Power Picks

Race Date	2/21/26
Edition #	Vol. 6, No. 8

Race-Day Overview

With our main track on the Power Picks being Turfway Park, we did something we normally don't do on the Tip Sheet and on the Picks & Ponies show and that's covering an all-synth sequence. With this being a light week for big stakes races on the racing calendar and Turfway having a Kentucky Derby points race, it makes sense, though.

Not only because it's all-synth, but the card, and specifically, the late Pick-5 sequence we are covering, is extremely tough from a handicapping standpoint. There are big, deep fields, soft favorites, and super-competitive races. Hopefully, this makes for a sequence where we can get some prices home and land a nice payout in both the Pick-5 and the other plays we get into.

Lastly, this is always an interesting Kentucky Derby prep race and route since you have to figure out if any horses coming out of this route to make the Derby gate can translate their form to or back to the dirt. Don't forget, Rich Strike came out of the feature race we are covering today (the John Battaglia Memorial), where he finished 4th, to win the Run for the Roses.

AS ALWAYS, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES!!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): $2.04 ($2,105.14 / 1033)

2026: $1.98 ($79.30 / 40)

2026 Plays of the Day: $2.53 ($27.80 / 11)

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.*

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Racetrack: Turfway Park

Howard Kravets' Late P5 ABC GRID - R6 Starts at 8:25pm EDT

NO GRID THIS WEEK

Paul Halloran's Late P5 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	4,8	3,11	1,12	3,4,8,11	$0.50 P5	$96
7	7,8	1	2,3	7,8	-	-
8	2,6	3,9	8	2,6,9	-	-
9	7,12	1,11	9	7,12	-	-
10	3,9	2,5	4,10	2,3,5,9	-	-

Pete Visco's Late P5 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	1,3,4	2,11	6,8,12	1,3,4	$0.50 P5	$90
7	2,8	1,7	3,6	2,8	-	-
8	2,6,8	3,9	4,7	2,6	-	-
9	7,9,11	1,8,12	2,4	1,7,8,9,11	-	-
10	4,9,10	2	3,5,12	4,9,10	-	-

Pete's Late P5 Analysis - Races 6-10

> *I had a really hard time narrowing this sequence down to the under $100 Caveman ticket limit that we set for our Pick-5s mostly because I think each of these races are ultra-competitive and there are spots where either the favorites look vulnerable or there are multiple price horses that seem to have decent shots to win. That's usually a great recipe for a nice payout, but makes budgeting and ticket construction difficult. As you can tell from my 'A' horses in my ABC Grid, I wasn't really comfortable going too skinny in any of the races aside from maybe the 7th and that race I could easily make a case for the 'B' horses to be moved up. That's a long winded way of saying that I don't have a clear-cut strategy in this sequence where I am leaning on a horse or two or am trying to single a horse to separate. I am more in the camp of spreading in the super wide open races like the 9th and see if we can get some prices home.*

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)
8	6	Lorelei Lee	4-1	3	$20 Win - 6 $5 Exacta Box - 2,6,8 $5 Daily Double - 6 / 7,9,11

Notes:

The case for **#6-Lorelei Lee** isn't overly complicated. She debuted in January going the same 6f on the Synth at Turfway that they are going today and won impressively closing from way back against a

moderate pace, but one that fell apart a bit. Now we get her 2nd out and it looks, on paper and per Timeform's Pace Projector, that she should be trying to close this time into a projected quick pace. With **#6-Lorelei Lee** having the Top Timeform Late Pace Figure, the race flow and pace should set up perfectly for her style. Since her last race, she has two works with one being a nice 4f work two back to prep her and then a 5f stronger work in 1:00^3 to see if she was still sharp and it looks like she was. So, from a fitness standpoint, I think she is coming in carrying that same form from her debut. There was one negative stat that I looked at, but decided to play against and that is that M. Maker is 1/22 W and 6/22 ITM with Maiden Winners Last Out in Synth Sprints. Definitely not a stat that inspires confidence, but we are hoping to buck that trend.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	7	Attfield	8-1	4	$25 Win/Place - 7 $0.50 Tri Key Box - 7 w/ 1,2,8,9,11,12 $10 Daily Double - 7,11 / 9,10

Notes:

This is my Play of the Day at Turfway Park - As you can tell from the Caveman Ticket in my ABC Grid above, I think this race, the John Battaglia Memorial Stakes, is a tough, wide-open battle. Even with that being the case, I going to take a shot with the **#7-Attfield** as my top play. As a 2yo, this horse didn't do much wrong. He won 2 of 3 and his only loss was in a Grade 3 to what looked like a very good Miguel Clement turf horse. He ended the year winning a Non-Graded Stakes race where he stretched out to 8.5f, showed his tactical ability, and comfortably ran down the favorite with a 77 Beyer and a 101 Lifetime Timeform Top. If he can show some natural 2yo-to-3yo progression, he would be right near the top of this field. One question mark is that he hasn't yet run on Synth. However, a couple of factors alleviated my concerns about that. On the Sire-Side, Vekoma produces 18% W in Synth Routes and 23% W in Synth Sprints, so his progeny have had success on Synth. Additionally, his Granddam (Mona de Momma) won a Grade 3 on Synth and was 7/9 ITM overall on Synth. On the Dam-Side, there are no progeny that have run on Synth, but his Grandsire (Street Boss) was a multiple Grade 1 winner on Synth and was 10/12 in the exacta on Synth. So, from a breeding perspective, I am comfortable that **#7-Attfield** should be able to handle the surface switch.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	9	R Elliot	12-1	3	$10 Win/Place/Show - 9 $5 Exacta Box - 2,9,10 $2 Trifecta Box - 2,4,9,10

Notes:

I hate to say something negative like this, but, when I started handicapping this race, I made a comment to some people that this might be one of the worst overall races in terms of on paper running lines that we have handicapped on Picks & Ponies. Why I mention that is because, in a race like this you either will seemingly land on a standout favorite or it will be a good spot to go price shopping. I chose the latter. The **#9-R Elliot** doesn't look like much on paper and he could wind up being terrible and this pick will look moronic. However, I found a few positives that make me think he can potentially outrun his odds. On debut at the same 8f they are going here, he was in PP #10 out of 12, was 97-1, got hung wide on both turns, and faded badly in MdnClm $50k, but did get an 80 Timeform Figure which isn't far off the top figures in the field. He then dropped down to this level (MdnClm $7.5k) and ran poorly again, but he was on the far outside again, was sprinting, was against the pace per DRF, and sort of ran in place. Now, he is 2nd at this level, stretches back out to 8f, which his breeding suggests he should appreciate, and is up against a very weak field, so maybe he finally found the

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condition/circumstance that fits his skill level. Finally, there is one trainer stat that I liked. H. Holsapple is 30% W and 60% ITM in Synth Routes, so maybe he can get this horse ready for this spot.

Racetrack: Gulfstream Park

Andrew's Late P5 ABC GRID - Race 8 Starts at 3:50pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	3,5	6	1,4,7	3,5	$0.50 P5	$30
9	11	7,9	1,2,10	7,9,11	-	-
10	6	5,7	8	6	-	-
11	3,9,10	1,5	8	1,3,5,9,10	-	-
12	1,5	7,10	8	1,5	-	-

Andrew's Late P5 Analysis - Races 8-12

Saturday's late Pick 5 at Gulfstream includes The Gulfstream Park Sprint Stakes which is the 3rd leg of this sequence. The sequence starts off with Race 8 which is a small but competitive MSW field. I strongly believe that this is a race that will be won by one of two horses: #3 Infinite Light for Pletcher who is running for the second time after a lackluster performance at Tampa. Blinkers and John Velazquez are added today and I think this one improves. I think the one to beat is the #5 Fancy Gentleman who seems better than what the rest of the field has shown so far. Race 9 is the 2nd leg of this sequence and is a nice allowance optional claiming (OC) field on the turf. I think this race must include #11 Maggie Go but for multi race sequences like this one, horses like #7 Mystic Sea and #9 Pretty Lavish might sit a nice trip and make a winning run late. The Gulfstream Park Sprint is the next leg, and I am singling #6 Damon's Mound who should be in good enough form currently to beat this group by a bit. I am pretty confident in this one. The 4th leg is the very fun and very tricky Claiming 10k on the Tapeta. This race is wide open, which is why I spread my bets the most here; frankly, this could be an ALL race for bigger budgets. Finally, we close out the sequence with an MSW on turf going 7.5F. I think the #1 Use Me (IRE) will be an impressive debutant. Very nice breeding and very good connections for debutants on the grass. #5 Let's Go Barbie wants turf and gets it after being forced to run on Tapeta in her debut due to rain. Showed a nice turn of foot in its debut and should benefit from the surface switch to grass. All in all, nothing in this sequence is complicated outside of the 11th race. Let's Cash some tickets!

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)
10	6	Damon's Mound	7-5	5	$25 Win - 6

Notes:

This is my Play of the Day at GP - #6-Damon's Mound is in a perfect spot today. He is coming into this race after a nice successful attempt at becoming a two time Sunshine Sprint Champion. He really loves

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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	1	Use Me	8-1	3	$10 Win/Place - 1

Notes:

#1-Use Me seems to be a nice first time starter for Brendan Walsh. This Irish bred filly is the daughter of a very nice sire in Starman who was a very strong sprinter over in England in his prime. **#1-Use Me** gets the inside post on a 7.5F turf race at GP which is advantageous. I think in a field full of horses with a lot of question marks, this fresh face might be able to best them.

Coast-to-Coast (CTC) Pick 5 Preview
Sponsored by Santa Anita / 1st Racing

TODAY's ANALYSIS/OPINIONS ARE WRITTEN BY PHP HOST AND DEL-MAR POWER PICKS TIP SHEET AUTHOR (AND INTERN AT THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS MIGHT I ADD!) NOAH MEAGHER.

Below is Noah's 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).

First Leg Starts at Approx. 4:20pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
GP9	9,10	6,11	7	9,10	$1 P5	$96
SA3	1,4	9	8,10	1,4,9	-	-
GP11	1,2,8,10	-	4,5,9,11	1,2,8,10	-	-
SA5	3	1,7,9	2,11	1,3,7,9	-	-
SA7	6	4,7	2,8,9	6	-	-

Overall Opinion

We are in for a treat on Saturday because this is one of the best Coast to Coast sequences I have seen in a LONG time. Typically I try to be a bit of a contrarian, especially when it comes

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to looking for places to narrow and/or single, but the clear and obvious place to single is with #6 Gratefully in the concluding race of the sequence, the Wishing Well S. She seems to have a pace advantage in there, so if she is able to replicate her form down the hill, she should be pretty tough in there. The first three legs of the sequence are VERY difficult, especially the tapeta route that goes as Race 11 at Gulfstream. I might try to get cheeky on a couple tickets and single #3 Doncic in Race 5 at Santa Anita, but overall if I'm able to get alive to Gratefully in the finale, I'll be ecstatic. Good luck!

YouTube preview…."Wire to Wire Ep. #8": *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og0cyCBB62g*

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