



Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	Friday, 8/28
Tip Sheet By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

Christmas Eve is very special, but for serious horseplayers Travers Eve is right up there on the Anticipation Meter. Ten races on the card today with the forecast calling for 80 degrees and sunny skies. No weather issues, Uncle Howard. Very approachable card that gets better as the day goes on. There are two good turf stakes, one for New York-breds. My strongest opinion comes in the finale, #1 Illmatic, a horse that was much the best last time and received a rare mediocre ride from Flavien Prat. Stone-cold single today. Knock 'em dead and rest up for one of the best racing cards of the year tomorrow!

Based on the variable weather patterns in upstate New York, it is imperative that you CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES, because we typically send out the SPP's BEFORE scratches are officially posted. Final selections might be VERY DIFFERENT if races are taken off the turf! We send out the SPP's early to give you ample amount of time to study and make decisions before the races begin.

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 1:10pm ET

(Weather looks good; no off-turf picks today):

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks (use in horizontal bets)	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	4,5	3	6	4,5	\$.50 EP5	\$60
2	2,7	6	4	2,7		
3	5	1,6	7	1,5,6		
4	6	1,5	8	1,6		
5	6,10	1,3	2	1,2,3,6,10		
6	9,10	7,11	8	7,8,9,10,11	\$.50 LP5	\$100
7	4,8		2	4,8		
8	6,8	1,4	3,9	1,4,6,8,9		
9	4,9	6,8	1	4,6,8,9		
10	1		5,8	1		

Top 3 Selections:

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	4	5	3
2	2	7	6
3	5	1	6
4	6	5	1
5	10	6	1
6	10	9	11
7	8	4	2
8	6	1	8
9	4	9	8
10	1	8	5



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Late P5 Analysis: R6 - 10

The goal is to get alive to #1 Illmatic in the finale, and as much as I despise being singled to the favorite, I'll take my chances with this one. There is ample opportunity for a few mid-level prices in the other legs and I will be spreading in three of them in search of a decent mutuel. I'm against #2 Spirit of St. Louis in the West Point, and he should take a decent amount of action. #4 Mi Bago could be pace-compromised in that stakes, but losing by 1½ lengths to Deterministic says he could be much the best in this one. Hitting this would be a nice bankroll builder for Travers Day.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
1	4	Breaker	9-2	3	\$20 WP #4

Notes

Trying to beat the heavily bet Flightlines has worked out OK this meet so let's see if we can pull that off here. #5 Rockabye has run second twice – at 5-2 and 2-1 – and is the 8-5 ML favorite here. No real knocks on this Miguel Clement-trained, Manny Franco-ridden daughter of the 2023 Horse of the Year, other than the odds. I'm going with Team Repole-Pletcher-Prat with #4 Breaker. The horses breaking on both sides of her want to be forward, so Prat should have room to get his position early. Comes out of a race where two horses have come back to break their maiden, and she didn't have the best of trips. I'm looking for a fast pace and for this \$700K Keeneland yearling to pick up all of them.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
5	10	Mandy Steph	7-2	4	\$20 WP 10 \$5 EX 10 / 1,2,3,6

Notes

PLAY OF THE DAY: This time, we'll go with Miguel in another maiden 2YO filly turf race, this one at 8.5 furlongs. The far outside post is not ideal at this trip, but the way Manny Franco is riding, he could probably break from King's Tavern across Union Avenue and still have a fighting shot. Daughter of Constitution ran well enough to win in her debut when she was third with a 73 Beyer. After chasing a moderate pace Franco found himself between horses in the stretch and lost by a length. One horse has come back from that race and improved her Beyer by 21 points. This is a competitive race, but I think 7-2 would be more than fair. I won't be rooting for LSU football this year with Shady Lane coaching, but I will be pulling for LSU stables here.



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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6	10	Maximilian	6-1	3.5	\$20 WP 10
Notes					
Three 2YO maiden races, three spot plays. What gives? Well, you have to play the hand you're dealt and the money is the same shade of green. In an 11-horse field, I landed on the horses in posts 7-11 on my grid, with this one being the selection from the 10. I thought his race last time was sneaky good and much better than it looks on paper. He was under a ride pretty much the whole race – not uncommon when Luis Saez is in the irons. After going very wide on the turn, he took a pretty good bump in the stretch while running fourth, albeit 8 lengths off the winner and beaten by two of today's foes. Joe Orseno doesn't run many at Saratoga and is 1-15 the last five years, but he did pop a 26-1 FTS last year.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	6	Storm Miami	4-1	3	\$25 WP #6
Notes					
I completely understand anyone who is against this mare based on the fact she got away with a glacial pace last time – 25 % - 52 % - 1:18 % - 1:44 % - and still got caught ... BUT doing the catching was the fabulous Irish-bred Survie, who came back in 13 days to win the Grade 1 Christophe Clement. This race is a furlong shorter, Johnny V sees fit to ride back, and how many times have we seen a gate-to-wire performance in a Saratoga turf marathon? Too many. One downside is we are going to get nowhere near the 19-1 Storm Miami was sent off at last time, but a double-digit win ticket would be nothing to sneeze at. Her father, Blue Point, won 11 times, including twice in five days at Royal Ascot in 2019.					

	Race #	Program # - Horse	Short Rationale
Most Likely Winner	10	#1 Illmatic	Payback for last time
Best Longshot (over 10-1 ML)	8	#3 Whitehorn	Comes off huge effort in maiden win



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

Race	Selections	Cost
2	\$10 P3 2,7 / 5 / 1,6	\$40
10	\$25 EX 1 / 5,8	\$50

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

