



## 🏆 PIMLICO HANDICAPPING GUIDE for Saturday, May 17 – Preakness Day 🏆

First post is **10:30 AM ET** with 12% takeout on Value Pick 5 wagers (beginning Races 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9) plus Mandatory Payouts today!

- “Today at the Races” morning simulcast show LIVE at **9:30 AM ET** for late changes, top tickets and best plays.
- Follow the action on your preferred ADW, on X [@PreaknessStakes](#), [@PimlicoRC](#), [@DanIllman\\_MJC](#) and Instagram [@marylandjockeyclub](#).
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### TODAY'S SELECTIONS FROM THE TMJC TEAM



**KEITH FEUSTLE**



**KALI FRANCOIS**



**DAN ILLMAN**



**MACKENZIE PFEIFFER**



**DAVE RODMAN**

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

## TODAY'S ANALYSIS - by Dan Illman

### >> RACE 1

#### 1. AUGUSTA MELODY

#### 2. BAND CAMP

#### 3. CIRCLE P

Happy Preakness 150 Day!!! First post is 10:30 ET with 12% takeout on "Value Pick 5" wagers. **AUGUSTA MELODY** had everything go his way when scoring at Keeneland as he controlled manageable fractions over a speed-friendly track. Bobbled then sideswiped leaving the gate before assuming the lead, then held firm in the stretch. Think he can get to the lead once again for barn that went 5 for the last 13 (38%, \$5.06 ROI) with last-out winners going third after 180-365 day layoffs. **BAND CAMP** received a quick pace to attack when second in the Maryland Million Sprint, his final start preceding this 217-day layoff. The winner then ran compiled a 4-1-2-1 record with three 90 Beyer Speed Figures. He's hit the board in his last seven starts, runs well fresh, and can kick on in the stretch. **CIRCLE P** might not have cared for the wet conditions when fourth in the Frank Whiteley last month. He's more adaptable to race flow than it looks on paper. SHERIFF RONNIE tried to rally in a race where they ran 1-2-3 around the track. That heat produced two next-out winners with Talented Man taking a high-level allowance with an 83 Beyer.

### >> RACE 2

#### 1. BETULA

#### 2. KOBE'S SMILE

#### 3. DROP THE HAMMER

**BETULA** received a candy scenario when graduating at Tampa Bay last fall as she relaxed through a moderate second quarter of 25.59 before having enough in the tank to fend off all comers. Beat two next-out winners with the fourth-finisher taking a special weight there with a 72 Beyer. Must deal with a long layoff, a tough post position, and a stronger race flow. **KOBE'S SMILE** raced three wide near the back, split rivals three furlongs out, altered course to the far outside, and made up some late ground in final start of 2024. Jockey-trainer combination sent out Agent Kelly (11-10 odds) to score on turf following a 183-day layoff on 5/12. **DROP THE HAMMER** chased a quick pace in a race where the top-two finishers were ninth and twelfth after six furlongs, then was hemmed in at a crucial juncture. Worked inside stakes-winning turf mare Queen of the Mud on 5/10, finished a head up, then was a half-length back on the gallop-out. Think she's found a home as a middle-distance turf runner. MISS ELLARY tried to sneak away through a quick third quarter before tiring in return to turf. Her speed plays well here. FIVECOMMATWO often acts up behind the start gate, but she can get forward stretching back out in second of the form cycle. Last-finisher from most recent start then placed in a \$12,000 starter-optional with a 63 Beyer.

### >> RACE 3

#### 1. VARNEY

#### 2. LAST MAN STANDING

#### 3. DRILL BABY

**VARNEY** seemingly finds a better spot after facing four next-out winners including Preakness contender Goal Oriented. The third-finisher next ran second in a maiden special weight with a 95 Beyer. Tracked three wide, was urged along on the turn, then finished evenly. Breezed inside maiden Zabo (69 dirt Beyer) on May 18, finished ahead by three lengths, and extended the margin on the gallop-out. Expect stretch-out early speed for barn that went 9 for 25 (36%, \$2.09 ROI) between 4/18 and 5/10. **LAST MAN STANDING** was wired by favored Shangrala Road at Keeneland in a race that produced Fountain Lake, who returned to graduate at Churchill with an 87 Beyer. Hasn't shown much speed to date, but should come with a late bid. **DRILL BABY** stretches

out and wheels back in two weeks. The first two dams were both stakes-placed routers. Can get close to the pace for barn that went 4 for the last 14 (29%, \$3.33 ROI) with experienced horses going first-route on dirt.

#### >> RACE 4: G3 MARYLAND SPRINT S.

##### 1. BOOTH

##### 2. CONCRETE GLORY

##### 3. CELTIC CONTENDER

**BOOTH** set a pressured pace inside the third-finisher, then just held sway in the Count Fleet Sprint at Oaklawn. Swift colt has won three in a row, but will likely have to work for the lead this afternoon. **CONCRETE GLORY** got away with an easy opening quarter in 22.87 in the Gulfstream Park Sprint, then failed to hold off back-classy Super Chow. Fifteen-winner is a solid horse, but might have to chase much-faster fractions this time around. **CELTIC CONTENDER** set a moderate pace in a three-horse field at Colonial, but he's simply not as good as odds-on Grade 1 winner Book'em Danno. Seems well-entered here, and might revert to the stalking tactics that worked in the Maryland Million Sprint for barn that went 3 for the last 10 (30%, \$3.82 ROI) first after 61-120 days away. Keep an eye on NINETYPERCENTMADDIE, who was wired in a slow-paced race in seasonal debut. He should be tighter for this, and will get faster splits to attack.

#### >> RACE 5

##### 1. GLEAN

##### 2. MISCHIEF MAXEY

##### 3. RIVER SEINE

**GLEAN** worked out a nice trip when graduating on turf two back at Keeneland. Prompted a quick pace from the rail, settled for the pocket entering the turn, angled three wide into the stretch, then kicked on late. The runner-up next graduated by five lengths in a Fair Grounds special weight with an 81 Beyer. Barn went 5 for the last 19 (26%, \$3.16 ROI) with experienced runners getting first-time Lasix. Breezed a relaxed five-eighths at Keeneland on May 10 with a solid finish. **MISCHIEF MAXEY** pushed the 82-1 last-finisher's fast pace, then bore out badly causing interference and a disqualification. Finished ahead of four of these that afternoon, and proved that turf is no obstacle. She appears very quick from the gate for barn that sent out three winners this month. **RIVER SEINE** was purchased for \$93,559 in December, and now makes first start for new connections. The fourth-finisher from her last start overseas returned to win a listed stakes at Doncaster. Barn went 5 for the last 11 (45%, \$6.02 ROI) first after the trainer switch.

#### >> RACE 6: SKIPAT S.

##### 1. ONE MAGIC PHILLY

##### 2. STRIKER HAS DIAL

##### 3. ZEITLOS

**ONE MAGIC PHILLY** displayed a good amount of talent before being thrown against tough Grade 1 company in her final two starts of 2024. Prompted four wide over a speed-friendly track in the La Brea, then never fired her best shot. The winner of that race then took the Grade 2 Santa Monica with a 110 Beyer before grabbing the Grade 1 Derby City Distaff with a 109. Tactical enough to work out a nice stalking trip. **STRIKER HAS DIAL** steps up in class seeking third straight score. This one has good positional speed, and should be squarely in the thick of things when they turn for home. **ZEITLOS** has won off shorter layoffs in the past, but she is a one-run closer that needs a good amount of pace and race luck. DISCO EBO broke through the gate prior to the start of the Primonetta, then contested solid fractions over a closer-friendly track on her way to another stakes victory. Thirteen-time winner might be the quickest from the gate.

#### >> RACE 7: G3 GALLORETTE S.

### 1. CONQUEST DANCER

### 2. SPARKLE BLUE

### 3. THREE HAVANAS

Taking a guess with huge longshot **CONQUEST DANCER**. The first and second dam were both stakes-placed on turf, so perhaps she'll really take a step forward on this surface. Have to be concerned about the plethora of early speed in what amounts to a spread race. **SPARKLE BLUE** is as honest as the day is long, and she might be set for best in her third start of the form cycle for master trainer. Breezed a comfortable solo half-mile at Fair Hill on May 12, and should get a comfortable race flow. **THREE HAVANAS** sold for \$634,044 in December, and brings an American-ized running style to this race. She's shown plenty of speed overseas, but might have to rate with a lot of other pace runners entered. **OCEAN CLUB** raced over in behind horses in her most recent start, but think she'll revert to free-running ways in this spot.

#### >> RACE 8: CHICK LANG S.

### 1. FASTER GATOR

### 2. ONE NINE HUNDRED

### 3. TOUCHY

**FASTER GATOR** sparred inside the favored winner through reasonable fractions, then gamely battled all the way to the wire in the Bay Shore, his stakes debut. Lightly-raced colt has upside potential, and might opt for rating tactics with a faster pace expected. **ONE NINE HUNDRED** blasted out to the early lead, then received a lovely second-quarter breather of 22.32. Had plenty left in the tank turning for home, then sprinted clear to win by seven. Respect his early speed, but this might be a tougher spot from a class and pace perspective. **TOUCHY** adds blinkers after being wired by the favorite in a race where they ran 1-2 around the track. The fifth-finisher then won an allowance at Lone Star by seven lengths with an 87 Beyer. Barn went 15 for the last 49 (31%, \$2.07 ROI) adding blinkers. **PERFECT FORCE** repeats the route to sprint move that resulted in his maiden win, and should get a much-stronger flow after trying to rally in the Pat Day Mile, a race where they ran 1-2 around the track. **KEEP IT EASY** drops in class and turns back to more appropriate distance after trying Sovereignty in the Fountain of Youth.

#### >> RACE 9: JIM McKAY TURF SPRINT S.

### 1. COPPOLA

### 2. NO NAY HUDSON

### 3. FORE HARP

The last time **COPPOLA** raced third off the layoff, he exploded to a career-best 101 Beyer Speed Figure taking a second-level allowance over this distance at Churchill. Cutting back a half-furlong works beautifully for a horse that has won six of his last seven starts at five-eighths. No real excuses at Churchill two weeks ago as he set a reasonable pace inside the 8-1 runner-up before tiring in between. Think he could be the speed of the speed. **NO NAY HUDSON** worked out a lovely inside-out tracking trip to best Clear the Air, who next won an \$80,000 optional claimer at Gulfstream with a 94 Beyer. Swapped back to his left lead toward the end of solo half-mile drill around the dogs at Churchill on 5/11. Can adapt to any pace scenario, and should come running late. **FORE HARP** took them every step of the way in the King T. Leatherbury at Laurel. He adds to the pace picture, but might have to work a bit more to get close this time. Fan favorite **WITTY** rallied nicely for second when wired by Fore Harp in the seasonal debut. There should be more pace for him to attack this time.

#### >> RACE 10: SIR BARTON S.

### 1. CRUDO

### 2. INVICTUS

### 3. JUST A FAIR SHAKE

**CRUDO** bounced out to the lead at Keeneland, set a very reasonable pace along the rail, then ran up the score to graduate second-time out. Not too

worried about the added distance as he is a full brother to Awesome Result, who won five stakes in Japan at distances ranging between 1 1/8 miles and 1 5/16 miles. Might need to rate with some other fast ones entered to his outside for barn that went 8 for the last 25 (32%, \$2.31 ROI) with last-out maiden winners. **INVICTUS** also stretches out for the first time as he makes his third lifetime start. Broke sharp in seasonal debut, prompted three wide, tracked in between horses with three-eighths remaining, eased outside, and drew clear despite swapping leads several time in the stretch. Barn went 20 for the last 60 (33%, \$2.58 ROI) with last-out maiden winners routing for the first time. **JUST A FAIR SHAKE** ran a big race from a tough outside post in the Tesio. Bobbled at the start, stalked four wide for most of the way, made a five-wide bid entering the final turn and grabbed a short lead at the quarter-pole, then tired when hopping back to his left lead behind Preakness entrant Pay Billy. **BEST FRIEND ROCKET** drops after facing Preakness entrant Sandman in the Arkansas Derby. Fourth-finisher then placed in a first-level allowance with a 92 Beyer.

#### >> RACE 11: JAMES W. MURPHY S.

##### 1. CLOCK TOWER

##### 2. REAGAN'S WIT

##### 3. END OF ROMANCE

**CLOCK TOWER** graduated going second off the layoff at Kentucky Downs last year, and repeats the move after faltering in the Grade 3 Transylvania. Pushed a quick pace set by the 7-2 tenth-finisher, was placed on a hard chase on the second turn, and understandably tired. Broke a few lengths ahead of Grade 2-winning 4-year-old filly Kehoe Beach in 5/6 turf work, finished a head behind, and was three back on the gallop-out. Think we'll see speedy tactics for barn that went 15 for 49 (31%, \$2.07 ROI) between 4/10 and 5/15. **REAGAN'S WIT** finished ahead of the top pick when the beaten Transylvania favorite. Taken in hand early to save ground in midpack, stalked in between after a half-mile, altered four wide into the stretch, then ran on nicely for fourth. The winner then ran second in the Grade 1 American Turf at Churchill with an 88 Beyer. Worked heads-up outside Grade 2-placed turf router Rebel Red in May 12 team drill. **END OF ROMANCE** saved ground at the back in Aqueduct's Woodhaven, began his kick just as the pace began to quicken, then showed some late life outside. Might be racing himself into shape for this, his third start of the form cycle, and could receive a better setup this time.

#### >> RACE 12: G3 DINNER PARTY S.

##### 1. FORT WASHINGTON

##### 2. CRYSTAL QUEST

##### 3. CASH EQUITY

**FORT WASHINGTON** found a nice spot at the back, advanced inside on the turn, eased out into the stretch, then got there despite being very late to change leads. He's been given plenty of time to recover from that taxing effort. **CRYSTAL QUEST** saved ground in midpack, advanced into a quick pace along the fence on the second turn, split rivals in upper stretch, then scored after hopping back to his left lead. Lightly-raced 4-year-old retains upside. **CASH EQUITY** faced two next-out winners from the Pan American with Far Bridge returning to capture the Grade 2 Man o' War with a 99 Beyer. Must deal with a severe turnback in distance. **ABRUMAR** is eligible to show early speed stretching out in second start of the year. **BALNIKHOV** won this race last year and had to weave his way through traffic in the Grade 2 Elkhorn at Keeneland. Expect a powerful late rally.

#### >> RACE 13: 150<sup>th</sup> RUNNING OF THE G1 PREAKNESS 🏆

##### 1. CLEVER AGAIN

##### 2. JOURNALISM

##### 3. RIVER THAMES

**CLEVER AGAIN** received a good setup when wiring the Hot Springs, a race where they ran 1-2 around the track, but he rated kindly on the lead, and that might indicate a willingness to allow others to take the early advantage in the Preakness. He comes into the race fresh for barn that went 12 for the last 44 (27%, \$4.02 ROI) with last-out winners going third after 180-365 day layoffs. Hopped back to his left lead at the end of recent half-mile breeze at

Churchill, and must answer the distance question. **JOURNALISM** was brushed at the start of the Derby, saved ground in midpack behind a hot pace, made a strong three-wide bid on the second turn, then tried hard for second. He's the class of this field, the most likely winner on paper, and should be running strongly at the end. **RIVER THAMES** chased a quick pace in the Blue Grass, a race won by a deep closer over a closer-friendly track. Consistent and tactical. Expect speedy tactics from rail-drawn **GOAL ORIENTED**, who looked good in both starts against weaker company.

## **>> RACE 14**

**1. DIAMOND GEM AA A**

**2. RB GRAND SLAM A**

**3. RB MOTHERLOAD A**

Arabians

### **KALI'S KEY – by Kali Francois**

#### **Race 2, #9 Drop the Hammer**

Was all dressed up and nowhere to go from the 5/16 to the 3/16 last out at Keeneland, with a wet turf. While this one is more one paced as would suggest via the form, with this one getting an outside post, and Irad stays on...they should be able to make corrections from Keeneland.

### **MACK'S FACTS – by Mackenzie Pfeiffer**

R1: 3rd start into the form cycle and arriving off a KEE win, Augusta Melody seems a convincing single.

R2: Drop the Hammer has been effective on the grass and ran well despite trouble in her first against winners. Irad stays on for Motion and may be reliable with a bit of moisture in the ground.

R3: Last Man Standing looks live in the spot but has to manage the rail trip. Energize intrigues after the 3/4 mi debut, hails from a mare who won on 2nd asking going a dirt route.

R4: Booth makes perfect sense after stringing together 3 in a row in impressive fashion. I take interest in Ninetypercentmaddie, who looks to step forward second off the bench.

R5: Blinkers and Lasix go on for the 3 y/o debut of Glean, the close tactical trip from inside may work well if she is ready to roll first off the bench.

R6: Striker Has Dial added blinkers for the last 2 efforts and may continue improving with the outside post.

R7: Austere hasn't been able to string together too many races but the 3 starts in '25 may have her sitting on a big race.

R8: Plenty of speed amongst this group, Ancient World impressed in both efforts and should be able to work a ground saving inside trip while the pace burns out.

R9: Fore Harp had everything go his way when cutting back last out, he will have work to do from the outside against plenty of other pace. No Nay Hudson looks to sit a tidy stalking trip inside.

R10: Odds on Invictus is hard to go against after proving himself in the 3 y/o debut. The first foal of Serengeti Empress will have to prove himself with the Lasix off here.

R11: Twice proven over good turf, Reagan's Wit has kept stakes company since the maiden score and looks to continue improving. Twain dazzled on debut and may be the value play.

R12: 2nd time blinkers for Irish Aces here may continue building on his win last out. Proven over softer going!

R13: If ever you are going to beat Journalism, this seems the day. Pay Billy has been valiant ever since the maiden score and seems a better value. Send Old Hilltop out with the hometown hero? Yes please.

R14: Wma Smoke Signal A seems the better price and has been able to stay on for the mile and 1/16 effort before, 15-1 entices.

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## TODAY'S HOT TRAINER STATS

### **RACE 1**

#### **#5 - Augusta Melody**

Trainer: Brittany Russell

Last-Out Winners, Third After 180-365 Days: 5 for the last 13 (38%, \$5.06 ROI)

### **RACE 3**

#### **#3 - Varney**

Trainer: Bob Baffert

Between 4/18 and 5/10: 9 for 25 (36%, \$2.09 ROI)

#### **#7 - Drill Baby**

Trainer: Greg Compton

Experienced Runners, First-Route, Dirt: 4 for the last 14 (29%, \$3.33 ROI)

### **RACE 4**

#### **#3 - Celtic Contender**

Trainer: Hamilton Smith

First After 61-120 Days: 3 for the last 10 (30%, \$3.82 ROI)

### **RACE 5**

#### **#3 - Glean**

Trainer: Wesley Ward

Experienced Runners, First-Lasix: 5 for the last 19 (26%, \$3.16 ROI)

#### **#11 - River Seine**

Trainer: Elizabeth Merryman

First After Trainer Switch: 5 for the last 11 (45%, \$6.02 ROI)

### **RACE 8**

#### **#10 - Touchy**

Trainer: Wesley Ward

Blinkers On: 15 for the last 49 (31%, \$2.07 ROI)

### **RACE 10**

#### **#1 - Crudo**

Trainer: Todd Pletcher

Last-Out Maiden Winner: 8 for the last 25 (32%, \$2.31 ROI)

#### **#6 - Invictus**

Trainer: Brad Cox

Last-Out Maiden Winners, First Route: 20 for the last 60 (33%, \$2.58 ROI)

### **RACE 11**

#### **#3 - Clock Tower**

Trainer: Wesley Ward

Between 4/10 and 5/15: 15 for 49 (31%, \$2.07 ROI)

### **RACE 13**

#### **#8 - Clever Again**

Trainer: Steve Asmussen

Last-Out Winners, Third After 180-365 Days: 12 for the last 44 (27%, \$4.02 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 4: Maryland Sprint (G3), 3YO+, 6F, Dirt

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
S S SINATRA	Alw, Lrl, 5 1/2F, Fast, 03/29/25 – 1st	Having bobbled slightly at the break, 'SSS' recovered, zipped to the lead & crossed to the rail early before being headed & settling ~1/2L back along the rail heading into the turn. He traveled well while holding his position into & around the bend before coming under pressure ~5/16 pole. Responding well to his rider's urgings, he moved forward along the rail to eyeball the leader at the top of the stretch, from where, he came under a strong ride & engaged in a stretch battle to the 1/16 pole before gamely seeing off his rival & edging away. The wire then helped him hold off a fast closer in the dying strides. <b>Good rail skimming trip. Was very game inside. The whole way &amp; delivered a typically likable effort. Not entirely sure how much he can improve off this run though.</b>
PRINCE OF JERICHO	General George S., Lrl, 7F, Muddy, 02/15/25 – 3rd	POJ bumped with a rival at the start but showed good speed regardless & moved forward to set a pressured pace into the turn. He traveled well while maintaining a slim lead to ~1/4 pole, however, he then lost the lead to the much the best winner & came under a strong ride. He responded well to pressure chasing in vain through the stretch & was game to the wire but faded into 3 <sup>rd</sup> late. <b>Had no chance with winner who pressured him throughout. Was game in defeat. Based off his finishing effort here, today's cut back to 6F should suit.</b>
CELTIC CONTENDER	VA Hcp, Cnl, 7F, Fast, 03/14/25 – 3rd	'CC' broke alertly & zipped to the lead early where he set a modest pace along the rail. He traveled well with ~1/2L lead to ~5/16 pole, then had his lead gradually reduced & was strongly challenged at the top of the stretch. From there, he came under a strong ride & finished gamely inside, however, he was outfinished by the 1/5 favorite & then lost 2 <sup>nd</sup> in the dying strides. <b>Three runner race. No excuse – set a modest pace to the top of the stretch, then was out finished. Did show a likable attitude late though &amp; wasn't exactly beaten by slouches. Okay effort.</b>
NINETYPERCENTMADDIE	Alw, Prx, 6F, Fast, 05/05/25 – 3rd	NINETYPERCENTMADDIE broke sluggishly & dropped to last early before he crossed to the rail & was sent up to chase the pace ~4.5L off the pace. He raced slightly behind the bridle heading into the turn, then came under a strong ride when becoming outpaced ~5/16 pole. From then on, he failed to properly get involved, however, he did stay on well into a clear 3 <sup>rd</sup> late, despite not changing leads. <b>Was in rear &amp; on the back foot for the majority of the race, then stayed on well into 3<sup>rd</sup> late but never truly threatened. Needs to show more today to get involved. Also, didn't like how he didn't change leads late.</b>
CONCRETE GLORY	Gulfstream Park Sprint S., GP, 6F, Fast, 02/22/25 – 2nd	'CG' broke sharp & zipped to the lead under encouragement early, then set a modest, uncontested lead to the top of the stretch where he turned for home ~4L clear, still travelling well, with his rivals hard at work in behind. He then came under a strong ride in the stretch & finished okay at one pace. However, he didn't change leads & drifted out a touch which helped the fast closing winner nail him late. <b>Traveled well into the race on the front end &amp; looked a certainty at the top of the stretch but didn't put the race to bed as expected as he didn't change leads late &amp; drifted. Not a bad effort at all &amp; he was only nailed late by a talented horse, but he had no excuse either.</b>
BOOTH	Count Fleet Sprint H. (G3), OP, 6F, Fast, 04/12/25 – 1st	BOOTH broke sharp & zipped to the front along the rail early. He was then taken on for the lead & forced into a duel with a 7L gap back to 3 <sup>rd</sup> . The front two sizzled along to ~5/16 pole where, while still under a hold, he edged into a slim lead as his sparing partner began to struggle. He then turned for home ~1/2L in front & came under a strong ride. From there, he was extremely game to the wire & held his lead, despite not extending his advantage & drifting out a touch, seeing off all his rivals. <b>Clean trip. Dueled for the lead early but still managed to turn away all the closers late. Was extremely game late.</b>
EPIC RIDE	Commonwealth S. (G3), Kee, 7F, Fast, 04/08/25 – 4th	'ER' was ridden very hard from the gate & sent forward to press the lone leader in 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2W early. He traveled well in that position to the far turn, then was pressured on his outside & came under encouragement to reel the leader back in. He responded gamely to his rider's urgings & advanced to be within 1L of the lead between horses approaching the ¼ pole with a large gap back to 4 <sup>th</sup> . From there, he came under a stronger ride but, not for a lack of trying, was outpaced by the eventual top three finishers & dropped back into 4 <sup>th</sup> . He then

		treaded water through the final 1/8 <sup>th</sup> but was saved by the wire for 4 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Was set a tough task trying to go with MONTALCINO who set a furious pace from the start. He made a good go of it &amp; ran a likable race in defeat, showing a good attitude. He was tired in the final 1/8<sup>th</sup> so today's cut back in trip should help.</b>
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#### Race 7: Gallorette S. (G3), 3YO+F, 1 1/16M, Turf

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
DANA'S BEAUTY	Latonia S., TP, 1 1/16M, Synth, 03/22/25 – 1st	'DB' broke sharp & contested the lead early before dropping back into a stalking position 3W heading into & around the first turn. She remained in that position despite racing slightly behind the bridle to the far turn, then came under encouragement & quickly advanced 3-4W into a dangerous looking 2 <sup>nd</sup> place. Despite lugging out on the turn, she then built good momentum to the top of the stretch & joined the leader ~3/16 pole before coming under a strong ride & drawing away to the wire. <b>Clean trip but was wide both turns – cause for minor upgrade? Traveled just okay into the race &amp; then lugged out on the far turn which was under sizable, however, that didn't prevent her cruising to the front at the top of the stretch &amp; then drawing off late. Solid in victory.</b>
QUEEN OF THE MUD (IRE)	Monrovia S. (G3), SA, 6 1/2F, Firm, 04/05/25 – 2nd	'QOTM' broke well & worked forward to vie for the lead early, then dropped back to track the pace in 3 <sup>rd</sup> as the field rounded the dogleg. She traveled well tracking the leaders down the hill, then dropped to the rail approaching the home turn before she drifted out a touch crossing the dirt ~1/4 pole on the leaders' heels. From there, she was straightened & came under a strong ride. She responded willingly to pressure in the stretch & edged into 2nd, then held well for that spot to the wire, however, she had no chance with the winner who won by daylight. <b>Ran a likable race in defeat, traveling well &amp; then maintaining stride nicely late. However, she had no chance with the very good winner. Finished like today's stretch out in trip could suit. Her action may raise concerns about her running on any soft turf though.</b>
OCEAN CLUB	Sand Spring S., GP, 1 1/16M, Firm, 03/29/25 – 4th	'OC' broke okay from gate ten, then eased back into a mid-pack position & worked to the 2P heading into the first turn. Around the first turn, she then managed to work down to the rail before she tipped back out into the 2P between horses heading down the back stretch. She traveled well in mid-pack ~2L off the pace in a tightly bunched group to the far turn, then waited patiently for a run under a hold while traveling well around the far turn into the stretch. She turned for home absent of a clear path ~2.5L off the lead, then came under a strong ride as the horses in front of her kicked & created some room. She responded well for pressure but was out-footed by the leaders, then bumped hard with a rival before staying on well into 4 <sup>th</sup> late. <b>Had to wait in traffic until it was too late &amp; then struggled to make up the required ground over a speedy turf course in the stretch. Traveled well into the race &amp; ultimately did well to finish 4<sup>th</sup>. A likable &amp; upgradable effort in defeat.</b>
CHARLENE'S DREAM	Dueling Grounds Oaks Invitational S., KD, 1 5/16M, Firm, 09/11/45 – 7th	'CD' broke sharp & under minimal urging, sped into a clear, uncontested lead early. She set a clear, uncontested lead to ~1/2 mile pole where her lead was then gradually reduced to the point where, ~1/4 pole, she was being very strongly challenged for the lead & had come under a strong ride. From there, not for a lack of trying, she gradually weakened. <b>Set a clear, uncontested lead to ~1/2 mil pole, then gradually had her lead reduced &amp; weakened. Today's cut back in trip will certainly be to her advantage. Effort followed by lengthy layoff.</b>
CONQUEST DANCER	SA, Lrl, 1M, Sloppy, 05/04/25 – 3rd	'CD' broke okay from the outside gate, then worked forward under a hold to take the early lead in the 2P. She took a strong hold setting a slow, uncontested lead to ~5/16 pole. She was then challenged but held her advantage well & turned for home ~2L in front, traveling best. Front there, she came under a strong ride but, not for a lack of trying, she didn't extend away as expected & just finished evenly at one pace which resulted in her dropping back to 3 <sup>rd</sup> close home. <b>Had no excuse setting a slow, uncontested lead into the stretch. Was one paced late &amp; needed more. Maybe a switch to turf today will help? It will need to.</b>
AUSTERE	Latonia S., TP, 1 1/16M, Synth, 03/22/25 – 3rd	AUSTERE wasn't rushed from the gate & dropped to rear early before she crossed to the rail heading into the first turn & advanced along the inside to adopt a tracking position in 4 <sup>th</sup> . She traveled in that position to the far turn, then advanced inside to loom dangerously behind the leader on the rail rounding the turn. She didn't have a clear path in front of her ~5/16 pole but wasn't exactly running up on heels at that point of the race either as she began to struggle & come under pressure. She then tipped out into the clear 2W upon straightening & came under a strong ride. She finished well enough from there to earn a hard earned 3 <sup>rd</sup> but was never troubling the winner. <b>Perfect trip. Traveled well but lacked a finishing kick. Third best without excuse. .</b>
THREE HAVANA'S	Premio Ribot Memorial Loreto Luciani (G3), Rome,	'TH' traveled well vying for the lead along the rail heading into the first turn, then eased back to stalk the pace along the rail into the stretch. She traveled very well to ~3/8 pole, then breezed by the leader to take control before coming under a ride approaching the ¼ pole. On the very soft turf, she failed to quicken away but did respond willingly to pressure & held her lead to ~1/8 <sup>th</sup> pole. She then became leg weary & faded

	1M, Soft, 10/27/24 – 4th	back to 4 <sup>th</sup> late. <b>Clean trip. Ran a likable race on the front end, traveling well into the race before showing a likable attitude late. Today's extra ground could be a concern but her action suggest she could improve for firmer ground.</b>
SPARKLE BLUE	Dahlia S., Lrl, 1M, Firm, 04/19/25 – 2nd	'SB' broke well but was not rushed & eased back to rear early where she spied the field under a tight hold along the rail to the far turn. She then tipped out into the 2P & advanced slightly between foes heading into the far turn. From there, she tried to build momentum into the stretch but lacked a clear path until she reached the top of the stretch & turned for home ~5L off the pace. She then angled out into the 4P & came under a strong ride. She responded well to pressure late & closed well into 2nd, despite not changing leads, but simply had too much to do. <b>Found herself too far back &amp; then had too much to do in the stretch. Needed to be more aggressively ridden from the gate &amp; put into the race earlier. Based on her finish, it's unlikely this result truly reflected her current ability. Didn't like how she didn't change leads late though.</b>
WAY TO BE MARIE	Tom Benson Memorial S., FG, 1 1/16M, Firm, 03/22/25 – 1st	'WTBM' broke in mid-pack, crossed to the rail entering the first turn & settled ~5L off the pace heading into the back stretch. She held that position while traveling well to the far turn, then was patiently ridden ~5L off the pace while lacking a way out on the turn into the stretch. Upon straightening, she found a huge rail opening, cut the corner & came under a strong ride. She quickened up well for pressure, quickly punched through the gap into a clear lead & then held safe to the wire. <b>Perfect trip rating back of an honest pace, then finding a ginormous rail gap to punch through at the top of the stretch. She was slightly fortunate to have been gifted such a run. However, she quickened up well late &amp; maintained strong strides to the wire in what was a solid win as the 2/1 favorite.</b>

#### Race 12: Dinner Party S. (G3), 3YO, 1 1/8M, Turf

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
DIVIN PROPOS (FR)	San Luis Rey S. (G3), SA, 1 1/2M, Firm, 03/22/25 – 2nd	'DP' broke cleanly, then eased back to adopt a stalking position ~3L off the pace in the 2P heading down the hill into the stretch for the first time. He then eased out into the clear 3-4W as the pace slowed & he traveled well on the outside of horses around the clubhouse turn down the back stretch to the far turn. From there, he was squeezed forward into the lead ~1/4 pole & quickly opened up a 2L lead rounding into the stretch. Having then come under a ride at the top of the stretch, he finished willingly at one pace but was outpaced by the winner & caught late. <b>Sat a wide trip. Traveled very well into the race, then effortlessly made a move into the lead on the home turn but was caught late, despite maintaining stride well late – he was simply second best. Traveled in a manner that suggests today's cut back in trip will be fine. This was a solid effort.</b>
CRABS N BEER	Henry S. Clark S., Lrl, 1M, Firm, 04/19/25 – 9th	'CNB' was ridden hard from the gate while finding his stride, then advanced strongly in behind the leading group heading to the far turn & dove to the rail which put a rival in tight & caused interference. He rode the rail in the pocket around the first turn, then raced behind the bridle chasing the pace to the far turn ~2L off the pace. Around the far turn, he then came under encouragement when beginning to struggle. He was on the back foot turning for home, then tried to stay on at one pace but faded slightly in the stretch, then got blocked ~1/8 <sup>th</sup> pole & from there, he was done. <b>Caused some interference working into a good position around the first turn, then sat a clean trip to ~1/8<sup>th</sup> pole. He was blocked late but on the back foot at the time &amp; it's unlikely it made that much difference to the result. Was hard at work to keep pace over this 1M trip, so today's extra furlong should suit, but he needs more.</b>
SIGNATOR	Henry S. Clark S., Lrl, 1M, Firm, 04/19/25 – 1st	SIGNATOR wasn't rushed from the gate, then crossed to the inside & settled towards rear ~6L off the pace under a hold rounding the first turn. He then eased into the 2P between horses down the back stretch & traveled well holding that position to ~1/2 mile pole. From there, he began to creep closer to the pace, then dropped to the rail entering the far turn, came under encouragement & began to advance with good momentum which he carried forward while easing out into the 3P off the bend into the stretch. He then came under a strong ride in the stretch & rallied nicely down the centre to get up in the final few jumps. <b>Absolutely perfect trip riding the rail on both turns &amp; closing into a fast pace – touch fortunate? He only got up late but then galloped out very well after the wire, strongly suggesting that today's extra furlong will see him to better effect. Stamina looks his forte.</b>
NEAT	Henry S. Clark S., Lrl, 1M, Firm, 04/19/25 – 4th	NEAT broke well & crossed to the inside heading into the first turn while trying to advance into a rail stalking position. However, he was significantly impeded by CRABS N BEER who dove to the inside in front of him, causing him to check very sharply back into mid-pack/rear. He then recovered & established a comfortable rhythm along the rail ~6L off the pace heading into the far turn but then had to steady again slightly entering the bend which forced him back to almost last, ~8L off the speed ~3/8 poles. He tried to get back into the race around the far turn but was denied a clear path while lugging out until the rail opened at the top of the stretch. He then came under a strong ride & punched through that gap at the top of the stretch before beginning his rally. Having eased out into the 3P between horses ~3/16 pole, he advanced to be 2L off the pace ~1/16 pole but his run then flattened out late & he settled for 4 <sup>th</sup> late. <b>Very troubled trip. This result doesn't reflect his</b>

		<b>current level of ability &amp; he can no doubt improve with a better trip. Under the circumstances, he did well to finish 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; showed a gritty, resilient attitude in doing so.</b>
ABRUMAR	Appleton S., GP, 1M, Firm, 03/29/25 – 3rd	ABRUMAR worked forward from the gate heading into the first turn & dropped to the rail to establish a perfect rail stalking position under tight hold. He traveled well in this position around the clubhouse turn & down the back stretch to the far turn where he was then forced to wait under a very tight hold on the leader's heels while boxed in all the way to the top of the stretch. Upon straightening, he swung out from behind the leaders into the 3P, then came under a strong ride & finished well but couldn't reach the leader in time. <b>Worked into a perfect position early but was then boxed in under a very tight hold to the top of the stretch. When he found daylight late, he finished well but had too much to do over a speedy turf course. His very good effort was even better than the result would suggest, and as he now makes his second start of the form cycle, granted a clean trip, he can improve significantly.</b>
BALNIKHOV (IRE)	Elkhorn S. (G2), Kee, 1 1/2M, Firm, 04/19/25 – 9th	BALNIKHOV was not rushed from the outside gate & dropped well off the pace early before crossing to the rail behind horses heading into the first turn. From there, he was patiently ridden under a tight hold in last ~10+L off the pace heading down the stretch for the first time, around the second turn & all the way to the far turn. He then came under mild encouragement from ~3/8 pole & began to build momentum to the top of the stretch where he swung into the lane ~6 wide, still ~10L off the pace. He then tried to rally in the stretch while diving back to the inside but could only advance to be ~7L from the lead before he was eased late. Was last early & never involved. Had far too much to do & was asked for his run too late, but regardless, this seemed a sub par effort from him & wasn't overly encouraging with relation to his chances on Saturday.
CASH EQUITY (FR)	Pan American S. (G3), GP, 1 1/2M, Firm, 03/29/25 – 5th	'CE' broke well, then adopted a tracking position on the rail heading into the first turn. He traveled well in this position heading down the lane for the first time but then had FAR BRIDGE slip up his inside & bump him out slightly entering the second turn which forced him into the 2P. He recovered well from the slight interference, then chased the pace 2-3W heading down the back stretch to the far turn before coming under encouragement behind horses. He held his position between horses ~4L off the pace rounding into the lane, then swung out into the clear 3W off the turn & came under a strong ride in the stretch. From there, he finished willingly but lacked the pace to strongly challenge & faded. <b>Was slightly bothered entering the second turn but overall this was a clean trip. He traveled well into the race but then lacked the pace to challenge in the stretch. He didn't really have an excuse here &amp; it's uncertain whether he's going to improve at all for today's cut back in trip.</b>
CRYSTAL QUEST	ESMARK Turf Classic S., Tam, 1 1/8M, Firm, 03/30/25 – 1st	'CQ' was ridden into stride from the rail draw, then settled back into mid-pack ~6L off the pace rounding the first turn into the back stretch. He held that position under a tight hold to ~1/2 mile pole, then crept closer along the rail heading into the far turn. He continued to travel well under a tight hold while bottled up in traffic rounding the far turn into the the stretch before easing out into the 3P & coming under a strong ride upon straightening. From there, he quickened nicely & blew by the leader to win going away under a largely hand ride. <b>Clean rail stalking trip. Traveled best of all into the race, then powered away late. He had to wait longer than ideal for a run &amp; was then only hand ridden late, so he very likely has more to offer. A solid performance.</b>
IRISH ACES	Alw, Kee, 1 1/16M, Good, 04/08/25 – 1st	Having broken cleanly from the rail draw, 'IA' was hustled forward, then allowed to stride on into the lead entering the first turn. He established a clear 1L lead rounding the clubhouse turn, then set an honest but comfortable pace under a tight hold to the far turn. He then began to press on & got his rivals on the back foot rounding the far turn but remained well in hand to enter the lane ~1L in front, traveling best, then he came under strong ride. He didn't quicken away in the stretch; however, he did maintain strong strides well to the wire & gamely held off two strong challengers late in a determined effort. <b>In first time blinkers, he put his rivals to the sword early, had everyone on the back foot rounding into the stretch &amp; then displayed a very likable attitude late. This was a solid effort that showed a new dimension from him going gate to wire. Having been fully extended late, the question is how much more he has to offer.</b>
FORT WASHINGTON	Canadian S. (G3), GP, 1 1/16M, Firm, 03/01/25 – 1st	'FW' got away slowly despite being hustled into stride & quickly dropped to a detached last ~6L off the pace heading into & around the first turn. He remained in that position under patient handling down the back stretch before getting the hurry up ~3/8 pole. He responded well to his rider's urgings & began advancing with good momentum inside horses heading into & around the far turn to enter the stretch ~4L off the pace. He then came under a strong ride ~3/16 pole, tipped out into the 4P & continued to rally through the stretch, despite remaining on his left lead, to get up on the wire. <b>Perfect trip closing along the rail from last. He did very well to close into this pace that held up relatively well &amp; was doing his best work late which suggests today's extra 1/16m will suit. Didn't like the fact he remained on his left lead late though.</b>

FULMINEO	Henry S. Clark S., Lrl, 1M, Firm, 04/19/25 – 3rd	FULMINEO broke a beat slow but wasn't rushed which resulted in him dropping to last ~8L off the pace heading into the first turn. While riding the rail, he remained in that position under a tight hold to the far turn as he was bottled up behind a wall of horses & prevented from advancing, despite the rider's body language suggesting he wanted to get closer from ~1/2 mile pole. He remained bottled up in traffic ~10L off the pace under a tight hold in last with nowhere to go, sitting & suffering to the top of the stretch where he finally found room as the field fanned out. From there, he came under a strong ride & worked out into the centre. He then rallied strongly through the stretch but ran out of real estate & came up 1L short. <b>Troubled trip. His rider's body language suggested that he wanted to advance out of last from ~1/2 mile pole but he was boxed in &amp; couldn't get free until the top of the stretch. To finish as close as he did was impressive &amp; he was arguably the best horse in the race. This was also his first start off the layoff so, granted a clean trip, his improvement could be twofold today.</b>
DESVIO	Henry S. Clark S., Lrl, 1M, Firm, 04/19/25 – 6th	DESVIO broke slow from the outside gate, then got caught 4W around the first turn when ~7L off the pace. He remained in that position to the far turn, then came under pressure when begging to struggle ~5/16 pole. His response to pressure was limited & he became outpaced rounding into the stretch before turning for home under a full drive in a share of last 4W. He then stayed on evenly at one pace late, closing somewhat on tiring rivals, but never threatened. <b>Sat a wide trip but that certainly didn't cost him the race. He became outpaced on the far turn &amp; then lacked the pace to really challenge late. He ran like he really did need further.</b>
TRIKARI	Makers Mark Mile S. (G1), Kee, 1M, Good, 04/11/25 – 3rd	TRIKARI wasn't rushed from the gate & dropped to rear early, taking the first turn ~6L off the pace in the 2P. He then traveled okay in that position running down the back stretch to the far turn before getting the hurry up ~3/8 pole. He then moved to the outside of horses into the 4P & responded well to pressure, despite giving away plenty of ground, to turn for home ~4L off the pace in a share of 4 <sup>th</sup> . He then came under a strong ride & stayed on well to the wire, edging into & firmly holding 3 <sup>rd</sup> late. <b>Clean trip though he was very wide on the far turn. He ran a nice race off the layoff against some very talented rivals &amp; he's entitled to step forward for this run.</b>

#### **Race 13: Preakness S. (G1), 3YO, 1 3/16M, Dirt**

HORSE	RACE	TRIP NOTE
GOAL ORIENTED	Alw, CD, 1 1/16M, Sloppy, 05/03/25 – 1st	'GO' broke a beat slow but was quickly hustled into stride which helped him work forward into a close up stalking position between foes 3W rounding the first turn. He was keen early & pulled his way into the lead as they straightened down the back stretch. From there, he relaxed better & Prat allowed him to stroll along at an honest pace in a nice rhythm to the far turn. He traveled very well into & around the far turn & had his rivals under pressure when turning for home ~1.5L clear with the race seemingly in the bag. He was then cued to put the race to bed. He didn't extend away for pressure as one may have expected late, however, he did maintain strong strides to the wire & held off a late closer comfortably for an impressive win. <b>Very smart route debut, especially as he'd never run (trained or raced) on a sloppy track before. Pulled hard behind horses early but then settled well in front &amp; traveled extremely well before showing a powerful finish with good stamina. Feel he had more in the locker late. Only concern with regards the Preakness is that he pulled hard in behind horses early following a slowish break here. That could leave him in a tricky spot from the one hole on Saturday.</b>
JOURNALISM	Kentucky Derby (G1), CD, 1 1/4M, Sloppy, 05/03/25 – 2nd	JOURNALISM took a hefty bump at the start, then was involved in some scrummaging as CITIZEN BULL drifted out early. That left him racing in mid-pack. He dropped to the rail after the opening furlong, then chased the pace ~8L off the lead to the back stretch where he then gradually worked out into the clear 4-5W. From ~1/2 mile pole, he then steadily advanced around horses 4W on the turn, came under a ride ~5/16 pole & joined the leaders ~1/4 pole. He then came under a stronger ride & engaged in a battle with SOVEREIGNTY down the stretch, however, not for a lack of trying, he was out finished by the winner & faded into 2 <sup>nd</sup> late, despite maintaining stride well. <b>Clean enough trip though was wide on the far turn. Ran a very likable race, effortlessly advancing around horses into the stretch before finishing well. He showed a very likable attitude late but was simply second best. He didn't look drained crossing the wire, which is a good thing with today's quick turn around in mind.</b>
AMERICAN PROMISE	Kentucky Derby (G1), CD, 1 1/4M, Sloppy, 05/03/25 – 16th	'AP' was bumped, then fractionally impeded leaving the gate but managed to avoid the worst of the scrummaging & crossed to the rail shortly after the start. He then found himself in a perfect rail stalking position just behind the speed where he remained under a tight hold into the back stretch. He then moved into the 2P & ~5/8 pole, was sent forward to form the centre party of a three-way go for the lead heading into the far turn. He was hustled along to hold his position between horses rounding the far turn but struggled to do so & dropped back slightly before getting pinched ~3/8 pole. That really put him on the back foot & from there, under a strong ride, he weakened tamely. <b>Adopted a perfect position early &amp; worked forward to contest the lead heading into the far turn but was done ~3/8 pole. Rider probably made his move too early &amp; he was pinched on the far turn which didn't help. However, he was heading backwards at the time &amp; it certainly didn't cost him the race. Fairly uninspiring.</b>

HEART OF HONOR (GB)	UAE Derby, Meydan, 1 3/16M, Fast, 04/05/25 – 2nd	‘HOH’ was hustled hard from the gate but lacked the speed to get to the lead so eased back from between foes & chased the pace in mid-pack 3W around the first turn. He didn’t travel overly well but did gradually creep closer to the lead as the pace slowed heading down the back stretch which allowed him to tip out into the 4P & challenge for the lead between foes entering the far turn. He then traveled well vying for the lead rounding the bend into the stretch before coming under a strong ride between foes in a three-way battle for the lead ~1/4 pole. From there, he battled very hard to the wire but remained on his left lead & drifted out which resulted in him falling a nose short. <b>Was wide both turns &amp; caught between foes from the ½-mile pole home – possibly warrants a slight upgrade. He was game late, however, he ran in snatches &amp; was only able to get into a challenging position because the pace slowed so much down the back stretch – that’s unlikely to happen today. He also didn’t switch leads in the stretch &amp; drifted out. This wasn’t an overly convincing effort with today’s test in mind.</b>
PAY BILLY	Frederico Tessio S., Lrl, 1 1/8M, Fast, 04/19/25 – 1st	‘PB’ broke alertly & worked forward to vie for the lead under a hold between foes heading into the first turn, then cornered in the clear 4-5W before settling back into a close stalking position 3W heading down the back stretch. He was then cued to advance as he hit the far turn & did so instantly, taking a narrow lead ~5/16 pole before being strongly challenged on his outside & coming under a strong ride. As the inside horses faded, he dropped to the rail entering the stretch & engaged in a head-to-head battle with a rival; there was a 2L gap back to 3 <sup>rd</sup> . From there, he battled hard to the wire under a very strong ride, edging away for the win inside the final 1/8 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Sat a wide but clean trip. Traveled well into the race &amp; showed a game attitude late. This was a likable win, however, he was made to work hard late &amp; was fully extended which makes it hard to see how he improves further.</b>
RIVER THAMES	Blue Grass S. (G1), Kee, 1 1/8M, Fast, 04/08/25 – 3rd	Having broken from the rail draw, ‘RT’ chased the speed in a clear 3 <sup>rd</sup> along the inside around the first turn while being squeezed into the bridle. He then tipped out into the clear 2-3W heading down the back stretch but wasn’t asked to advance until the field hit the far turn, ~1/2 mile from home. From there, he was encouraged along 2-3W & gradually moved closer to the lead as the field bunched & the leader came back to the field. He built some momentum on the bend, moved to be ~2L off the pace 3W at the top of the stretch, then came under a strong ride. From there, he finished willingly at one pace but could not get by the long-time leader & was out finished by the eventual winner. <b>Clean trip though a touch wide into the stretch. Didn’t travel that well when in behind horses (in kickback) around the first turn but then advanced when in the clear as the pace slowed. He showed decent stamina late but lacked a kick. Okay effort.</b>
SANDMAN	Kentucky Derby (G1), CD, 1 1/4M, Sloppy, 05/03/25 – 7th	SANDMAN was not rushed following a clean break & dropped to rear early. He crossed down to the 2P heading into the first turn, then settled into a nice rhythm heading into the back stretch before maneuvering into the clear outside. Heading into the far turn, he then began to advance alongside SOVEREIGNTY, however, he was caught 6-7W & could not go with that foe. He came under a strong ride while staying extremely wide rounding into the stretch but failed to make much of an advance & turned for home ~9L off the pace. From there, he stayed on at one pace past tired rivals. <b>Clean trip though was very wide on the far turn. He adopted his usual hold up position but failed to pick up sufficiently when asked, finishing at one pace past tired rivals. Possibly due to the slop, this was a sub-par effort from him.</b>
CLEVER AGAIN	Hot Springs S., OP, 1M, Fast, 03/30/25 – 1st	‘CA’ broke alertly, zipped top the lead & crossed to the rail heading into the first turn. He then set an honest, uncontested lead under a hold to the far turn where he was traveling best & had his rivals under pressure. He was confidently ridden into the stretch by Ortiz, who took two long looks behind him ~1/4 pole before asking him to put the race to bed. He came under a ride when straightened for the drive & from there, he powered away, only receiving one light flick of the crop. <b>Gate to wire. Very impressive win. Traveled well setting an honest pace that had his rivals cooked by the home turn, then spurted away late. Only received one light flick with the crop &amp; hit the line like today’s extra yardage will see him to even better effect, so he could well have more to offer.</b>
GOSGER	Lexington S. (31), Kee, 1 1/16M, Fast, 04/12/25 – 1st	GOSGER wasn’t rushed from the gate having broken in mid-pack, then he crossed to the rail entering the first turn & took a hold stalking the pace into the back stretch. He relaxed into a nice rhythm in along the inside, ~2L off the pace heading into the far turn, then came under encouragement rounding the bend ~3/8 pole. He responded well to pressure & built momentum behind the leaders to the top of the stretch, then eased out into the 3P & came under a strong ride. From there, despite lugging in, he maintained his forwards momentum to blow by the leaders inside the final furlong & edge away to the first wire. <b>Perfect stalk &amp; pounce trip. Traveled into the race well &amp; picked up nicely late, though his lugging in could be a cause for concern. He was doing his best work late so today’s extra yardage should be to his benefit.</b>

## Horses to Follow

### **R7: OCEAN CLUB (15/1 ML)**

A strong field is set for Saturday's G3 Gallorette S., with six of the nine runners listed at 8/1 or shorter on the morning line. At a more attractive price however, OCEAN CLUB is worth a close look. The G3-winning daughter of Curlin ran in Gulfstream Park's Sand Springs S. last time out, and as noted in the trip comments, her performance was better than the past performances might indicate. Her connections switched tactics, rating her behind the leaders instead of sending her to the front as usual. She adapted well, settling comfortably and traveling strongly, but then got caught in traffic at a key moment and didn't find clear running room until it was too late. On a turf course favoring speed, she did remarkably well to rally into fourth late. Despite the trouble, the 85 Beyer that she posted is still among the best in this field, and with a cleaner trip, this hard-trying earner of over \$500,000 could spring the upset this afternoon. Drawn in gate three, she's versatile enough to stalk or press the pace and gets Hall of Famer John Velazquez in the saddle for the first time. This field is certainly no tougher than the group she met last time and her morning line odds simply undervalue her chances.

### **R12: ABRUMAR (20/1 ML)**

After a deceptively strong third-place finish in the Appleton S. at Gulfstream last out - his first against open company - ABRUMAR could pull off the upset in today's G3 Dinner Party S. As highlighted in the trip comments, the Saffie Joseph Jr.-trained son of DIVISIDERO ran into some bad luck last time. He slotted into a great spot early and was cruising comfortably into the race, but then found himself boxed in tightly through the far turn and into the stretch. By the time he shook free, the top two finishers, who dictated the pace from the start, were away and gone, but he still closed powerfully over the speed-favoring turf course to miss by just 3/4-lengths. His effort was better than the result and his 89 Beyer figure suggests, and now, as he makes his second start off the layoff, a cleaner trip could lead to a big step forward that puts him firmly in contention. With in-form Jose Ortiz taking the ride, he's a seriously live contender at a price.

### **R13: CLEVER AGAIN (5/1 ML)**

Kentucky Derby runners-up are 0-for-11 in the Preakness this century, despite big names such as HARD SPUN, BODEMEISTER, GOOD MAGIC and EPICENTRE, all having been bet hard at the windows. JOURNALISM is a very worthy favorite, but CLEVER AGAIN could spoil the party. As noted in the trip notes, when winning the Hot Springs S. at Oaklawn with a monster 101 Beyer speed figure in just his third career start last time - a Beyer speed figure just one point slower than JOURNALISM's Derby figure of 102 - he did it with the upmost ease, only receiving one light flick of the crop from Jose Ortiz before drawing off powerfully late. It was a scintillating performance, and the scary thing is that he looked to have so much more to offer. As he now makes his third start of the form cycle and stretches out in trip - which his pedigree strongly suggests will unlock even more ability - he looms as a major threat to the favorite. He has the ability to be tactical from gate eight, brings a freshness angle into the race, and it has to be a sign of confidence that Ortiz has chosen to ride him over 4/1 shot SANDMAN. The upside on this son of 2015 Triple Crown winner AMERICAN PHAROAH is unlimited and you shouldn't be surprised if he blows this field apart.

## **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.

### **ROYAL WINTOUR**

**Trainer:** Graham Motion

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

**Finish:** 6<sup>th</sup> by 4 3/4

### **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

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

### **MIKES MO TOWN**

**Trainer:** Carlos Mancilla

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

**Finish:** 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** *(Entered Today at Pimlico – Race 11)*

**Trainer:** Madison Meyers

**Last Race:** April 19, 3rd

**Finish:** 1st by 3/4

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

### **LEVISA**

**Trainer:** Richard Sillaman

**Last Race:** April 4, 8th

**Finish:** 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.

### **ADMIT NOTHING**

**Trainer:** Carlos Mancilla

**Last Race:** March 29, 3rd

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.

### **BRIGHTNESS** *(Entered Today - Delaware Park, Race 3)*

**Trainer:** Jamie Ness

**Last Race:** April 18, 6th



**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.

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

**Trainer:** Nolan Ramsey

**Last Race:** April 19, 8th

**Finish:** 3rd by 2 3/4

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

**CHESAPEAKE DREAM**

**Trainer:** Brittany Russell

**Last Race:** April 25, 4th

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

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

**Trainer:** Brittany Russell

**Last Race:** April 25, 3rd

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

## PAST TRACK TRENDS

### **LAUREL:**

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

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

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

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

### **PIMLICO:**

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