

## IN FOCUS:

# COMMONWEALTH DAY STAKES

### RACE 7: G3 COMMONWEALTH OAKS

➤ **Race particulars: Race 7 (3:30pm EDT), Grade III \$150,000 purse for three-year-old fillies, 1 1/8 miles (Turf)**

1. **#7 – Taperge (5-2):** Can boast best BRIS turf number (100) earned at Sar in latest going 1/16 miles further than she will in here; appears to be one who “can run all day” who will need pace help but should get it; part of trainer Chad Brown’s 1-2 punch
2. **#8 – Chubby Star (6-1):** Broke maiden in career debut which was 10 races back on this turf course; marks first time back since as she’s picked up fourth place purse in past three efforts (incl. two G3s); has responded when a top tier jock has been in the irons, such as Jose Lezcano in here
3. **#3 – Rymaska (2-1):** Fifth in ’16 BC Juvenile Fillies Turf after being runner-up in G3 Miss Grillo in her U.S. debut; won lone ’17 start back in Feb., took 5-months off and has been showing a solid work pattern the past 3-months; possible prep for another BC run?

### RACE 8: GRADE 2 BALTIMORE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL TURF CUP

➤ **Race particulars: Race 8 (4:00pm EDT), Grade II \$200,000 purse for three-year-olds and upward, one mile (Turf)**

1. **#7 – Blacktype (9-2):** Most consistent runner when it comes to BRIS#s; got the job done in third outing after layoff v. eight foes in stakes caliber OC\$100k turf tussle at Bel in latest; in-the-money 6 of 8 at this distance; needs to turn the tables on #2 Projected who has been 1-2 lengths better in both previous meetings

2. **#2 – Projected (9-5):** Third race after a brief layoff and will shed blinkers just one race after they were added but didn’t help; runner-up three times vs. just one win, from 6 races in U.S. this year after 18-month vacation following races in Europe to start career; one mile may not be enough
3. **#3 – Tower of Texas (6-1):** Ships in from north of the border for trainer Roger Attfield who also has one in R11 (G3 Commonwealth Derby); favorite distance being a three-time starter in the G1 WO Mile fits best among G2 competitors; just 14 days since last race is quickest turn-around for this six-year-old since he was two and failed as 3-5 favorite that day

### RACE 11: GRADE 3 COMMONWEALTH DERBY

➤ **Race particulars: Race 11 (5:30pm EDT), Grade III \$200,000 purse for three-year-olds, 1 1/8 miles (Turf)**

1. **#4 – Voodoo Song (8-5):** Only runner who has ever had the lead at the first call, not to mention second and stretch call as well; 4-for-4 since joining Linda Rice’s barn, from \$40k Claimer to G3 Saranac; hard to imagine that streak ending here considering he’ll face no early pressure and the Lrl turf has been fairly kind to early speed
2. **#1 – Final Copy (6-1):** Only one in this field to have earned a triple-digit BRIS# (101) which he did last out when losing a headbob at WO going 3/8 mile further than today; that snapped a three-race win streak... all at WO; shows a quartet of works
3. **#3 – Just Howard (12-1):** Emerging local turf star has won last three since adding blinkers; MD-bred son of English Channel is still learning but loves the distance and it’s the perfect time to see just how good he is when in against graded stakes foes

### **RACE 1: BERT ALLEN STAKES**

- **Race particulars: 12:30 p.m., \$60,000 purse, 1 1/16 miles (turf), Virginia-bred/Virginia-sired 3yo and up**
- 1. **#1 Special Envoy (2-5):** Looking for a hat trick of Va. stakes in 2017... Has versatility to lead, stalk, or close, though inside post makes a sharp break imperative...
- 2. **#6 Speed Gracer (6-1):** Ran third in the first two Va-bred stakes of the year and enters with win...
- 3. **#7 River Date (3-1):** First turf for 5yo whose sire and dam both won on the lawn

### **RACE 3: BROOKMEADE STAKES**

- **Race particulars: 1:30 p.m., \$60,000 purse, 1 1/16 miles (turf), Virginia-bred/Virginia-sired fillies and mares, 3yo and up**
- 1. **#7 Sweet Sandy (6-1):** Closed to win the Backer two back vs. similar... Offers only value here...
- 2. **#4 Queen Caroline (2-1):** Gets firm turf and figures to be close to a moderate pace...
- 3. **#2 Armoire (8-5):** Favoritism tough to take on runner who's fallen to top selections here

### **RACE 5: PUNCH LINE STAKES**

- **Race particulars: 2:30 p.m., \$60,000 purse, 5 1/2 furlongs (turf), Virginia-bred/Virginia-sired 3yo and up**
- 1. **#2 Two Notch Road (8-5):** Old-timer (10yo!) rallied to get up late two back vs. similar and has made a nice living beating up on Va-breds the last couple of years... Salty G3 Turf Monster was a little too tough...
- 2. **#5 Awake the Day (8-1):** Mare can run well in here if she stays in off decent try with adventurous trip...
- 3. **#4 Homespun Hero (5-1):** Sharp work 9/23 might yield better break than first turf try

### **RACE 6: OAKLEY STAKES**

- **Race particulars: 3:00 p.m., \$60,000 purse, 5 1/2 furlongs (turf), Virginia-bred/Virginia-sired fillies and mares 3yo and up**
- 1. **#2 Northern Eclipse (5-2):** Just held against similar to win the Camptown three back, and she's continued to run well since... Struggled through an adventurous trip in last but rallied for the show spot and looks poised to run well here... Jockey Davis and trainer McMahon have done well together...
- 2. **#11 Exaggerated (2-1):** Has kept terrific company, boasts top resume here – but 5-month break and blah recent form make odds tough to swallow
- 3. **#10 Do What I Say (6-1):** Hard-luck Street Magician filly won Gilpin three back, figures here on best

### **RACE 9: JAMESTOWN STAKES**

- **Race particulars: 4:30pm EDT, \$60,000 purse for Registered VA Breds/VA Sired two-year-olds, 5½ furlongs (Turf)**
- 1. **#7 Yes to the Dress (3-5):** Filly is just one of two in here to have visited Winners' Circle in her young, three race career so far; did that in gate-to-wire fashion over a "good" Del main surface; not bred for turf and the surface isn't a strong suit of trainer Ron Moquett's (2 for 33 with first time grass runners) but the way Lrl turf has been playing, if she gets the lead she may not look back
- 2. **#4 Graceful Request (6-1):** Exits seventh-place finish in career debut on turf which occurred here six weeks ago but earned a decent speed fig and winner repeated in the Selima; better post today
- 3. **#8 Virginia Fable (8-1):** Fractious prior to her first start nearly 3 months ago but engaged the early leader but could not keep pace; that was on dirt and afterwards waited 2-months to log a work followed by a bullet from the gate twelve days later; one of three Susan Cooney trainees in here (#1 and #4 are the other two)