



Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	August 15, 2025
Tip Sheet By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

Only 14 days left in the premier race meet in the U.S. so enjoy it. This is another challenging Friday card – only 5 maidens today, as opposed to 6 the last few Fridays. There are five turf races, including the featured Smart and Fancy Stakes, where the aptly named Future is Now looks very formidable. Rain came through Saratoga Thursday and knocked four races off the turf, but the sun should be shining Friday and I'm cautiously optimistic they will be on the grass.

Today's Picks

****For information on how to read an "ABC Grid" and ticket construction, please refer to our podcast website, hhhracingpodcast.com, and go to the "Power Picks" section...you have to scroll down a bit under the SPP promotion...a video explanation is also available on the page.**

Go to the next page for our analysis of the races.....good luck!



Picks Tip Sheet

Racetrack: Saratoga

ABC Grid - Post Time 1:10 p.m. EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	1A	3,7	2,5	1A	\$1 P5	\$54
2	2,4,5			2,4,5		
3	1,6	5	3	1,5,6		
4	3	5	1,6	3,5		
5	1,4	9	7	1,4,9		
6	1,8	3,4,6		1,3,4,6,8	\$.50 P5	\$50
7	1,4	9	6,7	1,4		
8	5,7	10	6,9	5,7		
9	6	2,4		6		
10	2,9	8	1,4	1,2,4,8,9		

Top 3 Selections

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	1A	7	3
2	5	4	2
3	6	1	5
4	3	7	5
5	4	1	7
6	1	8	3
7	4	1	8
8	7	5	10
9	6	2	4
10	2	9	8



Picks Tip Sheet

Pick 5 Analysis

You know how I feel about coupled entries – there is absolutely no justification to have them – so in the early P5 I will single the “1” only if the 1A is in the race. If the straight 1 scratches, no problem. If the 1A is out, no early P5 for me. In the late sequence, many will rely on She Feels Pretty as a single – as I did on the above grid – but in an ABC play I would want to have Risk Threshold as a back-up. Junior Alvarado, who is having a year worthy of Eclipse consideration, doesn’t ride for Chad Brown that often, but he is 3-10 for him over the last 5 years, including 2 wins on this horse. As you will see from the grid, I think the first and last legs of the late sequence are wide open and require a spread.

Below are today’s Price / Spot Plays. These are not usually the favorites, but horses that will provide some value. The “Stars” rating is 1-5, with 5 being the MOST CONFIDENT.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
3	6	Employeeofthemo nth	7-2	4	\$30 Win #6 \$10 exacta box 1-6
Notes Because the last race – a MSW – was a poor fourth-place finish at Finger Lakes, this filly might have some value while making the biggest drop in racing. The jockey upgrade – Emily Ellingwood to Irad Ortiz Jr. – is significant. Irad and trainer Jose D’Angelo are a 28-percent winning combo in 160 starts the last 5 years. You can certainly look at running for a \$20,000 tag in only start 3 of her career as a negative, especially with a \$200K purchase price as a yearling – but I will take it as D’Angelo and owner Al Gold simply picking out a spot where the horse can win, and between the purse and claim recoup almost one-quarter of the auction ticket. Also, this will likely be the first time she runs on a fast track.					
Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
5	4	Bermuda Triangle	10-1	4	\$25 WP #4
Notes PLAY OF THE DAY: What’s with the spot plays in maiden claimers, you ask? Well, when half of the card consists of maidens that’s going to happen. This is a value play based on obviously liking this horse and being against the ML favorites, #1 Vintage Vino (0-7, albeit all in MSW) and #7 The Nominees Are (Chad going MSW to MCL second start turf route – 1-14). #4 Bermuda Triangle is also dropping from MSW and I think his form is dirtied up a bit. He has only run on turf once – a sixth in a 12-horse Keeneland MSW that was infinitely tougher than this race. Nine horses ran back out of that race and ALL of them improved their Beyer. Even with two seconds on synthetic, I think this gelding by Justify out of a War Front wants turf. Trainer Bill Morey wins at 17% when taking over for a fellow conditioner, 21% going MSW to MCL. And you get the red-hot Jose Ortiz, who is only three wins behind his brother in the jockey standings.					
Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	2	Dormello	9-2	3	\$20 WP #2



Picks Tip Sheet

Notes You're going to have to be willing to look the other way at some negative stats, primarily Bill Mott is 6% with FTS in route races. The good news is when they win the average payoff is \$23.24. I have two main reasons for this pick. The Mott-Junior combination is on fire – 22% wins the last 6 months and they have 7 wins together at this meet. Also, everyone who is impressed with the horses in this race who have already run, raise your hand. Not many hands up. The slight ML favorite #8 Solo Jim looks extremely pace-dependent. The #9 Kaz Oil Changer gets credit for running second to Iron Dome, who came back to destroy an allowance field. He could be tough on the cutback to a mile, but I want a fresh face, so #2 Dormello it is.					

Favorite Vertical/Horizontal Plays in addition to the Price/Spot Plays Bets

Race	Selections	Cost
4	\$10 P3 3 / 1,4 / 1,8	\$40
7	\$10 Pick 3 1,4 / 5,7 / 6	\$40

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

