

JEREMY PLONK'S LAUREL PARK PICKS

Preakness Stakes Saturday – Full Card – May 16, 2026

1	7-1-9-2	Last local effort by 8-5 ML fav #7 Epic Style wins this with hottest rider in USA Jose Ortiz now up. Rail speed #1 Sally's Gold jock Vargas wins sharp 21% in Lrl turf sprints; gives her every chance.
2	1A-12-10-3	Ness entry powerful 1-1A punch, prefer Blue Kingdom, but hate taking short price in very competitive field. #12 Grand Opening very sharp form outside NY & barn gets them ready off bench.
3	9-5-6-3 KEY PLAY	Like to see quality barns debut runners on big day undercards. #8 Ocean Sound looks promising despite 30-1 ML. Demand value as 3YO vs. elders. Same for #5 Scanner, a shorter price.
4	2-7-4-3	#2 Passage East loves Laurel and 6F, returning to both. #7 Modo is pure speed in peak form; back class to trump Texas-bred tries of late. #4 Benedetta for Preakness undercard king Asmussen.
5	7-4-8-10 KEY PLAY	Speed duel possible between #4 Sassari and #8 So Darn Pretty, setting it up for late-running #7 Mambo Queen for high % Russell duo. #10 Buzzaway may be on scene late but hasn't fired fresh.
6	4-5-7-3	#4 Final Story looked like a future stakes star at Kee; only horse on Preakness card for Brad Cox. Well-meant. #7 Reagan's Honor melted down at Kee when things went awry early. Talent.
7	4-1-5-6	#4 Obliteration is one of the top 3YO sprinters in the US and if he returns from Saudi Arabia as well as he left, he'll be a short-priced tally. 20-1 ML #1 Fulmine sits/pounces for exacta appeal.
8	6-5-2-3 KEY PLAY	#6 Celtic Contender has posted multiple seasons as one of MD's best sprinters and his last was 1 of his best races yet. #5 Floodlites returned running at Kee & Ward strong 2 nd off layoff.
9	5-1-6-4	#5 Proton is a turf miler and course winner of Lrl Futurity, taking on a crew of dirt horses, sprinters and misfits. Consistent #1 My Favorite Bird benefits from Prat up first time and saves ground.
10	6-4-3-5	Only Preakness Day bid for Pletcher, #6 Dresden Row, comes in off a perfect, old-school allowance prep. Sits on go. Defending champ #4 Fort Washington trainer Shug won this race record 6X.
11	2-6-8-7 KEY PLAY	#2 Ribaltagai was a G1 filly in France; her '26 return/local prep was really good when you consider the fast pace. May get loose from great post at 6-1 ML. Late run #6 Cheetah Lady at price.
12	1-4-8-7 KEY PLAY	6 of 11 runners exit same Lrl prep w/ blanket finish. #4 Chasing Liberty adds Irad. Fresh face #1 Run Curtis Run got a perfect tightener at CD and is 10/11 in money at this trip w/ hard luck.
13	12-2-6-1-7 PREAKNESS STAKES	As many as 11 of 14 want some of early action. At 9.5F this almost has to fall to closers #12 Incredibolt & #2 Ocelli. #6 Chip Honcho aimed wisely here vs. Derby. #1 Taj Mahal bests pace.
14	6-3-4-9	Shrewd trainer Kelly Breen doesn't ship out of Mth without reason and #6 Grant the Great should be very well meant in 2 nd start. Love Yourself adds blinkers with a rise in class that's bold.