



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for THURSDAY, OCT. 15

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



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TIM TULLOCK

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

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.
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TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. CONTRA

2. GRANUAILE

3. GRIPEN

he first post is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout. **CONTRA** bobbled slightly at the start, tracked outside, made a smooth three-wide bid into the stretch, then stayed to her task despite getting out just a bit in the final sixteenth. Her tactical speed allows her to stay close to the pace. **GRANUAILE** settled outside in midpack, swung out to follow the winner in the upper stretch, then made up some late ground. She would benefit if the pace is quicker than anticipated. Burnham lands here instead of Police Woman. **GRIPEN** cleared off to set an uncontested pace in that recent two-turn affair, then tired along the fence. Think she might be more effective at this shorter distance for a barn that went 5 for the last 17 (29%, \$4.21 ROI) when moving from route to sprint. HOT BOSS has dirtied up form. Won sprinting here three back, then chased a quick pace and two next-out winners going two turns (fourth-finisher took a \$16,000 "beaten" at Colonial with a 75 Beyer) two back, and was washed off the grass last week. Expect early speed. MIDSUMMER MO finished behind the two favorites at Meadowlands, and can display a late kick.

>> RACE 2

1. CONCHO

2. RIGHTEOUS DIP

3. DOLCE FAR NIENTE

CONCHO tried to rally over a speed-friendly track in a promising debut. Hopped slightly at the start, seemed a bit eager early, stalked four wide on the backstretch, made a four-wide bid, and was bumped lightly by an inner foe on the turn, then made up a couple of lengths with a solid gallop-out. Drew an advantageous inside post and has the stretch-out speed to get close to the pace for a barn that went 8 for 33 (24%, \$2.38 ROI) between 9/1 and 10/8. **RIGHTEOUS DIP** broke a beat slow in Indiana, tracked a solid second quarter in 23.91 from the pocket, raced on hold in between on the second turn, altered course to cut the corner, then finished evenly after angling back outside. Expect early speed for a barn that went 13 for 36 (36%, \$2.13 ROI) between 9/12 and 10/6. **DOLCE FAR NIENTE** didn't have the cleanest debut trip after breaking slowly and steady in between in the upper stretch, but he disappointed over a wet track last month. Bobbled slightly at the start, he saved ground in midpack, split rivals, then didn't threaten. Perhaps more distance is the answer. IGAMING (\$8,500 yearling) is out of synthetic stakes-placed router Tinabud (78 turf Beyer). ISLAND BANDIT was wired in a moderately paced race at Timonium. Didn't care for turf two and three back, and was wired over a speed-friendly surface before that.

>> RACE 3

1. MOTOCROSS

2. HARDSCAPE

3. PRETTY VIOLENT

MOTOCROSS cleared off to set a slow pace (24.98; 26.98) on the rail, then stayed on for second behind a late-rallying winner. The eighth-finisher next placed in a \$50,000 maiden claimer at Delaware with a 56 Beyer. Perhaps she'll adopt rallying tactics for a barn that went 5 for the last 19 (26%, \$2.64 ROI) with second-time routers. **HARDSCAPE** also got away with easy fractions (25.21; 26.84), tried to sprint home under a confident ride, and was kicked down late. Finished ahead of two next-out winners, and is another that should be right there when they turn for home. The barn went 7 for 28 (25%, \$2.22 ROI) on the flat between 9/9 and 10/8. **PRETTY VIOLENT** worked out a good trip in the pocket behind that slow pace, then gained on the top pick in the stretch. The barn went 4 for 20 (20%, \$4.54 ROI) between 9/26 and 10/8. CAT'S MEOW was wired at Monmouth. Stalked outside, found the loose pocket, attacked outside, then hung a bit while drifting to the rail at a crucial moment. Perhaps she'll try speedy tactics.

>> RACE 4

1. WIN NO JOKE

2. BACKNTHEWOODS

3. BEACH COWBOY

No real excuses for **WIN NO JOKE** last week, as he saved ground at the back, looked to have some run entering the stretch, then flattened out on the fence. Although he has lots of minor awards on his page, he has earned some competitive numbers and can outrun his odds if given some pace to attack. Also want to use **BACKNTHEWOODS** in multiple-race wagers after he finished ahead of the top pick. Cleared off to set an uncontested pace over a closer-friendly track, came off the inside in the stretch, and tried hard for second. Perhaps he'll try to sit just off the leaders, as he did when second here two back. **BEACH COWBOY** controlled slow fractions, made an early lead change when confronted on the turn, came off the rail, and tired to finish behind the two favorites. He has enough speed to stay close to the pace for a barn that went 4 for 12 (33%, \$3.32 ROI) between 9/25 and 10/8.

>> RACE 5

1. SIN BOLDLY

2. CHRISTMAS JONES

3. IT'S NANCYTIME NOW

SIN BOLDLY settled outside in midpack, swung four wide into the stretch but couldn't threaten two next-out winners (Life's Dynamic repeated in a second-level Belmont allowance with an 86 Beyer). Throw out her most recent start as she was washed off her preferred grass surface, and she has the tactical speed to work out a stalking, ground-saving trip. Also want to use both **CHRISTMAS JONES** and **IT'S NANCYTIME NOW** in multiple-race wagers. The former was bumped from both sides at the break, then showed good speed in her first start against winners, taking the field midway through the stretch before tiring in the final sixteenth. That race produced four next-out winners (the winner hit the board in her next two races with a 69 Beyer top). She makes her first start for a new barn and should be up close to the lead again. **IT'S NANCYTIME NOW** showed a strong kick to win in "ridden out" fashion at Colonial two back, then didn't have the easiest trip against two next-out winners (the sixth-finisher grabbed a \$16,000 "beaten" claimer here with a 75 Beyer). Ruiz lands here instead of **WETHERBY**, who finished behind the favorite last time out, and should get some pace to attack.

>> RACE 6

1. JESSE MARIE

2. SHE'S THE MOAMENT

3. WEEKEND STORM

JESSE MARIE was wired by a more-experienced, odds-on favorite when a clear second in her debut, then gave another good try when returning to dirt ten days ago. Wasn't away the best, saved ground at the back behind a slow pace (second quarter 24.02), altered course back inside, and finished well with an okay gallop-out. On the video, she looks like a big, strong filly that will appreciate today's extra distance. **SHE'S THE MOAMENT** was wired over an inside, speed-friendly track in her dirt debut. Broke a beat slow, saved ground at the back, was urged along on the fence, and stayed on behind Piggybunz, who returned to win the Smart Halo here with a 74 Beyer. Gained experience over a distance of ground in the most recent turf try, and can threaten with a late bid. **WEEKEND STORM** stalked a quick pace three wide, was urged along on the turn, then couldn't impact Trinity, who repeated in a first-level allowance with a 61 Beyer. Can get close to the pace while adding blinkers and getting out to a mile. **SEWANEE INN** chased a quick pace last month, and might not have to work as hard to snatch the early lead. **ALWAYS OURS** (\$190,000 yearling; \$210,000 May juvenile) is a half-sister to multiple Grade 1-winning dirt router Stopchargingmaria (won debut), and Grade 3-placed dirt router Vindictive out of multiple stakes-winning synthetic router Exotic Bloom

(won debut; 86 synthetic Beyer). DR. EVANS is a half to Grade 2-winning dirt sprinter Maida, and stakes-placed dirt sprinter I'm Patriotic (51 dirt Beyer), out of Grade 3-winning dirt sprinter Eve Giselle (won first three starts).

>> RACE 7

1. GOLD DIGGING BROAD

2. STOP WATCH

3. DANDY VANDY

GOLD DIGGING BROAD might be racing herself back into shape for this, her fourth start following a 433-day layoff. She's only raced once with Lasix since that break, and showed she could still run with a useful try on dirt two back. Gets Lasix once again and can get close to the pace. **STOP WATCH** saved ground in the pocket behind a solid pace, raced on hold entering the second turn, split rivals into the stretch, and flattened out. She can work out another ground-saving trip from this inside post. **DANDY VANDY** worked out a good trip behind the leaders, then finished up well behind two late-runners. Think she'll take back and make one run from this outer position. Rodriguez lands here instead of Utopia Rose and DYNAMIC ACTRESS, who faced a good field on turf two back. The fourth-finisher then ran third in an \$80,000 optional at Kentucky Downs with a 78 Beyer. She has speed and can control the early running. SLEEPWALKER advanced into the pocket on the backstretch, angled three wide, and tired in a race won by a late-kicking European invader. She has a solid late kick.

>> RACE 8

1. SHAFT'S BULLET

2. ASSUME NOTHING

3. OTAGO

SHAFT'S BULLET tracked a moderate pace along the inside, angled off that preferred footing to race three wide, then finished evenly despite hopping to his left lead right on the wire. The fourth-finisher next placed in the Polynesian Stakes with an 88 Beyer. Adapts to any race flow for a barn that sent out a couple of winners since 9/18. **ASSUME NOTHING** tracked three wide and in between, made an early bid to the lead three-eighths from home under urging, bumped with an outer foe several times, then tired in the final sixteenth. Consistent performer is likely to find a tracking position while outside and clear of traffic issues. Rodriguez lands here instead of **OTAGO**, who is another that might have moved a hair early last time. Tracked three wide and in between, grinded his way to the lead midway on the turn, and tired. The barn went 16 for the last 60 (27%, \$2.32 ROI) in the second after the claim. Coupled mate FORREST CITY prompted reasonable fractions on his way to a runner-up effort over this course and distance. He should show speed. THE TOWN repeats the turf-to-dirt move that resulted in his win over sloppy going on 7/12. Outsprinted through a quick 22.22-second second fraction in his subsequent start, he swung wide into the stretch and finished evenly despite being late to change leads. The seventh-finisher then won a \$50,000 starter/first-level allowance at Churchill with an 80 Beyer. Needs a fast pace and a clean trip.

>> RACE 9

1. DON'T TELL SUSAN

2. UNRELENTINGCOURAGE

3. GONE FOR GOOD

DON'T TELL SUSAN (\$6,000 yearling) is out of an unplaced half-sister to multiple stakes-winning turf router Giant Run (96 turf Beyer), stakes-winning dirt router American Victory (won debut; 73 dirt/turf Beyer), Grade 3-placed turf router Who's Cozy, and stakes-placed dirt sprinter Stickingtogether (76 dirt Beyer). The second dam was a Grade 2-winning turf router. This barn has two juvenile debut winners this year. Carlos Lopez lands here instead of Infused. **UNRELENTINGCOURAGE** battled with the favored winner at Colonial, and tried hard all the way to the wire. It was an improved performance for a gelding

that might be figuring the game out. He shouldn't be too far away when they turn for home. **GONE FOR GOOD** finished behind Unrelentingcourage at Colonial, but might have been compromised by the race shape, as they basically ran 1-2-3-4-5 around the track.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Gripen scratches out of a mile allowance race on Saturday to opt for sprinting with a class drop. She could set sail early with the inside post and weight off.

R2: Island Bandit has been outsprinted in earlier efforts but looks to be improving since adding blinkers and ground. His 2-turn experience at TIM should benefit while returning to a larger track.

R3: Mega Moxie is a half to Silent Heart and comes from a family that has done well with juvenile runners, forgive the last outing and the price is right. Pretty Violent overcame a bit of traffic from the gate to finish up nicely in her most recent start. Added ground doesn't look to be a problem if she continues progressing.

R4: Beach Cowboy jumped back to form in his second start off the bench, however, the 5.5f distance and outer post may fit perfectly here. Sheriff Ronnie ran well while taking significant class relief off the bench last out. Now first off the claim, I have a hard time leaning in for the 5.5f distance.

R5: Since adding blinkers and switching surfaces, It's Nancytime Now has made big strides. When facing winners for the first time last out, she found a bit of traffic and looked to have more to offer. The outer post, and Ruiz, could alleviate some of the trouble today.

R6: Dr. Evans will be worth a look on debut based on her recent graded stakes winning half sister, Maida. Out of a mare who won 6/11 career starts, including the first 3, I doubt we stick around 5-1 ML. She isn't the only one with a big pedigree here, making this a group worth getting your eyes on!

R7: Dandy Vandy looks to have found career best form in recent starts, and seems to have the tactical speed to handle Dynamic Actress to her inside. Dynamic Actress is likely the key to this race, as she returns to her preferred surface and distance, and could be dangerous if left alone on the front.

R8: Shaft's Bullet opts here over stakes company after a valiant effort against tough older allowance horses in Adero and Derbyness last out. He might find tough company yet again...Assume Nothing has tactical speed and strong recent efforts while stepping up in company. Don't count out the Gaudet runners, Otago has plenty of class and has now proven himself on the main track.

R9: Don't Tell Susan looks an attractive price considering the second dam was multiple graded stakes winning turf router, who handled sprinting on the main track well enough to win a stakes race. I like the race that Replicate exits, and the turf work from 8/23, but I find it discouraging that connections drop so quickly with a short price here.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

#1 - Gripen

Trainer: Robbie Bailes

Route to Sprint: 5 for 17 (29%, \$4.21 ROI)

RACE 2

#1 - Concho

Trainer: Madison Meyers

Between 9/1 and 10/8: 8 for 33 (24%, \$2.38 ROI)

RACE 2

#7 - Righteous Dip

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Between 9/12 and 10/6: 13 for 36 (36%, \$2.13 ROI)

RACE 3

#2 - Pretty Violent

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

Between 9/26 and 10/8: 4 for 20 (20%, \$4.54 ROI)

RACE 3

#6 - Hardscape

Trainer: Keri Brion

Between 9/9 and 10/8, Flat: 7 for 28 (25%, \$2.22 ROI)

RACE 4

#7 - Beach Cowboy

Trainer: Ferris Allen

Between 9/25 and 10/8: 4 for 12 (33%, \$3.32 ROI)

RACE 8

#1A - Otago

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Second After Claim: 16 for 60 (27%, \$2.32 ROI)

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

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

Race 1: Claiming 16k, 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#3 DIANE LEE	Claiming 16k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Good Turf, 09/20/26 – 3 rd	Chased the honest pace from ~4-5L back inside; came under pressure racing into lane and responded but then found herself in significant traffic and had her forward momentum stalled between the 3/16 and 1/8 pole; dropped back, then found daylight late and ran on but had too much to do.	A very troubled trip; she can almost certainly improve on this run if in similar form today.
Other notes: #7 HOT BOSS failed to stay a mile two-back, then didn't handle the muddy going in an off-turf event last time; his three- and four-back efforts (most recent sprinting on grass) could be a better guide to his chances today.			

- With Lasix removed, **#8 CAROLINA SUN** ran a very nice race at Colonial last time, staying on well late having raced in last of five behind some slow fractions early; Lasix stay off today and if the pace is a little stronger, she could make some noise following a brief freshening.
- In her last three starts – all at a flat 5F - **#10 MIDSUMMER MO** has finished very strongly; she should be suited by, and potential improve for today's extra yardage and long stretch.

Race 2: Maiden Claiming 35k, 2YO, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Other notes:

- Having raced a little wide on the turn, **#1 CONCHO** finished and galloped out nicely sprinting 6F at Delaware on debut; he could well be suited and improve for today's stretch out to two-turns; contender.
- **#6 BUDTHEGREATONE** did not handle the kickback early on when making his debut at Timonium; he dropped back early, then ran evenly to the line; seems he should improve for that experience; stretches right out now making debut for McMahon.

Race 3: MSW, 2YO (F), 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 JESPAH	MSW, DEL, 7 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/09/26 – 3 rd	Unhurried; bumped and floated ~6W while racing in mid-pack first turn; remained in this position chasing even pace to far turn; responded to pressure while ~6W far turn, then rallied well to the wire, getting up for show honors.	She overcame a very wide trip in this debut, and her effort can be slightly upgraded; she finished like she will appreciate today's extra yardage and has to enter calculations.
#5 MEGA MOXIE	MSW, DEL, 7 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/09/26 – 2 nd	Unhurried; worked inside, then checked and clipped a rival's heel as that foe crossed over rounding the first turn; lost momentum and dropped even further back into a detached last ~9L off even pace; given time to recover; remained well back racing into far turn, then made progress inside before tipping 2W and coming under a strong ride ~1/4 pole; swung for home ~8L back, then gradually worked to the center and flew home full of run but had too much to do	Her two-back debut effort: Given her likable fast finish and the 3/4L margin of defeat, it's easy to argue that the trouble she suffered around the first turn cost her this race; granted a clean trip second out today, she should be capable of stepping forward notably with an extra furlong to work with.

Other notes:

- **#6 HARDSCAPE** was allowed to set a very slow, uncontested pace at Colonial last time which very likely aided her in finishing 2nd.
- **#9 MOTOCROSS** was allowed to set a very slow pace (24.98, 51.96) that held well last out – possibly downgrade her 3rd place finish; **#2 PRETTY VIOLENT** (2nd) was also forwardly positioned and aided by the slow pace in that same race.

Race 4: Claiming 7.5k, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- There was plenty to like about **#2 SHERIFF RONNIE**'s game front running score off the bench at Timonium last time; he's entitled to strip fitter for that return and deserves respect now making his debut for Magee.
- The track at Delaware was slightly favoring closers when **#3 MR. SQUEAKY WHEELS** was just touched off after racing prominently last time – small upgrade.
- The track was slightly favoring closers last week when **#4 BACKNTHEWOODS** finished 2nd after setting the pace early – small upgrade.

- Following an upgradable effort off the bench two-back (raced against a strong speed bias), **#7 BEACH COWBOY** was aided by being able to set a slow pace (23.65, 47.20) while saving ground last time. In the same race, **#4 BACKNTHEWOODS** was also prominently positioned throughout in that slowly run race which saw speed hold well; maybe take that form with a pinch of salt.

Race 5: OC35k/SAL28k, 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#6 WEATHERBY	Starter Allowance, LRL, 1M, Good Turf, 09/20/26 – 2 nd	Alert break; taken back to settle in mid-pack 2W rounding first turn; pulled hard tracking from ~3L behind the slow pace racing to the far turn; shuffled back ~5L while under a hold as a struggling foe back up in front of her and the leaders stepped on the gas 5/16; turned for home still unasked ~5L off the lead, then switched out (briefly bumping with a rival) and rallied strongly but could not reach the leader.	A very nice first try against winners in which she closed into the slow fractions of 24.68, 50.05 after getting shuffled back a little on the turn; she's in ready form right now and seemingly capable of more than this; her early enthusiasm (keen) points towards her handling today's cut back, too.
#12 IT'S NANCYTIME NOW	Starter Allowance, CNL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/06/26 – 4 th	Patiently handled leaving inside gate; traveled kindly while tracking the slow pace from 3-4L back in last racing to the 5/16 pole; advanced a little inside approaching the top of the lane, then tried to kick along the rail but was denied a clear run and forced to tap on the brakes; altered course and lost ground ~1/8, then re-rallied but had too much to do.	A troubled trip while trying to close into a slow pace (23.17, 46.04); she did well to finish fourth and is almost certainly capable of more; player. Note: her two-back effort is deserving of an upgrade as well as she closed into a slowish pace.

Other notes:

- Regarding **#3 BEST NOT MISS'** last start, ignore the chart comment "steadied turn" because it hardly happened and was negligible.
- **#4 AWESOME MCKINZIE** was quite headstrong and keen in behind the slow pace going a mile last time; she may be more comfortable back sprinting today, even though she ran well the last day; contender. Note: she was aided by a good pace setup when finishing 2nd over 6F at Colonial two-back.
- **#7 BUTLER ROAD** was unruly behind the gate last time. Note: she was afforded a soft lead when breaking her maiden in wire fashion three-back (her lone turf start) – maybe take that form with a pinch of salt.
- **#9 CHRISTMAS JONES** has run two improved races at route distances since blinkers went on; she could now be dangerous making her first start sprinting with blinkers on while also debuting for McMahon off the bench; respected.
- There was no fluke at all about **#10 CRAB MENTALITY's** deep closing win last time – the pace was even and played fair; he was much the best and might be capable of more in a stronger paced affair.
- Although the posted sectionals were solid, speed actually held very well in **#11 GETTING CLOSER's** two-back effort (lone turf try), with the top four finishers filling those positions throughout; maybe take that form with a pinch of salt.

Race 6: MSW, 2YO (F), 1 Mile, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 SOUPER TAYLOR	MSW, DEL, 7 1/2F, Firm Turf, 09/09/26 – 4 th	Broke cleanly, then found herself bumped around significantly and checked between horses while 4W racing into and around the first turn; settled into stride ~3L off even pace back stretch; responded when nudged along far turn; tried to angle out and advance rounding into the lane but was hemmed in and forced to dive back inside; straightened ~2L off leader, then stayed on well between horses for 4 th .	Making her first start at two-turns, she endured a messy trip in this race and was game to finish 4th; entitled to step forward notably on this today providing she takes to the dirt.

Other notes:

- There was a speed bias present at Delaware on 08/29/26 when both **#4 WEEKEND STORM** and **#9 SEWANEE INN** made their debuts and each posted their best speed figs – maybe take that form/fig with a pinch of salt.
- **#7 A. P. CLASS** did not handle the kickback at all on debut; seems she can only improve.
- **#8 JESSE MARIE** did not have an adequate pace setup as a closer last time and actually did well to snatch 4th; she has consistently shaped like she will appreciate today's stretch out in trip.
- **#11 HUGH'S LEGEND** has been outpaced in both his starts sprinting to date; the slower pace nature of a route race should be much more to his liking and improvement seems very possible.

Race 7: Ratings Optional Claiming (65-1), 3YO+ (F), 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#8 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 if the pace is stronger.

Other Notes:

- The rider on **#6 DYNAMIC ACTRESS** hardly made any effort at all from the second they were headed in her last turf start at Colonial two-back; while she mightn't have won, the margin of defeat was greatly exaggerated and we shouldn't take that below par result/fig too literally.
- **#9 JUNIPER JUICE** didn't quite do enough to earn an upgrade last out; however, we can be forgiving off her below par effort as the race was not run to suit her style at all (fractions of 25.12, 51.03 turned into a sprint); more, she also found herself boxed in on the far turn which prevented from building any much needed momentum; a return to form looks likely today.
- The chart comment suggests that **#10 SLEEPWALKER** met trouble at the 3/8 pole last time, but she didn't; she sat a perfect trip.

Race 8: Ratings Optional Claiming (75-1), 3YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 ASSUME NOTHING	Allowance, DEL, 1M 70Y, Fast Dirt, 09/18/26 – 4 th	Broke fast but was out-spiced for the lead and caught 3W first turn; dropped back to stalk the fast pace from 1-2L back in third racing to far turn; advanced between foes to take a narrow lead approaching top of lane; turned for home a head in front with a rival breathing down his neck, then dueled hard with that foe, brushing ~3/16 pole; held a slim lead well into deep stretch, then had two deep closers blow by and just missed a photo for 4 th .	A very game effort to have been beaten less than a length despite having raced close to a hot pace (23.33, 46.87) that favored closers (winner and runner-up were 7 and 12 lengths off the lead, respectively, at first call); he ran a winning race in defeat here and should once again be very competitive today. Note: there was a strong speed bias present at BAQ when he posted his fastest Beyer of the year going gate-to-wire in June.

Other notes:

- **#1 FORREST CITY** formed part of a slow pace (25.44, 50.04) that held well last time – possible small downgrade?
- Not a horse to ever streak away and win by a wide margin, **#1A OTAGO** probably hit the front too soon last time as he got a neck up and then idled; he's best when he can run at a strong pace and catch the leaders on the wire, and if he gets those circumstances today, he may be capable of stepping up.
- **#3 BRINDANO** sat a slightly wider-than-ideal trip last out.

- **#4 THE TOWN** benefited from a fast pace and closer friendly track in his last dirt race at Ellis Park two-back – maybe take that form with a pinch of salt.
- Although it's hard to strongly argue that it cost him a position, **#6 HITTHEROADJAK** did stumble at the start last time which didn't help his chances.

Race 9: Maiden Claiming 25k, 2YO, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Other notes:

- **#1 GONE FOR GOOD** didn't have a bad trip at Colonial last time; however, he did lose ground when racing wide and greenly on the turn before he leveled off quite nicely in the lane; seems that both an inside post and today's extra 1/16 should be very much to his advantage as he makes his debut for White.
- The rider did not make much of an effort on **#8 INFUSED** last time; he can surely offer more with a stronger ride.
- **#9 UNRELENTINGCOURAGE** was very game to almost win last out having endured a stretch duel to the wire while being pressed right up against the rail (an intimidating spot to be in; many horses would have backed out); player with weight off today.

Horses to Follow

R1: CAROLINA SUN (20/1 ML)

Because she was contesting a stakes race, CAROLINA SUN ran without lasix last time and, following a very solid show finish that yielded her fastest Beyer speed figure in four years, connections appear to believe she's actually best without the medication, as she runs without it again today. She had very little pace to run at last time, and the competition she faced was tough; with plenty of speed signed on in today's race against allowance foes, she could well step up again off that last try and, at 20/1, she's worth throwing on tickets.

R2: BUDTHEGREATONE (5/2 ML)

BUDTHEGREATONE didn't handle the kickback at all when sprinting on debut at Timonium, and it's anyone's guess at this stage of his career how good he might be. However, he was claimed out of that race and now makes his first start for the red-hot Hugh McMahon, who instantly stretches him out to two turns. That in itself makes this runner worthy of consideration and use on tickets, as McMahon's stats with horses moving from sprints to routes in their first start off the claim over the past five years are stellar: he's 7-for-16 (\$6.45 ROI) with all horses; 4-for-6 (\$10.87 ROI) with all maidens; and 3-for-4 (\$13.40 ROI) with maiden claimers (all three of those winners were sent off above 6/1). He clearly knows what he's doing when making this move, and this is the type of race where any angle is notable, even if we do want better than 5/2.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

YOUR LORDSHIP

Trainer: Graham Motion

Last Race: May 30, 7th race

Finish: 1st by 2 3/4

PLENTY ON TAP

Trainer: Tim Woolley

Last Race: Oct. 3, 3rd

Finish: 2nd by 2

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

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.

Didn't break the best two back on turf, then raced three wide and in between rivals on the backstretch before being shuffled back. Cut the corner, then was over in behind horses for most of the stretch before rallying belatedly to just miss second. Ran well when washed off the green on 10/3, and deserves another shot on turf.

FIERCE AND STRONG

Trainer: Michael Salvaggio Jr.

Last Race: September 13, Race 6

Finish: 4th by 1

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

D J ABS

Trainer: Lindsay Schultz

Last Race: September 19, 8th

Finish: 2nd by 4 1/4

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

GOLD SOVEREIGN

Trainer: Thomas Garner

Last Race: September 20, 3rd

Finish: 8th by 6 1/2

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

SUJO (*Breezed 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.

SIP OF MANHATTAN

Trainer: Eduardo Leiva

Last Race: Sept. 25; 6th

Finish: 2nd by 5

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

SEA ISLE CITY

Trainer: Keri Brion

Last Race: Sept. 26, 8th

Finish: 3rd by 1 1/4

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

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.

OTAGO (Entered at Laurel – TODAY 10/15, Race 8)

Trainer: Lacey Gaudet

Last Race: Sept. 25, 8th

Finish: 3rd by 2 3/4

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

EMERGENCE

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last Race: Oct. 10; 5th

Finish: 3rd by 1/2

Likely found the mile distance a tad too sharp when returning to turf. Saved ground for most of the way and came with a strong late bid. Think he'll be at his best going 1 1/16 miles or longer.

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.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Matilda Burnham: #2 - Police Woman; #6 - Granuaile >>> **Burnham rides GRANUAILE**

Race 1: Forest Boyce: #3 - Diane Lee; #11 - Dale's Bluff >>> **Boyce rides DIANE LEE**

Race 1: Jevian Toledo: #8 - Carolina Sun; #9 - Ticklers >>> **Toledo rides CAROLINA SUN**

Race 5: Jorge Ruiz: #6 - Wetherby; #12 - It's Nancytime Now >>> **Ruiz rides IT'S NANCYTIME NOW**

Race 5: Paco Lopez: #3 - Best Not Miss; #8 - Paynterpretty >>> **Lopez rides PAYNTERPRETTY**

Race 5: Angel Cruz: #7 - Butler Road; #11 - Getting Closer >>> **Cruz rides GETTING CLOSER**

Race 7 - Jaime Rodriguez: #6 - Dynamic Actress; #7 - Utopia Rose; #11 - Dandy Vandy >>> **Rodriguez rides DANDY VANDY**

Race 8 - Jaime Rodriguez: #1A - Otago; #8 - Assume Nothing >>> **Rodriguez rides ASSUME NOTHING**

Race 9 - Carlos Lopez: #6 - Don't Tell Susan; #8 - Infused >>> **Lopez rides DON'T TELL SUSAN**

THE ROUND-UP - by John Piassek, *The Racing Biz*

A recap of last week's action at Laurel Park. Visit theracingbiz.com for John Piassek's FREE full analysis of today's Laurel card.

Friday, Oct. 9

Race 1: Slightly favored **Awards Ceremony** made the lead and the rail and kept going from there. Queen of Wands and Ballykeefe both loomed menacingly in the stretch, but neither one could kick by Awards Ceremony, who had plenty more to give.

Race 3: The top four finishers at this class on Sept. 20 finished in the same order again. Joke Teller dueled for the lead and shook off his dueling partner. Although he fought hard against **Metallican**'s wide rally, he couldn't hold off that rival, and the winner improved to 3-for-3 lifetime.

Race 4: Strong Suspicion looked so dominant on paper, his 2-5 closing price might've been thought of as a bargain. He made the lead but not the rail, enabling **Remembertheword** to press him from the inside. That might've proved the difference, as Remembertheword rerallied on the rail in the stretch to pull off the 13-1 upset. Strong Suspicion managed to hold second, 4 ½ lengths clear of the rest.

Race 5: **World On Fire** and Chimney Sweep needed most of the long stretch run to work their way past longtime leader Big Bolton. World On Fire put a head in front in the final yards for his second upset win of the meet. Rye Diggitydog closed with a rush in the last eighth and just missed third.

Race 6: **Brie's in Town** got a perfect trip off an early duel and converted for a 2 ¾-length win at 17-1. Cactus battled for the lead with Kalahari Not Sorry and managed to hold on for third, while the latter rival finished well up the track.

Race 7: **Aruba Ariba** and Engaged is Better finished heads apart last time out, but this time, Aruba Ariba proved much the best. He raced on the pace in the center of the track, then kicked away in the stretch and hit the wire 9 ¾ lengths in front. 52-1 first-time starter Foolish Lover split horses late and got up for second over Engaged is Better.

Race 9: Overspent recovered from an awkward break and established pace control on the inside. **Love Yourself** pressed him in the two-path, wore him down at the top of stretch, and drew away for his second win in five days.

Saturday, Oct. 10

Race 1: Melodies set the pace, as expected, and maintained her lead in the stretch, which wasn't surprising. However, she couldn't withstand the late rally of 24-1 first-time starter **Battle Queen**. Fellow debuter Turns to Gold also closed stoutly, albeit while well-beaten, and finished second.

Race 3: Mischievous Twins couldn't have asked for a better setup. She rated in third early on, while Reppazz and Romelia zoomed away from the others. Those two rivals tired on the final turn, and Mischievous Twins picked up the pieces for her maiden-breaking score. Odds-on choice High Anxiety raced wide throughout and managed to close for second.

Race 4: Cross of Valor established clear early command, then shook off Rehoboth Avenue's turn challenge and reestablished a comfortable lead in the stretch. However, his strides shortened in the stretch, and rail-riding **Yau Majesty** angled into the two-path and mowed him down in the last eighth.

Race 5: Straight Arrow got a great trip stalking a fast pace on the outside and looked poised to get past early leader Mongolian Apple. That rival fought back gamely from the inside, but Straight Arrow managed to gain command for good in the last sixteenth. Emergence was buried towards the inside most of the way and didn't get going until the last eighth, but frantically surged and finished third, beaten by a half-length.

Race 6: Well-bet first-time starter Empress Warrior opened a clear early lead and pulled clear again in the stretch. She was chased down by fellow firster **Floreana** and the experienced Nial and Pray, but it was nonetheless an impressive performance. Keep her in mind for next time.

Race 9: Blackfin, the first foal out of Breeders' Cup Mile winner Uni, showed some promise of her own here. She raced in the two-path for most of the way, angled towards the center of the track in the stretch, and outkicked Correto to win by a head at a generous 7-1.

Race 10: This race featured an exciting three-way stretch duel between All the Hardways, Intrepid's Legacy, and **Paco the Taco Man**. The latter, who raced two-wide the whole way, dug in between horses and got the upper hand in the last sixteenth for his seventh win of the year in 11 starts. Intrepid's Legacy made what looked like a winning move on the turn, but couldn't get by and settled for second.

PAST TRACK TRENDS

Apr. 3 – Fair	May 3 – Fair	June 5 – SPEED BIAS	Sep. 12 – SPEED BIAS
Apr. 4 – Fair	May 8 – CLOSERS BIAS	June 6 – CLOSERS BIAS	Sep. 13 – Fair
Apr. 10 – Fair	May 9 – Fair	June 7 – Fair	Sep. 18 – Fair
Apr. 11– Fair	May 10 – CLOSERS BIAS	June 12 – Fair	Sep. 19 – Fair
Apr. 12 – Fair	May 14 – Fair	June 13 – Fair	Sep. 20 – Fair
Apr. 17 – Fair	🏆 May 15 – Fair	June 14 – SPEED BIAS	Sep. 25 – Fair
Apr. 18 – SPEED BIAS	🏆 May 16 – Fair	June 19 – Fair	Sep. 26 – Fair
Apr. 19 – Fair	May 22 – SPEED BIAS	June 20 – Fair	Sep. 27 – Fair
Apr. 24 – Fair	May 23 – Fair	June 21 – Fair	Oct. 2 – CLOSERS BIAS
Apr. 25 – SPEED BIAS	May 29 – SPEED BIAS	June 26 – Fair	Oct. 3 – Fair (Slight Inside Lean)
Apr. 26 – Fair	May 30 – Fair	June 27- Fair	Oct. 4 – CLOSERS BIAS
May 1 – SPEED BIAS	May 31 – Fair	June 28 - INSIDE SPEED BIAS	Oct. 9 – SPEED BIAS
May 2 – Fair		Sep. 11 – INSIDE BIAS	Oct. 10 - Fair

