



# Power Picks

Race Date	04/06/24
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## Race-Day Overview

*It's the final round of the major Derby Preps today throughout the country! The Blue Grass S. at Keeneland, Wood Memorial at Aqueduct, and Santa Anita Derby are all 100pt. preps, and we'll cover all of them here on a BONUS edition of the Picks. Of course, we can't forget about Hawthorne Racecourse as well! We're gonna detail the Late P5 at Keeneland and Aqueduct, along with Late P4 at Hawthorne and Santa Anita Derby Preview. Good luck today....CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES!!*

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): \$2.19 (\$1,250.98 / 572)

\*YTD: \$1.82 (\$154.35 / 85)

(\*Nice jump in our YTD stats from the last two weeks...thanks Power Squeeze!!)

## Racetrack: Keeneland

ABC Grids – Pick 5; R6 - 10 , Post 3:40pm EST

### Howard Kravets' Grid:

Late P5: 5A (\$12) - 4A1B (\$38) - 3A2B (\$44) - 4A1C (66) - TOTAL (\$160)

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



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Pete Visco's Grid: 5A (\$6) - 4A1B (\$37) - 3A2B (\$85) - 4A1C (\$26) - TOTAL (\$154)

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	4,8,9	2,7	6	2,4,6,7,8,9	\$0.50	\$105
7	8,9	4	5	1,4,5,9,10	-	-
8	8	1,2	6	8	-	-
9	3,9	6,11	1,2,8	1,2,3,6,8,9,11	-	-
10	10	2,11	4	10	-	-

Paul Halloran's Grid: All A - \$8 4A/1B - \$36 3A/2B - \$56 4A/1C - \$48 Total: \$148

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

### P5 Analysis – Races 6 – 10 (Yellow background denotes Plays of the Day!!)

Today at Keeneland we have an ALL-GRADED STAKES Late P5 that should generate a huge pool, so there's much liquidity in this bet today. I believe it's difficulty level is pretty darn high, so be ready to take some big stands if you have a smaller budget and spread as much as possible in R6 and R9 especially if you have deeper pockets. I'm taking stands in two races, R8 and R10. I'm hoping Vahva is ready off the layoff or Sterling Silver can run down the speed in R8, and going with my boy Sierra Leone in the Blue Grass. I always bet with head, not my heart....but I got to be honest, I'm a bit biased in the Blue Grass. There are other talented horses that could absolutely win....Sierra Leone is definitely no sure thing, but with a good trip, is a likely winner in my opinion.

### Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6	6	Bo Cruz	12-1	4	\$10 Win, \$15 Place #6 Big Exactas: 6 / 4,7,9 Small Exactas: 4,7,9 / 6

#### Notes

The G3 Commonwealth at 7f is a toughie. #6 Bo Cruz fits the profile I like....a lightly-raced 4yo with back-numbers that fit and a right to improve. Plus, he's turning back in distance, one of my favorite



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angles. Las summer, he got real good, running a good 3rd to Disarm and Verifying in the G3 Matt Winn S. He had a perfect trip for this race last time in his 4yo debut, going two turns and just missing. I hope/expect Jose Ortiz to plant Bo Cruz in behind the speed of the #5 and take over into the top of the stretch. There are no killers in here and some are coming off layoffs....he's not. If he improves slightly and gets the right set-up, he has a big shot at a price. We'll go \$2 WP for our Spot Play ROI.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	4	Grecian Goddess	10-1	4	\$15 WP #4

**Notes**  
 This stake for the 3yo girls is another challenging race in the sequence. The horses to beat / taking the most money are on the outside, #9 Buchu and #10 Pounce. They'll be tough if they get a good trip. But, I'm interested in #4 Grecian Goddess, who is now in the hands of Chad Brown. She was conditioned by Clement before the switch, so you know she was trained well and taken care of with expert handling. When Grecian Goddess won her debut at Tampa, her and 2nd place finisher were WELL clear of the field and it was a serious battle to the wire. She needs to get faster today, but there's no reason she can't in her 2nd start with months in between....a 10-15 point Beyer jump is well within her scope. She won professionally and gamely, and the daughter of Constitution is tactical and has loads of ability. Brown could have run her in an N1X and instead goes here, knowing it would be a tough spot. Lots to like here. You know we're not getting 10-1, but 6-1 seems very reasonable / possible.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	1	Sterling Silver	6-1	5	\$20 Win #1 Trifecta: 1 / 2,6,8 / 2,3,5,6,8 2,8 / 1 / 2,3,5,6,8 2,8 / 2,3,5,6,8 / 1

**Notes**  
 THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT KEENELAND!! The G1 Madison one helluva race. Last year as 3yo's, Alva Starr and Vahva threw it down in a thriller won by Vahva. They might be doing that again in the stretch. But with the presence of longshot speedball Icicles and other possible speed inside of her, I think it will be a very lively pace. That would set it up for my top choice, #1 Sterling Silver. She was REALLY good last year in the fall, and was considered for the BC F & M Sprint before going another route. Her comeback race at Tampa was very good. She was buried a bit down on the rail, found room midstretch and exploded late....never looked like a winner until very late on a track that favors speed. She's stepping up today, but faced very good ones last year. I believe she's the best closer and will relish the 7f. This NY-bred is talented and today we get her a decent price. Use in all spots in the trifecta underneath as well.



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## Racetrack: Aqueduct

ABC Grids – Pick 5; R7 - 11 , Post 4:06pm EST

### Howard Kravets' Grid:

Late P5: 5A (\$6) - 4A1B (\$33) - 3A2B (\$57) - 4A1C (\$49.50) - TOTAL \$146

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

### Late P5 Analysis – Races 7 – 11

Wood Memorial Day, the premier early-season card in NY, brings together some very nice horses and great stake races in this challenging Pick 5 sequence. There are 3 graded stakes and 2 other nice fields in the Pick 5 with big fields, so you need to decide, as usual, where you're going to spread and where you'd take a stand. The spread races for me include R7 and R11, while I'll go a bit thinner in the stakes. I'm leaning on Tuscan Sky in the Wood and think the #3 in the last for Dutrow is interesting at a price coming off a layoff, ML 8-1. I do believe there's some chalk that is likely to win here, so the payouts could be on the smallish side. But, everytime I think that way, bombs come in, so we'll see!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	4	Summer Cause	8-1	3	\$5 WIn, \$15 Place #4 BIG Exactas: 3,6,7 / 4 Smaller exactas: 4 / 3,6,7

#### Notes

It seems recently on these Picks, when I think a horse is interesting but might finish underneath, he/she wins. Therefore, let's think positively and I'll say #4 Summer Cause for Clement is a sleeper here who could absolutely win! This allowance field is pretty wide open, and Summer Cause has back-class and some decent numbers from last year as he was staked as a 3yo. If the Clement's have him ready to go, I think he'll close big for Rosario and be a factor late. He's been working for quite a while, and this is an aggressive spot for his return (they know it'll be a nice field for Wood Day). I have NOT talked to the Clement barn, so I don't know if this one is fully cranked, we'll find out. Look for this one to have a nice year, and maybe this is the start of something big. The Clement's have had a great run so far with the dirt runners (Deterministic, Otello, Pandagate), perhaps even better than their turf runners in 2024, so I see no reason why Summer Cause can't win vs. a decent field but with no superstars unless Bendoog gets his act together.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	4	Barbratina	6-1	5	\$20 WP #4

#### Notes



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THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT AQUEDUCT!! The 1 1/8mile G3 Gazelle for the 3yo girls is a prep for the Ky. Oaks, and #4 Barbratina has a lot going for her on a bunch of levels. Last week, we scored on a price with another 3yo lady, Power Squeeze....let's see if lightning can strike twice! Most of the money will go to the rail horse from Cali, Where's My Ring, and Pletcher's Life Talk. But how good are either one of them really? Where's My Ring was scratched out of a race last week for her, probably intended, but she's never shipped outside of California and has been facing smallish fields, albeit good ones (Kinza twice, Just FYI, etc...). I think she'll either romp or be very disappointing. Same goes for Life Talk, who was horrendous off the layoff last time and has been inconsistent. But she's VERY capable obviously. As for Barbratina, she's done nothing wrong in 4 career starts and now has a chance to stretch out, which I think will be great for her based on breeding (Catholic Boy, Tapit, etc...). This is an aggressive spot for Brad Cox, who must think she's worthy of an Oaks bid. She gets Rosario and has been training locally for a while, which I really like also. Look for her flying late and hopefully upsetting the two main threats.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	9	Tuscan Sky	4-1	4	\$25 Win #9

### Notes

If I had to make a secondary "Play of the Day", this would be it. #9 Tuscan Sky for Pletcher reminds me of the other Tuscan (Gold) on the Derby Trail for Chad. "Sky" is lightly-raced but full of potential who appears to relish longer distances...the longer the better I believe. He's done no wrong in two starts, the first one with trouble vs. a horse named Sierra Leone. The last race was a very small field, but ran by the talented Nash on La. Derby Day. I think he'll sit a great trip stalking the speed on the outside and go by when it counts most. Will he hold off #4 Deterministic and maybe the rail horse? We'll see, but I think he'll be a bigger price than Deterministic and has just as good if not better chance...."Sky" has been two turns already, while Deterministic has not (but sure is capable). Should be a great throwdown in the lane, I'm excited to see what both these colts will do!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	3	Granadilla	8-1	3	\$15 WP #3

### Notes

The last race is a sprint for NY maidens, but as the payout leg, it's very important. I don't have a very strong opinion, but in general I think the #1 Peony will be WAY overbet. Maybe the shorter distance will help her, but it's weird to see the Clement's come back so quickly (2 weeks) and I didn't think she was very good in the lane last time with a good trip. I'm sure she can win, but will be 8-5 here. #3 Granadilla is nicely-bred and makes her 3yo debut vs. mainly 4yo's. Some don't like that, but it's April now and the 3yo's are starting to mature, so I'm not as negative to that fact. Dutrow has good numbers off the layoff in this situation and goes to his main guy, Gomez, in the irons. She broke a tad slow in her debut, then rushed up wide into a swift pace before tiring. **The jock wrapped up late, so the margin looks worse on**



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**paper than it appears.** Again, similar to Summer Cause earlier on the card for Clement, Dutrow could have brought her back anytime, but chooses Wood Memorial Day? Hmmmm, I think that could matter.

### Santa Anita Derby Preview:

Top 3: 3-4-7

*The Santa Anita Derby has a plethora of early speed. So naturally, I'd look for a closer. The dilemma is there's no proven closer in the race. #3 Stonghold figures to get a great trip, either stalking the speed from mid-pack or in the pocket on the rail if he's used more aggressively early. What I like most is his upside....he only has one race this year and it was a nice win in the Sunland Derby. He might be a bit slower on the numbers, but I expect him to take a jump today, and the distance shouldn't be a problem. #4 Imagination is good and honest, but has never really faced any adversity and there's speed to his inside and out. I'll try to beat him as the favorite. The surprise package could be #7 Mc Vay for Shirreffs, who is improving and bred well for 1 1/8. He got into trouble last time early going into the first turn, although no real fault of his own. If the race falls apart, he might be there to pick up the pieces. I expect him to take back and make one run.....that's what I think gives him his best chance.*

### Racetrack: Hawthorne Racecourse

ABC Grids – Pick 4; R6 – 9 , Post 6pm EST

#### Howard Kravets' Selections:

R6: 1-5-2

R7: 8-4-6\*

R8: 11-3-9

R9: 5-4-1



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*The Late P4 has some big fields and confounding races, so I do believe there's a chance we can paid today at Hawthorne! In R6, some might single the class of the field, #1 Ruth of Rudah. It's bottom-level maiden claimers, so you don't have to be a superstar to win. She can easily wire'em. Races 7 and 8 and nice allowance two-turn affairs. My LONGSHOT OF DAY is #6 Ocean of Storms at 20-1 in R7. I talked about him on our podcast Thursday night with Jim Miller. He'll close into a fast pace and I like the breeding and local spin over the track to prepare for this race. Look out for him late at a giant price!*

*In R8, I'm hoping the speed holds together for the #11 who will gun to the lead (I hope), and in R9 I'm going with a pure class angle with the #5 who is off a long layoff but is TONS the class, and any decent effort at all should run these down in the lane. Fun sequence....good luck!!*

**Late P4 ticket: 1,2,5 / 1,2,5,8 / 3,4,6,8 / 4,5 (\$48)**

**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!!!**





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### Kentucky Derby Update #5

It's been a very busy group of weekends lately, and today is no different. There are major preps in Ky. , NY, and California. For me, the best and deepest field is definitely the Blue Grass S. at Keeneland, where as many as 4-5 horses could be Derby threats. Those include Sierra Leone, Dornoch, Be You, Just a Touch, and Encino. In NY, it appears to be a battle between Deterministic and Tuscan Sky, but don't sleep on the rail horse Resilliance. Out West, Baffert sends out two (with no Derby points possible) vs. some talented runners, including #3 Stronghold. Selfishly, I hope more early speed gets into the Derby to mess with Fierceness and set it up for Sierra Leone.

The best betting race of the three Preps today is the Blue Grass S. It's a big field, and as much as I want SL to do well, I'm a bit against Dornoch here and there are others at bigger prices that entice.

Remember, all of these races are worth big points (100-50-25-15-10), so every placing matters. In terms of the Derby Field, the latest news is that T.O. Password WILL except his bid from Japan, so with the edition of Forever Young, there are only 18 spots for U.S.-based horses. However, Timberlake will NOT compete in the Derby for Cox, so that opens up another opportunity. While the top point-earners have nothing to worry about this weekend, there are many others on the bubble, so the Derby field is far from determined. It appears the "cut-off" number should be around 40-45 pending this weekend's results. And don't forget, the "last-ditch" Lexington S. at Keeneland is next weekend, with up to 20 points to the winner in that race.

*Finally, the LAST KDFW Pool (Pool #6) through Twin Spires ends TODAY BEFORE the final Preps are run at approx. 4pm EST TODAY!! It might be your last chance to get a decent price on a horse you like for the Derby. For full disclosure, my Future Wagers include Sierra Leone (150-1) of course (through Caesars, not Twin Spires), plus Deterministic (107-1) and Forever Young (34-1) from KDFW Pool #3 in January as back-ups to Sierra.*

We're now less than one month away from the 150th Run of the Roses....we'll have one more update in two weeks here on the Picks Tip Sheet with the "final" Derby field barring injuries, defections, etc....can't wait for this year's running!!