dirt run, made an outside bid under confident handling, but only finished in a one-paced manner. The third-finisher has since won four races, including the Beyond the Wire Stakes. Briceno lands here instead of I'mamaterialgirl. **VALERIE STREET** raced without front shoes in her last four starts, and the consistent filly has hit the board in her last eight dirt runs. Expect a strong late bid.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Several runners exit the 9/19 LRL race, where we were faced with a pre-race delay on the turf course which may have impacted some runners. Queen of Wands 2-back race is plenty to win here, assuming she can run back to it.

R2: Ineedyoubabe has figured out how to win 5x in her 10 career starts, all since the beginning of this year. With a potentially loose leader in Ginger Girl, Ineedyoubabe might repeat the 2-back effort while facing a similar trip here.

R3: Metalican will look to maintain his perfect record as the only 2x winner in this group. He will face a few familiar faces here but Montour will present a new challenge with a reasonable ML price. Have a look at It's Prime Time for a price. His pedigree works just fine on the turf, he has a previous scratch from a turf try, and a stakes scratch last weekend suggests he might be going well right now.

R4: Strong Suspicion is a true standout in this group, hard to deny his chances based on the efforts we have seen from him. A horse worth keying around.

R5: This looks like a race that may come down to the older and more experienced types, specifically Rye Diggitydog and Call Me Andy, the former of which is likely a better price. Of the less experienced, Big Bolton deserves attention on the inside, as he was highly impressive early on, and has plenty of room to improve 2nd off the bench.

R6: Cactus returns to what may be his preferred surface, following a race where he ran into true dirt sprinters and held his own. With speed to his inside, he looks to have the setup for his stalk and pounce style. For value underneath, Incinerator has been showing consistently in the results despite troubled trips. Returning to LRL could be a big benefit for him.

R7: Engaged Is Better and Aruba Ariba will face off for the second time here. I lean towards Engaged Is Better, as he gets a bit of weight off and has proven himself on the inside, although it turned out to be a win the battle to lose the war type of result. Determination goes a long way with 2 y/o's.

R8: Americandreammaker has made impressive strides this year, winning 3 of her last four outings, and missing by just a neck in the other try. With questionable pace in here, Kingsley may have a chance to set the terms.

R9: Intogage found himself in a tough position last out when landing inside of more experienced speed horses. Now with the outer post and 7f distance, we could see a trip more similar to his win 2-back.

R10: The recent blinkers addition looks to be helping Final Engagement find a bit more speed in recent starts, which could be the key to this race. If she can jump out early with the weight off, she looks to be in the right company to take them all the way.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#5 - Awards Ceremony

Trainer: Arnaud Delacour

Between 9/7 and 10/4: 4 for 11 (36%, \$7.46 ROI)

RACE 2

#2 - Call Her Bluff

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Turf to Dirt: 8 for 20 (40%, \$2.31 ROI)

RACE 3

#6 - Metallican

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last-Out Winners, Third Start: 5 for 16 (31%, \$2.18 ROI)

RACE 3

#7 - Mr Gerson

Trainer: David Jacobson

Experienced Horses, First Blinkers: 4 for 20 (20%, \$2.61 ROI)

RACE 7

#8 - Aruba Ariba

Trainer: John Robb

Between 9/25 and 10/4: 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.53 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: Claiming 16k, 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#3 BALLYKEEFE	Claiming 16k, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 07/19/26 – 5 th	Chased honest pace from ~4L back on the rail to the ¼ pole, then ran out of room and had to hit the brakes when on heels in upper stretch (she really needed to be rolling at this point); was shuffled back while still on a hold racing to the 1/8 pole, then found room but was unable to recover.	Her two-back effort and last going 5 1/2F (which her latest start over a flat 5F appears her preferred trip): She endured a troubled trip in this race, and the result/speed fig should not be taken as an accurate reflection of her ability.
Other notes: - #1 LADY LENA ran on well late going a flat 5F at Colonial last time and should be better suited by today's 5 1/2F trip with the long stretch to help. - #8 BELLE OF LIBERTY was bumped at the start and away slowly last time, although it's tough to say that <i>that</i> was the reason she barely lifted a hoof; still, her effort was too bad to be true, and we may be best served to just draw a line through it, assuming something was amiss. - Despite racing a little wide on the far turn, #10 YAMMY YAMMY BELLA managed to close very strongly into just an even pace for 3rd when cut back to sprinting last time; with a stronger pace to run at, she may be capable of improving on that run again; contender.			

- **#11 REGAL MISS LILY** found herself in an awkward spot (chasing the lone leader while tight in between foes) and had to briefly take back ~1/4 pole at Penn last time; while this wasn't major interference, it was enough to make one believe that, with today's distance likely to suit better, she can step forward from that run.

Race 2: OC12k/SAL8k, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Dirt

Other notes:

- The even, uncontested pace she was able to set combined with the speed favoring nature of the bullring track at Timonium really seemed to help **#6 GINGER GIRL** last time – possible downgrade.
- In her last four consecutive starts (including last out on the turf when she did not receive a good pace setup), **#7 GILDA'S GIRL** has finished like she'd appreciate and benefit from today's step up to a mile.

Race 3: OC62k/N1X Allowance, 2YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#6 METALLICAN	Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Good Turf, 09/20/26 – 1 st	Bumped start, away slowly in last; chased even pace from ~5L back into turn; made smooth progress while 2W racing to 5/16; angled off heels upper stretch, straightened for the drive ~4L off leader, then flew home down the center to get up on the line.	This wasn't a bad trip, but it was a visually very impressive win; given he'd been a bothered at the break and was therefore left racing against the 'flow' (2nd – 5th place finishers were positioned 1st – 4th until the final 1/8th; speed held), we may expect more from him with a better break and/or fast(er) pace forecast; player.
#8 JAVA PRINCE (MTO)	Maiden Claiming 40k, TIM, 4F, Fast Dirt, 09/05/26 – 1 st	Away a touch slow from inside gate; rushed up on the rail to draw level with the leading duo, then found himself in tight entering the far turn and was forced to check hard; dropped back 2-3L rounding the far turn, regrouped, then re-rallied again through a very tight rail gap in the lane, getting back up to win in the nick of time.	What an effort this was to win having lost significant ground at a crucial stage and then been prevented from truly leveling off properly in the stretch due to the very tight gap he was asked to run through; UPGRADE this effort and expect far more second out at a distance which should suit better.
#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:

- **#2 JOKE TELLER** arguably hit the front a fraction too soon last out (rider might have waited a little longer before resorting to the crop as the pair kicked well clear mid-stretch, then were nailed); still, a big effort in defeat, he's a leading player today.
- **#7 MR GERSON** was visually impressive two-back (his last start on turf) when breaking his maiden at Horseshoe Indy: he set fractions of 20.86, 43.64 and never saw another rival, winning with ease in visually appealing style; left the impression he might have more to offer; contender getting back on grass with blinkers on today.

Race 4: OC62k/N1X Allowance, 2YO, 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#1 GOOD LOOKERNESS** ran well enough at 41/1 last out considering he did not receive a brilliant setup for a deep closer; today's 7F distance and a fast(er) pace *might* be more to his liking.
- When beating two rivals to break his maiden at Timonium last time, **#4 CHASING CHAD** showed signs that he'd be suited and possibly improve for the return to a conventional track.
- **#7 DAY MADE** made a nice impression when breaking his maiden in an off-turf MSW two weeks ago; he won with good energy and seems capable of more.

Race 5: Allowance ®, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf**Other notes:**

- **#1 BIG BOLTON** shaped like he possibly needed the run when returning off a lengthy layoff last time; eligible to step forward second back.
- **#2 SINTEC** didn't do enough to earn an upgrade last out; however, he was squeezed out of position mid-turn, which didn't help his chances; lasix off today.
- **#3 RYE DIGGITYDOG** didn't quite do enough to earn an upgrade last time; however, he was bumped hard at the start and (save for the much-the-best 7/5 winner), nobody did any running from the back, so he was also against the 'flow'; wouldn't surprise if he offered a little more today.
- **#5 CHIMNEY SWEEP** benefited from being allowed to set a slow, uncontested pace early before just holding on to finally break his maiden last time – possible downgrade.
- **#7 ENZO** (3rd) and **#9 START TAPPIN** (1st) both received excellent pace setups at Colonial on 08/20/26, closing into fractions of 21.35, 43.67).

Race 6: Ratings Optional Claiming (65-1), 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#10 NOAH CHANCE	ROC, LRL, 5 1/2F, Good Turf, 09/13/26 – 5 th	Worked across from wide post to track the even pace from ~3L back in the 2P racing to the 5/16; found himself bottled up in behind horses and steadied off heels continuously racing into the lane; spied a gap inside shortly after straightening and tried to go for it but the gap shut faster than one could say "gap" and he was forced to check hard and steady between 3/16 and 1/8; found room again late and switched out before regrouping and trying to make one last bid but it was too late.	A truly awful trip; it's very easy to argue he should have won this race and much, much more can be expected of him today; big player.

Other notes:

- Having run so well the time prior, you have wonder whether the wide trip combined with the yielding turf prevented **#2 KISS THEM DEADLY** from offering his best when last seen on the grass two-back?
- **#3 BLAME THE TUX**'s last effort is borderline upgradable because he could have seemingly won if good enough, yet at the same time things didn't go completely his way: he clipped a heel racing into the first turn, then found himself bottled up on the rail stalking the slow pace (25.79, 49.97) all the way into the stretch; from there, he then stayed on well but crucially lacked the late pace to score (a different, stronger setup could have seen him to better effect); cuts back today.
- Although **#5 KALAHARI NOT SORRY** has had two troubled trips in a row, we can't fully put his non-threatening efforts down to the trips; he needs more today. Note: he appeared to be lugging out a little on the turn in his last sprint, two-back.
- The chart comment notes how **#6 CACTUS** steadied at the ½ last time but, while true, it was negligible interference and cost him nothing; player back on turf today.
- **#7 INCINERATOR** could arguably have done with more pace to run over the speedy track at Colonial last time; he ran well under the circumstances and deserves a second look today.
- There was a very heavy speed bias present at Timonium when **#11 TENEBRIS** was last seen finishing 2nd courtesy of a forward trip; the track possibly aided him that day.

Race 7: Maiden Claiming 35k, 2YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt**Other Notes:**

- **#2 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.
- Having dueled in the 2P with **#7 ENGAGED IS BETTER** into the lane last time, **#8 ARUBA ARIBA** then found himself in tight quarters ~1/8 pole as the winner blew by on the outside, forcing him back a little (he didn't check, but was squeezed/intimidated out of the position); he then ran on well again late but couldn't get the better of 'EIB' for 2nd; feel that with a clean trip second out, he has an excellent chance of reversing the form with that foe' today; player.

Race 8: OC12k/SAL8k, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#11 CHA CHA CHUKKA	Claiming 10k, DEL, 1M 70Y,	Allowed to settle early; crossed to the rail and chased honest pace from last racing into and down the back	Although the posted 22.28, 46.49 fractions would make it look like she took advantage of a pace collapse, she didn't: those fractions were set by a lone

	Firm Turf, 09/16/26 – 1 st	stretch; took slightly closer order approaching far turn, then waited in traffic while 5L back and full of run rounding far turn, allowing the eventual runner up to skip into a healthy lead upon straightening; switched out from behind horses ~1/8 pole when 5L down, garnered momentum, then flew late and got up on the line.	runaway 16/1 shot while the rest of the field posted sensible fractions 6L behind (runner-up sat 2nd for most of the contest; we should view this pace as being just even); ‘CHA CHA’ therefore deserves extra credit for grabbing the W here considering she was prevented from building any momentum at all on the far turn (exactly when she needed to be doing just that), and she closed from last into just an even pace; player.
Other notes: - Not sure what happened with #3 CAN’T FOOL ME last time, but he just never lifted a hoof in an effort that was too bad to be true; needs to bounce back making debut for Geralis today. - Having kicked clear on the far turn and opened up in upper stretch, #10 AMERICANDREAMMAKER flopped leads and drifted in at the rail gap, then failed to correct her leads and paddled late before ultimately getting caught last time; seems that if she’d have run more professionally, she could have made it two wins in a row.			

Race 9: Allowance [®] , 3YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 INTOGAGE	Allowance, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 09/18/26 – 4 th	Sent from inside post; dueled for the lead opening furlong, then dropped back to stalk on rail racing to ½; steadied back as rivals came across entering the bend, then found himself getting shuffled further back while also possibly resenting the kickback (which he’d never faced before); went from sharing the lead to chasing in last almost 6L back ~5/16; swung 5-6W into the lane, then tried to rally and offered a willing effort but could not reach the place or show finishers (winner was a mile clear).	He met trouble in this race which completely lost him his position and likely cost him a place or show finish; he’s better than this and more can be expected of him today; player.
Other notes: - Having broken a step slow from the inside post and failed to adopt his usual front-running/forward tactics, #1 OVERSPENT took a lot of muddy kickback at Delaware last time which very possibly explains his below par effort; eligible to bounce back. - Both #5 BILL OF RIGHTS and #6 ROLL ON JESSE put forth efforts at two-turns last time that suggest that they’ll handle today’s cut back just fine; both respected.			

Race 10: Claiming 12.5k, 3YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt	
Other notes: - The saddle completely slipped up the neck of #6 PINKY SWEAR last time; the rider had little control, and we can legitimately toss the race; her three- and four-back efforts might be the best gauge of her true ability; not discounted. - #7 OVER MY CENTS lost plenty of ground racing 5-7W on the turf last time; switches riders and moves back to dirt today.	

Horses to Follow

R1: BALLYKEEFE (6/1 ML)

Having shown plenty of promise as a 2yo last year, BALLYKEEFE’s 2026 efforts have, on the face of it, been disappointing. However, connections removed the Lasix two-back and, although the PPs wouldn’t say as much, she has actually rediscovered some of the better form she displayed last year when, again, she was not running with Lasix. A troubled trip at Colonial in July and an inadequate flat 5-furlongs over a speedy Penn National turf course last time hide that improvement on paper, but she now gets back to her preferred 5 1/2-furlongs, which should help her improve on both those starts and make her very live in today’s opener.

R6: NOAH CHANCE (4/1 ML)

Having made a solid return to action behind JUNGLE GLOW at Colonial last month, NOAH CHANCE wheeled back on just 8-days rest and somehow managed to match his Colonial speed figure last out despite enduring a truly brutal trip, as highlighted in the above trip notes; he really could have won that race. Now making his third start back, a clean trip should allow him to take a further step forward allow him to go very close at 4/1 on the morning-line.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

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 *(Entered at Laurel – SAT 10/10, Race 3)*

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

PLENTY ON TAP

Trainer: Tim Woolley

Last Race: Oct. 3, 3rd

Finish: 2nd by 2

Didn't break the best two back on turf, then raced three wide and in between rivals on the backstretch before being shuffled back. Cut the corner, then was over in behind horses for most of the stretch before rallying belatedly to just miss second. Ran well when washed off the green on 10/3, and deserves another shot on turf.

NOAH CHANCE *(Entered at Laurel – Today 10/9, Race 6)*

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

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

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

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.

SIP OF MANHATTAN

Trainer: Eduardo Leiva

Last Race: Sept. 25; 6th

Finish: 2nd by 5

A bit wound up with pony during post parade, then a tad reluctant to load, but gave a top first-out effort as second-best to gate-wire winner Winslow.

SEA ISLE CITY

Trainer: Keri Brion

Last Race: Sept. 26, 8th

Finish: 3rd by 1 1/4

Held her inside position over the "good" going, dropped back a bit near upper stretch, then made some ground late to finish third in the Selima Stakes. May prefer firm turf, short or long.

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.

SUJO (*Breezed 3F - :36.20 at ELP on 9/25*)

Trainer: Greg Sacco

Last Race: Jan. 16, 7th race

Finish: 4th by 4 3/4 lengths

First-time starter was pinballed from in between horses at the start, and dropped all the way back to last. Started to kick in at the eighth pole, angled to the fence, and just missed getting third on the wire with a nice gallop-out.

OTAGO (*Entered at Laurel – SUN 10/11, Race 8*)

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Last Race: Sept. 25, 8th

Finish: 3rd by 2 3/4

Raced 3 and 4 wide much of the way, then bid 4-5 wide with 5/16 to run, and fought to a narrow lead with one furlong to go. A very strong third first off the claim for Lacey Gaudet barn in a salty Ratings Optional Claiming group.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1 - Jaime Rodriguez - #3 - Ballykeefe; #8 - Belle of Liberty >>> **Rodriguez rides BALLYKEEFE**

Race 5 - Charlie Marquez - #3 - Rye Diggitydog; #6 - World On Fire >>> **Marquez rides WORLD ON FIRE**

Race 9 - Jeiron Barbosa - #3 - Love Yourself; #6 - Roll On Jesse >>> **Barbosa rides ROLL ON JESSE**

Race 10 - Leandro Briceno - #2 - Say You Love Me; #4 - I'mamaterialgirl >>> **Briceno rides SAY YOU LOVE ME**

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

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

Friday, Oct. 2

Race 1: Favored **Punxsutawney Phil** converted a great trip off the pace on the outside to victory, wearing down Zevon, who got a similarly good setup and led briefly in the stretch. King Covee was the only one who made up much ground off of a slow pace, rallying from seventh to get third.

Race 2: Backnthewoods led most of the way, but was overwhelmed by **Heldish**'s three-wide move at the top of the stretch, and could do no better than second. Addy's Laddy TNT was cut off in the stretch when Backnthewoods lugged out and Heldish lugged in. A claim of foul against Heldish was disallowed. Favored The Count is On put in a strong stretch rally, but leveled off in the last sixteenth and finished fourth.

Race 3: **Tax and Tags** pressed the pace in the two-path, inherited the lead once early leader Oliver En Fuego gave way, and held on from there for the 18-1 upset. Favored Danner looked menacing at the top of the stretch, but couldn't kick on and ended up tied for second with strong-closing Fortune Hill.

Race 4: The early leaders completely self-destructed, enabling **Make It Quick** to take command at the top of the stretch and kick away for a dominant win. Flying to Work outkicked the rest to complete the exacta, while Yes Chef ran the best race of the early leaders. He held fourth, beaten 2 ¼ lengths for second.

Race 5: The second, fourth, and fifth-place finishers from the first race on Sept. 11 finished third, second, and first, respectively, in this race. **Gimme Two Shots** moved three-wide at the top of the stretch and kicked on in the last eighth, while early leader Goodluck Road lasted a long way before fading to fourth.

Race 6: Odds-on favorite Anyi briefly held the early lead, but was outhustled for the top spot by Russian Iris. When that one tired, Anyi attempted to reengage for the lead. However, she couldn't get by first-time starter **Belle Shot**, who held her off for the debut score.

Race 8: Disney Belle quickly opened up a clear lead and remained well in front in the stretch, but Last Gift wore her down in the final sixteenth for her sixth victory of the year. 4-5 favorite Law School came up empty and finished a well-beaten third.

Saturday, Oct. 3

Race 2: Master Schemer won the battle, but lost the war. He dueled with Divine Child in the early stages and put him away at the eighth pole, but couldn't hold off **Marcen Love**, who rallied in the center of the track for the victory.

Race 4: The Smart Halo Stakes was scratched down to a field of four, which suited **Piggybunz** just fine. She made the lead on the rail and fended off Bellablaze's challenge on the turn to open up by three lengths. Welovemollynteddy got going in the last eight and looked like she was going to get there. However, the wire came in time for Piggybunz.

Race 5: Daenerys never left the rail, and it paid off. She sat at the back of the four-horse pack early on, then rallied through an opening on the inside in the stretch for an easy win.

Race 6: Walt's Notion established himself as the one to beat in the Maryland Million Nursery with a sharp gate-to-wire win in the James F. Lewis III Stakes. This was a total merry-go-round race, as no one changed positions at any point.

Race 7: McCullough rode the rail and moved through an inside opening at the top of the stretch. Favored And Sum, who raced wide throughout, dug in and fought on in the stretch, but McCullough ultimately proved best.

Race 8: The Twixt Stakes proved to be another merry-go-round type of race. **Anna's Promise** set the pace on the rail. Waveless, who rated off the lead two-wide, poked a head in front on the turn, but Anna's Promise fended her off and kicked away again in the stretch.

Race 9: At first, it looked like Sheldon Russell was going to let **Winterfell** rate off of Bold Diversion and J J Zo. However, as if he remembered how good the rail was, he moved his mount to the front after a quarter-mile and cleared to the rail by the time the field hit the far turn. From there, he couldn't be caught, and he won the Polynesian Stakes in a sharp two-length win. Zero Blitz put in a game wide rally to complete the exacta.

Sunday, Oct. 4

Race 1: El de Larry made the lead as the odds-on favorite, allowing only brief pressure from Prince Khozan from his inside. With that kind of setup, Thick as Thieves had little hope of catching him, but he closed about as well as he could, rallying from fifth to grab second.

Race 2: Love Yourself sat off the pace in the two-path, moved four-wide on the far turn, and drew off to break his maiden at sixth asking.

Race 3: Paris by Night continues to burn money at an alarming rate. She set the pace and remained clear at the top of the stretch, but rail-skimming **Brown Sugar Betty** angled off the rail and drove past the leader without much trouble. Paris by Night has now finished second four times in a row, and has lost at 2-1 or shorter five times in seven races.

Race 4: Tacit Value checked hard up the backstretch when Hot Boss came over on him towards the rail. However, he got back on track and made the front at the eighth pole, holding off Blo by the Field's late surge.

Race 6: Curly Divining never left the rail, and came up the inside to hit the front in the last eighth. Daring Delight was wide every step of the way, but still closed strongly and got up for second by a nose, 3 ½ lengths behind the winner. Even a slightly more ground-saving trip for the runner-up might've made the difference.

Race 7: Early leaders Pediatrician and Fightertown were completely spent by the top of the stretch, setting it up for **Daddy Yankee** to move five-wide and kick on to the lead. Collection Day closed from far off the pace towards the inside to make it close, but the wire came in time for Daddy Yankee.

Race 9: Go New York Go looked like a layover on paper, and for the first part of the race, looked like a standout on the track as well. She opened up by four lengths up the backstretch, but completely ran out of gas in the stretch. **Trinity** easily rolled past her and won as much the best, while Whose Notion fended off Alma's Gone Gambling for second.

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
Sep. 18 – Fair
Sep. 19 – Fair
Sep. 20 – Fair
Sep. 25 – Fair
Sep. 26 – Fair
Sep. 27 – Fair
Oct. 2 – CLOSERS BIAS
Oct. 3 – Fair (Slight Inside Lean)
Oct. 4 – CLOSERS BIAS