



LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for THURSDAY, OCT. 29

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM



DAN ILLMAN



JOHN PIASSEK



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

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

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

Late Pick 5 CARRYOVER: \$11,992

- 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](#).
- Get FREE PPs for today's card from *Daily Racing Form*! To access, visit www.laurelpark.com/handicapping-wagering/ and scroll down.

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. UPSHOT

2. LEAVE ME

3. CAPITAINE

The first post is 12 pm ET, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers, each with a LOW 12% takeout. There is a carryover of \$11,992 into the late "Value Pick 5" (Races 6-10). **UPSHOT** switches surfaces as a half-brother to two turf winners. Although his most prolific siblings were dirt performers, this gelding has some upside potential and should appreciate stretching back out in distance for a barn that sent out a 2-1 winner here on 10/17. Toledo lands here instead of Band On the Run. **LEAVE ME** hopped at the start, saved ground in midpack, settled in between horses at the half, eased outside into the stretch, then rallied for second behind the pacesetting winner. Split two next-out dirt winners that afternoon, but could use a bit of pace help up front for a barn that went 6 for 17 (35%, \$4.08 ROI) between 10/2 and 10/25 on turf. Ruiz departs for Paid Vacation. **CAPITAINE** hit the board in his last five starts, and he didn't have an easy trip when just missing at Delaware two-back. Placed ahead of two non-turf next-out winners in that race, and the barn went 12 for the last 43 (28%, \$2.06 ROI) when returning from 6-14 day layoffs. **CELTIC FLAME** and **ELKO COUNTY** deserve consideration if able to escape the Also Eligible list.

>> RACE 2

1. WRAP AND SEND

2. INNO HURRY EARLY

3. MR. HANDSOME

WRAP AND SEND is a big question mark returning from a whopping 429-day layoff, but the gelding showed some ability before going to the sidelines. He blew out a weak field of maidens at Parx three back, then hit the board in his last two. Tracked outside last time, advanced to prompt three wide, was looped by an outer rival on the second turn, then finished evenly after easing back outside. The winner of that heat has since compiled a record of 10-2-5-2. I trust this barn off layoffs, and it's not like he's being dangled for a claiming tag off the bench. Sanchez departs for Quaker City. **INNO HURRY EARLY**'s recent form is dirtied up. After a good-looking debut win, he returned from a 257-day layoff against a tough field that produced five next-out winners. Broke a beat slow in that race, raced inside at the back, was urged along, and simply couldn't threaten that good group off the layoff. Toss the last race, as turf doesn't appear to be his game. Figures close to the pace. **MR. HANDSOME** took a step forward when removing blinkers. Broke out a bit and was wide into the first turn, but settled in a good spot tracking the three-ply pace by himself. This barn sent out a 4-1 winner at Presque Isle on 10/19. Late-runner needs a quick pace to adequately setup his kick. **QUAKER CITY** stretches back out with the speed to control the pace. **ST. PETE'S PASSION** tried to rally in a slow-paced race controlled by the three favorites. Seems well-entered double-dropping into this strict "non-two" event.

>> RACE 3

1. MAGIC IN MY EYES

2. SEGER SONGS

3. FOGG COVE

MAGIC IN MY EYES brushed the gate at the start on turf two back, saved ground near the back behind a fast pace, was bumped by an outer foe when splitting rivals three wide, was bumped again in the stretch, then finished evenly with an okay gallop-out. This will be her first turf start with blinkers, and she can kick late. **SEGER SONGS** was the beaten favorite in her last two starts, but she finished ahead of three of these rivals last month. She has the

positional speed to get a bit closer to the pace. **FOGG COVE**, listed as a Belterra vet scratch (sick) on 9/30, was wired in her most recent start by Akkadian, who then placed in a \$12,500 conditioned claimer at Horseshoe Indianapolis with a 68 Beyer. **MATADORA** and **COMMON SENSE** deserve a look if they are able to escape the Also Eligible list. **STEPHANIE'S ROSE** drops and adds blinkers after facing next-out winner Reppazz (65 Beyer winner of Presque Isle special weight). **MENDED HEART** faced a decent group on turf two back, as the third-finisher hit the board in her next two starts with Beyers of 57 and 60.

>> RACE 4

1. TOP BLOOD

2. SAGAMORE MISCHIEF

3. RAPIDITY

Closing-types seemed to do better over that sloppy track at Delaware last month, but **TOP BLOOD** raced extremely wide every step of the way in that two-turn heat. Off a beat slow, he pulled his way forward to track four wide, raced three wide on the backstretch, then rallied three-to-four wide into the stretch, and still tried hard for second. **SAGAMORE MISCHIEF**, listed as a Saratoga vet scratch on 8/27 and a Finger Lakes vet scratch on 9/7, tracked the pace from the pocket over sloppy going, was urged along on the second turn, split rivals into the stretch, and failed to threaten. The winner of that race then took a \$12,000 starter at Finger Lakes with a 74 Beyer. Expect early speed for a barn that went 5 for the last 10 (50%, \$2.02 ROI) in the first after a trainer switch on dirt. **RAPIDITY** also suffered from a wide trip in his most recent start. Pulled to track three-to-four wide, tracked five wide on the backstretch, was urged along on the second turn, then finished evenly after a three-wide bid. Finished ahead of three of these, and the form was flattered when the winner returned to place in a \$12,500 "beaten" with a 70 Beyer. Should save more ground after breaking from this inside post, and there should be pace for him to attack late.

>> RACE 5

1. SAM STORMY

2. RIGHT TO WIN

3. CLOUD MUSIC

Taking a guess with **SAM STORMY**, who must improve after finishing last in his first start over this course. Bumped at the start and lightly bumped in the opening furlong, he stalked a fast pace outside, raced three wide after a half-mile, was bumped a couple of times entering the second turn, and steadily tired. He's run some decent speed figures, and seems tactical enough to work out his own trip. **RIGHT TO WIN** drew a cozy inside post, and he attempted to rally into slow fractions at the Meadowlands. Perhaps he'll get more pace to attack this afternoon. **CLOUD MUSIC** blasted out to the lead at Delaware, then tired in the stretch when returning from a three-month layoff. He's quick enough to make the lead for a barn that went 6 for the last 29 (21%, \$2.06 ROI) in the second after 61-120 day layoffs. **STANDPOINT** hit the board in his last two on synthetic, and you could argue he's a better horse on turf. Rallied into slow fractions last time when finishing ahead of next-out winner Chill Boss (68 Beyer in a nickel-beaten claimer at Presque Isle). Kicks on late. **MAYDAY MALONE**, listed as a Meadowlands vet scratch on 10/3, drops in class after chasing Uncle's Gold, who returned to earn two stakes-placings with Beyers of 91 and 96. **HYTECK PRINCE** was wired on turf two starts back, and held form when placing over muddy dirt last time.

>> RACE 6

1. JOLLY BOSS

2. NOBLE JON

3. WARHEART

JOLLY BOSS was bumped lightly at the start, stalked in between horses, raced on hold in the upper stretch, split rivals, then flattened out in the final furlong. Barbosa lands here instead of Warheart. **NOBLE JON** is in career form right now, and he looked good when he scored earlier in the month.

Prompted the pace from the outside, attacked on the turn, then was confidently handled late after being late to change leads. Beat four of these rivals in that race, and shouldn't be too far away when the real racing begins. **WARHEART** finished ahead of the top pick after saving ground for most of the way. The third-finisher then placed in a similar ratings race with a 78 Beyer. Might take back and make one run. **CHUCK ADAMS** was wired in a Meadowlands race where they ran 1-2 around the track. He's won moving from route to sprint in the past, and should get a quicker pace to attack this time. A **G DIAMOND** seems well-entered after being wired at Delaware. The sixth-finisher then won a ratings race here with an 81 Beyer.

>> RACE 7

1. ON THE LEVEL

2. MILES AHEAD

3. FIGHTERTOWN

ON THE LEVEL couldn't have won any easier in his return to the circuit. Dropping precipitously off the claim, he tracked four wide, was bumped lightly entering the turn, attacked from the outside under very confident handling, and cruised to the finish. He pulled up pretty quickly after the wire, but it was good to see him reclaimed by Brion, who guided him to his best two Beyers earlier in his career. He can produce a late kick. **MILES AHEAD**, a Grade 3-winning millionaire, just missed as the favorite at Delaware. Tracked three wide, and couldn't get past the leader while being very late to change leads. His tactical speed should have just off the leaders for a barn that went 25 for 101 (25%, \$2.05 ROI) between 10/3 and 10/25. **FIGHTERTOWN** cuts back in distance in the first for Salzman. Pressed a 16-1 shot from the outside, made the lead and the rail on the turn, came off the inside into the long stretch, and popped back to his left lead while tiring. The runner-up then ran third in a nickel starter at Penn National with a 64 Beyer. He can be part of the pace despite cutting back in distance for a barn that went 6 for the last 17 (35%, \$3.03 ROI) off the claim. Expect aggressive tactics from **CARAMBASO** after facing odds-on Mish at Gulfstream.

>> RACE 8

1. BIKER BALEY

2. MARCAN LOVE

3. BOLD FACT

BIKER BALEY will be tested at this longer seven-furlong distance, especially if he faces pace pressure from Elvis Himself, but he notched a career-best Beyer Speed Figure last month. Pressed the 7-1 last-finisher from the outside, took over turning for home, and was geared down inside the final sixteenth despite getting in a bit. Up in class, but shouldn't be too far away when they turn for home. **MARCAN LOVE**, on the other hand, has no issues with this distance, and he would benefit if the early pace is hot. The lone three-time winner in the field, he rallied stoutly to score over this course and trip on wet going on October 3. **BOLD FACT** didn't seem to care for a wet track two back, then benefited from a drop in class and a switch back to fast ground on October 10. Overcame a slow start to beat that field and still has some upside. **ELVIS HIMSELF** was wired by a 15-time winner when returning from a layoff in a sharp half-mile dash at Timonium two back. The runner-up then placed in an off-turf first-level allowance with a 68 Beyer. Expect speed as he drops in class and moves from turf to dirt.

>> RACE 9

1. MILLFORD LASS

2. SCABIOSA

3. OCCUPY

Turning back in distance might work for **MILLFORD LASS**, who caught good going in the Selima around two turns. Wasn't away the best, raced outside at the back, made a four-wide bid on the second turn, and never threatened. Looked good grinding down the leaders when sprinting two starts ago at Colonial. **SCABIOSA** made a strong impression in her turf debut over this course and distance. Jumped right out to the lead, controlled reasonable

fractions, and sprinted home as much the best. She may be the main speed once again, repeating the dirt-to-turf move that led to the big win. **OCCUPY** carved out a legitimate pace when dominating maiden claimers earlier in the month. This barn has had success claiming horses off Russell, and they are 6 for the last 15 (40%, \$6.24 ROI) off the claim with last-out maiden winners. **MAYBE GOLD** finished ahead of the top pick in the Selima, also successfully rallied from off the pace in her prior sprint, and might focus better with new blinkers.

>> **RACE 10**

1. CHESTERTOWN JANE	2. SAY YOU LOVE ME	3. DANNI'S RHYTHM
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CHESTERTOWN JANE went too fast on the lead in her most recent start at Delaware. Blasted four lengths clear after a half-mile, then couldn't resist the odds-on winner's late surge. Expect her to try to grab the early lead once again. **SAY YOU LOVE ME** finished ahead of three of these when beaten by the favorite on October 9. Bumped at the start, raced in tight along the inside at the back of the field, swung five wide on the turn under urging, and rallied for second. She should get a solid pace to attack in the stretch, and Leandro Briceno lands here instead of Final Engagement. **DANNI'S RHYTHM** takes a needed class drop after a disappointing effort last month. Prompted a reasonable four-ply pace from in-between horses, soon dropped back into the pocket, and didn't factor after failing to change leads. Might attempt rating tactics here. **VALERIE STREET** might be racing herself back into shape for this, her third start since May. She can kick late at a price.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1
#7 - Leave Me
Trainer: Horacio De Paz
Between 10/2 and 10/25, Turf: 6 for 17 (35%, \$4.08 ROI)

RACE 1
#2 - Capitaine
Trainer: Cal Lynch
First after 6-14 Days: 12 for 43 (28%, \$2.06 ROI)

RACE 4
#3 - Sagamore Mischief
Trainer: Jamie Ness
First After Trainer Switch, Dirt: 5 for 10 (50%, \$2.02 ROI)

RACE 5
#2 - Stop Watch
Trainer: Cal Lynch
Past 5 years, First After 61-180 Turf: 10 for 40 (25%, \$7.44 ROI)

RACE 5
#11 - Cloud Music
Trainer: Michael Gorham
Second After 61-120 Days: 6 for 29 (21%, \$2.06 ROI)

RACE 7
#4 - Miles Ahead
Trainer: Jamie Ness
Between 10/3 and 10/25: 25 for 101 (25%, \$2.05 ROI)

RACE 7
#1 - Fightertown
Trainer: John Salzman, Jr.
First After Claim: 6 for 17 (35%, \$3.03 ROI)

RACE 9
#1 - Occupy
Trainer: Jamie Ness
Last-Out Maiden Winner, First After Claim: 6 for 15 (40%, \$6.24 ROI)

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

Trips and Tips by Will Humphrey will return on Friday, Nov. 6

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.

D J ABS (*Breezed 4F - :50.80 at MTH on 10/22*)

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.

SEA ISLE CITY (*Breezed 4F - :48.00 at FAI Tapeta on 10/25*)

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

FIERCE AND STRONG (*Entered at Laurel – Sat 10/31, Race 3*)

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.

GOLD SOVEREIGN (*Breezed 5F - 1:02.80 at FAI Tapeta on 10/9*)

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 (*Handily 4F - :49.00 at ELP on 10/27*)

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 (*Breezed 4F - :52.00 at LRL on 10/24*)

Trainer: Joseph Murphy

Last Race: Oct. 10; 6th

Finish: 2nd by head

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.

BUBBLING

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last Race: October 25, 7th race

Finish: 3rd by 3

First-time starter didn't have the best break, but picked up steam with a wide move into the teeth of the pace before understandably flattening out in the final sixteenth. Expect more early zip next time.

CITRINE

Trainer: Graham Motion

Last Race: October 25, 6th race

Finish: 2nd by neck

Traveled smoothly into the stretch and looked on his way to victory, but was squeezed badly in between horses in the mid-stretch. Altered course to the rail and finished with a flourish, albeit too late.

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.

PERFECT FORCE

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last Race: October 25, 2nd race

Finish: 4th by 4 1/2

Didn't show much early speed in his first start of the barn, but built momentum at the three-sixteenth before being pinched back between horses at a key juncture.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

RACE 1: Jorge Ruiz: #5 - Paid Vacation; #7 - Leave Me >>> **Ruiz rides PAID VACATION**

Race 1: Jevian Toledo: #3 - Band On the Run; #6 - Upshot >>> **Toledo rides UPSHOT**

Race 2: Mychel Sanchez: #2 - Wrap and Send; #5 - Quaker City >>> **Sanchez rides QUAKER CITY**

Race 6: Jeiron Barbosa: #10 - Jolly Boss; #11 - Warheart >>> **Barbosa rides JOLLY BOSS**

Race 9: Jorge Ruiz: #6 - Maybe Gold; #7 - Worryaboutyourself >>> **Ruiz rides MAYBE GOLD**

Race 10: Leandro Briceno: #6 - Say You Love Me; #7 - Final Engagement >>> **Briceno rides SAY YOU LOVE ME**

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. 23

Race 1: The speed never wilted in this one; the horses who were 1-2-3 after a quarter-mile stayed that way. **Tax and Tags** made the front and held off the steady challenge of Hoppetosse for his second consecutive victory. Slightly favored Jigger closed from last up the inside for fourth.

Race 2: No More Calls was patiently handled in the early stages, drafting in last place for most of the way. Angel Cruz asked him for run on the far turn, and he was in the lead for good by the top of the stretch.

Race 3: Charliblu was well-regarded on debut, but didn't show interest until it was too late and was forced to settle for fourth. She took the needed step forward second time out, gobbling up ground in the last eighth to prevail. Mad Misty completed the exacta at 30-1 despite not changing leads. Granite Hall was in the midst of a rally when she was forced to check sharply at the eighth pole, causing her to lose momentum.

Race 5: This was an unusually run race. Moonlit Frost took the early lead, but was soon wrangled back as the headstrong Biggerthanbigtime, in his first start in over a year, rushed up and engaged for the lead with Quamash up the backstretch. Biggerthanbigtime eventually disposed of that rival and led at the top of the stretch, while Moonlit Frost managed to rerally and get third in a blanket finish. However, everyone was outkicked by **Plenty on Tap**, who overcame a wide trip to kick on and win as much the best. Biggerthanbigtime flattened out, but is still worth keeping in mind for next time.

Race 6: Favored **Tethered Soul** and longshot Sin Sin dueled for the early lead. Sin Sin gave way and finished well up the track, while Tethered Soul pulled away under a drive for a four-length score.

Race 7: Gallant Lad raced off the pace and made a three-wide move on the turn to claim command. Agendum closed with a rush up the inside, but the wire came in time for Gallant Lad.

Race 8: Horses winning first off the Jamie Ness claim is a common occurrence; what's not so common is when they pay \$64.40. Ness plucked **Silver Strings** out of an impressive \$30,000 maiden claiming victory in late September, stepped her up to first-level allowance company, and watched her lead every step of the way. No one did much running behind her; favorites Hidden Rhythm and U Better Kiss Me came up completely empty.

Race 9: Carolina Sun inherited the early lead after the early leaders faded. She held in gamely for third, but couldn't hold off **Dream Overture**, who pulled clear in the last eighth for the victory. Sonic Sass closed with late interest up the inside to complete the exacta.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Race 1: Maryland Million day 2026 kicked off with **Owhatanite** taking the Maryland Million Turf Starter Handicap. He rated in midpack on the inside in the early stages, then surged through on the rail once he found an opening. There was a scramble behind him for the minor shares; All Fruits Ripe got up in the final strides to complete the exacta. Brighty may have had a better placing if he wasn't forced to check sharply in the final sixteenth.

Race 2: Celtic Contender put his name in the history books as the first horse to win two editions of the Maryland Million Sprint. He sat a great trip off an early duel between Suremeanttoobe and And Sum, then took command at the top of the stretch and held sway. Suremeanttoobe may have lost the way, but won the battle with And Sum. He dug in and disposed of his rival in the last eighth to secure second. Band Camp closed with interest to complete the trifecta.

Race 3: Kerness K forced his backers to sweat it out as the 3-10 favorite, but he got past 66-1 early leader Cap Com for his 11th consecutive win in the Maryland Million Starter Handicap. Do It for Michael chased the pace and finished third, well clear of the rest.

Race 4: Mopo continued her impressive season in the Maryland Million Ladies. She rated off of early leader Precious Avary, who set uncontested early fractions, then took advantage when that one tired. Beautiful Blome gave Mopo a game challenge in the stretch, but the latter had too much to give.

Race 5: The addition of blinkers proved key for **Talking Foolish**, who kept a straight path this time and won the Maryland Million Lassie. Mountain Mamba loomed four-wide at the top of the stretch and looked ready to rumble. However, Talkin Foolish kicked on and held clear.

Race 6: Whenigettoheaven set the early pace in the Maryland Million Turf Sprint, then looked to be in trouble on the turn when Blame the Tux poked a head in front. In the stretch, Whenigettoheaven dug in and repelled that challenge, then fended off Tidewater's surge to secure the win.

Race 7: Takethemoneyhoney continued her dominance over her fellow Maryland-sired runners in the Maryland Million Distaff, winning in gate-to-wire style in her first start since March 7. Last year's winner, Onyx Ten, closed three-wide to finish second.

Race 8: Don't Tell Deren made a powerful three-wide move on the final turn, opened up a clear lead at the top of the stretch, and never looked back to capture the Maryland Million Turf Distaff Starter Handicap. Bay Street picked up the pieces in the center of the track to complete the exacta.

Race 9: Futile Gesture broke on top and was pressed from his outside by heavily favored Walt's Notion. He was able to dispose of that rival and drew away from there for a dominant 8-length Maryland Million Nursery win at 10-1. Walt's Notion managed to hold clear of the rest for second.

Race 10: After a slow start to the season, **King's River** put it together with a 49-1 upset in the Maryland Million Turf. He drafted off the rail towards the back of the pack in the early stages, then rushed down the center of the track and held off the surge of Alakan. Odds-on choice Thundering was buried and roughed towards the inside, but closed well once clear for third.

Race 11: Barbadian Runner lived up to 1-5 expectations by taking the Maryland Million Classic for the second consecutive year. After sitting off the pace on the inside in the early stages, he angled three-wide at the top of the stretch and drew off from there.

Race 12: Marriedtothegame rated off the pace while wide, took command at the top of the stretch, and held on to prevail in the Maryland Million Distaff Starter Handicap. Third-place Lady Zeta checked on the rail in the stretch, resulting in both an inquiry and an objection against the winner. Ultimately, both were disallowed.

Sunday, Oct. 25

Race 1: The third race on Oct. 2 looks like it's a key race. **Fortune Hill** and Danner, who dead-heated for second in that race, finished first and second here, respectively. Honorary American, who was fourth in that Oct. 2 race, closed for third in this spot, and has gotten better with every race since coming off a long layoff over the summer.

Race 3: Timshel led almost the entire way, but couldn't quite hold off **Parkes**, who surged in the final strides for the 10-1 upset.

Race 5: **Nix in Twentysix** made her way to the rail from the far outside post and dropped far off the pace. She was bothered slightly by the green first-time starter Frazil, but she regained her momentum and got past favored Maria Elena in the final strides.

Race 7: Socco's Spirit ran a big race on debut. She set the pace and maintained a clear advantage in the stretch, but fellow firster **Miss Checkers** overcame a slow start and rallied from far behind for the 18-1 victory.

Race 8: The early pace was contested and taxing, setting it up perfectly for pace-stalking **Normandy Hero** to get first jump on the closers and win. Cactus earned yet another also-ran finish, completing the exacta, with Incinerator putting in his usual rally from last to secure third.

Race 9: Power Grid showed plenty of guts on the lead. He dueled for early command and set sparring partner Dr. Steve into a sound defeat. However, **Howgreatisnate** took advantage of the fast pace and a ground-saving trip to win at 16-1.

Race 10: **Life Boat** made the front quickly and led all the way in an impressive gate-to-wire performance. The way that race played out, odds-on choice Repurpose had little chance of catching him, but he still closed well and finished second, 1 ½ lengths clear of the others.

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
Oct. 2 – CLOSERS BIAS
Oct. 3 – Fair (Slight Inside Lean)
Oct. 4 – CLOSERS BIAS
Oct. 9 – SPEED BIAS
Oct. 10 – Fair
Oct. 15 – INTENSE SPEED BIAS
Oct. 16 – SPEED BIAS
Oct. 17 – Fair
Oct. 18 – Fair
Oct. 23 – Fair
Oct. 24 – Fair
Oct. 25 – CLOSERS BIAS

