



In Focus

Laurel Park stakes

Fritchie Day

February 14, 2015

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The Racing Biz

LaurelPark
A Stronach Group Company

HANDICAPPERS' SELECTIONS

RACE		Ted BLACK	Gary QUILL	Frank VESPE	Bobby ZEN
1	1	Peron	Peron	Crazy Wild Bess	Peron
	2	Patsy's Princess	Patsy's Princess	Flatter's Secret	Patsy's Princess
	3	Flatter's Secret	Flatter's Secret	Patsy's Princess	Flatter's Secret
2	1	Printasticat	Printasticat	Printasticat	Printasticat
	2	Chance Encounter	Air Alaska	Cross Mountain	Chance Encounter
	3	Smooth Approach	Chance Encounter	Lily's Peak	Cross Mountain
3	1	Kris's Parker	Marvelous Chester	Aji	Marvelous Chester
	2	Aji	Aji	Marvelous Chester	Prizes Included
	3	Prizes Included	Prizes Included	Prizes Included	Aji
4	1	DC Dancer	DC Dancer	Never Stop Looking	DC Dancer
	2	Wonderfella	Wonderfella	Wonderfella	Never Stop Looking
	3	Never Stop Looking	Barracuda Wayne	DC Dancer	Wonderfella
5	1	Bret's At Caddies	Bret's At Caddies	Black Ice	Black Ice
	2	Black Ice	Gallivanting	Gallivanting	Gallivanting
	3	Gallivanting	Grandiflora	Grandiflora	Bret's At Caddies
6	1	Twelve Stone	Twelve Stone	Regal Soldier	Northern Label
	2	Regal Soldier	Northern Label	Willie B Mine	Regal Soldier
	3	Northern Label	Compulsive	Compulsive	Twelve Stone
7	1	Cerro	Went the Day Well	Cerro	Page McKenney
	2	Turco Bravo	Page McKenney	Page McKenney	Turco Bravo
	3	Went the Day Well	Sailor's Revenge	Souper Lucky	Souper Lucky
8	1	Lady Sabelia	Lady Sabelia	Lady Sabelia	Sam's Sister
	2	Sam's Sister	Sam's Sister	Sam's Sister	Princess Violet
	3	Disco Barbie	Princess Violet	Toasting	Lady Sabelia
9	1	Miss Mischief	Zucchini Flower	Pearl Bay	Shayjolie
	2	Shayjolie	Luna Time	Luna Time	Miss Mischief
	3	Pearl Bay	Flores Island	Lunar Surge	Pearl Bay

G2 Barbara Fritchie Handicap

- **RACE PARTICULARS:** Race 8 (3:57), \$300,000 purse, fillies and mares 3yo and up, 7 furlongs
- **STORYLINE:** The highlight of the Laurel winter meet has attracted G1 winner Sam's Sister, who'll face a salty crew including a couple of locals with high hopes.
- **RACE OVERVIEW:** This one, say our handicappers, is a two-horse race.

RACE ANALYSIS:

1. **Princess Violet (3-1)** -- Talented Officer filly's only finish worse than second came in the G2 Prioress back in August. Most recently second by the shortest of noses in the G3 Go for Wand when her late rally couldn't get her by Classic Point. Enters with a solid worktab. She has the talent -- but this is no easy spot for her first race since November.
2. **Expression (15-1)** -- Invasor mare has certainly had a nice career, earning more than \$374,000 and registering seven wins. She won the Garland of Roses for trainer Charlton Baker back in December over hard-hitter Winning Image, her first stakes win. But this is her first foray into graded company, and she's never shown much interest in going beyond six furlongs, having lost ground in the stretch of nearly every previous try beyond three-quarters.
3. **Miss Mischief (20-1)** -- All or nothing sort has six wins, but no other in-the-money finishes, from 15 career starts, owns two stakes wins. She's cross-entered in the Maryland Racing Media, and that feels like a better spot for her than this one.
4. **Toasting (10-1)** -- Productive West Point runner, earner of more than \$500,000, will ship in for trainer Tom Albertrani from Gulfstream base. One of her two wins at the distance was also one of her two stakes wins, and she's five times graded placed. Owns the right to improve after her last, her first since October, when she was bumped at the break, wide on the turn, but all in all was beaten less than four lengths by G3 winner Dame Dorothy.

RACE FACTS

- ✓ 63rd running, begun at Bowie in 1952.
- ✓ Race has been contested at four different distances, from 6 furlongs to 1 1/16 miles.
- ✓ Named for Frederick, MD resident and Civil War heroine Barbara Fritchie.
- ✓ Fastest running at 7 furlongs: Tappiano, 1989, 1:21 2/5

TIPS AND TRENDS

- ✓ 27 races contested at 7f in 2015.
- ✓ Runners from rail to the six-hole have won at a 14.3 percent clip; those farther out, just 6.9 percent.
- ✓ 4 of the last 16 winners wired the field; 5 of the last 16 had the lead by the pace call.
- ✓ In races contested last weekend, only 1 of 8 winners was on the rail.
- ✓ 4 of 8 winners last weekend were at least 5.5 lengths behind at the pace call.

5. **Best Behavior (6-1)** -- Into Mischief mare had to drop down to \$7,500 claiming ranks to break her maiden, back in '13 -- no one then was expecting to see her in G2 company, that's for sure. Trainer Marty Wolfson claimed her this past August for \$62,500 and has her in the best form of her career, with a win and two seconds from three tries, all in stakes company. And the two she's lost to in those races? Merry Meadow, who returned to win a G3, and Wedding Toast, whose prior start a good second to Princess of Sylmar.
6. **Flattering Bea (30-1)** -- Ambitious spot for a horse who's finished seventh or worse in three of her last four starts. She was a well-beaten sixth in this event a year ago for trainer Crystal Pickett. Stake winner has two wins at the trip but is winless in five Laurel tries and would need a lot to go right in this spot.
7. **Before You Know It (15-1)** -- \$20,000 claim by Claudio Gonzalez paid dividends, winning four straight (three for new connex), snapped last out when second in the Nellie Morse. Loves Laurel and owns a win at the distance -- but this is a pretty heavy lift for this five-year-old.
8. **Stormy Novel (15-1)** -- John Servis trainee was recently fourth in the Interborough at Aqueduct and was nowhere in the Safely Kept at the distance over the strip. Registered an allowance score in between, but not sure there was much in that race. Enters off a bullet work (fastest of 61), and regular rider Kendrick Carmouche makes the trip, too.
9. **Lady Sabelia (7-2)** -- Robin Graham trainee has won three straight and dispatched stakes foes in her last two over off-tracks. Showed a new dimension last out, stalking from fifth; place horse She's Ordained returned to beat allowance foes. Four-time stake winner had an ultra-sharp bullet work on February 8 -- 1 2/5 seconds faster than any other at the 5f distance. Makes first foray into graded company and looks to be talented, sharp, and ready to run a big one.
10. **Sam's Sister (5-2)** -- Jerry Hollendorfer trainee will make her first start outside of Southern California -- perhaps a prelude to the Breeders' Cup in Lexington later this year. Has won five of six starts -- lone loss was her one grass start -- including in Grade 1 and Grade 2 company. In that G1 La Brea win, she beat ultra-talented Taris and Thank You Marylou, who'd just run third in the Breeders' Cup. Regular pilot Elvis Trujillo ships in to ride, and, other than the likely price, what's not to like?
11. **Disco Barbie (20-1)** -- Cross-entered in the Maryland Racing Media, this Dale Capuano trainee has to break through sometime, doesn't she? Stakes-placed eight times, four in graded company, and figures to like the 7f trip more than the six of her last two. But she's run behind Lady Sabelia twice, and the waters deepen here.

SELECTIONS

1. **Lady Sabelia** -- Quality local runner is in red-hot form now -- and gets home field advantage. The narrow choice.
2. **Sam's Sister** -- G1 winner makes a long journey but comes up a bit short.
3. **Princess Violet** -- Our 'cappers don't give her much chance to win -- call her best of the rest.

JOHN B. CAMPBELL HANDICAP

- **RACE PARTICULARS:** Race 7 (3:27), \$100,000 purse, Three-year-olds and up, 1 1/8 miles
- **STORYLINE:** 2012 Kentucky Derby-Preakness winner Went the Day Well looks to get back on track against a solid group.
- **RACE OVERVIEW:** Our 'cappers give four legit shots to win here.

RACE ANALYSIS

1. **Southern Freedom (15-1)** -- SoCal invader trained by Jerry Hollendorfer makes a long trip for his first try on conventional dirt, and his one work on it wasn't promising. If it moves him up, maybe he's around -- but only if.
2. **A.P. Cino (20-1)** -- Murray Rojas trainee is winless in seven Laurel tries and has finished behind a passel of today's rivals in recent races. Has been stakes placed twice, but he'd be a big surprise.
3. **PageMcKenney (7-2)** -- All this 2013 \$16,000 claim did in '14 was win six times and earn more than \$300,000 while while winning or placing in six stakes. Closing sort is winless in eight Laurel tries -- but seven of those were prior to last year. He has a bunch of slow works in preparation for his seasonal debut and, with Karamanos up, has the ability to make late noise.
4. **Cerro (6-1)** -- Speedster can be a handful if he gets it his own way up front -- and most of the quality here are stalkers or closers. Native Dancer effort might be better than it looks; easy winner Elnaawi returned to be third in the G1 Donn, and a bunch of other runners also have run well next out. The bad news? He's finished behind three of today's rivals in recent tries, and his connections are cold as can be (trainer Dane Kobiskie is 0-for-12 in '15 and rider Cecily Evans 0-for-21).
5. **Cosmic Gold (8-1)** -- Mike Trombetta trainee's initial stakes foray was not bad, a third in the Native Dancer won by Elnaawi, just behind Turco Bravo, who's also here. Lightly raced sort retains the right to improve and shows a solid work tab -- most recently a bullet 5f -- since his last race. First time beyond 1 1/16 for the Mineshaft

RACE FACTS

- ✓ 62nd running, begun at Bowie in 1954.
- ✓ Contested at 4 distances, from 1 1/16 miles to 1 1/4; has been 1 1/8 since 1989.
- ✓ Stakes record: Redding Colliery, 2010, 147.35
- ✓ Namesake was the racing secretary at Bowie in 1952-53, perhaps best known for weighting the 1944 triple dead heat in the Carter at Aqueduct.

TIPS AND TRENDS

- ✓ Only two races contested so far in '15 at 9 furlongs.
- ✓ For races at 1 1/16 miles -- usually a strong inside bias -- there has been no special bias in '15.
- ✓ Horses breaking from the six-hole and in have won 13.4% of the time at 1 1/16; 12.5% outside.
- ✓ Only recent 9f race was won by a horse that wired the field after breaking from the three-hole and running outside a rival.

colt, but his breeding and past performances suggest that's no issue. Notably, go-to rider Julian Pimentel jumps ship, to ride Souper Lucky.

6. **Behemoth (20-1)** -- Defending champ nosed out Managed Account to get the money last year but hasn't visited the winner's circle since. Didn't show much chasing Souper Lucky and A.P. Cino two back, though gave an improved effort last out sprinting.
7. **Turco Bravo (4-1)** -- Chilean-bred has been stakes placed three times since coming to the US, most recently second in the Jazil at Aqueduct. No great excuse that day - Micromanager was just better. Some pace pressure on Cerro sure would help this Contessa-trained closer out.
8. **Feisty Albert (10-1)** -- Pretty good effort to register a front-running score against a solid group last out in something of a change in tactics. With Victor Carrasco up, wouldn't be a big surprise to see him stalking close up today. Another one of those Claudio Gonzalez claims who's gotten better, this'll be a big test for him.
9. **Went the Day Well (20-1)** -- G3 Sprial winner in '12 followed that with a good fourth -- beaten less than three -- in the Kentucky Derby. But he was nowhere in the Preakness and hadn't visited the winner's circle since, until his last, when he beat NY-bred allowance horses. Since those two big '12 efforts, he hasn't really shown he's this kind of runner.
10. **Sailor's Revenge (9-2)** -- PA-bred trained by Kathleen De Masi earned his first stakes win last out when dead-heating with Adirondack King in the Auld Lang Syne at Parx. Kendrick Carmouche comes in for a horse who's been away since December 30 -- but that's about the schedule De Masi's kept for him to generate his last two good efforts, and he's a runner who's always thrived when fresh. Another of many here who'll be running in the lane and rates a shot here.
11. **Souper Lucky (6-1)** -- Pay no attention to the overall record: this Laurel lover has won five of his last nine and is a better horse than he once was. Defeated A.P. Cino and Behemoth in his last, and that sure was a good-looking win; rider Pimentel had a fistful of horse all the way 'round, ready to unleash. Make no mistake, though: this is a step up for him, and previous stake tries aren't promising. Is he good enough?

SELECTIONS

1. **Page McKenney** -- Hard-hitter gets the narrow nod to snap three-race place streak.
2. **Cerro** -- Kobiskie runner takes 'em a long way -- but not all the way.
3. **Went the Day Well** -- The very definition of back class finds enough of it to cash a check.

MARYLAND RACING MEDIA STAKES

- **RACE PARTICULARS:** Race 9 (4:27), \$100,000 purse, Fillies and mares, 3yo and up, 1 1/8 miles
- **STORYLINE:** A modest but evenly matched group of 11 tackles a distance that may prove tricky for some.
- **RACE OVERVIEW:** 11 runners and not much to pick among them give our 'cappers a headache..

RACE ANALYSIS

1. **Luna Time (6-1)** -- Maryland-bred Malibu Moon filly loves the track (3-2-1-0 ledger) and the distance (2-for-2). First start of '15 for Graham Motion trainee and first foray into stakes company, but against this modest group, inexperience may not hurt. She'll need to improve, but with just seven starts under belt, she has that right.
2. **Flores Island (5-1)** -- Marty Wolfson trainee's stablemate tries the richer Fritchie today, while this runner comes here. This one ran a pretty well beaten fourth in the Miami Shores last out. Has some speed figs that make her a player, and she's run a couple that were OK at the distance, but she has a single second-place finish from four tries in stakes company.
3. **Shayjolie (9-2)** -- Gary Contessa trainee has finished second twice in five stakes starts, including a good second over the strip in the Safely Kept going 7 furlongs. She was a very good second in the G3 Comely, a race that produced two next out winners and other good tries, but her two since were just middling. If she posts, she'll be doing so just eight days after her last.
4. **Miss Mischief (8-1)** -- Dale Capuano trainee, also cross-entered in the Fritchie, has two stakes wins to her credit -- going six furlongs on the main track and 1 mile 70 yards on synthetic. She's finished fourth and fifth in two dirt tries at a mile and beyond but does own three wins at route distances on synthetic. She was wide both turns in the Nellie Morse and will hope for a better trip today.
5. **Pearl Bay (8-1)** -- Cal Lynch trainee is not the horse she once was -- she's much better. Rush Bay mare won just one of her first 20 starts, but has scored in four of her last five, the sole exception coming on the grass. Scored a front-running win against allowance foes at Laurel last out, a race that's produced one next-out winner.

RACE FACTS

- ✓ 24th running.
- ✓ Named to honor the Maryland Racing Media Association and those who cover racing in Maryland.
- ✓ Contested at 3 distances ranging from 1 1/16 miles to 1 3/16 miles.
- ✓ Stakes record (9f): Irving's Baby (2002), 1:50 1/5

TIPS AND TRENDS

- ✓ Only two races contested so far in '15 at 9 furlongs.
- ✓ For races at 1 1/16 miles -- which usually a strong inside bias -- there has been no special bias in '15.
- ✓ Horses breaking from the six-hole and in have won 13.4% of the time at 1 1/16; 12.5% outside.
- ✓ Only recent 9f race was won by a horse that wired the field after breaking from the three-hole and running outside a rival.

Has been working sharply for this try, including a stamina-building mile breeze on February 1 and projects to be on the lead -- possibly loose on it -- here.

6. **Simply Spectacular (15-1)** -- Oddly handled Bernstein mare has done her best running on the main track but has made six of 10 starts on the lawn. Her last -- a sixth in the Affectionately -- wasn't terrible, as several have run well out of that race. But it wasn't great, either.
7. **Disco Barbie (12-1)** -- Cross-entered in the Fritchie, this Pure Prize mare has made only one start at a mile and none beyond; she ran second in the Our Mims at Delaware in '13. She was well-beaten twice in six-furlong sprints in her last two, and it's safe to say the distance of the Fritchie is a snugger fit than this route; but quality is another matter.
8. **Lunar Surge (4-1)** -- George Weaver trainee enters on a seven-race losing streak and finished third in this event a year ago. She has finished second or third 12 times in 16 starts, with just two wins. It's a safe bet she'll be around late, but winning is a dicier proposition. The combination of a tough trip and her own mistakes was probably the reason she lost last out -- third, beaten 1 1/4 lengths -- but that's the problem with her: it's always something. Ran just nine days ago, and New York rider Jose Ortiz ships in for the mount.
9. **Zucchini Flower (6-1)** -- Graham Motion trainee is winless at the distance, and it's been a while -- since May '13 -- since daughter of Flower Alley delivered the kind of effort she'll need here. She was a well beaten third in the Nellie Morse (when she may have been compromised by the pace) but has fired three straight bullet works since, the last, over the strip, in company with G2 winner Fortune Pearl. Does that presage the improved effort she'll need?
10. **South Andros (12-1)** -- VA-bred will don blinkers for the first time since she was a maiden, when she didn't seem to like them. After two "no speed-no rally" efforts, the blinks make you think trainer Rodney Jenkins wants to put her in the game a little earlier. Her lone stake win was in the off-the-turf Justakiss at Delaware last June. Regular rider Xavier Perez retains the mount.
11. **Celtic Katie (30-1)** -- Carlos Mancilla trainee, then conditioned by Chris Grove, finished fifth in this event a year ago, when she was in much better form than she is today. She's been off the board five straight, behind some of today's rivals. She'll need a huge form reversal to figure at all here.

SELECTIONS

1. **Pearl Bay** -- Red-hot Lynch runner continues good run with narrow score.
2. **Miss Mischief** -- If Capuano runner ends up here, she's as live as any.
3. **Shayjolie** -- Rounding back towards Comely form.