

Power Picks

Race Date	8/23/25
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Race-Day Overview

*The Mid-Summer Derby is here....IT'S TRAVERS DAY AT SARATOGA!! Simply one of the best cards of the entire year, Travers Day brings together amazing fields across the 14 races. Not only are there 6 stakes, INCLUDING 5 GRADE ONE'S IN A ROW (basically a Breeders Cup Day feel), but some SERIOUS 2yo's debut as well. Current stars, future stars, and everything in between runs today at Saratoga. You'll receive FULL-CARD information in today's Standard Power Picks....no other tracks can compare today, and therefore this tip sheet will only have Saratoga analysis. **NOTE THE EARLY POST OF 11:10AM EST!!***

AS ALWAYS, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES...WEATHER IS FORECASTED TO BE GREAT. FOR THE BABY RACES (2YO'S), I'LL HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE HORSES WITH EXCELLENT WORKOUT REPORTS TO HELP YOU WITH THOSE FIRST-TIME STARTERS AS WELL.

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.10** (\$1,913.74 / 913)

YTD: **\$1.96** (\$327.13 / 167)

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 – 1st Post 11:10am EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	1,2,3	4,5,6	-	1,2,3,4,5,6	\$0.50 EP5	\$96
2	7,8	3,4	1a	7,8		
3	1a,3,8	2	4,5	1a,2,3,8		
4	6,10	1,7,9	8	6,10		

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5	4,10	6	5,7	4,10		
6	3,5,6	4,8,9	1	3,5,6,8,9		
7	2,3	1	6	1,2,3		
8	2	6,8,12	4,9	2		
9	6,7	4	1	4,6,7	All-Grade 1 Stakes P5	\$96
10	5,8	1,4	2,3,6	1,4,5,8		
11	5,9	3,7	-	3,5,7,9		
12	4	2,5,8	1,7	2,4,5,8		
13	4	1	3	4		
14	1,9	3,4,7,10	2	1,3,4,9,10		

Paul Halloran's All-Grade 1 P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
9	6,7	1,3	4	6,7	\$1 P5	\$54
10	3,8	1,5	2,4,6	1,3,8		
11	7,9	3,5	2,8	1,3,8		
12	4,7	8	1,2	4,7,8		
13	4	1	3	4		

Pete Visco's All-Grade 1 P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
9	6,7	1,3	2,4	6,7	\$0.50 P5	\$80
10	1,2,5	3,4	6,8	1,2,3,4,5	-	-
11	3,5	4,7,9	2,8	3,5,9	-	-
12	2,4	1,7,8	5,6	2,4	-	-
13	1,4	3	-	1,4	-	-

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Playing the baby races....WATCH THE BOARD FOR CLUES!!

R1: Best morning works...#1,2,3, and 5; #3 is half to “For the Flag”, who won \$333k +, should appreciate switch to grass; #4 half to “Dreams of Tomorrow”, who won \$374k + ; #6 half to “Parenting”, undefeated Baffert-trained dirt horse

R3: Best morning works...1a, 3, 8; flat #1 will scratch, 1a goes; 1a and 3 could be quick early, 8 slower possibly from gate but big stride, dangerous; #3 half to stakes-winner “Guarana”, G1 winner of over \$1mil., and “Beatbox”, turf stakes horse who won over \$420k; #1a working with tougher, experienced older horses in the morning...big horse; #8 Tam Tam working behind horses, should handle taking dirt

R6: Best morning works...#3,8,9; #3 turf breeding on dam side but working great on dirt; #5 working with good ones, including monster debut winner It’s Our Time (barn-buddy), although not as well as that one; #8 working in-behind horses and finishing, expect closing kick potentially...needs one first out?

Howard’s All-Grade 1 Pick 5 Analysis – Races 9 - 13

You know it’s Travers Day when you see five Grade 1 races IN A ROW on the same card!! That’s only reserved for Derby Day, Belmont Day, today, and the Breeders Cup. I do feel like you can take some stands in certain races. I’ll be going light in R9, R11, and R13, while spreading in R10 and R12. The toughest race in the sequence is R10, the Jerkens....WHAT A RACE!! You can make a strong case for almost every horse in the field. The big one of the day, of course, is the Travers. Most see this as a 2-horse race between Sovereignty and Magnitude. Beating the Derby / Belmont Champ would help the payout tremendously, but I’m not sure Magnitude or maybe even Strategic Focus are quite at that level...Magnitude is DEFINITELY a pace threat. Good luck in an amazing series of races.

The following touts 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)
5	4	Marvelous Madison	8-1	4	\$15 WP #4 BIG Exactas: 6,10 / 4 Smaller Exactas: 4 / 6,10
Notes:					

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Today's first Spot Play is in a turf sprint, usually not my cup of tea. However, **#4 Marvelous Madison (8-1)** has many things going for her. The combo of Junior and Mott needs no introduction, but more importantly, the horse IS A SPRINTER! She clearly doesn't want two turns, and her two best races were going short. She won her debut sprinting, albeit with a perfect trip, then ran credibly vs. tougher off a long layoff earlier this year. With speed to her inside and outside, I expect Junior to be sitting comfortably mid-pack on the inside saving ground, then tip out in the stretch. Her works lately suggest she's ready, and I'm expecting a big effort and somewhere around 6-1. The #10 Silsbee is CLEARLY THE HORSE TO BEAT after encountering traffic in her last with a big gallop out through the line. But she's coming back quick and has a tough post...if she's ready, she'll win at 9-5.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	5	Verifire	4-1	4	\$25 Win #5 Trifectas: 5 / 1,4,8 / 1,2,3,4,5,6,8 1,4,8 / 5 / 1,2,3,4,5,6,8

Notes:

The Grade 1 Allen Jerkens is one of the races of year, no doubt! What a field....almost anyone can win if they fire their best effort and getting the right trip. I was thoroughly impressed with **#5 Verifire (4-1)** last time at Churchill, easily beating Smoken Wicked. Yes, he got a great trip, but he makes his own trip with fantastic tactical speed and a closing kick in the lane...he's uber-talented and has done NOTHING wrong in 3 undefeated starts. Acid test today however. I'm a little concerned he'll be taking more dirt than he's used to in behind, so I would NOT take him at anything lower than 3-1. **I also want to mention #8 Madaket Road**, who I've been against in most of his starts. I love the outside draw, cutback in distance,, and recent works. He's the Baffert I want, as discussed on the Thursday Picks & Ponies show, at a price.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	5	Claret Beret	6-1	5	\$20 WP #5 BIG Exactas: 5 / 3,7,9 Smaller Exactas: 7,9 / 5

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT SARATOGA!! I can't believe my Play of the Day is a Saffie-trained runner outside of Gulfstream Park, but here we are! When she freaked two starts ago, I didn't believe it and wanted to see another bang-up effort. But you know what, she proved it was no fluke, running another big one right back. The presence of Irad and a "soft" Grade 1 field, plus comfy post position, leads me to believe she can take down this big prize. The distance, pace set-up, and inconsistency of Scylla gives me even more reason to take a shot with Claret Beret. Sure, #9 Hope Road is a major threat as well from the outside, and I'll be using her also in my horizontals. I see this mainly as a 2-horse race, using #5 and #9, and trying to beat #7 Scylla while using her defensively. Bomb play would be the #3 Majestic Oops.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
14	9	Catholic Edition	5-1	2	\$15 WP #9

Notes:

The "get-out" race of the day is a NY maiden \$50k claimer on the grass. If you're religiously-inclined, be ready to say a prayer and bet **#9 Catholic Edition (5-1)** in the last. This horse got a ridiculously bad ride / trip last time....check it out if you have time. Trust me, it was bad. They're putting blinks on, so I hope

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the filly will break better, run straighter, and finish the job in lane. She was green as grass last time, but there's talent there, especially for this level. One good trip here gives her a great chance to end up in the Winner's Circle!

Playing the Travers Stakes:

Sometimes, you just have to accept the chalk and move on. I respect anyone picking **#1 Magnitude**, as he's a VERY nice horse who's run fast figs and projects to be on the lead, perhaps by himself. I know some very sharp handicappers who think he's gonna win today. But what has made **#4 Sovereignty** so tough to beat is his versatility lately. Junior Alvarado knows this horse so well, and he can be more tactical if necessary, like he was in the Jim Dandy and Belmont. I have a hard time believing he'll let Magnitude get too far ahead, and he'll "push the button" at the right time. I also think the distance of 1 ¼ favors Sovereignty more than Magnitude. The Derby and Belmont champ is ready to explode today, and I think we'll see a big Beyer jump from his last race.

So, how do you get value in this race? Maybe you don't and watch without betting...totally understand that theory. But I do like #3 Strategic Focus to finish 2nd and create a little value with the 4-3 exacta finish, which hopefully would pay about 4-1 or higher.

#3 Strategic Focus ran a huge race in his 2nd lifetime start with a 100+ Beyer vs. OLDER horses going 1 1/8th miles, only to be DQ'd in a very questionable decision. I really liked him last time in the restricted Curlin S., but he made a premature early move into a hot pace and didn't see out the trip...it wasn't a great effort, very disappointing to me. Chad Brown could have easily backed off and picked the Penn Derby as his next spot like many other 3yo's have done. But instead, he chose here.

I'm hoping he shows tactical speed (1st time blinkers) but waits longer to make his move. According to Chad, he's been working great in the mornings with the blinkers (feels a bit like Sierra Leone?). If he improves off his effort two back, I think he can snatch 2nd place away from Magnitude once Sovereignty goes by both of them in the stretch. If no-hope shot **#2 Bracket Buster** puts pressure on Magnitude, that would help the chances of my suggested bet coming through....truthfully, I don't see that happening. It's more likely "Focus" sits off of Magnitude and wears him down late while running a career-best effort...his long stride makes me think he can get the 10 panels, and I hope the blinkers help keep his mind on racing...should be a fun race to watch!! **BIG EXACTA 4-3 to the hoop!!**



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

