

Power Picks

Race Date	12/20/25
Edition #	Vol. 5, No. 51

Race-Day Overview

We're winding down 2025 with the penultimate Power Picks Tip Sheet of the year. There are plenty of good stake races on tap today (and tomorrow at Turfway Park). First, we'll head to S. Florida and the Gulfstream Park card with 5 stakes for their Pegasus Preview Day. These are all preps for the 8 stakes on Pegasus Day, Jan. 24th. Then, we'll head to New Orleans for The Fairgrounds first stakes day in a series of cards for the Road to the Kentucky Derby. Their Late P5, with 4 stakes, is excellent....let the Derby and Oaks dreams begin!

*****Look at last Saturday's Tip Sheet/email for deep-dive analysis of the Turfway Park Synthetic Championship stakes, which were moved from last week to tomorrow (Sunday). Check the track for times of those races....first post is 3pm EDT.***

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.04** (\$1,997.94 / 980)

YTD: **\$1.76** (\$411.33 / 234)

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: Gulfstream Park

Howard Kravets' STAKES-ONLY ABC Grid – R5 starts at 2:18pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	5,7	8	2,3,6	5,7,8	-	-
6	5,6	-	3	5,6		
9	2,4,8	7,9	5,10	2,4,5,7,8,9		
10	2,5	1,3	7	2,5		
11	5,6	2,3,10	8	2,3,5,6,10		

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Paul Halloran's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	7,8	3,5		5,7,8		
6	3,5	6		3,5		
9	2,4	8,9	5,7	2,4,5,7,8,9	\$5 Pick 3	\$60
10	2,5		1,7	2,5		
11	2,6	5,8	3	6		

Pete Visco's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	5,8	3,7	6	5,7,8	-	-
6	5,6	1,3	7	5,6	-	-
9	2,8,9	4,5	6	2,4,8,9	\$1 P3	\$24
10	2,5	7	3,6	2,5	-	-
11	2,6	5,8	3,9,10	2,6,8	-	-

Howard's ALL-STAKES Analysis – Races #5,6,9,10,11

Today's Pegasus Preview Day has a nice mix of talent with fields that range from medium size to large. As you can see by my grid, I found it hard to find singles in these races, although you certainly could take a stand in R6 and maybe R10. Otherwise, I think you'll have to spread somewhat in R5, 9, and 11. The most challenging race is most likely R9, The Suwanee River S. for the girls. I would not take a low price on the win end with anyone, as many are hard to trust and capable of stepping up. The other big question is what to do with likely favorite Skippy Longstocking in R10. He's tons the class, but was awful last time....does he have anything left in the tank? Probably single or fade.

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)
5	7	Litigation	4-1	4	\$20 WP #7

Notes:

As most of you know, I'm not the biggest fan of turf sprints, as one misstep (stumble, steady, etc...) can ruin your chances....very small margin for error. That being said, I do like **#7 Litigation** today for red-hot trainer Brian Lynch, who's 5-for-11 as of this writing at GP so far this Championship Meet. Although he's never competed in a stake and is much less exposed, he's as sharp as they come. He's won 4 of his last 5 vs. N1X and very good allowance horses, and now steps up. The 3yo is progressive, talented, well-drawn outside the main speed, and is primed and ready today. He's fast enough to win, and there could be much more in the tank going forward. I expect him to be around 3-1 at post time, which is fine by me. He has a bright future...I think a big 2026 is coming from this 3yo runner by Twirling Candy.

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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6	5	Nic's Style	9-5	4	\$30 Win #5 \$15 Backup Exacta: 6-5

Notes:

The Sugar Swirl S. is basically a two-horse affair between my top choice #5 Nic's Style and her next-door neighbor, the speedy #6 Mystic Lake. The big question is, has Nic's Style lost a bit off the fastball? Probably yes, but that doesn't mean she can't win here. I was against her off the layoff with the rail draw in NY last time, and she ran just fine, but not great. However, the filly she lost to came back and won, and is probably the best female sprinter / middle-distance horse in training right now. Today, she receives a better post draw, should run better 2nd start off the layoff, and is 3-for-3 at GP. I assume she'll be 2nd choice, so the value should be there. Plus, there's other speed inside of Mystic Lake to make her work for the lead, in theory. This is a make-or-break race for me and Nic's Style. In Mott / Alvarado I trust.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	8	Public Defender	12-1	5	\$15 WP #8 Trifectas: 8 / 2,4,7,9 / 2,4,5,7,9,10 2,4,7,9 / 8 / 2,4,5,7,9,10 2,4,7,9 / 2,4,7,9,10 / 8

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT GULFSTREAM PARK!! Let's see if we can duplicate last week's Play of the Day turf score at GP. **She may only be an underneath type here, we'll see.** The Suwanee River S. is probably the most wide-open race on the card, so it's admittedly a bit risky to make **#8 Public Defender** my Top Play, because many in here can win. But that's exactly why I'm doing it...if I'm right, we'll score nicely and get value! The Joseph-trained 4yr. has been a mark of consistency and gradually getting better. Last time vs. a high-class allowance (basically G3-level) field at Keeneland, Public Defender received a Beyer top while in a bit tight late. I like the way she fought on inside the winner, talented graded-stakes winner Proctor Street, while in a claustrophobic spot. She wasn't winning, but that effort is good enough to win today, and I think she could improve even more. With all the early speed signed on, I hope Prat takes further back and makes a big late run, similar to what she did 2 and 3-back. The trainer change here could be massive...Cibelli is solid, but she's no Saffie at GP. It is fair to say that Saffie is probably better with his dirt runners than turf. With Prat aboard, the intent is there, although he'll lower the price. I'll go \$1WP for our Spot Play ROI. Use in all spots underneath as well, good luck in "court" with Public Defender!!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	5	Poster	2-1	3	\$15 Win #5 BIG Exacta 5-2 Smaller Exacta 2-5

Notes:

I'll be taking a stand horizontally in the Harlan's Holiday S. For me, it's a two-horse race between my top pick **#5 Poster** and the \$3mil + earner #2 Skippy Longstocking. Poster is lightly-raced and clearly has had some physical issues, but 2nd off the layoff I'm expecting a big effort, plus the connections pointed to this race for a reason. I thought his TB Derby (and Remsen S.) effort was solid, so I'm not too worried about the dirt, but he's probably a bit better on turf/synthetic. Skippy just can't be fully trusted anymore, although can obviously win today. This could be the start of something special for Poster.

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Racetrack: The Fairgrounds

Howard Kravets' ABC Grid – R8 starts at 5:15pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	2	7	1,3,6	2	\$0.50 P5	\$90
9	2,7	6	5,8	2,6,7		
10	3,7	6	1,2,5	3,7		
11	2,3	1,8	5,7	1,2,3,5,7,8		
12	3,5,11	6,12	7	3,5,6,11,12		

Howard's Late Pick 5 Analysis – Races 8 - 12

The first "Road to the Kentucky Derby" card at The Fairgrounds ends with a nice Late P5 w/4 stakes. This sequence is VERY PLAYABLE and HIGHLY RECOMMEND you play it. There are several places in which you could single and take a stand, lowering your money spent. OR, you could try and hit it more than once, OR you could fade some favorites too. I'll be doing the middle option....playing a smallish ticket and try to smash for more than once. The singles or most thin races for me will be the early part of the sequence, R8-10. I'll be spreading much more (as you can see in the ABC Grid above) in the last two races....that's where I think we could find a price. In R8, #2 Just a Touch should not lose if given a correct ride and ready off the small layoff, and the #2 and #7 could be tough in R9. The 2yo races are the ones where semi-chaos could occur. Good luck!

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	Sir Greyland	6-1	5	\$5 Win, \$25 Place BIG EXACTA: 2-6 BIG TRIFECTAS: 2,7 / 1,2,3,5,7 / 6

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT THE FAIRGROUNDS! It's rare that a Top Play is PURELY AN UNDERNEATH play, but that's the case for Sir Greyland. For our Tip Sheet ROI, we'll go \$1 Win and \$3 to Place. #2 Just a Touch should win, although #7 Not This Boy is no slouch either. I'll play a small insanity win bet on Greyland just in case. But here's my main opinion....Sir Greyland is faster than he looks on paper. I know, he's run 4 straight 90 Beyer's and his top is only 92, but visually, he looks professional and is improving. Not only that, he's been involved in slower paces, and can't receive too high a Beyer because of it. His Timeform U.S. figs put him about 3-4 lengths slower than the best in here, but IF the rail horse goes, or there's even a little bit of hitting up front, this horse will ROLL late. He's worked over the FG strip now, and I expect Hernandez to take a bit further back, make a ground-saving run, and hope to finish out the exacta or trifecta. You can EASILY get value in this game keying a horse underneath, and that's my play with Sir Greyland today. All I need him to do is finish 2nd or 3rd without a bomb winning the race, and I'll be happy to cash my big exacta or trifecta ticket. I'll use him defensively in my horizontal plays, because if he happens to win, that'll blow up the ticket!

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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	7	Pashmina	5-1	3	\$10 WP #7

Notes:

The 2yo girls division is crying out for a breakout horse...maybe today will produce one in the Untapable S. #7 Pashmina was very impressive last time, albeit with a perfect trip and weak competition. She broke well, rated kindly behind a speed duel, blew by those and finished strongly while in hand the final 200 yards. Now, this is tougher company and she'll have to run faster, but she's worked well since, is bred to run long (Tapit and Super Saver in the 2nd family), and could easily improve here for Trainer Atras. Her trip today, ideally, will be similar to her last effort. Let the #1 and #4 go, sit off of them, and make your move on the turn. Or, if they don't, just sit in 2nd off the leader comfortably. If she breaks, it's hard to envision Pashmina NOT getting a good trip...question is simply will she be fast enough to win. I think yes.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	3	Liberty National	7-2	4	\$20 WIn #3 BIG Exactas: 3 / 1,2 Smaller Exactas: 1,2 / 3

Notes:

First, let me say the ML 7-2 is a pipedream. I think he'll be bet way down to something like 9-5. I certainly would NOT place a win bet on him anything lower than that, and 9-5 is a bit low anyway, hoping for more like 5-2. There's a little bit of Ky. Derby Future Bet buzz on this runner, and I get it. McPeck has two in here, and his go-to guy opts here, enough said. Although Liberty did get a great trip last time, saving ground and tipping out late, he did it VERY professionally and looked excellent in the lane. McPeck brings his younger horses around slowly, so the 81 Beyer is just the beginning for this one. There should be at least a little hitting up front, and this one should be mid-pack ready and explode on the far turn and down the long stretch. If he runs well, that's a positive for some in the last race, as there are many that raced in the Liberty National maiden-breaker last time out. I'm looking forward to him running this afternoon/early evening...this is one you'll want to keep an eye on this winter and spring on the Road to the Kentucky Derby!

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

****Special note: Starting ON NEXT WEEK's TIP SHEET for the opening of the Santa Anita meeting on Dec. 26th, we'll have special coverage of the \$1Min. Coast-to-Coast Pick 5, which combines races from Gulfstream Park and Santa Anita! Only 15% takeout and retail wagers only, (NO CAW's). Stay tuned for more details!**

