



Race Date	5/03/25
Edition #	Vol. 5, No. 19

Race-Day Overview - Kentucky Derby Day

Welcome to Kentucky Derby Day!! Today's card at Churchill Downs is filled with stakes, big fields, and tremendous betting opportunities. Budget accordingly, and make sure you bet your strongest opinions! The card starts at 11am EST and will end around 8:35pm. Today is a marathon, not a sprint. Based on the weather yesterday and potential today, the main track could start as wet. However, it is supposed to clear up in the afternoon, and CD is known for drying up quickly. I'm expecting a fast track for the Derby (6:57pm EST), or at least listed good. ALL PICKS ON THIS TIP SHEET ASSUME GRASS RACES STAY ON THE TURF!!

CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES....these might alter throughout the day, so pay attention to the tote board. This is a TREMENDOUS CARD, and DIFFICULT! Pick your spots wisely...you don't have to play every race just because it's DERBY DAY. I wish you much success today...based on the big, competitive fields, you can score huge if you're lucky....CRUSH YOUR BETS!!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): \$2.12 (\$1,769.08 / 834)

YTD: \$2.18 (\$178.78 / 82)

Go to the next page for our analysis of Derby Day!!



Racetrack: Churchill Downs - DERBY DAY

Howard Kravets' Grid: All-Grade 1 Stakes Late Pick 5

R8 starts at 3:32pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Use in horizontal bets	Caveman Bet	Cost
8	2,3,7,11	6	10	2,3,7,11	\$0.50 P5	\$192
9	5,7,10	3,6,9	2,4,11,13,14	5,7,10		
10	1,7,13	8,9	2,11,12	1,7,8,13		
11	1,6,7,8	4,10	-	1,6,7,8		
12	8	4,7,9,17,18	3,10,13,(21)	8,18		

Pete Visco's All-Stakes ABC All-Grade 1 Stakes Pick 5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	2,10	3,7,11	4,6	2,7,10	\$0.50 P5	\$135
9	5,7,10	2,3	4,8,13	5,7,10	-	-
10	1,2	7,8,11	9,13	1,2	-	-
11	1,6,7	3,10	4,8	1,6,7	-	-
12	7,8,18	3,4,9,17	10,(21)	3,7,8,9,18	-	-

Paul Halloran's All-Stakes ABC Pick 5 Grid:

8	7,11	3,10	2	3,7,10,11	\$0.50	\$96
9	2,5	3,7	10	2,3,5,7	-	-
10	1,9	2,6,8	7,11	1,9	-	-
11	1,7	8	4,6,10	1,7	-	-
12	8,9,18	12,17	3,4,7,13,16	8,9,18	-	-



Howard's All-Grade One Stakes Late P5 Analysis – Races 8-12

*The All-Grade 1 Stakes Late Pick 5 that ends in the Derby is always one of the best plays of the year due to the massive pool size / equity it generates (\$5mil +?). Depending on your opinion of the Derby, you don't necessarily have to play a big ticket, but it sure does help. To complicate matters, the turf course might have some "give" in it based on the weather forecast this weekend, so I would upgrade horses that have proven form on softer turf. **THIS IS A VERY TOUGH SEQUENCE!!** It was very hard for me to find a single...I suppose it would be Journalism in the Derby, but that's very risky in my opinion. To be honest, there's not one race that I would go "skinny." You're going to have to spread, unless you want to single Journalism or perhaps Nysos/Mindframe in R8. I don't trust either one to definitely win. I have a hard time believing this won't pay big....**THIS IS THE BEST HORIZONTAL BET THIS WEEKEND BY FAR!!** Good luck if you're playing!!*

The following 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.

All-Grade One Stakes Price/Spot Play(s):

I'm touting some BIG prices today. Tread cautiously if you're more of a "chalk" player!! Gotta take some swings on these big days in my opinion.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	3	Book'em Danno	8-1	5	\$25 WP #3 BIG Exactas: 3 / 2,6,7,11 Smaller Exactas: 2,6,7,11 / 3
Notes					
The Churchill Downs, a Grade One 7f sprint, is one of the best races of the weekend. The star-power is tremendous and it feels like a Breeders Cup race. This is a pretty strong opinion of mine and I ALMOST made #3 Book'em Danno my Play of the Day. He's been good since Day 1 and had a HUGE year last year, almost beating Forever Young in Dubai. I thought he received some questionable rides by Irad a few times, as he stayed inside at crucial times and got caught up in traffic. They (trainer, jockey, who knows?) also appeared to take some of his early speed away in hopes of teaching him to rate. That was effective, but I think he's better stalking off the speed, like he did in his 2025 debut. He clearly needed the break due to his decreasing Beyers at the end of his 2024 tough campaign. He'll need his best vs. the likes of Mindframe, Nysos, and Mullikin. WHAT A RACE!					

Power Picks

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	13	My Mane Squeeze	12-1	3	\$15 WP #13 Trifectas: 13 / 1,7,8 / 1,2,7,8,9,11,12 1,8 / 13 / 1,2,7,8,9,11,12 1,8 / 1,2,7,8,9,11,12 / 13

Notes

Another AMAZING RACE is the G1 Derby City Distaff going 7f on the dirt. Once again, this feels like the BC Filly & Mare Sprint...all the big girls are here. The first thing I noticed, other than the obvious talent, is how much early speed is signed on. It's crazy. That automatically leads me to a closer, but the big field will not make it easy. I've never thought #13 My Mane Squeeze is a superstar, but I probably haven't given her enough credit either. The NY-bred is consistently fast and loves 7f. I don't mind the outside draw because in theory Saez can place her where he wants. I hope he takes back. In her 2025 debut at Churchill, she was wide and up much closer than usual because she had to be. That's not the case today...her preferred running style is closing from further back. She'll get a lot out of that start and she could very likely improve in her 2nd start of the year, plus she's only 4yo, so there's upside there. She also likes Churchill, 2-for-2 over the surface. In order to win, she'll have to run the race of her life, but she could easily get in the money at a nice price today...another really fun race.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	8	Cameo Performance	20-1	5	\$10 Win, \$25 Place/Show Trifecta: 8 / 1,6,7,10 / 1,4,6,7,10 1,6,7,10 / 8 / 1,4,6,7,10 1,6,7,10 / 1,4,6,7,8,10 / 8

Notes

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT CHURCHILL DOWNS!! Not a misprint...my biggest opinion of the day, especially based on the price, is #8 Cameo Performance at 20-1 morning line. This year's G1 Turf Classic has not come up as tough as previous years. There's no Chad Brown superstar, no impressive Euro import, etc...just a nice group of American runners. That leads me to go to a price, unless you think #1 Integration is just better than these. He might be, but I've overall been disappointed with him and think he's overrated. Cameo Performance is EXACTLY the type of runner I love...he's a progressive, unexposed 4yo who ran big in his 2025 debut and has the biggest upside in the field. Everyone will say, "Howard, he's too slow." I think he'll take a big step forward today...we're playing the Stock Market people...who will run best today, not based on previous accomplishments necessarily. Cameo was the only one at the Fairgrounds last time, vs. many of these, that made a closing run in the stretch vs. a slow pace, and I think there's a bit more speed in here today. He'll need to make up about 2-3 lengths in theory on Integration and Running Bee to win the race, but I'm playing him in all spots of the trifecta, so an in-the-money placing is all I ask of him. He'll be closer to 12-1 or 15-1 at post time, but I really think he'll run the race of his life today. Good luck if you're betting him and agree with me.



The Kentucky Derby:

I've talked about this race on many shows in the last two weeks, so by now you probably know my opinions. Frankly, I don't have the strongest opinion in this year's Derby. Obviously, #8 Journalism is the horse to beat. But I've discussed many times that he's received really good trips in very small fields in California. He's talented and likeable, but no sure thing in a field of 20. I would not bet him on the WIN end at 5-2, it's just too low. But I could single him in horizontal plays (Pick 4, Pick 5, etc....). I do like #18 Sovereignty as the best value, and if the pace does not heat up as anticipated, believe Baffert's #4 Rodriguez could run big. More logical contenders for me include #9 Burnham Square, perhaps #7 Luxor Cafe and #10 Grande, and #17 Sandman. I have major questions with Luxor Cafe and Sandman and are against them on the win end in general, especially Sandman who will take a ton of unreasonable money based on him being a closing grey horse with a cool name...yes, that matters a lot in this race to the uneducated public. For bombs, I like #3 Final Gambit to close hard for a piece.

Here are my final public selections: 8-18-4-9 GOOD LUCK!!

Matt Miller "Smash It" Play of the Day:

I completed this SMASH IT Play of the Day write-up long before knowing whether or not Good Cheer would give us reason for good cheer on Derby day. Hopefully she continued her unbeaten streak and anyone who followed my advice is to be live to an Oaks-Derby Double with a horse or two. If that's the case, try to enjoy your day without spending too much money waiting for what is hopefully a nice payday! If you need to smash something on Derby day waiting for that Double, I recommend the popcorn stand.

As much as I hope to have my Derby bets locked in on Oaks day with the Oaks-Derby Double, if I'm forced to come up with something else for Saturday, it won't be in the Derby. I'll be playing it for sure, but for purposes of trying to find a reliable horse from which to make some profits, I actually like the race just before the Derby. Integration strikes me as the most likely winner on the entire day, and the depth and size of the field he faces suggest to me that we might actually get 2/1 or so on the tote board. His last race was solid, but it seemed clear that it was a prep for this spot and that today's distance is most suitable. I'll be all over that - especially win bets and daily doubles into my top selections in the Derby (Luxor Cafe and Journalism). As I indicated yesterday, I wouldn't hesitate to replace your Derby picks for mine - we all have opinions on the race and the last thing I'd want to do is steer someone away from what turns out to be an accurate gut feeling!

Good luck with all of your wagers on Kentucky Derby Day 2025....CRUSH YOUR BETS!!!

