



Race Date	5/02/25
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## Race-Day Overview

Welcome to Kentucky Oaks Day!! Today's card at Churchill Downs is outstanding as usual for this big day, with many stake races and excellent betting opportunities. Races start bright and early, 1<sup>st</sup> post is 11am EST on this 13-race card. AS ALWAYS, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES!! The weather today could be a factor. There is rain scheduled for this morning mainly, but perhaps this afternoon as well, so be aware of track conditions. I doubt the turf stakes will be taken off the grass, but the main track could be wet. Unless there's a deluge, the turf fields should hold together. **ALL PICKS ON THIS TIP SHEET ASSUME GRASS RACES STAY ON THE TURF!** Good luck with all of your wagers!!

### 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)

## Racetrack: Churchill Downs - OAKS DAY

### Howard Kravets' Grid: All-Stakes Late Pick 5

R7 starts at 2:23pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Use in horizontal bets	Caveman Bet	Cost
7	2,4	5	-	2,4	\$0.50 P5	\$84
8	2,7	8	3	2,7,8		
9	12	5,10	7	5,7,10,12		
10	9	4,5	3,6	9		
11	10,11,14	6,7,13	2,8	6,7,8,10,11,13,14		



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

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
7	2,4	-	5,6	2,4	\$0.50 P5	\$96
8	2,7,8	3,4	1	2,7,8	-	-
9	5,7,10,12	6	9,11	5,7,10,12	-	-
10	4,9	3,5	-	4,9	-	-
11	11	6,10,14	2,7	6,10,11,14	-	-

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

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
7	2,4	5	-	2,4	\$1 P5	\$72
8	3,7	2,8	1,4	3,7	-	-
9	5,10,12	11	1,7,9	1,5,7,10,11,12	-	-
10	4,9	6	3,5	4,6,9	-	-
11	11	7,14	2,3,6,9,10	11	-	-

### Howard's All-Graded Stakes Late P5 Analysis – Races 7-11

*The All-Graded Stakes Late Pick 5 that ends in the Oaks is always a great sequence with a big opportunity for massive scores, especially if you can beat the favorites. This year, the sequence seems a bit chalky to me. There are a few possible "singles" to choose from if you go that route. It's best to have a bigger bankroll if playing horizontally. It would be rare for me to "press-up" my opinions and try to hit the Pick 5 for more than its 50c base bet on big days, but I just might do that today. If you beat the big chalks, this could pay huge...I just don't see that happening in general.*

*I'll be leaning on a few horses in the P5 sequence. There are three horses I like the most as "singles" that could offer at least some value. In chronological order, they would be R7 with Raging Sea, R12 with Ecclatant, and R9 with Queen Maxima. I would still win if they didn't win their respective races, but I'm playing for at least two of them to win. If only one wins, I could still hit my Pick 5 but would be less likely to cash.*



*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.*

## Full-Card Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	4	Raging Sea	9-2	4	\$20 WIn #4 BIG Exacta: 4/2 Smaller Exacta: 2/4

### Notes

**THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT CHURCHILL!!** Picking against "the Grizzly Bear", Thorpedo Anna, seems to be very unpopular these days based on her fandom. But I think today is the day she'll get beat by another female horse. Thorpedo is great, don't get me wrong. But outside of her awesome run in the Travers last year, she's just not super-duper fast relative to the top fillies in the division by almost all speed figures I follow. **#4 Raging Sea** was in GREAT form last year, and gave Thorpedo a good challenge in the BC Distaff when Thorpedo was able to walk on the lead. #5 Randomized, the other Chad Brown, will ensure a fast pace and make Thorpedo work today. She's not impossible on the win end either. Raging Sea and Randomized have been working together in Florida for this start, and I like Raging Sea based on the workouts I've watched. She figures to get a great trip today, and if she's ready, she can upset Thorpedo. That 9-2 ML is outrageous...she'll be around 3-1.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	12	Eclatant	5-2	3	\$15 WP #12

### Notes

The Eight Belles is a great race, named after a terrific filly. I like #12 Eclatant quite a bit, but the reason for the slightly less-confident 3-star designation is because it's a tough field. I LOVE what she did at Gulfstream last time. Very impressive close on a track that doesn't usually allow for it. She should only improve today, and the outside post doesn't bother me going 7f at all. She was supposed to run at Keeneland, but scratched due to the track condition I assume (sloppy, etc...). That's a slight concern, but she has works since and I trust the connections. Don't take too low a price in this spot however.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	6 /13	Ballerina d'Oro / Bless the Broken	10-1 / 30-1	4	#6: Small WP Bet #13: Small PS Bet

### Notes

This year's Kentucky Oaks features a prohibitive favorite in Good Cheer. She's a likely winner, but I'll be using many underneath and maybe on the win end too. She doesn't "wow" me and we've seen strange results in the

## Power Picks

race before. I'd be very surprised, similar to the Derby, if the pace is not fast. Both #6 Ballerina d'Oro and to a lesser extent, #13 Bless the Broken (who might excel on a wet track), will be closing late into an expected fast pace. The other likely closer, Take Charge Milady, would be on this Spot Play, but I have questions about her feet (she missed a workout). Good Cheer might win by 3-4 lengths, but don't be surprised if either of the gals I mentioned come flying late for a piece. If the pace is slower than I think or the track is tilted to early speed, those two have no chance.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
13	12	Cue the Duckboats	8-1	4	\$10 WP #12
Notes					
The finale on Oaks Day is a nice maiden event, and any time Trainer Mott and rider Alvarado (connections for Sovereignty in the Derby) team up, it gets my attention. #12 Cue the Duckboats ran a bang-up race at Tampa first out into a wicked-hot early pace. She stuck around well until the very end, and should improve today. As I stated earlier on this Tip Sheet, the outside draw going 7f is no problem for me...stalk and pounce. I expect a very good effort today in a race with no definitive favorites. She's been working well since in Florida and locally...if the track is wet (and even if it's not), a horse with the name "duck" in it would be an appropriate way to end a potential rain-soaked Oaks Day!! FYI, weather is supposed to clear out by early afternoon, and this race goes off around 7pm EST local time.					

### **Matt Miller "Smash It" Play of the Day:**

***\*\*Note...for those of you who don't know, Matt is a great friend, 2021 Breeders Cup Betting Challenge Champion, and author of a terrific book, "A Bettor Way of Thinking". He's simply one of the best "money-managers" in the game of horse racing today. The opinions below are his own.***

It's quite the honor to have an opportunity to add to the Power Picks. My choice for a "SMASH IT" Play of the Day is easy and immediate because there are two elements of it that I like quite a bit.

I'm going to recommend the two-day Oaks-Derby Double as the basis for my play. I have LOTS of reasons for that. For starters, if one hits the first half of the Double, one knows for the entire duration of Saturday that one is alive to score in the Kentucky Derby. Many of us can relate to the notion of losing too much of our money before the big race we wanted to bet. This is a way to solve that problem in advance. Secondly, and I think this is really the key point - if one plans to play both races for sure, it makes a lot of sense to see if there are opportunities to find value in the Double pool. Often there are really juicy overlays (that is, the payout on the Double is superior to what one would get by playing those two races independently).

## Power Picks

I can't get away from Good Cheer in the Oaks. I'm expecting a price of somewhere near even money. As much as I'd like to offer a creative opinion, I don't have one other than recognizing that for many of us, it isn't easy to bet a lot of money on an even money shot. Again, with the Oaks-Derby Double, you just might get a healthy boost to your odds - especially if you like anyone other than Journalism in the Derby.

As for the second half of the Double, I would far prefer that YOU put your top horse or horses on your tickets rather than have you blindly follow my ideas. I hit the Derby at the same semi-low rate as most people, and I have no doubt that every reader has an opinion on the Derby already. I personally plan to play Luxor Cafe and Journalism such that the payouts are the same regardless of which one wins. I'm going to demand at least 15/1 on the Double with Luxor Cafe and 4/1 on the Double with Journalism. Anything less and I'll pass on either or both bets. I suspect I'm going to get far better on both.

Leading up to the Oaks, look at the probable payouts and see if you are pleased with what the market is offering you. I would try to limit your selections in the Derby to no more than two (maybe three if you toss Journalism). I wouldn't blindly accept whatever the payout is. After deciding what each of your Derby horse's odds should be, do a little math to determine if the price you are getting in the Double is a good deal when pairing him up in a parlay with an even money shot in the Oaks. If your top combination offers rotten value in your perception, I'd consider using a different horse or two or otherwise skipping the bet in favor of playing the races separately.

First things first - let's root home Good Cheer in the Oaks. Then bring it home in the Derby with our top pick(s) - Luxor Cafe and Journalism for me!

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

