

Power Picks

Race Date	8/9/25
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Race-Day Overview

Well, I think I've recovered enough emotionally (see [HERE](#)) after my boy Sierra Leone won the Whitney to present today's Power Picks from Saratoga. While today might not have last weekend's star power, there are two graded stakes here at Saratoga, including a VERY important G1 turf race with Breeders' Cup implications, featuring Far Bridge.

Plus, Colonial Downs has their biggest day of the summer...it's Million Day with plenty of stakes and talented turf runners battling it out for big purses.

Good luck, and as always, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES!!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.07** (\$1,876.04 / 907)

YTD: **\$1.87** (\$289.43 / 155)

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 – LP5 Starts at 4:31pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	2,6,8	4	7	2,6,8	\$0.50 LP5	\$72
9	1,3,6	2	4,5	1,3,6		
10	6	1,5,7	2,3,9	6		
11	1,3,5	2,7,8	4,6	1,2,3,5,7,8		
12	6,10	2,5	9	5,6,10		

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Paul Halloran's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	2,6	8	3	2,6	\$.50 P5	\$81
9	1,6	3	2	1,2,3		
10	1,6	5	2,7	1,5,6		
11	1,8	3,5		1,5,8		
12	5,7	2	6,10	2,5,7		

Pete Visco's Late P5 Grid:

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

Howard's Pick 5 Analysis – Races 8 - 12

Another fantastic Late P5 awaits today at Saratoga, with 2 graded stakes, including the G1 Sword Dancer on turf going 1 1/2mi. This race is a WAYI for the BC...winner gets automatic entry into the BC Turf and expenses paid, etc...

In general, I thought the last two legs of this Pick 5 are VERY difficult and would spread as much as possible. Therefore, I'll have to go more skinny early on. I'll probably single Far Bridge in the Sword Dancer, but do NOT think he lays over that field at all, and will use backups for sure. Look out for the two Appleby's, and other USA horses are not impossible. The first two races are somewhat competitive, but I won't use more than 3-4 horses in those when betting the sequence.

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)
8	6	Little Ni	3-1	3	\$15 WP #6

Notes:

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A very nice allowance race kicks off the sequence. **#6 Little Ni** ran HUGE last time vs. Concrete Glory, who is a very good sprinter when he's right. He got a great trip and just couldn't run him down off a big layoff. There's always a concern for a regression from that taxing effort, but I trust Casse here, has had two works since then, gets a comfy outside post, and is probably better going 6f than 7f. This is a tough field, but a good break and continued improvement / same effort as last gives the gelding a big shot. I don't love the 3-1 ML...would demand that price to place a win bet at post time.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	3	Go Go Boots	7-2	4	\$20 Win #3 Trifectas: 3 / 1,6 / 1,2,4,5,6 1,6 / 3 / 1,2,4,5,6

Notes:

Trainer Miguel Clement is having one terrific summer here at the "Spa", and he hopes it continues in this race stake for the 3yo girls going long on turf. The field is not deep, and it's small too.. I'm not overly impressed with the USA-based horses, other than the inside and outside runners (#1 and #6), who are nothing special. **#3 Go Go Boots**, for Bobby Flay and Clement (has not been in his barn very long), faced some VERY tough horses in Europe, and ran a nice 4th vs. toughies last time at Ascot, although non-threatening. She's been WAY too far back recently, so I hope Jose Ortiz gets her into the game today, at least a little bit. **I want to be clear...this is NOT A EURO MONSTER by any stretch**, but based on the field, Clement, and the longer distance for the US-based horses, Go Go feels very logical here, even if she's a tad on the "slow" side by the speed figs. Big intent by Flay...they're here for one reason: to win these longer distance 3yo filly races this summer!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	1	El Cordobes	4-1	5	\$20 WP #1

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT SARATOGA!! And I'll admit, it's a bit of a guess/flyer. We know how good Appleby can be, but he's been conspicuous in his absence in the USA this year. Until today....he's got two in there, the more fancied #5 Nation's Pride, and my top pick #1 El Cordobes. Prat is fit to ride him, and I have a feeling we'll see some aggression from the rail if he breaks well. There's very little speed in the race. Distance is no problem, and he's a progressive 4yo who's improving facing a bunch of okay US-based horses other than #6 Far Bridge, plus his stablemate Nation's Pride. El Cordobes started in the handicap division this year (our high-level allowance races), but has recently won a Group 2 at Newmarket over solid stakes-placed Wimbledon Hawkeye. He might be the "now" horse if he can adapt to U.S. racing...look out for the "other" Appleby with Prat itching to get wins before serving days from what I think is a B.S. suspension next week. The 4-1 ML is a little low for me and is about as low I'd go placing a win bet.



Racetrack: Colonial Downs

Howard Kravets' ABC Grid – All-Stakes P4; R8 starts at 3:45pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1,3,4,11	5,13	2,6	1,3,4,5,11,13	\$0.50 P5	\$72
9	1,2,4	3,7,8	-	1,2,3,4,7,8	-	-
10	2,3	6	-	2,3	-	-
11	6,8	5	-	6,8	-	-

Howard's All-Stakes Pick 4 Analysis – Races 8-11

The All-Stakes Pick 4 (they DO have a Pick 5 that starts in R7 BTW) is a fun sequence on their biggest card of the summer, Million Day! As you can see by my ABC grid, the first two races are VERY difficult in my opinion, and I would spread as much as possible. I'll be taking some stands in the last two races, the biggest races of the day, the Beverly D. and Arlington (gulp) Million.

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	3	Had to Have Him	10-1	3	\$5 Win, \$15 Place/Show #3 Trifectas: 1,4,11 / 3 / 1,2,4,5,6,11,13 1,4,11 / 1,2,4,5,6,11,13 / 3

Notes

THIS IS STRICTLY AN UNDERNEATH TYPE, although I will place a small "insanity insurance" win bet also. It looks like a few key players could scratch, as well as serious early speed, so **#3 Had to Have Him** might need to be up closer than I anticipated. He fits my type of profile.....an unexposed 4yo improving in his 3rd start in the form cycle, and gets Tyler G. in the irons today. He was unruly in the gate and took time to settle, zapping a bit of his energy. The pace was moderate, he was in between horses for the first part of the race, and made a nice late move. I don't know if he's good enough to win today, but for our ROI, I'll go \$1 Place and Show...use underneath in all exotics.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	3	Beach Bomb	4-1	4	\$25 Win #3

Notes

This year's Beverly D. is a small field of six evenly-matched runners. Three horses have tactical speed, the #2,3, and 4. **#3 Beach Bomb**, however, has shown the ability to come from the off the pace. Johnny V. will have to read the break. She just ran her Beyer top last time on yielding, but I don't think it was the wet that moved her up, more the cutback in distance. Trainer Graham Motion trains at

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FairHill, not too far from Colonial, so this is a bit of a “home game” for his horses with a much shorter ship. Saez is back aboard, and my feeling here is she’ll fire big, and won’t be the favorite.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	6	Fort Washington	4-1	5	\$20 WP #6

Notes

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT COLONIAL! #6 Fort Washington is a cool horse who almost always fires his best shot. While he’s not won a Grade 1, he’s won several lower-graded stakes. What intrigues me most about him today is the amount of early speed signed on. If he can get the right trip, Alvarado (who knows the horse well) will have him cranked up in the lane with his big kick. Last time, he got NO pace to run into at all. He’ll need his best here, but #8 Integration is overrated and hasn’t won since November. He’s the horse to beat though...I’m a big against the Euro, who freaked at 100-1 last time. Want to see that again here. I’ll go with an “outsider.” I’d need all of that 4-1 to play him on the win end however. I spoke with Junior Alvarado at the Mott barn yesterday morning here at Saratoga...he’s very excited to win his FIRST MILLION, and motivated to get the job done!!!

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

