



Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	Sat., Aug 29th
Tip Sheet By	Howard Kravets

Race-Day Overview

TODAY IS THE DAY....simply one of the best cards of 2026...it's TRAVERS STAKES DAY!! 6 graded stakes, 5 Grade 1's, and plenty of good allowance and maiden races. 14 races in total, so strap it in everyone!!

CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES! Weather is supposed to be fabulous, and note the EARLY FIRST POST OF 11:05am EDT. CYB today at the Spaaaaa!!

WEEKEND WARRIORS LIVE SHOW FROM 4 - 7:45PM EDT ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

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 11:05am ET

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks (use in horizontal bets)	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	6	1,3,5,8	4	1,3,5,6,8	\$0.50 EP5	\$37.50
2	(6)	1,5,7,8	2	Use only the 6 if in	-	-
3	2,8	7	-	2,7,8	\$0.50 P5	\$108
4	1,7	2,4,5,8	-	1,2,4,5,7,8	-	-
5	4	-	8	4	\$0.50 P5	\$20
6	3	2,9,10	1,5	2,3,9,10	-	-
7	3,5,9	1,6	7,8	1,3,5,6,9	\$0.50 P5	\$30
8	4	2	5	4	-	-
9	2,4	-	-	2,4	\$0.50 LP5	\$108
10	1,5	-	4	1,5	-	-
11	1,5	6	4	1,5,6	-	-
12	2,12	7	5,8,10,11	2,7,12	-	-
13	2,5,7,9	3	8	2,3,5,7,8,9	-	-
14	4	-	2	4	-	-

Top 3 Selections: Stake races in red

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



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9	4	2	5
10	5	1	4
11	1	5	6
12	12	2	7
13	7	9	2
14	4	2	1

Stakes P6 Analysis (R8-13)

There are a few things that are obvious to me, and most likely you, in the stake races today....you do NOT have to go deep in many of the events. You could easily single in EVERY RACE, such as R8 (Englishman), R9 (either Fully Subscribed or Scottish Lassie), R10 (Queen of Hawaii, Deep Learning or Naomis), R11 (Book'Em Danno), R12 (Ways and Means), and R13 (either Golden Tempo or Renegade). However, I don't think it's nearly that simple. Englishman is the most likely winner IMO, but I'll be trying to beat a bunch of others on that list....it's Saratoga on a big day, and 'Toga is the "Graveyard of Favorites", just ask Counting Stars last week! If you're playing the Pick 6, and you could on a small budget, think about beating the favorites in a few spots. The Travers is wide-open to me despite what some others might think. I'd be creative there, especially in underneath spots, as I believe 6 horses have a legitimate shot to finish in the Top 2.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
1	6	Beau Valor	4-1	2+	\$15 WP #6
Notes					
Let the toteboard be your guide to open the day. I like what I've seen from #6 Beau Valor in the morning works, and he may be lower than that 4-1 ML. The son of Beau Liam cost \$525k at the Keeneland Sept. '25 sale, and Trainer Weaver is hitting at 15% at this very tough meet. He calls on Johnny V. and the colt is a half to the very quick Kale's Angel (\$419k). Based on the pedigree (solid but not spectacular), he must have been a serious worker at the sales. Look out if he's taking big money at the windows. I could be wrong here, but I wasn't blown away with works of the ML-fave #3 Up to the Task (5-2), which coincidentally enough is also owned by St. Elias just like the #6. He also cost \$5205k but is an Ontario-bred. Talented 2yo's start the card....hope I've picked the right one if you're trying to build your bankroll early today.					



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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
3	8	Liberty's Secret	5-2	4	\$25 Win #8 BIG Exactas: 8 / 2,7 Smaller Exactas: 2,7 / 8

Notes:

Although not the most creative pick, **#8 Liberty's Secret** ran a MUCH better-than-looked race last time, breaking slowish, taking dirt, then 6-wide while the winner just got away from her. With a better break and extra ½ furlong, I think she'll run down the probably leader, #2 Lightning Strike, who's very fast early but took advantage of an inside bias to finish 2nd on July 4th Weekend. Feels like a 2-horse race, and I just think Liberty's Secret is the better animal, but not by much.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
5	4	Caroline St. Beat (MIGHT be scratched today)	2-1	5	\$40 Win #4

Notes:

This is not my Play of the Day, but is one of the most likely winners on the card along with Englishman...that's how much I like **#4 Caroline St. Beat**. This is a big field, but he is a good 2-3 lengths better than anyone in here based on his last effort, and he should be tighter 2nd off the layoff. He lost to Chummers last time, who came back and won again with an 88 Beyer. He's only 3yo and faces some older ones, but I don't think it'll matter here. Franco simply has to not get into trouble on the turn / in the lane and he should win....this is a VERY talented NY-bred for Miguel and the rest of the field is very "meh" to me. If you're wondering, my longer-shot plays are coming later, don't you worry!!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	4	Scottish Lassie	7-5	3+	\$25 Win #4 BIG Exacta: 4/2 Smaller Exacta: 2/4

Notes:

I don't usually tip out horses with this small a ML, but I think she'll drift, I'm hoping to 9-5 or maybe even 2-1. The narrative for many pundits will be that #2 Fully Subscribed is the better animal and ran down **#4 Scottish Lassie** last time, and the same will happen today. HOWEVER....the main other speed is ridden by Junior today, NOT Saez (who switches to the #3). I think Lassie will control this race into slightly softer fractions, and Fully Subscribed won't get the perfect trip into a contested pace like last



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time. Lassie will have to run big, but she's 3rd off the layoff and ready to peak. She's won at the distance before, so unlike others, I'm just not worried about the 9 panels. I'd take 9-5 ALL DAY on her, hope I get it after she gets an easier time on the front end (wishful thinking).

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	1	Tip Top Thomas	5-1	5	\$40 Win #1 Trifectas: 1 / 5,6 / all 5 / 1 / all

Notes:

After MUCH thought, I've decided to make **#1 Tip Top Thomas** my PLAY OF THE DAY AT SARATOGA!! #5 Book 'Em Danno will take a ton of money and is tough to beat. BUT, there is a shocking LACK of early speed in this race for a Grade 1, unless someone is hell-bent on challenging "Thomas" early. He's very talented, 2nd off the layoff, and ran well last time, getting run down by one of my favorite horses in training right now, #6 Senior Officer, who could upset this field too. I hope Thomas breaks well as usual, and Prat is very aggressive. I just feel like "Danno" usually runs down his competition late after they've been softened up a bit, and I'm not sure that'll happen today. I don't think Thomas' best distance is much beyond this 7f. If he gets clear early into reasonable fractions, it'll take a monster effort for Danno to beat him. Watch the way the track is playing. If speed is holding and/or the inside dirt paths are good, I'd give TTT an even better chance. I have a feeling we'll see a very close finish between these two at wire. I'm betting it's Tip Top Thomas today.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	2	Kilwin	12-1	4	\$10 Win, \$25 Place #2 Trifectas: 2 / 7,12 / 5,8,10,11,12 7,12 / 2 / 5,8,10,11,12

Notes:

Okay, here come the longer prices on this Tip Sheet. The G1 Ballerina is a war and a fun race with a TON of early speed signed on. Not only do the #8 and #10 basically have one way to go, there are others that could also be forward if they break well. I'm expecting a hot pace, i.e. the Pacific Classic last week when I picked 22-1 longshot closer Original Sin, and he finished a great 2nd. **#2 Kilwin** feels a bit similar to me...she's 3-4 lengths too slow on paper than the top ones, but she ran well off the bench and won at Saratoga last year in the Test. She'll need a meltdown, but it could happen. Even if it doesn't, I feel like she's good enough due to the inside post (saves ground) and gets Jose Ortiz again. Trainer Arnold will have her ready for her fastest race yet. Look for her to save ground on the inside and tip out late with a big stretch kick...anyone see Original Sin's effort last week. Deja vu? I'd take 2nd place here in a heartbeat. For our Regular Tip Sheet ROI, we'll go \$1 Win and \$3 Place. Even though it doesn't say this



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in the bets above, I'd use Kilwin in exactas with the #7 and #12 and maybe a few others too....I'm expecting her odds to be around 10-1 at post time.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	2	Leading Change	12-1	3	\$10 Win, \$25 Place/Show

Notes:

Time for the big one....IT'S THE TRAVERS STAKES FOR \$1 MILLION! Most of the money will gravitate towards #5 Renegade and #9 Golden Tempo, and it probably should. Even though my soft top pick is #7 Sea Strike, I just think he'll take a lot of money, so I'll tip out my next likely bigger price, and that's **#2 Leading Change**. Considering it was only his 2nd lifetime start, I thought he ran great in the Indiana Derby vs. two horses that are pretty good, especially Our Moneyman. Leading Change looks like he can run all day, and he was never losing that last race upon further review, winning the gallop out as well. He can be forward sitting right off of #3 Napoleon Solo and in a great spot for Franco. The questions/concerns are obvious. Can he get the 10 panels? Is this too much too soon? Can he take dirt in his face effectively if necessary, etc? But unless this is just a replacement for Commandment who's not here, this is a VERY aggressive spot for Trainer Cox and Wathnan Racing. And, he'll be a price. The works look very good at Churchill (another obstacle to overcome because he's never raced here), and this division is crying out for a big-fig win by a fresh face. Maybe Leading Change will live up to his name and be the king of this division after the Travers. Should be a great race!! For our standard Tip Sheet, I'll go \$1 Win \$3 Place.

Race # Program # - Horse Short Rationale

Most Likely Winner	8	#4 Englishman	One of the fastest dirt sprinters in the world right now....at least in the U.S., despite only being 3yo.
Best Longshot (over 10-1 ML)	12	#2 Kilwin	See Spot Plays on the previous page for more info.



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

Race	Selections	Cost
3	\$5 Daily Double: 2,8 / 1,7 (if turf)	\$20
6	\$30 Win #3	\$30
8	\$50 Exacta 4-2 ; \$10 Exacta 2-4	\$50 / \$10
12	\$5 Double 2,12 / 2,7,9	\$30

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

