



Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	Saturday, 7/25
Tip Sheet By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

Today's feature is named for the Coaching Club of America, which was founded in New York City by Col. DeLancey Astor Kane, Col. William Jay and seven other men who sought to emulate the revival of coaching as a sport in England. A requirement for membership was the ability to handle a coach and four horses with a single group of reins. From 1876-1910 there were 104 members of the Coaching Club, including Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, for whom the co-feature is named.

Now that the history lesson is out of the way, let's look at a typically very solid Saturday card at Saratoga. The CCA Oaks is Round 3 of Counting Stars vs. Always a Runner. The latter won the Kentucky Oaks, but Counting Stars got her revenge in a big way in the Acorn, running by Always a Runner like she was tied to a pole. And don't forget Howard's favorite girl, Zany, who could find herself on or near the lead. Built looks like he has the Vanderbilt field over a barrel.

As always, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES, but don't worry about the weather today. It will be low 80s and sunny, i.e. perfect.

Today's Picks

***For information on how to read an "ABC Grid" and ticket construction, please refer to our podcast website, hhhracingpodcast.com, and go to the "Power Picks" section...you have to scroll down a bit on the "Standard" Power Picks page...a video explanation is also available on the page.*

**Go to the next page for our analysis of the races.
Good luck to everyone today!**



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ABC Grid - Post Time 12:35 p.m. EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks (use in horizontal bets)	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	6,7	5,9	1,4,8	5,6,7,9	\$0.50 P5	\$64
2	1,3	7,8	2	1,3,7,8		
3	3,9	1,8	2,10	3,9		
4	3,5	2,9 (11AE)		2,3,5,9		
5	10	6,9	2,5	10		
6	8		2,7	8		
7	4,9	2,7	8	2,4,7,9		
8	9,12	2,4		2,4,9,12	\$1 P5	\$96
9	1,8	7	6	1,8		
10	1	6,7	8	1		
11	4,5	7,9 (13AE)	11,12	4,5,7,9		
12	5,7	4 (14AE)	2 (13AE)	4,5,7		

Top 3 Selections:

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	6	7	5
2	3	1	7
3	3	9	1
4	3	9	5
5	10	6	9
6	8	2	1
7	9	4	7



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8	9	12	2
9	8	1	7
10	1	6	8
11	5	7	4
12	5	7	4

Late P5 Analysis: R8-12

Built will be a popular single in the second leg, but I will use Damon's Mound as well, at least on backups. If you're playing a caveman, I suggest choosing between Counting Stars and Always a Runner. It will be an 8-horse field at most and it is highly likely one of those two wins. Using both doubles the cost of the ticket and could prevent you from spreading elsewhere. I would want to get as much coverage as possible in the last two races.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
1	6	Help a Girl Out	5-1	3.5	\$20 WP
Notes					
Value is the name of the game, and with another high-priced Flightline progeny in here, if you can beat her you can get value. There was a similar scenario in the opener last Saturday, when a Brad Cox firster paid a generous \$8.80. This daughter of Gun Runner is one of two in here for Todd Pletcher, who wins at 22% with 2-year-old FTS in dirt sprints. Gun Runner's 2YO debut runners win at 19%. Two siblings have won, neither on debut. Flavien Prat riding is a bonus.					
Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	9	Bella Knows	4-1	3.5	\$5 EX Key Box 9 / 2,4,12
Notes					
PLAY OF THE DAY: Timeform predicts a fast pace for this race and I agree, so I want a closer. This filly has been no better than sixth after a half-mile in any of her four races, so she fits the bill. A field of 12 means Irad Ortiz Jr. will likely have to navigate traffic, but we'll take our chances with him. This Ohio-bred has enjoyed the longer distances and perhaps wants to go even further than 8½ furlongs. Brad Cox won 12 races overall last year and already has 8 and we are still a week away from August 1.					



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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	1	Counting Stars	2-1	5	\$50 Win

Notes

Hear me out. I know we typically do not include 2-1 shots in our Spot Plays. But refer back to the earlier discussion on value. Value does not necessarily equate to price. Value occurs when the odds are higher than what you think they should be, and that is often dictated by another horse taking more action than you think they should. That is the case here, IMO. David Aragona, as good a morning line maker as there is, made Always a Runner the 9-5 ML favorite and he might be on target. Regardless of the loss to Counting Stars in the Acorn last time, she was 3-3 prior to that, including an impressive Kentucky Oaks score. Daughter of Gun Runner is eminently capable, but I can't get past how dominant Counting Stars looked last time, storming by Always a Runner in the stretch. Mark Casse is also off to a good start with 6 wins. If Counting Stars is the same or higher odds then her rival, I would feel good about a win bet.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	5	Turriga	10-1	3	\$20 WP

Notes

Here is the weekly attempt to be clever. There figures to be a fast pace in this turf sprint – what else is new? – and I think Turriga could be faster than the four horses on his left, which would allow him to get to the rail and perhaps dictate terms. Ricardo Santana Jr. is having another good Saratoga meet, tied for fourth in wins (with Irad) with 10. (Harold) James Bond has 2 wins and has hit the board with 6 of 10 starters. Shaving a half-furlong should also help this Bond homebred. There is a chance she gets caught up in a hot pace, but when you're getting double-digit odds, that's a risk you have to be willing to assume. Turriga is a famous Italian red wine. Let's get this one home and pour a glass – or three.

Race

Program # - Horse

Short Rationale

Most Likely Winner	6	#8 Emerging Market	From the Derby and Belmont to an allowance. Don't overthink it.
Best Longshot (10-1 ML or higher)	3	#8 Gold on Black	Wide open MSW. Saez steals it.



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**Favorite Vertical/Horizontal Plays in addition to the
Price/Spot Plays Bets**

Race	Selections	Cost
6	\$25 Daily Double: 8 / 4,9	\$50
9	\$40 EX 8 / 1	\$40

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

