



Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	Sept. 2, 2024
Tip Sheet By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

And so, it has come to this. The meet we all look forward to – at least anyone who even remotely considers themselves a true horse racing fan – ends today, 53 calendar days and 39 race cards (remember the cancellation?) after it started. Saratoga 2024 was hampered by some tough weather in the middle of the meet, but that's going to happen in that part of the world in July and August. For those of us lucky to be there for Travers Week, with its Chamber of Commerce weather, it made it all worthwhile, like it always does. We were treated to four extra racing days this year with the Belmont Stakes festival, and get ready for a fifth day next year and potentially several days tacked on to the beginning of the meet, per Dave Grening's reporting in the DRF. For now, there is one more chance to get out for those of us who have not seen the ball that well this year. The final stakes race of the meet could not be named any better – the Hopeful. It features 2-year-olds who ideally have their best racing days in front of them. And we are all hoping for a successful Breeders' Cup, mild winter and the first stops on the Road to the 2025 Derby. Handicapping the final Saratoga card is always bittersweet, but I will always be grateful for being able to follow the greatest sport there is at the world's greatest racetrack. 278 days until the Belmont Stakes at Saratoga. As always, check for changes and scratches. We send out the SPPs early to give you ample amount of time to study and make decisions before the races begin. Here we go. CRUSH YOUR BETS (CYB) one last time!

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.***

Go to the next page for our analysis of the races.....good luck!



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Racetrack: Saratoga

ABC Grid - Post Time 12:35 p.m. EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	4	3	5,6	4	\$.50 P5	\$60
2	2,11(AE)	7	1,6	1,2,6,7,11		
3	4	3,7	1	3,4,7		
4	1,2	6,7		1,2,6,7		
5	2,3	6	1,8	2,3		
6	3,9	6	7, 11(AE)			
7	2,3	4	6,9			
8	5	8,9	6	5	\$1	\$108
9	4,6	7	3,5	4,6,7		
10	2,8	6	7,9	2,6,8		
11	11	5,8	4	5,8,11		
12	2,5	4,6	8,10	2,4,5,6		

Top 3 Selections

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



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Pick 5 Analysis

Going to single in the first leg of the early and the late P5. That serves two purposes: If the single wins, there is plenty of coverage in ensuing legs. If he loses, that's what the Pick 4 is for. The late P5 looks like a much better sequence for potential value. Arzak did not run particularly well last time and still lost by less than a length, albeit in a field he should have dominated. Underrated trainer Mike Trombetta has given him 3 works at Fair Hill since and ships him to Saratoga for a stakes named for one of the greatest characters in the history of the sport, Harvey Pack. There should be plenty of pace for him to close into today. My key angle will be trying to beat Ferocious in the Hopeful. Yes, he looked awesome in winning his debut and putting up a 98 Beyer. But Chancer McPatrick looked pretty good as well, closing from last to win his first start and looking like the extra half-furlong will be much to his liking. For what it's worth, Ferocious trainer Gustavo Delgado, who won the 2023 Derby with Mage, is 0-8 with second-time starters coming off a maiden win. Chad Brown is 20% over the last 5 years in that category. I'll certainly be using Ferocious, but will lean more heavily on Chancer.

Below are today's Price / Spot Plays. These are not usually the favorites, but horses that will provide some value. The "Stars" rating is 1-5, with 5 being the MOST CONFIDENT /RECOMMENDED PLAYS.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6	9	One Vision	4-1	4	\$30 WP \$10 exacta 9 with 3,6,7,11(AE)
Notes I can see One Vision taking a big step forward off his debut, in which he ran second to Bill Parcells' Pay the Juice despite racing somewhat greenly in the stretch. That race was a 5½-furlong sprint that was rained off the grass. The breeding is more dirt than turf and trainer John Terranova keeps this gelded son of Central Banker, a productive NY stallion, on the dirt, with 1½ more furlongs to navigate. Terranova wins at 17% with second-time maidens on dirt. Luis Saez returns to ride and can see what's going on inside of him from the No. 9 post. There are no monsters in this field. A win is in focus.					
Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	2	Solar Glare	4-1	4	\$30 win \$20 DD 2-5
Notes Staying with the optical theme for today's Spot Plays, taking a shot with low-percentage connections in this maiden special for NY-breds. The trainer, Dimitrios Synnefias, shipped in a maiden who had been training at Penn National for Sunday's last race and he ran a respectable fourth. That was a \$30K claimer; this is a \$90K MSW, so that tells you something. He is 3-7 with a \$2.63 ROI over the last 5 years with 2-year-old first-time starters in dirt sprints. The sire, Upstart, wins with 17% of his 2-year-old first-time starters. Jockey Jaime Gomez has struggled mightily at the meet (2-68), but strange things seem to happen at the end of the meet. To wit: Lane Luzzi was 0-62 heading into Saturday and he has won two races in two days. Hall of Fame trainer Nick Zito was 0-11 until winning a race Sunday. You get the picture.					
Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	5	Lu's Redemption	5-1	4	\$25 WP \$5 exacta 5 with 2,4,6,8



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Notes This is a repeat Spot Play for me. Last time, the race was rained off the turf but David Duggan kept the daughter of Catholic Boy in and she lost by a nose. She will get back to her preferred surface in the meet finale. Two races back, she made what looked like a winning move until getting caught late. Duggan is 16% over the last 5 years when he uses blinkers. Catholic Boy progeny are better on turf and going long. Prayers are answered today.

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

Race	Selections	Cost
5	\$40 exacta 2-3	\$40
10	\$20 Pick 3 8 with 11 with 2,5	\$40
11	\$20 exacta 11 with 5,8	\$40

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

