



## PIMLICO HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Friday, May 9

First post is **12:10 PM ET** with 12% takeout on Value Pick 5 wagers (first five races; last five races).

- Catch TMJC's "Today at the Races" morning simulcast show LIVE on YouTube [@Maryland Racing](#) at 11:05 AM ET for late changes, plus today's top tickets and best plays.
- Follow the action throughout the day on your preferred ADW, on X [@PimlicoRC](#), [@LaurelPark](#) and [@DanIllman\\_MJC](#), on Instagram [@marylandjockeyclub](#) and on TikTok [@marylandjockeyclub](#).
- Get FREE PPs for today's card from *Daily Racing Form*! To access, visit <https://promos.drf.com/pimlico-pps>.

## TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE TMJC TEAM



KEITH FEUSTLE



KALI FRANCOIS



DAN ILLMAN



MACKENZIE PFEIFFER



DAVE RODMAN



TIM TULLOCK

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

## TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

### >> RACE 1

#### 1. EFFICACY

#### 2. BAND TOUR

#### 3. DOOR GUNNER JOE

First post time is 12:10 ET with low 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **EFFICACY** was outsprinted behind a quick pace in final start last year, altered outside, then finished evenly with a good gallop-out. The fifth-finisher next graduated in a \$30,000 maiden claimer at Fair Grounds with a 71 Beyer before running third in a starter/first-level allowance there with a 71. Has the pedigree and body type to appreciate extra distance for trainer-jock combo that sent out 6-5 winner Tom Hagen following a 166-day break on 4/25. **BAND TOUR** has had chances, but his form is dirtied-up due to three poor starts on dirt, and he's outrun his odds on occasion on grass. Thought he ran pretty well in that 10/11 heat as he saved ground behind a fast pace while racing in a bit tight on the fence, then picked his way through a good amount of traffic. **DOOR GUNNER JOE**'s dam improved drastically once switched to turf, and the second dam was a stakes-winning turf miler with a 94 Beyer top on grass. OWHATANITE, MOONFLYER and ON SECRET SERVICE all deserve consideration if able to escape the Also Eligible list. Perhaps FORCED ATTITUDE will show a bit more positional speed stretching out off the layoff after being wired. The runner-up then placed in a \$40,000 maiden claimer there with a 39 Beyer. KEVIN OF BLACKROCK switches surfaces as a half-brother to stakes-placed turf router Judi Blue Eyes (78 turf Beyer). MYLUCKEYVALENTINE faced three next-out winners in lone turf start with the third-finisher taking two in a row with a 67 Beyer top. MYCROFT switches surfaces out of stakes-placed turf router Shesanaturalblonde 81 turf Beyer).

### >> RACE 2

#### 1. ABUELO PAPS

#### 2. BEACH COWBOY

#### 3. MIDNIGHT RENEGADE

The long layoff is a concern with **ABUELO PAPS**, who has been away 288 days after clipping heels and losing the rider at Delaware. Equaled today's Beyer par in his prior start, however. Tracked a reasonable pace while three wide, made a three-wide bid on the turn under urging, then got away from them late. Has the tactical speed to get close to the pace for barn that went 3 for the last 10 (30%, \$2.16 ROI) returning from 180-365 day layoffs. **BEACH COWBOY** pressed outside the 5-2 last-finisher, attacked in between and made the lead and the rail, then changed back to his left lead when tiring a bit. The winner next ran third in a \$30,000 starter-optional with an 83 Beyer. Figures right there when the field turns for home. **MIDNIGHT RENEGADE** was reclaimed by Gaudet following a less-than-ideal trip. Rushed up five wide to track the pace, pressed three wide at the three-eighths, was urged along outside on the turn, then understandably tired. The seventh-finisher next ran second in a \$7,500 "non-four" at Parx with a 65 Beyer. Could use a bit of pace help up front.

### >> RACE 3

#### 1. ELLINGER

#### 2. THUNDER LAD

#### 3. ELUSIVE IMAGE

**ELLINGER** switches surfaces out of an unraced half-sister to Grade 1-winning turf router Nereid and stakes-winning turf router Sea Queen (90 turf Beyer).

New barn went 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$2.84 ROI) with experienced runners trying turf for the first time, including 10-1 winner Guaponess off the claim last year at Pimlico. Also want to use **THUNDER LAD** in multiple-race wagers after being overmatched against state-sired allowance runners. Outpaced to race outside in midpack, he made a three-wide bid, then wasn't persevered with when beaten. Faced two next-out winners with Tall Order repeating in a \$20,000 starter with an 83 Beyer. Briceno lands here instead of **ELUSIVE IMAGE**, seemed a bit fractious prior to his most recent appearance, then couldn't go with Toolpusher, who next ran second in a first-level allowance with a 75 Beyer. Lone win came around two turns. PALLINO, CHILL BOSS and ROBERT'S MOON all deserve a look of able to escape the Also Eligible list. Perhaps SHARP RED EAGLE will show speed off the layoff. Acted up before the turf start two back before facing two next-out winners with the third-finisher then taking a \$16,000 conditioned claimer at Tampa with a 72 Beyer. TWIRLING EXPRESS wasn't away the best last time, raced four wide in midpack, came even wider, then finished up on his left lead when wired by the favorite. EL JUNIOR switches surfaces out of stakes-placed turf sprinter Eye On Berlin (78 turf Beyer).

## >> RACE 4

### 1. RAPIDITY

### 2. WOODLINE

### 3. DEWY'S BEAST

**RAPIDITY** won his last two on fast dirt and races "bar shoe off" after rallying into a slow pace to finish second. Outrun early to settle at the back, he made a quick three-four wide bid into contention before settling for the runner-up position. Expect a solid late kick. **WOODLINE** hit the board in his last five, but gets tested shipping in from Charles Town. Found excellent position tracking a quick pace duel, made a three-wide bid on the second turn, grabbed a brief lead, then faltered. The runner-up next ran third in a "non-three" allowance there with a 66 Beyer. **DEWY'S BEAST** received no breathers at Keeneland, battling inside the 7-1 winner through splits of 22.82 and 22.84 before giving way. Drew an excellent attack post and can sit a nice trip tracking while outside and in the clear. LITTLE BIT RISKY was rated off the advantageous inside footing last month, then still stayed on for third after moving outside. The fourth-finisher next won a \$12,500 "non-two" by 13 lengths with a 71 Beyer. Dangerous early speed. BERMUDA RUN repeats the turf to dirt move that resulted in maiden victory. In tough on dirt two back against odds-on New York shipper Exploration with the fourth-finisher then running third for the \$40,000 claiming option with an 82 Beyer.

## >> RACE 5

### 1. MELANCIA

### 2. MISS OUTTA MY WAY

### 3. STARS ALIGN

**MELANCIA**, listed as an Aqueduct vet scratch (sick) on 4/25, switches surfaces out of a half-sister to Grade 2-placed turf router Mandarin Marsh. Expect early speed for barn that went 7 for the last 20 (35%, \$4.57 ROI) in Maryland. **MISS OUTTA MY WAY** is a half to stakes-winning turf router Gold Digging Broad (85 wet-dirt Beyer) out of stakes-winning dirt miler Brushed by Love (81 dirt Beyer). That dam is a full to multiple stakes-winning dirt router Not Abroad (100 dirt Beyer). The second dam is a Grade 3-winning dirt router. **STARS ALIGN** is the first foal out of stakes-winning dirt sprinter Song From Above (68 dirt Beyer; won debut), herself a half to stakes-placed dirt sprinter Tom's Song (52 Beyer; won debut). VEOLA deserves a look if able to escape the Also Eligible list. LADY LENA was no match for odds-on Gulfstream shipper In This Moment, but can kick on late if the pace is fast. KISSED AT DAWN drops after facing favored Ithinkiloveyou. TEDDY'S LUCKY GIRL switches surfaces as a half to stakes-winning turf sprinter John Jones (98 dirt Beyer). MY LADY BAE switches surfaces out of stakes-placed turf sprinter Madame X. (90 turf Beyer). FAHNEE is a full to stakes-winning turf sprinter Fiya (100 turf Beyer).

## >> RACE 6

### 1. CROSS OF VALOR

### 2. BRIGHTNESS

### 3. MA MA MA MY VEKOMA

Taking a guess with **CROSS OF VALOR**, who must take a step forward after finishing behind a couple of these. Broke in a bit, pressed three wide and in between over a rail-friendly track, attacked in between on the turn, then tired after angling to the fence. She has speed, and shouldn't be too far away when the real racing commences. **BRIGHTNESS** could be the horse to beat as she simply ran better than the top pick on 4/18. Pressed four wide while well off the good rail, made a three-wide bid, then stayed for second behind the pacesetting winner. Expect rail speed for barn that went 7 for the last 18 (39%, \$3.14 ROI) with third-out maidens on dirt. **MA MA MA MY VEKOMA** (\$170,000 yearling) is a half-sister to multiple stakes-winning dirt sprinter Whereshetoldmetogo (102 dirt Beyer; won debut) out of a winning half to multiple stakes-winning dirt performer Celestial Legend (92 dirt Beyer; won first six starts), stakes-winning dirt router Amie's Legend (86 dirt Beyer; won debut), and stakes-placed dirt router Legendary Journey (86 turf Beyer). Barn went 24 for the last 54 (44%, \$2.20 ROI) with debut runners on dirt. There's a chance this pace gets hot, and that helps ANITA BEER, who just finished ahead of Ithinkiloveyou, a next-out runner-up for the maiden \$45,000 with a 59 Beyer before graduating on turf with a 73.

## >> RACE 7

### 1. SELL SOMETHING

### 2. UNINVITED GUEST

### 3. WISH ME HOME

**SELL SOMETHING** scored after 141-day break to kick off 2023 season, so perhaps he'll be ready to rumble following 195-day layoff. Sat an excellent pocket trip last time, angled three wide, then stayed on in between for a minor award. Perhaps he's more effective when taking back and making one run. **UNINVITED GUEST** raced near the back while in between and behind a fast pace in most recent turf try, eased out into the stretch, then hopped back to his left lead when leaned on by an inner foe. The winner then ran third in a high-level allowance with an 86 Beyer. Barn went 5 for the last 24 (21%, \$2.10 ROI) returning from layoffs between 61 and 120 days. Rodriguez departs for stablemate Bode's Maker. **WISH ME HOME** tracked outside at Fair Grounds, was placed on a hard chase to go after the loose leader, then gamely held third. The winner then ran third in a \$30,000 conditioned allowance there with a 78 Beyer. Boasts good tactical speed for barn that went 5 for the last 12 (42%, \$5.27 ROI) after 120-180 day layoffs. TRANSACTIONAL stretches out with the speed to grab the lead. BODE'S MAKER took advantage of golden rail when rallying for second on dirt at Parx, but that was a nice try off a long layoff for this veteran, who is more than capable on turf. Big layoff for SAKETUMI who chased Retweet (next-out second in the restricted Summer Fun Stakes at Penn National with a 82 Beyer).

## >> RACE 8

### 1. MISCHIEF IN MOTION

### 2. LATE NITE CALL

### 3. ROSIEONTHERIVER

**MISCHIEF IN MOTION** took a big step forward when switching to dirt and stretching out in distance. Tracked off the rail, prompted in between horses on the second turn, attacked the pacesetting 5-2 runner-up, then got away in the final furlong. This looks like a much tougher spot, but she has the speed to get forward from the opening bell for barn that went 13 for 62 (21%, \$2.09 ROI) between 3/15 and 5/4. **LATE NITE CALL** looked good graduating around two turns at Laurel, then was far from embarrassed when wired in the Weber City Miss. She has tactical speed and can work out a good trip tracking the

pacesetter. **ROSIE ON THE RIVER** won her only previous two-turn dirt appearance, and she was wired by a 1-10 shot over a speed-friendly Colonial course last time out. That winner then ran third in a stakes race at Oaklawn with a 75 Beyer. She would appreciate a bit of pace help up front.

## >> RACE 9

### 1. DARK LUTE

### 2. MAMBA MINDSET

### 3. TYSON'S DELIVERY

**DARK LUTE** was wired in career debut over the All Weather at Turfway. Saved ground while racing far back, eased out into the stretch, then didn't threaten while in between. The runner-up then placed for \$12,500 over Gulfstream's Tapeta with a 62 Beyer. Barn sent out newly-claimed She Is Wisky to score at odds-on at Laurel on 5/2. There's dirt pedigree here as he is a half to Grade 3-placed dirt router American Blaze, and the second dam was a Grade 1-winning dirt router. **MAMBA MINDSET** tracked a solid pace going two turns at Charles Town, then didn't threaten the odds-on winner after being late to change leads. Should show rail speed. **TYSON'S DELIVERY** tracked from off the rail, made a three-wide bid on the turn under urging, then tried hard for second behind the 1-10 pacesetting winner. Dam won three routes. Hamilton departs for CASEY N PAP, who continues to drop in class in search of his correct level.

## KALI'S KEY – by Kali Francois

### Race 4, #2 It'll Do

While Brittany ran this one for the 12,5 first out, that was just to test where this one is at. With this one already having a positive work over the Pimlico surface, it solidifies the dominance that Brittany Russell shows up with at Pimlico. For the record? Laurel to Pimlico runners: 6-23, 26% in the winners circle.

## MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Always watch out for the Russell/Meyers pairing, even more so with Meyers first off the bench. Efficacy showed ability closing in his 2 lone starts, added ground may punch the ticket for his maiden career here.

R2: Beach Cowboy looks to have a chance at being the lone speed in this group, where he may control things all the way. Abuelo Paps is the big question mark, arriving first off the bench with class relief...is he as fast as he used to be?

R3: I take a bit of interest in the inside horses who try turf for the first time here. All 3 have a bit of family to suggest they may appreciate the surface and have shown good early speed to capitalize on the inside posts.

R4: Little Bit Risky always seems to find tough company on their way to stakes efforts, I give a bit of extra credit for the efforts. First off the claim and seems a value play in this spot. Ultimately, I land with Rapidity who may work out the right trip by avoiding early pace pressure.

R5: This shapes up to be a great maiden group, potentially a key race to use later on. I end up landing with a price in Teddy's Lucky Girl, add F. Boyce, add lasix, try the turf, and connections stick to the level for the 2nd outing. 1/2 sibling Eastern Bay was a graded stakes winner sprinting on the dirt, who also won on the turf. Seems a bit more interesting than the ML favorite.

R6: Debut runner from the Russell barn is one of 3 half siblings who have excelled in the program. Other likely playing is Brightness, just to her inside, who tries 2nd blinkers here today.

R7: Big Big Star made his first start for Brion in 2024 off of a layoff, but it wasn't quite a layoff as they utilized a PtP training flat race to prep. We see the same move this year as he arrives off of a win in the training flat on 3/30 and looks ready to pickup where he left off.

R8: Conflicted feelings as Mischief in Motion makes all the sense but comes out of a race that failed to produce any runners ITM next out. Late Nite Call may be able to control things early on but Tres Aries will look to transfer her late running style to Pimlico.

R9: Second off the bench, 2nd lasix, and a big class drop makes Casey N Pap an interesting player after a subtle late run when sprinting last out. Mamba Mindset stretches back out and may be the early target, he just hasn't seemed convincing when fighting off late company.

## TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

### RACE 2

#### #5 - Abuelo Paps

Trainer: Kieron Magee

First After 180-365 Days: 3 for the last 10 (30%, \$2.16 ROI)

### RACE 3

#### #3 - Ellinger

Trainer: Charles Frock

Experienced Runners, First-Time Turf: 2 for the last 10 (20%, \$2.84 ROI)

### RACE 5

#### #7 - Melancia; #9 - My Lady Bae

Trainer: Rob Atras

Maryland: 7 for the last 20 (35%, \$4.57 ROI)

### RACE 6

#### #1 - Brightness

Trainer: Jamie Ness

Third Start, Maidens, Dirt: 7 for the last 18 (39%, \$3.14 ROI)

### RACE 6

#### #2 - Ma Ma Ma My Vekoma

Trainer: Brittany Russell

First-Time Starters, Dirt: 24 for the last 54 (44%, \$2.20 ROI)

### RACE 7

#### #10 - Uninvited Guest

Trainer: Jamie Ness

First After 61-120 Days: 5 for the last 24 (21%, \$2.10 ROI)

### RACE 8

#### #11 - Wish Me Home

Trainer: Brittany Russell

First After 120-180 Days: 5 for the last 12 (42%, \$5.27 ROI)

### RACE 8

#### #3 - Mischief In Motion

Trainer: Mike Trombetta

Between 3/15 and 5/4: 13 for 62 (21%, \$2.09 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 7: OC 20k/SAL 16k, 3YO+, 1m, Turf

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
BIG BIG STAR	Clm20k, Lrl, 1 1/16m, Firm, 10/26/24 – 1st	'BBS' broke sharp from the outside draw, crossed & closely stalked the pace under a hold in 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2W to ~1/2 mile pole. He then stepped on the gas, eased upsides the leader entering the far turn, quickly took the lead under a hold 2W ~3/8 pole & tried to sprint for home. He turned for home ~2L in front, traveling best, then came under a strong ride. He was closed upon quickly by the challengers in the stretch, despite responding gamely to pressure. He was then joined on the wire but won the bob. <b>Dream trip stalking the pace in the clear, then getting the jump on the closers. Won the bob. The trip &amp; ride likely won him the race. A touch fortunate.</b>
THE LAST SCIP	SA, Lrl, 1m, Fast, 12/08/24 – 7th	'TLS' rated off the pace in the clear 4W to the far turn where he was then asked to go after the leader. He moved to within 1L of the pace ~7/16 pole but was then joined on his outside & from there, he came under a strong ride to hold his position but struggled to do so. He dropped back slightly while lugging out a touch entering the stretch & then, despite looking to try hard, he weakened out of contention. <b>Traveled well into the race but then struggled to hold his position between horses on the turn &amp; faded. Looked to try hard but didn't seem himself on the dirt. Almost certainly better on turf.</b>
YOUR ANALYSIS (MTO)	SA, Lrl, 1 1/16m, Fast, 04/05/25 – 5th	'YA' broke slow, then was in a touch tight & dropped to rear early but didn't get too far behind as the pace was slow. He then jumped on the bridle entering the back stretch & became keen in behind horses so the rider moved him to the outside of runners. As the pace then quickened heading into the far turn, he came under a ride & responded well while 4W, moving to be just 2L off the pace with good momentum ~1/4 pole. However, he was giving away a lot of ground at the same time & so struggled to advance further as the leaders sped off the bend inside. Having then come under a strong ride at the top of the stretch, he finished evenly to the wire. <b>Was keen behind a slow pace, then forced wide on the far turn while the leaders cut the corner &amp; sprinted for home. Needed a stronger pace to run at &amp; a more ground saving trip. Feel this isn't a true reflection of his current ability.</b>
TRANSACTIONAL (GB)	SA, BAQ, 6f, Firm, 05/02/25 – 10th	'TRAN' broke on top from his wide draw, then eased back to chase the hot pace in ~3 <sup>rd</sup> heading into the turn while being scrubbed on to hold his position. Having been joined on both sides ~1/2 mile pole, he then struggled to hold his position between horses & dropped back under pressure rounding the far turn. He had plummeted to the back of the field by the time he turned for home & was done. He was not hard ridden in the stretch. <b>Clean trip. Broke sharp but could not hold his position &amp; plummeted back on the far turn. He was then not hard ridden late. Uninspiring.</b>
ALVY	SA, Lrl, 1 1/16m, Fast, 04/05/25 – 3rd	'ALVY' lacked early speed & dropped to rear early where he watched the action unfold in the clear 5W to the far turn. He was then scrubbed on & made an advance while 5-6W on the turn, coming under a strong ride ¼ pole. He turned for home 6W & ~4L off the pace, then stayed on willingly to the wire but lacked the ability to reach the leaders. <b>Wide trip - cause for slight upgrade. Tried closing from rear but lacked the ability to reach the leaders. A decent effort in defeat having given away so much ground. Likable attitude. Didn't scream turf horse though.</b>
SELL SOMETHING	SA, Lrl, 1 1/8m, Firm, 10/26/24 – 3rd	'SS' traveled well stalking the slow pace in the pocket to the far turn. He was then nudged along to hold his position as the pace quickened on the far turn & he did so, turning into the stretch ~2L off the pace. He then tipped out into the clear 3W off the bend & came under a ride. From there, he stayed on willingly to the wire between horses but didn't manage to get up. <b>Sitting a perfect pocket stalking trip behind a slow pace no doubt aided him as a 15/1 shot. However, it was hard not to like his running style, finishing effort &amp; his attitude. A solid effort in defeat.</b>
FUN LOVIN CRIMINAL	SA, Lrl, 1 1/16m, Fast, 04/05/25 – 2nd	'FLC' broke poorly from the outside gate, was then hustled up & caught 4-5W on the first turn before he settled in the clear in mid-pack heading down the back stretch. He was then hustled along heading into the far turn & made a quick, bold move while 3-4W, joining the leaders ~5/16 pole where he then came under a strong ride. He maintained his forward progress & blew by the leaders at the top of the stretch. From there, he stayed on determinedly to the wire but was nailed by a closer late. <b>Ran a winning race in</b>

		<b>defeat – made a hash of the start, then got caught very wide on both turns. He made a big move while wide on the far turn &amp; very nearly carried that momentum all the way to the wire. Better than the result/speed figure suggests. His turn of foot suggests he'll be okay back on turf too.</b>
BODE'S MAKER	Clm15k, Prx, 1 1/16m, Muddy, 04/07/25 – 2nd	'BM' broke inwards & slowly, then dropped to a detached last heading around the far turn. He then dropped further off the pace, despite being hustled along heading down the back stretch. Having dropped ~12L off the pace ~1/2 mile pole, he then jumped into the bridle & began running along the rail, advancing quickly on the turn into the stretch. With great momentum behind him, he cut the corner into the stretch & took advantage of a dream rail opening before coming under a strong ride & continuing to rally to the wire. He reached the leader ~1/16 pole & then went head-to-head to the wire but missed the bob. <b>Wanted no part of things early, then rallied strongly through the last ½ mile. As a closer, he was lucky to have been able to ride the rail all the way to the wire – possible downgrade? Did he hang slightly late too? An okay effort in defeat, especially as it was off the layoff – should be able to step forward today. Figs suggest he's better on turf.</b>
SAKETUMI	SA, Pen, 1 1/16m, Firm, 08/01/24 – 7th	'SAKETUMI' stalked the pace between horses 3W heading into the first turn where he was then fanned wide. Having recovered, he settled back in along the rail chasing the pace to the far turn. He was then nudged along on the far turn but became outpaced & dropped back slightly. Then, in the stretch, he came under a strong ride but faded further at one pace. <b>Slightly bothered first turn but that didn't cost him the race; traveled well behind the pace but was then very one paced late on. Uninspiring. Effort followed by layoff.</b>
UNINVITED GUEST	Clm35k, Aqu, 1m, Sloppy, 02/13/25 – 6th	'UG' broke out slightly from the inside draw & brushed with a rival before quickly dropping himself out to a distant last. He was gently hustled along to keep up but failed to do so & was ~11L off the pace entering the far turn. From there, under a half hearted ride, he made no progress & never factored. <b>Was never involved. Very uninspiring as the 1/1 favorite.</b>
WISH ME HOME	SA, FG, 1 1/16m, Firm, 12/20/24 – 3rd	Having broken well enough from the rail draw, 'WMH' eased back off the hot pace & took a strong hold racing in mid-pack 2W to ~1/2 mile. He then eased into a clear 2 <sup>nd</sup> & closed on the leader heading into & around the far turn, turning for home just 1L off the pace with good momentum behind him. He then came under a strong ride at the top of the stretch but found little off the bridle & faded to a poor 3 <sup>rd</sup> . <b>Clean trip chasing the pace. Traveled well to the top of the stretch but found nothing off the bridle. Disappointing defeat at 9/5 odds with seemingly no excuse.</b>

#### **Race 8: OC 62k/N1X, 3YOF, 1 1/16m, Dirt**

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
ADE	Weber City Miss S., Lrl, 1 1/16m, Fast, 04/19/25 – 5th	'ADE' traveled well tracking the pace along the rail to the far turn but was then shuffled back fractionally as the pace increased. She dropped towards the rear on the far turn & was hustled along to keep up on the rail but failed to do so & despite looking to try hard, weakened thereafter. <b>Traveled well along the rail to the far turn but was then simply overmatched at the business end of the race. No excuse at 69/1.</b>
ROSIEONTHERIVER	Alw, Cnl, 1m, Fast, 03/15/25 – 3rd	'ROSIE' lacked speed form the rail draw & dropped to rear early where she chased the pace under a hold. She then moved closer to the leaders as the pace slowed in front heading to the far turn. She was tucked in along the rail when getting a nudge rounding the far turn & her response to pressure was good. She turned into the stretch with a share of 2 <sup>nd</sup> , looming as a threat behind the leader on the rail, however, having then come under a strong ride at the top of the stretch, her effort petered out & she just finished evenly to the wire, narrowly missing the place spot. <b>Perfect rail trip, no excuse. Traveled well into the race but was only able to finish evenly late. Could have done with a stronger pace. Nobody was beating the winner.</b>
MISCHIEF IN MOTION	MSW, Tam, 1m 40yds, Fast, 02/22/25 – 1st	'MIM' closely stalked the moderate pace in the clear 2W to the far turn before she was encouraged to go after the leader. Her response to pressure was good & she gradually reeled the leader in, drawing level ~1/8 <sup>th</sup> pole before drawing away late. <b>Perfect stalk &amp; pounce trip in the clear 2W. Okay on the eye but not sure she beat much.</b>
LATE NITE CALL	Weber City Miss S., Lrl, 1 1/16m, Fast, 04/19/25 – 4th	'LNC' was not rushed form the gate & dropped back before advancing between horses while a touch keen around the far turn. Her rider then settled her nicely in mid-pack running down the back stretch before asking her to advance while 3-4W on the far turn. She responded well to pressure & held her position nicely rounding the far turn, however, she was also giving away plenty of ground & failed to properly advance. Having then come under a strong ride, she stayed on willingly through the stretch but lacked the pace to challenge. <b>Traveled well in mid-pack but then got caught wide on the far turn &amp; struggled to make much of an advance.</b>



		<b>Overall, it was hard not to like her willing attitude &amp; she ran a likable race in defeat considering in her last two starts she ran on the lead.</b>
CHICKIN LICKIN	Alw S., Lrl, 5 1/2F, Fast, 04/18/25 – 5th	‘CL’ lacked speed from the outside gate & quickly dropped to last where she was hustled along to keep up in the clear. She looked to be trying under pressure & her strides didn’t shorten thereafter but she lacked pace to challenge & was outrun to the wire. <b>Looked to try hard &amp; didn’t particularly tire but was completely outrun. Will be better suited by today’s trip.</b>
TRES ARIES	Clm40k., Lrl, 7F, Fast, 04/25/25 – 2nd	‘TA’ showed no speed early & dropped to a detached last early where she was hustled along to keep up but completely run off her feet. Then, as she hit the far turn, under a strong ride, she began to make progress & built momentum which she carried into the stretch, rallying strongly to just miss, despite having flopped leads ~1/16 pole. <b>No speed, then rallied strongly from the 1/2 mile pole. Today’s extra yardage should be just fine. Liked her attitude but not her late lead flop.</b>

**Race 9: MC 12k, 3-6YO, 1 1/16m, Dirt**

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
MAMBA MINDSET	MC12k, CT, 7F, Fast, 04/19/25 – 4th	‘MM’ was hustled hard from the gate & labored early but did manage to work into a stalking position heading into the first turn. He was then clipped slightly from behind rounding the first turn but was hardly impacted. The leading duo then opened up a clear advantage in front heading down the back stretch. He was hustled along chasing them into the far turn & managed to get to ~5L of the pace rounding the bend but then weakened to the wire while looking tired on his L lead. <b>Never really traveled &amp; did everything in a labored fashion. L lead late. Lacked the pace for 7F so today’s trip should be better.</b>
REAL TALENTED	MC12k, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Fast, 03/21/25 – 7th	‘RT’ was ridden hard from the gate & showed decent speed racing behind the leaders to the turn. However, he then became outpaced & dropped back under a strong ride. He then continued weakening to the wire. <b>Flashed speed, then stopped on the far turn. Uninspiring. Not sure today’s extras yardage will help.</b>
GOLD ASPEN	MC12k, CT, 1 1/16m, Fast, 03/27/25 – 5th	‘GA’ broke okay from the outside gate but was then caught 4-5W rounding the first turn. He looked to be lugging out too which made it impossible for his rider to angle him inside & he dropped back to race ~10L off the pace. He was then caught 3W around the second turn & came under a ride shortly after. His response to pressure was poor & he made no progress. He was then wide on the final turn again & not persevered with thereafter. <b>Sat a very wide trip but that didn’t cost him the race – he never traveled or was involved &amp; looked to be getting out a touch too. Very uninspiring.</b>
TYSON’S DELIVERY	MC12k, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Fast, 04/27/25 – 2nd	‘TD’ stumbled badly at the break but showed good athleticism to not drop too far back, settling into a tracking position in the clear 3W heading into the turn. He then came under a ride to go after the dueling leaders on the turn. His immediate response to pressure only saw him hold his position, however, he then came under a strong ride ~5/16 pole & began to advance. He built good momentum to the top of the stretch, then came 3W & finished well to the wire, gamely holding 2 <sup>nd</sup> . The winner had flown off the bend though & he was never doing better than that. <b>Stumbled badly at the start but recovered well &amp; sat a clean trip thereafter. Ran a likable race in defeat &amp; there was no fluke about the effort, despite the fact he was 20/1. Nobody was beating the winner. Finishing effort suggests he’ll be just fine over today’s trip.</b>
CASEY N PAP	MC12k, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Good, 04/13/25 – 5th	‘CNP’ chased the pace into the far turn but was then shuffled back a touch. From there, he was put on the back foot & came under a strong ride but failed to respond & weakened timely to the wire. <b>Got shuffled back a little heading into the far turn, then stopped in an overall uninspiring effort.</b>
PARLAY FOR DESTINY	MC12k, Lrl, 1M, Fast, 03/22/25 – Pu	‘PFD’ was hustled hard from the gate but showed no speed, plummeted to a detached last early & continued retreating. He was ~50L off the lead at the top of the stretch when he was eased & walked off. <b>Never lifted a hoof &amp; then walked off. Something surely amiss – draw a line through the effort?</b>
DARK LUTE	MC15k, TP, 1 1/16m, Synth, 03/27/25 – 8th	‘DL’ lacked speed from the rail draw & quickly dropped to rear where he was hustled along to keep up. From there, he was persistently squeezed along by his rider but offered little response. He improved his position by staying on past a couple of tired foes late but never factored. <b>Took plenty of money at the windows. Clean trip. Never lifted a hoof despite being encouraged throughout. Uninspiring.</b>

## **Horses to Follow**

### **R7: FUN LOVIN CRIMINAL (10/1 ML)**

Regardless of whether today's seventh race stays on the turf or not, FUN LOVIN CRIMINAL is worth a close look, especially if playing any vertical wagers. The likable and consistent son of CLASSIC EMPIRE has hit the board in 18 of his last 21 starts and ran an eye-catching race in defeat last out, making a bold move on the far turn that he nearly carried straight into the winners' circle, only going down by a dirty nose, despite having made a hash of the start and getting caught very wide on both turns. Claimed from that effort, he now debuts for trainer Elliot Sullivan, who seems to think switching back to turf will suit him. Based on the five turf starts that he has under his belt, where he's shown clear improvement over his dirt runs, the move makes sense. His speed figures stack up well in this field, and he's paired with jockey Julio Hernandez too, who wins at 22% with Sullivan. Sullivan himself boasts a 20% strike rate with new claims and so at around 10/1, FUN LOVIN CRIMINAL certainly offers plenty of appeal.

### **R8: LATE NITE CALL (2/1 ML)**

After MISCHIEF IN MOTION's solid MSW win at Tampa Bay Downs last out, she'll likely go off as the heavy favorite in today's eighth. But LATE NITE CALL could play spoiler. Trained by Niall Saville, this steadily improving filly ran a gutsy race at 15/1 in the Weber City Miss Stakes last time, finishing just four lengths back despite getting hung four-wide on the turn and racing behind horses throughout - likely not the plan, given she'd set the pace in her two prior starts. She now returns to allowance company and gets lasix back on in a race where, on paper at least, she could find herself loose on the lead. With four straight improved Beyer speed figures behind her and a favorable race set up today, she can improve past the chalk.

### **R9: TYSON'S DELIVERY (5/1 ML)**

Although beaten 6 ½-lengths at the wire, TYSON'S DELIVERY ran well in defeat last out, finishing second at 20/1 despite having stumbled at the start. As stated in the trip notes, the way he fared in that race suggests that the extra distance he'll receive in today's nightcap should be no issue for him. In fact, it could help him step forward. The group he's facing are an unreliable bunch, but he looks to be figuring the game out and improving nicely right now. So, as he gets in with just 114lbs under Andres Chavez, a chance can be taken on him to score at a respectable price.

## **FUTURE HORSES TO WATCH**

### **PERSIAN**

**Trainer:** Linda Albert

**Last race:** Nov. 3, 4th

**Finish:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **LIL SEBASTIAN *(Entered Pimlico – Sun 5/11, Race 7)***

**Trainer:** Justin Nixon

**Last race:** Dec. 20, 8th

**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> by 1/2

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

**Trainer:** Lou Linder

**Last Race:** Feb. 22, 7th

**Finish:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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:** 4<sup>th</sup> by 4

Broke well going a one-turn mile over muddy going but rated four wide and lost ground through the turn and into the long stretch. Never stopped trying, however, and just fell short to an odds-on winner.

### **MIKES MO TOWN**

**Trainer:** Carlos Mancilla

**Last Race:** Mar. 21, 5th

**Finish:** 6<sup>th</sup> 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** *(Breezed 4F– 49.00 at LRL on 5/3)*

**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:** 5<sup>th</sup> by 14

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:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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:** 7<sup>th</sup> 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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ADMIT NOTHING** *(Entered Pimlico – Sat 5/10, Race 4)***Trainer:** Carlos Mancilla**Last Race:** March 29, 3rd**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**NEOLITHICA** *(Entered Pimlico – Sat 5/10, Race 10)***Trainer:** Damon Dilodovico**Last Race:** April 4, 7th**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> by 3/4

Perhaps a mile is just a bit too far for this in-form mare. Set a pressured pace inside the 6-1 fifth-finisher, made the lead on the turn and was immediately under siege, then stayed on well to just miss. Deserves another chance at the state-sired allowance level or in a \$12,000 starter-optional.

**WHENIGETTOHEAVEN****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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**YO ADRIAN****Trainer:** Brittany Russell**Last Race:** April 25, 3rd**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> by 1/2**BRIGHTNESS** *(Entered Today at Pimlico – Race 6)***Trainer:** Jamie Ness**Last Race:** April 18, 6th**Finish:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**ISLAND DREAM GIRL** *(Entered Pimlico – Sun 5/11, Race 2)***Trainer:** Kieron Magee**Last Race:** April 19, 4th**Finish:** 3<sup>rd</sup> by 2

Sent along in pursuit of the pace skirmish, chased five deep nearing far turn, remained six wide approaching upper stretch, but persisted and managed to stay on, narrowly missing second place by a nose.

**MOPO****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.

**CHESAPEAKE DREAM****Trainer:** Brittany Russell**Last Race:** April 25, 4th**Finish:** 3<sup>rd</sup> by 3

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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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.

### **ROYAL WINTOUR**

**Trainer:** Graham Motion

**Last Race:** April 26, 10th

**Finish:** 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **JOCKEY CALLS**

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

Race 1 - Carlos Lopez: #12 - On Secret Service; #15 - Owhatanite >>> **Lopez rides OWHATANITE** (both horses on Also Eligible list; Lopez also listed on #5 - Band Tour in the body of the race)

Race 1 - Jaime Rodriguez: #7 - Myluckeyvalentine; #13 - Kuz It's Chilly >>> **Rodriguez rides MYLUCKEYVALENTINE** (Rodriguez also named on #6 - Skull Honor, the Main Track Only entrant)

Race 1 - Jean Briceno: #4 - Royal Flush Hearts; #9 - Blackthorne Brusca >>> **Briceno rides ROYAL FLUSH HEARTS**

Race 3 - Jean Briceno: #8 - Elusive Image; #9 - Thunder Lad >>> **Briceno rides THUNDER LAD**

Race 7 - Jaime Rodriguez: #8 - Bode's Maker; #10 - Uninvited Guest >>> **Rodriguez rides BODE'S MAKER**

Race 9 - Weston Hamilton: #4 - Tyson's Delivery; #5 - Casey N Pap >>> **Hamilton rides CASEY N PAP**

## PAST TRACK TRENDS (Laurel Park)

Jan. 17 – Fair

Jan. 18 – Fair

Jan. 24 – Fair

Jan. 25 – Fair

Jan. 26 – CLOSERS BIAS

Jan. 31 – SPEED BIAS

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