

Power Picks

Race Date	11/29/25
Edition #	Vol. 5, No. 48

Race-Day Overview

HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL! Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Thursday and the tryptophan has worn off so we can concentrate on handicapping some VERY GOOD cards today with stake races abound with early Derby and Oaks implications/points to be rewarded.

At Churchill today, 2yo stake races dot the scene with points for the Derby and Oaks, plus Pool 2 of the Derby Future Bets are also available through Sunday. And at Del Mar, the Turf Festival kicks off with several turf stakes (and tomorrow too) with talented horses, including a few traveling in from the East Coast to take on the local West Coast contingent. AS ALWAYS, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES, GOOD LUCK!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): \$2.05 (\$1,976.14 / 965)

YTD: \$1.78 (\$389.53 / 219) (some very close 2nd's and 3rd's last week, tough beats!)**

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: Churchill Downs

Howard Kravets' ABC Grid – R7 starts at 4:25pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	2,7	1,3,6,8	-	2,6,7	\$0.50 P5	\$108
9	9,10,11	2,7,8	1,4	2,7,8,9,10,11		
10	6	3,4,5	2,7	6		
11	3,5,9	6,11	13	3,5,6,9		
12	6,8,11	7	5	6,8,11		

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Paul Halloran's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	2,6	7	1	2,6	\$.50 P5	\$96
9	2,9	11,12	1,10	2,9,11,12		
10	6,7	2,4	3	6,7		
11	5,6	9,11	1,3	5,6,9,11		
12	8,11	6,14 (AE)	12,13 (AE)	6,8,11		

Pete Visco's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	2,6	1,7	3,8,9	2,6	\$0.50 P5	\$81
9	2,8,9	1,7	10,11	2,8,9	-	-
10	6,7	4,5	2,3	5,6,7	-	-
11	3,5,6	1,9,11	7,13	3,5,6	-	-
12	7,11	6,8	4,5	7,8,11	-	-

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

The Late P5 on "Stars of Tomorrow II" card is challenging as usual. There are two stakes, both with points towards the Derby and Oaks. The biggest spreads for me will be in R8,R9, and R11. Let the board be your guide in R9, as the horses that have run don't impress me, so I'll be interested in firsters. I'll be taking some stands in the two stake races, R10 and R11. The finale is no bargain either, but I think you can narrow it down to 3 or 4 horses.

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	2	Paige Turner	7-2	3	\$15 WP #2
Notes:					
The Fern Creek S. going 6 ½ is a competitive event. #2 Paige Turner ran very well going 7f last time breaking her maiden and now drops back in distance. There's enough early speed to set up her anticipated midpack trip, and I like the jock switch to J. Ortiz. She's been working VERY well at Keeneland to prepare for today's stakes effort, and should sit a nice, ground-saving trip from the inside. It's a pretty evenly-matched field, so let price be your guide on how much to fire into Paige Turner, an Army Mule Filly out of a Pioneer of the Nile mare who cost \$350k at the March OBS (Florida) sale this past spring. Trainer DeVaux is excellent, as we've discussed on this Tip Sheet on many occasions.					

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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	5	Very Connected	15-1	4	\$10 Win, \$25 Place #5 BIG Exactas: 3,4,6 / 5 Trifecta: 3,4,6 / 2,3,4,6,7 / 5

Notes:

The two stake races on today's card are very similar. R10 and R11 will have heavy favorites, and both are vulnerable in my opinion. **#5 Very Connected** is probably more of an "underneath" type, which is why I'll go \$1 PS for our ROI, but if she wins, I wouldn't be completely shocked. Obviously, #6 Further Ado (7-5) is the horse to beat after he completely destroyed maidens at Keeneland last time, winning by 20 lengths! But, there's a LOT of early speed signed on assuming they're all running, and Very Connected is the only real closer in the race. Typical of McPeck-trained horses, he's improving steadily, and had no chance last time finishing into a slow pace. He's been working well since the Street Sense S. I'm expecting a strong finish again today, and hope he just finishes in the money to spicen up your exactas or trifectas. "Insanity" win bet for me also in play.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	3	Just Singing	15-1	5	\$15 Win, \$20 Place #3 Trifectas: 3 / 5,6,9 / 5,6,9,11 5,6,9 / 3 / 5,6,9,11 5,6,9 / 5,6,9,11 / 3

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT CHURCHILL DOWNS! This stake race for the girls has two obvious characteristics: 1) A wide-open betting board, and 2) An interesting closer in a race loaded with early speed. #12 Explora will be SCRATCHED, but there's still PLENTY of early speed signed on. The one I like, probably more than the previous race, is Spot Play **#3 Just Singing**. I like the way the Justify filly finished in her maiden breaker, as it looked like she was just getting going, and did it professionally. These types of efforts lead me to believe there's plenty more in the tank. Jockey Machado knows her well, she's worked to a plum lately, including a bullet :59 and change on 11/16, and is owned by Whisper Hill Farm, who's produced some good ones in the past (Tapit Trice among many others). You can't miss this chocolate-colored, white-blazed beautiful filly. I expect a HUGE move in the lane, she just needs to get the right trip and ride. MAJOR PLAYER for me, and a win is not out of the question either. We'll go \$1 WP for our ROI....she'll be lower than 15-1 due to the scratch of Explora, but still a good price, like 8-1.

Racetrack: Del Mar

Howard Kravets' ABC Grid – R7 starts at 4:30pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	3,5	6,8	2,4,9			
7	1,4,6,9	-	2,5,8,11	1,4,6,9	\$0.50 P5	\$108
8	4,6,7	2,8	5	4,6,7		
9	3	4	-	3		

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10	10	1,12	4,5,6,7,9,11	1,10,12		
11	4,7,11,12	1,2	-	1,2,4,7,11,12		

OUTSIDE OF LATE P5

Howard's Late Pick 5 Analysis – Races 7 - 11

The first day of the Turf Festival takes place today....great racing tomorrow also at Del Mar. Warning....this is a VERY difficult sequence, other than R9, which looks like a big single in Test Score. So, IF you believe this is a glorified P4, it doesn't seem so tough. Every race outside R9 could be spread, but the races I'll be spreading the most include R7,8, and 11. The key to the P5 is R10. If you believe Madaket Road is another single, that changes everything. I, on the other hand, will be tossing him or at least using very defensively for reasons I'll explain with my Spot Play below. BY THE WAY, THE MORNING LINES ARE HORRIBLE IN THIS SEQUENCE! DON'T TRUST MANY OF THEM TO BE ACCURATE COME POST TIME.

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)
7	3	Almendares	5-1	5	\$25 Win #3

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT DEL MAR!! The G2 Seabiscuit brings together the best middle-distance turf horses on the West Coast, a crew that has faced each other many times. #3 Almendares is consistent as they come, almost never running a bad race. He's been rested up since the City of Hope Mile (G2) in September, and has run well off the layoff in the past. He's got a great mid-pack style, and should fire big today with 3 wins in 8 starts at Del Mar. I find it interesting that Johnny V. takes over for Fresu, who goes to a different horse. I don't like to play the "Musical Chairs" jockey game, but I'll assume that D'Amato reached out to Johnny V. as opposed to Fresu opting to go on Astronomer since Johnny is town to ride this weekend. It's a competitive race, so don't take too low a price on Almendares. Needs the right trip like many in here....5-1 is a crazy-good price if her ML matches post time....doubt it will frankly.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	4	Salamis	9-2	4	\$10 Win, \$30 Place #4 BIG EXACTA: 3-4 Smaller Exacta: 4-3

Notes:

First, Noble Confessor will scratch due to transportation issues. That's a shame, because he's talented and would have created a more honest pace scenario. This race is very simple to me....#3 Test Score will most likely win, but is NOT a cinch. He'll come way down off that ridiculous 5-2 ML. #4 Salamis is the only realistic horse to beat him in my opinion, that's my main angle. He's talented and improving, and Chad has a great record shipping horses to Del Mar for this special weekend. Last time, he acted up in the gate when the horse next to him freaked out. He broke okay from there, but was uncovered most of the way and 3-wide at different times. He needs to be covered up (draft behind others), which he will be today. He acts like extra distance is not a problem, but you never know until he tries. I like Rispoli on him, as he's a VERY strong finisher. He needs to keep Test Score within shouting distance and

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make his big move in the lane, maybe over the top of Test Score? It'll probably finish 3-4, but Salamis could upset with the right trip and big effort.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	1	Speedy Wilson	6-1	3	\$5 Win, \$15 Place, \$20 Show

Notes:

In general, this is an UNDERNEATH play, but I'll place a small win bet on **#1 Speedy Wilson** just in case. I'm hoping his ML drifts up from the 6-1. He should be 10-1 +. The whole key to the race surrounds around heavy morning line fave #7 Madaket Road. There's no way he'll go off at the ML of 8-5, more like 3-5. While by FAR the horse to beat on paper, his worktab lately has been VERY shaky. He had no works from 9/1 to 10/30, almost two months, so something happened. Then he had a slow work on the Tapeta training track (albeit w/Cornucopian), weird move for Baffert unless something was wrong with the main track that morning. Then he worked well on 11/20, but was outworked by his mate. This is very suspect to me for a guy that works his horses VERY fast and consistently. In addition, although he's faces toughies throughout his career, he NEVER passes horses in general and a fast pace is projected. I'll go with a horse that's under the radar and improving, Cal-bred 3yo Speedy Wilson. He's most likely an underneath type, but if Madaket loses or even out of the money, the value across the board will be massive. Speedy Wilson's last two races were solid...he's been working well and figures to get a ground-saving trip. If he can take a small step forward, he's a major factor to finish in the money at a price.

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

