Power Picks

Race Date	03/30/24
Edition #	Vol. 4, No. 13

Race-Day Overview

Today is one of my favorite days of the racing year, full stop. It started with the Dubai World Cup card (ongoing as you read this most likely), then it's Arkansas Derby Day and Florida Derby Day with 14 stakes between the two cards!! We'll focus on the Late P5's at Oaklawn and Gulfstream, plus beginning today in partnership with our proud sponsor Hawthorne Racecourse, the Late P4 today there as well. Remember, the Derby Prep points for today's races are 100-50-25 to the top 3 finishers, so the 1-2 finishers are pretty much guaranteed spots in the Derby, with the 3rd place finisher marginal depending on how many points they have going into the race. CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES, have a great day, good luck!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): $2.18 ($1,229.38 / 564)

YTD: $1.72 ($132.75 / 77)

Racetrack: Oaklawn Park

ABC Grids – Pick 5; R9 - 13 , Post 5:32pm EST

Howard Kravets' Grid:

Late P5: 5A ($6) - 4A1B ($37) - 3A2B ($85) - 4A1C (32) - TOTAL ($160)

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

Power Picks

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

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

P5 Analysis – Races 9 – 13 (Yellow background denotes Plays of the Day!!)

The Late P5 today at Oaklawn is fun and challenging, with 4 stakes in a row followed by an interesting allowance race to end the card. As you can see by my ABC grid on the previous page, I'm going to be aggressive with my single "A" horses in this sequence. My biggest take today is I'm against Baffert's Muth at a low price in the Ark. Derby. I recognize he could win by 3-4 lengths, but as I discussed on our podcast Thursday night, I have a few reasons not to like him today, so I'll take my chances. If he wins, I'll probably lose the Pick 5. The biggest spread for me would be R10, a VERY difficult sprint for the girls. Use as many as possible in there. R11 is probably a spread also, although I'm very high on the rail horse coming in from NY and will be interested to see how she does. This could pay big, so plan accordingly.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	4	Midnight Rising	7-2	4	$20 Win #4
Notes					

We'll start today with the #4 Midnight Rising. If we get 7-2 I'll be very happy. He's trained by the red-hot Jordan Blair, who is an amazing 33% at this meet (5/15). I like progressive 4yo's facing older ones, and that's exactly what he is. He's done everything right in his first two starts of the year on dirt, so it appears he's found his surface. He'll stalk and pounce just as before and have a big chance in the lane with the right trip. Jockey Esquivel knows him well and I see no reason to believe he can't step up in his first dirt stake attempt.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	7	Royal Spa	8-1	3	$10 WP #7 Trifectas: 7 / 2,4,6,8 / 2,4,5,6,8 2,6,8 / 7 / 2,4,5,6,8 2,6,8 / 2,4,5,6,8 / 7
Notes					

This race is an absolute cluster. Finding the winner will not be easy. Therefore, I feel it's necessary to go with a price, and I'll take #7 Royal Spa. There are two main reasons: 1) I don't like the race Zeitlos won and don't think the winner has to come from that event 2) There appears to be enough speed to set up for a closer. Royal Spa has been in races where the speed has held together and has faced toughies including Alva Starr, Wet Paint, Julia Shining, etc….She's been working very well and I think an uptick in the Beyers is upcoming. Santana will have to work out a trip to win, but a placing is very likely in my opinion if the expected pace heats up….just needs a trip.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	9	Mystic Dan	5-2	5	$25 Win #9 BIG Exactas: 9 / 2,5 Smaller Exactas 2,5 / 9
Notes					

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT OAKLAWN!! As many of you know, I'm a bit of a contrarian, and it usually works well for me. Most of the public will pick Timberlake or Muth, and either can absolutely win. Most will say, "Mystic Dan wants slop, that's why he ran so well!" Really? Do we know that for sure? In his second start, he ran a 96 Beyer on fast dirt. What I like most is that Dan has appeared to learn how to rate and finish….I don't think that's due to the slop, we'll find out. He should sit a great trip behind Muth in the 2nd flight of horses ready to pounce again when the running really matters. He sure didn't look like a horse that has distance issues last time, and we'll get more than 5-2, we have to. I'd say he'll be more like 4-1 or 9-2. McPeek's horses blossom on big days, and I think Dan will be ready for the challenge today at twice the price than the "likely winners."

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
13	10	Thestral	4-1	4	$15 WP #10
Notes					

If you toss out #10 Thestral's last race on the slop, she can easily handle this fairly weak group of allowance fillies. She was on the upward swing for several starts, then hit a bump in the road, and it sure seems like the mud was the reason. Morales is one of Amoss' go-to guys, and she has the enough early speed to get over the from the outside and stalk the leaders. She also came back very quickly in the last race (2 weeks), so that could be another reason she didn't fire. She'll have to beat the #5, but she's got a big shot to do it.

Power Picks

Racetrack: Gulfstream Park

ABC Grids – Pick 5; R10 - 14 , Post 4:06pm EST

Howard Kravets' Grid:

Late P5: 5A ($6) - 4A1B ($33) - 3A2B ($57) - 4A1C ($49.50) - TOTAL $145.50

10	1,4,6	-	-	1,4,6	$0.50	$108
11	1,4,6	5,8,9	-	1,4,5,6,8,9	-	-
12	8	6	7,9	6,8	-	-
13	3	1,4,7	5,8,9,11	3,4,7	-	-
14	9	10	2,3	9,10	-	-

Late P5 Analysis – Races 10 – 14

It's Florida Derby Day, and the Late P5 is an ALL-GRADED STAKES variety ending in the biggie. First, let me say I'm being an irresponsible bettor by having all three faves in the first leg as "A's". I just don't' have an opinion which one is better than the other today, although I'm most interested in the Euro on the rail for the Clement barn. The 2nd leg is VERY tough, unless you think #4 Ways and Means is ready off the layoff. She's talented and the big question mark today. As you can see, I'm taking some stands in the last three with single "A" horses. For me R12 and R14 are the "easiest" races and I would NOT spread much there. One big question is, are the Chad talented turfers ready today? We'll find out, I'm not sure, they might need one off the bench. The Fl. Derby is a two-horse race as far as I'm concerned. Either Fierceness romps or Conquest Warrior upsets the favorite…Warrior is VERY talented.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	1	Power Squeeze	8-1	3	$10 WPS #1 Big Exactas: 4,5,6,8,9 / 1 Smaller Exactas: 1 / 4,5,6,8,9

Notes
The 3yo girls this year have traded off beating up on each other, and I truly don't know what to expect in this race today. If #4 Ways and Means is ready, she probably wins. But there's plenty of early speed signed on and I'll go with a fuzzy. #1 Power Squeeze is meant to go long on the dirt. She's by Union Rags out of an Awesome Again mare…the longer the better. She's won both of her starts this year and looks to be improving…the last race was run at a slow pace, hence the lower speed fig. Centeno flies down to ride her, and I like that. She's training well and should get a nice trip while ground-saving. Let's go with a "flyer" and hope to see her in the Winner's Circle at a price, or at least underneath. We'll go $1 to win $3 to place for our Spot Play ROI.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
13	3	Ice Chocolat	9-2	5	$25 Win #3

Notes

Power Picks

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
14	9	Conquest Warrior	3-1	4	$15 Win #9 BIG exacta: 9/10 Small exacta: 10/9

Notes
Truth be told, I was VERY close to making #9 Conquest Warrior my Play of the Day at Gulfstream in the Florida Derby. #10 Fierceness is the horse to beat, but I have no idea what we're going to see from him. Conquest Warrior is one of those horses that is much better than he looks on paper, and he looks good there too. According to Timeform US, his numbers are not that far off of Fierceness, unless the Pletcher trainee runs a hole in the wind. Shug is known for his patience, and this $1mil. buy is ready to explode today. I'm a bit worried he'll be wide into the first turn, but if J. Ortiz figures out a trip, he is BY FAR the most likely winner other than the favorite IMO. I don't like Hades from the inside at all, we'll see. Conquest should be mid-pack and make a massive move late to hopefully swoop by and win.

Racetrack: Hawthorne Racecourse

ABC Grids – Pick 4; R5 – 8 , Post 5:50pm EST

Howard Kravets' Selections:

R5: 4-5-8

R6: 1-5-7

R7: 2-5-1

R8: 7-4-5

For the Late P4 today, it's pretty simple to me. I would spread in the bookend legs (R5 and R8) and single in R6 and R7. I'm against the favorites in the first leg in general, the #3 and #8. IF the #5 gets loose in the first leg, that one is VERY live at a price. The #1 in R6 will be tough if the rail is good and can handle the dirt, while having to catch the #5

Power Picks

who should be loose on the lead. In R7, go with the #2 off the layoff and move on. Any good trip should result in a victory. R8 is VERY difficult, use as many as possible and try to find a price. It's a fun sequence where you DON'T have to spend a lot of money, good luck!!

REMEMBER, HAWTHORNE HAS THE LOWEST WPS TAKEOUT IN THE COUNTRY AT 12%, SO SUPPORT THIS TRACK!!

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