

Race Date 5/3/25

Race-Day Overview - Kentucky Derby Day

Welcome to Kentucky Derby Day! Today's card at Churchill Downs is filled with stakes, big fields, and tremendous betting opportunities. Budget accordingly, and make sure you bet your strongest opinions! The card starts at 11 a.m. EST and will end around 8:35 p.m. Today is a marathon, not a sprint. Based on the weather yesterday and potential today, the main track could start as wet. However, it is supposed to clear up in the afternoon, and CD is known for drying up quickly. I'm expecting a fast track for the Derby (6:57 p.m. EST), or at least listed good. ALL PICKS ON THIS TIP SHEET ASSUME GRASS RACES STAY ON THE TURF!

CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES....these might alter throughout the day, so pay attention to the tote board. This is a TREMENDOUS CARD, and DIFFICULT! Pick your spots wisely...you don't have to play every race just because it's DERBY DAY. I wish you much success today...based on the big, competitive fields, you can score huge if you're lucky....CRUSH YOUR BETS!!

Go to the next page to begin our analysis....enjoy today's Power Picks Tip Sheet!!



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 (all picks assume turf races stay on grass)

Race	А	В	С
1	8,11,12	2,9	4
2	7,8,10,11	4	5,6
3	5	3,6	1,7,9,11
4	6,9	3,4,10,12	-
5	2,6,10	5	7,8
6	1,2	-	6
7	6,7	8	4
8	2,3,7,11	6	10
9	5,7,10	3,6,9	2,4,11,13,14
10	1,7,13	8,9	2,11,12
11	1,6,7,8	4,10	-
12	8	4,7,9,17,18	3,10,13, (21)
13	8,9,11,14	3,7	-
14	10,12,14	5	13

All-Graded Stakes Pick 5 Tickets (R8 - 12)

BIG BUDGET: \$496

#1: 2,3,6,7,11 / 5,6,7,10 / 1,6,8,13 / 1,6,7,8,10 / 8,18 (\$400 Main Ticket)

#2: 2,3,7,11 / 5,6,7,10 / 1,13 / 1,6,8 / 4,9 (\$96)...This ticket "backs-up" the Derby



SMALL BUDGET: (\$72)

#1: 3,7,11 / 5,6,7,10 / 1,13 / 1,6,8 / 8,18 (\$72)

Pete Visco's All-Stakes ABC Grid:

Race	А	В	С	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
4	6,10,11	3,9	1,12	-	-	-
5	2,6,10	1,7	5,8	-	-	-
6	2,6	1,5	4	-	-	-
7	6,7,8	3,5	1,4	-	-	-
8	2,10	3,7,11	4,6	2,7,10	\$0.50 P5	\$135
9	5,7,10	2,3	4,8,13	5,7,10	-	-
10	1,2	7,8,11	6,9	1,2	-	-
11	1,6,7	8,10	3,4	1,6,7	-	-
12	7,8,18	3,4,9,17	10,(21)	3,7,8,9,18	-	-

Paul Halloran's All-Stakes ABC Grid:

4	9,12	3,6	11,13	-	-	-
5	6,10	2,5,7	3,8	-	-	-
6	1,2	5,6	7	-	-	-
7	7,8	5,6	1,3	-	-	-
8	7,11	3,10	2	3,7,10,11	\$0.50	\$96
9	2,5	3,7	10	2,3,5,7	-	-
10	1,9	2,6,8	7,11	1,9	-	-
11	1,7	8	4,6,10	1,7	-	-
12	8,9,18	12,17	3,4,7,13,16	8,9,18	-	-



Top 3 Picks for Each GRADED STAKES (R5-12)

Name	Race 5: G2 Distaff Turf Mile	Race 6: G2 Pat Day Mile	Race 7: G2 Turf Sprint	Race 8: G1 Churchill Downs Stakes
Howard	#2 - Movin' On Up	#2 - Built	#7 - Think Big	#3 - Book'em Danno
	#10 - Special Wan	#1 - Madaket Road	#6 - Run Carson	#7 - Mindframe
	#6 - Sacred Wish	#6 - Gaming	#8 - Rogue Lightning	#11 - Mullikin
Paul	#6 - Sacred Wish	#1 - Madaket Road	#8 - Rogue Lightning	#7 - Mindframe
	#10 - Special Wan	#2 - Built	#7 - Think Big	#11 - Mullikin
	#7 - Tax Implications	#6 - Gaming	#6 - Run Carson	#3 - Book'em Danno
Pete	#2 - Movin' On Up	#6 - Gaming	#7 - Think Big	#10 - Nysos
	#6 - Sacred Wish	#2 - Built	#8 - Rogue Lightning	#2 - Banishing
	#10 - Special Wan	#5 - Gate to Wire	#6 - Run Carson	#7 - Mindframe
Kyle	#10 - Special Wan	#5 - Gate to Wire	#8 - Rogue Lightning	#10 - Nysos
	#6 - Sacred Wish	#2 - Built	#6 - Run Carson	#7 - Mindframe
	#2 - Movin' On Up	#6 - Gaming	#7 - Think Big	#6 - Extra Anejo
Patrick	#10 - Special Wan	#1- Madaket Road	#7 - Think Big	#11 - Mullikin
	#6- Sacred Wish	#5 - Gate to Wire	#8 - Rogue Lightning	#2 - Banishing
	#2- Movin' On Up	#2 - Built	#6 - Run Carson	#3 Book'em Danno
Charlie	#10 - Special Wan	#1 - Madaket Road	#8 - Rogue Lightning	#10 - Nysos
	#2 - Movin' On Up	#5 - Gate to Wire	#7 - Think Big	#7 - Mindframe
	#6 - Sacred Wish	#2 - Built	#5 - Arrest Me Red	#3 - Book'em Danno
Noah	#6 - Sacred Wish	#1 - Madaket Road	#6 - Run Carson	#11 - Mullikin
	#10 - Special Wan	#2 - Built	#7 - Think Big	#10 - Nysos
	#2 - Movin' on Up	#6 - Gaming	#1 - Coppola	#6 - Extra Anejo
Ryan	#10 - Special Wan	#5 Gate to Wire	#7 Think Big	#6 Extra Anejo
	#3 Pin Up Betty	#9 Perfect Force	#3 Nobals	#2 Banishing
	#2 Movin On Up	#2 Built	#6 Run Carson	#10 Nysos
Jackson	#2 Movin On Up	#5 Gate to Wire	#7 Think Big	#2 Banishing
	#6 Sacred Wish	#1 Madaket Road	#1 Coppola	#11 Mullikin
	#1 Venecia	#2 Built	#8 Rogue Lightning	#6 Extra Anejo



Name	Race 9: G1 American Turf	Race 10: G1 Derby City Distaff Stakes	Race 11: G1 Turf Classic
Howard	#5 - Test Score	#13 - My Mane Squeeze	#6 - Taking Candy
	#7 - Zulu Kingdom	#8 - Ways and Means	#8 - Cameo Performance
	#10 - Iron Man Cal	#1 - Scylla	#1 - Integration
Paul	#2 - Scipio	#1 - Scylla	#1 - Integration
	#5 - Test Score	#9 - Emery	#7 - Running Bee
	#5 - Zulu Kingdom	#2 - Kopion	#8 - Cameo Performance
Pete	#10 - Iron Man Cal	#2 - Kopion	#6 - Taking Candy
	#7 - Zulu Kingdom	#1 - Scylla	#7 - Running Bee
	#5 - Test Score	#11 - Positano Sunset	#1 - Integration
Kyle	#5 - Test Score	#7 - Vahva	#1 - Integration
	#3 - New Century	#1 - Scylla	#6 - Taking Candy
	#10 - Iron Man Cal	#8 - Ways and Means	#7 - Running Bee
Patrick	#5 - Test Score	#8 - Ways and Means	#4 - Redistricting
	#7 - Zulu Kingdom	#2 - Kopion	#2 - Gold Phoenix
	#1 - Warlander	#1 - Scylla	#10 - Spirit of St. Louis
Charlie	#5 - Test Score	#1 - Scylla	#1 - Integration
	#10 - Iron Man Cal	#8 - Ways and Means	#7 - Running Bee
	#2 - Scipio	#9 - Emery	#6 - Taking Candy
Noah	#10 - Iron Man Cal	#8 - Ways and Means	#6 - Taking Candy
	#7 - Zulu Kingdom	#2 - Kopion	#7 - Running Bee
	#8 Charlie's to Blame	#1 Scylla	#4 - Redistricting
Ryan	#5 Test Score	#11 Positano Sunset	#7 Running Bee
	#2 Scipio	#2 Kopion	#1 Integration
	#7 Zulu Kingdom	#8 Ways and Means	#6 Taking Candy
Jackson	#6 Maximum Promise	#13 My Mane Squeeze	#9 Mercante
	#5 Test Score	#9 Emery	#8 Cameo Performance
	#9 Giocoso	#2 Kopion	#4 Redistricting

Name	Race 12: G1 KENTUCKY DERBY
Howard	#8 - Journalism #18 - Sovereignty #4 - Rodriguez #9 - Burnham Square
Paul	#18 - Sovereignty #9 - Burnham Square #8 - Journalism



	#3 - Final Gambit
	#7 - Luxor Cafe
Pete	#8 - Journalism
Pete	#18 - Sovereignty
	#3 - Final Gambit
	#8 - Journalism
W.Jo	#4 - Rodriguez
Kyle	#18 - Sovereignty
	#7 - Luxor Cafe
	#18 - Sovereignty
Patrick	#8 - Journalism
Patrick	#10 - Grande
	#3 - Final Gambit
	#18 - Sovereignty
Chaulta	#17 - Sandman
Charlie	#8 - Journalism
	#10 - Grande
	#18 - Sovereignty
Noah	#8 - Journalism
Noan	#7 - Luxor Cafe
	#17 - Sandman
	#9 Burnham Square
Prop	#8 Journalism
Ryan	#10 Grande
	#18 Sovereignty
	#19 Chunk of Gold
la alva va	#8 Journalism
Jackson	#10 Grande
	#9 Burnham Square

Best Bets - GRADED STAKES RACES ONLY (R5-12)

Name	Race Number/Name	Horse
Howard	Race 8 / Churchill Downs	#3 Book'em Danno
Paul	Race 11 / Old Forester Turf	#1 Integration
Pete	Race 8 / Churchill Downs	#10 - Nysos
Kyle	Race 11 / Turf Classic	#1 Integration
Patrick	Race 6 / Pat Day Mile	#1 - Madaket Road
Charlie	Race 11 / Turf Classic	#1 - Integration



Noah	Race 10 / Derby City Distaff	#8 - Ways and Means
Ryan	Race 11 / Turf Classic	#7 - Running Bee
Jackson	Race 11 / Turf Classic	#9 Mercante

Top Longshot - GRADED STAKE RACES ONLY (5-12)

Name	Race Number/Name	Horse
Howard	Race 11 / Turf Classic	#8 Cameo Performance
Paul	Race 9 / Churchill Downs	#2 Scipio
Pete	Race 12 / Kentucky Derby	#7 - Luxor Cafe
Kyle	Race 9 / American Turf	#5 - Test Score
Patrick	Race 11 / Turf Classic	#4 - Redistricting
Charlie	Race 9 / American Turf	#5 - Test Score
Noah	Race 11 / Turf Sprint	#6 - Taking Candy
Ryan	Race 10 / Derby City Distaff	#11 - Positano Sunset
Jackson	Race 9 / American Turf	#6 Maximum Promise

Howard's All-Grade 1 Pick 5 Analysis – Races 8-12

The All-Grade 1 Stakes Late Pick 5 that ends in the Derby is always one of the best plays of the year due to the massive pool size / equity it generates (\$5mil +?). Depending on your opinion of the Derby, you don't necessarily have to play a big ticket, but it sure does help. To complicate matters, the turf course might have some "give" in it based on the weather forecast this weekend, so I would upgrade horses that have proven form on softer turf. THIS IS A VERY TOUGH SEQUENCE!! It was very hard for me to find a single...I suppose it would be Journalism in the Derby, but that's very risky in my opinion. To be honest, there's not one race that I would go "skinny." You're going to have to spread, unless you want to single Journalism or perhaps Nysos/Mindframe in R8. I don't trust either one to definitely win. I have a hard time believing this won't pay big....THIS IS THE BEST HORIZONTAL BET THIS WEEKEND BY FAR!! Good luck if you're playing!!



Price/Spot Play(s) - 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	5	Goal Oriented	4-1	4	\$20 Win #5 BIG Exactas: 5 / 1,3,6,7,9,11 Smaller Exactas: 3,6 / 5

Notes

I'll start my Spot Plays today with a horse that has massive upside, #5 Goal Oriented. This one could be something special. I LOVED his debut going 6f. He was mid-pack taking dirt, didn't seem to appreciate it, was climbing and goofy, and further back than expected. Then, he ranged up easily outside and won like a VERY good thing. He was just getting going through the wire and I think he'll LOVE the two-turns. His dam was a stakes-winning turf router and the sire was a talented two-turn colt Not This Time. He cost \$425k at the sales and is a physical specimen, he's HUUUUGE. This field is not easy and he'll have to be a bit more professional, but the sky's the limit.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
4	9	Liberal Arts	3-1	3	\$10 WP #9

Notes

Nice listed stake here, the "Knicks Go." This is a tough, well-balanced field, but there's plenty of early speed signed on and feels like a closer will win. Reminder, the 1 Mile dirt course starts in the "chute" and is only one turn, with a very slight bend approx. 1/16th of a mile from the start. #9 Liberal Arts is consistent and 2-for-4 at Churchill. What struck me is has NOT been involved in fast-pace races, and his closing style should be upgraded today. I wouldn't take too low a price on the win end, but he should be flying late.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6	2	Built	7-2	3	\$20 Win #2 Trifectas: 2 / 1,6 / All 1 / 2,3,4,6,7 / All

Notes

It's nice to see a trainer / ownership group that does NOT have DFS (Derby Fever Syndrome)!! This is a smart move for Built....he had NO CHANCE in the Derby and this spot makes much more sense. He'll sit an ideal trip in behind the speed, and the key for me is the turnback. Lately, he's ranged up, then faltered in the stretch due to the added distance. Today, he'll be able to use his best turn of foot later as I think he's best as a mid-pack middle-distance sprinter. I'm expecting a big effort today...other than Madaket Road, who is the likely favorite and horse to beat, this field is a bit "meh" based on previous years' runnings. Hope he gets rewarded for choosing not to run in the Derby.



Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	3	Book'em Danno	8-1	5	\$25 WP #3 BIG Exactas: 3 / 2,6,7,11 Smaller Exactas: 2,6,7,11 / 3

Notes

The Churchill Downs, a Grade One 7f sprint, is one of the best races of the weekend. The star-power is tremendous and it feels like a Breeders Cup race. This is a pretty strong opinion of mine and I ALMOST made #3 Book'em Danno my Play of the Day. He's been good since Day 1 and had a HUGE year last year, almost beating Forever Young in Dubai. I thought he received some questionable rides by Irad a few times, as he stayed inside at crucial times and got caught up in traffic. They (trainer, jockey, who knows?) also appeared to take some of his early speed away in hopes of teaching him to rate. That was effective, but I think he's better stalking off the speed like he did in his 2025 debut. He clearly needed the break due to his decreasing Beyers at the end of his tough 2024 campaign. He'll need his best vs. the likes of Mindframe, Nysos, and Mullikin. WHAT A RACE!

**I'd probably use him more "underneath", but if the price is right, a win bet could be in the cards!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	13	My Mane Squeeze	12-1	3	\$15 WP #13 Trifectas: 13 / 1,7,8 / 1,2,7,8,9,11,12 1,8 / 13 / 1,2,7,8,9,11,12 1,8 / 1,2,7,8,9,11,12 / 13

Notes

Another AMAZING RACE is the G1 Derby City Distaff going 7f on the dirt. Once again, this feels like the BC Filly & Mare Sprint...all the big girls are here. The first thing I noticed, other than the obvious talent, is how much early speed is signed on. It's crazy. That automatically leads me to a closer, but the big field will not make it easy. I've never thought #13 My Mane Squeeze is a superstar, but I probably haven't given her enough credit either. The NY-bred is consistently fast and loves 7f. I don't mind the outside draw because in theory Saez can place her where he wants. I hope Saez takes back. In her 2025 debut at Keeneland, she was wide and up much closer than usual because she had to be. That's not the case today...her preferred running style is closing from further back. She'll get a lot out of that start and she could very likely improve in her 2nd start of the year, plus she's only 4yo, so there's upside there. She also likes Churchill, 2-for-2 over the surface. In order to win, she'll have to run the race of her life, but she could easily get in the money at a nice price today...another really fun race.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
<mark>11</mark>	8	<mark>Cameo</mark> Performance	<mark>20-1</mark>	<u>5</u>	\$10 WIn, \$25 Place/Show Trifecta: 8 / 1,6,7,10 / 1,4,6,7,10 1,6,7,10 / 8 / 1,4,6,7,10 1,6,7,10 / 1,4,6,7,8,10 / 8



Notes

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT CHURCHILL DOWNS!! Not a misprint...my biggest opinion of the day, especially based on the price, is #8 Cameo Performance at 20-1 morning line. This year's G1 Turf Classic has not come up as tough as previous years. There's no Chad Brown superstar, no impressive Euro import, etc...just a nice group of American runners. That leads me to go to a price, unless you think #1 Integration is just better than these. He might be, but I've overall been disappointed with him and think he's overrated. Cameo Performance is EXACTLY the type of runner I love...he's a progressive, unexposed 4yo who ran big in his 2025 debut and has the biggest upside in the field. Everyone will say, "Howard, he's too slow." I think he'll take a big step forward today...we're playing the Stock Market people! Who will run best today? It's not always based on previous accomplishments. Cameo was the only one at the Fairgrounds last time, vs. many of these, that made a closing run in the stretch vs. a slow pace, and I think there's a bit more speed in here today. He'll need to make up about 3+ lengths in theory on Integration and Running Bee to win the race, but I'm playing him in all spots of the trifecta, so an in-the-money placing is all I ask of him. He'll be closer to 12-1 or 15-1 at post time, but I really think he'll run the race of his life today. Good luck if you're betting him and agree with me.

The Kentucky Derby:

I've talked about this race on many shows in the last two weeks, so by now you probably know my opinions. Frankly, I don't have the strongest opinion in this year's Derby. Obviously, #8 Journalism is the horse to beat. But I've discussed many times that he's received really good trips in very small fields in California. He's talented and likeable, but no sure thing in a field of 20. I would not bet him on the WIN end at 5-2, it's just too low. But I could single him in horizontal plays (Pick 4, Pick 5, etc....). I do like #18 Sovereignty as the best value, and if the pace does not heat up as anticipated, believe Baffert's #4 Rodriguez could run big. More logical contenders for me include #9 Burnham Square, perhaps #7 Luxor Cafe and #10 Grande, and #17 Sandman. I have major questions with Luxor Cafe and Sandman, and are against them on the win end in general. Especially Sandman, who will take a ton of unreasonable money based on him being a closing grey horse with a cool name...yes, that matters a lot in this race to the uneducated public. For bombs, I like #3 Final Gambit to close hard for a piece.

Here are my final public selections: 8-18-4-9 GOOD LUCK!!

Matt Miller "Smash It" Play of the Day:

I completed this SMASH IT Play of the Day write-up long before knowing whether or not Good Cheer would give us reason for good cheer on Derby day. Hopefully she continued her unbeaten streak and anyone who followed my advice is alive to an Oaks-Derby Double with a horse or two. If that's the case, try to enjoy your day without spending too much money waiting for what is hopefully a nice payday! If you need to smash something on Derby day waiting for that Double, I recommend the popcorn stand.



As much as I hope to have my Derby bets locked in on Oaks day with the Oaks-Derby Double, if I'm forced to come up with something else for Saturday, it won't be in the Derby. I'll be playing it for sure, but for purposes of trying to find a reliable horse from which to make some profits, I actually like the race just before the Derby. Integration strikes me as the most likely winner on the entire day, and the depth and size of the field he faces suggest to me that we might actually get 2/1 or so on the tote board. His last race was solid, but it seemed clear that it was a prep for this spot and that today's distance is most suitable. I'll be all over that - especially win bets and daily doubles into my top selections in the Derby (Luxor Cafe and Journalism). As I indicated yesterday, I wouldn't hesitate to replace your Derby picks for mine - we all have opinions on the race and the last thing I'd want to do is steer someone away from what turns out to be an accurate gut feeling!

<u>Horizontal Plays for Derby Day:</u>

Kyle Roscoe

Derby-Ending Pick3 (Races 10-12):

1,2,7,8,9,13 / 1,6 / 8 (\$60 for \$5)

<u>Patrick Kuenzel</u>

Early Pick 4 (R2 − 5):

7,8,10,11 / 5 / 3,4,6,9 / 2,5,6,7,10 (\$80 for \$1)

Charlie Freeman

\$3 3 Year Old Pick 3 (R6, R9, R12) (\$3 Base Bet): Main and Backup \$90 Total

1,2,5 / 2,5,10 / 17,18 \$4 Pick 3 (\$72 Total)

1,5 / 2,5,10 / 10 \$3 Pick 3 (\$18 Total)

Late Pick 5 (R10 - R14) (\$0.50 Base Bet): \$100 Total

1,2,7,8,9 / 1 / 8,9,10,17,18 / 11,14 / 12,14 \$1 Pick 5 (\$100 Total)

Noah Meagher

All Grade 1 Pick 4 (R9 – R12) (\$0.50 Base Bet):

7,10 / 8 / 1,4,6,7,8 / 8,18 (\$100 for \$10)



Ryan Anderson

All Dirt Pick 5 (R4,6,8,10,12) (\$.50 Base Bet) 9,11,12,13/2,5,9/2,3,6,10,11/11/8,9,18 (\$90)

Jackson Muniz

\$3 3 Year Old Pick 3 (R6, R9, R12) (\$3 Base Bet):

1,5/5,6/8,9,10,19 \$48

1,5/6/8,19 \$12

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

