

Power Picks

Race Date	6/20/26
Edition #	Vol. 6, No. 24

Race-Day Overview

Good bounce-back last week, as **our Play of the Day Baby Vino won**, plus 2 others ran very well for 2nd place finishes (one in a heartbreaker). Let's see if we can have another good week!

Today, we'll take a look at the Late P5 sequence on the biggest day of racing in Ohio, it's Ohio Derby Day at Thistledowns! The Late P5 is ALL-STAKES with some solid fields. Then, we'll travel to Kentucky for Churchill's twilight racing card with their Late P5 plus a stake race. Of course, with the Hollywood meet ending at Santa Anita, there will be no Coast to Coast Pick 5 given on this tip sheet until the next fall / winter.

As always, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES...GOOD LUCK TODAY! **And reminder....the Saratoga-Only, Del Mar-only, and Saratoga / Del Mar combo package is NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON OUR WEBSITE...HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU TAKE A LOOK AND CRUSH YOUR BETS BIG-TIME THIS SUMMER!**

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

*Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.14** (\$2,394.08 / 1121)

2026: **\$2.88** (\$369.02 / 128)

2026 Plays of the Day: **\$3.58** (\$132.62 / 37)

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.

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Racetrack: Thistledowns

Howard Kravets' Late P5 All-Stakes ABC Grid; R4 Post Time 3:18pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	8,9	6	-	6,8,9	\$0.50	\$45
9	3,8	-	1,7	3,8	-	-
10	1,5,10	-	6,11	1,5,10	-	-
11	2,3	1,4,5	6	1,2,3,4,5	-	-
12	8	5	3,10	8		

Paul Halloran's LP5 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	8,9	6		6,8,9	\$.50	\$54
9	3,8	7	7	3,8		
10	5,10	1,2	7	1,5,10		
11	1,2	4,6	8	1,2		
12	3,8	10	2,4,5	3,8,10		

Pete Visco's Late P5 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	9	7,10	2,6,8	9,10	\$0.50 P5	\$96
9	3,7,8	1	4,6	3,7,8	-	-
10	7,10	1,5	2,4,8	1,5,7,10	-	-
11	1,2	3,6,8	7	1,2	-	-
12	3,8,10	4,5	1	3,5,8,10	-	-

Howard's Late P5 Analysis

Today's Late P5 has some obvious horses and uses, but interestingly enough not many completely obvious singles. I'd be very content using only 2-3 horses max. In the first 3 legs, followed by my biggest spread race in R11, then probably single Baffert's horse, although he is not a sure thing by any means. I just don't see a lot of depth outside of R11 in this Pick 5, but if a longshot hits, this thing could pay very nicely! Good luck.

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)
10	1	Drills Wild Brat	6-1	3	\$10 WP #1
Notes:					

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To be honest, I'm not overly confident with **#1 Drills Wild Brat**. Her last race was not good and she's coming back in 3 weeks. However, the field is very "meh" to me with untrustworthy favorites, and she has PLENTY of back numbers / figs that make her a contender here. And, if the #10 doesn't get loose early or fire her best, it's wide open. The regular jock Rivera is still on her today, and she might sit a nice inside stalking trip. She's 8/13 on the win end, that's impressive no matter the competition. Let's hope she just threw in a clunker last time and can fire a good one today. For our Spot Play ROI, I'll go \$1 WP.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	2	Nerazurri	7-2	3	\$25 Win #2 BIG Exactas: 2 / 1,3,4,5 Smaller Exactas: 1,3,4,5 / 2

Notes:

This is a very tough race, and my Spot Play here **#2 Nerazurri** is more of a play because there are so many others in here I don't like rather than I love this 4yo filly. What I like most is her style...she'll be forward but doesn't need the lead, and you can toss the last two where she was completely overmatched, although she didn't run well in either to be honest. The fact that trainer Casse puts her in here tells me she's feeling fine, and she's coming off a bullet work. The presence of Prat is good and bad. You're almost guaranteed to get a great ride, but the price comes way down too. I'll take my chances here. Don't bet the bank however.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	8-5 Exacta	Desert Gate over Ocelli	5-2 / 9-2	5	\$30 Straight Ex. 8/5

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT THISTLEDOWNS! Okay, this is a weird one. There's no way I'm tipping out Desert Gate, who will most likely win, at 4-5. Those morning line odds of 5-2 are silly bad and won't be his odds come post time. So I'll tip out an exacta and FADE CHIP HONCHO, who will be around 5-2 at most. Chip Honcho might win, but he's never passed horses, and until he does, I'll fade him. Now, he also could finish second, but I'm hoping Robusta sends from the inside and the pace is at least honest, which would give my 2nd place horse Ocelli a chance to close for 2nd. No one was closing on Preakness Day at Laurel, so he was up against it. Desert Gate should simply stalk and pounce, and if he gets the distance, he wins. The 8-5 exacta should pay about \$8 for \$1, so I'd take that in a heartbeat. So, the Spot Play bet for our ROI is a simple \$2 exacta 8-5.

Racetrack: Churchill Downs

Howard Kravets' Late LP5 ABC GRID - Starts at 8:39pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	9,10,11, (13)	4	2,8	4,9,10,11,(13)	\$0.50 LP5	**\$70
7	3,7	2	4,5	3,7	-	-
8	1,(13)	6,9,11	2	1,(13) + (6,9,11?)	-	-
9	2	-	3,5	2	-	-
10	2,4,11,12	3,6,9	1	2,3,4,6,9,11,12	-	-

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****IF the 13 draws into R8, I'd go only 1 and 13 there. If he doesn't I'd use the 1,6,9,11 in that race. If I go 1,6,9,11 in R8, I'd have to take out the 3,6,9 in the last race most likely. I hope the 13 draws into R8.**

Howard's Late P5 Analysis

Unlike the card in Ohio, I thought this Late P5 at Churchill tonight was VERY tricky, especially R6, R8 (if thirteen doesn't draw in), and R10. The finale is a complete skullbuster / headache...good luck with that one. I'd go light in R7 and R9 though to counter some of the tougher races. I just don't see #2 Eclatant losing in the Chicago S. if she runs to her last two, so that would be a single for me. And as stated before, keep your powder dry for the last race, where I would use as many as possible and NO ONE is reliable. Could be bombs away in that one, we'll see!

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	7	Grand Luxx	8-1	5	\$15 WP #7 BIG Exactas: 7 / 2,3 Smaller Exactas: 2,3 / 7

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT CHURCHILL!! Trainer Will Walden, an excellent horsemen who's hitting at 33% this meet as of this writing, has two horses in here, the #4 and #7 **Grand Luxx**. His go-to guy, Concepcion, is on the #7 (follow the jockey, Davy Lane?!). But to me, there are many other reasons too. The 3yo filly looks slow on paper, and even slower on Timeform, so that should help her price. She'll have to improve a few lengths today. But she ran well to win her belated '26 debut, and she's been given time to recover from that. Her works lately are solid, and she should get a nice closing trip from the outside as there's plenty of early gas to her inside. We might get something closer to 5-1, but I'd take that too. I like her potential upside and think she'll run a big one today.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	13	Abbi Fede	5-2	4	\$25 Win #13

Notes:

There's a few question marks here for #13 **Abbi Fede**, the main one being he is NOT in the main body of the field and would need one scratch. The other question is whether there's enough early speed to set up his closing kick...plus the wide post. But Irad has ridden him the last two times and knows the gelding well. Last time he was forced into the parking lot on the far turn, and still closed well to finish a close 3rd and outclose the #14 (just in case that one gets in the field too). He's a bit goofy and is 1-for-14 lifetime, but I truly believe he's a good trip away from his 2nd win. Let's see if he gets that chance...I think Irad needs to use a little more early speed to get position.

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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	2	Mother Lode	15-1	2	\$5 Win, \$15 Place/Show Trifecta: 4,11,12 / 2 / all 4,11,12 / all / 2

Notes:

This is my "bomb" play today, so tread with caution. Or as my UK friend Davy Lane would say, a "roughie." This is a total guess to be honest, but **#2 Mother Lode** will be a big price, and if I'm right, I'll be loading the Brinks truck with a "mother load" of cash! Here are my angles in an AWFUL field of \$30k maiden claimers where you can't trust ANYONE....1) She's dropping down from \$50k to \$30k 2) Her 2nd start was respectable and fits here 3) Despite the sire being more turf influence, the mama was all dirt and she's been working on dirt 4) Jockey Sheehy is capable and a bit underrated and the filly is turning back in distance plus the race MIGHT fall apart late.....now, in saying all that, she has to run better and could finish up the track. Let's go \$1 Win and Place and \$2 Show for our tip sheet ROI.

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

