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Race-Day Overview

After a thrilling weekend of racing at Saratoga and Del Mar last Saturday, today we'll discuss one of the best summer sequences of the year, the Whitney Day Late P5 with 4 Grade 1's. The Whitney pits a rematch of Fierceness v. Sierra Leone, along with former BC Classic winner White Abarrio. What a race!!

In the Midwest, we'll go to Ellis for the first time this summer, as they're having their Kentucky Downs Preview Day, a precursor to some big races in September with multi-million dollar purses. Should be a fantastic Late P4 with 3 stakes worth \$750k!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.07** (\$1,865.24 / 901)

YTD: **\$1.87** (\$278.63 / 149)

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: Saratoga

Howard Kravets' ABC Grid – Mandatory Payout P5 Starts at 3:17pm EST ending in the Whitney S.

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
7	3,5	1,10,11,13	9	1,3,5,11,13	\$0.50 LP5	\$90
8	3,4,6	1,7,8	5	1,3,4,6,7,8		
9	3,5	7	-	3,5		
10	1,3	2	4,6	1,2,3		
11	5,9	-	3,7	5		



Paul Halloran's Late P5 Grid:

ON ASSIGNMENT FOR THE SARATOGA SPECIAL NEWSPAPER AT SARATOGA. CHECK OUT HIS ARTICLES AT thisishorseracing.com

Pete Visco's Late P5 Grid:

ON VACATION WITH FAMILY

Howard's Pick 5 Analysis – Races 7 - 11

As I stated earlier in the Picks, this mandatory Pick 5 with 4 G1 stakes is one of the best sequences of the summer, along with the Travers Day Pick 5 and Pacific Classic Day Pick 5 at Del Mar. Not only is the talent extraordinary, but the fields are manageable yet VERY competitive. There will be excellent horses that could be close to double-digits, and monsters that might give you value at 3-1 or so. The pool sizes should be MASSIVE.

In general, I'll be leaning on Sierra Leone on the end, and most of my play will go through him, while using Fierceness as a strong / secondary choice. I'll be spreading in the opening leg, a VERY tough allowance race, and using several in the Test, R10, as well. But in R9 and R11 (the Whitney), I'm taking stands. You can definitely go skinny in general and play this Pick 5 without spending too much money.

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.

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	3	Echo Again	10-1	2	\$10 WP #3 BIG Exactas: 3 / 5,10,11,13 Small Exactas: 5,10,11,13 / 3

Notes:

Race 7 is one of those allowances at Saratoga that we all love...HUGE FIELD and competitive, with talented horses knocking heads and many ways to go. Between the 1,2,5, 14, and maybe others, there seems to be enough speed to create very honest fractions. Without a standout here, I'll take a stab with **#3 Echo Again**. In 2 of his last 4 efforts, including the last one, he's been involved in slow-paced races and finished well, just quite good enough to get there. Today, there should be more early speed, and this Norm Casse trainee seems to be getting good. 7f hits him right between the eyes and I expect a nice run in the stretch from a ground-saving position. For our ROI, we'll go \$1 WP.

Power Picks

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	3	Final Gambit	6-1	4	\$25 Win #3 Trifectas: 3 / 5,7 / All 5,7 / 3 / All

Notes:

I have a strong opinion here, and if I'm right and you join me, we'll get paid nicely. #7 Hotazhell is 7-5 on the ML and has faced serious foes in Europe, many of which would be 2-5 odds in this race. I don't know if he'll be that low, because I expect #5 Test Score to come down from that 7-2 ML. But Hotazhell will be the fave, I predict. While classy, I think he peaked as a 2yo last year, and DOES NOT WANT THE DISTANCE in my humble opinion...he's always losing ground in the stretch recently. Perhaps today will be different due to the flat, firm track, we'll see. I talked extensively about **#3 Final Gambit** on the Thursday preview show. Flavian waited too long to launch his bid, and had to angle out late behind a wall of horses. If he rides him like he was ridden in the Jeff Ruby and Ky. Derby in the spring, I think he's got a big shot. He'll want every inch of this 1 3/16mi. distance.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	3	Look Forward	8-1	3	\$20 WP #3

Notes:

The Grade 1 Test is a very nice group of 3yo filly sprinters, but I wouldn't say it's top-notch quality or any real monsters like there have been in the past. I'm a sucker for turn backs in distance, and **#3 Look Forward** is who I want here. The McCarthy-trainee has probably faced the toughest company, including La Cara twice and Scottish Lassie, who freaked last week. She's 2-for-2 going 7f and should sit a great trip just off the speed. Many of these have been in smallish fields and are suspect at low prices in my opinion. She's been working forwardly at her home base out West and comes here with intent.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	5	Sierra Leone	2-1	5	\$40 Win #5

Notes:

****FYI, I expect #1 Mindframe and #2 Skippy longstocking to scratch as of this writing (Thu.) Welp, here we go again.....THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT SARATOGA! No, I DON'T pick #5 Sierra Leone every time he runs, it's very situational. But I predict today will be his day. Chad guarantees (in theory) a fast pace in the race by inserting a "rabbit" in the #8. I don't know why he hasn't done this before, as it's a tactic that's been used for decades, on the dirt and turf all over the world. I'm not even sure it's necessary, with Mama's Gold, Fierceness, and to some extent White Abarrio already going forward. Sierra Leone has run well in his first two starts, despite what some people think. In his last when he lost to Mindframe, the pace was moderate, and he made a HUGE middle move that was discussed on the Thursday show. He still closed well after that move and ran BIG, just coming up short. Today, he'll make that big move into a warm-to-hot pace, and he's geared up for this 3rd start of the form cycle. Chad's been pointing to this all year, along with the BC Classic. Fierceness is a SERIOUS contender and can easily win. For me, it's a 2-horse race, but I'm going back to my boy Sierra, and hoping to get 2-1.**



Racetrack: Ellis Park

Howard Kravets' ABC Grid – Late P4; R7 starts at 3:42pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
7	3,8	1,2,5,6	4	1,2,3,5,6,8	\$0.50 P5	\$72
8	4,8	1,5,9	2	4,8	-	-
9	6,8	1,2	3,5,7	1,2,6,8	-	-
10	1,2	7	6,9	1,2,7	-	-

Howard's Late Pick 4 Analysis – Races 7-10

The Late P4 at Ellis Park today is a challenging, fun group of races. The last three in the sequence are previews of big races at Ky. Downs next month. I'll be spreading quite a bit in R7 and R9 while going thinner in R8 and R10. I'd recommend taking a stab in R7 with some prices, since it's possible chalks will win some going forward.

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)
9	6	Serene Saraph	6-1	3	\$15 WP #6 Trifectas: 6 / 1,2,8 / 1,2,3,5,7,8 1,8 / 6 / 1,2,3,5,7,8 1,8 / 1,2,3,5,7,8 / 6

Notes

Between the #1, 3, 4, and 9, there should be a fast pace today. The obvious one to take advantage of that will be #8 Bling, and she's the horse to beat for sure. But **#6 Serene Saraph** intrigues me. I've been quite critical of Geroux recently, but he's best in turf races, and this horse's preferred style might be on display. Last year as a 3yo, she came on as a sprinter, and started her career at 2yo sprinting also in Europe. More recently, she's been in graded stakes going long, and did it effectively when taken off the pace. Last two, she's been forward, not sure why. She's rested up for this, working well, and gets a very hot pace to close into. Flo, take back to midpack and make one run...her foundation should be there. Just needs a trip and an "A" effort. She's probably more of an underneath type. Her Timeform US numbers suggest she fits. For our ROI, I'll go \$1 WP.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	1	Taking Candy	4-1	5	\$30 Win #1 BIG Exacta 1/2 Small Exacta 2,7 / 1

Notes

Power Picks

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT ELLIS PARK!! Ok, I admit some Cherie DeVaux bias here. And #2 Mercante is the horse to beat. Here's my thought...first, I think Mercante might not be fully cranked, but will be next month for the \$1mil+ race at Ky. Downs. Secondly, there's plenty of early speed signed on, and that should help Taking Candy's style. Third, was Candy's last trip. I was there to see it. He closed well in a tough field, but was doing it on the inside where the turf was not as firm, plus the pace was relatively slow. When he's at his best, he has a nice late kick, and I think that'll be on display today. He also prefers to be outside of horses I think, so Brian Hernandez will have to find a hole, but I would be best served to not do that along the rail. I could be wrong here, but either way, Taking Candy is a serious late threat.

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

