LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for FRIDAY, NOV. 13

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM








	KEITH FEUSTLE	DAN ILLMAN	MACKENZIE PFEIFFER	JOHN PIASSEK	DAVE RODMAN	TIM TULLOCK
RACE 1:	2-8-11-6	16-11-2-15	2-11-12-16	2-11-5-7	2-9-10-11	2-11-12-16
RACE 2:	8-4-6-1	1-8-6-4	4-8-6-1	6-8-1-5	4-8-6-7	3-8-5-1
RACE 3:	5-1-11-4	8-15-3-4	15-2-11-8	4-12-15-1	3-4-5-8	15-12-8-2
RACE 4:	6-3-1A-7	1A-3-6-7	3-5-6-1	7-3-1-2	5-3-6-1	1-5-2-7
RACE 5:	7-4-8-2	8-4-2-1	8-7-2-4	7-3-2-1	4-7-1-8	4-7-8-1
RACE 6:	11-9-7-4	11-9-7-4	9-11-4-5	9-4-12-7	9-11-10-3	9-5-4-11
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RACE 9:	2-1-5-4	5-3-6-4	6-5-2-4	4-2-3-5	1-3-5-2	2-5-1-4
RACE 10:	2-3-4-7	4-2-3-7	4-3-7-6	3-2-4-5	3-4-9-6	4-7-2-3

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. EACHPEACHPEARPLUM 2. HORSING AROUND 3. DANDY VANDY

The first post time is 12:00 pm, and there are two "Value Pick 5" wagers (first five races, last five races), each with a LOW 12% takeout rate. **EACHPEACHPEARPLUM** exits a solid performance over yielding ground at Delaware. Set the pace from the rail, tried to sprint home through a quick third-quarter, and was just kicked down. Stamina has been lacking recently, but she has run well moving from route to sprint, wouldn't mind a little give in the ground, and might try rating tactics to save something for the stretch. Also want to use **HORSING AROUND** in multiple-race wagers. Broke a beat slow on turf two back, stalked a quick pace from the outside, floated four wide, and kicked clear as the odds-on favorite. Beat two next-out winners and should receive a fair pace to attack as she gets back to her preferred surface. **DANDY VANDY** sat a nice pocket trip going two turns at Colonial, eased out into the stretch, then swapped leads several times in the final furlong. The runner-up next finished third in a $35,000 optional claimer here with a 74 Beyer. Repeats the route to the sprint move that resulted in her victory two back. Expect a strong late bid. CONCEPTUALIZE showed early ability when returning from a 449-day layoff, and understandably tired behind Chitchatchitchat, a next-out third in a ratings race with a 73 Beyer. Back to turf, and should show speed in the important third start off the bench.

⟩⟩ RACE 2

1. KING PUCK 2. RAILROAD INN 3. HOLIDAY EXPRESS

KING PUCK was wired by an odds-on favorite in his dirt debut. Bumped soon after the start, he stalked outside, was ridden along on the turn, split foes into the stretch, then made up a length to grab the runner-up spot. Can get close to the pace for a barn that went 5 for the last 18 (28%, $4.97 ROI) when adding blinkers. **RAILROAD INN** deserves strong consideration as he drops out of the starter allowance ranks. Raced outside in midpack, made a three-wide bid on the turn under urging, swung four deep into the stretch, and gave an even finish. The winner then placed in a $30,000 starter with a 74 Beyer. Needs some pace help for a barn that went 7 for the last 13 (54%, $4.43 ROI) when moving from allowance to claiming. **HOLIDAY EXPRESS** didn't break the best last time, then passed some tired horses when facing a sharp, odds-on runaway winner. He would appreciate a wet track.

⟩⟩ RACE 3

1. TOLEDO BEND 2. MESHACH 3. BISHOP MOON

Wish there was a bit more turf in his pedigree, but **TOLEDO BEND** switches surfaces and stretches out after racing in two tough maiden specials on dirt in Kentucky. The sire-broodmare sire "nick" produced stakes-winning turf sprinter Johnny's Red Storm. Should appreciate the extra distance for a barn that went 7 for the last 27 (27%, $2.10 ROI) in the first after a 61-120 day layoff. **MESHACH** deserves strong consideration as he moves back to turf. Saved ground in midpack two back, advanced to track three wide and in between, and was bumped by an outer foe on the backstretch, made a strong four-wide bid into the teeth of the pace, grabbed a brief lead, and tired late. The runner-up then finished third in a maiden special at Belmont with a 67 Beyer. Think he'll take back from this outside post, and make one strong late run. **BISHOP MOON** didn't run badly on turf two back in the Laurel Futurity. Pressed a three-ply pace from in between, pulled forward to pressure the 7-2 third-finisher, was hard-ridden on the second turn, and was jostled in

between when swapping leads a couple of times in the stretch. The seventh-finisher then placed in a New York-bred stakes race with a 76 Beyer. This barn sent out a 6-1 winner here on 11/7. BIG LAR switches surfaces out of multiple Grade 3-winning turf router Mom's On Strike. Rodriguez lands here instead of Sound Check.

⟩⟩ RACE 4

1. BIZ WHIZ	2. NO MORE CALLS	3. CHOWSER

BIZ WHIZ hit the gate and bobbled at the start, pulled his way up to track from the pocket, made a three-wide bid to the lead under a very confident ride, and scored in "handy" fashion. This barn went 23 for the last 65 (35%, $2.72 ROI) with last-out winners. **NO MORE CALLS** found good position stalking at the back of the pack, made a three-wide bid to the lead at the five-sixteenths, and never looked back. Beat a couple of these in that spot, and the late-runner needs only a bit of pace help to adequately set up his late kick. **CHOWSER** tracked the pace from in between rivals, raced on hold behind foes on the second turn, angled three wide under urging after being passed from the back by No More Calls, then stayed for second. This barn has two winners this month, including 45-1 Christy My Love. Keep an eye on MARCAN LOVE, who raced wide when wired over an inside, speed-friendly track. Barbosa lands here instead of Edelweiss.

⟩⟩ RACE 5

1. ROBERT'S MOON	2. FAN CLUB	3. LET'S HAVE A PARTY

ROBERT'S MOON was wired in a slow-paced race contested over an intensely inside and speed-friendly track. Bumped after the start, he raced four paths off the rail from stalking range, remained well wide through the turn, and never factored. He looked good winning two back, and has enough speed to get close to the pace for a barn that had two winners last week. **FAN CLUB** tracked from in between, eased three wide, then swapped back to his left lead while chasing a runaway. The third-finisher then placed in the Maryland Million Starter with an 83 Beyer. Kicks late for a barn that went 2 for the last 10 (20%, $6.70 ROI) route to sprint. **LET'S HAVE A PARTY** took advantage of a closer-friendly track and a rail-skimming ride when scoring over sloppy footing. Tracked in between, dropped inside in midpack after a half, cut the corner, and held sway. The third-finisher then ran third in a nickel starter allowance at Parx with a 73 Beyer. Upgrade if the track is wet. Rosario lands here instead of Uniwinner. VENETO shook loose over a speed-friendly track while setting legitimate fractions (23.13; 23.39) in a race where positions were unchanged throughout, then lasted despite characteristically failing to change leads. Expect rail speed.

⟩⟩ RACE 6

1. MONGOLIAN APPLE	2. WRITE OFF JERRY	3. EL DE LARRY

MONGOLIAN APPLE is going to have to have them nailed on tight as he faces several other speeds in this spot, but he looked pretty good wiring a first-level allowance on Halloween. Cleared off to set the pace, sprinted home through a quick 23.93 third quarter, and stayed strong in the stretch. **WRITE OFF JERRY** looks like the one that could benefit from a hot early pace. Bumped at the start over a synthetic track in New York last time, settled at the back, split rivals three wide on the second turn, and got second behind the favored winner after swapping leads several times in the stretch. The barn went 21 for 86 (24%, $2.17 ROI) between 10/18 and 11/10. **EL DE LARRY** took the lead two weeks ago, relaxing through a slow second quarter in 24.64

seconds. He always had enough in the tank and is looking for a hat trick this afternoon in his first off the claim, though this pace should be stronger than last time.

⟩⟩ RACE 7

1. FIERCE AND STRONG 2. WHERE'S RAY 3. NORMANDY HERO

FIERCE AND STRONG endured a traffic-filled stretch run two starts back, when only beaten by a length for all the marbles, then was wired by the favorite on Halloween. Broke a beat slow in the latest heat, stalked two to three wide at the back, angled inside in the upper stretch, and made up a couple of lengths. He should get a faster pace to attack here. Rodriguez departs for Normandy Hero. **WHERE'S RAY** finished ahead of the top pick in his last two starts. Acted up a bit prior to the 10/31 heat, settled just off the leaders, and came with his usual game run to just miss behind the two favorites. His tactical speed should have him in stalking range just behind the early leaders. **NORMANDY HERO** worked out a nice pocket trip, angled three wide in the upper stretch, and drove home over three of these despite hopping back to his left lead. He relishes this turf course.

⟩⟩ RACE 8

1. CYBERTIME 2. NIGHT TIME NAP 3. TOPS THE CHARTS

CYBERTIME, listed as a Laurel Park vet scratch (sick) on Halloween, and a Mountaineer vet scratch on 11/3, looked good running down a favored pacesetter in a short field. Tracked those slow fractions from the pocket, split foes on the turn, then was tenacious to beat Bushido, who then won on turf with an 87 Beyer. Guessing he can work out a similar trip from the inside post for a barn that went 4 for the last 12 (33%, $2.07 ROI) with last-out winners. **NIGHT TIME NAP** went to the sidelines for six months after having a potential claim voided by the vet. Ran well to just miss the favorite in a race that produced two next-out turf winners. Must prove this distance isn't too sharp for a barn that went 6 for the last 20 (30%, $2.92 ROI) in the first after 180 to 365 days. **TOPS THE CHART** can move forward in his second following a 198-day break. Settled off a fast pace over a closer-friendly track last time for a barn that went 4 for the last 15 (27%, $2.28 ROI) in the second after 180-365 day layoffs, and might have found himself as a closing sprinter. EASY ACTION battled with a couple of pace rivals through hot splits at Parx, and finished ahead of next-out winner Authentic Kingdom (72 Beyer in $16,000 claimer there). Might not have to work as hard to secure the early lead. BUMP N RUN has some back ability, and takes a solid class drop.

⟩⟩ RACE 9

1. ASSUME NOTHING 2. JUST A FAIR SHAKE 3. HONOR MAGS

ASSUME NOTHING set a pressured pace inside the 8-1 winner over a speed-friendly track, then tried hard to last for second. Perhaps he was aided by the bias and the race flow, but there's a good chance he'll grab the early lead again, and his last three victories have come around two turns. Also want to use **JUST A FAIR SHAKE** in multiple-race wagers, although he was listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 10/16. Pushed the 20-1 last-place finisher in a race that went to closers, and kept staying on to finish fourth. He has good tactical speed and might try to get covered up behind the leaders**. HONOR MAGS** stayed close to slow fractions (25.44 opening quarter), then had plenty left to beat Forrest City, who then placed in a first-level allowance with an 81 Beyer. Figures tracking the leaders while outside and clear of traffic. WORCESTER dips in class and stretches back out in distance after a disappointing effort. He has lots of prior races that would win this.

⟩⟩ **RACE 10**

1. LIFE BOAT 2. FORTUNE HILL 3. ENZO

LIFE BOAT might have found a home on this circuit after two starts in Kentucky. Blasted out to the lead through a quick quarter in 22.01, then changed back to his left lead when the outcome was no longer in doubt. Reasonably entered for his first start against winners, and can find the front once again. **FORTUNE HILL** deserves a long look after a game maiden win last month. Pressed the pace from in between rivals, then just lasted. He's hit the board in all four turf starts since being gelded, and might opt for more patient early tactics today. **ENZO** had no shot in New York after a tough trip. Pinched at the break and clipped heels, he raced at the back of the pack while taking some funky steps, split rivals on the turn, then altered course to the outside to avoid some traffic issues. He fits well at this class level, and will be running on late.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: With plenty of pace signed on, Dandy Vandy looks the strongest closer to benefit here. She was a winner going 6f at CNL with a 79 Beyer, which tops the field here. Horsing Around drew off to win 2-back, forgive the off-turf effort and she fits well.

R2: Railroad Inn's maiden score and Timonium effort are the best in this group on paper. However, Zio Lino may look to have his day with blinkers going on and class relief.

R3: Meshach has plenty of experience going long on the turf, and looks to be well suited for the mile distance. In his 3-back try, he made a convincing move out wide to miss out just before the wire. Hopefully we can tidy up the trip despite the outer draw here.

R4: No More Calls found an ideal setup while taking class relief last out. Sticking to the level and gaining ground through the stretch should suit his late running style well here.

R5: Robert's Moon has the speed to sit within range of the early pace, and may appreciate the 7f distance here. He was a convincing winner 2-back, with Heldish returning a next out winner.

R6: Write Off Jerry is the class of the group after facing allowance company in NY and hitting the board in the Colonial Cup. With several pace players in here, he should have the setup to run things down...if he can handle the cutback in distance. Alternatively, if Mongolian Apple is able to let loose on the lead, he could be tough to catch.

R7: Where's Ray won in this spot in September and held well against tougher company last out. Normandy Hero tidied up his trip last out and jumped back into form, hard to deny he has a big chance here.

R8: Cybertime has won 9/16 lifetime starts and arrives off of a win at this level, albeit an off the turf affair. He looks well positioned to repeat the last out. It is hard to imagine we end up with 6-1 ML on Perfect Force, who ultimately went off the favorite in his last outing and never worked out a trip. Watch the board.

R9: Honor Mags looks to be in career best form, his last out has produced three improving Beyer figures with a next out winner. He could be key in keeping Assume Nothing within reach here.

R10: Life Boat won impressively over this course last out, his speed and ability to rate make him tough to beat at this level. Enzo is likely to catch some attention, based on his family, and the big drop in class.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 2

#1 – King Puck
Trainer: Keri Brion
Blinkers On: 5 for 18 (28%, $4.97 ROI)

#8 - Railroad Inn
Trainer: Kenny Cox
Allowance to Claiming: 7 for 13 (54%, $4.43 ROI)

RACE 3

#8 - Toledo Bend
Trainer: Justin Nixon
First After 61-120 Days: 7 for 27 (27%, $2.10 ROI)

RACE 4

#1A - Biz Whiz
Trainer: Jamie Ness
Last-Out Winners: 23 for 65 (35%, $2.72 ROI)

RACE 5

#4 - Fan Club
Trainer: Mike Geralis
Route to Sprint: 2 for 10 (20%, $6.70 ROI)

RACE 6

#9 - Write Off Jerry
Trainer: Jamie Ness
Between 10/8 and 11/10: 21 for 86 (24%, $2.17 ROI)

RACE 8

#1 - Cybertime
Trainer: Anthony Farrior
Last-Out Winners: 4 for 12 (33%, $2.07 ROI)

#3 - Night Time Nap
Trainer: Kieron Magee
First After 180-365 Days: 6 for 20 (30%, $2.92 ROI)

#9 - Tops the Chart
Trainer: Damon Dilodovico
Second After 180-365 Days: 4 for 15 (27%, $2.28 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**
#8 CAROLINA SUN	Claiming 16k, LRL, 1M, Firm Turf, 10/23/26 – 3rd	Bumped start but away okay; crossed to rail and took a strong hold tracking the hot pace from ~2L back racing to the far turn; advanced smoothly as other speed horses faltered approaching the top of the lane; took command and opened in upper stretch; held the lead gamely to the 1/8 pole but was then collared and faded grudgingly late on.	**Despite racing off a layoff, she did by far the best of the speed in this fast run race (23.97, 47.66) that was eventually dominated by closers – PACE UPGRADE.** **Cuts back in trip which should suit second back, player.**

Other notes:

- **#1 SCARLET'S DREAM (MTO)** can be somewhat excused for her most recent effort going a mile on the turf as she sat close to a hot, closer-friendly pace while wide; cuts back today.
- **#5 CONCEPTUALIZE**'s two-back effort can be marked up slightly as she was having her first run for 449-days and set a taxing, closer-friendly pace in front (22.22, 44.91); she clearly didn't handle the dirt last time and more can be expected third back.

- Exiting the same race as CAROLINA SUN, **#9 FAHNEE** went too fast in front (23.97, 47.66) when retrying a mile last time; she should be seen to much better effect back sprinting today.
- **#16 EACHPEACHPEARPLUM** ran another winning race in defeat last time but maybe wasn't helped by again meeting a wet turf course (the sixth time it's happened in her last seven turf starts); cuts back in trip today.

Race 2: Claiming 12.5k, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#2 HALF A LEAGUE** sat a very wide trip going a mile at Delaware last time; he can improve simply for saving more ground; cuts back today.
- Speed held well in **#3 AIRBRUSH**'s last start, with the 1-2-3 finishers holding those positions throughout and arguably compromising his chances; he shaped like today's 6F trip could suit better and he deserves a second look switching surfaces.
- Despite a wide trip on the turn, **#6 HOLIDAY EXPRESS** finished with good energy behind ZIO LINO and RAILROAD INN when last seen in September; a more ground saving trip and/or faster pace to run at might see him to better effect.
- After bobbling at the break (negligible), **#7 FLYING TO WORK** benefited from a closer bias two-back.

Race 3: MSW, 2YO, 1 Mile, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 ECCE QUAM BONUM	MSW, LRL, 1M, Good Turf, 09/26/26 – 6th	Reluctant to load; step slow from outside post; hustled and ran keen while wide and out of cover racing into the first turn; light bump entering turn 3W, then settled into a stalking position ~1L off the even pace 2W; faced outside pressure approaching the far turn between horses in the 3P, then found himself in tight rounding the turn and was shuffled right back; angled out and came under a ride but struggled to respond entering the lane, then lugged in and faded.	**This was a messy trip from a green first-time-starter; it would be disappointing if he wasn't capable of stepping forward from this try second out today.**

Other notes:

- **#1 PLAYIN FOR GIN** didn't handle kickback at all when making his debut in an off-turf MSW last month; we may be best to treat him as a debutant.
- With blinkers added, **#3 BISHOP MOON** did not settle that well last out and wasted energy pulling over the 'yielding' turf; he was then bumped twice in the stretch when on the retreat, slightly exacerbating the margin of defeat; there are ways in which he can step forward getting back to the grass today.
- **#6 BELOV** became quite worked up in the inside gate on debut, then took a lot of kickback in the race which, for a first out 2yo, isn't always ideal; he still showed a willing attitude in defeat and now switching to the turf, it wouldn't be a surprise to see him step forward.
- Although the track was favoring closers which helped him, it should be noted that **#7 DADDY MONEYBAGS (MTO)** stumbled badly at the break last time too, which definitely didn't help him.
- **#8 TOLEDO BEND** was wide and outpaced from the start when last seen sprinting 5 ½F at Ellis Park, and he wasn't overly aggressively ridden through the lane either, exacerbating the margin of defeat; today's step up in trip combined with the switch to turf, a stronger ride and a more ground saving trip can help him improve on debut for Nixon.

Race 4: OC25k/SAL20k, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Dirt

Other notes:

- Based on recent evidence it seems **#1 BEALE STREET BOY** needs to be forward/out of kickback to show his best which, after drawing the rail over 7F, was not the case last time, and he may be able to show more now drawn four over further. Note: there was a speed bias present when he finished fourth courtesy of a forward trip two-back.
- There was a slight inside lean when **#5 MARCAN LOVE** rallied towards the center and won snugly two-back; that effort can be slightly marked up; he was then overmatched while also racing against a strong speed bias last time, and we can be somewhat forgiving of that try now back racing against slightly softer company.

- **#1A BIZ WHIZZ** absolutely romped last time when cruising to a facile 9 1/2L victory; he ran down the lane with great energy while still under a hold and very much looked to be in just second gear; seems he has way more to offer.

Race 5: Claiming 12.5k, 3YO+, 7 Furlongs, Dirt			
Horse	**Race**	**Trip**	**Note**
#3 PROM KNIGHT	Claiming 7.5k, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 10/30/26 – 4th	Broke outward, bumped; chased while being nudged on in rear racing into the turn; initially failed to respond to pressure and passed the 5/16 ~12L off the lead in last; came 4W into the stretch, then angled out into the center when still double-digit lengths behind; rallied late but had far too much to do.	**He didn't have that much pace to chase in this 6F sprint (22.70, 46.58) and the top three finishers held those positions throughout; he was therefore against the flow and did well to grab fourth having been so far back early; a stronger pace and extra 1/8 can help him improve on this effort today.**

Other notes:

- Although **#1 VENETO** has been best the last twice, period, it should be noted that he's been afforded uncontested leads on both occasions which has helped him. Note: the running order did not change once in that last race, possibly leaving a question mark over the validity of the form.
- **#8 ROBERT'S MOON** did not do enough to earn an upgrade last time; however, he was tasked with closing into a slow pace over a heavily speed biased racetrack, which did not help.

Race 6: OC40k/N2X Allowance, 3YO+, 1 Mile, Turf			
Horse	**Race**	**Trip**	**Note**
#3 WICKED PRANKSTER	MD Million Turf S., LRL, 1 1/8M, Firm Turf, 10/24/26 – 6th	Bumped start, away half step slow; gradually worked forward while pulling 3-4 deep and took the lead entering the back stretch; went on with it and set a fast pace with a lone lead into the far turn; held the lead under pressure to ~1/8 pole, then faded grudgingly once headed by a few deep closers inside the final furlong.	**The pace that he set while racing keenly was hot (23.28, 47.76) and led to something of a pace collapse, yet he still managed to beat half the field and finished less than 4L off the winner; a solid effort that is deserving of a PACE UPGRADE; today's cut back to a flat mile could suit.**
#4 DYNACITO	Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Good Turf, 09/26/26 – 6th	Broke sharp; slim lead on rail rounding first turn, then lost the lead as a rival went on with things entering back stretch; pulled hard chasing fast pace to far turn; regained slim lead between foes 2W far turn, then came under a strong ride ~1/4 pole when a head in front; gamely continued to respond to his rider's urgings through the lane and held on for a neck victory.	**It was impressive that he managed to get the win here considering he wasted energy pulling while also forming part of a fast early pace (23.42, 48.10); he was very game in the lane and if settling/rationing out his speed a little more efficiently today, he may be capable of offering more again.**
#11 MONGOLIAN APPLE	Allowance, LRL, 1M, Firm Turf, 10/31/26 – 1st	Quickly into stride; crossed to the rail and set an honest pace on a 2L lead to the far turn; increased pace racing to the top of the lane and extended his advantage in upper stretch, then ran through the lane with good energy, never giving his rivals a chance.	**A better performance than the bare PPs suggest, running away with things after setting a solid early tempo (23.53, 47.26) which his nearest pursuers early could not handle (early trackers finished 7th and 8th); he won in a manner to suggest there's more to come and he has to be respected right back.**

Other notes:

- Returning off a layoff in a 6F sprint at Presque Isle, **#1 FINAL WAR** very much ran in a manner to suggest he'll improve for the extra distance second back today.
- In his last start on turf (08/28/26), **#10 MY IMAGINATION** made an early move into a fast pace which resulted in him getting to within a length of the lead in upper stretch and then tiring again late on; a better-timed ride may see him step forward on that effort getting back to turf today.

Race 7: Ratings Optional Claiming (65-1), 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	**Race**	**Trip**	**Note**

#8 RADICAL RIGHT	Ratings Optional Claiming, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 10/25/26 – 3rd	Broke fast; bumped shortly after the start and dropped back to press the hot pace from back between horses in the 2P racing into the far turn; came under a ride to hold his position tight between horses on the turn and responded willingly; turned for home a neck down, then drifted out and bumped with a rival before staying on willingly for 3rd behind two closers.	**He did very well to hold 3rd here after dueling through hot fractions that took a toll on the other pacesetters; getting caught between foes racing into and on the turn was far from ideal, as were the bumps he took at the start and in the lane; a big effort, he needs respecting switching back to grass today.**
#11 BRIGHTY	Starter Allowance, LRL, 1 1/16M, Firm Turf, 10/24/26 – 9th	Good break and speed; took a strong hold between foes while tracking the even pace in the 2P between horses first turn; settled better in a tracking position racing into the far turn; nudged along to hold position and responded racing into the lane, then stayed on evenly in the 4-5P; looked set to hit the board until checking hard ~1/16 pole.	**His finishing position was 9th, but it could have possibly been 2nd or 3rd if he hadn't had to check hard late on; he was better than the finishing result suggests, and his early aggression (keen) could suggest today's cut back will be okay.**

Other Notes:

- **#1 INCINERATOR** has finished really well into just even paces the last twice and may be capable of offering more again with a truly fast pace to run at.
- **#9 WAR HUMOR** didn't do enough to earn an upgrade last time; however, we can be forgiving of his defeat as he raced prominently to a fast pace that collapsed late, and he was bumped and jostled in upper stretch too (admittedly when already on the back foot), exacerbating the margin of defeat; he'll be suited by the cut back in trip today.
- **#12 ELON** ended up much further behind than normal after taking a hard bump/getting pinched between foes at the break last time; expecting him to show speed once again from a wide post today.

Race 8: Ratings Optional Claiming (65-1), 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#2 PERFECT FORCE	Ratings Optional Claiming, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 10/25/26 – 4th	Outsped from gate; chased hot pace from ~4L back in last, 2W early; came under a strong ride and held position racing to the top of the lane; briefly paused in traffic upper stretch, then tried to squeeze through a tight gap between horses ~1/8 pole but was denied a clear path and forced to check and steady hard, costing him momentum, ground and position; ran on again late once regrouped but all chance was gone.	**A very tough trip making his debut for Ness; seemed like he'd have finished 2nd at the worst with a clear path, and he has to be massively respected right back.**
#7 EASY ACTION	Starter Allowance, PRX, 6F, Fast Dirt, 10/25/26 – 4th	Hustled forward along the rail to contest the hot pace inside two foes racing into and around the far turn; continued to be nudged on dueling to the ¼; could not go with the eventual winner off the turn and dropped back a little but continued on willingly regardless for a 2 1/2L defeat.	**A poor ride: he didn't break on top like he often does and instead of then spotting a duel was developing in front and opting for plan B (a patient, off the inside tracking ride) the rider used his run riding him forward and engaging in the duel himself, wasting stretch energy (22.24, 45.51); he's capable of more than this, especially from a wide post.**

Other notes:

- **#3 NIGHT TIME NAP** was very game in defeat when last seen beaten a nose in May, overcoming a bump in upper stretch and the fact that he was placed in an intimidating spot tight up along the rail racing through the stretch; cuts back in trip for the return today.
- **#4 HOLY SYNCHRONICITY** stumbled at the start last out but it's hard to say that *that* was the reason for his 21L defeat; needs to bounce back.
- **#9 TOPS THE CHARTS** sat a wider-than-ideal trip when returning from a lengthy layoff with a nice effort last time; respected.

Race 9: OC40k/N2X Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Other notes:

- There was a strong speed bias present when **#5 ASSUME NOTHING** finished 2nd after setting the pace last time; the track could well have aided him that day, and we should take the form with a pinch of salt.

Race 10: Claiming 16k, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf			
Horse	**Race**	**Trip**	**Note**
#7 HOPPETOSSE	Claiming 16k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Good Turf, 10/02/26 – 2nd	Chased even pace from 3L back to the turn; dropped to rail and advanced to stalk in the pocket rounding into the stretch; briefly thought about splitting foes in upper stretch but instead cut back inside; rival then came down and closed the rail gap, forcing him to wait at a pivotal moment; found room again inside the final furlong and then stayed on willingly for 2nd but the winner had already flown.	**His two-back effort, prior to a fine try last time:** **Although he never checked, having to wait on the rail in mid-stretch did cost him momentum while also allowing the eventual winner to open up an unassailable lead; not sure he'd have won with a better stretch run, but he would have gone close and more might be expected of him today.** **Note: his three-back effort deserves a small pace upgrade.**
Other notes: - **#3 ENZO** didn't do enough to earn an upgrade last time; however, he did clip heels after a slow break which instantly put him on the back foot and gave him too much to do. - **#4 LIFE BOAT** was an impressive maiden winner last time: he broke sharp, secured the lead, set a fast pace and had his rivals on the back foot, then opened up further in the lane before coasting late on; he demands respect with further improvement possible. - **#6 ROYAL RENEGADE** had to pause very briefly in the stretch last time, but it didn't really make any difference to the result; he will be hoping for pace to run at.			

Horses to Follow

R4: BIZ WHIZ (9/5 ML)
BIZ WHIZ was offered the opportunity to run long on the dirt for the first time since he was a two-year-old when last seen, and he really couldn't have been any more impressive. While the 73 Beyer he earned in victory doesn't stand out in today's fourth, the fact that he was never once asked for an effort and coasted around the track with consummate ease suggests he has plenty left in the tank, and it would be no surprise to see him double up this afternoon.

R8: PERFECT FORCE (6/1 ML)
PERFECT FORCE made his debut for Ness in a tough 6F sprint here at Laurel 19 days ago and really should have gone close. However, a brutal stretch run ended any chance of success, and he actually did well to finish as close as he did. He has the back class to compete with these foes, and a better trip could be all it takes for him to score at a nice price.

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.

SUJO *(Breezed 4F - :48.60 at CD on 11/6)*
Trainer: Greg Sacco
Last Race: Jan. 16, 7th race
Finish: 4th by 4 ¾ 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.

D J ABS *(Breezed 4F - :50.20 at CD on 11/7)*
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.

INTREPID'S LEGACY *(Worked 4F - :46.80 at LRL on 11/8)*
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.

PERFECT FORCE ***(Entered at Laurel – TODAY, Race 7)***
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.

BUBBLING ***(Entered at Laurel – SAT 11/14, Race 4)***
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.

LETEM
Trainer: Suzanne Stettinius
Last Race: November 8, Race 6
Finish: 2nd by 1
This 2-year-old is a big, strong-looking son of Great Notion and is a half-brother to the Maryland Million Turf Sprint winner, Fiya. He entered for grass in his debut but stayed in the race when it was washed off. Battled for the lead throughout and tried hard in the stretch. Seems promising on dirt or turf.

FEROZA
Trainer: Graham Motion
Last Race: November 6, Race 2

SEA ISLE CITY *(Breezed 4F - :47.40 at FAI on 11/2)*
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.

KWAN *(Breezed 3F - :36.40 at LRL on 11/8)*
Trainer: Lacey Gaudet
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.

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.

MORNING THOUGHTS
Trainer: Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon
Last Race: November 8, 2nd race
Finish: 2nd by neck
Appeared to travel comfortably on the backstretch, but was kept far off the inside in a race won by a rail-skimming pacesetter. That ground loss likely hurt him considering the long run to the second-wire finish, but he tried hard all the way to the line and just missed the head bob. It was good to see the veteran show renewed early speed.

WALKER
Trainer: John Salzman Jr.
Last Race: November 7, Race 6
Finish: 1st by head
After sprinting four times on synthetic, this 2-year-old was purchased for $30,000 at a digital auction, and it looks to be a wise move. He has a powerful dirt-route pedigree and ran to it in this quarter maiden claimer. Stretching out to a one-turn mile, he stayed close to the pace from the outside and always found a bit more to win a stiff stretch duel. Looking forward to seeing him around two turns.

Finish: 2nd by 1 1/2 lengths
This 2-year-old filly didn't break well from the rail and was completely outsprinted over a sealed, muddy track. Swung widest into the stretch and made up a good amount of ground.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1: Jeiron Barbosa: #10 - Ticklers; #12 - Hot Boss >>> **Barbosa rides TICKLERS**
Race 3: Jose Batista: #1 - Playin for Gin; #4 - Scorchy Torchy >>> **Batista rides PLAYIN FOR GIN**
Race 3: Jaime Rodriguez: #5 - Big Lar; #14 - Sound Check >>> **Rodriguez rides BIG LAR**
Race 3: Jean Briceno: #9 - Not Forgotten; #13 - Nyquist Rhythm >>> **Briceno rides NOT FORGOTTEN**
Race 4: Jeiron Barbosa: #4 - Edelweiss; #5 - Marcan Love >>> **Barbosa rides MARCAN LOVE**
Race 5: Emanuel Rosario: #2 - Let's Have a Party; #5 - Uniwinner >>> **Rosario rides LET'S HAVE A PARTY**
Race 5: Ronaldo Rodriguez: #3 - Prom Knight; #6 - Sam Stormy >>> **Rodriguez rides SAM STORMY**
Race 6: Martina Rojas: #1 - Final War; #8 - Dowagiac Chief >>> **Rojas rides FINAL WAR**
Race 7: Jaime Rodriguez: #4 - Fierce and Strong; #7 - Normandy Hero >>> **Rodriguez rides NORMANDY HERO**
Race 7: Mychel Sanchez: #6 - Warheart; #11 - Brighty >>> **Sanchez rides WARHEART**
Race 10: Jaime Rodriguez: #5 - Gooduck Road; #8 - Razorcat >>> **Rodriguez rides RAZORCAT**

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, Nov. 6

Race 1: One True Dude was the even-money favorite and ran like it. He opened up a clear early lead and never looked back. Golden Descent rated off the pace and loomed boldly at the top of the stretch, but spun his wheels in the lane and was beaten for second by inside-riding Baltic.

Race 3: Maxie's Munny rayed off the pace on the rail, then angled three-wide in the stretch for what looked like a winning move. She was carried out by fellow pace-stalker Think Pink, but ultimately had more to give and drew away. 37-1 Divine Sunshine split horses late and got up for second by a nose.

Race 4: Karma's Inthehouse had to work a bit to wrestle a clear early lead from El Junior to his inside, but ultimately did so and pulled clear at the top of the lane. As usual, he slowed dramatically in the final eighth. However, in this instance, the wire came just in time, and Saint Shance's late surge fell just short.

Race 5: With the Delaware Park meet in the books, Gary Capuano's 2-year-olds have begun to populate the entry box here. He picked up his first 2-year-

old winner in Maryland this season with **Happy Decision**. She pressed odds-on choice Empress Warrior up the backstretch, then kicked away from her and all the others for a dominant 9 ½-length triumph. Naja also raced close to the pace and finished well-clear of Empress Warrior to complete the exacta.

Race 6: Jerry Robb, another trainer who does well with 2-year-olds in the region, earned his third win with a 2-year-old maiden this season with **Vekomamona**. She took advantage of a contested pace and took command in the stretch. Feroza closed with a rush and finished a flying second; she's worth remembering for next time.

Race 8: Baffle raced wide every step of the way, but she didn't let that slow her down. She hit the front at the top of the lane and held clear of Fabia, who drew alongside the leader at the eighth pole but couldn't sustain her move.

Race 9: After finishing well behind the dominant Aruba Ariba last out, **Engaged is Better** proved the superior one this time. She shook off an early challenge from Slightly Motivated and crushed the group by 15 ¾ lengths.

Saturday, Nov. 7

Race 1: Miss Ellary and Diamond N Dress battled with each other for almost the entire race. Diamond N Dress stuck a head in front at the top of the stretch, but Miss Ellary dug in along the rail and pulled clear in the last eighth.

Race 2: Royal Seamstress rushed up to the lead between horses up the backstretch and pulled away under a drive in the lane, easily dismissing the challenge of odds-on choice Three Polks.

Race 3: Sheldon Russell kept **Jack Rabbitness** glued to the inside throughout, which proved a winning strategy. When early leader Mischief Mind tired and drifted out, a hole opened up on the rail, and Jack Rabbitness took advantage. Court Night rallied four-wide and closed admirably, but fell a neck short.

Race 4: Coach Holz was well-bet on debut, going off as the 5-2 second choice, and lived up to those expectations. Despite racing greenly in the stretch, he pulled away from the rest after racing off the pace on the rail. Odds-on favorite Mojohnnymojohnny got up for second by a neck after early leader Infused.

Race 5: Runningonhighlevel and Coco No Loco turned for home in tandem, with the latter having hounded the former in the two-path up the backstretch. Runningonhighlevel dispatched his sparring partner and held off a fresh challenge from Uncle Grey to secure the gate-to-wire win.

Race 6: John Salzman earned his second win with a 2-year-old in as many days with **Walker**, who wore down longtime leader Midnight Mosey after a long stretch duel.

Race 9: The speedy **Double Airo** took firm early command along the inside, and opened up on the turn for a gate-to-wire victory. Sassafrassness had a clear shot at the leader in the stretch, but couldn't kick on and finished second. Kilo Road overcame a poor start and got third.

Sunday, Nov. 8

Race 1: Wendy Darling proved much the best on debut, overcoming a bad start to win going away with a wide sweep on the turn. Favored Money Queen set a clear early pace and held on for second.

Race 2: Rapidity and Morning Thoughts raced as a tandem almost the whole way, and were joined in the stretch by Aztec to make it a three-way battle. Although Morning Thoughts lunged late, Rapidity, who rode the rail throughout, held on to win by a nose.

Race 3: Odds-on choice **Nantucket Love** got the absolute dream setup, rating off a contested three-way duel and drawing away when the pacesetters gave way. Free Drop Ops ran the best race of the early leaders, holding on for fourth…at 203-1!

Race 4: Pneumo Warrior showed no signs of rust off a 5 ½-month layoff. He set the pace on the inside and held off the steady challenge of co-favorite Peace Before Chaos. Kinda Krazy showed some late interest but proved no better than third behind Peace Before Chaos.

Race 5: The two biggest longshots in the field by far finished first and second. 29-1 Fighting Words led for most of the way and held off 9-1 **Play It Cool** as best he could, but the latter ultimately got the upper hand and drew off in the last eighth.

Race 7: Jerry Inspires briefly battled with Konrad's Corner for the lead, then was taken back and rated off of that rival on the inside. In the stretch, he angled three-wide and worked his way past a determined Konrad's Corner for the 10-1 upset. Fellow first-time starter Lasting Peace rallied from last to complete the exacta. In fact, the only two in here with experience finished last and next-to-last.

PAST TRACK TRENDS

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
Oct. 29 – INSIDE SPEED BIAS
Oct. 30 – Fair
Oct. 31 – SPEED BIAS
Nov. 1 – INSIDE BIAS
Nov. 6 – Fair
Nov. 7 – Fair
Nov. 8 – Fair