



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SATURDAY, OCT. 10

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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TIM TULLOCK

RACE 1:	4-7-5-3	3-5-8-7	7-2-3-5	1-7-2-4	4-3-1-8
RACE 2:	5-2-6-3	6-5-4-2	5-2-6-1	6-2-5-4	6-4-1-2
RACE 3:	4-7-9-3	7-3-6-4	3-9-4-7	7-3-9-4	7-9-4-3
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RACE 5:	3-9-6-10	5-9-3-6	3-7-2-10	5-2-9-6	2-3-5-6
RACE 6:	1-8-9-3	10-1-3-5	1-10-3-6	10-3-6-9	2-10-1-3
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RACE 8:	4-7-6-5	7-2-4-5	4-7-5-1	4-1-5-2	4-5-2-7
RACE 9:	4-9-10-8	5-8-4-10	8-5-2-13	2-9-5-10	5-9-2-7
RACE 10:	3-1-4-6	6-2-1-4	4-6-7-3	3-6-7-4	4-6-2-7
RACE 11:	7-11-1-5	5-2-9-1	9-1-11-6	9-10-4-1	7-9-4-2

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.
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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. OPEN RANGE

2. MELODIES

3. AIR KISS

The first post time is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout rate. **OPEN RANGE** (\$20,000 RNA yearling; \$75,000 RNA May juvenile) is out of an unplaced half-sister to juvenile Grade 3-placed turf router Siding Spring (won debut) and juvenile stakes-placed dirt sprinter Fayette Warrior. This is the family of Grade 1-winning dirt router Ermine. **MELODIES** showed improved speed in her second start and seems well-placed in her circuit debut for a barn that sent out a 23-1 maiden winner on turf at Delaware on 10/7. **AIR KISS** took money for her second start and was wired in a slow-paced race. Don't be surprised if she gets a bit closer to the early leaders this afternoon. **RIVER STREET LASS** (\$55,000 yearling) is a half-sister to juvenile stakes-placed turf router Massif (85 turf Beyer). Karamanos lands here instead of Humming.

>> RACE 2

1. LADSFIRSTLOVE

2. LET 'ER SIZZLE

3. ZEN DREAMS

LADSFIRSTLOVE took them every step of the way in the recent three-turn route at Timonium. The runner-up returned to finish third in a Laurel maiden special weight with a 54 Beyer. Must prove herself over a more conventional surface, but think she can adapt to the pace scenario. **LET 'ER SIZZLE**, listed as a Delaware vet scratch (sick) on 9/25, raced in midpack behind a strong pace, moved to the rail on the turn, and never factored. The tenth-finisher then placed in an off-turf \$16,000 starter-optional with a 55 Beyer. Expect good early speed for an owner-trainer combo that sent out a 6-1 sprint-to-route winner here on 9/27. **ZEN DREAMS** sat a loose pocket, eased out in the stretch, then hopped back to her left lead when eased up near the wire. She's a late runner who would benefit from a quick pace up front for a barn that sent out a 2-1 winner here on 9/27. **LUCKY TIN TIN** drops in class after facing two next-out winners (Why repeated by seven lengths in a \$12,500 "beaten" claimer here with a 66 Beyer).

>> RACE 3

1. ROMELIA

2. HIGH ANXIETY

3. MISCHIEVOUS TWINS

ROMELIA set a three-ply pace while three wide, cleared off to set the pace inside the 9-2 last-finisher, then tired along the fence at Monmouth. She worked hard to get a forward position in that race, has hit the board in all three turf starts, and should be close to the lead again. **HIGH ANXIETY** broke a beat slow in the debut, raced at the back of the pack, cut the corner into the stretch, altered course to the outside at the three-sixteenths marker, and finished well despite hopping back to her left lead. The runner-up then placed in a Belmont special weight with a 73 Beyer. This barn went 9 for the last 24 (38%, \$2.09 ROI) with second-out maidens. **MISCHIEVOUS TWINS** stalked a quick pace from in between horses, was in behind rivals briefly on the second turn, split foes with a three-wide bid, altered course back to the fence, and made up some nice ground. I think she'll be closer to the pace this time around. **BURNSBRIGHTER** is out of stakes-winning dirt sprinter I Got a Answer (67 wet-dirt Beyer). Cruz departs this one and Glory's Wish for **REPPAZZ**.

>> RACE 4

1. YAU MAJESTY

2. REHOBOTH AVENUE

3. IRISH BANBA

YAU MAJESTY has angles moving from turf to dirt and dropping in class for the third start of the form cycle. Tracked outside on dirt two back, advanced to prompt the odds-on fifth-finisher, was ridden along on the second turn, and tired. The third-finisher then won an off-turf first-level allowance at Delaware with a 67 Beyer. Faced multiple-race winners in that heat, and now double-drops into a strict "non-two" seller for a barn that went 4 for the last 20 (20%, \$2.93 ROI) in the third start following a 61-120 day layoff on dirt. Rodriguez departs for Irish Banba. **REHOBOTH AVENUE** also moves from turf to dirt, and she's hit the board in all five dirt starts for this barn. Lots of minor awards on her page, but she can kick late if the pace gets hot. **IRISH BANBA** was wired by an odds-on favorite in her first start following a 231-day layoff. Broke a beat slow from the rail, tracked from the pocket under urging, altered outside, and finished evenly without threatening. More Than Grace then won her eighth in a row in a restricted statebred allowance at Parx with a 77 Beyer. She has good tactical speed. **DIVULGE** stretches out in distance with the early gas to grab the lead.

>> RACE 5

1. EMERGENCE

2. STRAIGHT ARROW

3. KORU

Perhaps **EMERGENCE** wants a bit more ground, but he fits very well from a class standpoint after competing in New York and Kentucky. Bobbled at the start going 11 furlongs two back, pushed the 13-1 fifth-finisher's slow pace, then tired. The runner-up next ran third in the Kentucky Downs Gold Cup with an 89 Beyer. Think he'll take back early for a barn that went 5 for 19 (26%, \$2.22 ROI) between 10/3 and 10/7. **STRAIGHT ARROW** adds blinkers after being hung wide from a tough outside post at Belmont. His prior effort at Delaware resulted in a good performance, and he can work out a fine stalking trip against this group. **KORU** can be a handful in the preliminaries, but he adds blinkers following a solid try against McCullough, who next repeated in an off-turf race. The fourth-finisher then placed in a \$28,000 starter here with a 75 Beyer. The barn went 3 for the last 15 (20%, \$2.20 ROI) with blinkers on. Expect speed from class-dropping **MONGOLIAN APPLE**, who finished behind One Time Willard (next-out 69 Beyer when third in \$30,000 statebred optional at Monmouth). **GREEN BEANS** was wired at Colonial. The third-finisher then ran third in a first-level Belmont allowance with an 85 Beyer. Might get a kinder race flow here. **LUCA MACHINE** ran well in his only previous turf/route race, and can show stretch-out speed.

>> RACE 6

1. NIAL AND PRAY

2. MENINA BONITA

3. LEVINA

NIAL AND PRAY is green, but showed improvement when moving to the dirt. Stumbled at the start, raced outside near the back behind a quick pace, was urged along on the turn, swung widest, then made up ground despite failing to change leads and flashing her tail. The winner next repeated in a first-level allowance with a 61 Beyer. Must break alertly from this inside post. **MENINA BONITA** (\$15,000 yearling; \$70,000 May juvenile) is a half-sister to a juvenile debut winner out of an unraced half to stakes-winning turf router Winning Envelope (won debut; 95 turf Beyer). This stallion wins with an excellent 18% of debut runners, and the trainer-jock combo sent out a 3-1 debut winner at Timonium on 9/7. **LEVINA** (\$70,000 yearling) is the first foal out of a sprint-winning mare. The second dam was a Grade 3-placed turf router, and the third dam was a Grade 1-winning dirt sprinter. The sire-broodmare sire "cross" produced stakes-winning synthetic sprinter Bourbon Melody (won debut; 86 turf Beyer). Keep an eye on **RIVA RED**, who just missed at Colonial two back, then was wired over an inside, speed-friendly track on 8/27. The third-finisher of the latter heat then graduated by 7 1/4 lengths in an off-turf special weight at Delaware with a 56 Beyer. **EMPRESS WARRIOR** (\$35,000 April juvenile), listed as a Colonial vet scratch on 8/20, is a half to stakes-placed turf

miler Ori (90 turf Beyer) out of stakes-winning dirt router Princessof the Nyl (77 dirt Beyer). HOT NIGHT (\$50,000 RNA yearling) is out of multiple stakes-winning dirt sprinter Florida Fuego (won debut; 81 turf Beyer). FLOREANA (\$120,000 yearling is out of multiple stakes-winner (synthetic and turf) Lorena (won first three starts; 81 turf/synthetic Beyer).

>> RACE 7

1. GOLDEN ROCKET

2. AIR ONE

3. DI'S SURPRISE

GOLDEN ROCKET saved ground in midpack, cut the corner into the stretch, eased outside, then rallied well for second nearest to the rail. I like that Ness reclaimed this veteran mare two back, and she can threaten with a late bid. Rodriguez lands here instead of Diva Ready. **AIR ONE** was likely overmatched in that tough second-level allowance over a quirky Kentucky Downs course, but she previously finished a good third behind a pair of next-out winners (Gift of Gab repeated in the Sensible Lady Turf Dash with a 90 Beyer). This shorter distance should suit. **DI'S SURPRISE** prompted the pacesetting winner's reasonable pace two back, but couldn't go with two next-out winners in a tough Colonial allowance. Achieve returned to place in the Grade 2 Beverly D. Stakes there with a 94 Beyer. Figures close to the pace for a barn that went 7 for 14 (50%, \$5.20 ROI) between 9/13 and 10/4. MILA CANDY, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 10/2, showed good speed on grass two back against Come to Mama, who then hit the board in her next two with an 87 Beyer top. Expect aggressive early handling. **GOLDEN BEACH** gained fitness when facing two next-out winners at Saratoga in her first following a February layoff. The third-finisher then won a first-level allowance at Belmont with an 88 Beyer. Kicks hard in the stretch.

>> RACE 8

1. BOLD FACT

2. PIPPIN THE WARRIOR

3. RAILROAD INN

BOLD FACT might not have cared for those wet conditions when disappointing as the favorite in an off-turf heat last month. Broke outward slightly, stalked a slow pace while outside at the pack, swung widest into the stretch, and didn't factor. Faced a couple of three-time winners in that race, and now double-drops into this strict "non-two" claimer. Good to see him back on relatively short rest, but he's the kind of horse that could use a little pace and trip luck. **PIPPIN THE WARRIOR** prompted the 17-1 sixth-finisher, then forged clear against maidens over a wet track. Earned a respectable speed figure in that start, but might have to settle for rating tactics against this tougher group. The barn went 5 for the last 24 (21%, \$2.78 ROI) with last-out maiden winners. **RAILROAD INN** gained some fitness around those tight turns at Timonium when returning from a May layoff, then caught a runaway here last month. Might be set for his best for a barn that went 4 for the last 13 (31%, \$5.52 ROI) in the third after 120-day layoffs or greater. Expect early speed from **BOLTON HILL**, who faced four-time winner Great Quality last time out. Lightly-raced gelding boasts upside potential.

>> RACE 9

1. FINCH

2. MISS PICKY

3. SCREEN TEST

Considering that **FINCH** was stretching out three furlongs for her route debut, it was surprising to see her so far back in the early stages. Saved ground for most of the way, was last on the rail on the second turn, altered widest, and recorded the fastest final five-sixteenths when rallying nicely with a good gallop-out. She can get closer to the leaders. **MISS PICKY** broke outward slightly, then was rank along the rail in midpack. Didn't settle fully until after the opening half-mile, altered course outside, then back to the fence, and showed late life. Hoping she conserves a bit more energy early for a barn that went 6 for the last 16 (38%, \$2.21 ROI) in the third after a 180-365 day layoff. **SCREEN TEST** pulled her way forward to prompt the 7-1 runner-up's slow pace

from the inside, settled for the pocket entering the final turn, then swapped back to her left lead when tiring. The sixth-finisher next ran third in a "non-two" allowance at Woodbine with a 74 Beyer. Breezed a comfortable solo half-mile at Fair Hill on 10/3. She might be more effective when taking back and making one strong run. LET'S DANCE AGAIN tracked a lone pacesetter, advanced in between to poke a head in front a half-mile out, made the lead, and was just kicked down by a European raider. Finished ahead of four of these, and might be the one to set the pace.

>> RACE 10

1. INTREPID'S LEGACY

2. KOSHER COWBOY

3. PACO THE TACO MAN

INTREPID'S LEGACY is a big, heavy gelding, so it's worth wondering if he'll need a race off this 73-day layoff, but he fits very well from a class standpoint. Wired by an odds-on winner last time at Delaware, he stalked from in between, raced four wide through the turn and into the stretch, then was bumped near the wire when already beaten. The sixth-finisher next ran third in a \$12,500 claimer at Gulfstream with an 80 Beyer. Think he'll attempt to settle in the second flight for a barn that went 6 for the last 10 (60%, \$3.48 ROI) in the first after a 61-120 day layoff. **KOSHER COWBOY**, a 19-time winner, looks like the one to catch and beat from the rail draw. Hasn't been headed in each of his last four, including a comfy odds-on win over Laysen, who then placed in an off-turf first-level allowance here with a 68 Beyer. The barn went 8 for the last 37 (22%, \$2.73 ROI) with dirt horses in the first after the claim. **PACO THE TACO MAN**, a six-time winner over this surface, lost early position last month before rallying into a hot pace for a minor award. He's adaptable to any race flow. REMARKABLY, listed as a Charles Town vet scratch on 10/1, chased solid fractions when beating second-level allowance rivals at Monmouth. Barbosa lands here instead of All the Hardways. DON'T WAIT UP has an underrated stretch kick, and he faced Break Out (next-out runner-up in Colonial first-level allowance with 90 Beyer) last time out.

>> RACE 11

1. DREAM OVERTURE

2. MIDNIGHT QUEEN

3. CARA'S DREAMWEAVER

DREAM OVERTURE was ridden aggressively in a race restricted to amateur riders. Pulled early to push the three-ply pace from the rail, didn't take the first turn well, pressed the pace inside, and went after the wide winner through a quick third quarter in 24.32, but just couldn't surge past that drifting-out rival. Finished ahead of three of these, and might receive more patient handling. **MIDNIGHT QUEEN** blasted out to an uncontested lead, then tried her best to hold second on the wire. The fourth-finisher next won a \$12,000 starter at Delaware with a 68 Beyer. Her speed should play well. **CARA'S DREAMWEAVER** is only 1 for 26, but she gave a solid effort two back on turf. Made the first move into the teeth of the pace, and held second behind a rallying even-money favorite. The fifth-finisher then won a \$7,500 "non-two" at Meadowlands with a 69 Beyer. Lopez lands here instead of SMOKESHOW, who attracts Rodriguez from Hotter Than Fire. Both KOOL KAY and HOTTER THAN FIRE deserve strong consideration if able to escape the Also Eligible list. HAY GRACE BRENNAN drops after facing Etawa, who then ran third in a "non-two" allowance at Woodbine with a 74 Beyer. DARRENS DELIGHT chased a quick pace in a race that went to closers (the runner-up next won a dime starter at Delaware with a 76 Beyer). This is serious class relief.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: In a group mostly unexposed fillies I look to Turns to Gold, who makes her debut for a family that has a perfect record with juvenile winners. It doesn't hurt that the barn knows how to have them ready for the first outing. Have a look at Humming, the pedigree fits, the rider is going well, and she may be further along after being prepped for a 2 y/o sale earlier this year.

R2: Zen Dreams may have had an extended maiden career, but when you focus on this distance, she is 2/4 ITM going a mile on the main track. The outer post could alleviate some of the pressure she found last out and class relief doesn't hurt.

R3: High Anxiety showed plenty of professionalism on debut, in a race that has produced improving figures. If she can run back to the same, or better, she is very logical here. Worth noting, Linette is a very attractive filly who found plenty of trouble and lost all positioning on debut, still running on to nearly win.

R4: Cross of Valor returns to a level that has proven successful for her after facing tough company in her last two outings. Proven going this distance, timing may be everything for Sanchez here. Irish Banba has races that make her a deserving standout but I find too much time has passed since then. Hard to back her at 4-5 ML.

R5: Green Beans has been holding very good company in recent outings and looks to benefit from the abundance of pace in this group. A generous 10-1 ML price in this wide open affair.

R6: In a big group of mostly debut runners, Floreana may avoid trouble with her outer post. As the first foal of a mare who won her first three starts, it looks reasonable to expect a strong showing on debut.

R7: Golden Rocket looked to appreciate the cutback in distance when facing the very in-form Boujee Bubblez last out. Drawn inside and sticking to the distance, she should improve from the setup here. I wouldn't discount Air One based on the campaign we have seen from her this season, the company lines speak for themselves.

R8: Pippin the Warrior faces winners for the first time after a career best last out. With the outer post he may have a chance to finally avoid trouble from the gate and kick away early. Zio Lino put together a huge effort against Biker Baley last out, while the number is a bit light, the effort and ability look to be there.

R9: I am all for trying to beat a short price, but in the case of Correto, it doesn't seem warranted. She was an impressive debut winner who has held almost exclusively stakes company since. This setup is most closely aligned with the distance and surface in which she found success on debut, perhaps giving her a chance to show what she can do.

R10: Re Markably looks to be well placed and trending in the right direction. In his 2-back with a similar spot, the rating condition was for 80 or less, and the winner has come back with an improving Beyer to flatter the group. The 75 rating should benefit him here.

R11: Hay Grace Brennan returns to a level that seems much better suited, as evidenced by her two and three back tries. As for the added ground, Cool Hard Breeze attracts J. Rod and looks to be begging for a bit more running room.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 3

#7 - High Anxiety

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Maidens, Second Start: 9 for 24 (38%, \$2.09 ROI)

RACE 4

#4 - Yau Majesty

Trainer: Michael Gorham

Third After 61-120 Days, Dirt: 4 for 20 (20%, \$2.93 ROI)

RACE 5

#3 - Emergence

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Between 10/3 and 10/7: 5 for 19 (26%, \$2.22 ROI)

RACE 5

#6 - Koru

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Blinkers On: 3 for 15 (20%, \$2.20 ROI)

RACE 7

#7 - Di's Surprise

Trainer: Hugh McMahon

Between 9/13 and 10/4: 7 for 14 (50%, \$5.20 ROI)

RACE 8

#7 Pippin the Warrior

Trainer: Hugh McMahon

Last-Out Maiden Winners: 5 for 24 (21%, \$2.78 ROI)

RACE 8

#6 - Railroad Inn

Trainer: Kenneth Cox

Third After 120+ Days: 4 for 13 (31%, \$5.52 ROI)

RACE 9

#9 - Miss Picky

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Third After 180-365 Days: 6 for 16 (38%, \$2.21 ROI)

RACE 10

#1 - Kosher Cowboy

Trainer: Michael Jones Jr.

First After Claim, Dirt: 8 for 37 (22%, \$2.73 ROI)

RACE 10

#3 - Intrepid's Legacy

Trainer: Gary Capuano

First After 61-120 Days: 6 for 10 (60%, \$3.48 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), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Other notes:

- **#2 JOSIE G** was very fractious pre-race before making her debut; she then ran fine in a race which did not feature a strong pace; eligible to improve second out.

Race 2: Claiming 7.5k, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Dirt**Other notes:**

- There was a very strong speed bias present at Timonium when **#4 MENDELSSHON ADI** broke her maiden in gate-to-wire fashion two back – possible downgrade.
- **#6 ZEN DREAMS** was not hard ridden through the final furlong last out, slightly exacerbating the margin of defeat.

Race 3: Maiden Claiming 35k, 3-6YO (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 LINETTE	Maiden Claiming 16k, LRL, 1M, Good Turf, 09/13/26 – 1 st	Patently handled leaving gate; tight between foes 2-3W rounding first turn into back stretch, then clipped heels as a rival came across ~5/8 pole, causing her to stumble badly and very nearly lose the rider; dropped well back, rider then recovered irons ~1/2 and the pair moved up again approaching the turn; nudged along while 3-4W turn, then came 5W into the lane and straightened for the drive ~5L back; from there, she rallied very nicely for 2 nd but couldn't get by winner.	A monstrous effort on debut in which she overcame all sorts of trouble and a wide move into the lane to nearly win; upgrade this effort; should play a role second out.
#7 HIGH ANXIETY	MSW, CNL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 08/28/26 – 3 rd	Trailed even pace in a detached last; remained unasked in last ~8-9L off the lead racing to the top of the lane; angled out into the 6P upon straightening, then flew down the center but had too much to do; closest finish, galloped out in front.	She was ridden with way too much patience and actually did well to finish as close as she did; probably should have won this race if asked for effort earlier; expect more second out; player.

Other notes:

- **#5 STEPHANIE'S ROSE** blew the start (green) but then finished with enough interest on debut at Colonial to suggest she can play a role getting back to the grass with that experience under her belt. Note: toss her last race on the dirt - she clearly didn't handle the surface.
- When finishing 5th on the dirt at Charles Town last time, **#8 GLORY'S WISH** showed signs that she will be suited by today's stretch out in distance; first turf try.
- **#9 MISCHIEVOUS TWIN** didn't have a bad enough trip to earn an upgrade last time; however, she was slightly shuffled out of position entering the far turn (as the winner made a bold move on the outside to take the lead), and she then had to navigate a tiny bit of traffic off the turn and through the lane which, based on her fast closing finish, could have maybe cost her the race; player back at 1 1/16M.
- There was no visible reason as to why **#11 REPAZZ** performed so far below par last time; needs to bounce back.

Race 4: OC25k/SAL20k, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Dirt**Other notes:**

- **#1 SECRET OAKS** was bumped notably at the start and got away slowly before finding herself outpaced going 6F off the bench last out; she's entitled to take a big step forward for that 'tightener' second back today at a mile.
- **#5 WATCH ME SPARKLE** hardly came off the bridle when winning by a street last week; she seems capable of far more than the 47 Beyer she was awarded. Note: the track was sealed, which might have aided her.
- **#7 DIVULGE** did well to keep battling for show honors last out having found herself in an awkward, intimidating position tight between horses ~1/4 pole last time; likable attitude but needs to prove she can stay a mile.

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

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#12 SAM STORMY (AE)	Lewes Stakes®, DEL, 1M 70Y, Firm Turf, 09/11/26 – 7 th	Settled ~2L off even pace in 3P racing to far turn; steadily advanced into a share of 2 nd racing around the bend and into the lane; continued to race in 2 nd under a hand ride to ~1/8 pole before steadying and easing out of contention.	Tough to say where he'd have finished had he not steadied in the lane; suspect he wouldn't have won but would have been close to hitting the board; whatever the case, he ran a better race than his finishing result and speed figure suggest, and a little more can likely be expected of him if drawing in today.

Other notes:

- The chart comment notes how **#2 CRABS N BEER** was boxed in/awaiting room entering the far turn last out; while this did (sort of) happen, we shouldn't use it as an excuse as he got out in plenty of time and had every opportunity to win if good enough.
- **#3 EMERGENCE's** last turf start two-back seemingly didn't see him to the best of light as the field crawled (25.59, 51.07, 1:17.23) and then sprinted late; he stayed on willingly all the way to the wire but just lacked the late pace to remain competitive; the cut back today – especially if there's pace – could suit him well.
- **#5 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.
- The strong early pace (23.63, 46.26) set in **#6 KORU's** last race ended up collapsing and the result might just flatter him somewhat; blinkers on today.
- Although nothing was visibly amiss, the rider wrapped up on **#7 MONGOLIAN APPLE** the second he was headed ~3/16 pole last out, easing him out of the race and exacerbating the margin of defeat (he was running fine up to that point); he's capable of better.
- **#8 LUCA MACHINE** lost ground last time when he raced awkwardly on the turn and lugged out before being floated even wider again in upper stretch, neither of which helped his chances. (He may benefit from the rider trying to get inside horses today); stretches out today.
- **#9 STRAIGHT ARROW** was once again fractious in the gate before running no race at Belmont last time; needs to bounce back.

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

- **#1 NIAL AND PRAY** received a good pace setup last time and the track was slightly leaning towards closers too, so it's a little difficult to strongly upgrade his effort; however, he did also endure a very rough start which left him well behind early, and he also lost ground racing extremely wide on the turn, offering a couple of reasons as to why he may be capable of offering more.
- Exiting the same race as above, **#3 VEKOMAMONA** also suffered a troubled start before staying on past tired rivals in the stretch.

Race 7: Ratings Optional Claiming (65-1), 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#9 DIVA READY	Starter Allowance, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/06/26 – 5 th	Settled towards rear early, ~3-4L off slow pace while 2W; ran up on heels slightly behind the tightly bunched field ~3/8; stayed inside behind horses racing into the lane, then tried to advance towards the inside but was shut out and forced to steady ~1/8 pole; from there, she finished evenly under a mild hand ride, seemingly with more to offer.	Her two-back effort prior to a very solid fast finishing 3rd in an evenly paced affair last time. She met significant stretch trouble in this race and was also attempting to close into a slow pace (23.17, 46.04); she appeared to finish with plenty in reserve and we should not mistake this result as a drop off in her form; big player right back.

Other Notes:

- Prior to a non-effort at Kentucky Downs last time (maybe didn't handle track, though has run well there before?), **#4 AIR ONE** had run two consecutive races over a flat 5F in which she had shaped like she'd really appreciate and improve for 5 1/2F, especially here at Laurel with the long stretch.
- **#10 SPENCER TIARA (MTO)** was first to load at Delaware last time and became worked up in the gate.

Race 8: OC25k/SAL20k, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 CASEOFTHEMONDAYS	Allowance, DEL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 09/24/26 – 5 th	Slightly scruffy start, away slower than usual; keen/rank while chasing the modest early pace into the turn; shuffled back on the bend; turned for home ~8L off lead, then stayed on willingly but had no chance of getting competitive.	A slightly sluggish start left him racing further off the pace than is his ideal in this race and he wasn't all that happy about it; he then lost ground on the bend and because the early pace was slowish (23.02, 46.61), he struggled to make any inroads on the leaders late; willing to excuse him this defeat and expect more today.

Other notes:

- **#4 BOLD FACT** didn't quite do enough running on the slop to earn an upgrade last out; however, he was a little wide on the turn and also racing against the 'flow' which made it beneficial to be prominently positioned; seems capable of more back on a fast track; player.

Race 9: N1X Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 FINCH	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Good Turf, 09/20/26 – 6 th	Unhurried leaving gate; settled in rear ~10L off the even pace early; crept closer in the 2P as the field bunched approaching the far turn; continued to race under patient handling in last ~8L off the lead as the race truly began approaching the top of the lane; dropped back a little as the leaders quickened, then tipped out wide in upper stretch and made a nice run down the center but had way too much to do.	Making her first route start, she was ridden with far too much patience here (she was close to the eventual winner entering the far turn; that horse then made a big move ~3/8 pole (a sensible time to do so given the even pace scenario) but FINCH remained unasked until 10L back ~3/16 pole); she can improve on this effort under a different rider today.
#12 VERDANT TONES (AE)	MSW, CNL, 1M, Good Turf, 09/05/26 – 1 st	Slight bump start; in tight along fence and steadied back to last early; tracked slow pace from ~5L last; advanced inside and took slightly closer order entering far turn; waited behind horses while traveling very powerfully to upper stretch, then muscled her way between horses and kicked nicely to win well, going away.	A huge maiden breaking effort in which she closed powerfully into a slow pace (25.16, 49.97) after a slightly troubled start; she won with something in hand and we may now see more from her if the pace is stronger.

Other notes:

- Having pulled a little early, **#1 GRIPEN** actually ran a nice race going 1 1/16 miles on a 'good' listed turf course last time; a return to a flat mile and (hopefully) a firm turf course should suit her and possibly help her improve a tad.
- **#5 CORRETO** made a fine return off the bench sprinting at Presque Isle last time; she should be well suited by today's return to a mile on grass second back; player.
- **#9 MISS PICKY** ran a very nice race last time, staying on well despite having been keen and unsettled early (she also had to weave her way through traffic a little in the lane); she has a likable attitude and it feels that we haven't seen the best of her yet.

- **#10 SCREEN TEST** was very strong racing in the pocket at Colonial last time; she can likely improve/offer a stronger late kick if settling a little better; cut back to a flat mile today could suit, although a wide post might make it more difficult to find cover. Note: regarding her last start, ignore the chart comment “traffic 2nd turn” – there wasn’t any.
- **#11 WAR MADAM** was a fraction wider than ideal at Colonial last time.
- Although she was never far away and the trip she sat was fine, we still might see more from **#13 SET ABLAZE (AE)** today because her last race was not run to suit her style at all (fractions of 26.20, 51.20 were set; she’s done best running late at solid paces).

Race 10: Ratings Optional Claiming (75-1), 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 DON'T WAIT UP	Claiming 40k, CNL, 1M, Fast Dirt, 06/26/26 – 5 th	Tracked the even pace in the pocket to the far turn; gradually eased out and advanced a little racing to the top of the lane, then found himself in tight between horses shortly after straightening and clipped a heel; from there, he dropped back and was hardly persevered with.	An obviously troubled trip, this does not offer a fair or accurate reflection of his current ability, and more can be expected of him back sprinting today. Note: there was a heavy speed bias present when he posted an 85 Beyer with a forward trip two-back – maybe take that form with a pinch of salt.
Other notes: - #4 PACO THE TACO MAN was forced to steady notably in the early stages of his last race, costing him lengths and putting him on the back foot; not saying it cost him the race by any means, but it wasn’t ideal and he may be capable of offering more today. - Regarding #5 FEAR NOTHING’s last start, ignore the chart comment “traffic 1/8” because it was totally negligible; he sat a perfect trip and ran to form. - #6 RE MARKABLY managed to oblige at short odds last time despite having been floated out wide off the turn and through the stretch also; player. - Regarding #8 TOP MANIPULATOR’s last start, ignore the chart comment “steadied 3/8: because it was negligible and not the reason he was beaten; returns to sprinting with Lasix on today.			

Race 11: Claiming 16k, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/8 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 HOLY FIT	Starter Allowance, DEL, 1M 70Y, Yielding Turf, 08/20/26 – 8 th	Patiently chased slow pace from ~4L back on rail into far turn; waited under a hold as field bunched rounding into upper stretch, then tipped off the rail and tried to come with a run but was denied a clear path and forced to tap on the brakes; from there, she continued to be denied a clean path through the lane and remained under a mild ride.	Her two-back effort and last on turf. A troubled trip while trying to close into a slow pace; she’s in better form than this bare result would suggest and is deserving of respect now returning to the turf and dropping in class.
#9 COOL HARD BREEZE	Claiming 16k, LRL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 09/19/26 – 3 rd	Unhurried; dropped back to rest in a detached last ~15L off the lead racing into the far turn; remained well back under patient handling rounding the bend, then drifted very wide off the home turn; straightened ~18L back off the lead, then flew home but had too much to do.	Amateur riders’ race. She was ridden with far too much patience in this race and arguably could have won if put into the race earlier; capable of improving and respected.
Other notes:			

- In her moist recent starts when ridden by a professional (so exclude her last), **#3 HOP TO IT** had been finishing her races in a manner to suggest she'd benefit from today's stretch out to 1 1/8M.
- **#5 CALL ME TONI** has finished well in both her last two starts on turf despite not receiving a great pace setup on either occasion; she can likely improve on those efforts under the right circumstances; contender.
- Following a very solid turf try two-back, **#1A CARA'S DREAMWEAVER** endured a troubled beginning to her most recent race on dirt at Parx, steadying and clipping a heel entering the first turn; contender.

Horses to Follow

R3: HIGH ANXIETY (1/1 ML)

HIGH ANXIETY was ridden with too much patience on debut at Colonial, yet she still managed to hit the board after rallying strongly in the lane. The runner-up has since returned to post a 73 Beyer when finishing second in a MSW in New York, boosting the form, and Brittany Russell looks to have found a winnable spot to go a couple better second out. LINNETTE, coming off a troubled first start at Delaware, could be a value play to consider using underneath.

R7: DI'S SURPRISE (8/1 ML)

No trainer/jockey combo is hotter right now than Hugh McMahon and Charlie Marquez, who started this meet 4-for-8 together (McMahon: 7-for-14). The pair go to battle again in today's seventh with an interesting contender in DI'S SURPRISE, who returns to the turf following a fine third sprinting at Timonium last time. This is the easiest turf race the daughter of PRESERVATIONIST has contested since July 2024, and her excellent blend of speed and staying ability to last the long stretch should see her well suited to today's 5 1/2-furlongs. She's worth chancing in an open race.

R11: COOL HARD BREEZE (6/1 ML)

Having overcome a lack of pace to break her maiden at Colonial two-back, COOL HARD BREEZE wheeled back on just 14-days rest to make her first start against winners in an amateur riders' race last time. She checked in third but was value for more than that considering how much she was given to do by her jockey in a race that saw speed hold. Leading rider Jamie Rodriguez now takes the reins, and the combination of his skill in the saddle and the extra distance the pair get to work with today could make them very competitive at a square price.

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

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.

LINETTE (Entered at Laurel – Today 10/10, Race 3)

Trainer: Tim Woolley

Last Race: September 13, 1st

Finish: 2nd by head

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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; 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.

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: Horacio Karamanos: #1 - River Street Lass; #8 - Humming >>> **Karamanos rides RIVER STREET LASS**

Race 3: Angel Cruz: #2 - Burnsbrighter; #8 - Glory's Wish; #11 - Reppazz >>> **Cruz rides REPPAZZ**

Race 4: Jaime Rodriguez: #4 - Yau Majesty; #6 - Irish Banba >>> **Rodriguez rides IRISH BANBA**

Race 7: Jaime Rodriguez: #2 - Golden Rocket: #9 - Diva Ready >>> **Rodriguez rides GOLDEN ROCKET**

Race 10: Jeiron Barbosa: #2 - All the Hardways; #6 - Re Markably >>> **Barbosa rides RE MARKABLY**

Race 11: Jaime Rodriguez: #1A - Hotter Than Fire; #10 - Smokeshow >>> **Rodriguez rides SMOKESHOW**

Race 11: Carlos Lopez: #1 - Cara's Dreamweaver; #10 - Smokeshow >>> **Lopez rides CARA'S DREAMWEAVER**

PAST TRACK TRENDS

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

