

Power Picks

Race Date	7/18/26
Edition #	Vol. 6, No. 28

Race-Day Overview

Hello from beautiful Saratoga Springs, NY! Our HHH family is enjoying our time at Saratoga as we hope to crush our bets from the first-turn gazebos outside the 1863 Club. If you know, you know!

Today we'll take a look at the HUGE CARD for Haskell Day and their All-Stakes Pick 4 that ends in the Haskell S. (R9-12), and the MANDATORY MIDDLE PICK 5 that begins with the G1 Diana (R5 - 9) at Saratoga. If you want details about Del Mar Opening Saturday card, please watch the Pacific Horseplayers show on our YT this week, or look closely at Noah Meagher's Del Mar Tip Sheet if you subscribed.

Good luck today....in terms of weather, looks like potential rain later in the cards at Saratoga and Monmouth, but hopefully hold off until the very end of the day. CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES!!

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

***Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): \$2.12 (\$2,422.18 / 1141)**

2026: \$2.68 (\$397.12 / 148)

2026 Plays of the Day: \$3.11 (\$139.82 / 45)

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: Monmouth

Howard Kravets' All-Stakes P4 ABC Grid; R9 Post Time 4:05pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
9	5,6	1,3	7,8,9	1,3,5,6	\$0.50	\$60
10	5,9	4	6	4,5,9	-	-
11	4,7	-	2,3	4,7	-	-
12	4,6	7	2,5	2,4,5,6,7	-	-

Paul Halloran's ALL GRADED STAKES ABC Grid (races covered on the show)

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
4	4,5		1	4,5		
6	7	1,6	2,3	7	\$10 DD 7 / 1,2,3	\$30
7	1,3	2	6,7	1,2,3		
11	4,7	3	6	3,4,7	\$20 DD 4,7 / 2	\$40
12	2	4,5	3,6	2		

Noah Meagher's ALL GRADED STAKES ABC Grid (Pete on vacation):

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
4	4	-	1,5	4		
6	7	6	-	6,7	\$10 DD 6,7 / 3	\$20
7	3	1	5	1,3		
11	3,7	-	4	3,7	\$20 DD 3 / 4,6	\$40
12	4,6	2	7	4,6		

Howard's All-Stakes P4 Analysis

Monmouth hosts their biggest day of racing, Haskell Stakes Day. Their All-Stakes Pick 4 that ends in the Haskell doesn't have huge fields, but is challenging nonetheless. I'd probably go deepest in R9, the Wolf Hill S. on turf for sprinters....it's hard to trust anyone in particular, so I'll spread there. R10 and R12 (the Haskell) is a medium-spread for me, as there are a few contenders that could win. I'd "plant my flag" in R11, the United Nations. See below for a Spot Play, but in general, I'd only go 1 or deep in that race and take my chances. Be aware of the weather and track conditionsthe card goes into the very late afternoon today, and rain is supposed to move in at that 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)
9	5	Alagon	5-2	3	\$20 Win #5
Notes:					
I really don't love to tip out lower-priced horses in turf sprints, but #5 Alagon looks tough in this spot ASSUMING he needed one last time. He broke a bit tardy from the rail in a race off the layoff, and finished decently in a race that is too short for him. Now, he gets Prat, 5.5 furlongs, plenty of pace to close into, and is less rusty (in theory) 2nd off the layoff. He still needs a bit of a trip, but think he'll get it today.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	9	Kilwin	2-1	4	\$25 Win #9 BIG Exactas: 9 / 4,5 Smaller Exactas: 4,5 / 9
Notes:					
The morning line price is a bit low on Kilwin, as I prefer to tip out bigger prices on the morning line, but this girl is coming off a huge 3yo campaign where she won over half a million dollars and the G1 Test. She's been training great in the mornings, gets some pace to run into, and IF the track comes up wet, you can increase her chances even more. Slightly concerned she's only in a \$100k race off this layoff, but I trust Rusty Arnold. If she fires a "B" effort or better, she'll be tough to hold off in the lane.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	4	The Puma	7-2	5	\$30 Win #4 Trifectas: 4 / 6,7 / 2,5,6,7 6,7 / 4 / 2,5,6,7
Notes:					
THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT MONMOUTH!! I had a heartbreaking loss at Horseshoe Indy last weekend on the tip sheet with Our Moneyman at 7-2, who broke slow, got pinched, then made a huge move into the stretch only to have the jock lose the whip and maybe cost him the victory. Today, I'll tip out a similar-priced horse in a big 3yo race with #4 The Puma . I guess my biggest opinion here is I don't like #2 Further Ado at all. When he gets things his own way, stalking an overmatched horse from the outside or getting an easy lead, he's tough and runs huge. HOWEVER....I don't see that scenario today. He's like a "poor man's Fierceness" in my opinion. He'll get way overbet based on his last run. No thanks for me. I've never been a big fan of The Puma to be honest, but he ran very well in the spring, and then missed the Derby with a leg infection, not a major setback from a physical standpoint. Connections have rested him and pointed directly to this spot. He figures to get a nice stalking trip from midpack, and if he's ready, will fire a big shot. He's faced some of the better 3yo's in the crop, and I just believe he'll fire big today. Napoleon Solo (wire to wire again?) and closer Ocelli round out my Top 3. Ocelli probably breaks his maiden in an upset today after I'm NOT tipping him out, but the pace could get hot and he's the only confirmed closer in the race. Paco is on Napoleon Solo....if he wires the field, I would not be shocked....just think the Preakness overall was pretty weak, hence the reason Iron Honor is barely mentioned here.					

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Racetrack: Saratoga

Howard Kravets' Late P4 ABC GRID - Starts at 4:40pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	3	2,4,6	-	3	\$0.50 LP5	\$126
6	1,7	2,4,5,8	3,6	1,2,4,5,7,8	-	-
7	6,7	1	8,9	1,6,7	-	-
8	2,3	-	4	2,3	-	-
9	3,5,6,9	1,8,10	4,7	1,3,5,6,8,9,10	-	-

Howard's Late P5 Analysis

Biggest day in the Hoosier state for thoroughbred racing! As always, big-time connections will be racing at Horseshoe Indy today, although as of this writing it appears Baffert is taking his two horses in the Oaks and Derby to Iowa instead. Very similar to my handicapping feelings in NY, I'll be spreading deep in the first two legs (pending scratches) and go thin in the last 3 legs. The key to the whole sequence might be the last leg if I can get alive to it....an Indy-bred turf maiden with a big field and a morning-line favorite I don't trust at all.

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)
5	3	Kathynmarissa	9-2	5	\$50 Win #3 Trifectas: 3 / 2,4,6 / all 2,4,6 / 3 / all

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT SARATOGA!! First, I believe #5 Five G will scratch and run in a much easier spot at Monmouth. I prefer she runs here because I think it would help my top choice, but don't expect it to happen. Chad has 4 horses in here, and one of them has NOT won a Grade 1. Guess who? That's right, **#3 Kathynmarissa**. Laugh at that angle all you want, but I've seen him do this before. She's just as talented as the other Chads and fits like a glove today. Last time, she was 3-4 wide into the first turn, then took on her stablemate Portfolio Duration on the final turn and flattened out a bit late, but still ran very well. Today, I think she'll sit a much better trip, and 9 furlongs is perfect for her. She also won easily on the inner turf last year...and keeps Jose O., who knows her well. I think a career effort is coming today, although MAYBE a solid mid 90's Beyer wins today, unless the Euro freaks, which is possible. For me, Kathy is BY FAR the Chad you want today...I'd like Segesta more but I'm concerned about the distance. Let's go Kathy!!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	3	Simulate	2-1	2	\$10 WP #3

Notes:

This is an educated guess frankly in a wide-open field....but I'm not enamored with many here, so I'm going with a "fresh face." **#3 Simulate** ran into a good field last summer in his debut, a race it looked like he needed. Now, he's a much more mature horse (in theory), gets to go a longer distance, and has been working well, including the last one with the uber-talented Baeza. He was basically even with that

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one throughout the work until very late into the gallop out, which is understandable. Hope he breaks well, and let Junior figure it out from there.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	4	Red Velvet Cake	3-1	2	\$10 WP #4 BIG Exactas: 4 / 2,3,7,8 Small Exactas: 2,3,7,8 / 4

Notes:

Hungry for a winner in the finale? How about some Red Velvet Cake (#4), yummy!! The 4yo filly makes her belated 2026 debut, and she's never been on the turf. But this NY maiden field is pretty weak, and she's been working very well in the mornings. Her mama won twice on turf and almost \$80k and her daddy's progeny have earned almost \$1million on the turf while sprinting...but fair to note at only 8% win rate. Johnny V. rode her in the debut last year when she earned a 73 Beyer. If she break well and avoids a speed duel, I think she'll run big. Know her early...and hopefully late across the finish line.

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

