



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SUNDAY, OCT. 18

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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

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. KELLY'S HEARDHEADED

2. LAST HOT LOVER

3. CATTY'S ANGEL

The first post is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout. **KELLY'S HARDHEADED** was wired by an odds-on favorite in her turf debut. Raced three wide at the back behind a fast pace, swerved sharply to alter course widest, then finished evenly. She showed a nice late run, and might focus better with the addition of blinkers. The barn went 3 for the last 10 (30%, \$3.42 ROI) with third-out maidens. Rodriguez lands here instead of Sugar Bush. Uncoupled stablemate **LAST HOT LOVER** has angles as she drops into a maiden claimer, moves from route to sprint, and adds blinkers. She tried hard in her debut, but was wired by an odds-on favorite. Broke poorly that day, hustled to stalk a quick pace outside, then grabbed a minor award. Willing to forgive her subsequent starts (dirt, two turns). She has the tactical speed to work out a pace-tracking, ground-saving trip. **CATTY'S ANGEL** finished ahead of two of these, including the top pick when no match for runaway winner Occupy. Steadied from in between early, she swung five wide and was up for second. HADID simply went way too fast when trying the synthetic surface at Presque Isle Downs. That race produced two next-out winners, with Vicky repeating in a first-level allowance there with a 53 Beyer. Expect early speed. OUT TIL TWO is a half-sister to juvenile stakes-placed turf sprinter Time to Party (94 turf Beyer).

>> RACE 2

1. KWAN

2. BROWN SUGAR BETTY

3. TIZ CANDY

KWAN, the lone two-time winner in the field, might have been aided by a speed-friendly track when winning earlier in the month. Pressed She's a Dancer from the outside, put that foe away on the turn, then stayed to her task to beat three of these. She could be under pressure after breaking from the inside post, but seems quick enough to snatch the early advantage once again. Conversely, I thought closers did best at Laurel on 10/4, and **BROWN SUGAR BETTY** rallied from next-to-last to graduate over muddy going. This barn went 4 for the last 11 (36%, \$2.93 ROI) with last-out maiden winners. **TIZ CANDY** tracked from between horses, made a three-wide bid on the turn, then ran on a bit in the stretch despite being late to change leads. She should get a fair-to-fast pace to attack for a barn that went 4 for 16 (25%, \$2.11 ROI) on dirt between 10/7 and 10/14. BEFUDDLED drops in class after aiming too high over muddy ground.

>> RACE 3

1. ANTISOCIAL

2. CREED'S VISION

3. WHERE'S RAY

ANTISOCIAL worked out an inside-out closer's trip to rally for second behind favored Louie the Sun King two back, then disappointed a bit in his most recent start. Tracked the pace while two-to-three wide, seemed outpaced along the rail, then only finished in a one-paced manner. Must deal with a layoff, but he's run well fresh and has been ready to go for three weeks (washed off the turf twice during that span). Also want to use **CREED'S VISION** in multiple-race wagers after he simply ran better than the top pick at Colonial on 8/9. Saved ground in midpack, was in very tight quarters in the upper stretch, altered outside, and rallied stoutly despite hopping back to his left lead. Faced a good group in his next start, as the runner-up returned to place in a \$60,000 handicap at Gulfstream with a 92 Beyer. Breezed a very comfortable solo half-mile at Fair Hill on 10/9 for a barn that went 3 for 11 (27%, \$6.02 ROI) between 9/19 and 10/10. **WHERE'S RAY** tracked three wide, swung five deep into the stretch, then gamely wore down the leaders despite

changing back to his left lead. This seems like a strong class hike, but his tactical speed should have him in the thick of things when they turn for home. INCINERATOR broke slowly, raced outside at the back in a moderately paced race, swung very wide, and got up for second despite failing to change leads. He needs pace and race luck.

>> RACE 4

1. THINK PINK

2. PINING

3. STOIC RESERVE

THINK PINK broke a beat slow from the rail, tracked a hot pace from a loose pocket, advanced three and four wide on the turn, and was no match for the runaway favored winner. The pace shouldn't be as swift this afternoon, and she can get closer to the early leaders. **PINING** ran pretty well in her debut, as she was placed in a bit tight along the fence during the opening quarter mile, then swung four to five wide into the stretch. Might not have cared for the wet track when returning as the favorite at Delaware. The runner-up from that last race then graduated in a \$45,000 maiden claimer there with a 57 Beyer. Boyce departs for Sky Luna. **STOIC RESERVE** adds blinkers in the hope of infusing a bit more early speed into her arsenal. She kicked on late to place behind the top pick over sloppy going last time. The trainer-jockey combination sent out a 7-2 winner here two weeks ago. SKY LUNA missed the break by three lengths in her debut, then raced very wide when wired in New York (seventh-finisher then placed in a restricted special weight at Presque Isle with a 38 Beyer). MOMMA OMA (\$6,000 weanling) is a half-sister to stakes-placed dirt router Saved by Grace (won debut; 76 Beyer top).

>> RACE 5

1. WEST MOUNTAIN

2. COPERNIUM

3. LATIN REBEL

WEST MOUNTAIN was bumped lightly after the start on turf two back, tracked from between, seemed outpaced on the second turn, and didn't threaten. Gets some class relief and should receive a fair pace to attack. He stayed in the race last time despite it being rained off the grass, and wasn't embarrassed when facing a runaway winner. **COPERNIUM** tracked from in between on Monmouth sod two back, swung four wide, split rivals, and got up in the final hundred yards. The runner-up then grabbed a \$7,500 "non-three" claimer at Meadowlands with a 76 Beyer. She won her lone route appearance and is expected to be up and on the pace. **LATIN REBEL** set the pace inside the 32-1 fourth-finisher, tried to kick for home through a quick third quarter in 23.87, and tired late. He tired on dirt last time out, but seems more effective on turf, and should get close to a crowded pace. VAYA JEFFE, VILLAIN, and KHETAM all deserve consideration if able to escape the Also Eligible list. FREEDOM GLIDER is often tardy from the gate, and he completely missed the break last time. He made up eight lengths in the stretch, however, and might get the proper pace to attack here. LET FLY faced two next-out dirt winners when wide over good going at Colonial.

>> RACE 6

1. SUPERCRUISER

2. JAMALAMADINGDONG

3. BRIGHTSHININGLIGHT

SUPERCRUISER broke a hair slow, but recovered well enough to track the pace while three-wide. Bid from that path into the stretch, and uncorked a resolute rally to get his nose down right on the wire. This lightly raced gelding still has upside, and he should be charging in the lane for a barn that went 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$2.23 ROI) with last-out winners. **JAMALAMADINGDONG** bounced right to the lead, discouraged the 12-1 last-finisher, and stayed strong to the wire at Colonial. Figures close to the pace once again, and Rodriguez lands here instead of both Benny Havens and Yes I Will. **BRIGHTSHININGLIGHT** ran well in his first start after a two-month layoff, just missing the top pick. Pushed the 4-1 third-finisher's pace and tried very

hard to the wire. His tactical speed allows him to adapt to any race shape. Both JUNGLE GLOW and PIVOTAL MOMENT deserve looks if able to escape the Also Eligible list.

>> RACE 7

1. LAYSEN

2. SKILLIAN

3. N. Y. FINEST

LAYSEN set a reasonable pace along the rail, couldn't go with the runaway winner on the turn, but stayed on to just hold the place spot. The fourth-finisher then won a \$25,000 starter-optional claimer with a 73 Beyer. He'll likely try to grab the early lead once again. Also want to use **SKILLIAN** in multiple-race wagers, as he might not have cared for the wet conditions at Delaware last time out, and certainly has more early zip than he showed in that affair. Wired by the favorite that day, he faced two next-out winners, including Paterno (84 Beyer in first-level Penn National allowance). **N. Y. FINEST** displayed a sharp late flurry to win here during the spring, but he hasn't shown that ability in two subsequent starts. Stalked from in between last time, was urged along on the turn, then didn't factor after being very late to change leads. He should receive a fair pace to attack. **READY AS EVER** repeats the route to sprint move that resulted in his victory three back. Wonder if he has the strongest stretch kick of these.

>> RACE 8

1. EXECUTIVE

2. CLARK'S CORNER

3. RIO GRANDE

EXECUTIVE was the only horse making up significant ground in that maiden race last month, as the two pacesetters controlled from start to finish. Settled in midpack while just off the inside, grabbed the pocket as the leaders began to sprint for home through a solid third quarter in 24.25, eased outside of them in the late stretch, and made it relatively close at the finish. The barn went 4 for 20 (20%, \$2.91 ROI) between 10/2 and 10/14. Kentucky shippers generally do well here, and **CLARK'S CORNER** didn't have an easy trip two back at Ellis Park. Saved ground behind a quick pace (23.02; 23.64), raced in tight while in between on the second turn, was bumped soundly in between turning for home, and was banged around again when angling out for running room. Placed ahead of two next-out winners on 9/7 (Blazy graduated at Horseshoe Indianapolis with a 74 Beyer). **RIO GRANDE** finished ahead of three of these, including the top pick, when returning to turf. Prompted the 6-1 winner from the outside, went after that one in earnest on the second turn, but couldn't forge past when it mattered. Might revert to closing tactics for a barn that went 13 for 35 (37%, \$2.46 ROI) between 9/24 and 10/15. **ZENCAT** placed ahead of two next-out winners when wired by an odds-on favorite. He should be forwardly placed. Rocco lands here instead of **FIRESTREAK**, who faces males but boasts a late kick and was in against two next-out winners from that 8/13 turf heat (Voluntary repeated in a \$35,000 starter/optional with a 69 Beyer).

>> RACE 9

1. KILO ROAD

2. SERENADE ME

3. DOUBLE SPIRIT

KILO ROAD, listed as a Laurel Park vet scratch on 3/28 and 4/12, returns from a seven-month layoff this afternoon, but she's run pretty well fresh in the past and boasts competitive Beyer Speed Figures. Rallied for third behind two next-out winners (Love You More repeated in Delaware's Rehoboth Stakes with an 83 Beyer) in that last race despite failing to change leads in the stretch. Expecting her to sit back and make one late bid. **SERENADE ME** receives class relief after facing some toughies in the Pink Ribbon at Charles Town. The runner-up next took Parx's Liberty Bell Stakes with a 93 Beyer. Stalked three wide at the back, eased widest into the stretch, and never threatened. **DOUBLE SPIRIT** has some dirtied-up form. Wired by an odds-on winner over a

speed-friendly track two back in her first start following a significant layoff, she was likely overmatched in that Timonium stake race last time out (sixth-finisher then won a ratings/optional claimer with an 81 Beyer). DWELLING LEGACY could be the one to catch and beat as she drops in class for her second start off the bench. The winner from her last race then placed in a first-level Delaware allowance with a 71 Beyer.

>> RACE 10

1. PUTTER MAN

2. WICKHAM LANE

3. STILLHOUSE

PUTTER MAN was wired by the favorite two back on turf. Saved ground in midpack, snatched the pocket on the backstretch, then kept trying for second despite being late to change leads. He showed speed on dirt last time out, and he returns to his preferred surface. RED SEA has been rank in his last two races, and he'll try to settle better in the early going in order to save something for the stretch. Pulled hard to track the solid pace from the outside before faltering. Expect early speed. **WICKHAM LANE** saved ground at the back behind a quick pace, eased outside into the stretch, then passed some tired horses in the final furlong. **STILLHOUSE** was wired in a slow-paced race that produced two next-out winners (the third-finisher took a \$16,000 maiden claimer with a 63 Beyer). Lightly raced with upside potential.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Catty's Angel gave up a bit of positioning but finished well in her first turf try, behind the very well bred Occupy. Ruiz gets the call and looks to maintain his perfect record with Brown here.

R2: Brown Sugar Betty added blinkers 2-back and put the pieces together last out. Based on how impressively she won last out, the step up in company seems to be within reach.

R3: Barbados Buzz will have plenty of pace to target with his late running style here. It was nice to see some tactical ability when he won handily in the off turf affair last out, regardless of the surface, he is a player.

R4: Think Pink sticks to the level after facing a very impressive winner in Silver Strings last out. Blinkers back on could help with the slight cutback in distance.

R5: Plenty of pace in this group for the mile distance, which may ultimately lend to stalking types if we have softer ground. Freedom Glider kicked away impressively when last trying this level, he looks a big player while taking class relief here.

R6: As we approach the end of turf season, it's always worth looking at horses who improve later in the season compared to those who run best early on. Knockanara ran a pair of career best races last fall and exits a very strong allowance group. It doesn't hurt that he is proven over turf with a bit of cut in the ground.

R7: Ready as Ever looked to have a well timed attempt at stepping up in company, but didn't show quite as much late turn of foot. The cutback in distance should serve him well, especially with a ground saving post position.

R8: Executive looks far more consistent since his digital sale purchase and adding blinkers. With a few races underneath of him, it looks like the pieces may come together here. A reasonable price to use with the likely short priced Rio Grande.

R9: Joyous Son will have a big class test against this group but she has shown plenty of speed going the distance. I prefer her races where she isn't rushed early, such as 3-back, if able to work that trip here she could offer value in the exacta/trifecta.

R10: Wickham Lane added blinkers 2-back but hasn't quite had the chance to let the effects sink in. Now making his second start off the bench, with added ground and class relief, I'm looking for things to come together.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#1 - Kelly's Hardheaded

Trainer: Kathleen O'Connell

Maidens, Third Start: 3 for 10 (30%, \$3.42 ROI)

RACE 2

#5 - Brown Sugar Betty

Trainer: Antonio Machado

Last-Out Maiden Winners: 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.93 ROI)

RACE 2

#6 - Tiz Candy

Trainer: Wayne Potts

Between 10/7 and 10/14, Dirt: 4 for 16 (25%, \$2.11 ROI)

RACE 3

#4 - Creed's Vision

Trainer: Arnaud Delacour

Between 9/19 and 10/10: 3 for 11 (27%, \$6.02 ROI)

RACE 6

#10 - Supercruiser

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last-Out Winners: 3 for 12 (25%, \$2.23 ROI)

RACE 8

#2 - Rio Grande

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Between 9/24 and 10/15: 13 for 35 (37%, \$2.46 ROI)

RACE 8

#7 - Executive

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

Between 10/2 and 10/14: 4 for 20 (20%, \$2.91 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: Maiden Claiming 25k, 2YO (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#5 CATTY'S ANGEL	Maiden Claiming 25k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Good Turf, 10/02/26 – 2 nd	Clean break; short of room and steadied shortly after start; chased honest pace from ~6L back to the turn, then made smooth headway while angling outside approaching the top of the lane; came 6W into the stretch, then stayed on well towards the center for 2 nd .	Her trip certainly didn't cost her a position here (winner romped); however, having ended up a little further back than intended after steadying early, and then having lost ground racing widest into the lane, it's safe to say that she was a clearer second best than the neck between her and third suggests; respected.
Other notes: - #1 KELLY'S HARDHEADED lost a little momentum in upper stretch last time when forced to switch sharply out from behind horses in order to find running room; she may be capable of improving on that effort with a slightly smoother trip today, and the application of blinkers looks set to work well. - #2 LAST HOT LOVER failed to stay 1 1/16m last time and should appreciate today's cut back in trip; blinkers on. - #7 HADID went far too fast in the early stages of her last race at Presque Isle (21.61, 45.04); she can almost certainly improve on that try is rationing out her speed more efficiently today; big player.			
Race 2: Claiming 25k, 2YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#4 SWEET BOURBON TEA	Starter Allowance, DEL, 5 1/2F, Fast Dirt, 09/16/26 – 5 th	Bumped start; bumped 5/8 when chasing slowish pace from ~2-3L back; switched outside, bumped again entering turn; chased while 4-5W turn, bumped again ~3/8; bumped entering lane, then bumped repeatedly through the lane while being floated to center of the course.	If you hadn't gathered from the trip note, she was bumped a lot in this race and prevented from showing her true ability; she's surely capable of more than this 5th place finish suggests.
Other notes: - Having dropped back on the turn, #6 TIZ CANDY then re-rallied with good energy through the stretch and galloped out in front last time; she seems the type who could really benefit from today's application of blinkers (keep her engaged in the mid-portion of the race), and she's definitely respected off that effort.			
Race 3: OC40k/N2X Allowance, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 CREED'S VISION	Allowance, CNL, 6F, Firm Turf, 08/09/26 – 2 nd	Clean break; settled under a tight hold inside ~3L off even pace racing into the turn; under a tight hold on heels in traffic passing ¼ and rounding into the lane; still didn't have any running room in upper stretch, so sacrificed ground and momentum by sharply angling off heels into the center of the track; 6L off the lead and seemingly with no chance ~1/8 pole, then finished like a man possessed down the center, full of run, but missed.	His two back effort and last with Lasix prior to a strong stake effort last time: A BRUTAL stretch run, he should have won this race by a street, and his effort can be upgraded notably; capable of much more.
#5 BARBADOS BUZZ	MSW, CNL, 6F, Firm Turf, 07/31/26 – 1 st	Patently handled early, lacked speed; chased in last to the turn, then made steady headway on the rail before taking advantage of a huge	His last start on turf, two-back, prior to a very comfortable off-turf score last time:

		inside opening at the top of the lane; kicked in the turbo and spurted forward and passed all to gamely secure the win.	While his trip was perfect, this visually appealing effort is still worth highlighting as he managed to close from last to first into fractions of just 23.24, 47.15 which, especially at Colonial, are not fast; a stronger pace should unlock more in this unexposed runner getting back to turf.
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Other notes:

- **#3 WALL ART** has recently been finishing his races in a manner to suggest that 5 1/2F could hit him between the eyes; switches to turf making debut for Stettinius today.
- **#6 INCINERATOR** finished really well into just an even pace for 2nd last week; he can likely offer more with a stronger pace to run at. Note: he was also a little wide off the turn and failed to switch leads.
- **#7 WHERE'S RAY** sat a slightly wider-than-ideal trip when winning last time.

Race 4: Maiden Claiming 25k, 2YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- While accepting that she did have a good pace setup, it was still impressive to see **#4 SKY LUNA** make up as much ground as she did for 3rd on debut; she then didn't show up at Belmont last time but now adds blinkers and is respected on the drop.

Race 5: Claiming 16k, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 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.
#8 SNEAKING SUSPICION	Claiming 16k, CNL, 1M, Firm Turf, 08/20/26 – 7 th	Lacked speed; 3W first turn; chased honest pace from ~9L back into far turn; crept slightly closer under a hand ride but remained behind racing to the top of the lane, then began to run on well but had a rival back up in front of him ~1/8 pole, forcing him to steady and losing him momentum at a pivotal moment; didn't recover.	His two-back effort and last on turf: Not picked up in the chart comment and only really visible on the head-on replay, he endured a slightly troubled stretch run here when staying on nicely and he was certainly a little better than his finishing result/speed fig suggests.
#12 VILLAIN	Starter Allowance, DEL, 1M, Good Turf, 10/09/26 – 4 th	Bumped start, lacked early speed; pulled hard while ~4-5L off the lead in the 3P heading into the first turn, then shifted out off heels into the clear and pulled his way forward approaching the far turn; advanced while 4-6W far turn, then stayed on gamely down the center for 4 th ; nearest finish, galloped out in front.	Racing off a layoff and likely not at peak fitness, he failed to settle in this race and as a result dragged his rider (wasting both the rider's and horse's energy) while losing ground out wide; he was also racing somewhat against the 'flow which saw speed hold better than expected (44/1 pacesetter held 4th; 8/1 runner-up pressed pace throughout); while this wasn't a terrible trip, there are clearly ways in which he can improve on this comeback effort.

Other notes:

- As inconvenient as it is that we don't have any fractions for the race, **#2 COPERNIUM** still might deserve some extra credit for his win two-back (his last on turf) as he was the only horse to make up any ground at all from the back; stretches back out today.
- **#3 LET FLY** sat a wider-than-ideal trip at Colonial last time.

- **#6 FREEDOM GLIDER** completely fluffed the start and raced in a detached last, then lost ground when getting out badly on the far turn when last seen; he seemed to be out of sorts that day and we know he's capable of more, but he needs to now show it.
- **#10 WEST MOUNTAIN** stumbled badly at the start and got away very slowly in last when last seen in an off-turf event on the slop; probably best to look past that race as he now gets back to the grass.
- While he was probably best anyway, it should be noted that **#15 VAYA JEFE (AE)** took full advantage of being allowed to set an uncontested, controlled pace last time before going onto score; he's still worthy of major respect this afternoon, though he may find things trickier if taken on for the lead.

Race 6: Allowance, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#6 KNOCKANARA	Allowance, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 08/20/26 – 3 rd	Chased pace from ~4L back into the turn; advanced while 4-6W racing to the top of the lane, then finished willingly despite brushing with a foe at the 3/16 and then bumping with another foe ~1/8 pole; just missed.	This wasn't a terrible trip; however, the ground he lost racing wide on the turn and the bump he took in the stretch combined to cost him more than the neck margin he was beaten.
#10 SUPERCRUISER	Allowance, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/18/26 – 1 st	Patently handled leaving gate; settled ~5L off even pace into turn; steady headway 3W turn; straightened for drive ~3 1/2L off lead, then rallied willingly through the lane and got up on the wire.	Another smart performance from this promising colt; he rallied against the 'flow' here that saw the first three positioned horses at first call (odds: 8/1, 4/1, 6/1) hold on for 2nd, 3rd and 4th; a stronger pace and more ground saving ride can see him improve further as he continues to gain experience.

Other notes:

- **#2 VIRTUOSITY** lugged out a little on the turn last out and consequently lost a little ground going wide; gelded since.
- **#11 ALEXIS ZORBA (GB)** was a little wider-than-ideal when running a gallant 2nd at Colonial last out; player.
- The chart comment correctly highlights how **#12 PARKES** was bothered at the break last time; however, as a closing sprinter by trade, it's hard to that *that* was the reason he performed below par; horses seemed to struggle to make up much ground from the back in that race, though, and that seems to be a more realistic excuse (he finished evenly but couldn't get on terms).

Race 7: Allowance, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 ARTILLERY GUNNER	Starter Allowance, LRL, 6F, Sloppy Dirt, 09/11/26 – 4 th	Broke inwards from the outside gate, bumped; chased even pace in clear to the turn, then lost ground racing 5W to the top of the lane before staying on with credit again through the lane.	The ground he lost racing very wide around the turn here almost certainly cost him 3rd, and there was an inside bias present this day which worked against him (it gave others an advantage he didn't have); we can give him a small upgrade for this effort.

Other Notes:

- **#4 HOLY MOLY MITOLE** didn't quite do enough to earn an upgrade when facing winners for the first time last out; however, he was bumped hard at the start which left him racing much further off the pace than usual (his preferred position is on the lead/stalking), and he then didn't receive much of a pace setup either, so there are definitely excuses for his defeat and a little more might be seen from him this afternoon. Note: there was a very strong speed bias present when he won in wire fashion at Timonium two-back.

Race 8: MSW, 3-6YO, 1 Mile, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#8 CLARK'S CORNER	MSW, KD, 1M, Firm Turf, 09/07/26 – 4 th	Broke out, bumped, away slowly; pulled his way forward while in the clear racing to the top of the hill, then continued to pull hard while 3W and out of cover racing down the hill; turned for home just a head off the lead in a narrow 3 rd , then stayed on willingly to the wire but couldn't go with the leading trio late.	He did well to hold 4th here considering that he'd pulled hard without cover and raced prominently in a race that saw closers come to the fore late; there are reasons for his defeat here and he can step back in the right direction today.
Other notes: - #1 IRISH NUNSENSE was keen and checked off heels entering the first turn when last seen, but it didn't actually make any difference to her trip/the result. - Making his first start as a gelding and turf debut when last seen, #3 HARD FREEZE ran in a manner to suggest today's stretch out in trip will be to his benefit. - #5 WAR ACE was in tight and bothered at the start when last seen on debut, but that doesn't explain why he then failed to get involved and we cannot attribute her poor result to the break; blinkers added today. - There was loads to like about #6 DARING GRACE (GB)'s last effort going 7F on the synthetic at Dundalk (Ireland) when last seen: she set honest fractions in front, had the entire field under pressure in deep stretch and then showed a very commendable attitude late, only just getting picked off in the final 100Y. Respected making belated turf debut with lasix added for Delacour today. - #7 EXECUTIVE might deserve a little extra credit for his most recent 3rd place finish as he did best of the closers/off-the-pace runners in a race which saw speed hold. - Although the pace was honest over the soft turf in his last turf start two-back, speed actually held relatively well in #9 FIRESTREAK's most recent start at Delaware; he finished well, was nearest at the finish and may now be capable of improving again returning to Ali.			

Race 9: OC55k/C Allowance, 3YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 DWELLING LEGACY	Tax Free Shopping Distaff H., DEL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 09/11/26 – 4 th	Hustled hard to take a narrow lead early; set pressured pace inside to upper stretch; cut the corner into the lane, then faded grudgingly on her left lead.	Feel we can be forgiving of this defeat as she was racing off the layoff and was tasked with setting a hot, pressured pace over a track that was presenting a notable CLOSER BIAS; she's capable of more than this and can show it today; player.
Other notes: - Not that she wasn't best anyway at odds of 2/5, but there was a speed bias present at Penn National when #5 JOYOUS SONG made it two sloppy track wins in a row last time. - #6 KILO ROAD ran well to finish 3rd when last seen (7F, LRL, 03/15/26 – 3rd) considering she did not have enough pace to close into to be seen to best effect; she did well to finish as close as she did; returns off layoff today.			

Race 10: Maiden Claiming 16k, 3-6YO, 1 1/8 Miles, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#14 STILLHOUSE	Maiden Claiming 16k, DEL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 08/15/26 – 5 th	Threw head and lunged start; unhurried; chased slow pace from ~3L back while 6W first turn; crept a little closer back stretch, then came under pressure while 4-5W far turn and advanced to almost join the leaders at the ¼ before fading grudgingly in the lane.	Amateur riders race: Carrying 135 pounds, he lost lots of ground racing wide on both turns here and can likely offer more with a different ride and blinkers on third out.
Other notes: - #2 RED SEA appeared a little unsettled last out, throwing his head around rounding the first turn and racing down the back stretch; maybe something was amiss with him or his tack and that could have played a part in his disappointing result.			

- **#5 NOSTROMO** didn't have a terrible trip last time; however, he did have to steady a little on the rail approaching the first turn which just left him racing a little further behind than intended; big player with bug weight off.
- **#6 PUTTER MAN** put forth a very nice effort second out at Colonial two-back (his last start on turf), closing into just even fractions for 2nd; he could easily take another step forward today getting back to the grass and stretching out to 1 1/8 miles; contender following a solid dirt effort when last seen. Note: he went a fraction too fast in front that last day.

Horses to Follow

R2: TIZ CANDY (3/1 ML)

After dropping back on the turn, TIZ CANDY re-rallied to finish a staying-on third behind the re-opposing pair of KWAN and GREAT DESTINY last time, then galloped out in front. The application of blinkers today should help her stay more engaged in the mid-portion of the race and could well see her go two places better at a fair price.

R10: PUTTER MAN (6/1 ML)

PUTTER MAN ran well second out at Colonial, staying on nicely into just even fractions to earn place honors. That try suggested that a well-run 1 1/8 miles could unlock further improvement, and he's not ruled out getting back on the grass following a respectable third in an off-turf event on the dirt last time.

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.

SCARLETT'S HALO

Trainer: Chad Brown

Last Race: September 19, 7th

Finish: 2nd by 3 1/2

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

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.

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.

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 - :49.40 at ELP on 10/12*)

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.

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.

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.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Jaime Rodriguez: #1 - Kelly's Hardheaded; #8 - Sugar Bush >>> **Rodriguez rides KELLY'S HARDHEADED**

Race 3: Mychel Sanchez: #3 - Wall Art; #9 - Firmantown >>> **Sanchez rides FIRMANTOWN**

Race 4: Forest Boyce: #3 - Pining; #4 - Sky Luna >>> **Boyce rides SKY LUNA**

Race 6: Jaime Rodriguez: #3 - Jamaladingdong; #7 - Benny Havens; #9 - Yes I Will >>> **Rodriguez rides JAMALAMADINGDONG**

Race 8: Mychel Sanchez: #5 - War Ace; #6 - Daring Grace >>> **Sanchez rides DARING GRACE**

Race 8: Joe Rocco Jr.: #4 - Zencat; #9 - Firestreak >>> **Rocco rides ZENCAT**

Race 10: Kevin Gomez: #4 - Really Ready; #11 - My Friend Lou >>> **Gomez rides MY FRIEND LOU**

Race 10: Leandro Briceno: #3 - Phantom Gold; #12 - River Revival; #13 - Classic Martini >>> **Briceno rides PHANTOM GOLD**

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

Oct. 9 – SPEED BIAS

Oct. 10 - Fair

