Power Picks

Race Date	6/21/25
Edition #	Vol. 5, No. 26

Race-Day Overview

With 4th of July and monster summer meets at Saratoga and Del Mar in the distance, racing takes a bit of a respite this weekend. However, that won't stop us from covering the biggest races today, which includes the fantastic All-Stakes Late P5 at Thistledowns for Ohio Derby Day, followed by a usual strong Late P5 at Churchill featuring the G2 Chicago S. for fillies and mares. The Churchill card is NIGHTTIME racing today. As always, check for scratches and changes!

As a reminder….next weekend, there's a <u>MONSTER card at Churchill for Stephen Foster Day</u>, and I will be <u>LIVE onsite at Churchill. The podcast will present a LIVE SHOW during the big races</u>, so stay tuned to our YT Channel and shows next week for details! Good luck today.

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): $2.08 ($1,820.64 / 875)

YTD: $1.88 ($231.64 / 123)

Today's Picks

*** For those of you not familiar with the "ABC'' method of betting, go to our website, **hhhracingpodcast.com**, and click on the "Power Picks" tab on the top of the page for more information on how to read an "ABC" Grid and place bets using the "ABC" Method.*

Racetrack: Thistledown

Howard Kravets' ABC Grid – Late P5; R8 Starts at 3:18pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	4,12	7,11	8	4,7,11,12	$0.50 P5	$100
9	1,4,7	2,8	-	1,2,4,7,8	-	-
10	1,3,11	5,10	-	1,3,5,10,11	-	-
11	4,7	6	-	4,7	-	-
12	4,6	2	-	4	-	-

Power Picks

Paul Halloran's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	11,12	8	1,4	11,12	$.50 P5	$72
9	1,2	5	8	1,2,5		
10	1,7	11	2	1,7,11		
11	6,7	4		6,7		
12	4,10	2,6		2,4,6,10		

Pete Visco's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	4,11,12	3,10	8,9	4,11,12	$0.50 P5	$81
9	1,2	7,8	5	1,2	-	-
10	1,7,10	2,9	3,4,5,11	1,7,10	-	-
11	3,4,7	6	2,5	3,4,7	-	-
12	2,6,10	4,8	3,9	2,6,10	-	-

Howard's Pick 5 Analysis – Races 8-12

Really interesting sequence today at Thistledowns. Even if you don't play this track too often (fair assumption), the pool sizes should be huge and there's money to be made. In my opinion, the toughest races are the first three of the sequence, all Ohio-breds. I would be spreading early in the Late P5 and take some stands in the two open-company races at the end. One of my stronger opinions is in R10. I don't like the early speed types, and hope the race falls apart, perhaps into the hands of my longshot (#3). I think both favorites can get beat in the two big races on the end, but don't think big prices will win either. Pick your favorite likely winner, and go for it as a single.

The following touts on the next pages are today's Price / Spot Plays. AS ALWAYS, I'M LOOKING FOR VALUE AND WON'T USUALLY TIP OUT FAVORITES UNLESS I REALLY LIKE THEM. The "Stars" rating is the usual 1 – 5, with 5 being the MOST CONFIDENT / RECOMMENDED PLAYS.

Full-Card Price/Spot Play(s)
(Reminder, "stars" are rated from 1 – 5, with 5 being the most confident of plays)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	4	Big Truck	9-2	3	$10 WP #4

Notes
7yo honest gelding #4 Big Truck is only one of a few in this race that seems to appreciate two turns and distance. There's enough early speed to set up his come-from-behind style, and the two

Power Picks

ML-favorites are stuck on the far outside and likely to lose ground on the first turn, which comes up pretty quickly at this track going 1 1/16th. While I'm not sure Big Truck is the most talented horse in the field, he is likely to make a run late and at the very least pick up a piece of the prize.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	3	Lofty Cowtown	10-1	4	$15 WP #3 Trifectas: 3 / 1,11 / 1,5,10,11 1,11 / 3 / 1,5,10,11 1,11 / 1,5,10,11 / 3

Notes

This race, as previously mentioned in this Tip Sheet (and on our show Thursday), could fall apart. If the #1 and #10 break well (plus others potentially), there's gonna be a fast pace in this big field. Now that I say that, someone will wire the field and win easily....hope not. #3 Lofty Cowtown has changed her style and is now learning how to pass horses. Maybe the slop moved her up last time, but I'm hoping she's just a better animal this year, can save ground mid-pack on the inside, and make a run in the stretch. No one in this field blows me away, and I have a feeling we're gonna see a price horse win this race…I'm hoping it's the "Cow"!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	4	In Just My Heels	9-2	3	$25 Win #4

Notes

The $250k Lady Jacqueline is for ladies going 1 1/8th miles. The likely favorite and horse to beat is #7 Peignoir, whose jockey Jose Ortiz might have a huge day. But I have concerns about the distance plus other speed in the race. The other well-bet horse, #6 Where's My Ring, is inconsistent and I'm not a fan, although she can win here. That leaves me with no other choice but to take #4 In Just My Heels, who is a confirmed closer in a race that should have early pace, especially with stretch-out sprinters breaking from the inside. In Just My Heels did no running last time, but had a wide post and was facing much better. No one really closed in that race. There are questions to answer for my top pick (no works since last?), but I like the race flow potential here and she's just as fast as everyone except Peignoir, who's not guaranteed to run her best at all today.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	4	McAfee	3-1	5	$40 Win #4

Notes

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT THISTLEDOWN!! $500k is on the line in the G2 Ohio Derby, the first of many "Midwest" Derbies this summer. It's a nice lineup for the level, with #6 Clever Again (who I liked and flopped in the Preakness) and #2 Chunk of Gold running. However, I'm going with #4 McAfee again. He was a Spot Play last time and ran a HUGE 2nd vs. the talented Hill Road in the Peter Pan. McAfee's 2nd place finish gave me a nice exacta score as I was able to capture a live-money contest through NYRA, so yes, I'm a bit biased! But, a few things are clear: 1) He's improving and will have no problem with the distance 2) He gets a nice cozy slot and has tactical speed to be mid-pack 3) Johnny

Power Picks

Racetrack: Churchill Downs (all picks/grids below assume races stay on grass)

Howard Kravets' ABC Grid – All-Stakes Late P5; R5 Starts at 9:05pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
7	3,9	4,7,10	6	3,9	$0.50 P5	$96
8	5,7	2,6	3	2,5,6,7	-	-
9	5,9	1,4	10,11	5,9	-	-
10	3,5,8	-	2,11	3,5,8	-	-
11	6,10	1,4,7,9,11	-	6,9,10,11	-	-

Howard's Pick 5 Analysis – Races 7-11

Churchill Downs consistently puts together competitive races in their Late P5 sequences, and tonight's is no different. Tread lightly….this could pay a ton and will not be easy to hit, unless you have stronger opinions than I do. I would be spreading the most in the last race, so "save your powder" for that affair. I suppose you could take a stand in the competitive G2 Chicago S. and single somebody, or single #3 Echo Again in the turf event to cheapen your ticket.

Full-Card Price/Spot Play(s)
(Reminder, "stars" are rated from 1 – 5, with 5 being the most confident of plays)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	9	Factor Analysis	6-1	3	Smaller Exactas: 9 / 3,4,10 BIGGER Exactas: 3,4 / 9
Notes					

The likely favorite, #3 Echo (Echo, Echo, Echo, echo….) Lane will be tough to beat. He's coming out of the toughest races. But this is a good field and he's no sure thing. #9 Factor Analysis used to be trained by Chad, now Kenneally. But in the first start for the new barn, he actually improved and ran pretty well in a field tougher than this one Churchill. That was his first start in a few months and definitely has room to improve as a 4yo. Ben Curtis is a solid turf jockey, and if he can save ground on the first turn, I think he'll fire a big shot here. My ROI play will be a $2 Ex. 3/9 and $1 Ex. 9/3.

Power Picks

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	5	Vahva	3-1	5	$30 WIn #5

Notes

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT CHURCHILL!! I was pretty disappointed with Vahva last time, but that was a killer field, and maybe she needed one off the layoff. This field is much easier, but there are some nice gals in here too, so she'll have to run well. I like her mid-pack post…that will give Irad plenty of options, although she'll take more money than deserved due to Irad. She also might not have appreciated the sloppy conditions. It's supposed to be fast tonight. Trip is the whole key….can't think of too many other jocks that place horses in better situations than Irad.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	6	Express Line	15-1	4	$5 Win, $20 WP #6

Notes

BOMBS AWAY!! Every once in a while, I'll tip out a big price in hopes of that one finishing in the money or maybe even upsetting the field. There are several factors in determining when to do this. Usually big fields help, favorites I don't necessarily love, and angles on the bomb horse that are interesting. This race / horse, #6 Express Line, checks all of those boxes. For our ROI, I'll go $1 Win and Place, $2 Show. The two lowest morning line favorites both have early speed, and are suspect at the distance. There are no standouts here and the pace should be honest. Let's discuss #6 Express Line. First of all, the is a FULL YOUNGER BROTHER to the talented, long-winded Express Train, winner of over $1mil. His little brother in this race is obviously not as talented, but this family seems to improve with age, and Express Line is going long only for the 2nd time, first time this year. He also takes the blinkers off, an angle I like when a horse is stretching out. He has tactical speed and should in theory sit a nice trip. Is he good enough? That remains to be seen, but in a wide-open field filled with question marks, I'll go with a "fuzzy" who will be a big price and could improve greatly. Interesting horse to use underneath in exotics also.

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