

Power Picks

Race Date	1/17/26
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Race-Day Overview

With the big Pegasus Day right around the corner next weekend in S. Florida (plus football heaven for yours truly as “Da Bears” take on the Rams tomorrow, and my Hoosiers (IU alum here) play for the “Natty” on Monday night), we’ll try to pad our bankroll with some solid races at the Fairgrounds for their big Lecomte S. Day card, along with Cal Cup Day out at Santa Anita. Plus of course, a fun sequence at Gulfstream / Santa Anita for the Coast to Coast Pick 5, sponsored by our friends at Santa Anita / 1st Racing.

Weather should NOT be a factor at any of the locations above, but of course, ALWAYS CHECK FOR SCRATCHES OR CHANGES!! Good luck today!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.06** (\$2,063.34 / 1002)

2026: **\$4.06** (\$36.50 / 9)

2026 Plays of the Day: **\$3.47** (\$10.40 / 3)

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.*

Racetrack: Fairgrounds

Howard Kravets’ ALL-STAKES LP5 ABC Grid – R5 starts at 5pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
9	5,6,7	-	4,8,9	5,6,7	\$0.50	\$54
10	1,3,4	-	2,5,6	1,3,4		
11	4	1,5,6,7	9	4		
12	8	1,7	5	1,7,8		
13	5,7	6,10	1,3,11	5,6,7,10		

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No Paul Halloran's Late P5 Grid or Pete Visco's Late P5 Grid since we only covered the late double today at the Fairgrounds on our show Thursday. Watch Bettin N Boozin from Wednesday night for more details of the earlier stake races / Late P5 at the FG today!

Howard's All-Stakes Late P5 Analysis - Races 9-13

Today's ALL-STAKES Late P5 has a combination of star power along with potential stars trying to make a name for themselves on the Derby and Oaks Trail. For my money, you could take some stands in a few places and single, mainly in R11 and R12, although many won't see it that way. #4 Lagynos and #8 Just a Touch, in the aforementioned races respectively, will be tough IF they run their best. Lagynos is 7-2 ML, so perhaps that's where you plant your flag, otherwise you'd have to go several deep. Just a Touch is VERY talented, but the outside post and/or layoff might be an issue. I'd spread mostly in the last race, not because I want "guarantee" hitting the ticket on the end, but because it's a wide-open, competitive field with no standouts at all.

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	7	Strikingly Spun	12-1	3	\$5 Win, \$15 Place/Show Trifectas: 7 / 5,6 / 4,5,6,8,9 5,6 / 7 / 4,5,6,8,9 5,6 / 4,5,6,8,9 / 7

Notes:

I'll start today's Spot Plays with an UNDERNEATH TYPE that I'm using in one of my favorite bets, a "reverse tri-key", where I'll use #7 Strikingly Spun in every spot in the trifecta (see bets above). Trained by Sharp and ridden by Paco, "Spun's" speed figs according to Timeform U.S. are as good as any in the field, even if the Beyers are slightly low. She is the best closer in a race with enough early speed to keep the pace honest, and she's been competing in races lacking early speed lately. She only has 3 wins in 24 starts, but 8 other in-the-money finishes. Maybe she's lost a bit off the fastball, but maybe not, and we're getting a price to find out. For our Spot Play ROI, I'll go \$1 PS, and put an "insanity" win bet on her too from my own pocket in case she fires big and everything works out perfectly.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	5	Lagynos	7-2	5	\$20 WP #4 BIG Exactas: 4 / 1,5,6,7 Smaller Exactas: 1,5,6,7 / 4

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT THE FAIRGROUNDS!! This turf stake has a large field, so you'll get some prices on horses you like. #4 Lagynos should not be 7-2, and I expect his off-odds to be closer to 2-1. He's been in graded stakes company much of his career, and while I haven't always been his biggest fan due to the 11-for-22 2nd and 3rd-place finishes, this is a good spot to get a win in an

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ungraded stake. Jose Ortiz will lower his price, but that also means you're most likely gonna get a great ride. He's been given a small break since a no-chance effort against world-record holder Wolfie's Dynaghost, and he can be a bit forward if necessary. He's never competed on the turf at FG, which is a concern, but I trust the connections in this spot. Nice, honest horse who I believe will get the job done today.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
13	5	Golden Tempo	8-1	4	\$15 WP #5

Notes:

The G3 Lecomte is the first graded stake on the Road to the Derby at the Fairgrounds. #5 Golden Tempo, trained by Cherie Devaux, had a debut run that has to be seen to be believed. The Curlin colt, out of a Bernardini mare, clearly wants longer according to the pedigree, and ran that way first out, when breaking slow, then making a wide, sustained, impressively-visual run through the stretch to get the win. It was one of the "wow" moments of the day on that card. Now, the pace did fall apart a bit, so the speed came back to him, but he finished in 1:10 and change, no easy feat. It's also not easy to go against winners first time stretching out, and there's NO WAY he'll be 8-1 come post time. In fact, if he's the soft favorite at 7-2, it wouldn't shock me. Let price be your guide on the win end, but regardless, this is an exciting prospect...I'm more excited about him (and #7 Mesquite) running today than any horse in the country. Are they Derby contenders? We'll find out after the Lecomte is run at around 7pm EDT under the Fairgrounds' lights.

Racetrack: Santa Anita

Howard Kravets' ABC P5 Grid – R5 starts at 5:28pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	1,8	2,7	3	1,2,7,8	\$0.50 P5	\$96
6	3,6,10	-	4,7,8	3,6,10		
7	3	5,7	-	3		
8	4,6	2,8	1,3,7	2,4,6,8		
9	1,5	3,8	-	1,3,5,8		

Howard's Late Pick 5 Analysis – Races 5 - 9

Welcome to Cal Cup Day! And special thanks to Jeff Chapman, GM Nate Newby, Andrew Arthur, and the crew for the wonderful hospitality last weekend at Santa Anita on my quick visit to the track. Today's Late P5 is not easy, as Cal-Breds take center stage. I'm taking some stabs early because I'm not sure I'll get prices later in the sequence. The fields are not huge, but they're competitive and it was hard for me to find a single. I'll take a slight stand in R7 with #3 Cee Drew for Blacker and Gonzalez, but frankly, that one might be too far back early...I'll need the race to fall apart a bit late. The favorites in the later races are hard to trust, but then again I had trouble finding any big longshots that I fancy either....feels like a lot of middling prices between 5-2 and 6-1 could win today...nothing wrong with that! Good luck!

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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)
5	1	Hey Jessie	9-2	2	\$15 WP #1 BIG Exactas: 2,7,8 / 1 Small Exactas: 1 / 2,7,8

Notes:

The Turf Classic for Cal-Breds has lost some very nice older males over the past 12 months, so this division is rather thin compared to the last few years. In part because of that fact, I'm trying a fresh face filly against the boys, with **#1 Hey Jessie**. The newly turned 4yo is getting better every start for McCarthy, and she's been facing solid open-company holder horses in her last two. Today, she's cutting back a bit, which should be good for her with some early speed signed on. Smith knows her well, and she'll most likely save ground on both turns and tip out in the lane. She's at most only a few points slower than the top ones...I'll go \$1WP for our Spot Play ROI, let's see what Jessie can do today!

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	3	Cee Drew	4-1	4	\$25 Win #3

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT SANTA ANITA, but a "soft one." First off, let me say this...I don't think **#3 Cee Drew** will be 4-1, more like 3-1. There's definitely some early speed in the race, and it's NOT all proven on turf. Cee Drew won her maiden nicely vs. Cal-Breds, then stepped into open company in the G3 Jimmy Durante and ran 8th, but only lost 4 ¼ lengths. I thought the ride was very passive...or maybe she's not as good as I think because she did save ground on both turns, albeit vs. tougher. If **#5 Too Sassy** gets the distance or **#7 Cashed** likes the turf, Cee Drew might have too much to do in the stretch. My gut is there's more in the tank for Cee Drew than meets the eye...hope jockey Gonzalez is a little more aggressive today and makes his late move earlier.

Coast-to-Coast (CTC) Pick 5 Preview

Sponsored by Santa Anita / 1st Racing

1/ST	SANTANA ANITA PARK	GULFSTREAM PARK	SATURDAY/JAN 17
COAST-TO-COAST	PICK 5		RACE 10 - 4:50 ET
EVERY FRI/SAT/SUN	RETAIL ONLY		RACE 11 - 5:20 ET
			RACE 6 - 5:58 ET
			RACE 7 - 6:28 ET
			RACE 8 - 6:58 ET

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Below is my ABC Grid for the CTC Pick 5 today at GP and SA. It's a low takeout (15%), \$1 base bet with no CAW's allowed (retail only).

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
GP10	1	-	4,5,6	1	\$1	\$120
GP11	5,6	2	3,10	2,5,6,10		
SA6	3,6	10	4,7,8	3,6		
SA7	3	5,7	6	3,5,7		
SA8	4,6	2,7,8	1,3	2,4,6,7,8		

Overall opinion: Today's Coast to Coast Pick 5, at least on paper, is not the most difficult sequence I've seen. That being said, we'll probably see some bombs win these races now. The obvious single of #1 Damon's Mound in the first leg can shorten your tickets; just don't see him losing to those realistically. The spread races seem to be GP R11, and SA R6. The penultimate leg, SA R7, will have a tough foe in the #3 if she runs to her best, and then you have survive the last leg, SA R8. That could be a spread race also, as they've traded off beating each other, plus the fresh face rail horse coming in from Gulfstream.

YouTube preview...."Wire to Wire Ep. #3": <https://youtube.com/live/Q-liKhq34VQ?feature=share>

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

