



Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	Sunday 9/6
Tip Sheet By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

And then there were two. The longest Saratoga meet ever – which you can argue effectively started the first week of June with the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival, interrupted only by the ceremonial closing of the Big A – ends tomorrow on Labor Day. A dozen races await on the penultimate day of 2026 racing on Union Avenue, with another 12 tomorrow. That's 24 chances to get out for the meet and, if you're like me, you may need every one of them! There are two stakes on today's card, including the Hopeful, moved from its traditional closing day slot. The winner becomes one of the favorites for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile in 55 days.

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!**



Picks Tip Sheet

ABC Grid - Post Time 1:10pm ET

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks (use in horizontal bets)	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	4,9	5,8	2	4,5,8,9	\$.50 EP5	\$96
2	2,4	1,6		2,4		
3	1,7	2,5	3	1,5,7		
4	3,4		6	3,4		
5	2,6	1,5	3,10	1,2,5,6		
6	3,8	5,7	2,6	3,5,7,8		
7	2,11	5,6	7	2,5,6,11		
8	1,8	9	4	1,8,9	\$.50 LP5	\$60
9	2,5	1,9	8	2,5		
10	3,4	1	5,7	1,3,4,5		
11	6,7	1,4	2	7		
12	7,10	3,9	2	2,3,7,9,10		

Top 3 Selections:

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	4	9	8
2	4	2	6
3	7	1	2
4	3	4	6
5	2	6	1
6	3	8	5
7	11	2	5
8	1	8	9
9	5	2	1
10	4	3	1
11	7	6	4
12	7	10	9



Picks Tip Sheet

Late P5 Analysis: R8-12

My strong lean in this sequence will be the #7 Creditworthy in Race 11. That turf sprint looks like it will have more than enough pace to set it up for Chad Brown's gelding, who has the meet's eventual leading rider, Manny Franco, in the irons. I'll spread in the 10th and 12th, the former of which is the Hopeful. This is a competitive group with no standout on paper. Booked should be the favorite and looks formidable as a Grade 3 winner and Grade 2 runner-up, but there are several maiden winners who have the right to progress. Decent sequence.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
1	4	Warnock	9-2	4	\$25 WP 4

Notes

Let's get this card started with a mid-priced winner. While there are several others dropping from maiden special weight into this maiden claimer, there simply is no one to be afraid of. They paid \$450,000 for this son of Yaupon as a *weanling* in 2023. His being a half-brother to Nysos, who by that point had broken his maiden by 10 lengths, might have had something to do with that. Trainer Joe Sharp wins at 20% when moving from turf to dirt and 15% on the MSW to MCL drop. He and Kendrick Carmouche have combined for a 24% strike rate the last 5 years. And even though Warnock comes out of a CD turf maiden, that was a good race, producing four next-out winners and 7 who improved their Beyer. You can argue it's not a good sign they are willing to lose him for \$45K, but if they lose him and he wins, makes no difference to us.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
3	7	Lovely Christina	6-1	3.5	\$20 WP 7 \$5 EX 1,2,5 / 7

Notes

I'm not the biggest Carmouche fan – strictly as a rider – and this is the second Spot play he appears in. I think his style and propensity to be forward will fit very well in this race, which looks to be devoid of much speed. He will have to deal with Todd Pletcher's other entry, With a Kiss, who comes in off an odds-on maiden win, but if he can manage to break at least even with him, he should have a good chance. Throw out the last race, a turf allowance, and he is 3-4 on the board, all at Saratoga. Pletcher thought enough of this filly to run her in the Frizette off a maiden win last year, and the 80 Beyer she ran here on July 4 puts her in the mix. We'll go with the other Todd to take this competitive allowance.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	5	Calling Card	7-2	4	\$40 WIN 5

Notes



Picks Tip Sheet

PLAY OF THE DAY: When Linda Rice's horses are in form they tend to stay in form and I'm not going to overthink this race. She claimed this gelding – for herself – on closing weekend at the Big A and it wasn't because she was looking for a souvenir. Linda, who is three wins behind Chad Brown in the trainer's race, promptly put him back in with New York-breds and he responded with a 10-length win. Calling Card stays in the state-bred ranks here and I don't see why he can't win a third straight. Manny Franco defects to ride for George Weaver on #9 Vekinda, but Zayas has had a respectable meet, albeit with only 6 wins. Linda is 21% off a win.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	4	Flight Command	10-1	3	\$20 WP 4
Notes					
This son of Flightline might get lost in the wagering in a solid edition of the Hopeful. Sent off as the favorite in his debut at AQU, he responded with a 10-length win and 80 Beyer. That performance led to him being the favorite in the Grade 2 Saratoga Special, but he stumbled at the start and ran last by 34 lengths. Draw a line through that this Rudy Rodriguez trainee fits in this race. Flavien Prat is in Kentucky today, but Johnny V is a more than capable replacement. Let's be Hopeful that we can get a big price home here.					

	Race #	Program # - Horse	Short Rationale
Most Likely Winner	11	#7 Creditworthy	A closer in a race full of speed.
Best Longshot (over 10-1 ML)	6	#7 Clear Conscience	Ilkay 15% second off claim

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

Race	Selections	Cost
6	\$2 TRI 3,8 / 7 / all \$2 TRI 3,8 / all / 7	\$48
11	\$15 DD 7 / 7,9,10	\$45

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



Picks Tip Sheet

