

Power Picks

Race Date	2/06/26
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Race-Day Overview

With the big cancellations, this weekend's great racing (outside of California) will occur today, FRIDAY, as Oaklawn has a huge card of stake races and field sizes for Southwest Stakes Day, and Aqueduct the same for Withers S. Day. Both of the headline races are worth 20 Ky. Derby points to winners as the Road to the Derby heats up! Less than 3 months left until the first Saturday in May!

****Take note...our first several pages discuss Oaklawn. The Pick 5 sequence there STARTS AFTER Aqueduct, which is the 2nd sequence we discuss....so the tracks are NOT listed in chronological order today, FYI. Also, I decided to put Aqueduct on here instead of SA b/c we haven't touted NY in a while.**

There are good supporting stakes at both locales....weather will be just fine Friday in both places. The Late P'5's, especially at Oaklawn, are VERY challenging with fun betting puzzles abound. AS ALWAYS, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES, GOOD LUCK!!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.06** (\$2,098.34 / 1021)

2026: **\$2.59** (\$72.50 / 28)

2026 Plays of the Day: **\$3.53** (\$24.60 / 7)

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: Oaklawn Park

Howard Kravets' Late P5 ABC GRID - R8 starts at 3:58pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	3,8	5,6,10,11	7	3,5,6,8,10,11	\$0.50 LP5	\$108
9	5	4,8,(13)	1,9,10,11,12	5	-	-
10	5,7,11	3,8,10	-	3,5,7,8,10,11	-	-
11	7,11	2,13	3,4,9	7,11	-	-
12	2,12	10,11	6,13	2,10,12	-	-

Paul Halloran's Late P5 ABC Grid:

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

Pete Visco's Late P5 ABC Grid:

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

Howard's Late P5 Analysis - Races 8-12

Oaklawn Park has been off for a while, but they have certainly come back with a BANG!! Today's Late P5 has massive fields and is challenging. If you don't have a relatively big bankroll, or don't want to call up some friends/family members to share the expenses, you might want to take a pass today and play a P3/P4, etc....The biggest spread races in the sequence for me are R8 and R10, while I'll be going skinny in R9 and R11 with backups. The last race is a big field, but I think there are some logical contenders and a massive spread is not necessary. My big stand, for the most part, will come in R9 with #5 Vital Mind (8-5). But even that one is no sure thing. And in the Southwest S. , the scratch of morning line fave #5 Litmus Test opens the door for others....I won't be going very deep there either as I have a strong opinion which I'll explain below.

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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)
8	8	Energize	8-1	3	\$10 WP #8 BIG Exactas: 8 / 3,5,6,10,11 Smaller Exactas: 3,5,6,10,11 / 8

Notes:

The opening leg of the Late P5 is a doozy. I would NOT take a short price on anyone in here. I like **#8 Energize** for Trainer Stidham and Godolphin. I cashed on him two back at CD at 6-1 when he beat a good but not great field. However, my main theme with him is his upside. The horse wants to run all day, and I believe he's just gonna get better and better. He does have to improve a few lengths, but that's WELL WITHIN his scope. I thought he ran VERY well last time in a solid field first time on the synthetic, including stakes winner Flying Gambit. He might have moved a little bit too soon and got caught late. Unlike others, he has NOT missed any training time being stabled at the FG, which is a common theme I'll be talking about today, while others stabled at OP have missed time due to the weather. We'll see if that matters....but in a wide open field, every little angle in your favor helps. There's plenty of early speed to setup his mid-pack / closing style. It's gonna come down to trip and pace, and if Energize gets either one, he's got a big shot at a decent price, I'd say around 5-1.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	4	Hailstorm	10-1	3	\$5 Win, \$15 Place / Show #4

Notes:

For full disclosure, David Jacobson is not my favorite trainer, for reasons I will not get into on this tip sheet. That being said, I do think **#4 Hailstorm** is fascinating in this race, especially as an UNDERNEATH play, so I'll go \$1 PS for our Tip Sheet ROI. The best horses in this race want to be forward, and there's plenty of them. Plus, other than Vital Mind, no one really sticks out at all. Hailstorm is a consistent closer who has numbers not that far off from most of the field. Last time, he didn't get the best break out of the gate, then had to wait a bit nearing the far turn and was shuffled back to last. His late run was marginal at best, but the winner Speed King was tons the best and jockey Vazquez semi-wrapped up late on Hailstorm. I like the switch to Torres...and if Hailstorm is not too far back today and can make his usual late run, I see him getting into the trifecta. A win would not shock me either if they fly early and Vital Mind doesn't run his "B-race" or better. Use Hailstorm in all exotics underneath plus "insanity win bet" on top.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	7	Anakarina	10-1	4+	\$20 WP #7 Trifectas: 7 / 5,11 / 3,5,8,10,11 5,11 / 7 / 3,5,8,10,11 5,11 / 3,5,8,10,11 / 7

Notes:

I almost made **#7 Anakarina** my Play of the Day. I know she looks on paper like she's unlikely, but I don't think so....she can win!! If you break down her PP's you'll notice she's a one-way speed type, and I agree with that. Let's look at her last few races. In the last two, she's been caught in wicked speed duels. The horses she battled in BOTH races up front, coincidentally, FINISHED LAST while she still hung for a slice. Two back, the horse that battled her was Grand Job, who came back and won the G3 Inside Information on Pegasus Day at GP. 3-back, she didn't break well and was on turf...a complete toss.

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Then 4-back, she wired the field nicely. I'll know within the first 5 seconds if she has a shot. There's not a lot of confirmed early speed (at least not "dead-send" types), and if Anakarina can get loose on the lead into reasonable fractions, I think she'll be a big danger. It would help this filly if track favors speed too today. I'm simply not going to tout sub 2-1 shots on these tip sheets. I take swings unless a favorite looks extremely tough to beat. When you're right about a price, you need to get paid...I'm hoping Anakarina fits that bill for us today if you agree with me and go for it.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	7	Liberty National	10-1	5	\$10 Win, \$30 Place 7

Notes:

This is my PLAY OF THE DAY TODAY AT OAKLAWN in the biggest race of the day, #7 Liberty National. I have two main concerns: 1) He'll be the "wise-guy" horse of the race and bet down way too low for my liking (there already was a DRF article about him for this race on Monday...believe me, that matters), and 2) He's just not good enough, even if the pace melts down. With favorite #5 Litmus Test scratched, there's less early speed, but there's also a major contender that can't win also because he's not running. The key will be simple: how much pace pressure / how good is #2 D'Code? He's very fast and obviously talented, but I'm not a fan of big maiden winners going 6f on the lead stretching out 2-turns vs. other fast horses that need the lead or will be up close too. Plus, D'Code is not bred for this necessarily. I'm just taking a stand against, for better or worse. Liberty National got bumped at the start pretty badly and lost major early position in the Gun Runner stakes. He stayed on the rail the rest of the race (NOT the place to be that day) and closed nicely for 3rd. I thought he was best that day. Granted, that field did not flatter in their next start overall, but I have faith in McPeek, who said the colt is improving and working great. Again, due to NOT being stabled locally, his training has NOT been interrupted by the awful weather. He'll need plenty of pace to run into, a trip, and a few lengths of improvement to win....all are reasonable expectations. Now, I hope he's at least 5-1, but might not be. Very important race for him this winter.

Racetrack: Aqueduct

Howard Kravets' Late P5 ABC GRID - Race 7 starts at 2:44pm EDT

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

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	8	He Got This	6-1	3	\$15 WP #8

Notes:

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Big field of \$10k claimers and lots of questions. One thing appears for certain: a quick early pace. That's why I'll go with **#8 He Got This** to run them down late. He's been very consistent, and most importantly will get speed to close into AND is dropping back in distance. I believe both of those important aspects will help get him to the wire.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	1	Chillax	5-2	4	\$25 Win #1 BIG EXACTAS: 1 / 5,6,7,9,10 Small Exactas: 5,6,7,9,10 / 1

Notes:

Very difficult but fun allowance race going 9 panels greets bettors here in R9. I have a bit of a history / story with **#1 Chillax**, my top choice. When I was in Saratoga this past summer, I saw Chillax run a "disappointing" 2nd to a nice Pletcher horse. Our group spoke to Junior Alvarado at the barn the next morning about the trip / race, and he said the connections (Godolphin) have been frustrated with his goofiness / unwillingness at times to pass horses late and hang. They've tried blinkers, etc...tactic changes, etc... They have always believed he's talented, and he showed that by breaking his maiden at Churchill. But now, Mott has decided to make the ultimate equipment change of gelding him. He's worked well since, will save ground, and have every chance to go by late. Big shot...perhaps he can finally live up to his potential. He's a bit of a "fresh face" vs. many that have faced each other lately.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	1	Grittiness	9-2	5	\$15 WP #1

Notes:

The G3 Withers is part of the NY Road to the Derby and stretches out horses to 1 1/8th mile. The distance plays a big role in choosing **#1 Grittiness as my PLAY OF THE DAY AT AQUEDUCT!** The Repole/Pletcher trainee was in tough last time in the Remsen, facing the likes of current Derby Top 3 candidate Paladin and talented stablemate Renegade. Point of note: #3 Otinho for Chad might go to Tampa Bay for the Sam F. Davis instead of here. Either way, there's some speed for favorite #2 Schoolyardsuperman to deal with, and "Superman" has never gone beyond 1 mile. I know Grittiness looks a little slow on paper, but he hasn't raced in 2 months, so improvement is likely. In the last aforementioned, he swung 8-wide on the far turn and lost ground...the race basically held together up front, and he had no chance. He has to improve today, but not too much in my opinion. He's the value of the race.

Coast-to-Coast (CTC) Pick 5 Preview

Sponsored by Santa Anita / 1st Racing

1/ST
SATURDAY/FEB 7



COAST-TO-COAST

PICK 5

EVERY FRI/SAT/SUN

RETAIL ONLY

 RACE 11 - 5:18 ET
 RACE 5 - 5:35 ET
 RACE 12 - 5:48 ET
 RACE 6 - 6:05 ET
 RACE 7 - 6:35 ET

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Below is my 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. 5:18pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
GP11	3,7	1,2	-	1,2,3,7	\$1	\$48
SA5	1,4	-	3	1,4		
GP12	2	-	7,8,9	2		
SA6	5,7	-	1,3	5,7		
SA7	4,7	2	3,8	2,4,7		

Overall opinion: Since the beginning of the CTC bet in December, I've never given out such a "thin" ticket as you see above. The combination of smaller field sizes and likely winners has created a situation where you don't have to spend a lot of money. Not only that, there are a few races you could single based on your handicapping opinion. I always try to be creative with some price horses, but frankly, found that to be difficult. I would never normally suggest pressing up in a \$1 base bet; however, today could be the day to do that. My most logical press-ups / singles would be #2 Wine on Sunday in R12 at GP, and Splendor in R6 at SA. In a weird way, based on off-odds / value, I think Wine on Sunday would be my preferred single even Splendor is probably the most likely winner.

YouTube preview...."Wire to Wire Ep. #6": <https://youtube.com/live/tVWqUwqwJHs?feature=share>

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

