



Saratoga

Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	August 27, 2023
Picks By	Pete Visco

Race-Day Overview

After the highs and very lows of Travers Day, we have a day that is near and dear to the hearts of NYRA racing. It's New York Showcase Day, a card devoted to horses bred in New York which includes six NY Bred stakes races. Along with the great NY-Bred racing, NYRA will be celebrating one of its most famous and proud NY-Breds of all-time, Funny Cide, who was the winner of the 2003 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes and who passed away this year. The 4th Race on the card is the Funny Cide Stakes, which features some talented 2-year-old colts whose connections, I'm sure, are hoping can follow in the footsteps of the race's namesake.

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 (\$8) - 4A1B (\$36) - 3A2B (\$64) - 4A1C (\$24) - TOTAL (\$132)

Late P5: 5A (\$12) - 4A1B (\$38) - 3A2B (\$47) - 4A1C (\$36) - TOTAL (\$133)

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	1,13	9	-	1,9,13	\$0.50	\$72
2	4	1	5	1,4	-	-
3	2,3	5,6	1	2,3,5,6	-	-
4	5,6	3,4	-	5,6	-	-
5	1,8	4,5	2,3,7	1,4,8	-	-
6	2,5,7	4	3,8,9	2,5,7	-	-
7	1,5,6	2,4	-	1,5,6	\$0.50	\$81
8	1,2	13	9	1,2,13	-	-
9	1,8	12	2	1,8,12	-	-
10	2	6	3,4	2,6	-	-
11	4,15	11	-	4,11,15	-	-

Pick P5 Analysis



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When looking at P5 sequences, the first thing I try and look for is whether I can come up with a logical single. In the case of these two sequences, I was able to come up with a single in each. However, I am definitely more confident in my single in the Early P5, which is the #4 – Timely Conquest in the 2nd Race. So, if you are looking to spread in some of the other races, I think sticking with that single is the way to go. I did have a little more trouble narrowing down the Late P5 to meet the cost parameters that we set for the Power Picks, so, for me, the Late P5 is the more challenging. At least as far as my picks go, I feel like I have enough price plays on the win end that, if they come in, we can get some nice payouts in both sequences.

Top 3 Selections

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	1 – Dusk	13 – Soloshot	9 – Gioia Mia
2	4 – Timely Conquest	1 – Amanda's Folly	5 - Ichiban
3	2 – Dakota Gold	3 – City Man	6 – Spirit of St Louis
4	5 – Trust Fund	6 – The Wine Steward	3 – Works for Me
5	8 – Whatlovelooklike	1 – Spungie	4 – She's Dancing
6	2 – Clever Forever	7 – Rocket and Roll	5 – Flying in Style
7	1 – Caldwell Luvs Gold	5 – Concerti	6 - Stellamaris
8	2 – Be of Courage	1 – Whistler's Honor	13 – Gem Mint Ten
9	8 – Kerry	1 – Weekend Rags	12 – Little Linzee
10	2 – Maker's Candy	6 – Drake's Passage	3 – Allure of Money
11	4 – Boston Strong Mama	15 – Foxy Cara	11 – Lady Laoban

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)
3	2	Dakota Gold	5-2	4	\$25 Win – 2 \$20 Daily Double – 2 / 5

Notes

When I was up at Saratoga in person for the 1st time on Whitney Day, the #2 – **Dakota Gold** was a horse that I really liked in the Lure, and he ran an excellent race swinging wide on the yielding turf but just missing when he couldn't go by late. The reason I liked him then was I thought he had taken a serious step forward as a 4-year-old and was really on the improve and was ready to tackle a very tough restricted stakes field, which he did. Now, he is moving back to facing state-breds and, specifically, a few that he is very familiar with and had success against two and three races back. With the improvement that I think he can still make and running back against a field he really fits with, makes me think that he is primed for a monster race. One negative is that he loses Irad Ortiz to the #6 – **Spirit of St Louis**, which is a Chad Brown horse, but I don't mind that at all since we are picking up Flavien Prat who should suit this horse perfectly.

Key Trainer Stat:

- Danny Gargan – 7/18 W (39%), 12/18 ITM (67%) - State-Bred/Restricted Non-Graded Stakes on Turf



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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
4	5	Trust Fund	5-2	5	\$30 Win - 5

Notes

Spot Play of the Day!! For this race, I am dipping back into the well for a horse that I had last time out when the **#5 – Trust Fund** smoked a MSW field for a debut victory. Now, he is coming back on only 16-days rest to tackle a high-quality stakes field in the Funny Cide. One of the keys for me in his debut was that this horse is out of Practical Joke on the sire-side, and I always love the Practical Joke horses early on when they are still sprinting. In this race, we are again going 6f, so the distance should suit this horse beautifully. Getting the lead for this horse might be a little tougher as there are a couple of horses that have comparable Timeform Early Pace Figures, but what I like, is that both of those horses are to the inside so Irad Ortiz, whom we are picking up with Luis Saez injured, can survey the situation and decide if he wants to clear and get the lead or sit just off and pounce on what looks to me like cheaper speed.

Key Trainer Stat:

- Todd Pletcher – 6/19 W (32%), 10/19 ITM (53%) - 14-17 Days Between Starts on Dirt

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6	2	Clever Forever	7-2	4	\$20 Win – 2 \$0.50 Trifecta – 2 / 6-7 / 4-7 \$0.50 Trifecta – 6-7 / 2 / 4-7

Notes

My pick of **#2 – Clever Forever** is one that takes a small leap of faith simply because we have only seen this horse once and that was way back in November 2022 when he made his debut. There are a few things that I like, though, that give me comfort. First, I liked the debut race even though it doesn't look great at first glance. He was 20-1, broke poorly, dropped to dead last, and finished off the board. However, I liked that he was able to close from 9th at the top of the lane to 4th while coming home fastest out of anyone in the field. Next, that race actually came back pretty strong with all nine other horses in the race finishing in the money next out (3 wins, 1 place, 5 shows) with one going on to hit the board in multiple Kentucky Derby prep races. Second, I like the pick-up of Irad Ortiz, who, if this horse does like to come from off the pace, will fit him well. Finally, he has been working well in preparation for this race culminating in a sharp work two back and then a solid maintenance work last week at 5f to ensure he is ready to roll.

Key Trainer Stat:

- Todd Pletcher – 5/12 W (42%), 9/12 ITM (75%) - 2nd Career Starters 1st After 240-300 Day Layoff on Dirt

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	2	Be of Courage	8-1	3	\$15 Win/Place - 2 \$5 Exacta Box – 1,2 \$5 Daily Double – 2 / 1,8

Notes

Price Play of the Day!! The #2 – Be of Courage is my price play for a few reasons. Before his last race, he had come back as a 3-year-old and was steadily on the improve in terms of results and speed figures. He looked to be really coming into his own. Then, last out, he was bet down to just under 4-1 on a yielding turf, wound-up getting sandwiched between horses out of gate and dropping to dead last (this seems to be a theme with my picks today) and ran on some on the end but was still finished way back. My hope is that we can just toss that race completely and hopefully get back to the horse that was improving prior to that race, and we will see the real version of this horse. Additionally, in looking at his breeding, he seems to me like a horse who is going to relish the extra distance and should enjoy his first run going two turns. If so, I think he could be rolling late at a price.



Power

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Key Trainer Stats:

- John Pregman/JavierCastellano Combo – 2/6 W (33%), 4/6 ITM (67%) - In the Past 1 Year
- John Pregman – 0/12 W (0%), 2/12 ITM (17%) - On Turf at Saratoga

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	8	Kerry	8-1	3	\$10 Win/Place/Show - 8 \$0.50 Trifecta – 8 / 1-3,5,9,12 / 1-3,5,9,12 \$0.50 Trifecta – 1-3,5,9,12 / 8 / 1-3,5,9,12 \$0.50 Trifecta – 1-3,5,9,12 / 1-3,5,9,12 / 8

Notes

Underneath Play!! My pick of #8 – **Kerry** is mostly an underneath play in verticals, but I will throw an across the board bet on her just in case as well. After she broke her maiden as a 2-year-old, she was put in some open non-graded stakes races against some very solid company and regressed. She came back in March under Christophe Clement and ran pretty well off of a 7-month layoff, but then was moved to the Joe Sharp barn. She was off again for a bit and came back going a mile in a tough stakes race, was able to set the pace, and then folded. Then, in her last race, she gets cut back again against state-breds, but the race comes off the turf and is on sloppy dirt and she doesn't run well again. My hope is that now that we are back in against state-breds and going 5.5f again with what we hope is firm turf, we see this horse get back into form. That is a lot of ifs and hopes, though, which is why I am looking at this as more of an underneath play at a price.

Key Trainer Stat:

Joe Sharp – 9/28 W (32%), 14/28 ITM (50%) - Turf Sprints in 2023

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

Race	Selections	Cost
2	\$15 Pick-3 – 4 / 2 / 5	\$15
6	\$2 Pick-3 – 2,5,7 / 1,5 / 1,2	\$24
11	\$10 Exacta – 15,4 \$5 Exacta – 4,15	\$15

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

