



NICK'S PICKS

VIRGINIA-BREDS SEEK ENCORE PERFORMANCES

The collection of former Colonial Downs starters is certainly shallowing, but we get to see a few gathered at Laurel Park Saturday. Among them are Two Notch Road, Dannhasuer, Leda's Swan, Roxbury Rocket and Jack Rattle N' Roll.

Fair to say, the lineage line of Jake Rattle N Roll is one of my favorites. His sire is Bop. Long before track superintendent J.D. Thomas set fire to it, Bop use to torch the Colonial turf, winning the Punch Line three consecutive times. He has more punch lines than King Leatherbury. Bred by Keswick Stables in Albemarle County, Virginia and sired by Rahy, Bop set a world record at five furlongs at Gulfstream Park shortly after setting the track record at Colonial Downs. After winning the event in 2009, Jack Rattle N Roll finished second in three consecutive editions from 2011 to 2013. Now a 10-year old, he gets long odds in today's Punch Line at 30-1.

Two Notch Road ran well in Colonial's former "twin turf," when the Turf Cup and Virginia Derby were both three-year-old stake races in 2010, but that was the year of Paddy O'Prado. After nearly a three year absence, he returned as one of the few Virginia Derby alumni to appear in the Colonial Turf Cup when it was made open to older horses, and tired to the finish. Yet, last year the veteran shortened to five furlongs and won the Punch Line at Laurel. He's an even-money favorite in this year's morning line. Also in the gate is last year's Jamestown winner Hooligan, owned and trained by Wesley Ward.

Dannhauser soared onto the Colonial green in winning the Van Clief in 2012 and the last running of the Bert Allen at Colonial in 2013. Now he's eldest in the Bert Allen starting gate at age 7 for trainer Kathleen O'Connell, who returns Sheldon Russell who delivered those two Colonial wins.

The \$150,000 Commonwealth Oaks (G3) has so many foreigners that it looks like a Breeder's Cup turf race. (That's a complement.) We saw a great Virginia breeding story arise last Saturday at Laurel Park when Albert Coppola's Virginia-bred, One Go All Go stunned the Laurel grandstand. we saw a great Virginia breeding story. There will be a few more made today.

**KNICKERING
NICK'S
EXOTIC
PLAY OF
THE DAY**

**LAUREL PARK
RACE 7
\$.50 PIC 5
2,3,6,8 with 1,2,4,11 with
3,5,9 with 11 with 1,2
COSTS \$48**





Virginia Equine
Alliance



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RACE 1

7	VIRDEN CORINTHIAN	Capuano's Corinthian runs best at 6F & drops. August bullets for him & Elusive.
3	ELUSIVE BREEZE	
5	BENDING	

RACE 2

3	DIXIE DEPUTY	Odd condition best suites "Dixie" who won March 6th, Laurel works, does 7 furs?
7	SEVENTY WEST	
5	ALLUSEEISMYTALE	

RACE 3

9	BISSINGER	Timonium race an adventure for many here including Ice's Fire who nearly won it.
2	JUMPIN JULIAN	
5	THE LUNCH MAKER	

RACE 4 -THE BROOKMEADE

5	SEEKING HER GLORY	Better chance for "Glory" at Laurel. Nagle's filly 2nd in the '13 Brookmeade at CNL.
6	LEDA'S SWAN	
3	COMPLETE ST	

RACE 5

5	DAGBURNIT	Capuano returns Dagburnit to LRL where undefeated. Dream-solid WV summer.
2	DREAM OF SCIPIO	
4	WAR AND THUNDER	

RACE 6 - THE JAMESTOWN

5	OCCASIONALLY	Experience, even when not the best, can still be valuable for 2-year old fillies.
9	QUEEN CAROLINE	
6	FREE UNION	

RACE 7 - THE BERT ALLEN

3	SPECIAL ENVOY	Last year's Allen winner returns ready for Delacour duel. Longshot splits.
6	CURVE OF STONES	
2	ROSE BRIER	

RACE 8 - THE OAKLEY

4	EXAGGERATED	Last year's Jamestown winner comes finds tough foes upon returning to MD.
2	NANCY'S GONE WILD	
11	HOOLIGAN	

RACE 9 - THE PUNCH LINE

5	CAP'N RAYMOND	Veteran Two Notch back to defend his Punch Line versus several veterans.
9	TWO NOTCH ROAD	
3	ANYBODYREALLYKNOW	

RACE 10 - COMMONWEALTH OAKS (G3)

11	ZVARKHOVA	3 wins at 3 different venues, not enough for talented "Regatta" vs. able foreigner.
8	STORMY REGATTA	
2	LOLA BEAUX	

RACE 11

2	TALKIN' STUFF	"Stuff" better head to head over Marsden, 3 races back and battled on.
1	MARSDEN	
9	WHISKEY SOUR	