



Race Date	8/29/26
Edition #	Vol. 6, No. 34

Race-Day Overview

Perhaps the biggest day of racing this summer is upon us! It's Travers Stakes Day at Saratoga, as the 3yo's vie for \$1million in the Mid-Summer Classic. Big field and it's pretty wide-open too, should be a great race. Plus there are 5 other graded stakes, including 4 more Grade 1's, WOW!!

Then, we'll take a brief (Pick 3) look at Kentucky Downs' opening Saturday, with two stakes and a nice maiden field. Remember, they've upped their WPS minimums to \$5, so that should be interesting. Also, friend of the show and NBC analyst Matt Bernier will head the broadcast coverage during their entire meet....that's worth watching for that reason alone.

Finally, make sure you go to our YouTube Channel starting at 4pm EDT tonight for "Weekend Warriors" with Howard, Andrew, Paul (from the Saratoga paddock), Charlie, Kyle and perhaps Noah. CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES, GOOD LUCK TODAY!!

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

*Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.13** (\$2,496.26 / 1174)

2026: **\$2.60** (\$470.20 / 181)

2026 Plays of the Day: **\$3.24** (\$187.84 / 58)

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: Saratoga

Howard Kravets' ALL-GRADED STAKES PICK 6; R8 starts at 4:19pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	4	2	5	4	\$1 P6	\$180
9	2,4	-	-	2,4	\$0.50 LP5	\$90
10	1,5	-	4,9	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	2,3,5,7,9		

Pete Visco's ALL-GRADED STAKES PICK 6 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	4	2,5	-	4	-	-
9	2	1,4	6	1,2,4	\$0.50 P5	\$81
10	1,5,9	4,7	8	1,5,9	-	-
11	1,5,6	-	2,4	1,5,6	-	-
12	2,7	12	8,10,11	2,7,12	-	-
13	5,9	2,4,7	3,8,10	5,9	-	-

Paul Halloran's ALL-GRADED STAKES PICK 6 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	2,4	5		2,4		
9	2,4	3	6	2,4	\$2.50 P5	\$90
10	4,5	9	1	4,5,9		
11	5	1,6		5		
12	7	2	4,8,11	2,7		
13	7,9	10	1,3,5	7,9,10		

Howard's Stakes Analysis

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.

Power Picks

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	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 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

Power Picks

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 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.

Racetrack: Kentucky Downs

Howard Kravets' P3 ABC GRID - Starts at 4:57pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	8,11	2	3,7,9	2,8,11	\$5 P3	\$45
7	4	8	1,3,7,11	4	-	-
8	1,5,11	3,4,10	9,12	1,5,11	-	-

Pick 3 Analysis (R6-8)

I chose the Pick 3 starting in Race 6 since it starts with the two stake races and ends with a difficult maiden race with value all over the place. Race 6 is a 2yo stake sprint, and I'm TOTALLY against the #9 Waggley for Ward. However, she's cross-entered in a race yesterday and probably will have run there. I much prefer the other Ward (#11) anyway. Race 7 should be all about AG Bullet, a really cool horse who loves Kentucky Downs and should be loose today. Race 8 is a tough maiden race. Many are coming out of the same race at Ellis, but I don't love that race visually and the #4, who beat many in there, will be WAY overbet. The #1 is the horse I'd bet out of that race, but go with fresh faces who DIDN'T run in that race in general.

Power Picks

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)
6	11	Just a Holiday	12-1	5	\$15 WP #11
Notes:					
THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT KENTUCKY DOWNS!! My guess is #9 Waggle (a filly), the 5-2 ML-favorite for Ward, will scratch out of this race and run earlier in the card vs. her own sex. That sets up the race for the other Ward, #11 Just a Holiday , who will NOT be 12-1 post time, more like 4-1. He ran huge in his debut, going VERY fast early and getting pressed the whole way, only to be run down by an Asmussen horse who came from far back. Plus, Ward simply doesn't win at Saratoga, it's crazy. Now, he has to go farther today, but I don't think there's a ton of early speed, and he looks like a pretty big horse with a nice long stride, so I think he can stalk and finish if necessary from the outside. The #2 and #8 could run him down in the stretch, but they're no killers. Wide-open race, so I'll take Ward in Kentucky and a horse who wants to be forward.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	1	Jas	8-1	2	\$5 Win, \$15 Place/Show BIG Exactas: 5,11 / 1 Smaller Exactas: 1 / 5,11
Notes:					
Race 8 is a tough maiden event, and there are many coming out of the same race at Ellis Park on Aug. 1, including one of the favorites in #4 Conroy. The only horse I want out of that is #1 Jas, ridden by Keith Asmussen. I'm not a big fan of Keith in general, especially on turf, but the horse he rides got a bizarre trip last time, and galloped out FANTASTICALLY after the wire, telling me there's something there. He'll save ground in this 1 mile race and should improve with that start under his belt. He's also a Justify colt, one of the best sires in the U.S. right now. This race will probably be won by a horse who didn't run on Aug. 1st, so I'll use Jas underneath mainly. For our Spot Play ROI, I'll \$1 WP.					

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

