

DECEMBER STAKES WAGERING GUIDE

Welcome to our December Stakes Wagering Guide -- your key (maybe!) to unlocking profits during Laurel Park's big, four-stake card on December 6.

We have once again turned to several handicappers for their insights, and their picks for the full Laurel card are below. In addition, on the pages that follow, we share race history, tips and trends over the track at the distance, and additional race analysis.



You can use these to turn a profit -- and to win our FREE handicapping contest, featuring Laurel Park, on Saturday. Go to www.TheRacingBiz.com to enter. Good luck!

RACE	TED BLACK <i>(racing journalist)</i>	NICK HAHN <i>(Nick's Picks)</i>	DAN TORDJMAN <i>(America's Best Racing ambassador)</i>	BOBBY ZEN <i>(Author of handicapping books)</i>
1	1. Dance With Monarch 2. Today's Man 3. No Brakes	1. Silent Appeal 2. Singing My Way 3. Dance with Monarch	1. Singing My Way 2. Silent Appeal 3. Dance With Monarch	1. Silent Appeal 2. Today's Man 3. Dance With Monarch
2	1. Warrioroftheroses 2. Lucy's Bob Boy 3. Managed Account	1. Wealth To Me 2. South Andros 3. Warrioroftheroses	1. South Andros 2. Managed Account 3. Wealth to Me	1. Wealth to Me 2. Lucys Bob Boy 3. Warrioroftheroses
3	1. Trade Rumor 2. Star Academy 3. Bret's At Caddies	1. Star Academy 2. Melting Pot 3. Magnificent Mr Z	1. Star Academy 2. Bret's at Caddies 3. Trade Rumor	1. Star Academy 2. Melting Pot 3. Brets At Caddies
4 - GIN TALKING S.	1. Darling Sky 2. Comforter 3. Lake Sebago	1. Lake Sebago 2. Toast of Mayfair 3. Gypsy Judy	1. Gypsy Judy 2. Comforter 3. Lake Sebago	1. Lake Sebago 2. Toast of Mayfair 3. Darling Sky
5	1. In The Juice 2. Reason To Blink 3. Classic Speed	1. Cold Black 2. Malibu Skyline 3. Sambucca Steve	1. Kenalantic 2. Reason to Drink 3. Coldback	1. In The Juice 2. Classic Speed 3. Kenatlantic
6 - MARYLANDER S.	1. Golden Years 2. Hear The Chatter 3. Made Bail	1. Made Bail 2. Golden Years 3. Hear the Chatter	1. Golden Years 2. Made Bail 3. Hear the Chatter	1. Hear the Chatter 2. Golden Years 3. Made Bail
7 - WILLA ON THE MOVE S.	1. Winning Image 2. Lady Sabelia 3. She's Ordained	1. Disco Barbie 2. Galiana 3. She's Ordained	1. Disco Barbie 2. Galiana 3. Lady Sabelia	1. Lady Sabelia 2. Winning Image 3. Disco Barbie
8 - JENNINGS H.	1. Eighttofasttocatch 2. Concealed Identity 3. Outbacker	1. Eighttofasttocatch 2. Curlin's Kid 3. D C Dancer	1. Eighttofasttocatch 2. Turbin 3. Koh I Noor	1. Eighttofasttocatch 2. DC Dancer 3. Always Smiling
9	1. Ceiba Honor 2. Bo Champ 3. Rock'n Roman	1. Bo Champ 2. Fuse Line 3. Boogie Biz	1. Bo Champ 2. Concorde County 3. Ceiba Honor	1. Horse Harlan 2. Rock N Roman 3. Boogie Biz

JENNINGS HANDICAP

- **RACE PARTICULARS:** Race 8 (3:55), \$125,000 purse, Maryland-breds, 3yo and up, 1 mile
- **STORYLINE:** Eight-year-old Eighttofasttocatch, running the last race of his career, looks to become the first four-time winner of the Jennings and the 24th Maryland-bred millionaire.
- **RACE OVERVIEW:** Eighttofasttocatch owns a huge class advantage over the group and likely gets a pace setup he likes. How does he lose? If Larry Le Roi, to his inside, and Always Smiling and DC Dancer, outside, heat the pace up while surrounding him, closers might rejoice.
- **RAIN DANCERS:** On an off-track... no one's better here than Eighttofasttocatch, who's won four of five off-track starts. But Always Smiling also owns two wins.
- **OUR HANDICAPPERS SAY:**

1. **Eighttofasttocatch (#2, 4-5)** -- All four agree:

Old-timer simply too good for the these, earns 15th win at Laurel -- fourth in the Jennings -- goes over \$1 million in career earnings, and sends 'em home happy in his career finale.

2. **D C Dancer (#9, 4-1)** -- Maryland Million Sprint

winner in career-best form right now. Figures to be forwardly placed, but has shown the ability to close, too. When better to take a shot?

3. *Photo for 3rd among*

a. **Turbin (#7, 15-1)** -- Closing sort has a

couple wins at the distance, and one in the slop, ran third behind two of these, including the fave, in the Maryland Million Classic.

b. **Concealed Identity (#8, 12-1)** -- Eddie

Gaudet's lone career Preakness starter still going three years later. Deep closer enters off second in the Maryland Million Classic that was his best effort in 20 months -- but still 4 in arrears of 'Catcher.

c. **Curlin's Kid (#5, 20-1)** -- September claim

paid immediate dividends for trainer Kieron Magee in winning off-the-turf a-other-than over the strip -- but this is a fish of a different color.

RACE FACTS

- ✓ *First run in 1923*
- ✓ *73rd running*
- ✓ *Named for 19th century horseman William Jennings, Sr.*
- ✓ *4th running at 1 mile distance*
- ✓ *Has been run at distances from 6f to 1 1/8 miles*
- ✓ *2 3-time winners: Little Bold John (1987-89), Eighttofasttocatch (2011-2013)*

TIPS 'N' TRENDS

(Stats for 2 wks ending 11/29 unless noted)

- No evident inside bias in 1-mile races over course of the meet.
- In last 19 races, horse breaking from the 1-hole has won just once
- 13 of last 19 winners have broken from 6-hole or farther out.
- Five of last 19 have been farthest outside in their field.
- Eight of 19 led after 1/2-mile, 10 of 19 after 3/4-mile.
- 18 of 19 on the lead or w/in 2.5 lengths after 3/4-mile.
- 13 of last 15 winners were in the outer half of post positions.

WILLA ON THE MOVE STAKES

- **RACE PARTICULARS:** Race 7 (3:26), \$100,000 purse, Fillies and mares, 3yo and up, 6 furlongs
- **STORYLINE:** Two prior winners -- Winning Image and She's Ordained -- tackle a deep and intriguing cast of distaff sprinters in a race that's becoming a key East Coast filly and mare sprint.
- **RACE OVERVIEW:** If, as expected, speedy Winning Image scratches, that certainly enhances the chances of the favorite Lady Sabelia, who registered a front-running score last out. That'll put the screws to horses like Galiana and Disco Chick to ratchet up the pressure.
- **RAIN DANCERS:** Several of these do well on the wet stuff, but two -- She's Ordained and Delaware-lover Galiana -- love, and we mean *loovvve*, an off track. The former has five wins from 12 tries, while the latter has five from six.
- **OUR HANDICAPPERS SAY:**
 1. **Disco Barbie (#5, 5-1)** -- Dale Capuano trainee has placed in seven stakes -- four graded -- without winning. It's a salty sort of crew for a breakthrough race, but top jock Trevor McCarthy hops aboard for a filly who could find the right trip.
 2. **Lady Sabelia (#1, 5-2)** -- Favorite enters off career-best Beyer and owns two stake wins in 11-race skein. Third as the fave a year ago, top pilot Karamanos aboard once again. Looking

RACE FACTS

- ✓ *First run in 2012*
- ✓ *3rd running*
- ✓ *Named for 1980s Maryland-bred star Willa On the Move*
- ✓ *Both prior race winners entered today.*

TIPS 'N' TRENDS

(Stats for 2 wks ending 11/29 unless noted)

- Moderate inside bias at 6 furlongs over the life of the meet. 9 of last 23 races were won by horse breaking from posts 1-3 (though just 1 win from 1-hole).
- 6 of last 23 winners led after 1/4-mile. 9 of 23 led after 1/2-mile.
- Five of 23 were 4th or worse after 1/2-mile.
- Last 7 winners were 2 wide or wider on the turn.

for a negative? Breaks from the rail for the first time, and, if Winning Image posts, speedier speed lurks outside.

3. **Galiana (#6, 8-1)** -- Stonesider filly loves two things: Delaware Park and rain. She won't get the former, but the latter's in the forecast and moves her up. Defeated Winning Image and She's Ordained in July's Sweet and Sassy at Delaware and enters off two straight open-length wins. Also owns a bullet work over the strip two weeks ago.

Note: Our handicappers chose Winning Image in third, but she is expected to scratch.

GIN TALKING STAKES

- **RACE PARTICULARS:** Race 4 (1:59), \$100,000 purse, 2yo fillies, 7 furlongs
- **STORYLINE:** Lake Sebago registered a 27-1 shocker to win the Smart Halo, and she's the 2-1 fave here to keep a good thing rolling.
- **RACE OVERVIEW:** Pace fell apart in the Smart Halo, enabling closer Lake Sebago to pick up the pieces. A similar setup here wouldn't be a shock -- but neither would a different scenario enabling some of the speed to stick around.
- **RAIN DANCERS:** Lake Sebago is one of only two to try an off track to date, and she has a win and a second. But Tomlinson figs say Toast of Mayfair may relish it.
- **OUR HANDICAPPERS SAY:**
 1. **Lake Sebago (#6, 2-1)** -- It's an imperfect resume, but in the end, there are just too many positives around Lake Sebago to ignore. Our 'cappers say she runs on late and becomes a two-time stake winner for ace juvy trainer Jerry Robb.

RACE FACTS

- ✓ First run in 2006
- ✓ 6th running
- ✓ Named for 2000 Maryland-bred horse of the year

TIPS 'N' TRENDS

(Stats for 2 wks ending 11/29 unless noted)

- Clear inside bias over the life of the meet at 7f. Horses breaking from 3 inside posts win 14.4%; those from post 9 out are just 2-for-47 (4.2%).
- 2 of last 10 winners broke from the rail.
- All winners during 11/26-11/29 were 2 wide or more.
- 3 of last 10 winners led after 1/4-mile. 3 of 10 led after 1/2-mile.
- 3 of last six winners were 5th or worse after 1/2-mile.

2. *Photo for place between:*

- a. **Gypsy Judy (#5, 15-1)** -- Closed willingly while well wide to be second in her career debut. This is no easy spot for race number two, but she owns every right to improve here.
- b. **Darling Sky (#4, 5-2)** -- Butch Reid trainee has been thrashed twice by graded rivals -- and won her two other starts. This group may be more her speed, and she'll look to do the stalk-and-pounce routine, getting first run on favorite Lake Sebago.

MARYLANDER STAKES

- **RACE PARTICULARS:** Race 6 (2:57), \$100,000 purse, 2yo, 7 furlongs
- **STORYLINE:** A pair of once-beaten horses -- Golden Years (two wins in three tries) and Hear the Chatter (five in six) -- headline an intriguing event.
- **RACE OVERVIEW:** Golden Years looks to avenge his only defeat, against tougher in the James F. Lewis, but Hear the Chatter looks to make his second foray into open company a winning one.
- **RAIN DANCERS:** A trio of longshots -- Special Invitation (12-1), Made Bail (15-1), and Chase Lane (20-1) -- all own two wins on the wet stuff.
- **OUR HANDICAPPERS SAY:**

1. **Golden Years (#9, 1-1)** -- Our four 'cappers settled on three horses to occupy the top three spots, differing only on who would occupy which. This West Virginia-bred, Maryland-sired colt earned top marks and figures to be tough to handle here.
2. *Photo for place between:*

RACE FACTS

- ✓ *First run in 1975 at Bowie Race Course*
- ✓ *14th running*
- ✓ *3rd time run as a race for 2yo and at 7f*
- ✓ *Little Bold John -- three-time winner of the Jennings -- also won this race when it was for older horses, in 1987.*

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a. **Hear the Chatter (#7, 8-5)** -- WV-bred gelding has absolutely dominated his fellow state-breds. But his lone step-out against open company was less successful, a second at Delaware. Perhaps he's ready now?

b. **Made Bail (#6, 15-1)** -- Longshot's won two of three for owner/trainer/breeder Susan Cooney, including last by five. Speed figures feel light against these, but it's hard to criticize what he's done to date.

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Figure 1 Win % vs. post position at 7f (left is inside)