LAUREL PARK

HANDICAPPING GUIDE for FRIDAY, NOV. 20

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE LAUREL PARK TEAM








	KEITH FEUSTLE	DAN ILLMAN	MACKENZIE PFEIFFER	JOHN PIASSEK	DAVE RODMAN	TIM TULLOCK
RACE 1:	9-11-2-4	9-11-1-8	11-9-2-4	4-9-2-11	4-2-9-8	11-9-2-4
RACE 2:	1-3-2-4	3-1-4-2	3-2-4-7	4-3-7-6	1-2-3-4	4-3-2-1
RACE 3:	5-7-12-10	7-11-12-4	12-7-11-3	12-13-7-6	10-7-11-12	12-7-10-1
RACE 4:	4-3-6-5	7-6-2-3	6-3-7-2	5-2-7-6	7-2-4-5	3-6-1-7
RACE 5:	8-2-3-5	2-4-3-5	3-2-8-5	2-5-3-9	3-8-5-2	3-4-2-5
RACE 6:	5-1-2-11	2-7-5-4	2-6-7-11	15-6-1-2	5-12-2-6	2-6-1-11
RACE 7:	6-8-3-1	3-8-6-2	3-2-8-9	8-2-3-7	3-6-1-7	1-7-9-3
RACE 8:	10-8-7-6	13-6-8-10	10-8-7-6	13-8-10-6	5-8-6-10	8-5-7-6
RACE 9:	8-1-7-3	8-1-5-2	5-8-3-4	8-6-1-5	5-8-1-6	5-8-6-7
RACE 10:	4-2-6-1	6-2-4-1	2-6-7-4	6-2-4-7	4-7-6-2	2-4-7-6

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. LUCKY LIS 2. CRAB MENTALITY 3. BALLYKEEFE

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. **LUCKY LIS** saved ground behind a pretty quick pace at a pretty high price, split horses on the turn, altered course back to the fence with a big look at it, and just missed with a solid gallop-out. Finished ahead of five of these that day, albeit with a good closer's trip, and she can kick late once again for a barn that sent out a 12-1 turf winner on 11/13. **CRAB MENTALITY** lost some early position when pinched at the start of that race, but she's more of a one-run closer anyway. Her last three turf races have been solid, and it could be argued she has more upside potential than the top pick. Lopez lands here instead of Holy Brick. **BALLYKEEFE**'s effort can be upgraded despite finishing behind the top-two selections, as she dueled on the hot pace with Queen of Wands before understandably tiring in a race where the first-three finishers were seventh, eighth, and fifth at the pace call. Think she'll be more patiently handled in the opening furlongs here. Rodriguez lands here instead of Belle of Liberty.

⟩⟩ RACE 2

1. INNO HURRY EARLY 2. PIPPIN THE WARRIOR 3. LOVER BOY NESS

October 29 was one of the strongest inside, speed-biased tracks of the year, and **INNO HURRY EARLY** tried very hard when wired by an even-money favorite in a slow-paced race. Stalked two-three wide, dropped inside briefly on the second turn, eased back out three wide into the stretch, and got up for second late. Has tactical speed, and the extra distance shouldn't be too much of a problem. **PIPPIN THE WARRIOR** stretches out significantly in distance, drew the advantageous inside post position, and figures to show good early speed. Tracked three wide last month, was urged along on the turn, and finished evenly. The winner of that race next placed in a $30,000 starter with a 74 Beyer. His second dam was stakes-placed at 1 1/16 miles on turf, and the barn went 5 for the last 20 (25%, $2.09 ROI) when moving from sprint to route. **LOVER BOY NESS** finished behind the top pick last month, but it was a good try considering it was his first race in 325 days, and that he was chasing the sharp winner from the outside from the get-go. He'll run as a second-time gelding and second-time Lasix user this afternoon. BROTHER ENERGY has plenty of stamina and would benefit if this pace is hot.

⟩⟩ RACE 3

1. GOTTA BE DA SHOES 2. HAIL NO 3. DIVINE MOUSSE

GOTTA BE DA SHOES saved ground in midpack behind a fast pace three weeks ago, squeezed through along the rail in the upper stretch, and made up a few lengths to finish second, ahead of seven of today's rivals. All of turf sprints are good, even those where she was off the board, as she had severe traffic issues in those races. She needs a trip, but might be the best pure closer in the field. **HAIL NO** adds blinkers after finishing just behind the top pick. Veteran mare hit the board in her last two starts, and figures squarely in the thick of things when they turn into the long stretch. **DIVINE MOUSSE** has much more upside than both of the top-two selections. She made a solid impression in her debut despite hopping back to her left lead in the stretch, then showed some late life when the beaten favorite last time. This barn sent out a 19-1 turf winner at Belmont on 11/1. Gomez lands here instead of Take On the Jewels. LAW OF LORY and DON'T DO IT deserve consideration if they escape the Also Eligible list. Keep an eye on LADY MADELEINE, who drops in class after chasing a fast pace in her debut. The runner-up returned to place in a maiden special with a 69 Beyer. Might not have to work as hard in the early stages to grab the lead. Rocco lands here instead of Appealing Girl.

⟩⟩ RACE 4

1. MR. SQUEAKY WHEELS 2. FIGHTERTOWN 3. AZTEC

MR. SQUEAKY WHEELS tracked Fightertown's slow pace over a powerful, inside, speed-friendly track, attacked from the outside on the turn, and stayed on to finish second. He can work out a similar trip here and is hoping for an unbiased surface. **FIGHTERTOWN** took advantage of the track profile and the slow race flow when beating the top pick. Figures up and on the pace again for a barn that went 3 for the last 10 (30%, $2.02 ROI) with last-out winners. **AZTEC** has won when moving from route to sprint, and he repeats that pattern after being wired in a moderately paced race where they ran 1-2-3 around the track. This barn went 10 for the last 50 (20%, $3.63 ROI) with newly claimed runners. Barbosa departs for Re Markably.

⟩⟩ RACE 5

1. THINK PINK 2. BANGKOK BLAZE 3. BOURBON N MUSIC

THINK PINK broke awkwardly, then clipped heels slightly soon after the start. She went up to press the 4-1 fourth-finisher from the outside, put a head in front on the turn, and just lost second place on the wire. Don't think she needs to be handled so aggressively, and think she'll revert to tracking tactics at this shorter distance. **BANGKOK BLAZE** looks like the one to make the running after setting a fast and contested pace last time out. Understandably tired from her early efforts, she still finished ahead of the top pick. Figures right there when they turn for home. **BOURBON N MUSIC** has some angles dropping in class and moving from route to sprint. No match for favored Hidden Rhythm last time, and that one then ran third in a first-level allowance here with a 59 Beyer. SHANGHAI ROSE has never been in this cheap, and she was wired by favored Whose Notion in her most recent dirt start. That filly hit the board in her next two starts with Beyers of 50 and 59.

⟩⟩ RACE 6

1. COSTA AMALFITANA 2. THE MAGIC OFMOVIES 3. SWEETERTHANWHISKEY

COSTA AMALFITANA saved ground in midpack, eased out to split rivals three wide in the upper stretch, then rallied nicely for second. That was a nice step forward from her previous turf appearances, and she can work out a similar inside-out stalking trip in her third start off the Ness claim. **THE MAGIC OFMOVIES** raced near the back behind a quick pace on turf two back, split rivals entering the turn, altered outside, and rallied well to score. Beat two next-out winners, including Clearly Sophia, who took a restricted allowance at Colonial with a 72 Beyer. Toss out the most recent start on dirt. **SWEETERTHANWHISKEY** returns to turf for the first time since a good-trip win during the spring meet. Sat the pocket, eased outside into the stretch, then got it done despite hopping back to her left lead. She won in a similar "second off the layoff" position that afternoon, and her tactical speed is a nice bonus. TAP IT UP deserves a big look if able to escape the Also Eligible list. BISCUITWITHTHEBOSS showed good speed against males in her first start off the layoff. The winner then ran third in a first-level allowance with an 80 Beyer. Her early zip plays very well here.

⟩⟩ RACE 7

1. DOC'S MIRACLE 2. KISS ME MO 3. PACHELBEL

DOC'S MIRACLE gets Lasix once again after being wired by the favorite in the Maryland Million Distaff. Bumped at the start, she pulled forward to prompt the pace from in between, wound up in the pocket at the three-eighths, eased out into the stretch, and could only muster an even finish. Think she can work out a good stalking trip for a high-percentage trainer. **KISS ME MO** battled for the lead with the 2-1 winner over a speed-friendly track, then tired as the beaten favorite. Perhaps that one-mile distance was too far, and she can revert to the tracking tactics that resulted in her big sprint win two back. This barn sent out a 2-1 winner here on 11/15. Multiple stakes-placed **PACHELBEL**, a 13-time winner, gets some class relief after facing Lady Annabelle, who repeated in the restricted Disco Chick Stakes at Parx with an 80 Beyer. Might receive a stronger pace flow for a barn that went 10 for 24 (42%, $4.07 ROI) between 10/14 and 11/17. Expect improved speed from IN MY MEMORIES, who was wired three weeks ago. I'M A CUTIE PIE was freshened after finishing ahead of Will Not Be Swayed (returned to compile a 3-1-2-0 record in New York with an 84 Beyer top). PINTOSLILGIRL drops a notch after being wired by favored Double Airo.

⟩⟩ RACE 8

1. FORE HARP 2. KATIE'S NOTION 3. NOBLE JON

Multiple stakes-winner **FORE HARP** is a proven commodity over this surface, and the veteran gelding takes a big drop in class after an even try at Delaware. Tracked from the outside, then split foes late for a minor slice behind a gate-to-wire winner. The sixth-finisher next won two in a row here with Beyers of 81 and 80. **KATIE'S NOTION** saved ground in midpack two back, was over in behind horses in the upper stretch, swapped back to his left lead when altering outside, then was up for second behind Noble Jon. In too tough without Lasix last time against World On Fire, who then won an open first-level allowance with an 84 Beyer. Might be set for his best in the fourth start following a long layoff, but could really use some pace aid. Ruiz lands here instead of Kohoutek. **NOBLE JON** has won five of his last six starts, and seeks his fourth straight score after being put up via disqualification last month. Sat a loose pocket, altered three wide into the stretch, then swapped back to his left lead when drifting in a bit on Warheart. This is a similar field, and he has the tactical speed to get close to the pace. BOAT'S A ROCKIN raced outside in midpack, swung five wide into the stretch, then gained almost six lengths despite characteristically failing to switch leads. Eighteen-time winner usually fires a good one. FORE HARP, WARHEART, and TIZ NO CLOWN deserve looks if able to escape the Also Eligible list.

⟩⟩ RACE 9

1. ONE NINE HUNDRED 2. HAILEYSFIRSTNOTION 3. SUBROGATE

ONE NINE HUNDRED was freshened after flattening out over a wet track in Aqueduct's Grade 3 John A. Nerud Stakes. Tracked outside, made a solid three-wide bid on the turn, then couldn't go with the likes of Radio Red, who then ran third in a high-level allowance there with an 89 Beyer. Returns from his vacation as a new gelding for a barn that went 10 for the last 31 (32%, $3.22 ROI) when returning from 180- 365-day layoffs. He has good early speed, and Rodriguez lands here instead of Change My World. **HAILEYSFIRSTNOTION** was the beaten favorite in the Maryland Million Sprint, but he seems much more effective with Lasix (11-7-3-1 with Lasix in his career). He can stay close to the early pace. **SUBROGATE** seeks his first win since last year's

Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash over this course and distance. Seems well-entered here after tiring in the final furlong of Belmont's Grade 3 Bold Ruler. CHANGE MY WORLD steps up in class in excellent form, but needs some pace help to adequately set up his late kick.

⟩⟩ RACE 10

1. CHOWSER 2. MISTER MONDAY NITE 3. SCHRADER

CHOWSER wheels back in a week at a drastically shorter distance. Brushed at the start, he pressed the pace three-wide, seemed confidently handled on the turn, then couldn't step with the runaway winner when that one made a looping bid at the five-sixteenths. Kicks late for a barn that went 4 for the last 17 (24%, $4.13 ROI) when moving from route to sprint. **MISTER MONDAY NITE** chased the favored winner over an inside, speed-friendly track, then failed to change leads in the stretch. The sixth-finisher came back to beat the top pick with a 91 Beyer. **SCHRADER**, listed as a Laurel Park vet scratch on 5/23, returns from a 250-day layoff. Beaten as the favorite in his last two starts, he finished behind Armed N Dangerous in that 3/15 heat, and that one then placed in a starter "non-three" allowance at Keeneland with a 77 Beyer. Take it as a positive sign when this barn gives them long workouts leading up to a race. Batista lands here instead of Paynted Lion. LAYSEN drops in class after going way too fast in the early stages of the race. The runner-up then placed in a first-level allowance at Parx with an 83 Beyer. Don't think he has to work as hard to make the lead.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Plenty of speed on the inside with Ballykeefe and Queen of Wands, this race should present an honest setup for the late running types. Crab Mentality should benefit based on her form, and some forgiveness for the last out. Worth noting, Pinky Swear is one who I have been hoping to see on the turf, 12-1 ML warrants consideration.

R2: Inno Hurry Early exits a race that was controlled by the front end every step of the way. After being squeezed at the start and forced wide into the first turn, he had a tall task to overcome. Now 2nd time blinkers and a bit more ground may tidy things up.

R3: Divine Mousse proved very brave when in between horses on debut, then found trouble while returning to turf last out. A clean trip should be all it takes. Since adding blinkers earlier this year, Gotta Be Da Shoes has found her best results sprinting on the turf. She answered honestly in the last outing and has reason to be ridden confidently here.

R4: Fightertown comes off a career best win at this level, for a barn that does well with last-out winners (27%). Watch the board on Five Dreams, he has the back class to best this group if he gets away easily.

R5: Think Pink is highly flattered by results of Silver Strings from 3-back, and class relief makes her competitive. I find myself suspect of her on a fast track at a short price, her best races have some over a wet track. Bourbon N Music was once considered for the MD Million Lassie, this looks a competitive placement for her to cutback.

R6: Biscuitwiththeboss is well spotted in this company and may appreciate the company after facing boys last out. With speedball Brikeli to the inside, this may end up melting down to the closers benefit.

R7: Doc's Miracle found trouble on MD Million day but her allowance win from 2-back makes her plenty competitive here. It doesn't hurt that the barn continues to send out live runners. Kiss Me Mo looked to be the real deal in her maiden score here, she lacks experience but looks to have plenty of class. Note, Why is 2/2 on the main track since adding Lasix/blinkers. She could be a sneaky play inside.

R8: Boat's a Rockin may not need to return to career best form to win here, but he does look to be improving since being claimed by longtime connections. Sticking to this level, he figures to be a big player. A similar argument can be made for Noble Jon, who exits the same race last out, but doesn't have quite as much back class, or upside at 9-5 ML.

R9: 3/8 lifetime is a pretty strong record but I find 3/5 with lasix and a fast main track to be the most compelling angle for One Nine Hundred. Now a first time gelding, we can expect plenty of speed in this group. Recency may benefit Subrogate, who steps down from graded stakes company here.

R10: Mister Monday Nite will be key to this race, as Laysen lands inside and is unlikely to appreciate the pressure. Class relief seems a logical move for Mister Monday Nite to continue developing. Chowser has been flattening out in recent starts but has shown tactical ability, I like that they try cutting back in distance here.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 2
#1 - Pippin the Warrior
Trainer: Hugh McMahon
Sprint to Route: 5 for 20 (25%, $2.09 ROI)

RACE 4
#2 - Aztec
Trainer: Jonathan Maldonado
First After Claim: 10 for 50 (20%, $3.63 ROI)

RACE 4
#6 - Fightertown
Trainer: John Salzman Jr.
Last-Out Winners: 3 for 10 (30%, $2.02 ROI)

RACE 7
#6 - Pachelbel
Trainer: Mike Moore
Between 10/14 and 11/17: 10 for 24 (42%, $4.07 ROI)

RACE 9
#8 - One Nine Hundred
Trainer: Tom Morley
First After 180-365 Days: 10 for 31 (32%, $3.22 ROI)

RACE 10
#6 - Chowser
Trainer: Troy Singh
Route to Sprint: 4 for 17 (24%, $4.13 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. Visit In The Money for Will Humphrey's FREE selections for today's entire Laurel card!

Race 1: Claiming 16k, 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Horse	Race	Trip	Notes
#1 BALLYKEEFE	Claiming 16k, LRL, 5 1/2F, Firm Turf, 10/30/26 – 5th	Sharp break; dueled through fast fractions in the 2P to upper stretch; came under a ride ~3/16 pole, then stayed on willingly (despite drifting out a couple of paths) but could not fend off the late closers.	**She can be awarded a small PACE UPGRADE for this effort as she did best of the speed in a fast-paced affair (22.71, 45.85) that saw closers dominate at the wire; contender right back.**

Other notes:

- With blinkers added, **#2 QUEEN OF WANDS** dueled through fast fractions with BALLYKEEFE that ultimately took a toll late in a race dominated by closers last out; she can likely offer more if rationing out her speed more efficiently.
- **#5 YAMMY YAMMY BELLA** could probably have finished a little closer last time if she hadn't steadied slightly on the rail ~1/8 pole; however, it wasn't a race ending steady, she never really looked a true threat at any stage, and as she'd sat a great rail skimming trip while taking advantage of a hot, closer-friendly pace up to that point; we shouldn't upgrade her effort much at all.
- **#8 MEREDITHSLIGHTNING** won really nicely in front running fashion last time despite running around a little in the lane; she hit the line with good energy and may be able to offer a little more again if running straighter and truer through the stretch.
- We shouldn't take much away from **#9 LUCKY LIS** and her likable near miss last time; however, that career best effort did come courtesy of a brilliant trip and pace setup, possibly reducing the likelihood that she will replicate that exact level of form again today. Exiting the same race, **#11 CRAB MENTALITY** also benefited from the hot pace.
- **#10 CURLY DIVINING** lacked speed, ran erratically through the stretch, then finished with decent looking energy, albeit out of contention; she remains unexposed on the grass and could take a notable step forward with blinkers now added.

Race 2: Starter Allowance, 3YO+, 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

Other notes:

- While making his first start against winner with a slightly wider than ideal trip, **#1 PIPPIN THE WARRIOR** ran in a manner to suggest he could be well suited by today's stretch out in trip.
- **#3 INNO HURRY EARLY** was facing a near impossible task last time, trying to run down a 1/1 winner while wide and with no pace to close into (25.25, 50.36) over a heavily speed biased racetrack (possible upgrade); he showed a likable attitude with blinkers added routing for the first time on dirt and it appears there's more to come from him; respected.
- **#6 RED SEA** gamely managed to break his maiden last time despite AGAIN failing to settle early (he seems a very tricky horse to ride); doubt he will, but IF he settles better, he might be able to unlock some extra talent today. (It's a positive that Karamanos retains the ride as he knows him and his quirks).
- There was a closer bias present at Penn National when **#7 MR. HANDSOME** went from last to first breaking his maiden two-back.

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

Other notes:

- **#7 GOTTA BE DA SHOES** could not have asked for a better trip or pace setup when narrowly missing last time.
- **#11 HAIL NO** ran a nice race last time having sat relatively close to the hot pace; today's addition of blinkers could be a good move and she's respected.
- **#12 DIVINE MOUSSE** was bumped at the start and then again a few times in upper stretch last time before staying on willingly late; she may be capable of offering more with a sharper, cleaner break and less rough trip today; remains unexposed and is respected.

Race 4: Starter Allowance, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#2 AZTEC** was beaten just a neck last out despite having drifted out badly through the stretch (possibly cost him the race?); cuts back in trip today making debut for Maldonado.
- In a race that featured a slow pace, **#4 HELDISH** was shuffled well back entering the far turn which compromised his chance; he ran respectably under the circumstances and can likely get back on track in a strongly run race going 6F today.
- **#5 RE MARKABLY** ran a fine race last out considering the pace was slow (and didn't suit his style), and he was marginally wider-then-ideal on the turn; he's entitled to respect with a step forward off that effort possible. Note: although he was beaten 12 1/2L last time, we should note the winner romped by 9 1/4L, making his effort appear worse on paper than it really was.
- While he may have been best last out, period, we should note that **#6 FIGHTERTOWN** was afforded a very easy time of things in front last time and allowed to set a slow pace while also racing over a heavily speed biased racetrack.
- Both of **#7 MR. SQUEAKY WHEELS**' last two efforts (which have yielded career best Beyers) have come courtesy of forward trips over heavily speed biased trips – approach those form lines and figs with a degree of caution.

Race 5: Maiden Claiming 16k, 2YO (F), 7 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- **#1 DOE'S LEMONADE** became caught in a speed duel when going long on the turf last time which didn't see her to best effect; today's cut back in trip could suit, although she DOE'S need more.

Race 6: Ratings Optional Claiming (1-65), 3YO+ (F), 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Other notes:

- **#2 COSTA AMALFITANA** didn't sit a bad trip last out; however, she did have to wait slightly longer than ideal to commence her run when in behind horses from ~5/16 to 3/16 which, considering the pace was just even and the winner was already in front and on her way to victory, possibly cost her the race; seems she can build on that effort with a fast pace possible today and she's shortlisted.
- **#4 BRIKELI** was arguably a little better than the winning margin last time considering she'd set fast fractions in front on the 'good' listed turf track; feel she could have more to offer again if rationing out her speed a little more efficiently.
- Having set a slow, uncontested pace early, there was no visible reason as to why **#6 BISCUITWITHTHEBOSS** underperformed last time and she needs to bounce back. Note: she was not hard ridden through the final 1/16 when beaten last time, slightly exacerbating the margin of defeat.
- With blinkers added, **#7 THE MAGIC OFMOVIES** benefited from an excellent trip and pace setup when winning two back (her last start on turf; closed into red-hot fractions of 21.60, 44.23) – possible downgrade. Note: she seemingly did not take to the dirt last out and was not hard ridden at all through the stretch, exacerbating the margin of defeat; probably best to toss that race.

- The chart comment notes that **#11 STICKER SHOCKED** had to wait on the rail ~1/8 pole last time; while this did happen, it really wasn't that significant and definitely didn't cost her the race; still a nice effort at 12/1.
- There's no denying that **#15 LADY ENSIGN (AE)** ran a huge race at Colonial last out and she's deserving of respect following a brief freshening; it should be noted, however, that she was afforded a very easy time of things on the front-end which, over that speedy turf course, likely aided her.

Race 7: Ratings Optional Claiming (1-65), 3YO+ (F), 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#1 PINOTSLILGIRL	ROC, LRL, 6F, Good Dirt, 11/07/26 – 5th	Bumped hard start; chased even pace from ~4L back inside into the turn; advanced slightly racing to the ¼ pole, then was bumped around for 4 or 5 strides; lost momentum and from there, failed to recover.	**While she may have been below par period second back following an upgradable return at Delaware (held on after racing close to a hot pace over a closer-friendly track), she endured notable trouble in this race which certainly contributed to her defeat; willing to give her a pass for this effort and expecting her to get back to something like her par this afternoon.**

Other Notes:

- The chart comment notes hope **#3 DOC'S MIRACLE** steadied at the 5/8 pole last time, but that was only because the rider seemingly did not want to be caught vying for the lead between foes; it was not an aggressive steady and definitely not the reason she was beaten; Lasix back on and a drop in class should help her get back on track.
- There was no visible reason as to why **#5 IN MY MEMORIES** failed to lift a hoof last time; she needs to bounce back.
- **#7 I'M A CUTIE PIE** didn't have a horrible trip two-back (her last start sprinting); however, she did have to steady slightly ~3/16 pole when trying to sneak up the rail which hurt her momentum a little; in a race that saw the first two finishers run 1-2 throughout (speed held), her effort to regroup and run on again for 4th is deserving of a little extra credit; returns off layoff today.

Race 8: Starter Allowance, 3YO+, 5 ½ Furlongs, Turf

Other notes:

- Speed held well in the MD Million Turf Sprint, with the 8/5 winner wiring the field and the 16/1 and 53/1 pressers holding 2nd and 4th; closers (such as the 7/5 fav WITTY and 5/1 shot HAD TO HAVE HIM) struggled to close at all; **#6 KATIE'S NOTION** was therefore seemingly disadvantaged as a deep closer and may be capable of offering more today.
- **#8 NOBLE JON** was awarded victory last time after **#15 WARHEART (AE)** drifted out violently towards the wire and forced him to check; while this was the right call and NOBLE JON did run a very big race, one could argue that WARHEART possibly ran the better race having sat closer to the red-hot, closer-friendly pace (22.73, 44.78) than any of those involved in the finish; both demand respect today, whatever the case. Exiting the same race, **#7 NOAH CHANCE** and **#10 BOAT'S A ROCKIN** (although a little wide) both benefited from the hot pace.
- While admittedly being aided by a fast pace, **#9 SHEAR MAGIC** finished powerfully over a flat 5F at Mountaineer last time and if applying the same off-the-pace tactics today, he could be seen to good effect getting back to 5 1/2F.

Race 9: Allowance, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Horse	Race	Trip	Note
#7 INTREPID'S LEGACY	ROC, LRL, 6F, Fast Dirt, 10/10/26 – 2nd	Hit gate, steady soon after, away last; switched outside ~5/8 pole and then made a huge mid race move around horses in the 3P to take a slim lead 3/8 pole; traveled well in the 3-4P to upper stretch, then came under a strong ride	**The big mid-race move combined with the ground loss cost him in this race as he then had little in reserve for the last 1/8; a game effort in defeat that he could well be capable of building on.**

		but was beginning to run on empty and could only finish gamely at an even pace; held.	

Other notes:

- **#1 HAILEYSFIRSTNOTION** sat a notably wide trip last time, although that doesn't fully explain why his Beyer dropped 18 points from his last*; lasix back on today. *Note: his comeback run two-back should be downgraded slightly as he took advantage of a wicked pace setup while also racing over a closer-friendly racetrack.

Race 10: Starter Allowance, 3YO+, 6 Furlongs, Dirt

Other notes:

- We can be very forgiving of **#1 LAYSEN**'s most recent effort as he simply went too fast for his own good early; can improve back in the right direction if rationing out his speed more efficiently.
- **#2 MISTER MONDAY NITE**'s recent finishing efforts have been really hurt by him failing to switch leads in the stretch. Note: there was a strong speed bias present when he last ran which possibly helped him hold 3rd.
- There was a notable closer bias present at Delaware when **#5 PAYNTED LION** rallied from 5th to win last time, possibly leading to a downgrade; what's more, although the chart comment says that he was bumped ~1/2, it was not significant and did not hurt his chances in any way – he sat a good trip; cuts back today.
- There was a closer bias present at Delaware when **#7 FLIRTY BAJAN** was last seen fading after racing prominently early in a race dominated by closer; we can be somewhat forgiving of that defeat.

Horses to Follow

R1: CURLY DIVINING (15/1 ML)

Nobody jumps off the page in today's opener and so it might be worth taking a wild swing on **CURLY DIVINING**. After running a couple of nice races on the dirt, including a win two-back, this gal switched to the turf when making her first start against winners last time and didn't do much running, dropping back on the turn and then racing erratically through the lane after coming very wide off the bend. However, she did finish with decent-looking energy and made up a couple of lengths before galloping out with credit, leaving the impression there's more to come. It's interesting Salzman Jr now keeps her on the grass, seemingly believing this is her best surface, and she now gets blinkers on to help her remain engaged mid-race and better focused through the lane. Salzman Jr is 23% ($2.01 ROI) first time blinkers and, at a big price, she could surprise with the bug weight off.

R3: DIVINE MOUSSE (3/1 ML)

DIVINE MOUSSE experienced a relatively rough trip last time yet still finished with credit in what was just her third career start. She remains far less exposed than most in today's third and seemingly has enough improvement in store to shed the maiden tag today.

R6: COSTA AMALFITANA (3/1 ML)

COSTA AMALFITANA was forced to wait in behind horses for longer than ideal racing on the turn and into upper stretch last time, which wasn't ideal considering the early pace had been just even and the eventual winner had something left up front. COSTA still made a late charge when clear and threw down some solid late sectionals, but ultimately had to settle for second. With a faster pace predicted today and the rails down at 17ft, a smoother trip should see her build on that last start and hopefully score in the opening leg of the low-% takeout late pick-5.

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.

INTREPID'S LEGACY ***(Entered at Laurel - TODAY, Race 9)***
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.

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.

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.

WALKER
Trainer: John Salzman Jr.
Last Race: November 7, Race 6
Finish: 1st by head

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.

SEA ISLE CITY *(Breezed 4F - :48.00 at FAI on 11/16)*
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.

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

MORNING THOUGHTS ***(Entered at Laurel – SUN 11/22, Race 2)***
Trainer: Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon
Last Race: November 8, 2nd race
Finish: 2nd by neck

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.

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.

FIERCE AND STRONG
Trainer: Michael Salvaggio Jr.
Last Race: November 13, Race 7
Finish: 7th by 5 1/4 lengths
Veteran gelding has been unlucky several times in 2026, including in his most recent start. Taken in hand to race near the back of the pack, he was over in behind horses for the majority of the stretch and was never allowed to really show his late kick.

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.

READY FOR MAGIC
Trainer: Troy Singh
Last Race: November 15, 2nd
Finish: 4th by 6
Hung out to dry every step of the way when sprinting on 11/15. She broke from the far outside post, raced four wide on the backstretch, through the turn, and into the stretch, and never stopped trying.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1 - Carlos Lopez - #3 - Holy Brick; #11 - Crab Mentality >>> **Lopez rides CRAB MENTALITY**
Race 1 - Jaime Rodriguez - #1 - Ballykeefe; #7 - Belle of Liberty >>> **Rodriguez rides BALLYKEEFE**
Race 3 - Kevin Gomez - #5 - Take On the Jewels; #12 - Divine Mousse >>. **Gomez rides DIVINE MOUSSE**
Race 3: Raul Mena - #2 - Honest Spin; #4 - Final Moment >>> **Mena rides HONEST SPIN**
Race 3: Jatniel Ramos - #1 - Forty Seven Smoker; #9 - Julies Mandolin >>> **Ramos rides FORTY SEVEN SMOKER**
Race 3: Joe Rocco Jr. - #6 - Lady Madeleine; #10 - Appealing Girl >>> **Rocco rides LADY MADELEINE**
Race 4: Jeiron Barbosa - #2 - Aztec; #5 - Re Markably >>> **Barbosa rides RE MARKABLY**
Race 8: Jorge Ruiz - #5 - Kohoutek; #6 - Katie's Notion >>> **Ruiz rides KATIE'S NOTION**
Race 9: Jaime Rodriguez - #6 - Change My World; #8 - One Nine Hundred >>> **Rodriguez rides ONE NINE HUNDRED**
Race 10: Jose Batista - #4 - Schrader; #5 - Paynted Lion >>> **Batista rides SCHRADER**

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. 13

Race 1: Horsing Around took advantage of a hotly contested early pace and stormed down the stretch to win as the 13-10 favorite, outkicking fellow closer and runner-up Dandy Vandy in the process.

Race 2: King Puck was wrangled off the early pace to allow Zio Lino to set the fractions. That proved a wise move, as King Puck took advantage when Zio Lino tired and rallied in the center of the track to win a photo finish with 18-1 Airbrush.

Race 3: Despite drifting out on multiple occasions, **Playin for Gin** had enough in the tank to win in gate-to-wire fashion. Ecce Quam Bonum was second at every point of call; no one else did much running.

Race 5: Robert's Moon won both the battle and the war. He outfinished dueling partner Veneto by 11 ½ lengths, and everyone else in the field by at least five lengths. Let's Have a Party and Prom Knight rallied from last and next-to-last to finish second and third, respectively.

Race 6: The usually speedy **El de Larry** elected to rate off the pace this time, and in this case, patience paid off. Odds-on favorite Write Off Jerry was too far back early to contend, but closed with a rush for third.

Race 7: The wire came just in time for **Normandy Hero**, who took them gate-to-wire and held off the late charge of Incinerator by a nose. That one's had a frustrating meet, having finished second or third in each of his three starts at the fall stand.

Race 9: Just a Fair Shake was stakes-placed twice in Maryland as a 3-year-old, but has struggled to find his best self in his 4-year-old season. He showed signs of life here, as he set the pace on the rail and dug in against Otago's last-to-first challenge for the victory. The latter was in front by a length at the top of the stretch and looked poised to pull away, but couldn't finish the job.

Saturday, Nov. 14

Race 1: House of David quickly cleared to the rail and the lead and never looked back from there. Danner split horses late to grab second, his third consecutive runner-up finish of the meet.

Race 2: Secret Zipper ran a game race on the lead, setting honest fractions and opening up a clear lead in the stretch. However, he wilted in the last eighth, and Cap Com overtook him to win going away.

Race 4: First-time starter **Perpetual Notion** took tons of play, closing at 4-5 off a 2-1 morning line. She lived up to expectations and then some, rallying down the center of the track to overhaul early leader Ayni to win going away. She's one to watch for the Black-Eyed Susan trail this winter.

Race 5: In her first start since her Maryland Million Ladies victory, Mopo found the winner's circle for the fifth time this year. She chased early leader Noquestionaboutit on the outside and took command for good in the final eighth. The rider of third-place finisher Big Earn claimed foul against Mopo for potential interference up the backstretch, but the claim was disallowed.

Race 6: World On Fire set the pace on the rail and dug in against Brightshininglight's challenge for his third victory of the meet. The four favorites were 1-2-3-4 after a quarter-mile and never tired, finishing that way, albeit in a slightly different order.

Race 7: Off a sharp maiden win last out, **Frustrated** was hammered down to 4-5 favoritism. He raced off the pace on the rail and looked loaded on the turn; all he needed was a place to go. Once he found it, he drew away from the rest with minimal urging. Second choice Southern Gentleman, in his first start since last August, checked sharply at the break and was never involved from there.

Race 8: Steel the Moment, the lone first-time starter in the field, was bet like she couldn't lose, going off as the 4-5 chalk. She lived up to the hype with a gate-to-wire win. Mad Misty and Lux, second and third, respectively, in the same race on Oct. 23, finished in those spots again.

Race 9: The Thirty Eight Go Go Stakes was a thriller. Aeolian raced close to the hot pace and struck the front in a well-bunched field at the top of the stretch. She held on gamely in the stretch, but **Doctor Abbie**, who sat far off of that contested tempo, got by her in the final strides to win at 31-1, the biggest price in the field.

Race 10: First-time starter **Carolina Casanova** cleared to the front from the outside post and established a clear early lead. On the final turn, Vida rallied up that one's inside and took command for good. Carolina Casanova fought hard from his outside, ending up second by three-quarters of a length.

Sunday, Nov. 15

Race 1: Odds-on favorite **Magic in My Eyes** looked full of run early on, but was held back by Sheldon Russell. Once Russell allowed him to run, he took command up the backstretch and kept the rest at bay.

Race 2: Palmetto Fury was absolutely plunging in class into conditioned $7,500 claiming company, but her backers need not have been concerned. She cleared to the front easily and drew away from there, with pace-chasing Christy My Love holding second.

Race 3: Timshel enjoyed a great trip rating off the pace on the inside. He looked loaded on the far turn; it was just a matter of if he'd find racing room. He found it at the top of the stretch and took advantage to win as the 2-1 favorite. Promissio rallied from last to complete the exacta.

Race 4: Four of the five runners in here battled for the early lead while odds-on favorite **Cartridge** sat off of them in last. Patience proved to be a virtue, as she moved three-wide on the far turn and drew away from there.

Race 5: Slightly favored **Souper Cha Ching** overcame a wide trip to wear down Zencat, who pressed the pace, took over on the far turn, and determinedly hung in there until late.

Race 6: All Fruits Ripe rated off a hot pace and took advantage when the early leaders tired. He finished in the top two only once in his first 26 starts; he's now done so four times in a row.

Race 7: The Great Oscar won the battle but lost the war. He dueled with Forrest City in the stretch and wore that rival down, but couldn't hold off the challenge of Love Yourself, who got up by a nose in the final strides.

Race 8: Skyrayleigh made the rail and the lead in the first sixteenth of a mile and never gave either up. It was a scramble behind him; Sound Bite overcame a wide trip to outkick the others and complete the exacta.

Race 9: This race featured an exciting three-way battle between **Just Gia**, Katz On Fire, and Floreana. The former, who went off favored, was pressed on the pace on both sides, but fended off every challenge for an impressive win. Floreana took the lead at the top of the stretch but settled for second.

Race 10: Danni's Rhythm battled with Valerie Street for the lead in the two-path, dispatched that rival on the turn, and pulled away from the rest. Favored Legal Lightning closed for second, while Blazing Bridgette made what looked like a promising move, but flattened out to third.

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
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
Nov. 13 - SPEED BIAS
Nov. 14 - CLOSERS BIAS
Nov. 15 - Fair