



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SATURDAY, OCT. 3

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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TIM TULLOCK

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

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

- TMJC's "Today at the Races" morning simulcast show LIVE on X [@LaurelPark](#) at 11AM ET for late changes + today's top tickets and best plays.
- Follow the action throughout the day on your preferred ADW, on X [@LaurelPark](#) and [@DanIllman_MJC](#), on Instagram [@marylandjockeyclub](#) and on TikTok [@marylandjockeyclub](#).
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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. DYNAFLAME

2. GREY BIGGSY

3. BAD BOY BLAZE

The first post is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout. **DYNAFLAME** broke sharp at Colonial, was taken in hand to track the loose pacesetter winner, went on a hard chase through a quick third fraction in 23.87, and kept trying hard behind the three favorites. The third-finisher next ran third in a \$20,000 conditioned claimer in Indiana with a 65 Beyer. He'll get close to the pace here. **GREY BIGGSY** might have moved prematurely last month. Tracked a quick pace three wide, made an early four-wide bid to the front at the seven-sixteenths, grabbed the lead and the rail, and stayed on for second. There should be pace for this late-runner to attack, and he would benefit from a more patient ride for a hot barn. **BAD BOY BLAZE** didn't break well, rallied into those fast splits, and flattened out a bit behind Grey Biggsy. He's shown steady improvement since switching back to grass. **SHAKIN MY HEAD** aimed too high last time when wired at Colonial. This class dip helps. Expect good speed from **WHATCHASAYNOW**, who faced two next-out winners, with the third-finisher taking a \$16,000 "non-two" at Colonial with a 70 Beyer

>> RACE 2

1. MASTER SCHEMER

2. GOLDEN DESCENT

3. RED SPITFIRE

MASTER SCHEMER was wired over a speed-friendly track. Saved ground in midpack early, tracked three wide/four path while in between horses, made a three-wide bid on the second turn, and just couldn't get by the winner. I like horses cutting back to seven furlongs, and the barn went 6 for the last 18 (33%, \$3.70 ROI) in the second start following the claim. **GOLDEN DESCENT** repeats the turf-to-dirt move that resulted in his career-best Beyer three back, and has enough speed to get close to the expected moderate pace. Finished ahead of On the Level two back, and that foe then took a \$7,500 "beaten" claimer here with a 68 Beyer. **RED SPITFIRE**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 9/13, seems "dirtied up" as he might have needed one off the layoff two back, then raced wide over those tight turns at Timonium in a race where they ran 1-2-3 around the track. This barn went 4 for 12 (33%, \$2.92 ROI) between 9/7 and 9/27. **EXECUTIVE ORDER** had trouble at the start at Saratoga against two next-out winners (fourth-finisher took a \$35,000 "beaten" claimer at Belmont with a 79 Beyer). A clean break likely puts him on the lead.

>> RACE 3

1. CHALK TALK

2. TARGET MARKET

3. PAID VACATION

CHALK TALK returns to his preferred surface after being eased over muddy Delaware dirt. Sat a loose pocket two back behind a quick pace, altered back up the inside in the upper stretch, then stayed on for second behind the odds-on winner despite switching to his left lead. The fifth-finisher next graduated in a \$16,000 maiden claimer at Colonial with a 70 Beyer. **TARGET MARKET** broke in slightly, sat a loose pocket behind a quick pace, split foes on the second turn, raced three wide into the stretch, and made up a length late. The runner-up then took a \$40,000 maiden claimer at Colonial with a 69 Beyer. This barn went 7 for the last 25 (28%, \$2.53 ROI) with third-start maidens. **PAID VACATION** was wired by an odds-on favorite at Colonial. Pulled to save ground in midpack behind a quickening pace, split rivals into the stretch, then rallied to just miss third. **NAPISONMYAGENDA** should show early speed, and he faced three next-out winners in turf try two back (the winner then placed in a \$50,000 "non-two" claimer at Colonial with a 73 Beyer). **FIRESTREAK** faced two next-out winners at Delaware, with Voluntary repeating in a \$35,000 starter-optional here with a 69 Beyer.

>> RACE 4

1. WELOVEMOLLYNTEDDY

2. HARPER'S CORNER

3. PIGGYBUNZ

WELOVEMOLLYNTEDDY was a very impressive debut winner at Parx. Set a pressured pace inside the 7-2 third-finisher, then drew away to win by 15 1/2 under a strong drive. This is a big class hike, so we'll learn a good deal more about her quality. Like that she drew outside the other speeds. **HARPER'S CORNER** would be squarely the horse to beat if she starts here, but she's also cross-entered in a graded race on turf in New York. Stakes-winning sprinter on dirt set a pressured pace inside the 9-1 third-finisher in the Grade 1 Spinaway, worked hard through a quick second quarter in 22.61, and stayed on for second behind the favorite despite being late to change leads. Figures right there when they turn for home. **PIGGYBUNZ** might have taken advantage of an inside, speed-friendly Colonial track when dominating them at odds-on. She looks very fast from the gate, and appears to loom a strong pace factor for a barn that went 6 for the last 14 (43%, \$2.57 ROI) with juvenile maiden winners in the second start. **TALKIN FOOLISH** displayed a nice late kick to score last time. This pace flow should be right up her alley. **BELLABLAZE** switches surfaces as a half-sister to multiple stakes-placed dirt sprinter Shisospicy (105 turf Beyer).

>> RACE 5

1. MOONBLAZE

2. MEZCAL MAMA

3. ALDENE

MOONBLAZE was wired by the favorite at Monmouth. Saved ground near the back, altered course to the outside, then made up some late ground to finish behind the two chalks. The runner-up next placed in a first-level allowance at Saratoga with an 85 Beyer. Ruiz departs this one for Aldene. **MEZCAL MAMA** broke a beat slow in turf debut, found good position at the back behind a quick pace, cut the corner into the stretch, altered course outside, and rallied well despite being late to change leads. Lightly-raced filly has upside and a nice stretch kick. **ALDENE** pushed the pace at Colonial, then tired to finish behind two next-out winners (Life's Dynamic repeated in a second-level allowance at Belmont with an 86 Beyer). **WHISKEY LULLABY** showed runaway speed around two turns when finishing behind three favorites (runner-up won a dime starter at Delaware with a 76 Beyer). Her speed plays well at this shorter trip.

>> RACE 6

1. WALT'S NOTION

2. PRINCE OF PEACE

3. REMEMBERTHEWORD

WALT'S NOTION set a reasonable three-ply pace from in between horses, cleared to the lead while racing off the rail, came out under left-handed urging in the stretch, and bumped with the winner while a game second in the restricted First State Dash. This pace should be quicker, but he is fast out of the gate and might focus a bit better with blinkers. **PRINCE OF PEACE** bounced out to the lead at Colonial, then took them on a merry chase in a field where they ran 1-2-3 around the track. This is a tougher spot from a pace and class standpoint. **REMEMBERTHEWORD** moved from turf to dirt in the third start of the form cycle. Finished ahead of Prince of Peace two starts ago on the main track. **GRIND IT OUT** took all the money for his debut and didn't disappoint, wiring the likes of Winslow, who then graduated in a Laurel special weight with a 62 Beyer. This barn went 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$2.58 ROI) in the third following a 61-to-120-day layoff.

>> RACE 7

1. RED ZONE RUNNER

2. ANTISOCIAL

3. FUERTEVENTURA

No real excuses last time out for **RED ZONE RUNNER**, as the favorite set moderate splits, including a 24.54 internal fraction split before packing it in during the stretch drive. The third-finisher then won a high-level allowance over synthetic at Presque Isle Downs with a 72 Beyer. Perhaps he's more effective with Lasix. He looked good wiring the field two back with Lasix on; he doesn't need the lead to succeed and might try to rate a bit this time around. **ANTISOCIAL** removes blinkers, and he wasn't disgraced against a solid field three back without them. He was wired that day, and the runner-up then finished third in a second-level allowance at Colonial with an 85 Beyer. Adaptable from a running-style perspective. Toledo lands here instead of War Humor. **FUERTEVENTURA** chased a slow pace, then rallied from second behind the favored winner. There's a good chance this pace will be swifter, and that certainly helps the veteran's late kick. **MCCULLOUGH** might be the best late closer in the field, and he took advantage of quick splits to run down a ratings race two weeks ago. **WHAT SAY THEE** dips in class after tracking tougher competition in his last three starts, including a stakes-placing here on 6/27. Cruz lands here instead of Ennis Town.

>> RACE 8

1. WAVELESS

2. ANNA'S PROMISE

3. DAZZLING MOVE

WAVELESS prompted a quickening pace (22.74; 21.91) while three wide, was urged along on the turn and bumped by an inner foe in upper stretch, then rallied gamely in between horses to just miss. She showed some ability earlier this year in New York, and was given plenty of time to recover from that last race for a Russell barn that went 34 for 109 (31%, \$2.22 ROI) between 7/24 and 9/27. She can get close to a moderate pace. **ANNA'S PROMISE** tracked the 2-1 pacesetting winner at Horseshoe Indianapolis, went on a hard chase on the second turn, and tired after hopping to her left lead. The third finisher then won the Groupie Doll at Ellis with a 92 Beyer. She might be the one to control the pace this time. **DAZZLING MOVE** has back class, and she ground out a win in Indiana last month. Prompted the 9-2 runner-up while two-wide/three-path, and kept churning in the stretch. **ESPECIALLY** tracked three-to-four wide at the back, altered widest in the upper stretch, and charged home to prevail at Colonial. She's looking for some pace aid.

>> RACE 9

1. WINTERFELL

2. STRONSINO

3. MR. RIPPLE

WINTERFELL received an excellent prep in his first start after a seven-month layoff, as he tried to rally into a slow pace on a speed-friendly track. The winner then placed in the Grade 1 Goodwood at Santa Anita with a 96 Beyer. Hulking gray looked strong in two starts here in 2024, kicking them down to win the City of Laurel in nice fashion. Expect a late charge for a barn that went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$2.04 ROI) in the second after 180-365 day layoffs. **STRONSINO** ran well in the marathon Greenwood Cup at Parx. Pulled forward to prompt a slow pace while three wide, tapered in to sit the pocket a half-mile out, split foes into the stretch, then finished behind the two favorites. This distance should work better, and he can get close to the pace. **MR. RIPPLE** has won his last two starts by a combined 17 1/4 lengths. Fed up with sitting behind slow fractions in the restricted Governor's Day at Delaware, he burst to the lead with an early move and kept rolling. The barn sent out a 10-1 winner at Parx on Wednesday.

>> RACE 10

1. BREE COLA

2. SEGER SONGS

3. LINETTE

BREE COLA was pinched at the start, pulled her way along to settle in midpack behind a slow pace (25.17 seconds for the second quarter), swung four wide, then finished evenly with a decent gallop-out. The favored winner next ran third in a \$16,000 "non-two" with a 58 Beyer. That was a nice step forward for a trainer-jock combo that sent out a 2-1 turf winner here on 9/18. **SEGER SONGS** has had her share of chances, but she's earned competitive numbers despite failing as the favorite in her last two. Settled behind fast fractions last time, then was outfinished by a deep closer that was dismissed at 48-1. Tactical enough to find a stalking position without losing too much ground on the first turn. **LINETTE** was likely best in her debut. Raced between horses behind a quick pace, stumbled badly while in tight on the backstretch, and the jockey lost his iron. She swung wide turning for home and rallied nicely to just miss the favorite. A repeat of that race makes her very tough. EXTRA SPECIAL showed speed sprinting on turf two back in a race that went to closers. The runner-up then finished third in a restricted special weight at Colonial with a 57 Beyer. Expect good early zip. MENDED HEART seems well-entered after facing Romelia (hit board in next two starts with 60 Beyer top) on Colonial turf two back.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 2

#1 - Master Schemer

Trainer: Daniel McKenzie

Second After Claim: 6 for 18 (33%, \$3.70 ROI)

RACE 2

#3 - Red Spitfire

Trainer: Phil Capuano

Between 9/7 and 9/27: 4 for 12 (33%, \$2.92 ROI)

RACE 3

#11 - Target Market

Trainer: Jorge Duarte Jr.

Maidens, Third Start: 7 for 25 (28%, \$2.53 ROI)

RACE 4

#2 - Piggybunz/#6 - Bellablaze

Trainer: Brittany Russell

2-Year-Old Debut Winners, Second Start: 6 for 14 (43%, \$2.57 ROI)

RACE 6

#5 - Grind It Out

Trainer: Jorge Duarte Jr.

Third After 61-120 Days: 2 for 10 (20%, \$2.58 ROI)

RACE 8

#9 - Waveless

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Between 7/24 and 9/27: 34 for 109 (2.22 ROI)

RACE 9

#3 - Winterfell

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Second After 180-365 Days: 3 for 11 (27%, \$2.04 ROI)

TRIPS AND TIPS – by Will Humphrey, *In The Money Media*

Trip Notes - Recent performances that deserve an asterisk. All others: trust the past-performances.

Race 1: Claiming 16k, 3YO+, 1 1/8 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#4 GREY BIGGSY	Claiming 16k, LRL, 1 1/16M, Good Turf, 09/12/26 – 2 nd	Unhurried; settled ~8L off hot pace early; advanced slightly racing into back stretch, then coasted past horses in the 4P and took the lead ~1/2 pole; crossed to the rail and opened up a 4L advantage while being nudged on racing to the top of the lane; came under a hefty ride in the stretch and then kept trying but was running on fumes and caught ~1/16 pole.	He was sent for home too early in this race that featured a hot pace (pace collapsed) and ultimately, he did well to hold 2 nd over the ‘good’ listed turf; a slightly more patient ride (such as the one the winner received) could well have seen him hang on; his effort can be upgraded slightly; player again right back under a different jock.
Other notes: - #1 BAD BOY BLAZE ran well last out, but he did also take advantage of an excellent pace setup (speed collapsed) which will maybe make it more difficult for him to reproduce that exact level of form today. - The entire running order didn’t change once in the race that #2 COCO NO LOCO exits on the slop last week – take that form with a pinch of salt; returns to turf making debut for Singh today. - #7 DYNAFLAME did really well to finish as close as he did at Colonial last time considering how much energy he wasted pulling hard close to the hot pace early; if settling better, he may be able to improve on that run (might want blinkers off?).			

Race 2: OC25k/SAL20k, 3YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#1 MASTER SCHEMER	Starter Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Fast Dirt, 09/12/26 – 2 nd	Lacked speed; chased even pace from ~5L back on rail into back stretch; moved off inside and advanced a little closer racing to the far turn; chased leading duo while close up in the 3P racing to the ¼; came 4W into the stretch, almost level for the lead, then stayed on very willingly to the wire but could not get by the gate-to-wire winner.	Although never far away, we can slightly upgrade this effort as he did lose somewhat over the SPEED BIASED track; he was also 3W on the far turn and so lost ground compared to the rail-skimming gate-to-wire winner who took advantage of the track conditions; a very solid run, he’s respected now cutting back.
Other notes: - Exiting the same race as MASTER SCHEMER, #4 MARCAN LOVE didn’t nearly do enough running to earn an upgrade, but he was also racing against the speed bias which wouldn’t have helped; cuts back today. - While true that #5 EXECUTIVE ORDER steadied ~5/8 pole last out, it was only minor and we cannot attribute his 22L defeat to that; still, his effort was too bad to be true and so maybe we should just draw a line through it? Makes debut for Magee today.			

Race 3: Maiden Claiming 35k, 3-6YO, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 PLENTY ON TAP	Maiden Claiming 16k, LRL, 1M, Good Turf, 09/11/26 – 3 rd	Step slow start; chased honest pace from ~5-6L back 3W rounding the first turn, then took a strong hold and dragged his rider a little closer racing to the far turn; continued pulling while tight between foes rounding the far turn, then worked inside and cut the corner into the lane; lacked room shortly after straightening and had to steady on the leader’s heels; dropped back a couple of lengths ~1/16 pole, then found room again and ran on strongly but had too much to do.	The way he traveled into the race and then picked back up inside the final 1/16 to just miss 2 nd left the impression that with a clean trip, he’d near enough have won this race; player.
Other notes:			

- Although the fractions were solid, speed actually held quite well in **#1 PAID VACATION**'s last start at Colonial, possibly entitling him to a little extra credit; he finished very nicely and off that effort, should be suited by today's return to 1 1/16 miles; player on the drop.
- Similarly to above, although the pace was honest over the soft turf, speed actually held relatively well in **#2 FIRESTREAK**'s last start at Delaware; he finished well, was nearest at the finish and may now be capable of improving again with an extra furlong to work with; player returning to Ali.
- **#3 PUTTER MAN** put forth a very nice effort second out at Colonial last time, closing into just even fractions for 2nd; he could easily take another step forward today retrying 1 1/16 miles with a faster pace possible; contender.
- There was a speed bias present when **#6 NAPISONMYAGENDA** finished 2nd courtesy of a forward trip on dirt last time; a game effort, nonetheless, now tries going long on turf for first time.
- Regarding **#8 I AM PEPE**'s two-back effort (his last against maiden claimers), ignore the chart comment "steadied 1/8" because that hardly happened and it was negligible.
- **#9 SOUPER POWER TAPIT** didn't quite do enough to earn an upgrade last time; however, it should be noted that the slow pace led to the running order hardly changing up top which worked against him; whatever the case, it was a step forward and he finished with enough late interest to warrant consideration now stretching out.
- Exiting the same race as above, **#12 FORGET THE RULES (AE)** was also somewhat pace compromised sprinting last out.

Race 4: The Smart Halo Stakes, 2YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- The track at Delaware was slightly favoring closers on 09/11/26 which arguably aided **#1 MARTHAWITHATWIST** in victory; still, a game effort, she's entitled to respect today.
- Despite showing signs of greenness and flashing the tail when the crop was used (once), **#2 PIGGYBUNZ** was visually impressive when romping on debut at Colonial; contender.
- Although **#4 HARPER'S CORNER** was very much second best in the G1 Spinaway (7F) last out (no disgrace in that), she's still deserving of extra credit for having done the heavy lifting on the front early and blasted through a 44.96 opening ½; she did very well to finish a clear 2nd and should be tough to stop now back at 6F.
- Despite having been a mile clear and eventually crossed the wire over 15L in front, **#5 WELOVEMOLLYNTEDDY** was fully extended with a strong, crop ride to the wire, possibly reducing her ability to step forward second out as much as other wide margin debut winners who do it on the bridle; a nice start nonetheless, she's deserving of respect today.
- Not saying that she wasn't best at odds of 1/5 and the fact that she won by as far as she did without coming out of second gear was impressive, but it should still be noted that there was a very strong speed bias present at Colonial when **#7 GO NEW YORK GO** won on the mud last time; steps up in class off a freshening, respected.
- **#8 TALKING FOOLISH** has handled the kickback really well in both starts to date, opening up options for her tactically to capitalize on what is set to be a frantic pace this afternoon.

Race 5: Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 DAENERYS	Allowance, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/04/26 – 2 nd	Chased slow pace from ~2L back while wide and in the clear early; continued pursuit and held position 3-4W turn; was still 2L down upon straightening, then finished well but missed.	This wasn't a terrible trip by any means; however, she was a slightly unlucky loser as - even though she was never far back - she was tasked with running down the rail skimming gate-to-wire winner (who set slow, sustainable fractions) while conceding ground out wide; she seems the type to benefit from a fast pace (as she did two and three-back) and she may now have more to offer getting out to 6F with more speed signed on.

Other notes:

- With blinkers added, **#3 THE MAGIC OFMOVIES** benefited from an excellent trip and pace setup when winning last time (closed into red-hot fractions of 21.60, 44.23) – possible downgrade.
- Similarly to above, **#4 MEZCAL MAMA** benefited from an excellent trip and pace setup when winning last time (saved ground while closing into red-hot fractions of 21.57, 44.32) – possible downgrade.
- **#9 MOONBLAZE** finished really nicely at Monmouth last out; she could be suited very well suited to Laurel's long stretch and an extra 1/16.

Race 6: The James F. Lewis III Stakes, 2YO, 6 Furlongs, Dirt**Other notes:**

- **#3 INDIAN PHAROAH** held on for the win last time despite having a little lost ground and momentum lugging out on the turn and through the lane.
- **#5 GRIND IT OUT** justified his 1/5 odds on debut despite having done plenty wrong: he failed to switch leads entering the turn and cornered on his right lead; then, in the stretch, he switched to his left lead and lugged in; clearly green, he seemingly has plenty of room to step forward second out today.

Race 7: OC40k/C Allowance, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 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 .	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.
#9 ENNIS TOWN	Allowance, DEL, 1 1/16M, Good Turf, 08/13/26 – 1 st	Broke out slightly from gate 9, then took a strong hold and pulled hard while out of cover and 3-4W racing into and around the first turn; continued pulling back stretch, then the rider allowed him to coast upsides entering the far turn; made a swooping 3-4W move into the lane, then battled very gamely to the wire for a nose victory.	Racing off the layoff and likely short of peak fitness, he managed to pull out the win here despite having lost ground racing wide and having wasted energy pulling hard without cover; a huge effort he can likely build on second back, player.

Other Notes:

- Not saying that he wasn't best anyway, but **#1A MCCULLOGH** did take advantage of a great trip and pace setup when winning last time; (23.63, 46.26; pace collapsed – possible downgrade); regardless, there's plenty of speed signed on today as well, and he demands respect.
- The chart comment highlights how **#10 WHAT SAY THEE** was in a little tight at the 1/8 pole last out; however, the head on shows that he was hardly affected and it was definitely not the reason for his subpar effort; there was no visible excuse for his dull performance and he'll need to bounce back today.

Race 8: The Twixt Stakes, 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#6 ESPECIALLY	Allowance, CNL, 7 1/2F, Fast Dirt, 08/13/26 – 1 st	Patiently handled leaving gate; chased even pace from ~1-2L back into turn; dropped back a little while wide as pace lifted rounding turn; nudged along 5/16, then came 6W into the lane; straightened for the drive ~3-4L off lead and rallied strongly; just up.	As was the theme all meet at Colonial, speed was really good on the dirt and in this race in particular; therefore, she's deserving of extra credit as she rallied against that bias and overcame a notable amount of ground loss with a wide trip to win; she seems capable of more and today's return to a mile should suit.

Other notes:

- **#1 ALMAFI DRIVE** appeared unsuited by 6 1/2F on the bullring at Timonium last time (run off feet, nearest finish but unsuited by short stretch); a return to a mile on a conventional track today should help her get back on track. Note: her efforts two and three-back deserve upgrades and she ran well both times despite having set unsustainably fast fractions in front.
- Although the pace was hot, the speedy track helped speed hold in the Princess of Sylmar Stakes at Presque Isle in August, compromising the chances of **#2 FOXY JUNIOR**. In her prior start going 7F at Parx, she finished like she could be capable of more back at a mile or further and it wouldn't be surprising if she improves on both those runs today.
- **#7 SHEILAH'S WAR CLOUD** was very antsy in the gate and then bobbled at the start before going onto take advantage of an excellent pace setup to win at Timonium last time; reasons to upgrade that effort (start) and to downgrade (setup); stretches back out today.
- **#9 WAVELESS** ran huge when last seen in July; that effort is deserving of a little extra credit as she sat closer to the red-hot pace than the winner who beat her by just a neck; big player off freshening.

Race 9: The Polynesian Stakes, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt**Other notes:**

- Having run his two best races closing into hot paces from well back, **#3 WINTERFELL** was likely unsuited by the fast track conditions that led to speed holding (and a track record being set) when returning off the layoff in a salty allowance at Colonial last time; eligible to step forward from that return, he'll demand respect today.
- **#4 STRONSINO** did very well to finish 3rd at 1 ½ miles when last seen considering he wasted energy pulling very hard behind the slow pace early; cuts back off 14 days rest today.
- The chart comment regarding **#5 MR. RIPPLE**'s last race says that he "bore out" but that is not true; sure, he drifted a little through the lane but it wasn't aggressive and overall, it was a very solid, professional performance; player.
- There was no visible reason as to why **#7 ZERO BLITZ** performed below par last time (he looked perfectly content on the slop); needs to bounce back today.

Race 10: Maiden Claiming 35k, 3-6YO (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 FEATHER WISH	Maiden Claiming 16k, LRL, 1M, Good Turf, 09/13/26 – 4 th	Traveled well tracking honest pace from 2-4L back on rail into far turn; waited on heels of leaders racing into the lane, then tried to advance between horses ~3/16 pole but was closed out and forced to steady, losing ground and momentum over the course of ~1/16; tried to regroup and then go through a narrow opening ~1/8 pole but it was very tight and she could not level off properly; understandably failed to recover.	She traveled into this race like she could have landed a blow but then endured a very troubled stretch run; expect much more today with this route fitness now behind her.
#3 LINETTE	Maiden Claiming 16k, LRL, 1M, Good Turf, 09/13/26 – 1 st	Patiently 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 huge role second out.
Other notes:			
- #6 STEPHANIE'S ROSE blew the start (green) but then finished with enough interest on debut at Colonial to suggest she can play a role second out with that experience under her belt. - #8 BREE COLA endured a rough start last time which resulted in her getting away slowly, then she did not receive a good pace setup for a closer; seems capable of improving under better circumstances.			

Horses to Follow**R3: CHALK TALK (12/1 ML)**

CHALK TALK returned off a lengthy layoff at Delaware two-back with a very creditable runner-up finish in a strongly run and decent quality maiden optional claimer in August. He then clearly didn't handle the mud when last seen in an off-turf event 16 days ago, but he now has the opportunity to bounce right back and quite possibly post a career best in his third start of the form cycle getting back onto the turf. That should make him competitive in this race, and 12/1 is an attractive morning-line price.

R5: MOONBLAZE (5/1 ML)

MOONBLAZE has strung together four strong efforts sprinting on the turf this year, closing strongly late on at both Penn National and Monmouth - two courses which often lend a hand to speed. Laurel's long stretch run at sprinting on the turf should really play to her strengths, as will the 6-furlong distance, and she shouldn't be overlooked at a respectable price.

R8: WAVELESS (7/2 ML)

Repole Stable's WAVELESS switched barns from Todd Pletcher to Brittany Russell over the summer and then put forth a very smart effort - albeit in defeat - in the Maggie L. Walker Stakes at Colonial last time. She sat much closer to the taxing, closer-friendly pace than the eventual winner that day, and could be considered a slightly unlucky loser. With ALMAFI DRIVE expected to scratch, today's Twix Stakes doesn't contain nearly as much speed as she took on at Colonial, and if that allows her to retain a little more energy for the stretch drive and improve on that latest effort, she should go very close from a tactical post in gate nine.

R10: LINETTE (3/1 ML)

It was remarkable that LINETTE was able to finish as close as she did on debut given that she almost lost the rider when clipping a heel and stumbling badly down the backstretch. She's entitled to take a mammoth step forward for that first start in today's nightcap and looks to have a great chance of extending Tim Woolley's good recent run.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

YOUR LORDSHIP

Trainer: Graham Motion

Last Race: May 30, 7th race

Finish: 1st by 2 3/4

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

BLO YOUR MIND

Trainer: Tim Keefe

Last Race: September 12, 3rd

Finish: 1st by 3 1/2 lengths

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

LINETTE (Entered at Laurel – TODAY, Race 10)

Trainer: Tim Woolley

Last Race: September 13, 1st

Finish: 2nd by head

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

PLENTY ON TAP (Entered at Laurel – TODAY, Race 3)

Trainer: Tim Woolley

Last Race: Sept. 11, 5th

Finish: 3rd by 2 3/4 lengths

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

NOAH CHANCE

Trainer: John Robb

Last Race: September 13, 6th

Finish: 5th by 1 1/2

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

FIERCE AND STRONG

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.

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

Last Race: Sept. 25; 6th

Finish: 2nd by 5

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

SEA ISLE CITY

Trainer: Keri Brion

Last Race: Sept. 26, 8th

Finish: 3rd by 1 1/4

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

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

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Last Race: Sept. 25, 8th

Finish: 3rd by 2 3/4

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

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Horacio Karamanos: #6 - Whatchasaynow; #7 - Dynaflame >>> **Karamanos rides WHATCHASAYNOW**

Race 1: Angel Cruz: #8 - Double Miles; #9 - Runningonhighlevel >>> **Cruz rides RUNNINGONHIGHLEVEL**

Race 3: Jevian Toledo: #8 - I Am Pepe; #10 - Sha Boo Boo >>> **Toledo rides SHA BOO BOO**

Race 5: Jorge Ruiz: #7 - Aldene; #9 - Moonblaze >>> **Ruiz rides ALDENE**

Race 7: Jevian Toledo: #2 - War Humor; #3 - Antisocial >>> **Toledo rides ANTISOCIAL**

Race 7: Angel Cruz: #9 - Ennis Town; #10 - What Say Thee >>> **Cruz rides WHAT SAY THEE**

PAST TRACK TRENDS

Apr. 3 – Fair
Apr. 4 – Fair
Apr. 10 – Fair
Apr. 11 – Fair
Apr. 12 – Fair
Apr. 17 – Fair
Apr. 18 – SPEED BIAS
Apr. 19 – Fair
Apr. 24 – Fair
Apr. 25 – SPEED BIAS
Apr. 26 – Fair
May 1 – SPEED BIAS

May 2 – Fair
May 3 – Fair
May 8 – CLOSERS BIAS
May 9 – Fair
May 10 – CLOSERS BIAS
May 14 – Fair
🏆 May 15 – Fair
🏆 May 16 – Fair
May 22 – SPEED BIAS
May 23 – Fair
May 29 – SPEED BIAS

May 30 – Fair
May 31 – Fair
June 5 – SPEED BIAS
June 6 – CLOSERS BIAS
June 7 – Fair
June 12 – Fair
June 13 – Fair
June 14 – SPEED BIAS
June 19 – Fair
June 20 – Fair
June 21 – Fair
June 26 – Fair

June 27 – Fair
June 28 – INSIDE SPEED BIAS
Sep. 11 – INSIDE BIAS
Sep. 12 – SPEED BIAS
Sep. 13 – Fair
Sep. 18 – Fair
Sep. 19 – Fair
Sep. 20 – Fair
Sep. 25 – Fair
Sep. 26 – Fair
Sep. 27 – Fair

