Power Picks

Race Date	7/26/25
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Race-Day Overview

Another fantastic day of racing across the country, especially at the featured tracks in N. America, Saratoga and Del Mar. Saratoga features the return of Sovereignty in the G2 Jim Dandy, while the Del Mar card in particular is outstanding, with a VERY challenging Late P5 sequence that'll test your handicapping skills for sure, plus brings out some serious STARS in the game.

As always, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES…weather supposed to be great on both coasts!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): $2.08 ($1,857.64 / 895)

YTD: $1.88 ($268.64 / 143)

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 – All-Stakes Late P5 Starts at 4:28pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	2,3,8	4,6	5,7,9	2,3,4,6,8	$0.50 LP5	$75
9	3,5,10	4	2,6,7,8	3,5,10		
10	1,5	-	2	1,5		
11	5,6,9,10	4	-	4,5,6,9,10		
12	7,10	8,12	6	7		

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Paul Halloran's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	2,9	4	3	2,4,9	$.50 P5	$75
9	2,10	5	4	2,10		
10	1,5		3	5		
11	1,9,10	5,6		1,5,6,9,10		
12	6,7	8,11	10	6,7,8,10,11		

Pete Visco's Late P5 Grid:

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

Howard's Late Pick 5 Analysis – Races 8 - 12

Today's Late P5 is a virtual Pick 4 with a "free-square" if you believe Sovereignty is a slam dunk single. He's close to that, but not for me. I'll be spreading in R8 and R9 especially, two VERY tough races to start the sequence. R11 and R12 are medium-spreads, and I'll be using two horses in the Jim Dandy. 90% of tickets will single the Derby/Belmont winner, so there's MAJOR equity in beating him today…just not sure that can be done, we shall see.

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)
8	3	Vekinda	4-1	2	$20 Win #3

Notes:

Trainer George Weaver is having another solid Saratoga meet. He's 25% so far. #3 Vekinda has been rested up for this spot, faces a field with a TON of early gas, and seems to be one of the few that can pass others. He has races on the go-back that fit here, and Franco just needs to take back, make one run, and time it right. The gelding is 8-for-8 in the money, so use underneath as well as a win bet.

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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	1	Baeza	3-1	5	$35 Win #1 BIG Exacta 5/1 Smaller Exacta 1/5

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT SARATOGA!! I talked about #1 Baeza for quite a while on our Thursday night show, so I won't babble on here. He's very talented, and most importantly, improving for Sherriffs, who does NOT ship across the country here for fun. The horse is working great, and IF HE BREAKS better from the inside and sits just off Mo Plex, or even aggressively takes the early lead, he can upset Sovereignty in today's G2 Jim Dandy S. I see a small regression for the Derby/Belmont champ and improvement for Baeza. That's all it takes for him to get the win here. Can't wait for this race today. Not afraid to say a large win bet is incoming on Baeza…it's a two horse race unless Sandman is a different animal with maturity and blinks on. If I get 5-2, look out….I think I will come post time. Anything less than that, and no win bet.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	5	Will of a Womanne	8-1	3	$15 WP #5 Trifectas: 5 / 4,9,10 / 3,4,9,10 4,9 / 5 / 3,4,9,10

Notes:

Tom Morley is patient with his younger horses. **#5 Will of a Womanne's** first turf try was very good. She was stuck inside, found a way out, and was accelerating towards the line in between horses while just getting nudged out at the finish. Other than the #9 who is clearly the horse to beat, no one excites me here. I'm hoping Johnny V. gets a nice stalking trip and gets the War of Will filly in the clear earlier than last time. Maybe she's more likely underneath, but a win would not surprise me either. They all have to beat the #9, who's been facing open company and now races vs. statebreds…but is 0-for-6 lifetime.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	7	Fateful Lightening	2-1	4+	$25 Win #7

Notes:

I know I usually don't put a chalk horse on these Spot Plays, but this is my lone single in the Late P5. **#7 Fateful Lightening** is TONS the class and has lost to good ones. Now the 3yo son of Tapit is dropping, and has been working well since his last effort. As long as he's not too far back or gets a bad trip, he should take care of business in the last race of the day. Manny needs to find room in the stretch.

Go to the next page for Del Mar analysis…….

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Racetrack: Del Mar

Howard Kravets' ABC Grid – Late P5; R7 starts at 8pm EST

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

Howard's Late Pick 5 Analysis – Races 7-11

First of all, if you watched the Thursday "Pacific Horseplayers"show, you heard some of my opinions. <u>They HAVE CHANGED SINCE SEEING THE WORKOUT REPORT</u>! I thought this Late P5 was VERY tough and fun. Serious talent is on display in two of these races, and the other three are tough, ESPECIALLY the bookend races, R7 and R11. Most people will be singling #2 Nysos in the San Diego, R8, as they should. I'll use a few VERY defensively, but 90% of my money will go through Nysos. You'd be very smart to look at the board carefully to start the P5 in R7 as these babies going two turns are unpredictable….but the odds should help decipher the real contenders from the pretenders. The Bing Crosby S. is the best dirt sprint race in the United States this year (outside of the Churchill Downs S. going 7f on Derby Day) and many could win. Save money for the last leg….that one is a beaut!! I like some ML prices there for sure. If you hit this Pick 5, you've earned it!

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	5	Hall of Fame	6-1	3	BIG Exacta 2-5 Small Exacta 2-3

Notes

Let me be clear….Nysos is the horse to beat and if he continues to develop, could be a complete monster. His last win was super-impressive and will probably win here. His works are about as impressive as I've seen lately since (dare I say), Flightline's worktab. But McCarthy has a new horse in his barn, **#5 Hall of Fame**, who I've always liked and has talent. The ML on him is completely ridiculous, should be more like 4-1. I'll be playing, and suggesting to everyone, a 2-5 exacta and turn a 3-5 shot in Nysos into a hopeful $10 payout exacta for $2. Baffert's other, #3 Mirahmadi, should have the lead and could also finish 2nd. That exacta play (2-5) will count towards our Spot Play ROI. Hall of Fame has chased some good ones, has been in California almost a month now to get acclimated, and I hope proves that in general, the East Coast older horses are simply better than many out West. Kimura is a solid jock and I has been on him in the mornings, at least the last work.

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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	2	Dr. Venkman	4-1	5	$30 Win #2 Trifectas: 2 / 3,5,6,7 / 1,3,5,6,7 5,7 / 2 / 1,3,5,6,7

Notes

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT DEL MAR!! The G1 Bing Crosby is the best 6f dirt sprint of the year in N. America so far. There's a ton of talent and horses that hope to be in the starting gate for the BC Sprint come November here at Del Mar. There's also a LOT of early speed, so I'm going with a horse that will come off it a bit, a Spot Play last time when he ran at Churchill, **#2 Dr. Venkman**. He didn't receive the best of rides and should have won. There's more speed here, and that might help Venkman. He has to avoid being too far back, and Fresu needs to time it right. But, I believe he's as talented as anything in here. The longer shot I'd be interested, FYI, is #7 Mbagnick, first off the claim for Sadler, who beat #3 Hijazi in nice fashion last time and is the best outside speed.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	8	Big Bet Jafinsafa	20-1	4	$15 WP #8 BIG Exactas: 8 / 1,2,5,6,11 Small Exactas: 1,5,6 / 8

Notes

Be aware of the **#8, at a HUGE PRICE (20-1 ML), Big Bet Jafinsafa**! Trainer Carla Gaines is an underrated 17% off 180+ day layoffs the past 5 years, and this one is training VERY well in the morning. Plus, he's one of few in the race that can launch from far back. Maybe use this one more underneath, and for this ROI Tip Sheet I'll go $1 WP. I'm also placing a small win bet and using the Pick 5 as well. Fascinated to see how he'll do today…Kimura rides, very interesting!!

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