

Jim Mazur's

2026

BES Day

EPILOG

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Black Eyed Susan Day EPILOG

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As is my custom, I always recap the BES and Preakness day cards. Let's see how things turned out. *Jim Mazur*

Selections For Race 1

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	6	J C's Boys (7-2)	Fastest of the experienced runners; has a run over the track.
<i>Value Plays</i>	7	Hit Zero (3-1)	Brittany Russell uncoupled entry. HIT ZERO working bullets at Fair Hill and shows C+/B FTS ratings for trn who hits 32% in that category. BOLD FACT new into barn after two awful tries vs MSW at GP for Pletcher. 1st time gelding.
	8	Bold Fact (5-1)	
<i>Bombers</i>	3	Dr Buzzy (20-1)	Shows my key angle: MSW dropper into Mdn Clm. Looks like a possible steal on the front end.

The MSW to Maiden Claimer angle works again, as **BOLD FACT** rallies late to win for Brittany Russell as her stablemate played the "rabbit."

Selections For Race 2

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	11	Big Tankness (5-2)	Maintained his sharp form when moved to the lawn. Has the speed to clear for trainer who bats 33% in turf sprints.
<i>Value Plays</i>	1	Parkes (6-1)	Will need a trip from the one post but gets Prat on huge rider switch; will be running late Came back running in seasonal debut and is 5-3-1-0 at Laurel and 4-3-1-0 at the distance. Solid!
	2	Kohoutek (6-1)	
<i>Bombers</i>	8	Boastfully Irish (20-1)	Broke mdn here last fall and then went on the shelf. Fair Hill bullet in the holster for seasonal debut for top CRAB CAKE connections

Easy peezy for the MOST LIKELY, as he draws clear at 3-5 with VALUE PLAYER **PARKES** running 3rd.

Selections For Race 3

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	3	Lonesome Road (6-5)	Post big Beyer last fall going two turns at Laurel. Ran 3rd on Virginia Derby weekend and has been firing bullets at Fair Hill. Should handle these.
<i>Value Plays</i>	2	Derbyness (4-1)	Brittany Russell will try to "tag team" the MOST LIKELY with a pair of legit routers with each coming off a victory. DERBYNESS is the Laurel homer. SURFSIDE MOON was on the Derby trail last spring for other connections. Russell took over training and won with him first time out. This colt was posting Beyers in the 90s in '25.
	6	Surfside Moon (7-2)	
<i>Bombers</i>	5	Majorca (10-1)	Not sure he can outfoot LONESOME ROAD early but he's going to try...like his chances at 10-1.
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	7	Statesman (6-1)	Likes to run 3rd, so use him there.

When **LONESOME ROAD** scratched off the program, that left my **BOMBER MAJORCA** as the lone speed in a short field. I figured he would get bet down but the \$\$\$ came on **STATESMAN** big time. I caught a nice one...and hope you all did as well..10-1 over **VALUE PLAYER DERBYNESS** for a nifty \$104 exacta for a deuce.

Selections For Race 4

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	3	Boss is Pal (12-1)	If you are going to back a runner in its seasonal debut...why not take one at 12-1? This veteran used to own this turf course but went 6-0-2-1 last year and will need to be extra ready to upset in here.
<i>Value Plays</i>	6	Transactional Guy (15-1)	GP shipper has the best early pace figures so you will know where to find him. He is a bit cheaper than these but has a conditioning edge over most.
	9	Noble Jon (8-1)	
<i>Bombers</i>	1	Turbulent Force (12-1)	First time gelding comes off the bench for trainer who hits 67% with those sort of layoffs.
	2	Catahoula Moon (20-1)	Struggled on dirt but then Beyers jumped when he moved to the turf even though he didn't hit the board...that's potential hidden form.
<i>Heads Up</i>	8	Barzini (7-5)	SCRATCHED

When **BARZINI** scratched off the program, I thought the table would be set for a longshot winner in this wide-open claiming turf sprint. Naw. Instead we got a major 2nditis runner, **NOAH CHANCE** (10-1-5-1 at the distance) at 9-5. Not my cup of tea.

Selections For Race 5

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	8	Typhoon Kuhn (10-1)	Shows the KEY ANGLE of moving from MSW to Mdn Clm (although some in here are not for sale) and has a B+ <i>TURF sire rating</i> and a bullet in the holster. I doubt we get 10-1.
<i>Value Plays</i>	9	Bright Time (15-1)	FTS has an A+ <i>FTS sire rating</i> and a B+ <i>TURF sire rating</i> for a trainer who hits 25% with FTS. But beware that the same trainer is zip for 21 this year.
<i>Bombers</i>	4	Really Ready (30-1)	Time to spread out in what could be a race with a longshot winner. REALLY READY and GUERRILLA MAGIC have "A" rated turf sires and obscure connections. Perfect. At 15-1, this is the time to play Trombetta even though his gelding has just average turf pedigree. But he is a FIRST TIME GELDING
	10	Guerrilla Magic (30-1)	
	12	Golf Cart Ryder (15-1)	
<i>Heads Up</i>	1	Country Bumpkin (4-1)	This is another race where I don't think the top two faves have any edge. COUNTRY BUMPKIN is making his turf debut but has just average <i>TURF sire ratings</i> C+/C+. Although I do note he was well backed last time but hopped at the start.
	13	Red Sea (5-1)	RED SEA makes his seasonal debut for a trainer who rarely has them ready off the bench.

It wasn't because I picked him, but **TYPHOON KUHN** took all sorts of money in the Pick 5 pool. As I always do, I boxed him with his uncoupled entymate **KUHNER** and split them in the trifecta. In the stretch, **TYPHOON KUHN** had to steady several times thanks to his entymate and then that one knocked into him and toppled the rider. Poof went my Pick 5.

None of the top three finishers were on my radar. Onward.

Selections For Race 6

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	7	Sota Summers (3-1)	With this one, you are wagering that Brittany Russell can have this one ready to win off a 12-month layoff on a series of 4f works. This filly ran faster in her lone start than others in this field. A very tepid MOST LIKELY pick.
<i>Value Plays</i>	6	Gum (4-1)	With Prat signing on this one is likely to go off less than 4-1. But it is Graham Motion on CRABCAKE weekend and this filly's Beyers from last year would likely win this. But.....she burned \$\$\$ last year and didn't get the job done
	8	Daring Grace (9-2)	Mixed signals on this one. Delacour bats just 6% with new horses in his barn and 5% 1st time turf. First Lasix is the positive and turf pedigree is above average on the sire side.
<i>Bombers</i>	2	Toocoolforschool (8-1)	Godolphin filly's damsire is Smart Strike so that's a natural for the grass. With Saez signing on, my guess is they try put this on the lead and play catch me if you can.
	9	Resort (10-1)	Trainer Mike Trombetta is having a great year and now tries to earn an instant dividend on a \$50k claim off Todd Pletcher. Sharp Fair Hill works for another CRABCAKE trainer.
<i>Heads Up</i>	1	American Tapit (7-2)	Get the hottest jockey in the land but will it be enough to cure his chronic 2nditis? (6-0-5-0)

RESORT scratched off the program. My other BOMBER, **TOOCOOLFORSCHOOL** looked home free but got caught by another 2nditis type...the HEADS UP runner above, **AMERICAN TAPIT**. The exacta did come back \$80.

Selections For Race 7

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	8	King Size (3-1)	Whereas I've been dissing most of the ML faves on this undercard, this one is the exception. He had all sorts of trouble in the Henry Clark and now drops into allowance company and gets back on LASIX and attracts J L Ortiz.
<i>Value Plays</i>	12	Light Mood (6-1)	This could be an Ortiz/Ortiz exacta, as Irad jumps on a long layoff entrant saddled by CRABCAKE H. Graham Motion..a trainer who usually does some damage on the Preakness weekend undercards. There are 5f Fair Hill breezes in the holster.
<i>Bombers</i>	5 10	Sky's Not Falling (8-1) Sardis (20-1)	Use both parts of the Trombetta uncoupled entry. SKY'S NOT FALLING had a tuneup at Laurel and won on this weekend at Pimlico last year on "good" turf. One of the few in here with multiple wins at the distance. Win candidate at a price. SARDIS just came into Trombetta's barn and likely will play the "rabbit." Sometimes they do their job and just keep going.
<i>Heads Up #1</i>	6 7	Primed to Go (10-1) McCullough (7-2)	Comes in 7-2-5-0 at a flat mile...backwheel him. McCullough was a Chad Brown reject and Russell won with him 1st out last September on synthetic. Not great value at 7-2. I'm playing against.

KING SIZE ran a great race and gamely held off **NAPTOWN**. The bad news is my **MOST LIKELY** went off at even money. This is starting to look like Derby weekend!

Race #8 Miss Preakness (Start of the \$0.20 BES Rainbow Pick 6)

<i>Selections For The Miss Preakness</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Little Miss Curlin (9-5)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Lights Out Leni (5-2) Tessellate (9-2)
<i>Bombers</i>	Late Night Text (10-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>			
#	Horse		
	#2	#4	#7

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
1	Little Miss Curlin (9-5)
3	Lights Out Leni (5-2)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
5	Tessellate (9-2)
6	Late Night Text (10-1)

On a day when I focus on playing the locals at a price, I just couldn't get myself to get involved in what like a chalky affair. And although Brittany Russell's **PEACH TIE** was sitting at 7-1, I didn't have the courage. She was several ticks slower than the other four in the field. Courage my leige! I sat it out and watched her whistle at 7-1 from off the pace. Per the above analysis, she was nowhere on my radar.

Race #9 The Hilltop (Start of the BES Pick 5)

<i>Selections For The Hilltop</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Coach Mazzula (6-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Unmiztaken (10-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Siouxse (12-1)

“A” TEAM	
#	Horse
2	Ultimate Love (4-5)
3	Coach Mazzula (6-1)

“C” TEAM	
#	Horse
	#1 #7

“B” TEAM	
#	Horse
4	Siouxse (12-1)
5	Brat Pack (8-1)
6	Unmiztaken (10-1)

BELOW WAS AN EXCERPT FROM MY ANALYSIS:

Ultimate Love is the listed 4-5 ML fave based on her score here last fall in the Selima and then a 5th-place finish in the BC Juvenile Fillies Turf. Her juvenile Beyers (in the 80s) tower over her six rivals assuming she is ready to run to those back figs off a lengthy layoff. Certainly her work tab is encouraging, but that positive is tempered by the fact that trainer Michael Trombetta bats just 10% of 180+ DAY LAYOFFS. With several short fields in the BES Pick 5, my play is to beat her.

Coach Mazzula is the logical one to pull off a minor upset. She was in great form at Laurel last fall and then again at Fair Grounds in early winter. Trainer Brittany Russell gave her some time off and then had her ready for her comebacker. She appears to want to rate off the early speed and may get a dream trip if Chad Summers' entrant—*I Love Giraffes*—goes to the front stretching out after two 5f turf tries. Coming off LASIX for the first time is the only negative. Tab her anyway for my MOST LIKELY.

When **I LOVE GIRAFFES** scratched off the program, that left **COACH MAZZULA** as a possible lone speed. And that's exactly how it played out. Rider J Toledo doled out the speed and had just enough in the tank to defeat the heavy fave who just wasn't ready for a top effort as the trainer stats for Trombetta suggested would be the case.

Race #10 The Allaire Dupont Distaff (Start of the BES Pick 4)

<i>Selections For The Allaire Dupont</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Complexity Jane (5-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Queen Azteca (5-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Low Country Magic (12-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
#3 #5 #8	

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
2	Margie’s Intention (1-1)
4	Complexity Jane (5-1)
6	Queen Azteca (5-1)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
1	Low Country Magic (12-1)
7	Waveless (6-1)

The key in this race was trying to beat **MARGIE’S INTENTION**, a filly that hadn’t won a race since she took the ‘25 BES. She was classier than these and had a race under her belt. She replicated her BES form and scored impressively at even money.

Race #11 The Very One (Start of the BES Pick 3) (Start of BES/Preakness P5)

<i>Selections For The Very One</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Lost and Found (3-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Sporting Lady (6-1) Sunna (6-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Somnium (15-1)

<i>“C” TEAM</i>					
#	Horse				
	#1	#4	#5	#7	#9

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
2	Sporting Lady (6-1)
3	Lost and Found (3-1)
6	Somnium (15-1)
8	Sunna (6-1)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
	NONE

This was the first leg of the two-day P5 and my grid was loaded with value plays and one longshot. But **SUNNA** took big \$\$\$ and wired this group at 7-5. My **BOMBER** was right there for the exacta but got picked up late and finished 4th.

I’m again choking on the chalk fumes.

Race #12 Pimlico Special (Start of the BES DD)

<i>Selections For The Pimlico Special</i>	
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Yo Daddy (3-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	Awesome Aaron (9-2) San Siro (6-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	NONE

<i>“C” TEAM</i>				
#	Horse			
	#1	#2	#5	#6

<i>“A” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
4	Awesome Aaron (9-2)
7	Yo Daddy (3-1)

<i>“B” TEAM</i>	
#	Horse
3	San Siro (6-1)

A good day for Saffie Joseph Jr. as he takes the Pimlico Special with **NAVAJO WARRIOR**, a 6-year-old gelding making his first try in any type of stakes no less a G3. Plus he had never raced without LASIX.

All those unknowns were rewarded with a 7-5 win payoff.

RACE #13 THE BLACK EYED SUSAN

Selections For BES

<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	Holly's Holiday (6-1)
<i>Value Plays</i>	A.P.'s Girl (5-1)
<i>Bombers</i>	Majestic Lucia (12-1)

"A" TEAM

#	Horse
3	Holly's Holiday (6-1)
9	A.P.'s Girl (5-1)

"C" TEAM

#	Horse
	#1 #2 #4 #6 #7

"B" TEAM

#	Horse
5	Braken Poppa (7-2)
8	Majestic Lucia (12-1)
10	My Miss Mo (7-2)

A good day for Saffie Joseph Jr. continues as he takes the BES with **MY MISS MO**. Interesting that the GP Oaks can't produce a Kentucky Oaks winner but has now produced 3 of the last 7 BES winners.

The Pick 5 came back \$222; the rainbow P6 \$1,018.

Selections For Race 14

	Prog #	Horse	Comment if any
<i>Most Likely to Win</i>	2	Street Party (9-2)	Pino bats 33% with runners right off the claim.
<i>Value Plays</i>	3	Tartabull (7-2)	Gets back on Lasix and returns to dirt.
<i>Bombers</i>	5	No More Calls (20-1)	Multiple wins at Laurel and and a score at the distance.

Ha, I saved the best for last, **NO MORE CALLS** ran like a true BOMBER. Too bad this race wasn't in the P5 sequence!