



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for SUNDAY, OCT. 4

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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

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. MO REWARDS

2. EL DE LARRY

3. SKY'S NOT FALLING

The first post is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout rate. **MO REWARDS** broke outward at the start, settled in between horses in midpack behind a hot pace, made an early four-wide bid into contention, then stayed gamely for second behind the favored winner. He seems adaptable to any pace scenario. **EL DE LARRY** prompted the 16-1 last-finisher through wicked fractions (23.10; 23.40, 23.85) before understandably tiring. Don't think he'll have to work nearly as hard to obtain a forward position this afternoon. **SKY'S NOT FALLING** has a good amount of back class, and he's been knocking on the door following a pair of runner-up efforts out of town. Figures to sit a good tracking trip while close to the pace. ZAPATA pressed a hot pace in a tougher race that went to closers (top-three finishers were ninth, seventh, and eighth after the opening quarter). A drop in class and more patient tactics will help.

>> RACE 2

1. LOVE YOURSELF

2. NAPISONMYAGENDA

3. I AM PEPE

LOVE YOURSELF broke a beat slow when returning from a 108-day layoff, tracked in between horses while in very tight, made a three-wide bid on the turn, and tried hard for second. Can get close to the pace for a barn that went 4 for the last 11 (36%, \$7.73 ROI) with second-time routers.

NAPISONMYAGENDA battled with the 7-1 winner over a speed-friendly track, then just couldn't put that foe away when it mattered. **I AM PEPE** boasts lots of angles as he adds blinkers and moves from turf to dirt. He can be excused for his prior dirt start, as he broke slow against two next-out winners (fourth-finisher, then hit the board twice with a 72 Beyer top). CUDDY'S LUCKY stretches out, adds blinkers, and should show speed after facing Yauprissy, a next-out third in a Delaware special weight with a 61 Beyer.

>> RACE 3

1. THICK BUT QUICK

2. BROWN SUGAR BETTY

3. PELICAN PIER

THICK BUT QUICK deserves another chance after racing very greenly at Timonium. Broke pretty well in that sharp sprint, but was climbing when taking some dirt and banged into the inner rail entering the turn. She's returned with a couple of gate works, and I won't be surprised if she's placed forwardly for a barn that went 6 for the last 20 (30%, \$2.04 ROI) with juvenile second-out maidens on dirt. **BROWN SUGAR BETTY** took a nice step forward when adding blinkers and dropping in class. Broke badly, advanced into a quick pace, and ran second to the favorite, which then finished third in a quarter-starter at Delaware on Thursday. **PELICAN PIER** seems dirtied up, as she didn't appear to handle turf two back, then didn't break well over those tight Timonium turns. Ran pretty well three back after stumbling at the start against Harper's Corner, who then won Saratoga's Schuylerville with an 88 Beyer. She can get close to the pace. Uncoupled stablemate PARIS BY NIGHT finished ahead of the top pick at Timonium, then placed again over that surface. She is fast from the stalls. SHESAREALPROBLEM drops in claiming price after attempting to rally over a speed-friendly track against five other debut runners. TUVANA switches surfaces as a half-sister to juvenile stakes-placed dirt sprinter Tall Paul (84 turf Beyer), and stakes-placed dirt router Ananroad (85 dirt Beyer).

>> RACE 4

1. BISCUITWITHTHEBOSS

2. LADY ENSIGN

3. DESINATION

BISCUITWITHTHEBOSS likes to hear her feet rattle, and she didn't break the best last time out at Colonial. She wound up in between horses behind a slow pace, angled three wide into the stretch, and lacked a strong punch in her first start following a short break. Don't be surprised if she's sharper in the early stages for a barn that went 11 for 33 (33%, \$2.03 ROI) between 9/7 and 10/1. **LADY ENSIGN** broke very nicely at Colonial, cleared to the lead and the rail, set comfortable fractions, then dug in gamely to just miss the odds-on favorite. She's another that likes to race close to the lead for a barn that went 6 for 11 (55%, \$5.67 ROI) between 9/13 and 9/25. **DESTINATION** displayed a new dimension two back when rating off the pace and finishing well for third behind the top pick. Those tactics would serve her well here for a barn that had three "dirt to turf" winners since 6/14. This pace could heat up, which helps HOT BOSS, who cuts back in distance after facing two next-out winners (the fourth-finisher then scored a \$16,000 beaten at Colonial with a 75 Beyer).

>> RACE 5

1. NORFIE

2. CELESTIAL MOON

3. PENNY LOAFER

NORFIE, listed as at Timonium Vet Scratch (sick) on 9/6, ran deceptively well against open claimers two back. Wired by the favorite over an inside, speed-friendly track, he saved ground at the back, split rivals on the turn, angled five wide and in between into the stretch, and passed tired foes. He never seemed comfortable at Mountaineer last time, as an inner foe always appeared on the cusp of bearing out into him, and he was very wide. That race produced two next-out winners, with Quistmer repeating in a ratings/optional claimer with a 69 Beyer. He's a late-runner that could use pace help.

CELESTIAL MOON finished ahead of three of these. Pressed the 9-1 runner-up while two-to-three wide, challenged in earnest on the second turn, and flattened out in the stretch. The winner then placed in a dime "beaten" claimer with a 70 Beyer. Back to his best distance. **PENNY LOAFER** prompted a three-ply pace from the fence, settled for the pocket after a half, went on a hard chase under urging on the backstretch, then tried hard for third in a three-turn route at Charles Town. **STRATEGIST** never received a breather when dueling with the 7-1 fifth-finisher (a next-out winner) through quick fractions of 23.50 and 23.21. The eighth-finisher then ran third in a conditioned nickel claimer at Parx with a 63 Beyer. Might not have to work as hard to get the lead today.

>> RACE 6

1. CURLY DIVINING

2. BROADWAY MUSICAL

3. GOTTA BE DA SHOES

CURLY DIVINING switches surfaces out of turf-route winner She's Curly. Although there isn't much blacktype close up in the female family, her fourth dam, Courtly Dee, is a true foundation mare, with class and turf influences aplenty under her name. Expect early speed for a barn that sent out four winners between 9/12 and 9/19. **BROADWAY MUSICAL** finished ahead of four of these when second to odds-on Crab Mentality. Won't be surprised if she's set for her best in this, the third start following a lengthy layoff. The barn sent out a winner at Delaware on 9/30. **GOTTA BE DA SHOES** hit the board in her last two turf sprints, and she cuts back in distance after making a strong wide move into the teeth of the pace at one mile. Might be the best pure closer in the field, and the barn went 4 for the last 18 (22%, \$5.33 ROI) when moving from route to sprint. **BABY QUEEN** likely aimed too high against special weight foes. The fourth-finisher returned to place in a similar spot at Colonial with a 63 Beyer.

>> RACE 7

1. BE BETTER

2. COLLECTION DAY

3. FIGHTERTOWN

BE BETTER, listed as a Colonial vet scratch on 8/9, was a pleasant surprise in his most recent start. Normally a one-run closer, he got close to the pace, pressed the 3-1 runner-up from the outside, then displayed his back class despite hopping to his left lead. This newfound tactical speed can put him in a good stalking position here. **COLLECTION DAY** settled in midpack, made a strong five-wide bid to command on the second turn under confident handling, then hopped back to his left lead when geared down in the final 100 yards. Wheels back again on short notice in search of his third straight score. **FIGHTERTOWN**'s last race on turf is an utter toss, as he was cooked on a red-hot pace. He might not have to work nearly as hard to obtain the early lead here. Set the pace two back on dirt, came off the fence into the stretch, then tired late. That race produced two next-out winners, with Brindano grabbing a first-level allowance at Penn National with an 80 Beyer. This barn went 5 for the last 22 (23%, \$2.09 ROI) when moving from turf to dirt.

>> RACE 8

1. SET ABLAZE

2. MAGIC BEAM

3. KOBE'S HOPE

SET ABLAZE tracked a slow pace while three wide on the first turn, tracked from in between on the backstretch, swung outside into the lane, and never stopped trying. Hoping to see her save a bit more ground this time around. **MAGIC BEAM** saved ground in midpack behind slow fractions, was last on the rail turning for home, split rivals in midstretch, then hopped back to her left lead late. That combination of a slow pace and traffic really worked against her. **KOBE'S HOPE** likely needed her last race, her first start following a 288-day layoff. Didn't break great, but passed some horses in the stretch and likely gained important fitness.

>> RACE 9

1. TRINITY

2. GO NEW YORK GO

3. WHOSE NOTION

TRINITY tracked a quick pace from the pocket, split foes with a three-wide bid into the stretch, and drove clear late. Tactical enough to stay close to the pace for a barn that sent out a 9-2 winner here on 9/25. **GO NEW YORK GO** cleared off to set an uncontested pace in her first start for McMahon, then turned on the jets in the stretch over muddy going. Missed some time after that race, but looks quick enough to make the lead for a barn that went 5 for the last 23 (22%, \$2.90 ROI) with last-out maiden winners. **WHOSE NOTION** showed sharp speed to wire them at Timonium, but they ran 1-2-3 around the track that day, and this spot seems tougher from a class and pace standpoint. The barn went 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$4.20 ROI), with last-out maiden winners making their third start. **NO ONE ELSE'S** drops in class and distance after finishing ahead of Space for Grace (next-out second in a "non-two" allowance at Delaware with a 57 Beyer). Kicks in the stretch.

>> RACE 10

1. WONDER GIRL

2. GRANUAILE

3. NAUGHTY FAVORS

WONDER GIRL broke a beat slow, stalked outside, swung wider into the stretch, then made up a couple of lengths to finish behind the three favorites. She's very comfortable over this course and distance, and can get closer to the pace against this group. **GRANUAILE** settled outside in midpack, followed the top pick into the stretch, then made up some late ground to place behind that foe. Doesn't have as much early zip as Wonder Gal, and might need

some pace aid. **NAUGHTY FAVORS** raced outside in midpack, altered course to the fence in the upper stretch, but failed to change leads when rallying on the rail. Knocking on the door on turf.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 2

#5 - Love Yourself

Trainer: Niall Saville

Second Route: 4 for 11 (36%, \$7.73 ROI)

RACE 3

#4 - Thick But Quick

Trainer: Anthony Farrior

2-Year-Old Maidens, Second Start, Dirt: 6 for 20 (30%, \$2.04 ROI)

RACE 4

#5 - Biscuitwiththeboss

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Between 9/7 and 10/1: 11 for 33 (33%, \$2.03 ROI)

RACE 4

#8 - Lady Ensign

Trainer: Hugh McMahon

Between 9/13 and 9/25: 6 for 11 (55%, \$5.67 ROI)

RACE 6

#5 - Gotta Be Da Shoes

Trainer: Damon Dilodovico

Route to Sprint: 4 for 18 (22%, \$5.33 ROI)

RACE 7

#5 - Fightertown

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Turf to Dirt: 5 for 22 (23%, \$2.09 ROI)

RACE 9

#6 - Go New York Go

Trainer: Hugh McMahon

Last-Out Maiden Winner, Third Start: 3 for 12 (25%, \$4.20 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: OC12k/SAL8k, 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Other notes:

- **#3 EL DE LARRY** sat a little too close to the hot pace (23.10, 46.50) that somewhat fell apart at Colonial last time; he's possibly capable of a little more if rationing out his speed more efficiently.
- Not saying that he didn't run a big race or that he's entitled to respect today, but after veering out badly from the inside gate, **#6 MO REWARDS** benefited from a great trip and even better pace setup last time – downgrade.
- The chart comment notes how **#8 THICK AS THIEVES** was in tight at the start last out but that was hardly the case and seemingly not the reason he was essentially pulled up; has big questions to answer making debut for Robb.

Race 2: Maiden Claiming 35k, 3-6YO, 1 Mile, Dirt**Other notes:**

- Not sure it made any real difference to their respective finishing positions, but there was a speed bias present when **#1 PRESIDENT CAMACHO** and **#6 NAPISONMYAGENDA** last ran.
- Admittedly aided by a good trip, **#2 NANTUCKET LOVE** stayed on and galloped out well enough on return going 6 1/2F last time to suggest he can take a meaningful step forward stretching out second back; contender.
- Regarding **#3 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.
- **#4 CUDDY'S LUCKY** broke through the gate prior to the start of his last race and then found himself in an awkward pressing position tight between foes, providing a reason to believe he can step back in the right direction today.
- The chart comment suggests that **#5 LOVE YOURSELF** checked at the ½ last time but that didn't really happen at all (he was just a little keen in behind horses and the rider grabbed a fresh hold, but he didn't lose and ground, position or momentum); still he ran a huge race off the layoff and stayed on late in a manner to suggest today's stretch out second back could be to his benefit (provided he settles); big player.

Race 3: Maiden Claiming 16k, 2YO (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt**Other notes:**

- There was chaos at the start of **#2 BROWN SUGAR BETTY**'s last race when the starter let the field go with a horse still behind the gate (!); this led to the a number of handlers and jockeys (BSB's included) not being prepared for the gates to open and getting away slower than may have otherwise been the case; she then ran a perfectly fine race for 2nd, although she was aided by a good trip and setup thereafter, and the fact that the track was leaning towards closers was also to her advantage (possible downgrade). (**#1 HAPPY ENCOUNTER** debuted in this race and was also off slowly).
- Visibly green, **#4 THICK BUT QUICK** lugged in hard metering the turn at Timonium on debut and actually hit the rail which knocked her back; from there, she failed to recover; seems she can only improve second out.
- There was a speed bias present at Laurel when **#5 SHESAREALPROBLEM** made her debut; after a slow start, the bias worked against her; she also had to very lightly tap on the brakes mid-turn as a rival backed up in front of her, though this was largely negligible.

Race 4: Allowance [®], 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf**Other notes:**

- We should be very forgiving of **#2 TACTIC VALUE's (MTO)** last start because the saddle slipped early and the rider had little control (ended up setting a faster than ideal pace in front); she ran well under the circumstances.
- There was a speed bias present when **#3 BLO BY THE FIELD** ran a career best Beyer last out – maybe take that number with a pinch of salt; switches to turf today.
- **#4 HOT BOSS** did not stay when stretched out to a route for the first time last out; she should be more comfortable and more elective back sprinting today.
- **#6 BRIKELI** was arguably a little better than the winning margin last time considering he'd set fast fractions in front on the 'good' listed turf track; feel he could have more to offer again if rationing out his speed a little more efficiently.
- There's no denying that **#8 LADY ENSIGN** ran a huge race at Colonial last out and she's deserving of respect right back; it should be noted, however, that she was afforded a very easy time of things on the front-end which, over that speedy turf course, likely aided her.

Race 5: Claiming 7.5k, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 STRATEGIST	Claiming 5k, DEL, 1M, Good Dirt, 09/18/26 – 4 th	Hard sent from gate all the way into and around first time; pressed fast pace from ~1/2L back while being nudged on in the 2P; moved up to draw level under pressure rounding far turn; drifted 4W off the turn and straightened for the drive with a slim lead, then continued trying willingly to the wire but understandably got tired and settled for 4 th .	Racing off just 5-days rest (!), this was a huge effort to hold 4th considering the frantic pace (23.50, 46.71) that he had pressed throughout; if in similar nick today, he could play a huge role and improve if rationing out his speed more efficiently, now fresher.

Other notes:

- **#3 SIN PERMISO** was in a little tight at the start and then raced very wide around the first turn last time, neither of which would have helped his chances; he galloped out well.
- **#5 NEW PLEX** is a horse whose best efforts have come when he's been on the lead or at least prominent; after finding himself in tight at the start last time, he ended up last and taking plenty of kickback – not what he wants; that possibly explains why he performed so far below par and if breaking sharper today, it wouldn't surprise to see him bounce back.
- **#8 NORFIRE** has been outpaced in most of his recent starts sprinting and should be more comfortable in the early stages stretched out in trip today; he also lost plenty of ground racing very wide on the turn last out (small upgrade), and he lugged in through the stretch.

Race 6: Maiden Claiming 16k, 3-6YO (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 MEREDITHSLIGHTNING	Maiden Claiming 16k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Good Turf, 09/18/26 – 4 th	Sharp start; vied between horses through a contested run to the first turn; eased back from between foes ~7/16, then waited on heels racing into the lane; tried to advance shortly after straightening for the drive but met a little traffic and had to alter course; from there, she stayed on determinedly while tight amongst horses for 4 th ; galloped out well.	This wasn't a terrible trip; however, the slight steady back from between horses on the turn cost her a little momentum and position; the slight traffic in upper stretch wasn't ideal; and the spot she found herself in between horses in the lane was a little intimidating; although nothing major, these factors combined could very well have cost her 2nd and with a smoother trip today, a reversal of form with BROADWAY MUSICAL and HAIL NO seems possible; player.
#5 GOTTA BE DA SHOES	Maiden Claiming 16k, LRL, 1M, Good Turf, 09/13/26 – 4 th	Unhurried from outside gate; chased fast pace from ~10L back while 4-5W first turn; remained well back racing to the ½, then made a big, sweeping move while conceding ground 5W far turn; moved into a close 2 nd shortly after straightening, then continued to finish willingly but faded grudgingly.	A very wide trip combined with a premature move into a fast pace entitles his effort to an UPGRADE; cuts back today. Note: his two-back effort was a troubled one.
#13 FORTY SEVEN SMOKER	Maiden Claiming 16k, DEL, 5F, Good Turf, 08/14/26 – 4 th	Dueled between horses through fast fractions; took a narrow lead entering the lane, then stayed on gamely and held the lead into the final 1/16 before fading late.	Her two-back effort (most recent on turf) and first with both lasix and blinkers: This effort is deserving of a pace upgrade as she did best of the speed in this fast run race over a 'good' listed turf course that set up well for closers; possibly capable of more if rationing out speed more efficiently and entitled to respect if drawing in.

Other notes:

- **#7 PAYNTED BY NANCY** pulled through some solid fractions on front before fading when stretched out to a mile last time; she should be suited by today's cut back in trip.
- **#9 BROADWAY MUSICAL** sat a slightly wider-than-ideal trip after breaking from the outside post last time; player right back.

Race 7: OC12k/SAL8k, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 AZTEC	Claiming 8K, TIM, 1M, Fast Dirt, 08/29/26 – 1 st	Hustled from inside post; slight steady entering first turn; settled ~5L off modest pace, then crept closer along the rail racing through the lane first time and got to within 2L of the lead but then found himself in tight along the fence and was forced to steady back to last, 6L off the pace; came under a ride and responded, gradually recovering ground racing down the backstretch; maintained progress while riding rail into the lane, then rallied late and just got up.	A very likable effort in which he managed to successfully close into modest fractions of 25.23, 49.59 over a speed friendly track after losing position through traffic under the wire first time; he galloped out like he could have won by further and his effort is entitled to a small upgrade; player right back.

Other Notes:

- Not saying he wasn't best, but there was a speed bias present when **#4 PEDIATRICIAN** won in wire fashion last time.

- **#5 FIGHTERTOWN** didn't do enough to earn an upgrade when returning off a freshening on the grass last time; however, he was set an impossible task after dueling through closer-friendly fractions of 23.63, 46.26 and so we can be somewhat forgiving of his late fade.
- Racing off just 6-days rest, **#6 COLLECTION DAY** won very easily with gas left in the tank last time, making it two wins in a week; he's clearly deserving of respect today and so maybe this is a moot point: but he did take advantage of a pace collapse two-back, and the track was slightly favoring closers last time – possible small downgrades for both efforts, still a big player.

Race 8: Allowance[®], 3YO+ (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#5 VERDANT TONES	MSW, CNL, 1M, Good Turf, 09/05/26 – 1 st	Slight bump start; in tight along fence and steadied back to last early; tracked slow pace from ~5L last; advanced inside and took slightly closer order entering far turn; waited behind horses while traveling very powerfully to upper stretch, then muscled her way between horses and kicked nicely to win well, going away.	A huge maiden breaking effort in which she closed powerfully into a slow pace (25.16, 49.97) after a slightly troubled start; she won with something in hand and we may now see more from her at 1 1/16M, especially if the pace is stronger.
#7 MAGIC BEAM	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/8M, Good Turf, 09/11/26 – 4 th	Unhurried; chased slow pace from ~5L back on rail racing to far turn; boxed in behind horses and unable to build momentum racing to top of lane; cut corner into stretch, then tried to kick on through horses but lacked the pace to do so; rider then had trouble with his crop ~1/16 pole which slightly unbalanced MB, possibly costing her 4 th .	Considering she had no pace to run at (25.12, 51.03), she was prevented from building momentum on the far turn, and the rider got in a slight tangle in the lane, she actually did well to finish as close as she did facing winners for the first time; a long, grinding type of runner, she should be seen to better effect today if the pace is more honest.

Other notes:

- Not saying that she wasn't a mile the best, but we should note there was a speed bias at Delaware when **#3 YES PICNIC** won in wire fashion last time; maybe take the speed fig with a small pinch of salt.
- The rider on **#4 NOTHINGLESSWILLDO** dropped the rein in the stretch last out, but it didn't have any real negative effect.
- **#6 HAPPY THIS DAY** had no excuse last time after setting a slow, uncontested pace in front; she needs to bounce back.
- Although she was never far away and the trip she sat was fine, we still might see more from **#8 SET ABLAZE** today because her last race was not run to suit her style at all (fractions of 26.20, 51.20 were set; she's done best running late at solid paces); player.

Race 9: OC62k/N1X Allowance, 2YO, 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#1 WHOSE NOTION** won with very good late energy at Timonium last time and galloped out strongly too, offering hope she'll handle today's extra yardage.
- **#3 ALMAS GONE GAMBLIN** was involved in a strong, closer-friendly pace at Delaware two-back, then she was not helped by the track slightly leaning towards closers last time; she could well be capable of improving on both those efforts back down in class today, although she does still need to prove her ability to stay further than 4 1/2F.
- 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 **#6 GO NEW YORK GO** won on the mud last time; returns off a freshening, respected.

Race 10: OC12k/SAL8k, 3YO+ (F), 5 1/2 Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#4 DIVA READY	Starter Allowance, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/06/26 – 5 th	Settled towards rear early, ~3-4L off slow pace while 2W; ran up on heels slightly behind the tightly bunched field ~3/8; stayed inside behind horses racing into the lane, then tried to advance towards the inside but was shut out and forced to steady ~1/8	Her two-back effort prior to a very solid fast finishing 3rd in an evenly paced affair last time. She met significant stretch trouble in this race and was also attempting to close into a slow pace (23.17, 46.04); she appeared to finish with plenty in

		pole; from there, she finished evenly under a mild hand ride, seemingly with more to offer.	reserve and we should not mistake this result as a drop off in her form; big player right back.
Other notes: - After dropping back a little off the home turn, #6 NAUGHTY FAVORS put in a creditable late kick at Colonial last time before galloping out well; she could be very well suited to today's long stretch run; player. - There was a significant speed bias present when #7 HOCKEY won in wire fashion at Timonium two-back; cuts back today. - #10 WONDER GIRL broke a quarter step slow than usual last time which left her a fraction further back than she may have liked; player.			

Horses to Follow

R4: DESTINATION (9/2 ML)

DESTINATION's three career starts on turf place him right in the mix in today's fourth, and a chance can be taken on him to get the job done with just 116 pounds on his back and a strong pace forecast to help his late kick.

R6: MEREDITHSLIGHTNING (6/1 ML)

MEREDITHSLIGHTNING has had three goes at sprinting with blinkers on and run well each time, twice finishing second on her lesser-preferred dirt surface before a troubled fourth when switched back to the turf last time. In-form rider Taylor Kingsley now takes some valuable weight off her back, and with a clean trip, she could well reverse form with BROADWAY MUSICAL and HAIL NO and take down today's sixth.

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.

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.

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.

LINETTE

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.

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

FIERCE AND STRONG

Trainer: Michael Salvaggio Jr.

Last Race: September 13, Race 6

Finish: 4th by 1

Last on the rail for most of the way, he was stuck in behind rivals for most of the stretch, had to alter course several times, and still kicked on with interest.

D J ABS

Trainer: Lindsay Schultz

Last Race: September 19, 8th

Finish: 2nd by 4 1/4

Juvenile filly has some turf pedigree, and she gave a strong try in her grass debut. Showed decent speed from the start, but had the misfortune to face a sharp, gate-to-wire winner. Stayed on strongly to the wire, and it looks like she's found a home on the green stuff.

GOLD SOVEREIGN

Trainer: Thomas Garner

Last Race: September 20, 3rd

Finish: 8th by 6 1/2

Likely purchased by his current connections for future races over hurdles, but this gelding showed decent turf form in longer-distance races in New York and had no chance in his local debut. Fell to his face at the start, then was wired in a paceless heat where they ran 1-2 around the track.

SUJO (*Breezed 3F - :36.20 at ELP on 9/25*)

Trainer: Greg Sacco

Last Race: Jan. 16, 7th race

Finish: 4th by 4 3/4 lengths

First-time starter was pinballed from in between horses at the start, and dropped all the way back to last. Started to kick in at the eighth pole, angled to the fence, and just missed getting third on the wire with a nice gallop-out.

OTAGO

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Last Race: Sept. 25, 8th

Finish: 3rd by 2 3/4

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.

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.

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.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 4: Charlie Marquez: #1 - Christmas Jones; #8 - Lady Ensign >>> **Marquez rides LADY ENSIGN**

Race 6: Kevin Gomez: #4 - Meredithslightning; #15 - Allaboutsassy >>> **Gomez rides MEREDITHSLIGHTNING**

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

