



🌻 PIMLICO HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Friday, May 16 – Black-Eyed Susan Day 🌻

First post: **11:30 AM ET** with 12% takeout on Value Pick 5 wagers (beginning Races 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9) and Special Two-Day Pick 5's.

- “Today at the Races” morning simulcast show LIVE on YouTube [@Maryland Racing](#) at 10:30 AM ET for late changes, top tickets and best plays.
- Follow the action on your preferred ADW, on X [@PreaknessStakes](#), [@PimlicoRC](#), [@DanIllman_MJC](#), and Instagram [@marylandjockeyclub](#).
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TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE TMJC TEAM



KEITH FEUSTLE



KALI FRANCOIS



DAN ILLMAN



MACKENZIE PFEIFFER



DAVE RODMAN

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

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

>> RACE 1

1. VERIFIRE

2. SAXTON

3. BLO BY'EM

First post is 11:30 AM ET with 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **VERIFIRE** tracked three wide in debut at Colonial, attacked outside on the turn, then drew off nicely in the stretch. Figures close to the pace for barn that went 8 for the last 20 (40%, \$3.07 ROI) with debut winners making second start after 61-120 day layoff. **SAXTON** ran very well when earning a third stakes-placing in Aqueduct's Jimmy Winkfield Stakes, then couldn't rally into slow fractions against odds-on It's Hammertime over speed-friendly wet Laurel surface. He can stay within striking range here. **BLO BY'EM** received the right race flow when rallying into fast splits to graduate three weeks ago. Not sure he'll get that setup here for barn that went 7 for the last 30 (23%, \$2.09 ROI) with last-out maiden winners returning on dirt.

>> RACE 2

1. SONG TIME

2. MY BRAZILIAN GIRL

3. PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Taking a guess with **SONG TIME**, who switches surfaces as a half-sister to stakes-winning turf routers Concealed Identity (98 wet-dirt Beyer) and Peach of a Gal (88 turf Beyer) out of stakes-placed turf router Richetta (91 wet-dirt Beyer). The second dam was stakes-placed going 12 furlongs on turf (88 turf Beyer). Didn't do anything in lone start on dirt last year, but is a big-bodied filly with the pedigree to appreciate stretching out in distance. **MY BRAZILIAN GIRL** looms the horse to beat after racing competitively against Grade 3 runners going long at Gulfstream. Prompted the favored winner through solid fractions, then gave ground grudgingly. Beach Bomb then ran second in the Grade 3 Sheepshead Bay in New York with a 92 Beyer. Figures close to the pace here. **PROTECTIVE CUSTODY** switches surfaces as a half to stakes-winning turf router Limited Liability (102 turf Beyer). The turf-winning dam is a full to Grade 3-winning turf router Onus, and multiple Grade 3-placed turf router Silvology. Barn sent out first-turf winner Signator (7-2) at Tampa on 3/2. Prat departs for SOFTWARE. MOPO took a big step forward in turf debut. Set sharp splits of 23.04 and 23.15, then still held for second behind the odds-on winner. Perhaps she's the speed once again. MORE ACCELERATION, listed as a Gulfstream vet scratch on 4/13, passed some tired horses when given pace to attack in synthetic debut. The sixth-finisher then placed for \$35,000 on turf at Gulfstream with a 60 Beyer. PANAMA CANAL is out of multiple Group 1-winning turf router La Extrana Dana (Argentina). The second dam was a Grade 1-winning dirt router.

>> RACE 3

1. CURLIN'S MALIBU

2. POINT DUME

3. FEELING WOOLZY

CURLIN'S MALIBU might be racing himself back into shape for this, his third start of the year, and he wouldn't mind any residual moisture in racetrack. Late-runner took advantage of a hot pace and a closer-friendly track to earn a stakes-placing over a muddy Laurel strip last time out. The fourth-finisher from that heat then placed in a high-level Aqueduct allowance with a 94 Beyer. With his running style, he always needs race and pace luck. **POINT DUME** might be the one to provide the pace after going quick on the lead in turf experiment last time out. He's won his last two dirt outings in front-running fashion, and will be prominent when the real running commences for barn that went 29 for 78 (37%, \$2.32 ROI) between 4/22 and 5/13. **FEELING WOOLZY**

tried hard over this distance at Laurel, but couldn't step with Grade 2 winner Post Time. SAGRADA RAY was claimed by sharp barn after a good effort against weaker company. Think he'll push the early pace. ARMANDO R's closing punch should never be discounted, especially if he gets the right setup. Fourth-finisher from the last race then placed in a high-level allowance with an 86 Beyer. CADET CORPS, listed as a Gulfstream vet scratch on 4/19, rallied into slow fractions to finish ahead of Smooth Flyin Mike, who then won a \$40,000 "beaten" at Parx by seven lengths with an 83 Beyer.

>> RACE 4

1. BOURBON BOSS

2. ZIP LINE TO HEAVEN

3. ISLAND D'LITE

BOURBON BOSS set a very reasonable pace when returning to turf, then powered home to win as much the best. Steps up in class, but that win came over a course with some give, and he should show good speed once again for barn that went 17 for the last 46 (37%, \$2.11 ROI) with last-out winners. **ZIP LINE TO HEAVEN** has won off layoffs of 276 and 220 days, so think he won't be too rusty after this 195-day freshening. Broke well, last time, settled inside near the back, cut the corner into the stretch under urging, split rivals with run and finished well along the rail with a good gallop-out. He loves this surface and should prove a late threat. **ISLAND D'LITE** gave a good try in seasonal debut when rallying for second behind sharp Cactus, who then took a \$12,000 starter with an 80 Beyer. It looks like he's found his calling as a turf sprinter.

>> RACE 5

1. PRIVMAN

2. ENNIS TOWN

3. FIRMANTOWN

PRIVMAN seemed a bit green in career debut at Los Alamitos, but have a feeling he'll return from this 321-day layoff a more mature colt. Raced against seven other first-time starters over a speed-friendly track, tracked a moderate pace three wide, was bumped on the turn, bid four wide turning for home, then altered course inside the winner after attempting to lug in. The winner then placed in Del Mar's Grade 3 Best Pal with a 71 Beyer. Can work out a nice trip while outside and in the clear for barn that went 8 for the last 18 (44%, \$2.17 ROI) first after 180-365 day layoffs. **ENNIS TOWN** adds Lasix and blinkers for his first start following a long layoff. Tracked three wide at Keeneland, advanced to push the pace from that path, then stayed for second after being late to change leads. The winner then placed in a statebred stake at Fair Grounds with a 68 Beyer. Expect early speed for barn that went 4 for the last 14 (29%, \$4.07 ROI) with experienced runners getting the first-Lasix and first-blinkers makeover. **FIRMANTOWN** grabbed the lead over a speed-friendly track when wiring maiden claimers at Laurel. He was taken down for bearing out leaving the starting gate, and must face a tougher crew here. CADEAU D'ARGENT (\$20,000 weanling; \$45,000 yearling) is out of stakes-placed dirt miler For All the Grands (77 wet-dirt Beyer).

>> RACE 6

1. TALL ORDER

2. HAD TO HAVE HIM

3. TIDEWATER

TALL ORDER won his last three turf sprints in dramatic closing fashion, and looked good scoring last month. Broke well, was steadied early and pulled to save ground in midpack, angled three wide turning for home, and wore them down. Late-runner needs the right trip and setup. **HAD TO HAVE HIM** was pinched at the start on turf two back, stalked outside at the back, eased out for clear aim, then flopped leads several times in the stretch. Returns from 167 days away as a new gelding, and think the time off did him some good. Barn went 3 for 13 (23%, \$2.65 ROI) between 2/28 and 5/10. **TIDEWATER** received a nice prep in off-turf heat, and should be set for a good one in second start following 261-day break. Found good position behind a fast pace two back, made a four-wide bid on the turn, and stayed on to place ahead of Had to Have Him. Barn sent out 13-1 turf-sprint winner Benny Havens here

on 5/10. COAST ALONG dueled with the 42-1 ninth-finisher through a hot opening quarter when returning from a long layoff at Keeneland. Don't think he'll exert as much energy to get forward here. FIERCE AND STRONG pressed a solid pace two wide/three path, grabbed the lead outside the 56-1 third-finisher, then tired going two turns in final start last year. The winner next ran third in a high-level allowance with an 86 Beyer. He's won going route to sprint off the layoff in the past. Conner lands here instead of Noble Jon.

>> RACE 7

1. ARMY OFFICER

2. OCEAN CITY

3. WORTHINGTON

ARMY OFFICER faced tough company in his final two starts of 2024, then legged up for this with a synthetic race in his first after a 200-day layoff. Tracked outside in the second flight, made a three-wide bid to the front, then tired in a race dominated by closers. The winner then placed in a third-level turf allowance at Churchill with an 87 Beyer. Barn went 4 for the last 13 (31%, \$2.67 ROI) moving synthetic to turf. **OCEAN CITY** also goes second off the layoff as a second-time gelding. Set a fast pace (23.67; 23.68; 23.66) before understandably tiring in the Henry Clark Stakes. Expect run-and-gun tactics from the far wide draw. **WORTHINGTON** displayed some ability before going on the shelf for 509 days. Likely needed his most recent start, and can take a step forward with blinkers added back to the equation. WOW WHATA SUMMER would appreciate some give in the ground, and he caught a tough field in his first start of the year. He won the Grade 2 Penn Mile over very soft going in his second start of 2022, and should get some pace to attack.

>> RACE 8: ALLAIRE DuPONT S.

1. SUDDEN SWITCH

2. REGALED

3. DAZZLING MOVE

We'll learn a great deal more about **SUDDEN SWITCH** as she steps up in class and distance following to nice wins to begin her career. Purchased for \$170,000 in February, she took advantage of a speed-friendly track to wire them at Keeneland in first start for this barn. Figures close to the pace while outside and in the clear. If this pace gets hot, **REGALED** can kick at a nice mutuel. Distance-loving filly might have found the one-turn mile a bit sharp when just missing last time. Wired by the favorite that day, she settled at the back, swung widest into the stretch and rallied well over the muddy going. **DAZZLING MOVE** prompted three wide, made a bid from that path on the turn, then hopped back to her left lead when tiring in the Grade 1 Madison. The third-finisher then ran third in the Grade 2 Ruffian in New York with a 90 Beyer. Can work out a nice pace-tracking, ground-saving trip for barn that went 22 for the last 100 (22%, \$2.65 ROI) removing blinkers. MISS HEBRIDES was purchased for \$150,000 since her last start, and can show inside speed after finishing ahead of Tripolina, who then ran second in Churchill's Roxelana with an 84 Beyer. Multiple Grade 1-placed CANDIED looms the horse to beat. Tracked in between in her seasonal debut, dropped inside and cut the corner into the stretch, then failed to change leads.

>> RACE 9: HILLTOP S.

1. SIGH NO MORE

2. ME GOVERNOR

3. WHITE ROCKS

SIGH NO MORE sold for \$347,500 over the winter after kicking late to take an Irish Group 3 over soft going. It looked like they were going a good gallop in that heat and she settled at the back of the field before easing widest turning into the straight. The runner-up came back to win a minor race at Naas. Should get some pace to track for barn that went 15 for the last 50 (30%, \$2.50 ROI) with foreign shippers. **ME GOVERNOR** deserves a look as the potential speed of the speed as she stretches out for the first time in her career. Tracked a quick pace three wide in the Limestone, bid outside into the stretch, then finished evenly behind Shisospicy, who next took Churchill's Grade 3 Mamzelle with a 90 Beyer. Barn went 6 for the last 29 (21%, \$2.24 ROI)

going third after 61-120 day layoffs. **WHITE ROCKS** tries turf for the first time with the early speed to be forward. A bit disappointed with her Bourbonette Oaks as she failed to carry her zip after setting moderate fractions, but the top-two finishers did rally from off the pace. Barn went 10 for the last 28 (36%, \$5.42 ROI) with experienced runners trying turf for the first time. **OBEISSANTE** saved ground in midpack, angled widest turning for home, then kicked home impressively despite swapping leads a couple of times in the stretch. Plenty of upside for barn that went 7 for the last 22 (32%, \$2.90 ROI) with last-out maiden winners going second-time route on turf. **PRETTY LAVISH** faced two next-out winners from the Florida Oaks with the winner capturing the Grade 2 Edgewood with an 88 Beyer. Kicks on late.

>> RACE 10: G3 MISS PREAKNESS S.

1. FAMILY	2. ECHO SOUND	3. STUNNER
<p>FAMILY hustled hard to a fast three-ply pace from the rail, then dug in determinedly to just miss in Turfway's Serena's Song. A half-sister to Grade 2-winning dirt sprinter Vegas Magic out of multiple stakes-winning dirt router Heidi Maria, she has enough pedigree to handle the surface switch, but will likely face the toughest pace test of her career. Also want to use ECHO SOUND in multiple-race wagers despite the 167-day layoff. Finished ahead of Shisopicy in the Fern Creek, and that one then won three of her next four starts with a 90 Beyer top on turf. Should get a strong pace to attack for barn that went 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$2.08 ROI) after 120-180 day layoffs on dirt. STUNNER never received a breather (22.22; 22.67) when trying seven-eighths off a short break, but still held well for second. Expect good early speed for barn that went 5 for the last 18 (28%, \$2.01 ROI) second after 61-120 day layoffs. VODKA WITH A TWIST was on a hard chase going two turns in Southern California. Think she takes back and makes one strong run cutting back in distance.</p>		

>> RACE 11: THE VERY ONE S.

1. SIMPLY STATED	2. LOON CRY	3. BOSSERATI
<p>SIMPLY STATED broke slow at Keeneland, raced in between near the back, split rivals on the turn before angling widest, then came with a solid kick for a minor award at big odds. She'll look for a clean trip and a quick pace to attack when it counts. LOON CRY raced at the back in final start of 2024, angled outside into the stretch, then finished evenly behind Toupie, who next took the Grade 3 Las Cienegas at Santa Anita with a 93 Beyer. Wonder if this distance is a bit sharp, but she's the class of the field for barn that went 4 for the last 17 (24%, \$2.25 ROI) after 180-365 day layoffs on turf. BOSSERATI loves this course, and looks like a huge pace player in seasonal debut. Barn went 14 for the last 52 (27%, \$2.56 ROI) after 120-180 day layoffs. MENDYS HONEY switches surfaces out of multiple stakes-placed turf sprinter Honey Chile (94 synthetic Beyer).</p>		

>> RACE 12: G3 PIMLICO SPECIAL S.

1. PHILEAS FOGG	2. ENCINO	3. AWESOME AARON
<p>PHILEAS FOGG allowed the 12-1 last-finisher to run off to an uncontested lead through wickedly fast fractions in the Excelsior, tracked that one under very confident handling, took over at the three-eighths and poured it on in the stretch. He's won four of five since being claimed and shouldn't be too far off the pace. ENCINO set a solid pace over synthetic in the Kentucky Cup Classic, shook loose after a half-mile, then stayed gamely to finish ahead of two next-out turf winners. She's versatile enough to sit off the pace if necessary, and has won going synthetic to dirt in the past. AWESOME AARON put it all together with blinkers off at Oaklawn. Pushed the 10-1 sixth-finisher's pace, then kicked well clear. Barn sent out last-out winner Reverse Merger to</p>		

repeat at 8-5 at Churchill on 5/9. Another that can get close to the pace. Millionaire RED ROUTE ONE is a one-run closer that should get the right setup from the back. The runner-up from his last start then placed in the Grade 1 Churchill Downs Stakes with a 98 Beyer.

>> RACE 13: G2 BLACK-EYED SUSAN S.

1. RUNNIN N GUNNIN	2. AMARTH	3. MARGIE'S INTENTION
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RUNNIN N GUNNIN was the only horse making up serious ground in the Grade 2 Fantasy, a race dominated by the two front-runners over a speed-friendly track. Settled outside in midpack, moved down to the rail on the second turn, then finished evenly in between to best two next-out winners. Think she'll get a strong pace to attack. **AMARTH** gets class relief after being wired in the Grade 1 Ashland. Finished ahead of two next-out winners with the sixth-runner next taking the Grade 2 Eight Belles with an 87 Beyer. Working swiftly for barn that went 6 for 25 (24%, \$2.96 ROI) between 4/12 and 5/10. Louisiana-bred **MARGIE'S INTENTION** has never faced open company, but she fits very well on the Beyer scale. Finished ahead of two next-out winners from most recent start when wired by favored Blue Fire, who returned to place in the Eight Belles with an 84 Beyer. Boasts excellent tactical speed for barn that went 24 for the last 71 (34%, \$2.14 ROI) first after the trainer switch. Lightly-raced REPLY has plenty of upside, and should get a better setup than last time when wired in the Weber City Miss. PURE LILY might have taken advantage of speed-friendly surface when wiring them in a race where they ran 1-2 around. Expect good early zip.

>> RACE 14

1. MISS OUTTA MY WAY	2. MAERDAMA	3. ROJA
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MISS OUTTA MY WAY is a half-sister to stakes-winning dirt router Gold Digging Broad (81 wet-dirt Beyer) out of stakes-winning dirt miler Brushed by Love (81 dirt Beyer), herself a full to multiple stakes-winning dirt router Not Abroad (100 dirt Beyer). The second dam was a Grade 3-winning dirt router. Wonder if she'll need a bit more ground. **MAERDAMA** ran well on both dirt and synthetic, and believe she'll take just fine to the grass. She's gobbled up her share of money as the beaten favorite in her last three starts, however, and might deal with a bit more pace pressure here. **ROJA** switches surfaces as a half to Grade 3-placed turf router Pappascat. The dam is a half to Group 1-winning turf router Al Qasr (Argentina), stakes-placed turf miler Delicate Dynamite (94 wet-dirt Beyer), and stakes-winning turf miler Xaverian (95 turf Beyer). Barn went 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$8.13 ROI) with third-out maidens trying turf for the first time. The second dam was a multiple stakes-winner on turf. Karakontie - Red Ransom cross produced French Group 2-placed turf router Ketil. MO HYPE switches surfaces out of multiple stakes-placed turf sprinter Just Talkin (94 turf Beyer). TOWN LIGHT (\$47,000 RNA yearling) is a half to Grade 3-winning turf router Safeen.

SPECIAL TWO-DAY WAGERS 💰

Pimlico offers three special two-day wagers spanning both Black-Eyed Susan Day and Preakness Day.

💎 **ALL DIRT TWO-DAY PICK 5 with 12% Takeout:** FRIDAY Races 10, 12 + SATURDAY Races 8, 10, 13 (50¢ min.)

💎 **ALL STAKES TWO-DAY PICK 5 with 12% Takeout:** FRIDAY Races 11, 13 + SATURDAY Races 11, 12, 13 (50¢ min.)

💎 **BLACK-EYED SUSAN/PREAKNESS DOUBLE:** FRIDAY Race 13 + SATURDAY Race 13 (\$1 min.)

KALI'S KEY – by Kali Francois

Race 8, #6 Peignoir & #8 Sudden Switch

I go with both speedsters on the outer posts against the favorite here! With the #6, it's a much-renewed confidence on an off track from last time out that sold me, especially if we're getting a wet surface on Friday. If needed, especially at this distance, she can hang back second in command of the race if she wants to let the outside speed carry on, but still make a showing.

The #8 is double-entered for a Churchill possibility on Sunday, which is why I went with double speed security. Riley Mott picks up right where Chad Brown left off with Sudden Switch, where she won easily and It didn't take much effort from her - a winner next out in that field from Save Time last weekend at Churchill lets me know that she's headed in the right direction.

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

Race 1: Verifire seems a deserving favorite after an impressive debut. Should the pace burn out, look for Blo By'em to come running late.

Race 2: Second try on the turf for Software could be the end of her maiden career. Half to Dataman with a late kick that benefits from a bit more ground. Keep an eye on Mopo, 2nd lasix and 2nd turf may offer value.

Race 3: Stronsino has been very competitive over the winter and early spring, he may appreciate the extra ground here. Keep an eye on Classic Joke for Farrior, first foal of an unraced mare, with a multiple graded stakes winning 2nd dam. Carmouche lands on Sagrada Ray, possibly a dangerous pair on the front end, 2nd off the bench.

Race 4: Plenty of pace in here and a few close tracking types, should set up well for deeper closers such as Zip Line to Heaven and Katie's Notion. Incinerator benefits from 2 efforts off the bench, he showed a long sustained run after a trouble last out.

Race 5: Privman has the benefit of a start in June'24 but returns for his 3 y/o campaign. Solid work tab, the 4/18 piece was with Preakness runner Goal Oriented. Blinkers on for Ennis Town who missed out to stakes place sprinter Voila Magic for Asmussen.

Race 6: Plenty of early speed, should set up well for proven tactical types here. Expect some of the early speed to stick around going the 5f...Linzer earned a career best 90 2 back with blinkers on over synthetic. Missed out to Shards, a former BC Turf Sprint competitor ('23) who just missed in the Elusive Quality next out.

Race 7: Army Officer doesn't offer much for value but seems the one to beat in here. Lasix back last out, blinkers back on today, and this gelding may sit the ideal stalking trip.

Race 8: Sudden Switch has a big step-up here as she runs without Lasix for the first time and in stakes company. Worth noting, Riley Mott is 67% ITM, in 9 starts, with last out winners stepping into non-graded stakes company.

Race 9: Obeissante impressed in the maiden score with her ability to stalk and pounce. Complexity Jane scored in the Weber City Miss, earning a free entry to the Black Eyed Susan, and opts to run here for the first turf try.

Race 10: A very deep field for this edition of the G3 Miss Preakness, seems a race worth taking a bit of a shot. I land with G W's Girl, who came off the bench for her 3 y/o year to earn the highest dirt sprint Beyer (87) of the group.

Race 11: Simply Stated has shown good early pace but I prefer her stalking trips, last out and 3 back. Some concern for outer post but deserves consideration. Gift of Gab ended up on the lead unexpectedly first off the bench, she ran a fantastic effort but shouldn't have the issue forced in here today.

Race 12: Blinkers off for Star of Wonder 2 back has prompted a significant jump in figures but he has yet to try this level or off lasix. Phileas Fogg dazzled with his last out, likely takes control early here.

Race 13: Margie's Intention has been determined in her routing efforts, but she will likely be a short price who has yet to face open company. Reply seems a likely improve as she was valiant in her recent stakes try, on a day that didn't favor many closers.

Race 14: Town Light makes her debut at a generous price for a barn who has done well with debut runners recently. Half to Safeen, she may prefer a bit more ground but deserves a look at 15-1.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

RACE 1

Trainer Stat: #6 - Verifire

Trainer: Brad Cox

Debut Winner, Second Start, First After 61-120 Days: 8 for the last 20 (40%, \$3.07 ROI)

Trainer Stat: #7 - Blo By'em

Trainer: Kieron Magee

Last-Out Maiden Winner, Dirt: 7 for the last 30 (23%, \$2.09 ROI)

RACE 3

Trainer Stat: #9 - Point Dume

Trainer: Kieron Magee

Between 4/22 and 5/13: 29 for 78 (37%, \$2.32 ROI)

RACE 4

Trainer Stat: #8 - Bourbon Boss

Trainer: Michael Pino

Last-Out Winners: 17 for the last 46 (37%, \$2.11 ROI)

RACE 5

Trainer Stat: #7 - Privman

Trainer: Bob Baffert

First After 180-365 Days: 8 for the last 18 (44%, \$2.17 ROI)

Trainer Stat #4 - Ennis Town

Trainer: Mike Trombetta

Experienced Runners, First-Lasix, First-Blinkers: 4 for the last 14 (29%, \$4.07 ROI)

RACE 6

Trainer Stat: #10 - Had to Have Him

Trainer: John Salzman

Between 2/28- 5/10: 3 for 13 (23%, \$2.65 ROI)

RACE 7

Trainer Stat: #7 - Army Officer

Trainer: Brad Cox

Synth to Turf: 4 for last 13 (31%, \$2.67 ROI)

RACE 8

Trainer Stat: #1 - Dazzling Move

Trainer: Saffie Joseph

Blinkers Off: 22 for last 100 (22%, \$2.65 ROI)

RACE 9

Trainer Stat: #9 - Sigh No More

Trainer: Brendan Walsh

Foreign Shippers: 15 for the last 50 (30%, \$2.50 ROI)

Trainer Stat: #3 - Me Governor

Trainer: Carlos David

Third After 61-120 Days: 6 for the last 29 (21%, \$2.24 ROI)

Trainer Stat: #7 - White Rocks

Trainer: Arnaud Delacour

Experienced Runners, First-Turf: 10 for the last 28 (36%, \$5.42 ROI)

Trainer Stat: #8 - Obeissante

Trainer: Todd Pletcher

Last-Out Maiden Winner, Second Route, Turf: 7 for the last 22 (32%, \$2.90 ROI)

RACE 10

Trainer Stat: #8 - Echo Sound

Trainer: Rusty Arnold

First After 120-180 Days: 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$2.08 ROI)

Trainer Stat: #6 - Stunner

Trainer: Brad Cox

Second After 61-120 Days: 5 for the last 18 (28%, \$2.01 ROI)

RACE 11

Trainer Stat: #9 - Loon Cry

Trainer: Christophe Clement

First After 180-365 Days, Turf: 4 for the last 17 (24%, \$2.25 ROI)

Trainer Stat: #2 - Bosserati

Trainer: Brittany Russell

First After 120-180 Days: 14 for the last 52 (27%, \$2.56 ROI)

RACE 13

Trainer Stat: #8 - Amarth

Trainer: Eddie Kenneally

Between 4/12- 5/10: 6 for 25 (24%, \$2.96 ROI)

Trainer Stat: #3 - Margie's Intention

Trainer: Brad Cox

First After Trainer Switch: 24 for the last 27 (34%, \$2.14 ROI)

RACE 14

Trainer Stat: #2 - Roja

Trainer: Graham Motion

Third-Out Maidens, First-Turf: 3 for the last 12 (25%, \$8.13 ROI)

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

For Will Humphrey's Post-Race Trip Notes, please visit <https://inthemoneypodcast.com/maryland-jockey-club-trip-notes/>.

Race 10: Miss Preakness S. (G3), 3YOF, 6F, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
HOLLYGROVE	Serenas Song S., TP, Synth, 6F, 03/29/25 – 3rd	HOLLYGROVE was away alertly but then eased back off the fast early pace & dropped to rear where she chased along the rail to the far turn. She then came under encouragement rounding the far turn & steadily built momentum, advancing into a share of 4 th ~1/4 pole. She then tipped out into the clear 4W & came under a strong ride. From there, she finished willingly into a remote 3 rd but was never reaching the top two. Clean trip. Showed a likable attitude & stayed on well from the back of the field but was never involved on the win end. She'll need more today.
VOLLEYBALLPRINCESS	Beaumont S (G2)., Kee, Sloppy, 7F, 04/06/25 – 3rd	VOLLEYBALLPRINCESS got away well from the inside gate, then took a strong hold & pulled her way forward before being eased back to track the pace along the rail to ~3/8 pole. She was then nudged along as the pace quickened rounding the bend but became outpaced by the top two. She came under a strong ride after tipping out into the clear 3W at the top of the stretch. From there, she tried to respond but became leg weary & plodded home for a poor 3 rd . Perfect rail skimming trip, no excuse, though an okay effort at 18/1. Traveled powerfully early then got tired late, so today's cut back in trip should suit. Took a lot of sloppy dirt inside too which she may have disliked..
HIGH PAF	Alw., Lrl, Fast, 6F, 03/28/25 – 1st	'HP' was not rushed early & settled in rear where she took a strong hold & pulled hard. She was then taken into the clear 5W heading into the turn where, while still under a tight hold, she made a rapid & persistent move around horses, working right up into share of the lead ~1/4. While traveling best, she took a slim lead at the top of the stretch before coming under a strong ride. From there, she kicked well in the stretch & opened up by 2L before gamely holding off the fast finishing favorite late, despite drifting out a touch. Sat a clean trip though was wide on the bend. Love how she sustained an early move & then showed great determination late. A very likable effort for a second time starter who still looked a touch green & can improve further.
G W'S GIRL	Beaumont S (G2)., Kee, Sloppy, 7F, 04/06/25 – 4th	'GWG' broke in a forward position from gate two, then eased back behind horses before being taken to the 3P & sent forward again to stalk the pace in the clear heading into the turn. She didn't travel nearly as well as she usually does heading into the turn, then came under a ride ~3/8 pole but didn't advance, instead just holding her position. Then, ~5/16 pole, she came under a stronger ride but found nothing & stopped. Sat a clean trip though was wide on the bend. She never traveled that well or looked happy. Suspect she didn't like the slop. She's better than this.
FAMILY	Serenas Song S., TP, Synth, 6F, 03/29/25 – 2nd	FAMILY was hustled very hard from the inside gate & eventually found the lead where she set a fast, pressured pace to ~1/4 pole, traveling best. She was then challenged & came under a strong ride. She responded extremely well to pressure & fought very gamely inside all the way to the wire but agonizingly lost the bob. A super effort setting an honest pace & nearly holding on. She had every reason to quit in the stretch but didn't. For a second career start, this was hugely promising & one would hope she can improve again. Action wouldn't put anyone off a dirt try.
STUNNER	Beaumont S (G2)., Kee, Sloppy, 7F, 04/06/25 – 2nd	'STUNNER' was sent to the lead early where she then crossed to the rail & set an honest, pressured pace to ~1/4 pole. She traveled best to the top of the stretch but having then come under a ride, could not go with the winner, despite trying hard, & came home on weary legs for a modest 2 nd . Clean trip. Traveled best setting an honest pace in front, then became weary late. Today's cut back to 6F should help. Was beaten at 4/5 but nobody was beating the winner.

DELRAY	Alw., Aqu, Fast, 7F, 03/28/25 – 1st	‘DELRAY’ was not rushed from the outside gate & sat in rear early, then took a keen hold & pulled her way forward to race just 1L off the pace in the clear 3W heading into the far turn. Under very confident handling, she then cruised upsides the struggling leaders ~¼ pole, took a slim lead ~3/16 pole & was shaken up ~1/8 th pole. Somewhat surprisingly, having looked full of run, she then didn’t quicken away as expected & had to work hard but did manage to eek out a neck victory late. Clean trip though wide. Traveled very powerfully into the race & looked like she’d win by open lengths at the top of the stretch but was then forced to work very hard. Feel that was more her foe being extremely stubborn than her hanging. Liked her attitude late. Having been fully extended though, it’s hard to see her improving a ton today.
ECHO SOUND	Fern Creek S., CD, Fast, 6 1/2F, 11/30/24 – 2nd	‘ES’ was hustled from the inside post, then chased the pace under encouragement ~2L back on the rail to the far turn. She then tipped out into the 2P on the bend & began to advance tight in between foes, turning for home ~3L off the pace but void of a clear path. Under a strong ride & still on her left lead, she then found daylight inside & angled towards the rail before running home well to snag 2 nd late. Clean enough trip – she lacked room at the top of the stretch but was never stopped. Was under encouragement chasing throughout, then stayed on well into 2nd late. Okay effort. Effort followed y layoff.
LONG NECK PAULA	Palisades S, Kee, Sloppy, 5 1/2F, 04/06/25 – 2nd	(Off turf event). ‘LNP’ broke sharp from the inside gate & zipped to the lead early where she comfortably set an honest pace to ~3/8 pole. She was then squeezed along to hold her advantage & responded to pressure but couldn’t prevent the eventual winner eating into her advantage & slipping up her inside to take the lead ~1/4 pole. She turned for home 1/2L down but was clear of 3 rd . She then came under a strong ride & tried admirably to stick with the winner but couldn’t. She then became leg weary inside the final 1/16 & faded. Clean trip setting the pace. Showed great early speed & a very commendable attitude late – there was plenty to like. However, she became leg weary inside the final ~1/16m, possibly raising concerns about her trying 6F at this level today.
MILA ROSE	Alw, Kee, Fast, 6F, 04/17/25 – 1st	‘MR’ broke sharp from the inside gate & vied for the lead early but then eased back to stalk in the pocket ~9/16 pole. From there, she appeared to dislike her first experience of kickback & dropped herself back ~5L off the pace while being scrubbed on. She then came under a stronger ride when still ~5L behind the leaders ~5/16 pole as she was simply holding her position rather than advancing. Her rider then guided her wide at the top of the stretch & under a strong ride, she crept closer to the lead again as the leaders began to tire. She had closed to be ~3L of the lead ~1/8 th pole, then her rider took her fully out of kickback ~1/16 pole & she spurted clear late. Clean trip. Made life hard work for herself as the 7/5 fav as she seemingly resisted the kickback & dropped herself well back. It was only when fully clear late that she spurted into the lead. Will need to be more professional today but at least we know that she can improve upon this effort.
YOU’LL BE BACK	Virginia Oaks, Cnl, Fast, 1 1/16m, 03/15/25 – 5th	‘YBB’ broke sharp but was then eased back to track the dueling leaders ~2-3W heading to the far turn. She was then hustled along & tried to make an advance from ~1/2 mile pole but failed to do so & dropped back slightly. Having then come under a strong ride off the bend, she ran home at one pace before gradually fading late. Clean trip though was wide on the turn. Traveled well but was then one paced late & needed more. Not certain she wants today’s extras yardage.
VODKA WITH A TWIST	Santa Anita Oaks (G2), SA, Fast, 1 1/16m, 04/05/25 – 3rd	‘VWAT’ broke a beat slow & got away last, then chased the pace along the rail under a very strong hold, running up on heels a touch rounding the first turn. She eventually settled into a nice rhythm along the rail ~1.5L off the speed running to ~5/8 pole, then she made an early move to pressure the leader in the 2P. She traveled best ~0.5L off the pace 2W to ~5/16 pole, then came under a strong ride but found disappointingly little off the bridle & became very leg weary late, plodding home for a remote 3rd. Clean enough trip. Was keen in behind horses, then made an early move before flattening. She was very leg weary late & today’s cut back will no doubt be more to her liking, though she’ll need to work a trip if she breaks today like she did in this race.
NOT TOO LATE	Alw., Lrl, Muddy, 6F, 04/12/25 – 5th	‘NTL’ broke in, hit the gate & got away slowly before chasing the pace under a tight hold along the rail to ~3/8 pole. Her rider then asked her to advance rounding into the stretch, but she initially struggled to do so. She then came under a stronger ride at the top of the stretch & angled out into the clear 5W but failed to menace at one pace. Made a hash of the start & then struggled to get back into the race, despite a relatively clean trip. Will need to break better & show more today.

Race 12: Pimlico Special S. (G3), 3YO+, 1 3/16M, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
PHILEAS FOGG	Excelsior S., Aqu, Fast, 1 1/4m, 04/05/25 – 1st	'PF' was sent forward early while staying way out in the 6P but was out sped for the lead & so chased the fast pace in 2 nd while staying in the 3-4P. He found a nice rhythm & chased the lone leader to ~5/8 pole, then gradually began reeling in that foe, drawing upsides ~3/8 pole. He then quickly inherited the lead, came under slight pressure & opened up a clear lead before coming under a stronger ride ~3/16 pole & drawing further away. Clean trip chasing lone leader. Interesting he seemed to be purposely kept wide? Reeled the leader in then powered away with energetic strides. Much the best with potentially more to offer.
CATALEYA STRIKE	Native Dancer S., Lrl, Muddy, 1 1/8m, 04/12/25 – 1st	'CS' broke out from the outside post & hit the gate which resulted in him getting away in last. He was patiently ridden 3-4W around the first turn, then came under encouragement running down the back stretch when ~11L off the strong pace. He responded to pressure & gradually crept closer heading into the far turn, building momentum which he then carried up the rail to be just 5L behind ~5/16 pole. From there, he came under a stronger ride, tipped out into the clear 5W & rallied, drawing alongside the weary leader ~1/8 th pole before forging ahead late. Clean trip. Broke slow & lagged behind early, then stayed on best. The hot early pace completely fell apart here, setting it up for him perfectly which potentially warrants a downgrade?
ENCINO	Kentucky Cup S. (G3), TP, Synth, 1 1/8m, 03/22/25 – 2nd	ENCINO broke sharp, crossed to the rail & set an honest, uncontested lead to the far turn. His lead was then reduced entering the far turn & he came under encouragement. Gamely, he responded to pressure & held his lead to the top of the stretch, despite persistently being pressured by the eventual winner. He then came under a strong ride at the top of the stretch & fought very gamely along the rail to the 1/16 pole but then faded in the dying strides. Clean trip setting the pace. Ran a huge race. Responded very willingly to pressure though the stretch & went down on his sword with a big gap back to 3rd. Can he improve upon this?
AWESOME AARON	Alw, OP, Fast, 1 1/16m, 04/12/25 – 1st	'AA' was hustled to the front early & vied for the lead 2W around the first turn before easing back to stalk under a tight hold ~1/4L back heading into the far turn. He then cruised back upsides the leader entering the far turn, took a clear lead while travelling best under a hold ~1/4 pole & then came under a ride off the bend. From there, he opened up under a hand ride & drew away for an easy score. Clean trip on the front end. With blinkers off, he helped set an honest pace that cooked his rivals, then drew off easily late. Much the best with seemingly more to offer. Impressive.
TIME FOR TROUBLE	Ben Ali S. (G3), Kee, Fast, 1 3/16m, 04/19/25 – 4th	'TFT' was not rushed from the gate & dropped well off the fast pace early where he remained, while racing along the rail, to the back stretch. He then tipped into the 2P & gradually crept closer heading into the far turn, working to be ~4L off the pace 2-3W entering the far turn. He then tried to make an advance around the outside of horses rounding the turn but lacked the pace to seriously get involved. He then came under a strong ride & stayed on willingly past tiring foes but never threatened. Clean trip. Had the right setup as a closer but still failed to get involved, despite trying hard. No excuse. Will need more today.
JUST STEEL	Churchill Downs S. (G1), CD, Sloppy, 7F, 05/03/25 – 6th	'JS' lacked speed from the inside gate & dropped to the rear of the body of the field early ~4-5L off the pace where he chased the pace to the far turn. He then came under a ride but failed to advance on the turn & turned for home ~5L off the pace. From there, he finished at one pace along the rail for 6 th . Was never involved on the win end & lacked pace for the distance but didn't run a terrible race at 33/1. He stayed on well enough late on & showed a determined attitude to be beaten not far by some very talented horses. This race could have left him sharp for today.
PYRENEES	BC Classic (G1), Dmr, Fast, 1 1/4m, 11/02/25 – 7th	'PYRENEES' was not rushed from the gate & settled into an isolated mid-pack position, ~9L off the red-hot pace heading into & around the first turn to ~5/8 pole. He was then joined by rivals who were closing from behind him heading into the far turn & he advanced with then to be travelling well with good momentum ~6L off the pace between horses ~3/8 pole. However, he was then put in tight & forced to steady which checked his forward momentum slightly. Admirably, he tried to recover & rebuilt some momentum but was still ~8L off the lead ~3/16 pole & having then been floated 6W into the stretch, he could only finish evenly for a well beaten 7 th . At 64/1, he didn't run a terrible race. He was making headway when forced to check at a crucial point which hindered his chances, but it was impressive to see him then reengage & rebuild his momentum. He showed a likable attitude & tactical versatility as he's usually much more forward. Massively outran his odds. No disgrace in a 7th in the BC Classic. Can be more forward than this.
STAR OF WONDER	Alw, Aqu, Fast, 1m, 04/04/25 – 1st	'SOW' was away slowly & in rear early but then managed to work forward along the rail while under gentle encouragement to adopt a pocket stalking position heading into the far turn. He rode the rail under further encouragement around the far turn & advanced into a share of 2 nd ~3/8 pole but was then forced to wait for a way out. He patiently waited for room under a hold on the leader's heels to the top of the stretch, then the rail opened & he punched on through to take a share of the lead ~1/8 th pole & gamely fended off a stubborn foe late. Had to work to earn his close-up stalking position & didn't travel that well early but then seemed to travel better & better as the

		race went on. He punched though a hole nicely at the top off the stretch & then showed a game attitude. A nice enough effort off the layoff; he surely has more to offer.
RED ROUTE ONE	Oaklawn H. (G2)., OP, Fast, 1 1/8m, 04/19/25 – 6th	‘RRO’ broke slowly from the outside gate, despite being hustled along & dropped to last early. He then crossed to the 2P heading into the first turn & chased the pace between horses to ~9/16 pole. He then came under some encouragement heading into & around the far turn but failed to really advance & having then come under a hard ride ~1/4 pole, weakened further late. He also made a late lead change. Was always in rear & never progressed. His finish was poor & his late lead change didn’t help. Uninspiring.
SAN SIRO	Ben Ali S. (G3)., Kee, Fast, 1 3/16m, 04/19/25 – 2nd	Having broken cleanly from the rail draw, ‘SS’ eased back to stalk the pace under a tight hold in the pocket. He traveled very powerfully on the leader’s heels to the ~7/16 pole, then tipped out into the 3P & tried to advance between horses but found himself in a touch tight & so dove back to the inside~1/4 pole where a gap had emerged. From there, he came under a strong ride & stayed on gamely to ~1/16 pole, despite being in very tight against the rail. The gap he was trying to punch on through then became even slimmer inside the final 1/16 & he had to steady slightly before settling for 2 nd . Traveled very powerfully in the pocket, possibly waiting to get going a touch longer than he’d have liked, then had a somewhat troubled final 5/16. Upgradable effort. He looks all stamina – the faster they go the better.

Race 13: George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan S. (G2), 3YOF, 1 1/8M, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
LIAM IN THE DUST	Alw, Kee, Sloppy, 1 1/16m, 04/06/25 – 2nd	‘LITD’ broke sharpest & was sent forward to the lead heading into the far turn but was outsped by the eventual winner & so dropped back to closely stalk the pace under a hold in the clear 2W to the far turn. She then briefly drew alongside the leader ~1/4 pole but was quickly turned away & put on the back foot. From there, she came under a strong ride & looked as if she could fade out of it but instead stayed on willingly & re-rallied late, missing by just 3/4L. Clean trip. Had no excuse but she did run a likable race here & finished as if she’ll relish the return to 1 1/8m today.
PRINCESS ALIYAH	Eight Belles S. (G2)., CD, Sloppy, 7F, 05/02/25 – 10th	‘PA’ was not rushed from the gate & quickly dropped to the rear of the field where she was patiently ridden 3W to the far turn. She then tried to make a 4W move on the far turn but, while giving away plenty of ground, failed to do so. She turned for home 4-5W, ~12L off the pace & under a strong ride. From there, she failed to menace. Clean trip though wide on the turn. At 25/1, she was outrun & never threatened. A stretch out in trip today can help her get into the race more.
MARGIE’S INTENTION	Crescent City Oaks, FG, Fast, 1m 70yds, 03/22/25 – 2nd	‘MI’ was slightly flat footed from the gate despite being hustled, then settled into a mid-pack position ~2-3L off the lead in the clear 3-4W heading down the back stretch. She then came under encouragement ~3/8 pole while 4W on the bend & gradually advanced to the top of the stretch, despite giving away plenty of ground. From the ¼ pole, she came under a strong ride & then rallied steadily down the centre but could not reach the leader. She then galloped out nicely. Sat a wide trip which cost her significant ground. Made a persistent bid from ~3/8 pole but could not reach the gate to wire winner. Today’s extra yardage will help. Likable in defeat.
RUNNIN N GUNNIN	Fantasy S. (G2)., OP, Fast, 1 1/16m, 03/29/25 – 3rd	‘RNG’ lacked foot from the outside gate, got hung 4-5W entering the first turn, then worked down to the 2P & dropped to rear. She chased the pace ~8L behind to ~9/16 pole, then began to stay on past tiring foes under minimal urging into & around the far turn. She had no chance with then eventual 1-2 finishers, but did stay on well enough to the wire to inherit a remote 3 rd late. Clean enough trip. Was never involved for the win end but did manage to stay on for a mediocre 3rd late. Not a bad effort at 12/1, but she’ll likely need more today.
KINZIE QUEEN	Alw, OP, Fast, 1 1/16m, 04/26/25 – 1st	‘KQ’ broke cleanly but then quickly dropped to rear, took the first bend 3W & patiently watched the action while wide to the far turn. She then came under encouragement on the far turn & began to make a steady advance around horses, moving to be ~2L off the pace 5W with good momentum turning for home. From there, she came under a strong ride & carried her momentum forward to join the leaders ~1/8 th pole before drawing away late. Clean trip though was wide on the bend. Travelled well behind horses, then circled the field & drew off as a much the best winner, possibly with more to offer.
PARIS LILY	Alw, Kee, Sloppy, 1 1/16m, 04/06/25 – 1st	‘PL’ was hustled hard from the rail draw & worked into the lead heading into the first turn. She then set an honest pace while being pressured slightly to the far turn where she was strongly taken on for the lead & came under slight encouragement. She responded willingly to pressure ~5/16 pole & shook off her challenger, opening up ~1L lead at the top of the stretch, traveling well. From there, she came under a strong ride & held well to the wire, though her lead was reduced again by the re-rallying runner up late. A solid effort setting an honest pace & then gutting it out to the wire. Was being closed down by the re-opposing LIAM IN THE DUST in the closing stages though which raises concerns about today’s stretch out in trip.

REPLY	Weber City Miss S., Lrl, Fast, 1 1/16m, 04/19/25 – 2nd	‘REPLY’ lacked speed from the inside gate & dropped to a remote last early where she was patiently ridden under a hold to ~1/2 mile pole. She was then taken to the outside of horses 4W & asked to make a move on the turn. She did to an extent, but in a labored fashion, and was still ~5L off the lead when coming under a strong ride ~1/4 pole. From there, she dove back to the rail where a gap had emerged & under a very strong ride, continued grinding into a share of 2nd ~1/8 th pole, then took a bump but shook it off. Late, she continued closing on the leader steadily but missed. She then galloped out in front. Clean trip though briefly a touch wide on the far turn. She bumped in the stretch but that was insignificant in the grand scheme of things. Defined the word ‘grinder’ – did nothing in a hurry but stayed on well. Surely has more to offer after just two starts. Today’s extras yardage will help. The faster they go the better.
AMARTH	Ashland S. (G1)., Kee, Fast, 1 1/16m, 04/07/25 – 5th	‘AMRATH’ was hustled hard from the gate but lacked the speed to make the lead, then got caught 5-6W on the first turn where she raced carrying her head awkwardly. She then dropped back in behind horses when straightened down the back stretch & raced ~4L off the pace tight in between horses at the back of a tightly grouped field. Then, around the far turn, as the pace quickened in front, she became a touch outpaced & came under a strong ride while 4W but failed to keep up & from there, she was never involved. However, she did stay on okay at one pace past tired rivals into 5th late on. Clean trip though was caught wide on both turns. At 32/1, she became outpaced/outclassed on the far turn & never threatened, however, she did stay on well enough late. Today’s extra yardage & class drop will help her.
MOON CACHE	Weber City Miss S., Lrl, Fast, 1 1/16m, 04/19/25 – 3rd	‘MC’ bobbled leaving the outside gate but showed good athleticism to recover & work her way into a close stalking position 4W on the first turn. She traveled powerfully stalking the pace in the clear 3W to the far turn, then came under encouragement to go after the leader. She failed to advance on the strong traveling leader; however, she did hold her position well & having then come under a strong ride at the top of the stretch, rallied admirably alongside another foe late to finish 1L behind the winner, just missing the place spot. Clean trip though was caught wide on the first turn. Traveled into the race well & overall ran a likable race, staying on well late. Needs to get a little faster maybe, but today’s extra yardage should help.

Horses to Follow

R10: G W’S GIRL (12/1 ML)

G W’S GIRL is listed at 12/1 on the morning line for today’s G3 Miss Preakness S. due to her flop in the Beaumont S. last out. However, forgiving handicappers can cross a line through that race and give her another chance at an inflated price. As stated in the trip notes, she never traveled or looked comfortable in that race, and there’s no doubt that, having earned a measly Beyer speed figure of 39, something was amiss. Connections appear confident she’s back in form now though, or they wouldn’t be running her here, and if one looks to her prior two dirt starts as a truer indication of her ability, she’s extremely live in today’s spot. Earlier this year, in the Mockingbird S. and Dixie Belle S. at Oaklawn Park, she demonstrated two different running styles but produced the same result each time - blowout wins. For those efforts, she earned Beyer speed figures of 87 and 84 which are two of the fastest on offer in this race, and if able to bounce back to that level, she’ll be fighting out the finish today at a decent price. She should get an ideal pace setup and with Compton’s barn firing at 24% right now, it may be unwise to dismiss her.

R11: AWESOME AARON (12/1 ML)

A tremendous field has been assembled for this year’s G3 Pimlico Special S., and at a tempting price, AWESOME AARON shouldn’t be dismissed. Last time out, per the trip notes, the 6-year-old gelded son of PRACTICAL JOKE demolished a top-tier allowance field at Oaklawn Park with a 104 Beyer - the highest last out figure in this race. Viewed alongside his overall body of work, the validity of that speed figure can be questioned. However, not only was he visually striking in victory and looked every bit a stakes quality performer, but it was also the first-time racing without blinkers since his debut in 2022. Therefore, there’s a chance that the equipment change simply unlocked the key to him and that there was nothing suspicious about the speed figure. If that is the case and he’s able to replicate a similar level of form today, 12/1 will be made to look a very big price. He should sit the right stalking trip and the stretch out in distance looks sure to suit too.

R12: AMARTH (4/1 ML)

The featured G2 Black-Eyed Susan Stakes looks a typically competitive affair this year and a case can be made for every runner. At 4/1 on the morning line, the eye is particularly drawn to AMARTH, who arrives off an eye-catching fifth place finish in the G1 Ashland S. last out. Per the the trip notes, the daughter of McKinzie stayed on with interest at odds of 32/1 that day, despite having been caught wide on both turns, to finish within nine lengths of leading 3-year-old fillies, LA CARA, TAKE CHARGE MILADY and MUHIMMA. Adding weight to that form, LOOK FORWARD, who trailed her by two lengths, went on to win the G2 Eight Belles S. next out. For Eddie Kenneally’s charge, the Ashland was her second straight overachievement, following a 23/1 runner-up finish to future Kentucky Oaks contender DREXEL HILL in the Busher S. the time before. Having twice held her own against the country’s top 3-year-old fillies, AMARTH looks primed for a breakthrough this afternoon as she drops down to G2 company. The stretch to 1 1/8 miles and a likely brisk pace should suit her perfectly, and with some of the field’s best speed figures, plus Luis Saez in the saddle, she’s a compelling pick at a fair price.

FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH

PERSIAN

Trainer: Linda Albert

Last race: Nov. 3, 4th

Finish: 4th by 7 1/4

Shuffled back to last on the rail behind a tiring pacesetter, she finished evenly along the fence in a race that produced three next-out winners.

ROYAL WINTOUR

Trainer: Graham Motion

Last Race: April 26, 10th

Finish: 6th by 4 3/4

Beaten favorite experienced a challenging journey in her 2025 debut. Raced in traffic and between horses at almost every juncture, angled out 4-5 wide turning for home, then wider in the final furlong. Hoping for better trip next start on turf.

MIKES MO TOWN

Trainer: Carlos Mancilla

Last Race: Mar. 21, 5th

Finish: 6th by 13 3/4

Tracked in between rivals, dropped down to the pocket on the turn, then failed to threaten a pace-pressing runaway winner over a speed-friendly track. Perhaps he needs weaker company, so he's worth a follow at the dime maiden level here, or against nickel sellers at Charles Town.

TWAIN *(Entered Preakness Day – Race 11)*

Trainer: Madison Meyers

Last Race: April 19, 3rd

Finish: 1st by 3/4

3-year-old Kitten's Joy colt brought a sustained run after being angled out for clear sailing in 5 1/2 MSW event. Added distance probably not out of the question.

LEVISA

Trainer: Richard Sillaman

Last Race: April 4, 8th

Finish: 5th by 14

OURDAYDREAMINGGIRL *(Breezed 4F – 49.45 at PRX on 4/15)*

Trainer: Lou Linder

Last Race: Feb. 22, 7th

Finish: 4th by 2 1/2

Steadied in opening stages of the Wide Country Stakes, angled out six wide entering the stretch, then closed willingly while drifting out.

PACO THE TACO MAN

Trainer: Annette Eubanks

Last race: Dec. 13, 1st

Finish: 4th by 4

Might have been too aggressive in the early stages of recent \$30,000 “beaten” seller as he battled for the lead in a race that went to closers. He’s a proven commodity from off the pace and might opt for those tactics next time.

LOVE ME TENDER

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

Last race: Nov. 30, 8th

Finish: 7th by 6 3/4

Raced 4 wide in the City of Laurel, stalking a duel (22.43, 44.97), then made a slight run with one furlong to go. Should be able to score with slight step back in class.

MISSED THE TURN

Trainer: Genevieve Londono

Last Race: March 30, 4th

Finish: 2nd by 4 3/4

3-year-old a different sort since gelded, adding Lasix and landing in Maryland. Gritty effort against the talented Slam Notion in latest, registering a 19-point jump on the Beyer scale.

CUZ UR PRETTY

Trainer: Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon

Last Race: April 19, 6th

Finish: 1st by 8 1/2

Set a pressured pace outside the 9-1 last-finisher, cleared to the rail to face a challenge from the 9-2 runner-up, then tired very badly as favorite in a race won by a deep closer. She's inconsistent, but she's also fast, and she fits in a conditioned \$7,500 claimer that lacks other early speed.

GREY FLANNEL BOSS

Trainer: Kerry Hohlbein

Last Race: April 13, 4th

Finish: 4th by 4 3/4

Much-improved effort second off the claim. Got into extended pace scrum, then showed gritty comeback after looking beaten at the head of the lane going a one-turn mile.

ADMIT NOTHING

Trainer: Carlos Mancilla

Last Race: March 29, 3rd

Finish: 2nd by head

Pressed the pace outside the 7-1 last-place finisher, made the front in between that one and the 3-1 fourth-finisher on the second turn, then gamely battled the good-setup, odds-on closer in the final furlong to just miss. In-form gray fits going middle-distances at the \$12,500 "non-three" level.

WHENIGETTOHEAVEN *(Breezed 4F - :52.40 at KEE on 5/13)*

Trainer: Nolan Ramsey

Last Race: April 19, 8th

Finish: 3rd by 2 3/4

Bumped at start, then sent up between horses while involved in a three-way pace skirmish around the turn. Stayed on through the stretch behind speedy Fore Harp and Maryland Champion Witty.

CLASSIC JOKE

Trainer: Anthony Farrior

Last Race: April 27, 5th

Finish: 2nd by neck

Got back to turf and ran a bang-up second despite trouble. Stymied along the rail from the far turn to upper stretch, the 4-year-old was altered out for clear sailing and came with a furious run to just miss to the fave. Claimed by Farrior, and the new connections catch a break with the "saved" NW3L condition.

Sanchez-Salomon runner bounced back in a big way after troubled Colonial try. Right to the front against OCLM-NW2X F&M and rolled from there posting a 90 Beyer Speed Figure.

ST PETE'S PASSION

Trainer: Clyde Martin Jr.

Last Race: April 4, 3rd

Finish: 4th by 3

Broke well in one-turn mile event but wound up tracking the pace three-four wide in a tight pack behind a gate-to-wire winner. Churned on evenly in the stretch as the beaten favorite. Fits at the \$45,000 level here, or in a maiden special weight out of town.

BRIGHTNESS *(Entered Delaware Park – Sat 5/17, Race 3)*

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Last Race: April 18, 6th

Finish: 2nd by 3 1/2

Improved performance when adding blinkers second out. Raced 4 deep early, then 3 wide around the far turn. Gave chase to energetic winner Ready For Magic in mid-stretch, then kept on gamely while well clear for place spot.

MOPO *(Entered Today at Pimlico – Race 2)*

Trainer: Phil Capuano

Last Race: April 25, 5th

Finish: 2nd by 3

3-year-old filly may have found her niche after being transferred to turf and sent long. Took pressure through solid internals and held well to the wire after being headed by a heavy favorite from the BTR barn.

EFF THIRTY FIVE

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: April 18, 9th

Finish: 1st by 3 3/4

BTR trainee excelling on grass right now. Dominated OCML-NW2X field with strong off the pace surge. Kept on eagerly through gallop. Stakes company might be next.

YO ADRIAN *(Entered at Laurel – Fri 5/23, Race 4)*

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: April 25, 3rd

Finish: 2nd by 1/2

The Elkstone Group homebred got off to a rocky start (shuffled) in her debut, dropping 17 lengths off the early pace, and finished with a big flourish in the final sixteenth to the speedy winner. Appears to have some turf talent.

THIS IS GOOD

Trainer: Michael Trombetta

Last Race: April 26, 3rd

Finish: 3rd by 5

Off to an awkward break and pinched back at the start, yet demonstrated some grit and class while making up several lengths in the stretch run. Looking forward to his next turf sprint.

CHESAPEAKE DREAM

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last Race: April 25, 4th

Finish: 3rd by 3

Sent up between horses early through a white-hot first quarter, then continued to duel through a strong half, tiring in the final sixteenth. Tab back in dirt allowance sprint up to 7 furlongs.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 2: Flavien Prat: #1 - Protective Custody; #12 - Software >>> **Prat rides SOFTWARE**

Race 2: Angel Cruz: #9 - Loving Gaze; #11 - Bestorburden >>> **Cruz rides LOVING GAZE**

Race 3: Angel Cruz: #8 - Crossland; #10 - Classic Joke >>> **Cruz rides CLASSIC JOKE**

Race 4: Jean Briceno: #7 - Incinerator; #11 - Claudee Boy >>> **Briceno rides CLAUDEE BOY**

Race 5: Weston Hamilton: #6 - Decorum; #8 - Breezing Up >>> **Hamilton rides BREEZING UP**

Race 6: Tyler Conner: #4 - Noble Jon; #6 - Fierce and Strong >>> **Conner rides FIERCE AND STRONG**

Race 7: Carol Cedeno: #3 - Worthington; #6 - Sharp Tones >>> **Cedeno rides WORTHINGTON**

Race 14: Victor Carrasco: #5 - Mo Hype; #6 - Town Light >>> **Carrasco rides TOWN LIGHT**

PAST TRACK TRENDS

LAUREL:

Feb. 1 – SPEED BIAS
Feb. 2 – CLOSERS BIAS
Feb. 7 – SPEED BIAS
Feb. 8 – CLOSERS BIAS
Feb. 9 – Fair
Feb. 14 – Fair
Feb. 15 – SPEED BIAS
Feb. 16 – Fair
Feb. 21 – Fair
Feb. 22 – Fair

Feb. 23 – Fair
Feb. 28 – Fair
Mar. 1 – Fair
Mar. 2 – Fair
Mar. 7 – CLOSERS BIAS
Mar. 8 – Fair
Mar. 9 – Fair
Mar. 21 – SPEED BIAS
Mar. 22 – Fair
Mar. 23 – Fair
Mar. 28 – Fair

Mar. 29 – Fair
Mar. 30 – Fair
Apr. 4 – Fair
Apr. 5 – Fair
Apr. 6 – Fair
Apr. 11 – Fair
Apr. 12 – CLOSERS BIAS
Apr. 13 – SPEED BIAS
Apr. 18 – INSIDE BIAS
Apr. 19 – Fair
Apr. 25 – Fair

Apr. 26 – SPEED BIAS
Apr. 27 – Fair
May 2 – Fair
May 3 – CLOSERS BIAS
May 4 – CLOSERS BIAS

PIMLICO:

May 9 – Fair
May 10 – CLOSERS BIAS
May 11 – Fair