

Power Picks

Race Date	1/31/26
Edition #	Vol. 6, No. 5

Race-Day Overview

The great racing continues across the country, with Kentucky Derby implications in full swing as 3yo's vie for points to qualify for the first Saturday in May. First, we'll travel back to Gulfstream, where another great card awaits handicappers with 4 stakes, 2 graded, in the Late P5. The highlight is the Kentucky Derby Prep, the G3 Holy Bull.

Then, we'll travel to Santa Anita, where there are some very nice fields and the Late P5 will be a real challenge. AS ALWAYS, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES!!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): **\$2.07** (\$2,098.34 / 1015)

2026: **\$3.30** (\$72.50 / 22)

2026 Plays of the Day: **\$4.92** (\$24.60 / 5)

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: Gulfstream Park

Howard Kravets' Late P5 ABC GRID - R8 starts at 3:45pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	6	1	3,5	1,6	\$0.50 LP5	\$90
9	4,11	2,5,8	1	2,4,5,8,11	-	-
10	6,8	4,5	1	6,8	-	-
11	6,8,10	-	2	6,8,10	-	-
12	1,5,7	-	8	1,5,7	-	-

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Paul Halloran's Late P5 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1,6		5	1,6	\$.50 P5	\$96
9	4,8		2,5	4,8		
10	6,8	4	2	4,6,8		
11	8,10	2,6		2,6,8,10		
12	1,7	4,5		1,4,5,7		

Pete Visco's Late P5 ABC Grid:

NO GRID THIS WEEK

Howard's All-Stakes Late P5 Analysis - Races 8-12

Today's Late P5 at GP is not easy, but there are opportunities to either single or go skinny in certain legs. One of those might be the opening leg, the Swale S., where the outside horse (#6) appears to be loose on paper and could wire the field. I'll definitely be spreading in R9, and to some extent R11, while going thinner in R10 and R12. The feature race, the Holy Bull for 3yo males, is a compact but solid field of 7. I really like a horse in there, which I talk about below as my Play of the Day at GP! Good luck in this fun sequence.

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)
11	6	Storm's Wake	8-1	3	\$10 WP #6 BIG Exactas: 6 / 8,10 Smaller Exactas: 8,10 / 6

Notes:

I found this Pick 5 to be a bit tricky, and also hard to find Spot Plays I truly love, so I'm only touting two horses at GP today. I'll start today's Spot Plays with **#6 Storm's Wake** for trainer Lynch (33% at the meet as of this writing) and jockey Saez, a significant jockey change to be noted. Storm's Wake has run very well in 3 of his 4 starts, and the Oscar Performance filly has every right to improve 2nd out after a short layoff. Sister Troienne, her stablemate, got a perfect trip vs. her in the Ginger Brew, and I think Saez will be more aggressive. Plus, Storm's Wake was getting to her counterpart while being a big goofy in the lane. If Saez gets the right trip, I think she'll be right there in a relatively wide-open field. Works in the morning seem solid, especially the last one in :48 ½ breezing WITH Sister Troienne at Palm Meadows Training Center. She'll be the bigger price of the two and has similar ability. I'll go #WP on our Spot Play ROI, given the difficulty of the race.

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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	1	Incredibolt	9-2	5	\$25 Win #1 BIG Exactas: 1 / 5,7 Smaller Exactas: 5,7 / 1

Notes:

My co-host Paul Halloran will be happy with my **PLAY OF THE DAY AT GULFSTREAM**, since he has a Derby Future Wager on the Riley Mott-trained **#1 Incredibolt**. The \$75k bargain purchase is 2-for-3 lifetime and has done little wrong in his last two. The big question for me is, do you value a horse that has already gone two turns but may be a little slower on the figs vs. talented, faster horses (in theory) that are going two turns for the first time and have experience over the track? I'll lean slightly to the former and trust Trainer Mott here (yes, the son of Eclipse Award-winning trainer Bill). Most of the field wants to be forward, especially #5 Cannoneer. I assume #7 Nearly will rate a bit and is formidable too. I just feel Incredibolt has upside, will save ground, and tip out late. It's a **FIRST-LINE** finish, so jockey Torres needs to be aware of this and make his move a little earlier than normal, since the wire will come up pretty quick in the homestretch. We might get some value with bettors leaning to the Cox and Pletcher trainees. Fun race, talented horses!

Racetrack: Santa Anita

Howard Kravets' Late P5 ABC GRID - Race 5 starts at 5:39pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	3,4	2,5,9	6,7,8	2,3,4,5,9	\$0.50 LP5	\$100
6	3,7	6,8	-	3,6,7,8	-	-
7	3,7	2,4,8	1,5	2,3,4,7,8	-	-
8	5	2,9	1,6,7	5	-	-
9	2,10	6,11	4,5	2,10	-	-

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
5	3	Lady Mendelssohn	6-1	3	\$10 WP #3

Notes:

A very difficult puzzle awaits us in R5 at SA today. However, there is a horse that appears to be improving at a price, and that's **#3 Lady Mendelssohn**. Due to the wide-open nature of the race, I'll go \$1 WP for our Spot Play ROI. While there is another speed from the #9 and perhaps the #5, Lady improved greatly last time, fighting on hard in the lane after taking the lead and barely missing. It was her best effort in a while, and although she takes the blinkers off, she still figures to be forward. The works in the morning have been fantastic, so maybe they've figured this filly out....after all, she's just turning 4yo. There are no superstars in here and many have trouble finding the wire first, so maybe "Lady" can sit just off, or take the lead if no one else goes, and be a big factor at the wire at a price.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	7	Vibes	9-2	5	\$20 WP #7 BIG Exactas: 7 / 2,3,4,8 Smaller Exactas: 2,3,4,8 / 7

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Notes:

Today's G3 Megahertz, named after one helluva mare who had an electric turn of foot back in the early 2000's, is completely wide-open. But, I've got good vibes, literally, in this race, with **MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT SANTA ANITA, #7 Vibes**. First off, Vibes will have to run well to win, because contention runs deep today. What Vibes may lack in stakes earnings / form lines, she makes up with heart, determination, speed, and consistency. JJ will know where to put her early, and all this filly does is run well. Her last effort was the exception, but it was vs. MUCH tougher, and she probably just needed the rest. Now she gets the freshening, solid worktab, and great placement. I can see her sitting just off the #3 and #6 a few lengths back, then make her solid middle move and ideally take over mid-stretch. She'll have to be as game as ever with potential closers like the #1,2,4,8 breathing down her neck. Do not take too short a price on her.....there are too many others that have her ability, and it's a very trip-dependent race. By my speed figs, she's just as good if not better than most in here...but not by a lot. Fun race.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	9	See Through It	10-1	3	\$5 Win, \$15 Place / Show

Notes:

This is mainly an underneath play. I almost never tout a 9yo in for a tag, but this is a new horse for Peter Miller, and I've seen him do strange things with horses off the claim. Why buy a 9yo for \$50k if you don't think he can't run anymore? He ran very credibly last time vs. many of these after getting in tight after the start and lost some mojo. Now he's in the clear on the far outside and should make his usual late run...probably not enough to win, but in the money? Definitely at a price. \$1 Place/Show for our Spot Play ROI. Use underneath in exactas and certainly tri's / supers.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	10	Getting Closer	8-1	4	\$10 WP #10 BIG Exactas: 10 / 2,6,11 Smaller Exactas: 2,6,11 / 10

Notes:

Very difficult way to end the card today, maidens on the turf sprinting 6.5f on the flat. There are plenty of question marks in here, and feels like if a firster can run, they might win. Could be the #2. But I'll go with a horse switching dirt to turf, **#10 Getting Closer**. Ayuso stays on the Good Magic filly, and I really like her synthetic works, which could translate to good turf efforts. While there's not a lot of turf pedigree, the dam did race 4 times on turf and placed in 3 of them. She's got tactical speed but doesn't need the lead, and those aforementioned works were with nice horse Baltic Fire. Maybe I'm searching for something that's not really there, but in this field, why not? Reddam Racing knows how run a horse on any surface.

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

Power Picks

1/ST
SATURDAY/JAN 31

SANTA ANITA PARK
GULFSTREAM PARK

COAST-TO-COAST

PICK 5

EVERY FRI/SAT/SUN

RETAIL ONLY

RACE 9 - 4:15 ET

RACE 3 - 4:36 ET

RACE 11 - 5:15 ET

RACE 5 - 5:39 ET

RACE 7 - 6:43 ET

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
GP9	4,11	2,8	1,5	2,4,11	\$1	\$108
SA3	1,2		3	1,2		
GP11	6,8,10	-	2	6,8,10		
SA5	3,4	2,5,9	6,7,8	3,4,5		
SA7	4,7	2,3,8	1,5	4,7		

Overall opinion: My goal today, other than the obvious of hitting the bet, is to be alive to #7 Vibes in the last leg. This is not the easiest sequence, and you'll have to take some stands somewhere. For me early, that's in Leg 2, where I'm only using two horses, and I think the rail horse has a BIG shot to upset what I think is a shaky fave in the #2. My biggest spread race is SA Race 5, a wide-open allowance race where there are AT LEAST 4-5 horses that could win. Then, the final leg, the G3 Megahertz, I'll try and get away with only using two horses...tough race.

YouTube preview...."Wire to Wire Ep. #5": <https://youtube.com/live/QpjhAZ-U114?feature=share>
With special guests Gino Buccola (DRF / SA) and Skip Pearring (SA, Jeff Chapman Radio Show AM 830)

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

