



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SATURDAY, OCT. 24

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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RACE 1:	11-12-10-8	2-8-9-1	9-8-1-11	2-9-8-5	10-1-9-8
RACE 2:	7-4-8-3	7-4-8-3	4-8-7-3	8-7-3-4	7-4-8-1
RACE 3:	11-8-6-2	11-8-5-2	11-8-6-10	11-6-8-3	6-11-8-2
RACE 4:	2-3-7-6	2-10-7-3	2-10-5-7	2-10-6-9	2-6-10-3
RACE 5:	3-5-1-6	6-2-3-11	1-6-5-2	6-1-3-11	11-3-6-5
RACE 6:	9-8-4-3	9-1-4-7	9-4-8-3	5-3-4-9	4-8-9-3
RACE 7:	4-2-10-11	10-2-8-4	7-2-3-10	2-9-8-10	2-10-7-6
RACE 8:	7-6-2-14	2-5-6-7	2-14-9-7	7-5-6-13	6-14-13-7
RACE 9:	6-9-10-8	9-6-3-10	9-6-3-10	9-3-6-4	9-7-10-6
RACE 10:	6-7-9-1	7-2-6-8	2-6-7-1	6-3-8-7	7-6-5-2
RACE 11:	8-2-1-4	2-5-1-3	2-1-5-8	2-8-1-4	2-5-1-7
RACE 12:	14-6-13-8	3-2-6-4	4-6-13-8	3-4-11-6	4-3-6-13

First post is Noon ET with 12% takeout on Value Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races)

- TMJC's "Today at the Races" morning simulcast show LIVE on X [@LaurelPark](#) at 11AM ET for late changes + today's top tickets and best plays.
- Follow the action throughout the day on your preferred ADW, on X [@LaurelPark](#) and [@DanIllman_MJC](#), on Instagram [@marylandjockeyclub](#) and on TikTok [@marylandjockeyclub](#).
- Get FREE PPs for today's card from *Daily Racing Form*! To access, visit www.laurelpark.com/handicapping-wagering/ and scroll down.

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. OUR HAM SANDWICH

2. LATIN REBEL

3. BRIGHTY

Happy Jim McKay Maryland Million Day! The special first post is at 11:15 AM, and two "Value Pick 5" wagers feature a LOW 12% takeout. **OUR HAM SANDWICH** tracked a quick pace from in between, made an early three-wide bid in tandem with the favored runner-up, wound up in the pocket at the three-eighths under urging, eased out into the stretch, and kept trying. This barn already has two winners this month. J. Briceno lands here instead of Italiano Kid. **LATIN REBEL** set a quick pace (third quarter - 23.87) on turf two back, came off the rail into the stretch, and tired late. The winner then finished third in a quarter "non-four" claimer at Meadowlands with a 72 Beyer. Must deal with other speeds from a tough post. **BRIGHTY** broke sharp, pulled his way along to track a fast pace from the pocket, altered course outside, but only finished in a one-paced manner. The third-finisher then ran third in a starter-conditioned allowance over Belmont's Tapeta with a 79 Beyer. OWHATANITE was steadied at the start, made an early lead change while last on the rail on the second turn, found a split three wide, and made up late ground. Should get a quick pace to attack. The runner-up hit the board in his next two with a 73 Beyer top. SUPER ACCELERATE switches surfaces out of stakes-winning turf router Bawlmer Hon.

>> RACE 2

1. CELTIC CONTENDER

2. SUREMEANTOBE

3. HAILEYSFIRSTNOTION

CELTIC CONTENDER looked good beating a couple of these over the summer at Colonial. Prompted the pace from between rivals, attacked outside on the turn, and got away from them late. Figures close to the pace for a barn that went 4 for 18 (22%, \$2.53 ROI) on dirt between 8/30 and 10/18. **SUREMEANTOBE** finished behind the top pick two and three back, then took a nice step forward when shipping up to Belmont. Broke sharp, prompted a three-ply pace from the fence, found the pocket on the turn, altered course to split foes three wide in the stretch, and just missed. He was claimed out of that race by a barn that went 8 for 36 (22%, \$2.21 ROI) between 10/8 and 10/18. **HAILEYSFIRSTNOTION** tracked a fast pace from the outside, found a good position behind the duel at the three-eighths, floated very wide into the stretch, then ran down the loose late leader. Figures right there when they turn for home for a barn that went 6 for the last 15 (40%, \$3.05 ROI) with last-out winners. BAND CAMP took advantage of a quick pace and a closer-friendly track at Parx to beat two next-out winners (third-finisher took a ratings optional claimer with an 85 Beyer).

>> RACE 3

1. KERNESS K

2. DO IT FOR MICHAEL

3. MASTER SCHEMER

KERNESS K must lug a whopping 129 pounds, and it could be argued that he took advantage of a fast pace when winning at Delaware, but there's no denying his form. He's won ten consecutive races, is a six-time winner at Laurel, and is a late runner who would appreciate the expected fast pace for a barn that went 10 for the last 24 (42%, \$2.67 ROI) between 9/19 and 10/18 with last-out winners. **DO IT FOR MICHAEL** raced on the preferred inside paths when scoring here last month. He might be fast enough to grab the lead in his first start for a very sharp barn. **MASTER SCHEMER** was aggressively ridden at odds-on, hooked up in a duel with the 7-1 third-finisher, and stayed on well to last for second. Expect more patient handling this time around. DADDY YANKEE took advantage of a closer-friendly and wet track to score over a one-turn mile. Gets another quick pace to attack. CAP COM has some back class, and is another that would appreciate some hitting up front.

>> RACE 4

1. NICK'S NOTION

2. LENDALFOOT

3. HIGH VIEW

NICK'S NOTION was far from embarrassed when hiked in class and wired by a 25-1 shot in the All Along. Settled at the back of the pack, made a three-wide bid on the second turn, and gained about four lengths in the stretch. Drops back in with restricted company, but will need some pace help for a barn that went 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.65 ROI) between 10/4 and 10/15. **LENDALFOOT** stalked outside, made an early four-wide bid from between horses, altered course back to the rail, then flattened out a bit to finish behind the three favorites. The barn went 10 for 42 (24%, \$3.26 ROI) on the flat between 9/6 and 10/17. **HIGH VIEW** raced in a bit tight early, worked out a sweet pocket trip, altered course three wide in the upper stretch, and drew away from two of these. This distance proves no obstacle. **PRECIOUS AVARY**, a Meadowlands vet scratch (sick) on 10/3, won this race in 2023, and looks like the controlling speed after sprinting in her last three starts. The third-finisher has hit the board in her next three starts with a 90 Beyer top.

>> RACE 5

1. TALKING FOOLISH

2. JUST A SMOOCH

3. MOUNTAIN MAMBA

TALKING FOOLISH adds blinkers after racing greenly in the open Smart Halo Stakes. Raced far off the rail at the back when wired in a slow-paced race, she made a three-wide bid on the turn and got up for third behind the two favorites. She should get a solid pace to attack while dropping back in with restricted company. **JUST A SMOOCH** pressed a multi-horse pace skirmish in her debut and stayed strong to the wire as the only first-time starter in the field. She might be quick enough to grab the early advantage once again. **MOUNTAIN MAMBA** is still a maiden and must break from a tough rail post, but she earned a competitive Beyer three back on dirt. Settled back behind a quick pace and rallied for second despite hopping back to her left lead. This barn went 3 for 15 (20%, \$3.25 ROI) between 10/9 and 10/18. **OLIVIA'S LEGACY** is a professional sort who rallied from last to score at Delaware. She's the lone two-time winner with a strong late kick. **ALTA VISTA CHAPEL**, listed as a Colonial vet scratch on 8/13, faced two next-out winners in her debut (the third-finisher took a special weight there with a 42 Beyer).

>> RACE 6

1. WITTY

2. WHENIGETTOHEAVEN

3. HAD TO HAVE HIM

WITTY won this race in 2023, and he was likely compromised when attempting to rally into slow fractions in the Laurel Dash. Pinched back at the start, he raced at the tail end of the field, swung widest, loomed boldly, then couldn't sprint with the leaders. The runner-up next won the Grade 2 Nearctic at Woodbine with a 100 Beyer. When he breaks cleanly, he puts himself within range, and that kick should come in handy if the pace is honest. This barn sent out a 5-1 turf winner at Belmont on 10/7. **WHENIGETTOHEAVEN** finished second in this race last year, and he enters fresh following a perfect-trip win at Colonial. Set the pocket, altered course up the inside, and drove home to beat two next-out winners (the third-finisher won the Da Hoss Stakes at Colonial with a 94 Beyer). Should be in the thick of things when they turn for home. **HAD TO HAVE HIM**, the defending champ, broke a beat slow in the Ben's Cat, went up to set the pace outside the 2-1 third-finisher, then held second inside the odds-on winner despite flopping leads a few times. That was a nice step in the right direction, and he has the tactical speed to get the jump on the top pick. **BOASTFULLY IRISH** has upside, and he displayed a strong late kick in his last two starts.

>> RACE 7

1. DOC'S MIRACLE

2. TAKETHEMONEYHONEY

3. SLEWPERSTITUS

DOC'S MIRACLE looked good when earning her career-best Beyer Speed Figure at Delaware. Broke well, tracked the moderate pace (second quarter 23.30) from the pocket, angled three wide, was bumped by an inner foe, then ran past that odds-on favorite in the final furlong. A stakes-winner here last year, it appears she's rounding back into form. **TAKETHEMONEYHONEY** is very talented, and she's run well off extended layoffs in the past. Returns from a 231-day break after dominating them in the Conniver. Tracked the 5-2 loose leader in a short field over a speed-friendly track, went on the attack from the outside, and drew off. Figures to be close to the early pace. **SLEWPERSTITUS**, never off the board from 12 starts, exits a smart win in the Weather Vane Stakes for 3-year-olds. She might be peaking at just the right time, and can work out a midpack trip while outside and clear of traffic. **VIOLET'S CHARM** sprints for the first time in her career and would benefit from a contested pace up front. **RERUN TABLE** took advantage of a slow pace (second quarter in 23.06) when scoring as the odds-on choice. Might have to work a bit harder in the early stages here.

>> RACE 8

1. GIFT OF GAB

2. DON'T TELL DEREN

3. SHINE ON MOON

Perhaps the extra distance will be the stumbling block for **GIFT OF GAB**, who has never raced past six furlongs in her 35-race career. She has a big speed figure edge over her rivals, however, and drops in class after being wired two weeks ago over the Belmont Tapeta. Stalked outside, altered inside, and tried hard inside the 5-2 winner. Took advantage of a solid pace and a patient ride to beat open stakes company two back. Tactical enough to work out a stalking trip, but there is a lot of speed in this pedigree. Demand at least some value. **DON'T TELL DEREN** won this race in 2023, and exits a solid prep 15 days ago. Found a prime pocket position, advanced from in between at the half-mile mark, eased outside, and finished evenly. She's another with excellent positional speed. **SHINE ON MOON** stalked a fast pace outside, then surged home to beat three next-out winners over yielding ground. Worth using in multiple-race exotics for a barn that went 6 for the last 20 (30%, \$3.23 ROI) with last-out winners. **SET ABLAZE** tried to rally into moderate fractions last time out, but should get quicker splits to attack here. **KATYRZYNA** and **RYLYNNSLOOKINGLUCKY** should be forwardly placed. **HAPPY THIS DAY** might revert to the tracking tactics that worked well for her two starts back.

>> RACE 9

1. MONSTER MITCH

2. WALT'S NOTION

3. ARUBA Ariba

MONSTER MITCH pulled his way along to prompt the pace while three wide, made an outside bid on the turn, and stayed strong to beat four next-out winners in a good-looking debut. Think he can settle in behind the speeds for a barn that went 5 for the last 25 (20%, \$2.67 ROI) with last-out maiden winners. **WALT'S NOTION**, the only two-time winner in the main portion of the field, blasted out to set a quick pace in the James F. Lewis III Stakes, and always seemed to have enough in the tank. That speed should have him placed prominently when the real racing begins for a barn that sent out two winners since 10/14. **ARUBA Ariba** finished behind the top pick in his debut, but he took a big step forward with an impressive second-out win. Pushed the pace from the outside, then said adios to that field. Drew outside the other speeds, and might set up shop tracking them while outside and in the clear for a barn that went 3 for the last 14 (21%, \$3.20 ROI) when last-out maiden winners return in the third start. **DERRY MOON** showed an eye-catching late kick, taking advantage of a hot pace in his debut at Delaware. He could receive a similar setup here.

>> RACE 10

1. HANKSDIVINGROD

2. THUNDERING

3. GALATOWN GUY

HANKSDIVINGROD didn't have the cleanest trip when wired here last month. Saved ground at the back, split rivals on the second turn while on hold, eased outside in the midstretch, and made up about five lengths late. This is obviously a much tougher spot, but he should get some pace to attack in the late stages. **THUNDERING** boasts a speed-figure advantage over this field, and he worked out a nice pace-tracking, ground-saving trip behind a fast pace when he dominated the restricted Find Stakes at Colonial. Should get a fair pace to attack for a barn that went 8 for the last 28 (29%, \$4.24 ROI) when last-out winners return from 61- to 120-day layoffs. **GALATOWN GUY** was bumped at the start, stalked from in between horses, made a four-wide bid into the stretch, and stayed strong over soft going. Beat two next-out winners that day and has strong upside potential. **WAR HUMOR** pressed the odds-on winner from the outside when sprinting on turf two back, then tired behind the two favorites after being late to change leads. Expect good speed here.

>> RACE 11

1. WICKEDDIVINE

2. BARBADIAN RUNNER

3. MARKET MAVEN

The distance is the big question for **WICKEDDIVINE**, who stretches out past six furlongs for the first time. The natural ability is there, as he just missed getting second in the De Francis Memorial Dash when racing without Lasix two back. His last race was a puzzler, as he never picked up his feet despite getting a solid pace to attack, but he should be pretty quick from the gate this afternoon. He has a half-sibling that won three two-turn routes. Defending champion **BARBADIAN RUNNER** is obviously the horse to beat, as he's stamped himself as the best Maryland-bred based in the Mid-Atlantic region and earned millionaire status with his recent Delaware win. Found a nice spot stalking the pace that day, split rivals into the stretch, and wore them down. He has a potent combination of tactical speed and a strong stretch kick. **MARKET MAVEN** finished first in this race in 2023, but was disqualified and placed second for interference. He got back on the beam earlier in the month at Parx, shaking loose on an easy lead before drawing off late. Doesn't need the lead to succeed for a barn that went 7 for the last 12 (58%, \$3.72 ROI) when last-out winners return on dirt.

>> RACE 12

1. MARRIEDTOTHEGAME

2. ON A PROUD NOTE

3. LADY ZETA

MARRIEDTOTHEGAME must overcome a difficult post while stepping up in class, but the lightly-raced filly has upside, and she looked good beating "non-two" starter allowance rivals. She tracked the moderate pace (24.43) from the pocket, swept past them with a four-wide bid, and stayed to her task. Should get pace to attack while racing outside and in the clear. Vargas lands here instead of **ON A PROUD NOTE**, who was listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 6/5, and hasn't raced in 175 days, but was in excellent form before the layoff, winning four of her last five. Set a pressured pace inside the 7-1 fourth-finisher, came off the rail, and just held off the sharp rail-skimmer. Could be the speed, but must navigate seven-eighths after time away. This barn sent out two summer winners at Colonial returning from longer layoffs than this. **LADY ZETA** prompted three wide, bid from that path, then was second best behind a pacesetting winner. This veteran has excellent tactical speed, knows how to win, and goes out for a barn that had 10 winners over the past month. Keep an eye on **ALWAYS FORWARD**, who was the only closer to win on dirt here on 10/9, and should get enough pace to adequately set up her late kick. **HEY ALEXA** drops after being wired in a slow-paced race over a speed-friendly track by a 1-10 shot. The runner-up then placed in an off-turf, state-sired allowance with a 65 Beyer. **LAST GIFT** enters in sharp form after taking advantage of a fast pace over a closer-friendly track. **YES PICNIC**, listed as a

Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 10/4, was brushed at the start, prompted a solid pace from between, took over three furlongs from home, then lasted after swapping leads several times.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Plenty of pace in this group should ultimately benefit the late running types. Babble may warrant forgiveness for his last two outings with troubled trips, before that he tried stakes company. The inside draw suits his stalking trip quite well for a reasonable price.

R2: Celtic Contender will be tough to reel in if Boyce is able to slip away here. His company throughout this season has been impressive, I can't argue with the short price. Maker plays the claiming game as well as anyone, his move to send Suremeanttobe following a career best demands serious consideration.

R3: Kerness K needs no introduction after winning his last 10 starts. Even with the heavyweight, he looks incredibly tough to beat. If you think the speed may get away from him, Do It for Michael is the logical alternative. He won the Maryland Million Nursery in 2024 and has always proven himself a competitor. Now making his 2nd start off of a layoff, he could have more to offer.

R4: This race looks suspect on paper as we do not have a clear pace player. Nick's Notion and Lendalfoot are likely to sit comfortable stalking trips while saving ground inside. Mopo has plenty of class and versatility, I wouldn't be concerned if she ends up on the front end here. High View is the best value in this race, while she is unproven against this company, she has won handily throughout the season and overcame a paceless race last out. The winner of her 2-back effort returned to win in stakes company with an 84 Beyer, solidifying the company lines.

R5: Olivia's Legacy looks pretty tough to beat in here, especially because she will not go down without a fight. She looks to be a younger version of the well known, and loved, Takethemoneyhoney. There's a chance we see a special rising star here. The one who I can't count out, and you shouldn't either, is Blo Your Mind. This filly is a half to Wickeddivine and while she might be light on experience and numbers, second time starters have plenty of room to improve.

R6: Witty might benefit from drawing outside of the speed in this group, letting his settle and show the late turn of foot we've come to expect, without the traffic. Boastfully Irish shouldn't be allowed to get away at 20-1 ML, he looks to be finding his best form since being gelded over the summer and may have more to offer here.

R7: Slewperstitus ran a race much bigger than the 79 Beyer suggests from last out, getting the better of multiple graded stakes placed Sneaky Good from Brad Cox. It wasn't a fluke either, she did everything right. She might find her toughest test here against Takethemoneyhoney, who has only been defeated in 3/10 lifetime starts, by no more than a head. This is likely to come down to heart, determination, and perhaps recency by the time they reach the wire.

R8: Shine On Moon has held her own in open company but looks to benefit while sticking with the turf and finding a this level. Bay Street is not unfamiliar with Maryland Million but finds herself in a very different spot than last year. The return to form is encouraging, as well as the last out 1-2 finishers returning with 76 and 75 Beyer figures, respectively.

R9: Walt's Notion is the only 2x winner in this group, with his lone defeat coming by just a head. His last outing was most impressive, after hustling for the lead he relaxed beautifully and looked to re-break when turning for home. Monster Mitch looked a true professional when he won at first asking, the added ground and pace setup may suit him even better today.

R10: Thundering had built quite the resume before making his hometown debut earlier this year, earning a career best 89 Beyer. Since removing the blinkers 3-back, he has made it 2/3 and looks to be finding his best this year. If you're willing to forgive the KD effort, Alakan could be of interest in this group. He has genuine excuses in several starts but the cutback in distance might be his biggest advantage.

R11: It takes a special type of horse to put together back-to-back classic wins, Barbadian Runner has not given us any reason to doubt him. If you're looking for a price in here, have a look at In the Dance. Ness claimed this one 2-back and knows the book as well as anyone. He has a perfect record at this distance, and may be returning to the career best form we saw at the end of last fall.

R12: Last Gift showed more versatility in her win last out with a patient trip and wide bid. This type of tactical ability is what I look for in a 7f winner, a distance which can lend itself to specialist types. Hey Alexa put together quite a campaign over the summer, if you're willing to forgive her trouble last out, she may reward at a big price.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 2

#4 - Suremeanttobe

Trainer: Michael Maker

Between 10/8 and 10/18: 8 for 36 (22%, \$2.21 ROI)

RACE 2

#8 - Haileysfirstnotion

Trainer: Gary Capuano

Last-Out Winners: 6 for 15 (40%, \$3.05 ROI)

RACE 3

#11 - Kerness K

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last-Out Winners, 9/19 to 10/18: 10 for 24 (42%, \$2.67 ROI)

RACE 4

#2 - Nick's Notion

Trainer: Robbie Bailes

Between 10/4 and 11/15: 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.65 ROI)

RACE 4

#3 - Lendalfoot

Trainer: Keri Brion

Between 9/6 and 10/17, Flat: 10 for 42 (24%, \$3.26 ROI)

RACE 5

#1 - Mountain Mamba

Trainer: Joseph Murphy

Between 10/9 and 10/18: 3 for 15 (20%, \$3.25 ROI)

RACE 8

#2 - Shine On Moon

Trainer: Cal Lynch

Last-Out Winners: 6 for 20 (30%, \$3.23 ROI)

RACE 9

#6 - Monster Mitch

Trainer: Hugh McMahon

Last-Out Maiden Winners: 5 for 25 (20%, \$2.67 ROI)

RACE 9

#10 - Aruba Ariba

Trainer: John Robb

Last-Out Maiden Winners, Third Start: 3 for 14 (21%, \$3.20 ROI)

RACE 10

#7 - Thundering

Trainer: Derek Ryan

First After 61-120 Days: 8 for 28 (29%, \$4.24 ROI)

RACE 11

#1 - Market Maven

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last-Out Winners, Dirt: 7 for 12 (58%, \$3.72 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: Starter Handicap, 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#8 OWHATANITE	Claiming 16k, CNL, 1M, Firm Turf, 08/20/26 – 3 rd	Bumped 2x break, steadied, away slowly in last; chased honest pace from 8-9L back into the far turn, then began to creep a little closer on the rail; cut the corner into the lane, then rallied very willingly through traffic but had too much to do; nearest finish.	He's a closer by trade, so maybe it didn't make that much difference to the result; but based on his very strong finishing effort, one has to think that a cleaner break (and therefore more prominent early position) could have seen him go very close indeed; possible upgrade, definite player.
#11 OUR HAM SANDWICH	Claiming 16k, LRL, 1M, Good Turf, 09/12/26 – 3 rd	Alert break from outside post; chased speed duel three-deep into first turn; ~3L back in 3 rd to 1/2, then advanced alongside the eventual runner-up to take 2 nd entering far turn; came under pressure and dropped back into 4 th approaching the top of the lane, then re-rallied with good determination through the stretch for a staying on 3 rd ; galloped out in front, ears pricked.	This was a very nice effort in defeat considering he raced prominently in a fast-paced affair that favored closers and was still able to re-rally through the stretch; he remains unexposed on the grass and this effort left the impression that he hasn't peaked just yet.
Other notes: - #1 ITALIANO KID sat a notably wide trip last time and may be capable of more today drawn low. - Although #2 BABBLE sat a very wide trip last time, it was not the reason he underperformed; he was done early and needs to bounce back today. - #3 ALL FRUITS RIPE deserves a little extra credit for his effort two-back (his last on turf) as he did best of the forwardly placed horses in an honestly run race over a 'good' listed turf course; makes first start against winners today after breaking his maiden in an off-turf event last time. - Although neither factor were the sole reasons for his defeat, #5 SUPER ACCELERATE was pinballed at the start and away slowly in last, then sat a wider-than-ideal trip on the turn, neither of which helped his chances; turns to turf routing for the first time today. - #6 FIERY DEBUT sat a slightly wider than ideal trip at Colonial last time; lasix added today. - #7 BAD BOY BLAZE ran well in his last turf start, two-back, but he did also take advantage of an excellent pace setup (speed collapsed) which might make it more difficult for him to reproduce that exact level of form getting back to the grass today.			

Race 2: Maryland Million Sprint, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt			
Other notes: - Regarding #2 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. - #3 BAND CAMP could not have asked for a better trip and setup when winning at Parx last time, closing into fractions of 21.79, 44.40 whilst saving ground throughout. - #6 CLOSE THE GATE was beaten at odds of 1/5 last time, but he was probably best in that race because there were only three runners and the winner – who just held on – was able to set a very easy, uncontested lead, while not providing 'CTG' with an adequate setup to score from the position he was in early; don't hold that short-priced defeat against him. - #8 HAILEYSFIRSTNOTION was very game to beat SPIKEZONE off the bench using different off-the-pace tactics at Delaware last time, and he no doubt will be a leading player again today; we should note, however, that he did receive an exceptional pace setup in that last race (21.93, 44.70) and also benefited from the track slightly favoring closers.			

Race 3: Starter Handicap, 3YO+ (F), 7 Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 ADDY'S LADDY T N T	Claiming 12k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Fast Dirt, 10/02/26 – 3 rd	Broke fast from the inside post but was then outsped for the lead and dropped back to stalk the pace in the pocket to the turn; angled off the inside and advanced in the 2-3P to challenge the leader between horses in upper stretch; battled between foes to the 1/8 pole, then found himself in very tight between and was forced to check hard as HELDISH lugged in on top of him; dropped ~3L back, then regathered his stride and ran on again late but the game was up.	He endured a very troubled stretch run here that cost him all chance, and he was prominently positioned over a closer biased racetrack; UPGRADE this effort and expect more from him today.
Other notes: - Although #1 TETCHED was caught a little wide on the far turn last out, he also received a favorable pace setup as a closer. - Having been under pressure throughout, rallied late to just miss, and then galloped out in front when making his first start for Nazario last time, #3 AMAZING BERNIE strongly left the impression that he'll appreciate today's 7F trip. - #5 HELDISH was the foe who lugged in on top of #4 ADDY'S LADDY T N T last time, causing that rival to check. - Not saying he wasn't best anyway, but #8 DO IT FOR MICHAEL did ride an inside bias with only 116 pounds on his back when winning last time; it might be a little difficult for him to replicate that exact level of form today back in the Robb barn; player, nonetheless. - #10 BACKNTHEWOODS' two-back effort is deserving of a little extra credit as he held on for 2nd after setting the pace over a heavily closer biased track; he then caught a heavily speed biased track last week which slightly played against him as it made his task of running down the always forward winner more difficult. - Having chased from well back and then raced wide on the turn, #11 KERNESS K finished with a rush to win for the 10th consecutive time (!) going away when last seen at Delaware; he should appreciate today's extra 1/8 and there's no reason why he can't extend his winning streak. - After bobbling at the break (negligible), #12 FLYING TO WORK benefited from a closer bias last time.			

Race 4: Maryland Million Ladies, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 WEEKEND WIFE	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/8M, Good Turf, 09/11/26 – 2 nd	Unhurried leaving gate; settled ~9L off slow pace in a detached last early; took slightly closer order but remained in last approaching far turn; nudged along while angling outside as field bunched passing 5/16; came 5W into lane and straightened for the drive ~5L back, then finished well for 2 nd but had no chance of catching winner.	A big turf debut at 17/1; she closed from well back into a very slow pace (25.12, 51.03) and can surely improve with a better setup.
Other notes: - With the rails at 70ft, #2 NICK'S NOTION didn't quite receive enough of a pace setup in the All Along Stakes last time and did well under the circumstances; player. - #3 LENDALFOOT was no match for #2 NICK'S NOTION when last seen at Colonial; however, Brion's runner was shuffled back a little entering the first turn and then briefly hemmed in when looking to advance around foes on the far turn, both of which are factors that maybe cost her 3rd. - #6 JUNIPER JUICE could have done with more pace to run at last time; she's capable of improving on that latest run today. - Prior to a nice win last time, speed had held well in #7 HIGH VIEW's two-back race at Delaware, compromising her chances as a closer. - #10 MOPO was caught a fraction wider than ideal on the turns at Delaware last time; big player.			

Race 5: Maryland Million Lassie, 2YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 TALKING FOOLISH	Smart Halo Stakes, LRL, 6F, Good Dirt, 10/03/26 – 3 rd	Void speed; dropped back while lugging out ~7L off the slow pace in last of four; raced five wide on the turn, then finished evenly towards the center.	Feel we should see a much-improved effort from this runner today as she had no pace to chase in this last start (23.30, 47.07), and she sat a very wide trip as a result of her leaning out throughout over a track that was presenting an inside bias; the addition of blinkers today look set to help greatly.

#4 BELLE SHOT	Maiden Claiming 35k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Fast Dirt, 10/02/26 – 1 st	Pressed even pace from between horses 2W into the turn; ranged up to take a slim lead in upper stretch, then battled very determinedly to the wire, always holding her rival comfortably while pulling well clear of 3 rd ; galloped out well.	There was loads to like about this determined win; she was always holding her rival at bay in the lane and put up a more convincing win than the 1/2L margin suggests; she was also forward on a closer biased racetrack, for which we can afford her some extra credit; today's extra 1/16 should suit and she can outrun her odds.
#11 WHOSE NOTION	Allowance, LRL, 7F, Muddy Dirt, 10/04/26 – 2 nd	Alert break from rail; tracked fast pace from ~4L back inside while being nudged on into the turn; crept closer to the leader while taking outside pressure entering and rounding the bend; slipped inside to take a slim lead ~5/16, then stayed on gamely to the wire but could not fend off a deep closer and settled for a well beaten 2 nd .	She was aggressively ridden in this race that featured a strong pace for 2yo fillies at the distance (22.69, 46.48), and the track was presenting a closer bias, too; the winner rallied from almost 9L back, highlighting how well she did to hold 2nd; upgrade this effort.
Other notes: - Although she was best anyway, it should be noted that there was a speed bias present when #2 BLO YOUR MIND broke her maiden on debut courtesy of a forward trip. Note: she failed to switch leads in the lane (green). - Prior to a very convincing win last time, #6 OLIVIA'S LEGACY had done best of the speed in Delaware's Small Wonder Stakes when the track was presenting a small closer bias – slightly upgrade that effort; player.			

Race 6: Maryland Million Turf Sprint, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#9 WITTY	Laurel Dash, LRL, 6F, Good Turf, 09/12/26 – 4 th	Brushed, pinched start; away even slower than usual in a detached last; moved out and chased slow pace from ~4-5L back in last 3W to 3/8 pole, then came under a ride and floated 5-6W into the lane; straightened for the drive ~5L back, still last, then rallied gamely through the stretch but had too much to do.	He did very well to finish as close as he did here considering he endured a troubled start, was wide, and he had no pace to run at (24.24, 47.21); if in similar form, it seems extremely likely that he can improve on this effort today
Other notes: - #1 BOASTFULLY IRISH once again finished very well to score over a flat 5F at the Meadowlands two-weeks ago; he should certainly improve for the extra 1/16 and long stretch today. - #11 NOTION IN MOTION was somewhat aided by being forwardly placed in a slowly run race that saw speed hold well last time (23.35, 46.28).			

Race 7: Maryland Million Distaff, 3YO+ (F), 7 Furlongs, Dirt	
Other Notes: - There was no visible reason as to why #1 DIVINE INTENTIONS ran below par last time; she needs to bounce back. - Not saying that she wasn't a country mile the best of five anyway, but there was a speed bias present when #6 RERUN TABLE wired a field on an uncontested lead last time; needless to say, things will be a little more difficult today. - #7 DIVINE SEEKER was brilliant in victory last time, powering clear with tremendous energy under largely a hand ride in the lane before being wrapped up late and coasting under the wire with her ears pricked; she looked to have plenty more to offer and if in the same form today sin lasix, she should play a major role. - Although #9 ONYX TEN was second best to #8 IRISH JIG when last seen, she did sit closer to the hot pace that foe and there was also a lean to closers that day, too; there might have been less between the two than the 2 1/4L margin suggests.	

Race 8: Starter Handicap, 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf	
Other notes: - #7 GIFT OF GAB ran a huge race in the Sensible Lady Turf Dash two-back (her last on turf): tracked the hot pace from ~6L back on the rail into the lane; briefly waited in behind horses, then switched to the center mid stretch and rallied well. Although she did have to sit in traffic a little through the lane, we shouldn't upgrade her effort because the	

pace setup was very much in her favor; still, the result and speed fig seem fair, and she's obviously demanding of respect today. Note: she galloped out strongly at Belmont last week, suggesting today's stretch out will be within her reach.

- **#8 RYLNNLOOKINGLUCKY** was notably wide on both turns when winning under an amateur rider last time; it was a nice effort from her beating a next out winner and she could be providing a little value at 20/1 ML today.
- **#9 HAPPY THIS DAY** had no excuse last time after setting a slow, uncontested pace in front; she needs to bounce back.
- **#10 BOYS GO TO JUPITER** didn't nearly do enough to earn an upgrade in her last turf start, two-back; however, the race setup was completely against her, with a slow pace leading to a very tightly bunched field (in which she was at the rear) and a sprint to the finish, and she also had to steady very slightly in the lane; she's capable of more than that with the right setup today following a nice off-turf win last month.
- **#12 FIVECOMMATWO** benefited from the hot early pace (22.92, 46.85) collapsing when last seen finishing second (to a rival who had a tough trip) at Penn National in August.
- **#14 SET ABLAZE** sat a notably wide trip last time; she will benefit from having more pace to run at than she has in her last two starts and is respected on the drop today.

Race 9: Maryland Million Nursery, 2YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 DERRY MOON	MSW, DEL, 5F, Good Dirt, 09/17/26 – 1 st	Broke mid-pack, then dropped back while appearing a little uncomfortable taking kickback; fell ~8-9L off the lead in last passing the 3/8 pole under pressure; angled out and came 5W into the lane, then straightened for the drive fully extended ~8L back, seemingly with no chance; however, when he was then in the clear (no kickback), he exploded with incredible energy to pass the entire field and get up on the line.	Having seemingly resented the kickback, when switched wide and into the clear, he somehow managed to win from a seemingly impossible position despite the pace holding well (7/1 pacesetter held 2nd; 45/1 presser finished 1 1/4L 4th; 11/1 tracker finished 2 1/2L 5th); the tape suggests he's capable of way more than this run would have you believe on paper, and he should relish the extra 1/8, too.

Other notes:

- It was impressive to see the ML favorite **#9 WALTZ NOTION** run down the lane and hit the line with strong strides last time considering he'd set some legit fractions in front early; he might be able to offer more again if rationing out his speed a little more efficiently, although it would be a surprise if he managed/did that in this race today.
- Prior to routing his rivals at short odds last time, **#10 ARUBA ARIBA** had been squeezed/intimidated out of a tight spot between horses in deep stretch when finishing behind **#6 MONSTER MITCH** on debut; that effort can be slightly upgraded, although it is important to note that he was never beating 'MITCH' that day.
- **#11 REMEMBERTHEWORD (AE)** managed to bag the win last time despite having wasted both his and his rider's energy pulling hard inside early.
- **#12 METALICAN (AE)** has been visually impressive in all three starts to date and could well improve again for today's extra 1/16 if drawing in.

Race 10: Maryland Million Turf, 3YO+, 1 1/8 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#6 HANKSDIVININGROD	Lewis Stakes [®] , DEL, 1M 70Y, Firm Turf, 09/11/26 – 5 th	Settled in rear ~4-5L off the pace on the rail racing to the far turn; angled out 3W but was still behind while building momentum racing to the top of the lane; muscled through horses, then stayed on well through traffic and tight spots in the lane; nearest finish.	His two-back effort prior to a solid staying on 3rd that suggested he'll relish today's step up to 1 1/8M: This wasn't a terrible trip; however, the race wasn't run to suit him with the field being tightly bunched after a moderate half entering the far turn (he could have done with a faster pace); he also had to navigate traffic in the lane which wasn't terrible but did slightly hinder his ability to level off properly.
#11 WICKED PRANKSTER	Allowance, DEL, 1M, Soft Turf, 08/28/26 – 2 nd	Pressed leader 2W in and around first turn; moved up and dueled through honest fractions to the 7/16 pole, then poked his head in front and was sent for home; maintained a length lead passing the ¼, then cut the corner into the lane and stayed on well (despite having flopped leads and drifted in a little at the gap), holding the lead until the 1/8 pole and then plugging on well for 2 nd .	His last start on turf, two back: He did well to finish 2nd in this race given he'd contested some taxing enough early fractions (23.96, 47.98) over the SOFT turf which set things up nicely for closers; a small pace upgrade can be awarded for his effort.

Other notes:

- After tracking the hot pace from 4th, **#7 THUNDERING** split foes and kicked away with good energy under just a hand ride before being eased up late on in the Find Stakes at Colonial last time; that run strongly suggested he has more to offer and today's 1 1/8M should suit perfectly again; massive contender.
- Following a troubled 3rd two-back, **#9 GALATOWN GUY** won last time despite having done nothing but prick his ears when he hit the front; he left the impression that he has more to offer.
- **#12 MAJESTIC BLUE** took advantage of a speed bias when winning an off-turf event last time; still, he ran well and showed a good attitude, the addition of blinkers clearly having helped him.

Race 11: Maryland Million Classic, 3YO+, 1 1/8 Miles, Dirt**Other notes:**

- Considering all his best effort have come via deep closing trips, it's safe to say that **#5 IN THE DANCE** did not nearly have enough pace to run at to be seen to best effect when making his debut for Ness at Delaware last time; he can likely offer more with a better setup today and isn't completely discounted at a price.
- There was no visible reason as to why **#8 WICKEDDIVINE** failed to fire at Delaware last time; he needs to bounce back stepped up in trip for the first time.

Race 12: Starter Handicap, 3YO+ (F), 7 Furlongs, Dirt**Other notes:**

- **#2 HEY ALEXA** can likely offer more than she showed when last seen as she was tasked with closing from last into a controlled pace over a speed biased track; today's 7F trip could suit ideally, too.
- **#4 YES PICNIC** impressed when winning again last time: she pressed the hot pace in a tricky position between horses to the far turn, then opened up before fending off the closers late; she should play another big role today. Note: there was a speed bias present when she ran her big speed figure courtesy of a wire trip two-back; view that fig cautiously.
- Switches back to the dirt, **#9 OVER MY CENTS** hardly came off the bridle when cruising to a 2 1/2L victory last time; she left the impression that she can offer a little more with a stronger ride today.
- While there's no denying that **#12 SUNFLOWER STATE** performed below par last time and she needs to bounce back today, she was also trying to close over a speed biased racetrack which did not aid her chances.
- **#14 MARRIEDTOTHEGAME** (aren't we all!) won really nicely at Delaware last time, cruising late on in a manner to suggest she has more to offer; contender.

Horses to Follow**R4: WEEKEND WIFE (20/1 ML)**

WEEKEND WIFE put forth a huge effort in her turf debut last month, closing strongly for second behind HIGH VIEW despite having had no pace to run at whatsoever. While she'll have to record a career best to feature in today's MD Million Ladies, PRECIOUS AVERY will hopefully tow the field along at a reasonable clip, and with seemingly more to come from Keefe's runner given pace to aim at, she shouldn't be totally dismissed at 20/1 ML odds, especially if playing the race vertically.

R5: TALKING FOOLISH (9/2 ML)

TALKING FOOLISH failed to make much of an impact in last month's Smart Halo Stakes, but a slow pace and a wide trip provide her with a legitimate excuse, especially as there was a small inside bias to the track that day. Blinkers now go on for today's MD Million Lassie, which project to move her forward, and there's certainly no lack of speed in this race to set things up well for her to bag the win.

R9: DERRY MOON (15/1 ML)

On paper, DERRY MOON has a mountain to climb if he's to factor at all in today's MD Million Nursery, with his debut Beyer having come back at a modest 45. However, the way he went about his business that day, storming home late from a seemingly impossible position after seemingly resenting the kickback early, suggests there's far more to come from him. He should have improved for that educational first start, and a strongly run 6F should see him to good effect, too. At 15/1 ML, he's worth using on tickets, especially as his trainer has a 40% strike rate with second-out two-year-olds who broke their maiden on debut (6-for-15; \$3.27 ROI).

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

YOUR LORDSHIP

Trainer: Graham Motion

Last Race: May 30, 7th race

Finish: 1st by 2 3/4

Racing as a first-time gelding, Your Lordship rated long with plenty of confidence throughout, waited to pounce in the upper stretch, and angled and swept clear for the win.

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.

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.

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.

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 4F - :48.40 at ELP on 10/19*)

Trainer: Greg Sacco

Last Race: Jan. 16, 7th race

Finish: 4th by 4 ¾ 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.

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.

INTREPID'S LEGACY

Trainer: Gary Capuano

Last Race: Oct. 10; 10th

Finish: 2nd by 1/2

This is a huge horse that likely needed a race in his first start off a July layoff. Rushed up with a wide bid on the turn before being rebuffed by the even-money favorite.

KWAN

Trainer: Michael Simone

Last Race: October 18, 2nd race

Finish: 2nd by 1 3/4

Expected to be among the pacesetters when the beaten favorite, he instead broke poorly and was last in the early stages. Made a strong wide move through the turn and into the stretch, and tried hard all the way to the wire. Juvenile filly fits well sprinting on dirt at the \$25,000 starter allowance level.

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.

NIAL AND PRAY

Trainer: Joseph Murphy

Last Race: Oct. 10; 6th

Finish: 2nd by head

Broke from the inside for the second consecutive race, then wound up a very wide rally through the turn and into the stretch. Seemed a bit more professional than in his previous start, and was just outkicked by a 3-1 debuter.

PLENTYOF ROGUE

Trainer: Justin Nixon

Last Race: October 16, 2nd race

Finish: 2nd by 2 1/4 lengths

Caught a quality field of maidens for his debut, took some dirt in his face while saving ground, then kept on grinding to finish second behind a well-meant Repole/Russell first-time starter. Likely gained a ton of fitness from this effort.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Jean Briceno: #1 - Italiano Kid; #11 - Our Ham Sandwich >>> **Briceno rides OUR HAM SANDWICH**

Race 12: Jose Vargas: #6 - On a Proud Note; #14 - Marriedtothegame >>> **Vargas rides MARRIEDTOTHEGAME**

PAST TRACK TRENDS

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

Oct. 9 – SPEED BIAS

Oct. 10 - Fair

Oct. 16 – SPEED BIAS

Oct. 17 – Fair

Oct. 18 – Fair

