



Power Picks Tip Sheet

Race Date	03/16/24
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Race-Day Overview

With Howard and Paul in Las Vegas competing in the NHC this week, the Power Picks for Santa Anita are being handled by our West Coast expert, Noah Meagher (Santa Anita), and Picks & Ponies Co-Host Pete Visco (Oaklawn). This is one of those slow weeks on the Kentucky Derby/Oaks trails with no prep races on the docket. However, that doesn't mean that there aren't chances to make some scores.

The card at Santa Anita might not have a ton of "star power" outside of The Chosen Vron, but they have a sequence with some tough, balanced races where I think we can find some decent prices to string together.

As for Oaklawn, I feel like there is a chance for the sequence to be little chalky, which is why the spot plays you'll see below are lower priced horses than we normally include in the Power Picks. However, on days when you think that might be the case, there is still potential to make money by just being tighter with the picks and pressing opinions. That's what we hope to do here.

Good luck today and crush those bets!!

Spot/Price Play ROI (National Average: \$1.60)

Period	ROI	Calculation	Note
Overall	\$2.13	\$1,167 / 549	Since February 2021 when the Power Picks started.
YTD	\$1.15	\$71.45 / 62	Year-to-Date for the current year.

Racetrack: Santa Anita

ABC Grids – Pick-5; Races #5 - 9; Post Time 6:00pm EST

Noah Meagher's ABC Grid

Late P5: 5A (\$8) - 4A1B (\$36) - 3A2B (\$62) - 4A1C (\$32) - TOTAL (\$138)

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	3,8	6	2,4,7	3,6,8	\$0.50	\$90
6	5,6	4	1,3	4,5,6	-	-
7	5,6	2,3	4	5,6	-	-
8	1	2	-	1,2	-	-
9	7,10	4,5,8	2,9	4,5,7,8,10	-	-



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Pete Visco's ABC Grid

Late P5: 5A (\$18) - 4A1B (\$45) - 3A2B (\$36) - 4A1C (\$56) - TOTAL (\$153)

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	2,8	3,7	6	2,3,8	\$0.50	\$81
6	5,6	4	2	4,5,6	-	-
7	3,5,6	-	1	3,5,6	-	-
8	1	2	4	1,2	-	-
9	5,7,10	-	1,9	5,7,10	-	-

Pick-5 Analysis (Races 5 - 9)

With Howard, Paul, and Kyle off to Vegas for the NHC this weekend, Howard has finally come to his senses and left me, Noah Meagher (aka West Coast Bias) to cover the action down at the Great Race Place on Saturday. Santa Anita's card is highlighted by the G3 San Carlos for four years old and up going seven furlongs on the main track. The Late Pick 5 sequence itself includes three very difficult turf races and a high-quality allowance, along with the aforementioned stakes event. For those of you who don't know too much about me, I specialize in handicapping races at both Santa Anita and Del Mar. Although I may be young, I like to think of myself as one of the best West Coast handicappers in the country, and I'm here to prove myself on today's card. My only wish is that if things go well, you encourage Howard to allow me to write more picks for you in the future. Good luck wherever you are betting!

Price/Spot Play(s) - (Yellow background denotes Play of the Day!!)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
3	1	Uncle Truly	5-1	3	\$5 Win, \$15 Place

Notes: A talented group of 3-year-old colts battle it out in the Pasadena Stakes, which goes as Race 3 on today's card. Jonathan Thomas' first several runners here at the winter meet had very little success, but his barn has slowly started to heat up. Initially, my opinion was that 'Thomas didn't bring his best stuff', but over the past couple weeks, my view has changed to 'Thomas' runners need a race'. Uncle Truly has a race here at SA under his belt, finishing a decent 4th to some pretty good company. The winner that day was Twirling Point, who funny enough was a horse owned by Augustin Stables, trained by Jonathan Thomas, and making his 2nd start at Santa Anita. Although he seems a bit slow on paper, the only speed in the field is the **#5 - Island Cruiser**, who I don't think can get the mile, and the rest of this small field has had most of their success closing from way out of it. I'm hoping that Kimura can position himself similarly to the maiden score at Woodbine, sitting just off the lead. If he does just that, I'm banking on him getting the jump on the deep closers, and maybe he can steal this thing at a decent number on the tote.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
5	8	Can't Sleep	5-2	5	\$20 Win, \$10 Place \$10 Big Exacta - 8 / 3,6 \$5 Small Exacta - 3,6 / 8

Notes: THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY. There are a few horses in this spot that are coming out of the same 6-furlong race here on February 16th, but I ended up going in a different direction with the **#8 - Can't Sleep**. When it comes to trainers on the West Coast circuit, Carla Gaines is known to not typically have her horses cranked first time out, so when a member of her barn gets their picture taken on debut, that animal needs to be taken



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seriously. She won at this particular configuration (6.5 turf chute) and she did it well; sat about midpack throughout, circled the group 4-wide, took the lead mid-stretch and ran on. In that race, she got stuck on her left lead, and frankly didn't switch leads until well into the gallop-out. Considering the slight tardiness of switching leads in works prior to the debut, as well as the way that Carla Gaines trains her horses, my instinct tells me that she is going to show a big improvement in her 2nd start. Also, it has to be noted that Dettori chose the #8 over the #7 - **The Shushala**, who was favored in that race on Feb. 16th. If Dettori has her positioned well, there is plenty of speed to set things up for her, so she should be closing late.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	5	Indispensable	4-1	4	\$10 WP \$0.50 Trifecta - 5 / 2,3,6 / ALL \$0.50 Trifecta - 2,3,6 / 5 / ALL

Notes: I LOVE the move to the grass for the #5 - **Indispensable** today. He's a talented 3-year-old that I've followed for quite some time, and he's been improving with each and every start up until his last effort, which can be excused by a decent amount of trouble. Kimura tried to move him more forwardly around the first turn and took him into a tight spot that he did not like, as he proceeded to throw his head around and fight the jockey for some time along the backstretch. Once it came time for his run, he made a little bit of a move, but had exerted so much energy at that point in the race. Trainer John Sadler has excellent numbers moving horses to the turf (8/36 1st Turf, 11/50 Dirt/Turf, both about 22%), and he gets a HUGE jockey upgrade to Joel Rosario, who when does what is instructed, is one of the best turf jockeys in the country. I see him stalking the #6 Let Seamus go, who also gets an upgrade in Juan Hernandez, and it would not surprise me if these two take them all the way around.

Racetrack: Oaklawn Park

ABC Grid – Pick-5; R7 - 11; Post Time 4:10pm EST

Pete Visco's ABC Grid

Late P5: 5A (\$12) - 4A1B (\$40) - 3A2B (\$48) - 4A1C (\$56) - TOTAL (\$156)

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

Pick-5 Analysis (Races 7 - 11)

This sequence, which features the Grade 3 Whitmore Stakes, is a tough one to handicap and looks to be one where I think we can get a couple of prices to come through. Usually, the first thing I do when looking at a Pick-5 is to try and identify a race where I can single. In this sequence, that was definitely not easy unless you really like #2 - **Tejano Twist** in the Whitmore. On my ABC grid, I wound up singling the #6 – **Runningthestreets** in the 11th Race and that is not a move that I made with an overabundance of confidence simply because I am



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relying on a lifetime maiden who just doesn't seem to like to win and has finished 2nd five times in a row. However, these sequences where there isn't seemingly a "free square" have the ability to pay nicely even if we don't get that super high-priced winner. Just having a couple of horses between 6-1 and 8-1 winning can really blow this thing up.

Price/Spot Play(s) - (Yellow background denotes Play of the Day!!)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	5	Asternia	7-2	3	\$15 Win/Place - 5 \$10 Exacta Box - 5,6

Notes: This race, the Purple Martin Stakes, is a small field but it came up pretty strong. As I looked through it I went back and forth on my top pick between a couple horses, so I was surprised when I ultimately decided to make the **#5 - Asternia** a spot play. This is a horse that hasn't won much, she's only 1-for-6 lifetime, but I think her record is misleading. In five of six races, she has been stuck with outside posts in big fields which is tough on a horse that wants to be forwardly placed. Add to that a couple of tries on the turf, including the Grade 2 Jessamine, and some 8f races on the dirt against potential Kentucky Oaks level horses, and I think her form might just be muddied up a bit. Based on her breeding, I think sprinting is what she wants to do and now she is back again at 6f in her 2nd race as a 3yo after a lifetime Beyer/Timeform top in her last which for me sets her up for a move forward. Supporting that is also the two fantastic works she had at Oaklawn since her last race, which shows me that she is still holding the fitness she showed last out.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	2	Tejano Twist	9-5	4	\$25 Win - 2

Notes: This is my play of the day. In the Whitmore Stakes, I am not going to overcomplicate this one. I am going to go with **#2 - Tejano Twist** who I think is the best horse, running at his best distance, and at his favorite track. That's a combination that I can get behind every time.

Most importantly, though, I think the pace setup is what puts Tejano Twist over the top. Looking at the pace from a Timeform Early Pace standpoint, there are four of the seven horses in the field with early pace figures at 112 or higher, meaning that there is potential for a hot pace up front. This would setup perfectly for Tejano Twist to unleash his late kick and run them all down in the lane.

From a pure form perspective, he seems to be right where his trainer Chris Hartman would want him to be. He finished 2023 with two strong wins and then came back in his 1st race at 5yo in the slop and ran a really nice 2nd to Skelly who had won seven-in-a-row before running a strong 2nd on Saudi Cup Day.

Even though a 9-5 shot isn't ideal for a play of the day, I think there is value here for sure as long as he doesn't get bet down much lower than the ML price.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	6	Runningthestreets	2-1	4	\$20 Win - 6 \$1 Trifecta 6 / 5,7,12 / 5,7,12 \$0.50 Trifecta 5,7,12 / 6 / 5,7,12

Notes: As I mentioned in the Pick-5 Analysis, the **#6 - Runningthestreets** is the horse that I am going to use as my long/single 'A' in my ABC Grid. That is a scary proposition when you have a horse who is still a maiden after nine starts and who definitely has contracted a strong case of 'seconditis' (she's run 2nd five races in a row) and can easily be considered a money-burner. However, I am going to put my money on the concept of "this horse is



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due". That isn't usually the strongest handicapping strategy, but it's not the only reason I like her to come out on top finally.

From a pace standpoint, I think she is going to finally get a little pace to run into. She is a horse that generally comes from the back and is usually trying to close into slow or moderate paces. I think here, she should get a little more especially since I think the main speed horse, **#8 - J J's Joy**, might be cheap speed that is going to fold late. If we can get a couple of other horses to go with her on or at least pressing the lead, it could set it up perfectly for Runningthestreets.

Trainer Doug Anderson had one stat that I liked as well. Anderson is 8/33 W (24%) and 29/33 ITM (88%) in Maiden Special Weight races. So, his horses have been so very good at this level, and I think he gets another win here.

Good luck with all your wagers.... CRUSH THOSE BETS!!!

