



# Power Picks

Race Date	02/3/24
Edition #	Vol. 4, No. 5

## Race-Day Overview

*With the Pegasus World Cup in the rear view mirror, it's time to focus on the 3yo's and Kentucky Derby Preps....less than 100 days to the big race! This week, we'll discuss two fun sequences....the Late P5's at Oaklawn and Gulfstream. On the YT Channel, we also have a taped episode covering the 4 stake races at Santa Anita. For you yearly subscribers, look at the very end of the Tip Sheet for our twice-a-month Derby update page. As always, check for scratches and changes, good luck this week!*

## Spot / Price Plays (National Avg. is \$1.60):

Overall ROI: \$2.21 (\$1,140.38 / 515)

YTD: \$1.60 (\$44.75 / 28)

## Racetrack: Oaklawn

ABC Grids – Pick 5; R8 - 12 , Post 4:04pm EST

## Howard Kravets' Grid:

Late P5: 5A (\$12 for \$1.50) - 4A1B (\$52 for \$1) - 3A2B (\$56) - 4A1C (\$34) - TOTAL (\$154)

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	3,6	8	-	3,6,8	\$0.50	\$96
9	8	1,9	5,6	1,8		
10	4,8	-	7	4,8		
11	6,11	8,12	5,7,9	6,8,11,12		
12	8	1,9,11	4,6,7,12	1,8,9,11		

Pete Visco's Grid: 5A (\$4) - 4A1B (\$32) - 3A2B (\$100) - 4A1C (\$14) - TOTAL (\$150)

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	8	3,6	-	8	\$0.50	\$90
9	8,9	4,5	6	8,9	-	-
10	4	1,7	8,9	1,4,7	-	-
11	6,11	4,5,7	-	4,5,6,7,11	-	-
12	7,9	1,8	6,11	1,6,7,8,9,11	-	-



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Paul Halloran's Grid: All A - \$1 - \$16 4A/1B - \$28 3A/2B - \$38 4A/1C - \$52 Total: \$134

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	3,8	6	1	3,6,8	P5	\$90
9	4,8	9	2,5	4,8	-	-
10	4	9	5,7,8	4	-	-
11	5,6	1,11	8	5,6,7,8,11	-	-
12	8,9	11	1,6,7	1,6,7,8,9,11	-	-

## P5 Analysis – Races 8 – 12

The Late Pick 5 at Oaklawn today combines races with HUGE morning line favorites and wide-open affairs. You can easily find singles on which to lean, the question is with whom? Or multiple singles? That's the beauty of Pick 5 puzzles, not only the handicapping, but the ticket construction as well. In general, I'll be going light in the first three legs, with my main single being #8 Denim and Pearls in Leg 2. I just don't think that field is very deep. I'll be spreading in the last two legs....that's where I believe a real price can shake things up, unless #8 Condensation (20-1) shocks the world like I hope in Leg 3. The majority of Pick 5 tickets will single #4 Alva Starr in that leg, which is understandable, but I have some questions about her coming off a layoff.

## Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	6	Miles Ahead	5-1	3	\$10 WP #6 BIG Exactas: 6 / 3,8 Smaller Exactas: 3,8 / 6

### Notes

Race 8 is a nice sprint full of talented, fast horses. Between favorite #8 Skelley (7-5) and some others, it appears the pace will be a heated one early. Miles Ahead ran a HUGE race vs. Tejano Twist 2-back, and rolled last time at the FG....clearly he's in great form. He's been given a short rest and Trainer McGee looks like he's got him primed for another big effort here. I don't think Skelley will have an easy time on the front end, and Talamo knows Miles Ahead well....I hope he has him mid-pack off a very fast pace and he can coming running in the stretch. Plus, he'll be a decent price too....Skelley will be a tough one to go by late, especially if he gets an easy lead....I'll need Miles Ahead to be mid-pack and not try to beat him from last.



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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	8	Condensation	20-1	5	\$5 Win, \$15 Place/Show BIG Exacta: 4/8 Smaller Exacta: 8/4

### Notes

**THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT OAKLAWN!** It's pretty rare that my Play of the Day is a 20-1 ML horse, so at least give this one a look at you can make your own conclusions. Here's my overall thought on the race: while #4 Alva Starr is the obvious horse to beat and very talented, there are two things that give me pause about her romping today: 1) There appears to be other fast gals in the race that want to be forward early to her outside, including #5 High Class and #7 Miss Arlington. Maybe the jocks will just let Alva go and hope to hang on for a second place check, but I have a feeling they're going to make Alva Starr work. 2) Alva Starr is coming off a layoff making her 4yo debut. Now, some might say she's older / more mature and will be even better than before....that is possible. But fillies can be tricky, and sometimes they don't come back the same / as good as they were the year before. The works say she's ready and will roll, but if you're going to beat her, today might be the day. **#8 Condensation** is the best closer in the race. She has some big efforts in the past vs. Wet Paint and other talented runners. I love the turf to dirt angle, and if there's moisture in the track as predicted, that would help her even more. Everything's going have to work out for her, including a pace meltdown or big regression by Alva Starr, but either one of those is possible. Go big or go home....use her at least underneath, \$1 Win, \$2 Place, \$1 Show for our Spot Play ROI!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	6	Liberal Arts	8-1	4	\$15 WP #6

### Notes

The G3 Southwest, a prep for the Rebel S. , brings together a bunch of 3yo's that are talented yet unproven at the 1 1/16th distance. When this situation occurs with horses that want the lead, I look for a closer. #6 Liberal Arts might be a little slow on the figs, but he should improve off his earlier races, and most importantly, will get pace to set up his closing kick. This talented son of Arrogate is 5-for-5 in the money and last won the Street Sense at Churchill back in late October. It sure looks like he's been pointed to this spot, with some very good works, and Jockey Torrest knows him well. If he improves like he should on the speed figure scale and takes back to make one big run, look for him to pass many tiring horses in the stretch, hopefully for a win, at somewhere around 6-1 I presume.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	8	Alexander Helios	3-1	4	\$25 Win #8

### Notes

My lowest-priced and least-creative horse I'm tipping out on the Picks today comes here in the #8 Alexander Helios. I really have only one concern with this one....why did Saffie ship him up to Oaklawn for this spot? Ya think the ridiculously lucrative \$140k purse has anything to do with it? The talented 4yo is coming into his own, improving every start lately and running fast. He's tactical but also has a closing kick. As previously stated, my only concern is he's never run at Oaklawn or worked over the surface. If he handles the track and gets a decent trip, I think he'll win....I'm guessing around 5-2. Good single on cheaper P4 / P5 tickets in the get-out race even though it's wide-open on paper.



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## Racetrack: Gulfstream

ABC Grids – Pick 5; R8 - 12 , Post 3:38pm EST

### Howard Kravets' Grid:

Late P5: 5A (\$4) - 4A1B (\$34) - 3A2B (\$110) - 4A1C (\$18) - TOTAL \$162

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1,6	5,7	3	1,5,6,7	\$0.50	\$96 for \$1.50
9	7	-	5,9	7	-	-
10	6	4,7	5	4,5,6,7	-	-
11	4,6	1,9		1,4,6,9	-	-
12	7	-	3,6	7	-	-

### Late P5 Analysis – Races 8 – 12

*My opinions of today's GP Pick 5 are clear and concise. And, unlike last week for the Pegasus and many other Saturday's at GP, I do NOT believe you have to go very deep in many races. Therefore, looking at my ABC ticket above, I'm "pressing up" my caveman ticket and will try to hit the bet 3 times using that method. It's fair to say the Pick 5 is basically a P4 with Fierceness almost a certainty in the last race, so if I'm right about him and R9, I could have the ticket a few times. The biggest spreads for me are R8 and R11, but again, not very deep in general. This bet is VERY affordable for you players with smaller bankrolls.*

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	7	Legalize	3-1	5	\$20 Win #7

#### Notes

**THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT GULFSTREAM!!** Let's start off our GP Power Picks with a lower-priced horse in the G3 Swale. I love the spot Legalize is in today....best early speed on the outside of others, he's consistent, and fastest on paper. The 7f should be perfect for him, and he'll have the option to go to the lead or sit just off based on the break. The horse is 2-for-3, Saez is a great gate rider, and this talented 3yo has upside. Trainer DeVeaux has him in terrific form....so I guess the only negative will be the price (might drift down as low as 7-5...NO WAY we're getting ML of 3-1) and the fact he's never trained or run on the GP surface. Other than that, it's "all systems go" for me.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	6	First World War	4-1	5	\$25 Win #4 Trifectas: 4 / 6,9 / 1,6,9 6,9 / 4 / 1,6,9

#### Notes

The Kitten's Joy S. brings together a solid field of 3yo boys on the turf. The two big names are probably the two Pletchers, #4 Agate Road and the #9 Noted. Let's face it, they are the horses to beat and either one of them can win this for sure. But I'm going to take a shot for a small upset with #6 First World War for Trainer Walsh and Tyler G. Based on his breeding (son of War Front, my favorite



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stallion who can be visited at Clairborne Farm in Ky.), he'll continue to handle the turf. He is 1-for-2 on the grass already.....he lost to Noted but was wide that day at Keeneland. He'll sit right off of the #3 Tacayo in theory, go by that one late, then I HOPE hold off the two Pletcher closers. I won't easy, so I'd demand that ML-price of 4-1 or no lower than 7-2 if you want to place a win bet on him. He just figures to sit a nice trip and is NOT much slower than the two Pletchers on paper.

## Racetrack: Gulfstream

### \$3 Tropical Turf Pick 3

This \$3 base bet covers Races 5,8, and 11. The first leg, R5, is very difficult with a lot of early speed signed on. So, I'll be aggressive and single #4 OK Boomer, who was very wide and game in defeat last time....hoping for a more patient ride today. The other two races are small spreads for me, but you could go lighter with a tighter budget. You could single #1 Life is Audible is R8. Looks Pletcher could be in line for a big day at Gulfstream!!

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	4	2,3,6,7	5	4	\$3	\$48
8	1,6	5,7	3	1,5,6,7	-	-
11	4,6	1,9		1,4,6,9	-	-

**Good luck with all of your wagers....CRUSH YOUR BETS!!!**





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### **Kentucky Derby Update - Edition #3**

*Wow, what a weekend for Derby Prep!! Even though these are still only 20-pt / G3-type races, some of the big guns from last year are starting to re-appear. Soon we'll be able to begin to sniff out the contenders from the pretenders...maybe that starts this weekend. There are 4 graded stakes restricted for 3yo's today....the Withers in NY, the Southwest S. in Ark, the Holy Bull in Fla, and the Robert B. Lewis in Cal. Let's give a quick preview of each one....the 150th Run for the Roses is less than 100 days away!!*

#### **Withers, 1 1/8th, Aqueduct R9 (3:55pm EST)**

#3 Lightline looks awfully tough for Brad Cox, having lost to talented Carbone last time at Oaklawn. If he gets the distance, expect him to win as the favorite. I'm a little interested in the rail horse for Pletcher, Speed Runner, who has a great post, should keep improving (by Gun Runner) and owned by same group as Tapit Trice.

#### **Southwest S., 1 1/6th, Oaklawn R11, (5:42 EST)**

For me, this is the most interesting Ky. Derby Prep of the day....big field of 12. There appears to be a ton of early speed, so if the field holds together, look for a stalker/closer to get the W. As stated on the Spot Plays, I think #6 Liberal Arts is very live at a generous price. If he can improve off his early efforts in the Fall, he's got a big shot to run them down late. As a bomb with similar style, don't sleep on #8 Common Defense (15-1). He'll be flying late if the pace is hot. I'm against speed types #1 Maycocks Bay (Late Scratch), #7 Carbone, etc....they'll have to prove it to me while being pressed into fast fractions going a distance they've never gone. Maybe one of them will just "run them off their feet", but I doubt it.

#### **Holy Bull, 1 1/16th, Gulfstream R12 (5:45 EST)**

The headliner is obviously Fierceness, the 2yo champ for Todd Pletcher....Johnny V. in the saddle today. On paper, the question is not IF he'll win, but by HOW MUCH? But, it's a horse race, and there is other early speed signed on. If he's remotely as good as he was last year, this is a slam dunk. Based on his works, I don't think he'll be short for the race and will fire a very good shot, although this is just a stepping stone for bigger things to come. #3 Otello for Clement is a very professional racehorse with upside, but needs to improve substantially on the Beyer scale to stay with Fierceness. I like him underneath to fill out your exactas or trifectas. More on the next page....

#### **Robert B. Lewis, 1 mile, Santa Anita R5 (7:23pm EST)**

Question: Which one of these horses is most likely a Kentucky Derby candidate? Answer: None of the Bafferts. They are not eligible, so look for others to come out of the West Coast, if any at all. #6 Nysos is a complete freak so far and shows no signs of distance limitations...he's fun to watch. I do like the potential of #5 Coach Prime, but he also is trained by Baffert and won't be able to compete in the Derby.



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That will be the theme of many West Coast races this winter and spring. We'll see if a non-Baffert emerges to the forefront in California....perhaps a "Skinner"-type horse.

### [Ky. Derby Points Leaderboard](#)

**Ky. Derby Current Odds in Las Vegas (after Baffert-trained horses taken off the board)**

#### Caesars Top 5:

<b>Fierceness</b>	<b>8-1</b>
<b>Dornoch</b>	<b>10-1</b>
<b>Locked</b>	<b>15-1</b>
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	<b>15-1</b>
<b>Track Phantom</b>	<b>15-1</b>