



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SUNDAY, OCT. 25

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



DAN ILLMAN



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

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

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

- TMJC's "Today at the Races" morning simulcast show LIVE on X [@LaurelPark](#) at 11AM ET for late changes + today's top tickets and best plays.
- 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. FAROOQ

2. FORTUNE HILL

3. TAMARIN

The first post time is 12:00 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout rate. **FAROOQ** ran pretty well when wired in his most recent turf start. Bumped at the start, he tracked the pace while in tight in between rivals, eased outside into the stretch, then finished evenly for second despite seeming a bit green. He's hit the board in his last five starts and has enough speed to sit close to the pace while outside and clear of traffic issues. Rodriguez departs for Saltwater Crew. **FORTUNE HILL** stalked from in between, eased outside in the stretch, and made up some late ground despite changing back to his left lead. He was wired by an 18-1 shot that afternoon, and might receive a stronger race flow here. **TAMARIN** stalked from in between horses over Belmont's Tapeta, then never got involved in the stretch. Plenty of angles moving back to turf, adding blinkers, and dropping in class. LONG STRAW cuts back into a sprint after facing two next-out dirt winners. He kicks late at a price if the pace is hot. SHORT BURN was wired by the favorite in a slow-paced race, and takes an appropriate drop in class. Chimney Sweep then placed in a state-sired allowance with a 71 Beyer.

>> RACE 2

1. PERFECT FORCE

2. TOPS THE CHART

3. WOODLINE

PERFECT FORCE drops in class after attempting to rally into moderate fractions over a speed-friendly Saratoga track. Raced outside at the back, split rivals on the turn, then never made up any meaningful ground. The fourth-finisher next won a second-level allowance at Belmont with a 96 Beyer. He could use a bit of pace help. **TOPS THE CHART** returns from a 198-day layoff at a shorter distance. Didn't break the best last time going two turns, but received a quick pace (23.73; 23.76) to attack and tried hard for second behind the favorite. The barn went 4 for the last 20 (20%, \$4.80 ROI) when moving from route to sprint. **WOODLINE** hooked up in a pace dispute over muddy going last time out, and might not have to work as hard to grab the lead here. RE MARKABLY, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 10/10, seems well-entered after facing classy Dean Delivers in a two-turn sprint at Charles Town.

>> RACE 3

1. DUCHESSA

2. RECKLESS

3. TIMSHEL

DUCHESSA saved ground in midpack, altered course back up the rail in the upper stretch, then rallied well to just miss, and displayed an okay gallop-out. The late-runner could use some pace and trip help as she faces males for a barn that went 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$2.18 ROI) on turf in the third start after 61-120 day layoffs. **RECKLESS** had a potential claim voided by the vet last month after a pace-pressing victory. That tactical speed should serve him well for a barn that went 12 for the last 28 (43%, \$2.54 ROI) between 9/17 and 10/30 with last-out winners. **TIMSHEL** got a quick pace to attack, but also dealt with traffic issues when rallying for second behind favored McCullough, who returned to win on dirt. The fourth-finisher then placed in a \$28,000 starter allowance with a 75 Beyer. This barn sent out a couple of winners last month, including 20-1 Boys Go to Jupiter. Rocco departs for FREEDOM GLIDER. PARKES drops a notch after being wired at Colonial. The third-finisher then hit the board in his next two starts with a 77 Beyer top. VESTING returns from a 373-day layoff at a drastically reduced class level.

>> RACE 4

1. PRESIDENT CAMACHO

2. PUTTER MAN

3. REGENCY TALE

PRESIDENT CAMACHO continues to drop in class to find his correct level. Improved over muddy conditions last time out, dueling inside the 7-1 last-place finisher over a closer-friendly track before tiring. Love Yourself then returned to repeat in a state-sired allowance with a 79 Beyer. He should get close to the pace once again. **PUTTER MAN** threw a fit behind the gate last week, necessitating a scratch. Set a solid pace (23.86, 23.78) inside the 9-1 fourth-finisher in his dirt debut, was urged along on the turn, and tired after being late to change leads. Might revert to rating tactics this afternoon.

REGENCY TALE, listed as a Timonium vet scratch (sick) on 9/6, was taken in hand and pulled his way along to track three wide and in between, found the pocket under urging after a half-mile, then flattened out. The fifth-finisher next graduated by open lengths in a \$12,500 maiden claimer at Colonial with a 70 Beyer. He's shown hints of ability in his career, and has enough tactical speed to remain within range of the early leaders. **HAWKSBURY HUSTLER** has some upside, seems to be improving with every start, and should show speed adding blinkers for the first time.

>> RACE 5

1. INSTANT STARDOM

2. MARIA ELENA

3. VIRGINIA FAB

INSTANT STARDOM showed enough speed to track a quick pace in her debut at Saratoga, then couldn't go with those horses. The runner-up hit the board in her next two, including Laurel's Selima Stakes, with stereo 65 Beyers. Took a step forward at Meadowlands last time, and should get close to the pace for a barn that went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$4.95 ROI) with second-time routers. **MARIA ELENA** was bumped at the start, raced at the back behind a very slow pace, swung widest, and never contended while swapping back to her left lead. The eighth-finisher then placed in a waiver maiden at Delaware with a 56 Beyer. The barn went 3 for the last 11 (27%, \$2.11 ROI) when adding blinkers to second-time starters. **VIRGINIA FAB** was fractious before the start at Colonial, then pushed a quick pace before tiring. Expect good speed as she stretches out in distance. Lopez lands here instead of Out Til Two. **SENSE THE MOON** might have been in too tough in her lone turf start. The tenth-finisher then graduated in a statebred special weight at Meadowlands with a 40 Beyer. **OUT TIL TWO** is a half-sister to juvenile stakes-placed turf sprinter Time to Party (94 turf Beyer). **TUVANA** broke slowly when overmatched in the lone turf start, eased widest into the stretch, then changed back to her left lead.

>> RACE 6

1. CITRINE

2. GREY BIGGSY

3. DYNAFLAME

CITRINE tracked outside, split rivals in the upper stretch, then flattened out along the rail when wired at Colonial. That race produced two next-out dirt winners. Looked good breezing inside 4-year-old maiden filly Panama Canal (65 turf Beyer) on 10/17, finishing a half-length ahead, and galloping out three in front. Think he'll take back and make one run like in the maiden win two back. The barn went 10 for 31 (32%, \$4.07 ROI) between 9/26 and 10/22.

GREY BIGGSY made a premature four-wide move into the teeth of a hot pace last month. Secured a clear advantage under a very confident ride on the second turn, and tired late. **DYNAFLAME** was wired when stretched to a mile. Broke sharp, was taken in hand to track the loose winner, attacked outside on the second bend, and kept trying when finishing behind the three favorites. The third-finisher hit the board in his next two starts with a 75 Beyer top. **WHATCHASAYNOW** showed speed in a Colonial turf race that went to closers two back. The third-finisher then won a \$16,000 "non-two" claimer with a 70 Beyer. Expect rail speed.

>> RACE 7

1. BUBBLING

2. AYNİ

3. VICTORIA GATE

BUBBLING (\$10,000 yearling) is a half-sister to a juvenile debut winner by an excellent first-out sire. The dam is a half-sister to stakes-winning dirt sprinter Take a Hint (90 dirt Beyer) and stakes-placed dirt sprinter Return the Ring (debut winner; 82 dirt Beyer). The second dam won her first three starts and was a stakes-winning dirt sprinter (96 dirt Beyer). The barn went 4 for the last 11 (36%, \$2.55 ROI) with first-time starters. **AYNI** rallied nicely along the inside to finish ahead of a couple of these when the beaten odds-on favorite. Think we'll see early speed with new blinkers. **VICTORIA GATE** was simply in too tough when outsprinted from the start against special weight company. The winner then took a first-level allowance with a 61 Beyer. This barn sent out a maiden claiming winner here eight days ago. **QUADRATIC FORMULA** is out of multiple stakes-placed dirt performer Landing Zone (85 dirt Beyer).

>> RACE 8

1. GREEN BEANS

2. INCINERATOR

3. CONGRATS ON FIFTY

GREEN BEANS has performed well sprinting on turf in the past, and he should get some pace to attack as he turns back following several two-turn races. Advanced to prompt the 6-1 runner-up through solid fractions at Monmouth last time, attacked from in between horses, and tired. This barn sent out a 5-1 winner on 10/15. **INCINERATOR** broke slowly, settled outside at the back behind a moderate pace, swung very wide into the stretch, then got up for second despite failing to change leads. Another that benefits from a fast pace up front. **CONGRATS ON FIFTY** finished ahead of three of these when wired at Delaware. He might be better when he's controlling the pace, and he figures right there in the early going. **ROSCOE PINE** finished behind the three favorites in a two-turn route at Delaware. Kicks late, but all of his wins have come around two turns. Marquez departs for **ALEXIS ZORBA**.

>> RACE 9

1. BUMP N RUN

2. ZERO BLITZ

3. WORCESTER

BUMP N RUN hasn't finished ahead of another horse in each of his last two races, but he returns to the scene of his upset pace-pressing win, and should show improved speed adding Lasix. Faced a tough bunch last time as the fourth-finisher next took a stakes race at Parx with a 98 Beyer. **ZERO BLITZ**, a stakes-winner here last year and multiple stakes-placed in 2026, could be the one to beat. Tracked in between at the back last time, made a four-wide bid on the turn, then hopped back to his left lead when behind the even-money winner. This barn went 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$2.70 ROI) between 10/4 and 10/17. Have always liked **WORCESTER** as a late-running sprinter, and he cuts back in distance after just missing at Parx. Pressed the winner from between rivals, and just couldn't surge by while swapping leads a couple of times. The third-finisher then won a high-level allowance there with an 88 Beyer. This barn went 9 for the last 26 (35%, \$2.51 ROI) in the third start following 61-120 day layoffs.

>> RACE 10

1. REPURPOSE

2. SUNNYRIDGE SUNSET

3. STANZA

REPURPOSE ran pretty well in his circuit debut as he was wired by the favorite in a slow-paced race. Went after the winner in the stretch, but hopped back to his left lead. Chimney Sweep flattered the form when placing in a state-sired allowance with a 71 Beyer. The barn went 3 for 13 (23%, \$5.97 ROI) between 10/4 and 10/22. **SUNNYRIDGE SUNSET** switches surfaces as a half-brother to stakes-placed turf sprinter Lucky Jaime. He showed good speed

in his off-turf debut and shouldn't be too far away when they turn for home. **STANZA** must deal with a 303-day layoff, but he was very green last year, and might have matured during the time away. Seemingly had one bad trip after another, but also showed some ability. LIFE BOAT had a tough trip when wired over that quirky Kentucky Downs surface in his lone turf start. Kentucky shippers generally do well here, and he should show early zip. TOTAL MISCHIEF faced two next-out winners in his lone turf start, with Supercruiser repeating in a state-sired allowance with a 79 Beyer. ADVENTUS is out of a stakes-placed turf router (83 turf Beyer).

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 2

#7 -Tops the Chart

Trainer: Damon Dilodovico

Route to Sprint: 4 for 20 (20%, \$4.80 ROI)

RACE 3

#5 - Reckless

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Between 9/17 and 10/30, Last-Out Winners: 12 for 28 (43%, \$2.54 ROI)

RACE 3

#6 - Duchessa

Trainer: Arnaud Delacour

Third After 61-120 Days, Turf: 2 for 10 (20%, \$2.18 ROI)

RACE 5

#1 - Instant Stardom

Trainer: Rudy Rodriguez

Second-Time Routers: 3 for 11 (27%, \$4.95 ROI)

RACE 5

#12 - Maria Elena

Trainer: Horacio De Paz

Second Start, First Blinkers: 3 for 11 (27%, \$2.11 ROI)

RACE 6

#9 - Citrine

Trainer: Graham Motion

Between 9/26 and 10/22: 10 for 31 (32%, \$4.07 ROI)

RACE 7

#4 - Bubbling

Trainer: Jamie Ness

First-Time Starters: 4 for 11 (36%, \$2.55 ROI)

RACE 9

#4 - Worcester

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Third After 61-120 Days: 9 for 26 (35%, \$2.51 ROI)

RACE 9

#5 - Zero Blitz

Trainer: Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon

Between 10/4 and 10/17: 2 for 10 (20%, \$2.70 ROI)

RACE 10

#7 - Repurpose

Trainer: Keri Brion

Between 10/4 and 10/22, Flat: 3 for 13 (23%, \$5.97 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 16k, 3-6YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#12 HONORARY AMERICAN (IRE)	Maiden Claiming 16k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Good Turf, 10/02/26 – 4 th	Chased honest pace from ~2-3L back early, then steadied slightly entering far turn; recovered quickly and travelled powerfully while waiting in traffic around the turn and into upper stretch; paused momentarily ~3/16, then found daylight and stayed on well, gaining steadily, but had too much to do.	This wasn't a terrible trip; however, one does feel that if he'd been able to build momentum/advance a little earlier, he would have gone very close to – if not beaten – both DANNER and FORTUNE HILL; seems there's a little more to come and he's respected from a wide draw.
Other notes: - #4 SHORT BURN didn't quite do enough to earn an upgrade last time; however, he was caught 4W on the turn and also tasked with closing into a slow pace, neither of which helped his chances; he should be capable of offering more today. - #6 FORTUNE HILL has shown a want to lean in through the stretch in his last couple of starts; he also flopped leads in the lane last out; if running straighter and truer, he might be able to offer a fraction more; contender. - Although he was very keen early, #11 FAROOQ stayed on willingly for a nice second in his last turf race back in June; he could play a role getting back to the grass today, especially if he settles better.			

Race 2: Ratings Optional Claiming (65-1), 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
Other notes: - #1 SPRINGHAWK was ridden far too aggressively while also wide at Charles Town last time; he can offer more with a more effective ride. - Not saying he wasn't much the best anyway, but we should note that #5 WOODLINE rode a strong speed bias at Timonium when winning two-back. - #6 PERFECT FORCE didn't do enough to earn an upgrade last time; however, he was tasked with closing into a pace that held very well over a heavily speed biased racetrack, which certainly didn't help his chances; today's waters are calmer and he's respected making his debut for Ness.			

Race 3: OC35k/SAL28k, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 TIMSHEL	ROC, LRL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 09/19/26 – 2 nd	Bumped start; settled ~7L off hot pace inside racing to the far turn; crept closer while still under a hold between horses far turn; waited with in traffic 5/16 pole, then continued to find himself with little running room behind horses racing to the 1/8 pole; found space between horses late and then ran on well for a clear 2 nd but was never catching the winner.	While we should acknowledge that he benefited from the hot pace (23.63, 46.26) collapsing in this race, his lack of running room from the 5/16 pole to the 1/8 pole prevented him from advancing or building the necessary momentum, whilst also allowing the eventual winner to get the jump on him and build an unassailable advantage; with a decent pace possible again this afternoon, a smoother trip can see him improve on this effort.
#11 BAND ON THE RUN (AE)	Starter Allowance, LRL, 1M, Good	Slight bobble start; unhurried; took strong hold on rail while racing ~4-5L off slow pace to far turn; boxed in 3/8, then shuffled well back in traffic passing ¼; turned	A troubled trip while also lacking a solid pace to close into (24.86, 50.05); he appeared to have plenty of gas left in the tank crossing the wire and can surely improve on this effort.

	Turf, 09/20/26 – 5 th	for home ~8L off the lead in 9 th , then continued to lack room on heels until inside the final furlong; ran on again late under a mild hand ride but the game was up.	
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Other notes:

- The chart comment correctly highlights how **#1 PARKES** was bothered at the break last time; however, as a closing sprinter by trade, it's hard to say 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); stretches out today.
- **#2 WALL ART** has recently been finishing his races in a manner to suggest that further could be better for him, although whether a mile is too far remains to be seen; switches to turf making debut for Stettinius today. Note: the rider dropped the crop ~1/8 pole in his last start, but it didn't make much difference to the result.
- **#3 READY SET TWIRL** was steadily closing in the stretch when he then found himself in tight and had to tap on the brakes ~1/8 pole last time; it didn't cost him much, however, combing that little bit of trouble with the way he was staying on and then galloped out in front suggests that he could take a step forward from that last run stretched out to a mile today; respected.
- **#6 DUCHESSA** didn't have a bad trip last time; however, he did have to wait on the rail for a fraction longer than ideal which allowed the winner to get the jump on him; seeing as he was only just beaten a neck, he probably could have won if he'd been able to build a little more momentum approaching the top of the lane.
- **#7 PROMISSIO** was the only runner to do any serious running from the back in his last start behind RECKLESS that featured just an even pace; while his trip was perfect, he still might be able to offer a little more today given a stronger pace to run at.

Race 4: Maiden Claiming 12.5k, 3-6YO, 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#3 BEAUTIFUL QUALITY	Maiden Claiming 16k, CNL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 09/06/26 – 8 th	Showed speed, then settled into a stalking position 1-2L off the even pace; held position racing into and around the far turn until a rival backed up sharply in front of him ~1/4, forcing him to check and shuffling him right back; he failed to recover from there.	His two-back effort prior to a fine try on the slop last month: A troubled trip he can likely improve on back in at the same level.

Other notes:

- **#2 PRESIDENT CAMACHO** failed to get home after stalking and then going on with honest enough fractions at a mile last time; today's cut back to 7F could suit.
- **#6 PUTTER MAN** went a fraction too fast in front when going a mile on the dirt time; following a better than looks effort on turf two-back, too, he could be seen to good effect at 7F today.
- Although the chart comment correctly highlights how **#6 DIVINE SWAGGER** steadied slightly ~1/8 pole last time, it did not cost him the race at all; he revived a good setup, overall sat a fine trip, and had every opportunity to win in the lane if good enough. Note: he lugged out very badly on the turn and then drifted out in the lane (which was partly why he steadied).
- **#10 REGENCY TALE** was very headstrong early and then failed to get home when last seen stretched out to a mile over a speed biased track at Colonial in June; today's cut back in trip should see him to better effect off the bench, although it still might be a furlong too far.
- **#12 HAWKSBURY HUSTLER** sat a slightly wider-than-ideal trip in a slowly run race at Delaware last time; blinkers on today.

Race 5: Maiden Claiming 25k, 2YO (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf**Other notes:**

- In both starts sprinting on the dirt, **#6 POOR JAQUI (MTO)** has run in a manner to suggest she'll be better suited to route distances; blinkers on.
- **#8 VIRGINIA FAB** was difficult to load, pressed the fast pace 4-5W, faded slightly, then wasn't persevered with in the final furlong when last seen sprinting at Colonial; it's highly likely that race didn't see her to best effect; stretches out today.
- **#12 MARIA ELENA** didn't nearly do enough to earn an upgrade last time; however, she also didn't have any pace to run at from the rear (24.98, 51.96); blinkers added dropping in class today.

Race 6: Claiming 16k, 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#10 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 2nd 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 back under a different jock.

Other notes:

- **#2 NILAMBAR** didn't do enough to earn an upgrade last time (he was 3rd best); however, he did find himself boxed in and shuffled/prevented from building momentum a little on the far turn which wasn't ideal and there is a small chance that he can offer a little more today.
- **#3 DAW SAMAA** sat too close to an electric pace that completely collapsed last time (22.17, 46.66) before not being persevered with in the lane; we can forgive him that defeat and use his prior starts as a better guide to his chances today.
- **#8 QUAIN** was allowed to get away with setting very slow fractions in front before going onto score two-back – downgrade that effort; bled last time.
- **#11 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?).
- **#12 RED MILLER (MTO)** was running a nice race and looked to be coming with something of a run on the turn at Belmont last time when he was then pinched between horses and forced to steady sharply ~3/8 pole; this cost him momentum and from there he failed to recover; the trouble provides a legitimate reason as to why he performed slightly below par.

Race 7: Maiden Claiming 35k, 2YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt**Other Notes:**

- There was lots to like about **#7 PURELY ASSURED**'s debut earlier in the month: she broke from the inside post yet took the kickback like a pro, dropped back a little behind horses on the turn, then stayed on willingly to the wire before galloping out nicely; she shaped like she'll be winning races soon and today's extra ground plus a wider post should help her move forward; contender. Note: there was a closer bias present the day she made her debut, too, but it didn't appear to make much difference in that particular race.

Race 8: Ratings Optional Claiming (65-1), 3YO+, 5 1/2 Furlongs, Turf**Other notes:**

- **#1 INCINERATOR** finished really well into just an even pace for 2nd two-weeks ago; 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.
- Having run so well the time prior, you have wonder whether the wide trip combined with the yielding turf prevented **#2 KISS THEM DEADLY** from offering his best when last seen on the grass two-back?
- Although the fast pace he pressed was strong (21.85), speed actually held quite well in **#3 NORMANDY HERO**'s last start, and it appeared that he simply underperformed without a major excuse; needs to bounce back.
- **#12 ALEXIS ZORBA (GB)** was a little wider-than-ideal when running a gallant 2nd at Colonial last out; player.

Race 9: OC55k/C Allowance, 3YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt**Other notes:**

- Although the chart comment correctly highlights how **#1 POWER GRID** took a bump at the 3/16 pole last time, he was already on the retreat at the time, and it made little difference to the result.
- **#5 ZERO BLITZ** didn't have a bad trip in the Polynesian Stakes last time; however, he can be awarded a little extra credit for the fact that he did best of the closers in despite having raced widest in the lane when there was a slight inside lean to the track; massive player back down in trip and class with Lasix on.

Race 10: Maiden Claiming 35k, 3-6YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 STANZA	Maiden Claiming 45k, LRL, 6F, Firm Turf, 10/24/25 – 4th	Hustled into stride along the rail, then eased back to race ~8L off the even pace as rivals crossed in front of him early on; traveled powerfully (keen) in this position to the turn, then had to ease further back (shuffled back) entering the bend and dropped back to last; passed the ¼ pole ~10L off the lead in last, then swung out into the center, came under a ride and rallied well into 4 th but ultimately had way too much to do.	His last start on turf, three-back, prior to the layoff: He was significantly disadvantaged by his low draw in this race (big, long striding horse needs room to use his stride and found it tough to hold his position); he did well under the circumstances and seems capable of more if getting out/into stride earlier.

Other notes:

- **#3 NOTION IN MOTION** and **#7 REPURPOSE (GB)** were both somewhat aided by being forwardly placed in a slowly run race that saw speed hold well last time (23.35, 46.28); however, REPURPOSE can also be seen as a slightly unlucky loser as he was 3W on the turn and 2 1/2L back at first call, then just failed to get by the wire winner; whatever the case, he in particular ran well and should play a significant role again today.
- **#4 TOTAL MISCHIEF** sat a wider-than-ideal trip on debut (his lone turf start); contender getting back to grass.
- **#8 LIFE BOAT** has failed to stay 7F in both his starts to date and should be suited by today's cut back. Note: as highlighted in the chart comment, he tapped on the brakes ~1/2 on debut, but it made no difference to his trip/the result. Makes debut for Joy.

Horses to Follow

R6: CITRINE

Motion and Vargas have gone 3-for-5 (60%) together over the last two months, yielding a very healthy \$2.00 ROI of \$7.68; they go to battle again in today's sixth with CITRINE, who fared well when making his first start against winners last time and now gets some class relief. He looks a potential single to kick off the low-takeout late pick-5.

R8: ALEXIS ZORBA

A horse with some very strong back-class, ALEXIS ZORBA (GB) has unintentionally been freshened (off-turf scratch on numerous occasions) since he was last seen overcoming a wide trip to finish second at Colonial in early September. He'll now make his second start for McMahon from a wide post, allowing jockey Marquez to use his tactical speed to its fullest in a race that features plenty of speed. It's a competitive spot, but he certainly fits with this group, and the price should be fair.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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: Jaime Rodriguez: #5 - Saltwater Crew; #11 - Farooq >>> **Rodriguez rides SALTWATER CREW**

Race 1: Carlos Lopez: #2 - Danner; #12 - Honorary American >>> **Lopez rides DANNER**

Race 1: Horacio Karamanos: #3 - Mantua Man; #8 - Star Atlas >>> **Karamanos rides STAR ATLAS**

Race 3: Joe Rocco Jr.: #4 - Timshel; #8 - Freedom Glider >>> **Rocco Jr. rides FREEDOM GLIDER**

Race 5: Carlos Lopez: #5 - Out Til Two; #8 - Virginia Fab >>> **Lopez rides VIRGINIA FAB**

Race 6: Carlos Lopez: #6 - Coco No Loco; #7 - Salvo Trigger >>> **Lopez rides COCO NO LOCO**

Race 8 - Charlie Marquez: #11 - Roscoe Pine; #12 - Alexis Zorba >>> **Marquez rides ALEXIS ZORBA**

Race 8 - Jaime Rodriguez: #3 - Normandy Hero; #5 - Benny Havens >>> **Rodriguez rides NORMANDY HERO**

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

Oct. 16 – SPEED BIAS

Oct. 17 – Fair

Oct. 18 – Fair

