

Power Picks

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Race-Day Overview - KENTUCKY OAKS DAY

Welcome to Kentucky Oaks Day! Today's card at Churchill Downs is outstanding as usual for this big day, with many stakes races and excellent betting opportunities. Races start at 12:30pm EST on this 13-race card, with the Ky. Oaks scheduled for 8:40pm EDT, the first time it's been held at night under the lights! **AS ALWAYS, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES, as this tip sheet has been completed 24 hours before first post.** The weather is expected to be cool and clear, so I'd expect a fast dirt track. The Louisville area had some heavy thunderstorms early in the week (much needed rain), but the turf should be listed "firm" with some moisture in the ground. Rails are out 12ft. Pretty fair for all runners, but horses that wanted very firm won't feel that under their hooves.

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.12** (\$2,293.68 / 1083)

2026: **\$2.98** (\$268.10 / 90)

2026 Plays of the Day: **\$3.40** (\$102.12 / 30)

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: Churchill Downs

Howard Kravets' LP5 ABC Grid - R9 starts at 5:12pm EDT

Race	A	B	C
9	2,7,8	-	3,9
10	3,6	5	4
11	9	2,5,7	-
12	3,9	1,5	11
13	2,4,9	1,11	5,10,15

Paul Halloran's LP5 All-Stakes ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
9	2,5	4,7	3,8	2,4,5,7	\$.50 P5	\$120
10	3,6	2		3,6	-	-
11	1,9	7,11	2,8	1,9	-	-
12	8,11	3,5,9	1,2	3,5,8,9,11	-	-
13	9,11,12	1,2,4	5	9,11,12	-	-

Pete Visco's LP5 All-Stakes ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
9	2,7,8	6	3,9	2,7,8	\$0.50 P5	\$120
10	3,6	2,5	-	3,6	-	-
11	7,9	1,2,4,5	8,10,11	2,5,7,9	-	-
12	1,3	5,8	9,11,13	1,3	-	-
13	4,5,10,11	1,2	9,12	2,4,5,10,11	-	-



Howard's Late P5 Analysis - Races 9-13

The All-Graded Stakes Late Pick 5 that ends in the Oaks is a real challenge, and the pool sizes will be massive. Even if favorites win, you'll still get paid. Unlike previous years, I don't think there will be too many bombs that will win. The biggest horizontal score in my betting life occurred in this bet when I hit it in 2017, so you know I have an affinity for betting this sequence (you can look up the payout). Baeza will take a ton of money in the opening leg, but this is a means to an end and he can be beat today. Same for BC Winner Gezora in R10, who is likely to win, but isn't this distance a little short for her? I like Fully Subscribed quite a bit and will lean on her in R11, and R12 is wide-open in theory, although I think I can narrow down to just a few. Then there's the Ky. Oaks, and that is COMPLETELY WIDE OPEN....I would spread as much as possible, as I think realistically 5 to 9 horses could actually win. Good luck if you decide to play the All-Stakes Late P5!!

All-Graded Stakes Pick 5 Tickets (R9 - 13)

BIG BUDGET: \$126

#1: 2,7,8 / 3,5,6 / 9 / 1,3,5,9 / 1,2,4,9,11 (\$90 Main Ticket)

#2: 2,7,8 / 3,6 / 2,5,7 / 3,9 / 2,4 (\$36 Backup to Main)

SMALL BUDGET: (\$18)

#1: 2,7,8 / 3,6 / 9 / 3,9 / 2,4,9

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	8	Corporate Power	10-1	4	\$15 WP #8 Trifectas: 8 / 2,7 / 2,3,4,7,9 2,7 / 8 / 2,3,4,7,9 2,7 / 2,3,4,7,9 / 8

Notes

Every year, the G2 Alysheba doesn't disappoint racing fans. I see no reason to believe otherwise on Friday. FYI, #9 Disruptor is cross-entered in the Churchill Downs S. on Saturday, so he might scratch. The headliners here obviously are #2 Baeza and #7 Skippy Longstocking. But I believe **#8 Corporate Power** is sitting on "go." He's got talent, and ran a monster effort last time against La-Bred superstar Touchuponastar. I was there in person at the Fairgrounds, and I thought he'd get up in the stretch, but "Touch" dug in. The race came back VERY fast, and Corporate Power seems healthy again after a long layoff, and his class and talents are starting to shine through. There's enough early speed to set up his closing kick, and he should get a good, clean trip, albeit wide. Maybe the top 2 are too classy....but maybe not. At 10-1, I'm willing to find out, at least underneath.

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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	9	Fully Subscribed	7-2	4	\$30 Win #9

Notes

Other than my final Spot Play coming up next, **#9 Fully Subscribed** will probably be a relatively low price at post time, around 5-2. I really like her in this tough spot. The whole key to this race is #5 Shred the Gnar. She's fast and talented...if she gets loose on the lead into a relatively slow pace, she could be tough to run down. But Fully Subscribed has a ton of ability and ran great at the end of her 3yo year, albeit vs. weaker competition. She clearly has been pointed to today's race by Chad, and her versatile running style is conducive to the race flow. If some of the inside horses, plus Snowyte on the outside, challenge Gnar, Fully Subscribed has a great chance to blow by them all in the lane. She's going to be a serious horse in the distaff division this summer.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
13	2	Zany	4-1	5	\$40 Win #2 BIG Exactas: 2 / 4,9,10,11 Smaller Exactas: 4,9,10,11 / 2

Notes

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT CHURCHILL!! Here's the bottom line: this race could make or break my day. **#2 Zany** is a horse I've been following since last year. She's ultra-talented, but she's also a bit mercurial and not a finished product yet. I was really hoping she'd draw outside (if you saw our post position draw live show, you'll know what I mean), because she's a big filly with some quirks. But, the big difference today in my opinion will be twofold: 1) The pace will be hot and the field will be spread out, giving Irad time to find room when the filly needs it most, and 2) The 1 1/8 distance will be a "separator" in the race, and she'll LOVE the long stretch and extra distance. She is a locomotive...once she gets going, she can really run. Irad has to keep the crop in his left hand because she tends to lug in a little (i.e. young Sierra Leone). If he can keep her in the clear and the pace is as honest as I think it will be, she'll be flying in the stretch from mid-pack. I'm also hoping her price drifts up a little. I would not bet her on the win end at anything less than 7-2. If she finishes 2nd, I'll probably cash on her too. No matter what happens on Saturday, I like her going forward in this division as the distances increase and she matures even more. Is today the beginning of the Pletcher / Repole Oaks/Derby double?

Oaks - Derby Double Strategy:

Opinion by Kyle Roscoe:

Starting with the Kentucky Oaks, my main opinion is going to be trying to beat the two most likely favorites in #5 Meaning (5-1) and #2 Zany (4-1) – (sorry Howard). This will in turn provide a lot of inherent value in the Oaks/Derby Double as a lot of money will go to those two. My top pick this year

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is #4 Counting Stars (8-1), a super talented filly for Mark Casse down at Oaklawn where she most recently won the G2 Fantasy earning a 92 beyer. The thing I love about her most is the versatility that she has shown, not only winning near the lead in her last, but also having the ability to close from farther back. I think she might have to do the latter to win the Oaks, but the extra half-furlong should only help her with a hopeful trip to the winner's circle on the horizon. Others I will be using include two decent prices, #9 Always a Runner (10-1) out of NY and #11 Percy's Bar (6-1) out of KY. Both are coming off of super impressive victories in their own right, who will also spice up the double at good odds.

In the Kentucky Derby, I have had my eyes and heart set on one specific horse for a LONG time. That horse is the #6 Commandment (6-1) for Brad Cox and Luis Saez. In my opinion, he is the most proven horse that can get the mile and a quarter, showing both class and adversity all Derby season long. He has proven that he can both take kickback, wait, and power through a hole on the rail and swing four-wide and chase down a slow pace. If his closing train gets going on the tracks late, there are very few, if any, that are going to stand in his way. Give me only him in the 152nd Kentucky Derby.

Main Ticket: \$25 Double - 4,9,11 w 6 (\$75)

Press Ticket: \$25 Double - 4 / 6 (\$25)

Opinion by Noah Meagher:

In the Oaks, #1 Explora stands out as the most dangerous West Coast contender, already proving herself against Midwest company with a G3 Honeybee win. She's equally effective on the lead or stalking, and her Las Virgenes defeat came in a taxing three-way duel, yet she still earned a comparable Timeform figure to her Oaklawn victory. That tactical ability will be key if early speed from horses like Dazzling Dame or Brooklyn Blonde materializes. My top pick is #9 Always a Runner, who looked exceptional winning the G3 Gazelle in just her second start. She overcame kickback, made a strong middle move, and finished with authority. With the right pace setup, she's dangerous, and even if she falls short here, her upside is significant. #11 Percy's Bar continues to answer every question, showing she can progress from two to three, close from off the pace, and even dominate top competition off layoffs. She's as honest as the day is long.

For the Derby, #1 Renegade is my top choice. Many in this field appear compromised when forced to rate behind horses, but Renegade has already proven he can handle adversity, taking kickback in the G1 Arkansas Derby and still finishing powerfully. The rail draw could actually cause him to drift in the market, which has me licking my chops.

Main Ticket: \$25 Double - 1,9,11 w 1 (\$75)

Matt Miller's "Smash It" Play of the Day:

I looked over last year's "Smash It" play of the day before coming up with this year's edition. I recommended Good Cheer in the Oaks, coupled in the Oaks-Derby Double with YOUR top pick or picks in the Derby due to my own Derby pick confidence being weak (for good reason). I was right about my pick in the Oaks, and for many of you who liked Sovereignty, I think I helped you to score AND manage your money pretty well. The money management angle was key and hopefully that advice put some of you alive to really nice payouts on Saturday despite it being a very tough betting day leading up to the Derby. Sadly, as predicted, my personal Derby picks of Journalism and Luxor Cafe didn't work out so well, but at least I was alive to a Derby dream of a big score.

I still love the idea of two-day bets from a money management standpoint - especially in the case of the Oaks and Derby when you know almost for sure that you will play both races no matter what else happens on each day. For this year, however, I have a different focus. I'm looking for a reliable horse to bet on heavily to build my bankroll as early in the day as possible because I believe the later stakes action is going to be highly competitive and unpredictable. In my particular case, that's my "tournament" bankroll, but even for pure cash players, I think the concept of setting a cash profit target for the day and working towards that is equally applicable and potentially helpful.

As I looked through the day's races, I was immediately drawn to Shisospicy. I was very willing to pick an earlier non-stakes race but couldn't find anything that felt reliable. Shisospicy feels to me like the first dependable winner on the day. From a tournament perspective, I think there is an edge to playing this horse heavily given that others will likely want to wait for later in the day to bet on the most popular stakes races and that others simply avoid turf sprints like the plague. From my perspective, winners are winners, and this one feels like a winner.

I'm expecting 7/5 odds. In a tournament, I can work with that if I use a couple of entries to spread to just a few logical exactas or doubles. From a cash perspective, I wouldn't put down serious win money at anything less than those odds (which I understand means that this horse might be a pass). If there is a scratch, I'd be open to lowering the odds that I demand proportionately (meaning that I'd be fine with even money if a key competitor scratched for whatever reason).

I've been fortunate enough to be part of a wild celebration for this horse winning before. Trust me on this - there are so many fun ways for everyone around you to yell, "SHE-SO-SPY-CEE"! Let loose!!!

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

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