

Power Picks

Race Date	5/23/26
Edition #	Vol. 6, No. 20

Race-Day Overview

Welp....two Triple Crown weekends down, one to go in a few weeks at Saratoga. After a tough weekend at Laurel with some strange results and two Spot Plays scratching, it's time to move forward. This holiday weekend, we'll focus on our usual 3 sequences. The FEATURE Late P5 is not until Memorial Day Monday...Santa Anita has 2 graded stakes in their Late P5, including 2 Grade 1's on turf. We'll also discuss today's good Late P5 in NY, Belmont at the Big A. There is some rain in the forecast, hope it stays away or not so much that races come off the turf. Finally, our usual look at the Coast-to-Coast Pick 5 sponsored by Santa Anita w/races from Gulfstream and Santa Anita ends the Tip Sheet.

CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES.....good luck today!

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

*Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.13** (\$2,338.46 / 1100)

2026: **\$2.93** (\$313.78 / 107)

2026 Plays of the Day: **\$3.42** (\$109.32 / 32)

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.

Power Picks

Racetrack: Santa Anita (MONDAY)

Howard Kravets' Late P5 ABC Grid; 6:30pm EDT

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

Paul Halloran's LP5 ABC Grid:

No Grid from Paul this weekend...he's on his Cody's Wish Book Tour this week, congrats, Paul!

Pete Visco's Late P5 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	4,5,7	2,8	6	2,4,5,7,8	\$0.50 P5	\$72
7	3,9	1,2,4	6,8	3,9	-	-
8	1,2,3	4,5	6,8	1,2,3	-	-
9	2	3,6,11	4,7,8	2,6	-	-
10	8,9	2,3,4	6,11	4,8,9	-	-

Howard's Late P5 Analysis - Races 6-10

Today's stakes-laden Late P5 (2 Grade 1's) is a challenging sequence with many ways to go. I thought the opening leg is pretty wide-open, so use a few there. For better or worse, I'll be leaning on the #3 in Leg 2, despite the cheap claiming tag. The 2nd Grade 1 seems somewhat obvious with one of the two inside horses, then you'll need to spread in the last two legs with tough fields and horses that are hard to trust. There are some possible singles, but not easy to find. AS OF THIS WRITING, MORNING LINES FOR THE MONDAY RACES HAVE NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE.

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	One Smokin Dude	-	2	\$25 Win #3

Notes:

#3 **One Smokin Dude** is not the fastest consistently on paper, but is the most classiest, losing in an impossible spot last time. He will come from a bit further back at the 5.5f difference, but there's plenty of early speed signed on. I'm just hoping Tiago doesn't have this horse too far back. The drop down to the bottom for \$12.5k is another bit of a red flag, but if you don't single him, you gotta use 4-5 others. I'll be using others defensively in my Late P5, but I hope he wins.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	6	Shady Tiger	-	4+	\$15 WP #6

Power Picks

					BIG Exactas: 6 / 4,11 Smaller Exactas: 2,4,7,8,11 / 6
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Notes:

VERY RELUCTANTLY, this is MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT SANTA ANITA!! While I easily could have “chickened-out” and tipped out El Potente or Formidable Man in the G1 Shoemaker Mile, part of my job is to find more creative selections as my top plays. Therefore, I’ll default to **#6 Shady Tiger**. There are no standouts in this race, so it’s a good time to take a stab. Shady Tiger is 2nd off the layoff, and is dropping in class. Some might see that as a negative, but the field he faced last time is like a Grade 1 vs. the ones he faces today (Red Flag, etc...). Kimura stays on, and there are two works since that last effort. The cutback should work well for him, and Kimura just needs a trip / time it right.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	11	No Joke Antares	-	3	\$10 WP #11 Trifectas: 11 / 2,4,9 / 1,2,3,4,6,8,9,10 2,4,9 / 11 / 1,2,3,4,6,8,9,10 2,4,9 / 1,2,3,4,6,8,9,10 / 11

Notes:

The day’s finale is a doozy: Cal-Bred maidens going 6.5f on the turf. I suppose there are more “likely winners” than the horse I tip out, but of those who have run recently, no one really peaks my interest at all. Therefore, I’ll take a flyer on one who could improve greatly and hasn’t been seen in a while. **#11 No Joke Antares** hasn’t been seen since last year, but Trainer McCarthy can pop now and then off the layoff, and T. Baze has a \$14.71 avg. payout when riding for this trainer, plus 42% ITM the last five years. The breeding says sprint and turf on the dam side...ran just fine in one turf effort last year vs. decent Cal-Bred turf runner (entered Sat. in a stake) in Third Beer. Fresh face, consistent works....why not in this field?

Racetrack: Belmont at the Big A (Saturday)

Howard Kravets’ Late LP5 ABC GRID - Race 8 starts at 3:38pm EDT

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

Howard’s Late P5 Analysis - Races 6-10

Pete and Paul, close your ears (or in this case, your eyes).....weather could be a factor on Saturday, so let’s hope the rain stays away (or at least is not too heavy), as 4 of the 5 races in this sequence are on the turf. It’s been pretty dry in general lately on the East Coast, and was record-breaking hot earlier this week, so perhaps the turf can take some moisture. As you can see by the grid above, the is a challenging sequence as I’ve got a bunch of horses in the “A” column. Good luck finding a single

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too....I couldn't, that's for sure. I'm hoping R8 is formful, as I'll only go 2-deep there, and also 2-deep in the turf sprint stake R7, the leg in which I'm most worried about losing. I'll hold my breath in the last two legs and hope I get through them if I'm alive, especially the last race which is wide-open. As you can tell by my use of words, this Late Pick 5 is a toughie.

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	7	Glorious Boy	10-1	3	\$10 WP #7

Notes:

Race 7 is a wide-open turf sprint. The two inside horses, in theory, have to be sent forward, plus perhaps some other speed. Bottom line, there should be an honest early gallop. I don't think turf turnbacks are as effective as ones on dirt, but **#7 Glorious Boy** has already run well going shorter early in his career. They stretched out in S. Fla, and he ran okay, but not good enough. Now, Trainer Martin rests him up, takes blinks off, puts on Johnny V. , and fits like a glove vs. these. He'll need a bit of a pace meltdown and the right trip, but I like the way this race sets up, and I think he's very live at a decent price. A softer turf course might improve his chances and "slow down" the speed just a bit as well. I hope he's not too far back, so maybe you want to use him underneath as well. For our Spot Play ROI, we'll go \$1 WP.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	7	Classicist	2-1	5	\$30 Win #7

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT BELMONT AT THE BIG A!! It's not overly creative, but **#7 Classicist** could be a handful vs. these. He's been chasing the talented Yo Daddy in his last two and ran well last year. Pletcher takes the blinks off, as the experiment with them on didn't seem to improve his ability, maybe even hurt him. The problem is there's other speed in the race and he doesn't exactly love to pass others. But today, he can break and Johnny V. can just read the field and place him well. I think he's the class (cist, lol) of the field and can just outlast the others. The main competition I suppose is the #4 Dreamlike, but that one is VERY camera shy. It's now or never with Classicist today for me, even though his speed figs don't tower over this field at all. In fact, they're only on par with a few. We shall see....just have a feeling he's gonna run a big one at around 9-5.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	6	Shape Note	6-1	3	\$15 WP #6

Notes:

The finale is a tough optional claiming sprint allowance with many possibilities. It's also possible the race is taken off the turf. Either way, Shape Note fits the bill. He's won 11 for 26 lifetime, and his two latest turf efforts were very good, although none in NY. He's won half of his turf starts and ships in from Kentucky with a steady work tab and gets Dylan in the saddle, which is perfectly fine by me. He's tactical yet certainly doesn't need the lead. Like others, he'll have to work out a trip, but there's no reason to believe he won't. I would demand a decent price, because there are other talented runners in the race and it's wide open.

Power Picks

1/ST

SANTA ANITA PARK GULFSTREAM PARK

COAST-TO-COAST

PICK 5

EVERY FRI/SAT/SUN

RETAIL ONLY

SATURDAY/MAY 23

RACE 8 - 4:34 ET

RACE 3 - 5:00 ET

RACE 4 - 5:33 ET

RACE 10 - 5:37 ET

RACE 6 - 6:37 ET

SPONSORED BY OUR GREAT FRIENDS AT SANTA ANITA RACETRACK!!

First leg starts at approx. 4:34pm EDT; Analysis by Noah Meagher

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
GP8	1,6	2	-	1,6	\$1	\$48
SA3	7	5	-	7		
SA4	3	1	2	1,3		
GP10	1	6,7	2	1,6,7		
SA6	2	3,7,9	1,5	2,3,7,9		

Overall opinion: *It's been a while since I've seen a Coast to Coast sequence with so many heavy morning line favorites, but there are plenty of cases to be made against a few of them. I'll take a shot against the seasoned vet Big City Lights with Lonesome Stew, and I've made a living betting against Lennilu, who is especially a play against switching to the dirt and having to deal with other speed. The one favorite I think you could make a serious case for is Grand Slam Smile, who presumably gets things her own way up front, has defeated several rivals already, and is just a very likeable horse. The ticket construction with this sequence is going to be extremely vital based on how the public perceives the chances of these morning line favorites. Good luck!*

YouTube preview...."Wire to Wire Ep. #19": https://youtube.com/live/_sP8zxxJ_b4?feature=share

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



Power **Picks**