

PIMLICO HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Saturday, May 10

First post is <u>12:10 PM ET</u> 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 **promos.drf.com/pimlico25** and **promos.drf.com/mjcpps**.

TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE TMJC TEAM

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

TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

) RACE 1

1. ARIEL MOON

2. ASKNOTWHATYOUCANDO 3. RESPECT THE LAW

First post time is 12:10 ET with low 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **ARIEL MOON** set a pressured pace inside the 8-1 runner-up, then kept going to graduate at odds-on in her most recent turf appearance. Fair to demand value as she's burned money in the past, and must face other speeds, but the barn went 4 for the last 15 (27%, \$4.68 ROI) moving dirt to turf in the first after a 61-120 day layoff. **ASKNOTWHATYOUCANDO** was purchased for \$8,000 in December, raced once on dirt, and was given the rest of the winter off, presumably in preparation for turf season. The runner-up from the last turf start then placed in a \$20,000 "non-two" on grass at Laurel with a 59 Beyer. Kicks late for barn that went 4 for the last 18 (22%, \$6.01 ROI) moving dirt to turf. **RESPECT THE LAW** took a big step forward in turf debut, shrugging off the 10-1 third-finisher's early challenge before completing the gate-to-wire gambit. Gets a test from a pace and class standpoint, but adds Lasix for barn that sent out 2-1 winner Freedom Stance at Laurel on 5/4. J Z'S LAST SCHANCE and SHARMIN deserve a look if able to escape the Also Eligible list. SEAP chased a fast pace before tiring. Must deal with 343-day layoff, but this barn is very underrated. HAPPY HOUR JOKER switches surfaces out of stakes-placed turf sprinter Happy Hour Honey. Rodriguez departs for VISCIOUS GOSSIP, who switches surfaces out of multiple stakes-placed turf sprinter Miss Gossip.

$\rangle\rangle$ RACE 2

1. BIRRAVINO BLVD

2. TUFF LUCK

3. MR. MENDELSLEW

BIRRAVINO BLVD successfully swapped out blinkers for cheekpieces when graduating over this distance two back. Tracked three wide around the track, bid from that path on the second turn, and drew away. Back to best surface after failed turf experiment. Also want to use **TUFF LUCK**, listed as a Laurel vet scratch (sick) on 3/23, in multiple-race wagers. Tracked a slow pace five wide on the backstretch, raced three wide/four path entering the turn, made a four-wide bid turning into the long stretch, then still prevailed after bumping with the odds-on runner-up in the lane. Much improved with Lasix. **MR**. **MENDELSLEW** finished ahead of Notmyfirstrodeo in most recent dirt start, and that one then placed in a \$12,500 claimer with a 51 Beyer. Good tactical speed should have him in fine position as he returns after being overmatched on turf. BUOYANT raced outside over a rail-friendly track, and has the stretch-out speed to grab the early advantage. The fourth-finisher from the last race then took a \$12,500 "non-two" by 13 lengths with a 71 Beyer. FRIDAYSWITHMURRAY was wired by the favorite over rail-friendly Parx track. The fourth-finisher then won for \$30,000 there with a 50 Beyer. Kicks in the stretch.

>> RACE 3

1. EMPIRE'S TREAT

2. SAINT GRACE

3. SOMME RIVER

EMPIRE'S TREAT tracked a quick pace three wide, then finished evenly in first start following short layoff. Has the tactical speed to slot into a nice pacetracking, ground-saving trip. **SAINT GRACE** switches surfaces out of stakes-placed synthetic sprinter Sam's Bliss (87 dirt Beyer). That dam is a half-sister to multiple stakes-placed turf router Cherokee Triangle (97 turf Beyer). New barn went 14 for the last 61 (23%, \$2.76 ROI) moving sprint to route. **SOMME RIVER** saved ground at the back, made a three-wide bid on the second turn, then greenly didn't change leads in career debut. Gets the Lasix and blinkers makeover for barn that went 4 for the last 13 (31%, \$3.02 ROI) with second-out maidens. Hamilton lands here instead of STEAM KNOT, who wheels back on short notice after good try against odds-on Delayed. Expect early speed. SHE GOT THE MUNNI hit the board in her last two dirt starts, and has solid grass numbers. CLARE COURT switches surfaces as a half to stakes-placed turf router Massif (85 turf Beyer). PAP'S LIL PATRIOT back in with fillies after setting a legitimate pace against males.

$\rangle\rangle$ RACE 4

1. ADMIT NOTHING

2. PENNY LOAFER

3. SECRET TREASURE

ADMIT NOTHING pressed outside the 7-1 last-finisher, made the lead from in between on the second turn, then gamely held second inside the laterunning, odds-on winner. He's quick enough to find a good pace-tracking position entering the first turn. **PENNY LOAFER** pressed the odds-on winner through reasonable fractions, attacked outside on the second turn, then changed back to his left lead in the stretch. Expecting more patient tactics for barn that went 9 for the last 22 (41%, \$2.67 ROI) going first after 61-120 day layoffs and first off the claim on dirt. Bocachica departs for Motskari. **SECRET TREASURE** rallied from out of it to score three back, was wired over a speed-friendly dirt surface two back, then didn't do much at huge odds on turf. Late-runner needs some pace help up front. Hazlewood lands here instead of Nico Lucky. PARKERNESS hit the board in three of four prior two-turn starts, and should show early speed after chasing quick sprint fractions. The runner-up from last time then placed in a \$16,000 starter at Penn National with a 74 Beyer. MOTSKARI seems well-entered in second off the Farrior claim.

>> RACE 5

1. BENNY HAVENS

2. NOAH CHANCE

3. CLAUDEE BOY

BENNY HAVENS isn't the most trustworthy sort with a 1 for 42 lifetime record, but he ran on pretty well in his first start after a 174-day layoff. Saved ground in midpack, eased out into the long stretch, was over in behind horses, then finished evenly in between with a decent gallop-out. Concerned this shorter distance is too sharp, and that he is dependent on pace and race luck, but he occasionally outruns his odds, and should be a good price once again. Russell departs for Daring Venture. **NOAH CHANCE** was steadied in the early stages to track a quick pace from the outside, made a three-wide bid into contention, then changed back to his left lead while gamely trying in between on the wire. He's been away a long, long time, but has the tactical speed to find good early position. **CLAUDEE BOY** took advantage of a quick pace to score as the chalk in 2024 finale. The fourth-finisher then compiled a 6-2-1-2 record with an 82 Beyer top. Layoff is a concern, but the barn went 2 for 10 (20%, \$5.14 ROI) between 8/31 and 10/24 before taking the winter off.

CALL ME ANDY deserves respect if able to escape the Also Eligible list. GREAT KISSER has more speed than shown in his final start of 2024, and could put it to very good use here.

$\rangle\rangle$ RACE 6

1. MINISTER FOR MAGIC

2. MEAN JAKEY

3. FULL IRISH

MINISTER FOR MAGIC broke well two back, pressed outside the 9-2 last-finisher, cleared off to set a three-ply pace from the rail under a very confident ride, then turned it on late. He's won going turf to dirt in the past, and the barn went 5 for the last 12 (42%, \$2.58 ROI) moving turf to dirt in the second after the claim. **MEAN JAKEY** was wired in a race where they ran 1-2 around the track at Oaklawn. Expect good early zip for barn that went 5 for the last 12 (42%, \$3.38 ROI) in Maryland. **FULL IRISH** was reclaimed by Gaudet after battling for the lead in a race dominated by closers. Hand is forced breaking from the rail with other speeds to his outside. Toledo lands here instead of Rad Paisley. There's a chance this pace heats up, and MY MAMBA would benefit from that scenario after chasing Pudge Boy Palace, who next ran third in a \$30,000 starter-optional with an 83 Beyer.

>> RACE 7

1. PRINCE KHOZAN

2. KENDAMA

3. FROSTY THE GIANT

Taking a swing with **PRINCE KHOZAN**, who hasn't won since 2021, but showed some life on turf over this circuit last year. Bumped at the start two back, he raced in between horses at the tail end of the field, stayed inside turning for home, split foes and finished evenly with a decent gallop-out. Think he'll get a good pace to attack this time. **KENDAMA** set the pace inside the 4-1 runner in final start last year, took pressure after a half-mile, then tired in between. Proven at the distance, and has shown the ability to rate and finish. Barn sent out Tom Hagen to win off a 224-day break at Laurel last summer. Wish there was more turf in **FROSTY THE GIANT**'s female family, but the gelding is out of a City Zip mare, and should be forwardly-placed at big odds. TIBERIUS MERCURIUS and IRONSIDES deserve a look if able to escape the Also Eligible list. B DETERMINED did not have a good trip in final start last year. Outrun behind a quick pace to race three wide at the back, he stayed in and altered course inside in upper stretch. After being late to change leads, he was held up and steadied before splitting rivals with a good late run. The winner then ran second in a \$12,000 starter-optional with a 76 Beyer. Kicks hard late.

$\rangle\rangle$ RACE 8

1. LOUISIANIMAL

2. CACTUS

3. SUE LOVES BARBADOS

LOUISIANIMAL broke out slightly, set a fast and pressured pace outside the 6-1 eleventh-place finisher, then stayed on for a minor award. Not sure if he's quick enough to make the lead here, but he shouldn't be too far away when they turn for home. Stablemate **CACTUS** beat four of these, including the top pick, in first for Magee. Rated back to perfect pocket position behind a quick pace, he split horses turning for home, then drove home along the fence. His tactical speed allows him to get those nice trips, and another good one is expected for barn that went 17 for the last 44 (39%, \$2.30 ROI) with last-out winners going second after the claim. **SUE LOVES BARBADOS** pulled to race midpack in between going two turns two back, eased widest in upper stretch, then made up some ground despite changing back to his left lead. Late-kicker needs a good pace to adequately setup his stretch bid. Barn sent out 19-1 winner I Can Do It (4/11) and 4-1 winner Tall Order (4/25) off similar layoffs.

>> RACE 9

1. WALK AWAY JOE

2. MR JEFFERSON

3. GOODLUCKCHUCK

WALK AWAY JOE stalked outside at the back, advanced in a loose pocket on the backstretch, angled out to split rivals three wide then drew off to win by open lengths. Late-runner needs pace aid, but he's done good work over this track, and the barn went 5 for the last 12 (42%, \$2.20 ROI) with last-out winners. FORREST CITY saved ground in midpack in circuit debut, settled into a loose pocket after a half-mile, made a five-wide bid, then grinded out the victory. Think he's found a home on this circuit, and acts like he's been waiting for these two-turn spots. MR JEFFERSON, listed as a vet scratch (sick) on 4/19, raced three path at the back, found good position behind a solid pace, angled five wide, then finished evenly. The winner next ran third in two second-level allowances with 81 and 78 Beyers. Class drop works very well. **GOODLUCKCHUCK** has angles stretching out in the second start of the form cycle with the speed to grab the lead. Finished ahead of Beach Cowboy last time, and that one then ran third in a \$7,500 "beaten" with a 69 Beyer. Extra distance is no problem. MELT WITH YOU raced on the deeper outside paths when failing to threaten over sloppy footing at Parx. The fourth-finisher then took a quarter starter there with a 79 Beyer.

>> RACE 10

1. NEOLITHICA

2. HALEIGH B

3. MOR MOR MOR

NEOLITHICA turns back to a sprint after a very game effort at a one-turn mile. Set the pace outside the 6-1 fifth-finisher, made the lead and the rail on the turn, then held second with a solid gallop-out. The third-finisher then placed in a state-sired allowance with a 67 Beyer. Repeats the route-to-sprint move that resulted in the win two back, drew a nice attack post, and don't think she necessarily needs the lead to succeed. **HALEIGH B** cuts back in distance after wiring two fields at a mile. Rushed up to set the pace inside at odds-on last time, she opened up on the bend, and just had enough in the tank to last. Barn went 6 for the last 20 (30%, \$2.07 ROI) off the claim, including 7-2 States United going route to sprint on 3/8. **MOR MOR MOR** might be the speed of the speed after wiring conditioned claimers at 5 1/2 furlongs. JUST LIKE YOU is looking for a spirited pace to attack after kicking down Mahoning Valley allowance types. ANGIEWORKSTOOMUCH is another that adds to the pace picture, and she was competitive at Laurel four back.

KALI'S KEY – by Kali Francois

Race 5, Exacta on the #4 & #6

#4: Meg: This is the first try on the turf for her, and the dam's first try on the turf was a winner at Kentucky Downs sprinting (the rest of her turf tries were going longer, which didn't suit her). If Meg's mother can handle that surface well first try on turf, Meg should be able to handle the Pimlico grass no problem.

#6: Noah Chance: While this guy has loads of raw talent, you could argue that the first off the layoff is questionable; it's either going to go one way or the other. But alas! A counterargument from me: Once this guy got a taste of the turf back two years ago in May, he's wanted nothing since. He's a horse who

really loves his job in the mornings, and loves being a workhorse, but had zero interest in the afternoons on the dirt. Kudos to the connection on not forcing him to live the dirt life in the winter again!

MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer

R1: Viscious Gossip will have to step up first against winners here but she was able to overcome difficulties on debut to get the job done. Out of a proper turf sprinting mare, she may appreciate the surface switch.

R2: Birravino Blvd stepped into a tough ask for his first turf routing effort, back to the dirt and 3 y/o restriction could be a huge benefit. Up against Mr. Mendelslew 3 back he was hounded inside all the way.

R3: Trouble on debut propts blinkers on for Somme River, perhaps this will be able to guide her into the winners circle with a straightforward trip.

R4: Motskari looks to be wanting to make up for the just miss last out, but the added ground may not be the right aid for him. I land with Admit Nothing, a better price, as one who will likely be forward and has a win going this course/distance.

R5: Plenty stepping up in company, I take interest in the consistent trying type in Benny Havens who benefits from a start on the LRL turf course this season.

R6: Mean Jakey has held his own in competitive OP groups, willingly fighting on for place in his last 2 starts. If his last 2 Beyer figs transfer, he seems the likely one to beat.

R7: King's River ran a big effort last out to a very gritty Tom Hagen, first time routing on the turf since adding lasix/blinkers, perhaps indicative of how this one may progress through the season.

R8: Irish Hero is speedy on any surface, the lone turf start especially. He may ultimately set things up for a late closer, but 5f may fit just right for the speed of the speed.

R9: Likely speed comes from 2 sprinters stretching out, suspect the close tracking Morning Thoughts may be able to take control through the lane while saving ground inside.

R10: Mor Mor Mor is just the type to improve in the Farrior barn, however, she may not take to the other pace pressing her from the outside here. I land with another first off the claim in Haleigh B, who has shown tactical ability from 3/4 to a mile.

TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

<u>RACE 1</u>

#2 - Ariel Moon Trainer: Mike Trombetta Dirt to Turf, First After 61-120 Days: 4 for the last 15 (27%, \$4.68 ROI)

#7 - Asknotwhatyoucando

Trainer: Hugh McMahon Dirt to Turf: 4 for the last 18 (22%, \$6.01 ROI)

RACE 3

#1 - Saint Grace Trainer: Miguel Rodriguez Sprint to Route; 14 for the last 61 (23%, \$2.76 ROI)

#10 - Somme River

Trainer: Justin Nixon Second-Time Maidens: 4 for the last 13 (31%, \$3.02 ROI)

RACE 4

#7 - Penny Loafer Trainer: Anthony Farrior First After Claim, First After 61-120 Days, Dirt: 9 for the last 22 (41%, \$2.67 ROI) RACE 5 #10 - Claudee Boy Trainer: Hassan Elamri Between 8/31 and 10/24: 2 for 10 (20%, \$5.14 ROI)

<u>RACE 6</u>

#6 - Minister for Magic Trainer: Kieron Magee Turf to Dirt, Second After Claim: 5 for the last 12 (42%, \$2.58 ROI)

#2 - Mean Jakey Trainer: Lindsay Schultz Maryland: 5 for the last 12 (42%, \$2.58 ROI)

RACE 8

#7 - Cactus Trainer: Kieron Magee Last-Out Winners, Second After Claim: 17 for the last 44 (39%, \$2.30 ROI)

<u>RACE 9</u>

#1 - Walk Away Joe Trainer: Jamie Ness Last-Out Winners: 5 for the last 12 (42%, \$2.20 ROI)

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

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

Race 8: OC 12k/SAL, 3YO+, 5F, Turf

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
TENAX	SA, Pim, 5F, Firm, 05/27/24 - Ur	'TENAX' broke a touch slow but recovered & worked forward to stalk the pace 2W into the far turn. He was then put in tight between horses ~3/8 pole, stumbled & lost his rider before running loose. Was going well until he lost his rider. Effort followed by a lengthy layoff.
BOSS IS A PAL	SA, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Good, 04/26/25 – 6th	'BIAP' broke sharp & then worked forward into a nice stalking position 2W heading into the bend. He was then nudged along to keep up between horses on the far turn & did so, advancing to be within 1L of the pace ~5/16 pole. He then swung out into the clear 4W off the turn, bumped slightly with a rival & came under a strong ride. From there, he tried hard to reel in the leaders but struggled to advance much, then became very tired inside the final 1/16 & weakened. Sat a perfect trip & had no excuse but looked a little flat in the stretch & tired. Was making his first start for 167-days with just four reported works behind him & he ran like he'll improve for the run.
SUE LOVES BARBADOS	Alw, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Muddy, 02/07/25 – 5th	Following a clean break from the outside post, 'SLB' chased the pace in the clear 4W to the far turn. He then became outpaced ~7/16 pole & came under a strong ride but failed to respond & dropped to last while getting out slightly & carrying his head awkwardly. Having then come 4-5W into the stretch with seemingly no chance in last, he offered little more. Became outpaced & raced awkwardly on the bend, then offered nothing. Uninspiring without a visible excuse though he'll likely appreciate today's return to turf. Effort followed by 3-month layoff.
IRISH HERO	Clm7.5k, Lrl, 6F, Fast, 04/18/25 – 1st	'IH' broke sharp from the rail draw, zipped to the lead & set a fast uncontested pace despite appearing to be leaning out a touch. His lead was then reduced ~3/8 pole so the rider shook the reins - he responded well & extended his advantage again to the top of the stretch. Having then turned for home traveling best ~2L in front, he came under a strong ride. His lead was reduced by a strong closer late, but he had done enough in a game effort & was saved by the wire. Went gate to wire in dominant fashion, despite lugging out a touch throughout. Was slightly weary late so today's cut back in trip will suit. A likable effort with today's test in mind.
LOUISIANIMAL	SA, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Good, 04/26/25 – 3rd	'LOU' showed decent speed from the wide outside gate, crossed & dueled for the lead 2W heading into & around the far turn. He then came 3W into the stretch, still traveling well, before coming under a strong ride. He responded well to pressure & took a slim lead in the stretch which he determinedly maintained to ~1/8 th pole, however, he then became leg weary late & lost two positions close home. A very solid effort having broken from the widest draw, then dueled. He became leg weary running to the second wire having done so much early so today's cut back in trip & better post should see him to better effect.
MARATHONER	Clm5k, TP, 5F, Synth, 01/26/25 – 6th	'MARATHONER' lacked speed despite being hustled from the gate & dropped to rear early where he chased the fast pace 2W. He remained in rear to the far turn, then came under a strong ride but failed to advance. Having then swung 6W into the stretch with seemingly no chance, he plodded home on his L lead. Lacked speed form the start & failed to respond to his rider's urgings. Remained on L-lead late, then sat a lengthy layoff. Uninspiring, maybe something amiss?
CACTUS	SA, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Good, 04/26/25 – 1st	'CACTUS' showed good early speed & worked his way forward to contest the pace early before settling back into a perfect rail stalking position as the field hit the turn. He was then nudged along to hold his position rounding the far turn & did so willingly. From there, he turned for home with good momentum on the leaders' heels before finding a dream rail split at the top of the stretch. He then responded well to pressure & gradually worked his way into the lead before drawing off to the second wire late. Dream rail stalking trip. A nice effort, though it's hard to see how he improves from this, especially as he looked to relish the long stretch which he won't get today.
MONSTER MASON	SA, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Good, 04/26/25 – 5th	'MM' was not rushed from the inside gate, lacked speed & dropped to rear early. He then steadied off a retreating foe's heels entering the fast turn which put him on the back foot & shuffled him back some. He then came under a strong ride & steadily rallied past tired foes but was never really able to get involved. A decent enough effort in defeat having been steadied entering the far turn. Not sure he'd have ever won this race, but at 41/1, this wasn't a bad effort & it can be upgraded slightly.
SMITTEN ENOUGH	SA, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Firm, 10/24/25 – 9th	'SE' was hustled hard to the lead early where he dueled between horses to the far turn. He then began losing ground from between horses ~5/16 pole, dropped back, turned for home ~2L off the pace & came under a strong ride but failed to respond & weakened to the wire. Was hard ridden dueling between horses to ~5/16 pole, then stopped. Uninspiring without a visible excuse. Effort followed by lengthy layoff.
SOUTHERN HORSE (ARG)	SA, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Good, 04/26/25 – 4th	'SH' chased the pace in the clear ~5W heading into the far turn, then made an early move while 4-5W on the turn, moving forward to be ~1L off the pace ~5/16 pole. He was then bumped a couple of times & forced out 6W into the stretch. From there, he came under a strong ride but failed to initially progress as he lugged in while remaining on his L lead. He then switched leads when his rider went L handed ~1/8 th pole & from there, he stayed on to the wire, however, he never threatened. Made a wide move on the bend, then flattened after receiving a bump at the top of the stretch & making hard work of his lead change.

		Never truly threatened for the win & was only so so visually. Only okay, despite the fact that the effort can be upgraded slightly owing to the wide early move & bumping.
UNCLE CHINITO (AE)	SA, CT, 4 1/2F, Fast, 03/29/25 – 5th	'UC' took a significant bump at the start & was away slowly, then he chased the pace between horses to the far turn but struggled to make up much ground & having come under a strong ride at the top of the stretch, he weakened. Failed to get into the race following a troubled start. Would have liked to have seen a better finishing effort.
CARIBBEAN PLEASURE (AE)	Alw, CT, 4 1/2F, Fast, 03/29/25 – 4th	'CP' was hustled along chasing the fast pace in the clear 3W to the far turn. He then came under a strong ride when caught 4-5W on the bend. He responded well enough to pressure & from there, stayed on to the wire, narrowly missing both the show & place spots. Finished well to narrowly miss both the show & place spots, despite having been caught wide on the turn. Likable in defeat.
THE BULLION BOMBER (IRE) (AE)	Clm5k, CT, 7F, Fast, 04/23/25 – 6th	'TBB' was sent to the lead early where he set a fast, uncontested pace under a tight hold. He had the field well strung out running down the back stretch but then his strides visibly shortened on the far turn & he lost the lead while also coming under a strong ride. From there, he plummeted back on weary legs. Went too hard early, then stopped. Needed a more conservative ride. Today's cut back in trip will help.

Race 9: OC 12k/SAL, 3YO+, 1 1/16M, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
MORNING THOUGHTS	Clm7.5k, Lrl, 1M, Sloppy, 05/04/25 – 2nd	Having been ridden hard from the gate, 'MT' worked forward to closely press the pace in the clear 4-5W heading to the far turn. He then came under pressure while 3-4W on the turn & built momentum to the top of the stretch. Having then cut back inside between horses at the top of the stretch, he came under an even stronger ride & blew past tired rivals into second before gamely chasing the winner to the wire, closing slightly late. He then galloped out strongly in front. Ran a game race in defeat having been caught wide on the turn. Couldn't catch the 1/1 winner late but made a good go of it, then galloped out strongly in front, suggesting today's extra yardage could see him to even better effect. Likable.
GOODLUCKCHUCK	SA, Lrl, 6F, Good, 04/04/25 – 5th	Having broken from the outside gate, 'CHUCK' settled in the clear towards the rear early. He then came under a ride when ~5L off the pace rounding the far turn 4W but found nothing off the bridle. He then swung 6W into the stretch & gradually weakened thereafter. Was always towards rear & never factored without excuse. Effort did not suggest he wants to go further today.
FORREST CITY	Clm12k, Lrl, 1 1/16M, Fast, 03/29/25 – 1st	FC managed to cross down to the rail rounding the first bend & then settled nicely in rear. Having been patiently handled, he was finally asked to move out of last & get closer when rounding the far turn ~4L off the pace. He moved out into the clear ~3/8 pole, then gathered good momentum around the bend, swung 5W into the stretch & maintained his run to draw level with the leader inside the final 1/8th. He then battled nose to nose for the lead to the wire & gamely won the bob. Sat a clean trip although he was wide into stretch. He was confidently ridden, then responded well to pressure & was game late. A likable, hard-fought victory.
MASTER OF NONE	SA, Lrl, 1M, Firm, 04/25/25 – 6th	'MON' was hustled along chasing the pace between horses in mid-pack rounding the first turn. He then ran in snatches to the far turn before he came under a strong ride, dropped to rear & finished evenly inside. Didn't travel overly well, then became outpaced on the fast turn. Hard to take a ton of confidence from this, even though he switches back to dirt today.
B WEST	SA, Lrl, 6F, Good, 04/13/25 – 2nd	'B WEST' broke in & bumped slightly at the start but recovered well & flashed speed to stalk the pace 3W to the turn. He then came under pressure between horses & held his position to ~5/16 pole. Then, he came under a L handed ride rounding into the stretch & drifted way out into the 7-8P, giving away plenty of ground. When straightened back up for the drive, he finished willingly to narrowly get 2nd. Ran a really likable race in defeat, especially as his apprentice rider engaged in a full out L handed drive rounding into the stretch which resulted in the pair floating very wide into the stretch & giving away plenty of ground. Didn't particularly look to want two turns though.
WALK AWAY JOE	Clm10k, Prx, 1 1/8M, Fast, 04/29/25 – 1st	'WAJ' broke flat footed & was slowly into stride, laboring in last while 2W around the first turn. Under minimal urging, he then steadily advanced between horses to the far turn & built momentum which he carried forward under a ride 3W on the far turn to join the leaders at the top of the stretch. He then came under a strong ride, took the lead & determinedly edged away late. Made a steady advance from the entrance to the back stretch all the way to the wire, despite having gone slightly wide on the far turn. Looks all stamina – the faster they go the better.
MR JEFFERSON	Alw, Lrl, 1M, Fast, 01/24/25 – 5th	'MJ' lacked speed from the gate & dropped to rear early while carrying his head high & awkwardly. He then made a steady advance under minimal urging inside into & around the far turn. Having come under pressure ~1/4 pole, he then angled off the inside into the clear 6W & finished evenly. Lacked speed early, then made a steady move & finished evenly. Looked all stamina. Effort followed by layoff.
MELT WITH YOU	SA, Lrl, 1M 70yds, Sloppy, 04/07/25 – 5th	'MWY' got away slowly & was hustled along chasing the pace into the first turn. He then jumped on the bridle as the pace slowed in front & he found himself caught 5W under a hammer lock ~1L off the lead. He was then strangled back behind horses again heading down the back stretch & dropped to last where he was again hustled along heading into the far turn. He then stayed wide while outpaced on the far turn & never threatened to the wire. Never found a rhythm early in a stop-start race, then became outpaced while wide on the far turn & never factored. The race didn't set up well for him at all but regardless, he looked below par here & needs to show more today.

MISTER AGENT	Clm7.5k, Lrl, 1M,	'MA' was not rushed from the gate but held a close up position regardless, then advanced inside under a hold heading into the far turn, taking the lead ~7/16
	Sloppy, 05/04/25 -	pole. He traveled well with a slim lead along the rail to ~5/16 pole, then came under a strong ride. He gamely held the lead to ~3/16 pole but then stopped
	5th	quickly. Traveled well in a good position to the top of the stretch, then showed a good attitude but was done ~3/16 pole. An uninspiring final finishing
		effort & result without a visible excuse. Will need more today.

Race 10: OC 12k/SAL, 3YO+F, 6F, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
ANNIEWORKSTOOMUCH	SA, Prx, 6 1/2F, Fast, 04/15/25 – 5th	'ANNIE' broke sharp, flashed good speed, crossed to the rail & vied for the lead heading to the far turn. She then came under a ride on the far turn & looked to respond willingly but lost the lead to the strong traveling eventual winner. Having then come under a strong ride at the top of the stretch, she weakened quickly before being eased late. Showed good speed but then stopped concerningly quickly in the stretch & was eased – something amiss?
MOR MOR MOR	Clm12k, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Fast, 03/23/25 – 1st	'MOR MOR MOR' broke sharp from the outside gate, flashed speed, crossed to the 2P & vied for the lead early. She then went on with it & took a clear lead as her sparing partner weakened ~3/8 pole. She traveled strongly in front on the bridle to the top of the stretch, was then challenged by a rival, shaken up & drew away in the lane to win as a 2/5 shot should. Vied for the lead early, then drew off nicely as a 2/5 shot should. Much the best with seemingly more to offer .
COAL MINE	Clm7.5k, Lrl, 1 1/16M, Fast, 05/02/25 – 1st	⁶ CM' brushed slightly but was not rushed from the gate & got away in mid-pack. However, she then jumped on the bridle & traveled strongly 3W into & around the first turn, taking a clear lead as they field entered the back stretch. She then opened up a clear lead under a tight hold running down the back stretch, got her rivals under pressure rounding the far turn, turned for home under a hold with a clear lead & then came under a ride ~1/8 th pole. From there, she maintained strong strides to the wire, winning comfortably. Took up the lead around the first turn & never looked back. Traveled very well into the race & had her rivals cooked a long way out. A dominant effort. Can she repeat it off just 8 days rest though and how will she fare with more pace pressure cut back to 6F today?
JUST LIKE YOU	Alw, Lrl, 6F, Fast, 04/09/25 – 1st	Shortly after the break, 'JLY' worked to the outside of foes to chase the pace into the far turn. She then made an eyecatching 4W advance on the far turn to take 2 nd ~5/16 pole with the leader in her sights. From there, she came under a strong ride, swung 3W into the stretch & gamely wore down the leader, taking the lead ~1/16 pole before holding safe to the wire. Chased while wide, then reeled in the leader & went away. Solid. Ran like she'll appreciate a fast pace.
HALEIGH B	Clm7.5k, Lrl, 1M, Fast, 03/22/25 – 1st	'HB' was rushed forward from the inside gate & took the lead early, then set an even, uncontested pace to the far turn. She had her rivals under pressure when extending her lead under a hold ~1/4 pole, then turned for home ~3L in front with the race seemingly in the bag. Having then come under a ride ~3/16 pole, she stayed on willingly to the wire, maintaining strong strides to fend off a late closer. Authoritative gate to wire victory at 2/5. She benefited from establishing an uncontested lead. She had her lead reduced late but that was more her rival finishing fast than her getting tired – she stayed well. A solid effort. Today's cut back should work.
HOT DANCE	SA, Lrl, 6F, Sloppy, 04/11/25 – 5th	Following a clean break, 'HD' stayed in the clear 3W chasing the dueling leaders to the far turn. She then stayed 3W on the turn, turned for home ~3L off the pace & came under a strong ride. She drifted down to the rail under L-handed urging in the stretch & tried to rally inside, however, she then flopped leads ~1/16 pole & from there, finished evenly. Clean trip, no excuse. Drifted in towards the rail fairly harshly in the stretch, then flopped leads – black mark. Showed a willing attitude but needed more. Feel she's better than this.
NEOLITHICA	Alw, Lrl, 1M, Good, 04/04/25 – 2nd	'NEO' got away cleanly between horses, then worked forward to set an even tempo in the 2P with a rival closely stalking her on the rail. She traveled well to the far turn where she then briefly extended her advantage under under a hold before being challenged by two fresh faces on her outside. She maintained a slim lead to the top of the stretch, then came under a strong ride. She then fought very resiliently towards the inside & held off all bar one of her rivals to the wire. Clean trip setting the pace. Was extremely game to the wire, seeing off all bar one rival. Very likable in defeat & should handle today's cut back in trip.

Horses to Follow

R8: BOSS IS A PAL (9/2 ML)

BOSS IS A PAL had a solid setup in his last race but came up short at odds of 5/2 with no obvious excuse. That said, he was returning from a 167-day layoff with only four reported workouts behind him, and as noted in the trip notes, he ran like he needed the outing, fading in the stretch and looking weary late. Back at Pimlico today, where he's a perfect three-for-three in the money on turf, he should step forward as he makes his second start of the form cycle, just as he's always done in the past. And if returning to anywhere near the level of form he's proven himself capable of over the last few years, he should be able to go close at a respectable price. He projects to sit a comfortable ground saving trip from gate two and as he won at 9/1 over today's course and distance with a 92 Beyer in his second start off the layoff last year, it may be foolish to underestimate him.

R9: MORNING THOUGHTS (8/1 ML)

A lack of pace in today's eighth could compromise the chances of the morning line favorites and instead give the rail drawn runner, MORNING THOUGHTS, the chance to score at a price. As stated in the trip notes, the 6-year-old gelded son of AIR FORCE BLUE ran a game race in defeat over one mile at Laurel last time as he tried to catch an even money favorite late having been caught wide on the turn. He was the only horse in that hot-paced affair who was hanging around at the finish and he then galloped out strongly, well in front of the field, suggesting today's return to 1 1/16-miles will be to his advantage. His speed figures give him a shot against this group and with a favorable set-up forecast, he could be able to go close at a price.

R10: NEOLITHICA (4/1 ML)

MOR MOR MOR can be a little hit and miss, and HALEIGH B isn't nearly as fast on speed figures sprinting than she is going long, so NEOLITHICA could be a good alternative in the nightcap today. The 4-year-old daughter of NEOLITHIC has really found form recently, finishing third, first and second in her last three starts at odds of 9/1, 21/1 and 5/1, despite the fact that one mile stretched her stamina reserves in two of those races. She now cuts back to 6-furlongs - the distance at which she ran a career best Beyer in a 4 1/2-length romp two back - and has landed a dangerous outside post from where she can use her tactical speed. She fits with this group on speed figures and with leading rider Jamie Rodriguez getting aboard for the first time, it wouldn't be surprising to see her outrun her odds once again.

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.

LIL SEBASTIAN (Entered Sun 5/11 at Pimlico - Race 7)

Trainer: Justin Nixon Last race: Dec. 20, 8th Finish: 2nd by 1/2 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: 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.

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 Wig

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: 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

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 (Entered Today at Pimlico - Race 4)

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.

NEOLITHICA (Entered Today at Pimlico - Race 10)

Trainer: Damon Dilodovico **Last Race:** April 4, 7th **Finish:** 2nd by 3/4 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 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

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.

ISLAND DREAM GIRL (Entered Sun 5/11 at Pimlico - Race 2)

Trainer: Kieron Magee **Last Race:** April 19, 4th **Finish:** 3rd by 2 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:** 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.

YO ADRIAN

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. 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.

ΜΟΡΟ

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:** 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.

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.

JOCKEY CALLS

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

Race 1 - Ismerio Villalobos: #1 - Diane Lee; #9 - Seap >>> Villalobos rides SEAP

Race 1 - Jaime Rodriguez: #4 -Happy Hour Joker; #5 - Viscious Gossip >>> Rodriguez rides VISCIOUS GOSSIP

Race 3 - Weston Hamilton: #8 - Steam Knot; #10 - Somme River >>> Hamilton rides SOMME RIVER

Race 4 - Arnaldo Bocachica: #3 - Motskari; #7 - Penny Loafer >>> **Bocachica rides MOTSKARI**

Race 4 - Yedsit Hazlewood - #4 - Secret Treasure; #8 - Nico Lucky >>> Hazlewood rides SECRET TREASURE

Race 5 - Sheldon Russell - #3 - Benny Havens; #8 - Daring Venture >>> Russell rides DARING VENTURE

Race 6 - Jevian Toledo - #1 - Full Irish; #10 - Rad Paisley >>> Toledo rides FULL IRISH

Race 7 - Jorge Ruiz: #5 - Petit Fils; #10 - Elfuegomasbrilante >>> Ruiz rides PETIT FILS

Race 7 - Matilda Burnham: #11 (AE) Power Back; #14 (AE) Factotum >>> Burnham rides POWER BACK

Race 7 - Jaime Rodriguez: #13 (AE) - Ironsides; #15 (AE) - Tiberius Mercurius >>> **Rodriguez rides IRONSIDES** (Rodriguez also named on #9 - Splendor Beauty)

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