

Race Date 5/2/25

## **Race-Day Overview**

Welcome to Kentucky Oaks Day! Today's card at Churchill Downs is outstanding as usual for this big day, with many stakes races and excellent betting opportunities. Races start bright and early, first post is 11 a.m. 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, AND perhaps the afternoon, so be aware of track conditions. I doubt the turf stakes will be taken off the grass, but Race 3 may be switched to the main track. 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!

\*\*NOTE: All of our podcast talent will be contributing in different ways. We've all worked very hard to give you the best information possible. Pick and choose your bets wisely, as there are 27 races this weekend at Churchill...budget accordingly, and as always, go with your best opinions!

### **CRUSH YOUR BETS!**



### **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. Churchill Downs does NOT allow bets through DRF Bets ADW's, so you'd have to manually punch in horizontal tickets if using this method.

### **Racetrack: Churchill Downs**

#### **ABC Grid – Full Card**

Howard Kravets' Grid: (assumes stakes races scheduled for grass stay on the turf)

Race	Α	В	С
1	3,4	-	5
2	3,4,9,11	1,5,7,8	10
3	Turf: 3,6,11 Dirt: 1,3,14	Turf: 1,10,12 Dirt: 6,15	-
4	3,7,9	1,4,5,10	-
5	5,8	7	-
6	2	4	3,5
7	2,4	5	-
8	2,7	8	3
9	12	5,10	7
10	9	4,5	3,6
11	10,11,14	6,7,13	2,8
12	7,10	5,6	2,3,8,11
13	3,12	7,8,10	4,9

All-Graded Stakes Pick 5 Tickets (R7 - 11)

BIG BUDGET: \$180

#1: 2,4,5 / 2,7,8 / 5,7,10,12 / 9 / 6,7,8,10,11,13,14 (\$126 Main Ticket)

#2: 2,4 / 2,7 / 5,10,12 / 3,4,5,6 / 10,11,14 (\$54...This ticket "backs-up" single in R9 on Main Ticket)

**SMALL BUDGET: (\$24)** 

#1: 2,4 / 2,7 / 5,10,12 / 9 / 6,10,11,14 (\$24 Main Ticket)



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

Race	А	В	С	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	5,8	2,7	1	-	-	-
6	2,4	-	3	-	-	-
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 Grid:

Race	Α	В	С	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	2,5	7	8	2,5	-	-
6	2	3,4	-	- 2,3,4		-
7	2,4	5	1	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	-	-

Go to the next page for HHH Racing Podcast Hosts and Co-Hosts Top Picks....



## **Top 3 Picks for each FRIDAY STAKES Race**

Name	Race 5:	Race 6:	Race 7:	Race 8:
	G2 Edgewood	G2 Alysheba	G1 La Troiene	G3 Modesty
Howard	#8 - Will Then	#2 - Locked	#4 - Raging Sea	#7 - She Feels Pretty
	#5 - Nitrogen	#4 - Fierceness	#2 - Thorpedo Anna	#2 - Gimme a Nother
	#7 - Lush Lips	#5 - Most Wanted	#5 - Randomized	#8 - Saffron Moon
Paul	#2 - Vixen	#2 - Locked	#4 - Raging Sea	#3 - Segesta
	#5 - Nitrogen	#3 - Hall of Fame	#2 - Thorpedo Anna	#7 - She Feels Pretty
	#8 - Will Then	#4 - Fierceness	#5 - Randomized	#8 - Saffron Moon
Pete	#5 - Nitrogen	#2 - Locked	#4 - Raging Sea	#7 - She Feels Pretty
	#8 - Will Then	#4 - Fierceness	#2 - Thorpedo Anna	#8 - Saffron Moon
	#2 - Vixen	#3 - Hall of Fame	#6 - Taxed	#2 - Gimme a Nother
Kyle	#5 - Nitrogen	#2 - Locked	#2 - Thorpedo Anna	#7 - She Feels Pretty
	#8 - Will Then	#3 - Hall of Fame	#5 - Randomized	#2 - Gimme a Nother
	#2 - Vixen	#4 - Fierceness	#4 - Raging Sea	#8 - Saffron Moon
Patrick	#5 - Nitrogen	#2 - Locked	#2 - Thorpedo Anna	#7 - She Feels Pretty
	#7 - Lush Lips	#4 - Fierceness	#5 - Randomized	#3 - Segesta
	#2 - Vixen	#3 - Hall of Fame	#4 - Raging Sea	#2 - Gimme a Nother
Charlie	#5 - Nitrogen	#2 - Locked	#2 - Thorpedo Anna	#7 - She Feels Pretty
	#2 - Vixen	#4 - Fierceness	#4 - Raging Sea	#2 - Gimme a Nother
	#7 - Lush Lips	#3 - Hall of Fame	#5 - Randomized	#8 - Saffron Moon
Noah	#7 - Lush Lips	#4 - Fierceness	#4 - Raging Sea	#2 - Gimme a Nother
	#5 - Nitrogen	#2 - Locked	#2 - Thorpedo Anna	#7 - She Feels Pretty
	#2 - Vixen	#3 - Hall of Fame	#5 - Randomized	#8 - Saffron Moon
Ryan	#5 Nitrogen	#2 Locked	#2 Thorpedo Anna	#2 Gimme a Nother
	#7 Lush Lips	#3 Hall of Fame	#4 Raging Sea	#8 Saffron Moon
	#2 Vixen	#4 Fierceness	#5 Randomized	#7 She Feels Pretty
Jackson	#5 Nitrogen	#4 Fierceness	#4 Raging Sea	#2 Gimme a Nother
	#8 Will Then	#2 Locked	#5 Randomized	#8 Saffron Moon
	#7 Lush Lips	#3 Hall of Fame	#2 Thorpedo Anna	#7 She Feels Pretty



Name	Race 9:	Race 10:	Race 11:
	G2 Eight Belles	G3 Unbridled Sydney	G1 Kentucky Oaks
Howard	#12 - Eclatant	#9 - Queen Maxima	#10 - Take Charge Milady
	#5 - Verity	#5 - Epona's Hope	#11 - Good Cheer
	#10 - Impulse Buy	#3 - Gavea	#14 - Quietside
Paul	#12 - Eclatant	#4 - Ag Bullet	#11 - Good Cheer
	#10 - Impulse Buy	#6 - Bling	#6 - Ballerina d'Oro
	#5 - Verity	#9 - Queen Maxima	#14 - Quietside
Pete	#7 - Mendela	#9 - Queen Maxima	#11 - Good Cheer
	#12 - Eclatant	#4 - Ag Bullet	#6 - Ballerina d'Oro
	#5 - Verity	#5 - Epona's Hope	#14 - Quietside
Kyle	#5 - Verity	#9 - Queen Maxima	#10 - Take Charge Milady
	#10 - Impulse Buy	#4 - Ag Bullet	#14 - Quietside
	#7- Mendela	#6 - Bling	#11 - Good Cheer
Patrick	#11 - Look Forward	#4 - Ag Bullet	#6 - Ballerina d'Oro
	#7 - Mandela	#6 - Bling	#14 - Quietside
	#10 - Impulse Bay	#9 - Queen Maxima	#11 - Good Cheer
Charlie	#10 - Impulse Buy	#4 - Ag Bullet	#11 - Good Cheer
	#5 - Verity	#9 - Queen Maxima	#2 - Simply Joking
	#7 - Mendela	#6 - Bling	#6 - Ballerina d'Oro
Noah	#10 - Impulse Buy	#9 - Queen Maxima	#2 - Simply Joking
	#5 - Verity	#4 - Ag Bullet	#11 - Good Cheer
	#12 - Eclatant	#3 - Gavea	#10 - Take Charge Milady
Ryan	#10 Impulse Buy	#9 Queen Maxima	#11 Good Cheer
	#7 Mendela	#3 Gavea	#9 Tenma
	#9 Bourbon Memory	#6 Bling	#10 Take Charge Milady
Jackson	#2 Evanescence	#9 Queen Maxima	#11 Good Cheer
	#7 Mendela	#4 Ag Bullet	#8 Five G
	#12 Eclatant	#6 Bling	#14 Quietside

## **Best Bets - STAKES RACES ONLY (R5 - 11)**

Name	Race Number/Name	Horse
Howard	Race 6 / Alysheba S.	#2 - Locked
Paul	Race 11 / Kentucky Oaks	#11 - Good Cheer
Pete	Race 6 / Alysheba S.	#2 - Locked



Kyle	Race 9 / Eight Belles	#5 - Verity	
Patrick	Race 7 / La Troiene	#2 - Thorpedo Anna	
Charlie	Race 6 / Alysheba S.	#2 - Locked	
Noah	Race 5 / Edgewood	#7 - Lush Lips	
Ryan	Race 5 / Edgewood	#5 Nitrogen	
Jackson	Race 8 / Modesty	#2 Gimme a Nother	

## **Top Longshot - STAKE RACES ONLY (R5-11)**

Name	Race Number/Name	Horse
Howard	Race 11 / Kentucky Oaks	#6 - Ballerina d'Oro
Paul	Race 9 / Eight Belles	#11 - Look Forward
Pete	Race 9 / Eight Belles	#7 - Mendela
Kyle	Race 11 / Kentucky Oaks	#10 - Take Charge Milady
Patrick	Race 11 / Kentucky Oaks	#1 - Early On
Charlie	Race 9 / Eight Belles	#7 - Mendela
Noah	Race 11 / Kentucky Oaks	#2 - Simply Joking
Ryan	Race 9 / Eight Belles	#7 - Mendela
Jackson	Race 9/ Eight Belles	#2 Evanescence

## 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 Eclatant, 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.

# Price/Spot Play(s) — By Howard Kravets (Reminder, "stars" are rated from 1 – 5, with 5 being the most confident of plays)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
3	6	World Beater	6-1	3	\$15 WP #6 BIG Exactas: 6 / 1,3,10,11,12 Small Exactas: 1,3,10,11,12 / 6

#### **Notes**

\*\*Important to note: I would only bet this horse if the race STAYS ON TURF. This COULD be the only race all weekend that is switched to the dirt if the course receives a lot of rain earlier in the week.

Our first tout on today's Tip Sheet is a talented turf horse for Trainer Riley Mott. World Beater faced a very good runner last time in Dublin's Knight, who in theory would destroy this field. He did get a good trip from a wide draw, but came with a nice run in the stretch. The extra distance, based on breeding, should not be a problem, and there are a lot of question marks with the lower-priced morning line horses here. I'm not sure about the relatively quick turnaround since his last, but he has a big shot with the right trip…he's improving and a major threat at a decent price.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
5	8	Will Then	9-2	4	\$20 Win #8 Trifectas: 8 / 5,7 / 2,4,5,7 5,7 / 8 / 2,4,5,7

#### **Notes**

#8 Will Then might need some extra oxygen to beat the talented #5 Nitrogen, but she's talented in her own right. I'm not usually a fan of West-Coast-based turf horses traveling East, as they're not good for the most part. But Will Then has a nice turn of foot and has been visually impressive. I think she's better "covered up" in behind horses, then exploding late. If she can find a nice spot into the first turn without being wide, and handle a potential softer turf course (the more firm the better for her), she'll produce her late run and perhaps upset the big favorite. She's second off a layoff for a talented turf trainer and rider. VERY curious to see how she stacks up with some of the better 3yo turf fillies today.

<mark>6 2</mark>	Locked	<mark>2-1</mark>	<mark>5</mark>	\$30 Win #2

#### **Notes**



THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT CHURCHILL! Unlike many of my big touts, this one will not be more than his morning line at off odds, more like 8-5. But that might actually be value here and if you single and we're right, it will allow you to spread in other places. The obvious other one here is Fierceness, also for Pletcher. He's uber-talented and ran a hole in the wind in the BC Classic, as he ran into a wicked-fast pace only to succumb late to Sierra Leone. There are two reasons why I think he can beat today: 1) Pletcher had always planned to run Locked here as a prep for the G1 Stephen Foster in Late June. The owner of Fierceness, Repole, wants to run on Derby Day b/c he'll be there, yadayada. That was NOT the original plan. He's prepping for the Met Mile in NY. 2) There's other early speed in here, and Fierceness might not get a comfortable trip, plus he's off a layoff and Locked is not. Locked is very good right now, although probably better going a bit longer than today. I think this race sets up great for him. This should be a great showdown between the two Pletcher runners.

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**

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 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 5-2.

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)
10	3	Gavea	15-1	3	\$5 Win, \$15 Place, \$20 Show #3 Trifectas: 5,9 / 3 / 4,5,6,7,9 5,9 / 4,5,6,9 / 3

#### Notes

CAUTION....this is mainly an UNDERNEATH play in the exactas and trifectas. But you can make as much money with these "bombs" underneath as you can with a big win bet. I have two strong opinions here: 1) I don't love favorite #4 Ag Bullet in this spot (watch our shows and find out), and 2) Gavea MAY love a softer turf course and is one of the few horses in the field with a nice closing kick. She's definitely slower than the top ones today, but she's improving and might get a terrific setup. German-breds do very well on softer turf, and she might get that today. I don't care if she loses by 4-5 lengths, as long as she finishes strong and gets in the money, I'll be happy. Take back and make one big run in the lane. IF the turf is firm, I would DOWNGRADE this horse and not be as aggressive with her.

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 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 BCBC Champion, and author of "A Bettor Way of Thinking". He's simply one of the best "money-managers" in the game of horse racing today.

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).

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!



## **Assorted Horizontal Plays for Oaks Day / 2-Day Bets:**

## Kyle Roscoe

Oaks / Turf Classic / Derby Pick 3 - (\$0.50 base bet)

2,6,9,10,11,14 / 1,6 / 8 (\$60 for \$5)

### Patrick Kuenzel

Early Pick 4 (R2 – 5) (\$0.50 base bet):

4,5,8,9,11 / 3,4,6,11,12 / 1,3,10 / 5 (\$75 for \$1)

## **Charlie Freeman**

Pick 4 (R8 – 11) (\$0.50 base bet): Main and Backup \$84 Total

2,7 / 5,7,10 / 4,9 / 2,11 \$3 Pick 4 (\$72 Total)

2,7 / 5,7,10 / 4,9 / 6,14 \$0.50 Pick 4 (\$12 Total)

## **Noah Meagher**

Oaks / Derby Double (\$1 base bet):

2,11 / 8,18 (\$100 for \$25)

## **Ryan Anderson**

Pick 5 (R5-9) (\$.50 Base Bet)

5/2/2/2,8/7,9,10 (\$90 for \$15)

## **Jackson Muniz**

Oaks / Turf Classic / Derby Pick 3 - (\$0.50 base bet)

11/8,9/8,9,10,19

11/9/8



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

