

IN FOCUS: MARYLAND MILLION 2018

RACE 3 – MD MILLION DISTAFF

1. #7 – Crabcakes (3-5): *Appears to be a free space for horizontal wagers as she should mirror her victory in this event last year when 1-5 choice; she'll likely stalk the early speed of the #3 and be in hand turning for home*
2. #4 – My Magician (8-1): *Runner-up to top pick last year with a furious rally in the stretch; third race after layoff as she faced tough ones in her last two; lack of a hot early pace will hurt chances to upset*
3. #6 – Anna's Bandit (4-1): *Would have loved this one to be a serious challenger to the favorite but to ask a filly for a top effort coming off a race just 7 days ago is not a "Go To" angle for this 'Capper*
4. #2 – Cee Bee Gee Bee (12-1): *Dull effort in restricted stakes that was loaded with talent in first start for trainer C. Lynch who may have been able to tighten the screws leading up to this one*

Notable!

Bombs away! The Ladies has produced a \$58 winner and a \$66 winner in the last eight years.

RACE 4 – MD MILLION LADIES

1. #7 – Saint Main Event (9-2): *Talk about confidence, she makes turf debut in a stakes race! If her off track form (6:3-1-2) translates to turf, she'll be a force to be reckoned with; only starter on the card for trainer J. Servis whose shippers have won at a 28% clip at Lrl over the past year*
2. #9 – My Sistersledge (7-5): *Returning Champ of this event got it done by a nose; loves the Lrl lawn (7:3-1-3) and got a much needed freshener 14 days ago when stayed in to run off the turf and looked good doing it*
3. #5 – Complete St. (5-1): *Could be an attractive price to use underneath in exotics as she's been facing tougher company but is winless in her last 16 starts; lost this event by a nose in 2016*
4. #1 – Magician's Vanity (8-1): *Second start with blinkers can be a positive angle, even with a runner who is 2 for 44 lifetime; getting T. McCarthy in the irons, who was aboard last time he won can't hurt either*

RACE 5 – MD MILLION SPRINT

1. #2 – Lewisfield (1-2): *His speed figures tower over foes in here but leery of this "lock" as regular rider won't be aboard yet listed on a bunch of claimers at CT tonight; a need-the-lead-to-win type of runner will get challenged early to either side of him, but class should prevail*
2. #5 – More Abundance (20-1): *Live longshot likely gets stalking trip to have first run on favorite; was good enough to be runner-up to two top-notch runners in last two; amazingly was running in WV-bred \$5k claimers just 6-months ago*
3. #6 – Greatbullsoffire (15-1): *Not the same colt he was at age 2 but connections still believe he has talent to compete at this level; adds blinkers in third start following a one-year layoff*
4. #1 – Onemoregreattime (6-1): *Candidate to get it done in gate-to-wire fashion if prohibitive favorite doesn't bring his A-Game; needs the Lrl oval to be kind to early speed as he's short on stamina going 6 furlongs*

RACE 6 – MD MILLION NURSERY

1. #5 – Scrap Copper (3-1): *A whisker away from being 2 for 2; showed versatility coming off the pace on turf v. gate-to-wire win in debut on dirt that saw second and third place finishers win in their next outing*
2. #3 – Sky Magician (4-1): *Can boast best BRIS# of this group despite being winless in two starts; catches a break as runner he finished behind in latest will not draw into the race*
3. #9 – Tappin Cat (8-1): *Pleasant surprise when runner-up in debut, answered the call when getting maiden win against better while encountering traffic trouble; appears to have a huge upside*
4. #8 – Outofthepark (10-1): *Gelded after tiring badly in debut back in July; trainer R. Jenkins is a master at correcting issues with young runners; like the work tab leading up to second start*

Notable!

In three of last six years, the Nursery winner was a **first-time starter**.

RACE 9 – MD MILLION LASSIE

1. #2 – My Star Potential (2-1): ***** BEST BET ***** *Overcame troubled starts in both outings to run big for Lrl leading trainer C. Gonzalez; imagine what is possible if/when she gets a clean break*
2. #9 – Miss Philly Dilly (7-2): *Still a maiden after two bridesmaid finishes when slow from the gate; only mount on the card for jock C. DeCarlo; strong late pace speed figures*
3. #12 – Knitted Gloves (8-1): *Pen-based shipper took a big step forward to earn diploma in second start with a strong speed figure; like the off the pace running style in a field filled with early speed*
4. #3 – Little Miss Raelyn (12-1): *Need to toss stakes turf try as jock wisely recognized early on she wanted no parts of it; any improvement off dirt maiden win gives her a chance*

Notable!

The Turf brings together two former champs in *Talk Show Man* ('14) and *Phlash Phelps* ('15-'16).

RACE 10 – MD MILLION TURF

1. #2 – Talk Show Man (3-1): *This old guy tries to reclaim the MM Turf title which he won in '14; love that he got a paid workout going 6f in \$100k stakes, making a late move which sets him up nicely for the added distance; jock J. Toledo opted to ride him versus #4 or #5*
2. #11 – Phlash Phelps (8-5): *May be on the downside of a fine career which includes winning this event in '16 and '15; couldn't catch a break as last two efforts came off the turf; has never raced on a turf course listed other than "firm" which may be the case today*
3. #4 – Grandiflora (12-1): *Blinkers come off once again; versatile runner at any distance though 0 for 6 at one-mile, has placed third and fourth in this contest the past two years; first time T. McCarthy will be aboard*
4. #5 – Daniel Le Deux (8-1): *Game turf runner as had a nice '18 turf campaign so far (4:1-2-1) but gets toughest test of career in here; don't be fooled, speed figures from all Lrl turf races on Oct. 4th seem a bit inflated*

RACE 11 – MD MILLION CLASSIC

1. #1 – **Crouchelli** (10-1): **\$\$\$ LONGSHOT \$\$\$** *Cross-entered in MM Turf but belongs here; though just 1 for 10 lifetime, this 3-year-old seems to get better with every outing and the further he's asked to run; one thing for certain, he'll come flying wide in the latter stages if the pace is an honest one*
2. #4 – Flash McCaul (6-1): *The pride of Country Life Farm makes fourth MM Day start as he was sixth in this event last year and fifth in '16; third start after an 8-month layoff usually results in a peak performance*
3. #9 – Admiral Blue (7-2): *Most experienced at this distance (8:1-1-1) but that one win came on a "good" track; perception is he's been facing better at NYRA tracks; will be dangerous if early speed has been holding throughout the day*
4. #3 – Clubman (9-2): *Uncharacteristically took the early lead in latest start and just missed winning it; came off the pace in '17 MM Classic to be fourth behind a tougher group than these*