Power Picks

Race Date	02/17/24
Edition #	Vol. 4, No. 7

Race-Day Overview

BIG DAY for the podcast and the Ky. Derby Trail, as the most impressive prep race is the main feature today in New Orleans at the Fair Grounds. The podcast's hope, Sierra Leone, runs in the Risen Star S. on a stakes-laden card, plus a fun Pick 5 sequence in Maryland at Laurel with two graded stakes. There was some rain in New Orleans yesterday, carrying over into this morning, then clearing out. CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES at the FG...I THINK they'll be on turf, not sure, but will be wet grass.

***Special notes:**

1) Our online merch store is opening up next week. Please support the podcast! More details to follow.

2) We will have a LIVE show for the Saudi Cup next Saturday morning w/our favorite handicapper from the other side of the pond, DAVY LANE! Time TBA....please join us!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): $2.18 ($1,149.58 / 528)

YTD: $1.32 ($53.95 / 41)

Racetrack: Fair Grounds

ABC Grids – Pick 5; R10 - 14 , Post 3:45pm EST

Howard Kravets' Grid: (Picks for Howard assuming ON TURF)

Late P5: 5A ($6) - 4A1B ($39) - 3A2B ($93) - 4A1C (27) - TOTAL ($165)

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
10	3,7	5,8	13	3,5,7,8	$0.50	$96
11	1,3,9	-	4,7,8	1,3,4,9		
12	2,9	3,5,10	-	2,3,5,9,10		
13	4	1,6	7	1,4		
14	7	4,8	3,11	4,7		

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Pete Visco's Grid: 5A ($8) - 4A1B ($36) - 3A2B ($58) - 4A1C ($48) - TOTAL ($150)

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
10	3	5,7	1,11,13	On-Turf: 3,5 Off-Turf: 2,8	$0.50	$96
11	3,7	1,9	4,6	3,4,7,9	-	-
12	10,11	3	2	On-Turf: 3,10,11 Off-Turf: 3,7,11	-	-
13	4,7	1	6	4,7	-	-
14	4,8	7	3,11	3,4,7,8	-	-

Paul Halloran's Grid: All A - $1 - $16 4A/1B - $36 3A/2B - $58 4A/1C - $36 Total: $146

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
10	5,7	13	3	3,5,7,13	P5	$96
11	1	3,9	4,8	1,3	-	-
12	3,10	11	1,2	3,11	-	-
13	1,6	4,7		1,4,6,7	-	-
14	4,8	7	10,11	4,7,8	-	-

P5 Analysis – Races 10 – 14

Today's Late P5 at the Fair Grounds is a doozy! All-stakes, Derby Prep, Oaks Prep, competitive turf racing (if it stays on the grass), whoa! This is a VERY challenging sequence, especially if the races stay on grass. My overall thoughts are to spread in the turf races (again, assuming they stay on) and take some stands in the dirt races. Although I'm mainly going 3-deep in R11, I think many in there can win and would spread as much as your budget allows. The biggest spread for me would be R12 on the grass. If the races come off the turf, I think the fields will be smaller and not very deep.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	9	Smile Happy	5-1	4	$15 WP #9 BIG Exactas: 9 / 1,3 Smaller Exactas: 1,3 / 9

Notes
It's funny how sometimes you strongly dislike a horse in a race, and then the next time you love him/her. That's how I feel about Smile Happy today. Last time off the layoff, I was totally against him at 5-2 and he was awful. Once again, he had trouble behind the starting gate and needed the race off the layoff. Today, I like him a lot for a few reasons: 1) He'll be much tighter / in shape with a race under his

belt, 2) From what I've understand, he doesn't react to the lights well, and today the race will be run before it gets dark (I know, strange angle, but that's the intel I received), 3) He breaks from the far outside post, so if he goes in well, he won't have to wait long before they start the race, and 4) He figures to get a nice trip sitting off of #3 Strong Quality. All that being said, he's a mercurial sort who might not fire, but we'll get an okay price today.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
13	4	Intricate	3-1	4	$20 Win #4 Trifectas: 4 / 1,6,7 / all 1,6,7 / 4 / all
Notes					

This Ky. Oaks Prep is loaded with talent….just a smaller version of the Risen Star S. #4 Intricate is a pet of mine, having won for me in the Ky. stake last fall in the middle of a big contest at a nice price. There's no doubt she has the talent…the question is will Walsh have her ready off the layoff? His stats are so-so in this situation, but with enough early speed in here and at least a moderate pace, Intricate should be making a nice late run. I'm not impressed with the horses coming out of the local prep for this, the West Omaha race victory, so I'm going elsewhere. I would NOT take too small a price on Intricate…to be honest, I'm just a fan and want to see what she can do in her 3yo debut.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
14	7	Hall of Fame	6-1	5	$15 Win 7 Big Exactas: 7 / 4,8 Smaller Exactas: 4,8 / 7
Notes					

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT THE FAIRGROUNDS!! In perhaps the biggest upset / surprise so far today, I did NOT pick Sierra Leone as my Play of the Day, lol! Let's be honest, I hope he runs off the screen a big winner and punches his ticket to the Derby. A 1st or probably 2nd place finish would do that. But as a gambler, Hall of Fame is the pick for me. I was super-impressed with the way he broke his maiden, and it was a much faster time than Track Phantom won on the same card. I know he didn't beat much, but he made a move into VERY fast fractions as a 2nd-time starter and finished well. My gut tells me Asmussen likes him as much if not more than Track Phantom going forward…I get that kind of vibe listening to interviews and people I respect. I doubt those two will hook up early, and I don't track HoF needs the lead either. If he gets a good trip, he could be tough. We'll find out what he's made of today.

In terms of Sierra Leone, I hope he breaks well and is mid-pack comforbably, then unleash that powerful run that he has displayed. In my entire betting career, I'm as excited to see this one run as almost any other horse due to the Future Bet our podcast has on him. And, even if he doesn't run well today, he'll have another shot in a Derby Prep to get to the first Sat. in May. I'm confident he will.

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Racetrack: Laurel

ABC Grids – Pick 5; R6 - 10 , Post 2:55pm EST

Howard Kravets' Grid:

Late P5: 5A ($24 for $3) - 4A1B ($44 for $1) - 3A2B ($46) - 4A1C ($10) - TOTAL $124

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	9	3,5	7	3,5,9	$0.50	$72
7	6,7	1,3	-	1,3,6,7	-	-
8	1,6	7	-	1,6,7	-	-
9	3	4	-	3	-	-
10	3,4	1,2	5,6,7	1,2,3,4	-	-

Late P5 Analysis – Races 6 – 10

While this sequence does not have as much talent or hype as the Fair Grounds card, it does have something else going for it if I'm correct…a MUCH smaller budget that is required where you can press-up your opinions and hit. The horse I'm most confident is would be #3 Post Time in the feature R9, while the biggest spread would be the last race despite the 7-horse field. Enjoy another track with a very long stretch that goes on forever, especially if you have a horse on the lead and you need the wire!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	6	Frosty O Toole	12-1	5	$10 Win, $15 Place Underneath in exactas/trifectas

Notes

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT LAUREL!! Trainer Mike Dini is a former Chicago guy who is sneaky. #6 Frosty O Toole must might be rounding into form as a newly-turned 4yo, and this field feels like it's ripe for an upset. There are no killers in here, he's coming off of a win, and there's enough early pace to set up his closing kick. He might be a tad slower than others, but not much. It's interesting that Dini ships him here…that's a vote of confidence for me…and he's been working well in the mornings.Plus, he'll be the right price too. I would use him in the Pick 5 and underneath too in your vertical bets. For the ROI stats, I'll go $1 WP.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	1	Last Leaf	9-2	4	$10 WP Trifectas: 1 / 6,7 / all

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					6,7 / 1 / all
Notes					
This 7f stake for the girls should be dominated on the tote board by two horses coming from Florida, the #6 and #7. But, a horse who's been racing in Kentucky on the Tapeta invades here with back form and back class, the #1 Last Leaf. For me, the big question is the 7f distance. I have no doubt she fits from a class level and in theory sits right off the leaders in a good spot. I just don't know how good #6 Intrepid Daydream and #7 Bluefeld are…and they'll be overbet. I hope she gets a patient ride and her class will show late in the stretch.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	4	Kanem	4-1	2	$5 Win #4
Notes					
In the history of these Power Picks, I'm pretty sure I've never touted a horse with this little talent…what an awful field, hence the low star value. But hey, a 4-1 here pays the same as a 4-1 in the Risen Star!! Kanem was bad last time, but the trainer has good stats coming back quickly and her races at Tampa were good enough to beat this field. I have no idea if she'll win or finish last, but I'm guessing she'll give a good account of herself. Do you really want to bet a low price in this field where we can trust nobody?!					

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

Kentucky Derby Update - Edition #3

Power Picks

Well, this is the race we've been waiting for a quite a while, the Risen Star S. at the Fair Grounds…let's hope for a good one. It's pretty clear this race is loaded, and we've talked about it a lot, so not much to add here other than what's been said. I believe the Derby winner could very well come out of this race. Points are 50-25-15-10-5 for 1st through 5th place finishers. It will be interesting to see two things on Saturday at the FG: 1) How much moisture is in the track and how it'll play, and 2) How far back will Sierra Leone be / will the blinkers help or hurt him?

Let me give some updates on other horses on the trail as well and where they're headed next (supposedly):

Locked - Fountain of Youth - GP
Dornoch - Fountain of Youth - GP
Timberlake - Rebel S. - OP
Conquest Warrior - Fountain of Youth - GP
Fierceness - ??
Born Noble - Alw. at GP or Fountain of Youth
Forever Young - Saudi Derby or Dubai (talented Japanese horse)

In addition, there is a prep race on Sunday at Sunland in New Mexico, but doubt any of those will make a dent in the Derby.

Current Kentucky Derby Points Leaderboard HERE
Current Odds in Pool 4 for the KDFW HERE (as of Friday night)

Good luck today!

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