



Saratoga

Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	8/18/23
Picks By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

Here we go again, trying to handicap the races and the weather. The guess is that only the stakes will stay ON, with a 90+ percent chance of rain in the morning. NYRA is clearly being very conservative, having taken two races off Thursday on a dry day with the turf listed as "good." **Today's Saratoga Power Picks are based on the non-stakes (3,5,6,10) being moved to dirt and the Skidmore Stakes staying on the grass.** As always, check your local listings – and the Saratoga Springs meteorologists. Good card with a few nice maidens and excellent allowance (Race 7) supporting the 10-horse Skidmore. Royal Ascot alumnus No Nay Mets will be a heavy favorite, but after him there are a handful of potential winners.

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 under the SPP promotion...a video explanation is also available on the page.*

Racetrack: Saratoga

Post Time 1:10pm EST

ABC Grid

Early P5: 5A - \$16 4A1B - \$48 3A2B - \$52 4A1C \$40 - TOTAL \$156

Late P5: 5A - \$6 4A1B - \$39 3A2B - \$84 4A1C - \$17 TOTAL \$146

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	3,6	1,8	4	3,6,8	.50	\$108
2	5,6		4	5,6		
3	1,7	9	11	1,7,9		
4	1,4	6,8		1,4,6,8		
5	10,11	5	3,8	5,10,11		
6	6,12	10	1,3	6,10,12	.50	\$108
7	2,4,5		1	2,4,5		
8	7	2,8,9		2,7,8,9		
9	2	5,9	6	2,5		
10	12,14	1,11	3	11,12,14		



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Late P5 Analysis

As noted above, the middle leg is key to the sequence, presuming it stays on the turf. If you're looking for a reason to try to beat No Nay Mets, turn to the late, great Harvey Pack who cautioned you should never bet a favorite trying to do something for the first time. While it's only an extra half-furlong, No Nay Mets has run all three of his races at 5 furlongs and the Skidmore is 5½. Yes, I'm reaching a bit, but I will remind you that Cody's Wish and Caravel have already been upset at this meet. First leg (race 6) becomes a head-scratcher if rained off, with only one MTO, a FTS by a sire who is only 2-36 with debut runners. Three legitimate threats in leg 2, so you may have to make some tough choices. MTOs look very tough in the finale. The late Pick 5 will pay if you can get the fastball past Alex Bregman's No Nay Mets.

Top 3 Selections

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	3	6	1
2	5	6	4
3	1	7	9
4	1	4	6
5	11	10	5
6	6	12	10
7	2	4	5
8	7	2	8
9	2	5	9
10	14	12	11

Price/Spot Play(s)

**** Price / Spot Plays are not usually the favorites, but horses we like that will provide some value (hopefully 5-2 or higher in general). These horses will be included into our "ROI" Stats at the beginning of the SPP's. The "Stars" rating is 1 - 5.**

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
1	3	Corey and Quinn	7-2	3	\$20 win 3, \$15 DD 3 with 5,6
<p>Notes This is a competitive MSW with no apparent superstars among those who have run. Both #6 Vivid Dreams and #8 White Chocolate have run well and should take money. Looked like Vivid Dreams may have been late switching leads while missing by a nose at Monmouth and logging a 64 Beyer. White Chocolate's trainer Chad Summers is 1-28 when taking over for the first time. I'm going with a Brad Cox FTS who has been training at his Churchill Downs base, #3 Corey and Quinn. A \$250K Keeneland yearling, Corey and Quinn is by 14% debut sire Uncle Mo, who won his first race by 14 lengths at Saratoga in 2010. Cox wins at 23% with FTS in dirt sprints at Saratoga over the last five years. A bullet work at CD and Flo the Jock up indicate this filly should be sitting on go.</p>					
Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6*	6	Eric From Miami	10-1	3	\$20 WP 6



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Notes *This play is based on the sixth race being moved to the dirt. With only one MTO, it could be either a short field or one that has several maidens running on a surface they weren't intended for, in the interest of getting a start. #6 Eric From Miami was never a factor in his debut on dirt, breaking last and trailing the field early. Ricardo Santana Jr. rode him hard to try to get him involved, but ended up very wide on the turn and into the stretch while finishing seventh. Trainer Horacio De Paz, who is still looking for his first win at Saratoga this year, is 26% with maiden second time starters on dirt. The horse has been gelded, has been working well, looks like he will enjoy the added distance and Santana sticks around. No Brown, Rice or Pletcher entries here, so let's hope it's Horacio's turn to visit the winner's circle.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	2	Prisoner	7-2	4	\$30 win 2 DD \$20 DD 2-14

Notes
 Charlie Baker got off the Spa schneid Thursday, so let's see if he can make it two wins in two days. Prisoner has captured half of his 14 career starts, including an optional claimer at Monmouth on 7/9 in which he was not in for a tag and put up a career best 93 Beyer. Baker, who is 20% off a win the last five years, has worked the horse three times on the Oklahoma since the score on the shore, hopefully mitigating a bounce. Jockey Jaime Torres is 4-68 at the meet, but has 12 wins and 14 thirds for a 43% in-the-money average. Torres won on Prisoner at AQU in February so he knows the horse. This son of Violence is the ML favorite, but a tepid one at 7-2, so the price should be OK.

Favorite Vertical/Horizontal Plays Not Included in Price/Spot Play Bets

Race	Selections	Cost
7	\$15 exacta 2,4,5 w/ 1	\$45
8	\$1 tri 2,7,9 w/ 8 w/all \$1 tri 2,7,9 w/all w/ 8	\$48

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

