

Power Picks

Race Date	3/21/26
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Race-Day Overview

The next three Saturdays are going to be something special...one of my favorite times of the year. Derby dreams become a reality as many horses clinch their spots in the starting gate for the Run for the Roses. Any horse that finishes 1st or 2nd in these Derby preps are going to the Derby. And a 3rd or 4th place finish could also secure a spot depending on how many points the horse already had achieved.

First stop today is New Orleans and The Fairgrounds for the spectacular All-Stakes Late P5, ending in the \$1mil La. Derby with a field of 9 interesting runners...wide-open race. I'll be there in-person to take in the action and join the simulcast crew behind the desk on Friday and Saturday for the earlier parts of the cards. Field sizes aren't huge, but the star power is there and the races are competitive.

Then, we'll analyze a VERY difficult Turfway Park All-Stakes Late P5 with BIG fields and lots of ways to gamble. It's Jeff Ruby Steaks S. Day...good luck with these races, wow. AS ALWAYS, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES!

NICE TO SEE THE BELOW ROI'S INCREASE DRAMATICALLY AFTER ONE OF THE BEST DAYS LAST SATURDAY IN THE 5-YEAR + HISTORY OF THE TIP SHEET...CONGRATS IF YOU SCORED! WE'RE ON PACE FOR OUR BEST YEAR EVER!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.08** (\$2,179.84 / 1047)

2026: **\$2.86** (\$154.50 / 54)

2026 Plays of the Day: **\$4.01** (\$68.10 / 17)

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.

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Racetrack: The Fair Grounds

Howard Kravets' All-Stakes P5 ABC Grid - R6 starts at 4:32pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1,2,8	3,10	5,9	1,2,3,5,8,9,10	\$0.50 LP5	\$84
9	4,6	2	5	2,4,6	-	-
10	2,4	7	-	2,4	-	-
11	5	2,6,7	-	5	-	-
12	9	3,5	1	1,3,5,9	-	-

Paul Halloran's All-Stakes P5 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1,5	3,10	8,12	1,3,5,10	\$.50 LP5	\$72
9	4	2	6	2,4	-	-
10	2,7	4		2,4,7	-	-
11	5	4,7	2,6	5,7	-	-
12	5,9	3	7,8	3,5,9	-	-

Pete Visco's All-Stakes P5 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1,5	2,12	3,10	1,5	\$0.50 LP5	\$90
9	2,6	4	1,5	2,4,6	-	-
10	2,4	5,7	6	2,4,7	-	-
11	5,6	2,4	7	2,4,5,6,7	-	-
12	5,9	3,7,8	1	5,9	-	-

Howard's All-Stakes P5 Analysis - Races 8-12

The most-prestigious Pick 5 of the meet starts today in R8. BY FAR, the biggest spread race of the sequence is the first leg, R8. I would use as many as your budget allows, although the rail horse could be tough if he runs back to his last effort. He did receive a perfect trip however. The next three legs do not seem very difficult to me on paper, only a few can win each race realistically. Then, the feature of the day, the La. Derby, is pretty wide-open, so I would spread there too. I do like the outside runner (see Spot Plays) quite a bit, but he's no cinch for sure. Use as many as you can.

I could see this sequence paying VERY well or could be chalky too, tough to say. The pool size / equity should be huge however, with this sequence and Turfway (some don't like betting synthetic) the only feature cards in the country. I wouldn't blame anyone who plays a skinny ticket and tries to press-up to hit it for more than 50c. If you choose that route, you'd be best to single somewhere in the middle three legs.

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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	6	Corporate Power	8-1	3	\$15 WP #6 BIG Exactas: 6 / 2,4 Smaller Exactas: 2,4 / 6

Notes:

FYI, #3 Accelerize will supposedly scratch. The New Orleans Classic for \$500k is really an interesting race. You don't often see 5 speed horses out of 6 runners in a field. The only horse that's showed any ability in his career to close off a fast pace is **#6 Corporate Power**. I've always had a thing for him, as he was a talented, late-blooming 3yo with some success in '24 until he got injured and went to the sidelines, missing all of 2025. Now, Asmussen took over the training for Shug, and he came back off a long layoff with a very nice effort vs. MUCH easier last time. He was a little goofy in the stretch with his lead changes, but maybe that was rust. He won well and was in-hand the final 100 yards. I know he has the talent, but he'll still have to step up his game about 2-3 lengths according to my calculations. I think he can do it, especially with the pace scenario....I have questions about the favorites.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	6	Life of Joy	4-1	4	\$10 Win, \$20 Place BIG Exacta: 5/6 Smaller Exacta: 6/5

Notes:

Here's how I feel in general about the FG Oaks: It's a weak rendition, and #5 Bella Ballarina should be tough. Anyone can finish 2nd, so I'll go with **#6 Life of Joy** with Flavian. The Cox-trainee ran perfectly fine vs. division leader Zany, who I think is a complete monster and a horse I love to win the Oaks right now. Life of Joy did not break well, then rushed up a bit and made a middle move into a slow pace at Tampa, only to be run over by Zany, no shame there. She showed the ability to close from further back to last year, so she's versatile. I like her draw today outside most of the speed, and I hope she breaks well, improves off her first run of 2026, and then trust Flavian to do the rest. I would not be shocked if she upset the field too, but Zany (and I suppose others, just don't know who) might be better. My main play is to use Life is Joy underneath....she has a big shot to finish in the money, and I don't think she'll be 2nd choice on the toteboard.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	9	Emerging Market	6-1	5	\$30 Win #9 Trifectas: 9 / 1,3,5 / All 1,3,5 / 9 / All

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT THE FAIRGROUNDS!! I seem to have a knack for doing well in the 3yo stake races on this tip sheet, and I hope to repeat last week's effort. I've been waiting to watch **#9 Expected Value** run back after his spectacular debut at Tampa. Many will point to the fact that the horse he beat in the debut, Powershift, did NOT run well back in the TB Derby. But I think the scenario is different today for Expected Value than it was for Powershift, so I'm not going to hold that possible shaky form line against him. Powershift didn't break well, and was caught between horses in a speed-laden field. Expected Value is a more handy, relaxed colt who gets the far outside post with a long run into the first turn at FG. Flavian does not need to rush him out of the game. That being said,

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there's not a lot of early speed here, so it's possible EV could get a comfy, stalking trip on the outside. He looks like he can run all day based on his finish at TB and gallop out. Even more than the 97 Beyer he earned (Timeform did NOT have rated as highly as Beyer), this is an "In Chad I trust" situation. This is a VERY aggressive spot for him, and I think he believes this is a more of a Derby prospect than Canaletto, his barnmate who won his debut at GP. Forget that 6-1 ML, he'll be half that or maybe even less, but still worth a win bet for me at 5-2 or higher. I believe he'll take a TON of money at the windows and might end up being the soft favorite come posttime.

Racetrack: Turfway Park

Howard Kravets' Late P5 ABC GRID - Race 8 starts at 4:13pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1	3,4,5	6,8	1,3,4,5	\$0.50 LP5	\$96
9	4,5,7,8	1,3	2	1,3,4,5,7,8	-	-
10	5,8	1,4,7,9	2,6	5,8	-	-
11	9,11	2,5,7,8,10	1	9,11	-	-
12	5,11	2,4,8,10	1,6,12	5,11	-	-

Howard's Late P5 Analysis - Races 8-12

I don't think I've said the following in the 5-year+ history of this Tip Sheet....I'm not sure I would bet this Pick 5 today at Turfway, it's absolutely IMPOSSIBLE. I could easily go 5-deep in every race, and still not hit it. A better horizontal bet on Saturday might be the unique "\$1 Bayou Bluegrass 5", which combines stake races at Turfway and the Fair Grounds see bottom of document [HERE](#). For this All-Stakes P5, to say "I would spread here" seems redundant, so I'll just give a general suggestion: go deepest in R9 and R11, and maybe take a stand in the bookend races, R8 and R12. Every leg is difficult, and I just couldn't find a standout literally anywhere. If playing, I would play an "all A" ticket and just pray, or spread in other races and try to hit a single or two. Frankly, I think you'd have to play a \$200+ ticket to even have a realistic chance....but it should pay VERY well, most-likely mid 4-digits if not even \$10k +....what a challenge! CAUTION...I'M NOT VERY CONFIDENT with my Spot Plays below, so tread lightly!!

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	5	Gnome	12-1	2+	\$10 WP #5 BIG Exactas: 1,3,4,7,8 / 5 Smaller Exactas: 5 / 1,3,4,7,8

Notes:

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I've always had much respect for trainer Kelsey Danner, as she has trained some of the horses in which I have partial ownership for Crown's Way Racing. She gets the most out of horses, sometimes at prices. **#5 Gnome** might be one of those Saturday. There seems to be plenty of speed signed on, and Gnome was one of only a few that can pass horses. He's trained well for the race, and his style should suit her well today. He might look a little slow on paper, so I'll use him mainly underneath, but he could still win too. Side note...cool to see the race named after Animal Kingdom, who won the Jeff Ruby Steaks S. back in the day, then went on to upset the Derby field. I always liked him...a horse with a serious closing kick. Maybe Gnome will be today's "Animal Kingdom", just the sprint variety. Like many races today, it's completely a wide-open affair. Adam Beschizza, Danner's "go-to" guy, will ride. He rode this horse during his 2yo campaign and knows his quirks well. I'll be curious to see how the track plays...very few cards on Turfway are run in warmer, sunny weather during the day. \$1WP for our Tip Sheet ROI.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	11	Lorelei Lee	12-1	3	\$10 WPS #11 Trifectas: 11 / 2,5,7,8,9,10,11 / 1,2,5,7,8,9,10,11 AND 9 / 11 / 1,2,5,7,8,9,10,11

Notes:

The Bourbonette Oaks, with points on the line for the Ky. Oaks, is a wide-open event, par for the course at TP today. There's little reason to go with a lower-priced horse, so my stab is with **#11 Lorelei Lee** for Maker. After breaking her maiden impressively, the daughter of Nyquist (with Tiznow as her damsire) was parked wide in her next start, and probably too close to a decent early gallop. Maker throws her in here, and the two turns might be exactly what she wants / prefers. Yes, her outside gate draw and inexperience going two turns could be a problem, but that'll be baked into the price. There's no one in the race to really be afraid of today. In Maker / De La Cruz I trust. I say take back and make one run....she's not too far off the top ones if she runs her best. Again, we'll go \$1 WP for our Tip Sheet.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	5	Black Hornet	12-1	4	\$20 WP #5

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT TURFWAY, ALBEIT A VERY SOFT ONE, SO BET RESPONSIBLY! **#5 Black Hornet** fits the profile of a horse that wins this race. He's 2-for-2 on turf, which translates well to the Tapeta, is bred for the distance, has Trainer Walsh on his side, and improving speed figs that are certainly good enough to win this race. He'll need a great ride and trip, so the 5-hole should be just fine...it'll be a question of luck and talent. I believe the pace will be honest, but not blazing...it feels like the 1 1/8 miles might be a problem for some, but not this one IMO. And, the price will be right, although I expect the "Hornet" to drift down to around 8-1 or less. I hope he'll "buzz" right by them in the land and stamp his ticket to the Derby.

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Coast-to-Coast (CTC) Pick 5 Preview

Sponsored by Santa Anita / 1st Racing

Below is Noah Meagher's ABC Grid for the CTC Pick 5 today at GP and SA. It's a low takeout (15%), \$1 base bet with no CAW's allowed (retail only).

First leg starts at approx. 4:23pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
GP8	5,7,11	12	8,9	5,7,11	\$1	\$24
SA2	2	-	5	2		
GP9	8,9	2,3	-	8,9		
SA3	3	1	2	1,3		
SA5	2,6	-	1,5	2,6		

Overall opinion from Noah: Saturday's CTC Pick 5 sequence looks like one you might want to have multiple times. I think the Gulfstream races have a much better chance of resulting in upsets rather than the smaller fields at Santa Anita. The horse I am most interested in the sequence comes in the first leg with the #5 Layered for Chad Brown. Her lone turf start makes her very competitive, and that came six months ago, so if there is any improvement she could be a major player. Not to mention Chad has performed surprisingly better than he seems to every year during the Championship Meet. It is VERY important that you single one of the favorites (#2 or #5) in Race 2 at the Great Race Place, as doubling the ticket with a \$1 base bet does you no favors. Good Luck!

YouTube preview...."Wire to Wire Ep. #12": <https://youtube.com/live/rcHnq1Kbzao?feature=share>

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

