



Race Date	6/28/25
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## Race-Day Overview

*Today's feature sequence involves the big day at Churchill Downs for the \$1mil G1 Stephen Foster S. plus undercard stakes. Plus, we'll look at several stakes from Woodbine also in their Late P5.*

*As a reminder..., there's a live show on the podcast YouTube Channel starting at 3:30pm EST for Stephen Foster Day, and I will be LIVE onsite at Churchill to provide reporting / commentary / interviews, etc... Good luck today!!*

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.09** (\$1,839.24 / 882)

YTD: **\$1.93** (\$250.24 / 130)

## Today's Picks

*\*\* For those of you not familiar with the "ABC" method of betting, go to our website, [hhhracingpodcast.com](http://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' ABC Grid – Late P5; R8 Starts at 4:25pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1	2,3,5	-	1,2,3,5	\$0.50 P5	\$72
9	1,3	4	8	1,3,4	-	-
10	3,6	2,7,8		3,6	-	-
11	1,4	2	5,6	1,4	-	-
12	1,3,9	2	5,8	1,3,9	-	-



### Paul Halloran's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	5,6	-	1,4	5,6	\$2 P5	\$72
9	1,3	-	2,4	1,3		
10	7	3,6	2,8	7		
11	1,2	4	3,5	1,2,4		
12	1,2	8,9	3	1,2,8		

### Pete Visco's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	5,6	2,3	4,7	5	\$0.50 P5	\$100
9	3,4	1	8	3,4	-	-
10	3,8	2,6,7	5	2,3,6,7,8	-	-
11	2,4,5	1	6	1,2,4,5	-	-
12	1,3,5	2,8	4,6	1,2,3,5,8	-	-

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

*I've been waiting for this card for a while...what a day of racing! It's all topped off by the outstanding G1 Stephen Foster, R11, the 4th leg of the All-Stakes Late P5. While not all field sizes are big, it was hard for me to come up with a single in this sequence....there are no obvious standouts in my opinion. In general, I'll be spreading most in R8, R10, and R12 while taking stands elsewhere. I certainly would NOT single Booth, as I think today is the day his winning streak is broken. I suppose you could take a stand in the Stephen Foster, but with whom? I don't find anyone overly trustworthy in the Grade 1. As you'll read below, I do like a horse in the big one that won't be the favorite. Save money for the last race...another toughie with a medium-sized field. Fun day, good luck!*

**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.**

### 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	1	Fixin to Bee	8-1	3	\$10 WP #1 BIG Exactas: 2,3,5 / 1 Small Exactas: 1 / 2,3,5

# Power Picks

## Notes

This is an interesting case of speed figures. I do pay attention to Beyers, but have realized that Timeform U.S. is more accurate. According to the Beyers, #1 Fixin to Bee is 5-6 points slower, about 2-3 lengths. But Timeform has him basically on-par recently with the favorites in here, at most 1 length slower. Since given a short break earlier this year, she won at Keeneland, then had trouble early in her last at Churchill. She's been working well since and should sit a great trip. Here's the bottom line...I don't trust the two more-heavily bet horses in the race, especially Lush Lips for reasons I explained on the Thursday show. And, you all know my love of turnbacks in distance, which Fixin to Bee is doing today coming from 1 1/8 and 1 3/16 distances. Gimme a price in this race.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	1	Dr. Venkman	5-2	5	\$20 Win #1 Trifectas: 1 / 3,4 / 3,4,8 3,4 / 1 / 3,4,8

## Notes

**THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT CHURCHILL DOWNS!** I've been waiting to bet against #3 Booth for a few races now. He's really talented and fast...but he also has gotten away with murder on soft paces vs. weaker competition. Remember what happened to Skelly a few weeks ago? #1 Dr. Venkman is shipping in from California, always a concern. But he ran great at Keeneland in 2023, he's fresh, been working well, and tries this aggressive spot for an excellent jockey. He figures to sit a great trip in the pocket right off the speed, and the extra distance that Booth has to travel (6 v. 6.5f) might be his undoing. Last time, he was 4-wide off the layoff to Nysos, perhaps the most talented 1-turn horse in the country along with Raging Torrent. I'm expecting a big effort by Dr. Venkman today, and we might get more than 5-2. Booth will NOT be 2-1...should be lower than that come post time. A big win bet is incoming if I get the right price (2-1+) on Venkman.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	1	First Mission	4-1	4	\$40 Win #4

## Notes

The G1, \$1mil. Stephen Foster is a doozy. Even though it's a relatively small field of 7, there are many contenders. It's fair to say the likely top choices in the market will be #2 Mindframe and #4 Sierra Leone. Although both are very talented and accomplished, they're both hard to trust on the win end. Therefore, I'm going with #1 First Mission for Cox and Saez. First Mission has always been talented but a bit inconsistent. He's coming off his best effort of his career at Oaklawn and pointed to this spot since that win. His best efforts are good enough to win, but he'll have to run his "A" race for sure. I love two things about him today...1) Saez is aggressive and should put First Mission in a great position just off the speed, and 2) There's a lack of early speed, which hurts Sierra Leone and potentially Mindframe. First Mission should get the "jump" on both Sierra and possibly Mindframe, which could be the key. I don't think he can outkick either one if behind them at the top of stretch, so I'd like to see Saez take the lead early in the stretch and then try to hold on. Fun race!!

# Power Picks

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	9	Giocoso	10-1	3	\$5 Win, \$15 Place/Show Trifectas: 9 / 1,2,3 / 1,2,3,8 1,2,3 / 9 / 1,2,3,8 1,2,3 / 1,2,3,8 / 9
<b>Notes</b>					
Of all my Spot Plays at Churchill today, this one is my "stab." But I truly don't see it that way. I've always liked this horse....#9 Giocoso has run his fastest two races of his career recently, and he has every right to continue to improve. He's gotten wide trips and weird pace set-ups in many of his starts, and if jockey Curtis (capable, especially on turf) can find away to save some ground on the first turn, he's likely to produce a good run late. Last time, he had no chance vs. much better horses. I'd love to see Curtis use his former early speed and put him in a stalking position instead of launching from way back. Use him in all spots of your vertical exotics such as exactas and trifectas. He's the value of the race and will pop at a price one day...will it be today?					

## Racetrack: Woodbine

### Howard Kravets' ABC Grid – All-Stakes Late P5; R5 Starts at 3:58pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	2	3,5,6	8	2,3,5,6	\$0.20 P5	\$57.60
7	1,5	2	3,6	1,5	-	-
8	2,5	1	3,8	1,2,5	-	-
9	7	5,6,8	3	5,6,7,8	-	-
10	4,9,10	8	3,11	4,9,10	-	-

### Howard's Late Pick 5 Analysis – Races 6-10

*Woodbine's Late P5 contains 4 graded stakes, even more than the Late P5 at Churchill Downs today! The races in which I'll be spreading the most include R 7 and R10. I'm taking an aggressive stance in R9, while R7 seems pretty "obvious" as well with only a few contenders. Remember, it's a 20c-base bet, so it shouldn't cost you too much! I believe the bookends (first and last race) could offer value. Also be aware....R6 in on the inner turf with a much tighter turn where you want to save ground, while R8 and R10 are on the outer turf, with its very wide, sweeping turns like the old Belmont. You still want to save ground, but closers should have a better chance in those.*



## 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)
7	1	Somethingaboutther	2-1	3	\$15 WP #1

### Notes

I'm frankly shocked at this morning line...thought #5 Serendipity is clearly the horse to beat. I would not place a win bet on the #1 Somethingaboutther unless she's AT LEAST 3-1. That being said, she's improving, will save ground, is working well, and has faced tougher in her past. She has a win and a close 2nd over this surface and track....hope she kicks on the in lane and times it right.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	7	Essex Serpent	5-2	5	\$25 Win #7

### Notes

**THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT WOODBINE!!** Ironically, #7 Essex Serpent is usually a horse I'd fade. He's stepping way up in class, is a "1-fig" wonder, and might face other early speed in here. But I was blown away by his win last time...went right to the lead and embarrassed a decent field of allowance runners. He was staked last year as a 3yo and showed talent, but not like his last effort. It's clear he's grown up, and if he can grab the early lead again, there's every indication he'll run big again. He has a massive stride and has the visual look of a serious animal who should have a big 2025. Maybe today is only the beginning of something special?

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	9	Mixologist	12-1	4	\$10 WP #9 BIG Exactas: 4,10 / 9 Smaller Exactas: 9 / 3,4,8,10

### Notes

Similar to the last race at Churchill today, #9 Mixologist is my creative price play of the sequence. Today will be the first off the layoff, and quite a long one. But Trainer Carroll has this filly working well, both on the Tapeta and turf. Over the last 5 years, Carroll has a 19% win rate with new acquisitions off a layoff of 6+ months, hmmm?! There's plenty of early speed to run into late, and if Moran can get her to settle and find room in the lane, I think she'll fire a big shot and get a placing at a price. Owners LNJ Foxwoods don't mess around....doubtful she'll need one off the bench. The questions will be, does she get the setup and is she good enough? I think the answer to both of those questions is YES.

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

