

# JEREMY PLONK'S LAUREL PARK PICKS

Black-Eyed Susan Friday – Stakes Races – May 15, 2026

<b>8</b>	<b>3-1-5-7</b>	#3 Lights Out Leni sharp debut vs regally bred Directive, who came back to win by nearly 8L next. May deal with pace here but talent to compete. #1 Little Miss Curlin flawless on fast tracks.
<b>9</b>	<b>3-5-2-1</b> KEY PLAY	#3 Coach Mazzula (6-1 ML) may get loose up front for 31% local turf connections with 23% positive ROI. Classy #5 Brat Pack & #2 Ultimate Love breathe fire late. Exacta key-box 3 with 5,2.
<b>10</b>	<b>2-7-8-6</b>	Even-money ML chalk #2 Maggie's Intention strong over 9F and draws perfectly. Cox and Pletcher account for 4 of last 7 DuPont Stakes, so #7 Waveless (6-1 ML) will be respected on class rise.
<b>11</b>	<b>1-5-3-9</b> KEY PLAY	Longshot #1 Strutsherstuff (20-1 ML) working sharp off layoff + cutting back trip for small, but very effective barn. Cheap speed in this one sets up for finisher. Win play & exotics with logicals.
<b>12</b>	<b>2-6-4-3</b> KEY PLAY	#2 Navajo Warrior great post/little pace nearby, so expect Prat to send him early & get into mix. Class rise ALW to STK but last was vs. G3 winner Gosger. #6 Duke of Duval has faced bears. Exacta.
<b>13</b>	<b>3-10-1-5</b> BLACK-EYED SUSAN	#3 Holly's Holiday isn't most brilliant, but trustworthy/checks most boxes and benefits with better draw than #10 My Miss Mo. Expect aggressive ride, floating them out, w/ longshot #1.

## **SPECIAL WAGERS:**

### **Black-Eyed Susan / Preakness Double: \$1 minimum, 21% takeout**

Friday Race 13 to Saturday Race 13

### **Two-Day All-Dirt Pick 5: 50-cent minimum, 12% takeout**

Leg 1 | Friday, Race 10 | Allaire Dupont Distaff S.

Leg 2 | Friday, Race 12 | Pimlico Special S.

Leg 3 | Saturday, Race 7 | Chick Lang S.

Leg 4 | Saturday, Race 8 | MD Sprint S.

Leg 5 | Saturday, Race 13 | Preakness S.

### **Two-Day All-Stakes Pick 5: 50-cent minimum, 12% takeout**

Leg 1 | Friday, Race 11 | The Very One S.

Leg 2 | Friday, Race 13 | Black-Eyed Susan S.

Leg 3 | Saturday, Race 11 | Gallorette S.

Leg 4 | Saturday, Race 12 | Jim McKay Turf Sprint S.

Leg 5 | Saturday, Race 13 | Preakness S.

# JEREMY PLONK'S LAUREL PARK PICKS

Preakness Stakes Saturday – Full Card – May 16, 2026

<b>1</b>	<b>7-1-9-2</b>	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.
<b>2</b>	<b>1A-12-10-3</b>	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.
<b>3</b>	<b>9-5-6-3</b> 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.
<b>4</b>	<b>2-7-4-3</b>	#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.
<b>5</b>	<b>7-4-8-10</b> 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.
<b>6</b>	<b>4-5-7-3</b>	#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.
<b>7</b>	<b>4-1-5-6</b>	#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.
<b>8</b>	<b>6-5-2-3</b> 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 <sup>nd</sup> off layoff.
<b>9</b>	<b>5-1-6-4</b>	#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.
<b>10</b>	<b>6-4-3-5</b>	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.
<b>11</b>	<b>2-6-8-7</b> 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.
<b>12</b>	<b>1-4-8-7</b> 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.
<b>13</b>	<b>12-2-6-1-7</b> 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.
<b>14</b>	<b>6-3-4-9</b>	Shrewd trainer Kelly Breen doesn't ship out of Mth without reason and #6 Grant the Great should be very well meant in 2 <sup>nd</sup> start. Love Yourself adds blinkers with a rise in class that's bold.