



Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	Sat., Aug. 2nd
Tip Sheet By	Howard Kravets

Race-Day Overview

Saturday #4 of the 2025 Meet is simply one of the best summer cards of the year, it's WHITNEY DAY! There are four Grade 1's today, and some SERIOUS first-time starter / baby races along with high-class allowance affairs....exactly what makes Saratoga fantastic. And as icing on cake, the weather is going to be gorgeous today and tomorrow...sunny and cool. They quite a bit of rain on Thursday, so I assume the turf will have some give in it, probably listed "good."

Good luck today...check for scratches and changes and watch our "Saratoga Today" morning shows today and tomorrow as well. Today's starts at 10am EST...NOTE THE EARLY 1ST POST TODAY OF 12:05pm EST!

Today's Picks

****For information on how to read an "ABC Grid" and ticket construction, please refer to our podcast website, hhracingpodcast.com, and go to the "Power Picks" section...you have to scroll down a bit on the "Standard" Power Picks page...a video explanation is also available on the page.**

ABC Grid - Post Time 12:05pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks (use in horizontal bets)	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	1a,2	5	1	1,2,5	\$0.50 EP5	\$81
2	2,4,5, (11)	1,7	8	2,4,5,(11)		
3	1,6	-	2	1,6		
4	1,4,5	2,3,10	-	1,4,5		
5	1,2,4	3,5,7,9	8,10	1,2,4		
6	1,3,8	2,7,9	-	-		



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7	3,5	1,10,11,13	9	1,3,5,11,13	\$0.50 P5	\$90
8	3,4,6	1,7,8	5	1,3,4,6,7,8		
9	3,5	7	-	3,5		
10	1,3	2	4,6	1,2,3		
11	5,9		3,7	5		
12	2,12	3,4,5,6	1	-		
13	2,10	8	1,6,9,12	-		

Top 3 Selections

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	1a	2	5
2	4	2	5
3	6	1	2
4	1	5	4
5	4	1	2
6	1	3	8
7	3	5	11
8	6	4	3
9	3	5	7
10	3	1	2
11	5	9	7
12	7	10	8
13	2	10	8

Mandatory Payout P5 w/4 Grade 1's Ending in the Whitney Analysis: R7 - 11

As I stated earlier in the Picks, this mandatory Pick 5 with 4 G1 stakes is one of the best sequences of the summer, along with the Travers Day Pick 5 and Pacific Classic Day Pick 5 at Del Mar. Not only is the talent extraordinary, but the fields are manageable yet VERY competitive. There will be excellent horses that could be close to double-digits, and monsters that might give you value at 3-1 or so. The pool sizes should be MASSIVE. In general, I'll be leaning on Sierra Leone on the end, and most of my play will go through him, while using Fierceness as a strong / secondary choice. I'll be spreading in



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the opening leg, a VERY tough allowance race, and using several in the Test, R10, as well. But in R9 and R11 (the Whitney), I'm taking stands. You can definitely go skinny in general and play this Pick 5 without spending too much money.

The following are today's Price / Spot Plays. These are not usually the favorites, but horses I like that will provide some value (hopefully 5-2 or higher in general). The "Stars" rating is 1 – 5, with 5 being the MOST CONFIDENT / RECOMMENDED PLAYS. THIS IS A NO-CHALK ZONE....THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO TIP OUT HORSES THAT ARE UNDER THE RADAR AND COULD PRODUCE VALUE!! With many maiden races / first-time starters early in the card, I'll wait until the big races later to give out some price/spot plays.

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)
7	3	Echo Again	10-1	2	\$10 WP #3 BIG Exactas: 3 / 5,10,11,13 Small Exactas: 5,10,11,13 / 3

Notes:

Race 7 is one of those allowances at Saratoga that we all love...HUGE FIELD and competitive, with talented horses knocking heads and many ways to go. Between the 1,2,5, 14, and maybe others, there seems to be enough speed to create very honest fractions. Without a standout here, I'll take a stab with **#3 Echo Again**. In 2 of his last 4 efforts, including the last one, he's been involved in slow-paced races and finished well, just quite good enough to get there. Today, there should be more early speed, and this Norm Casse trainee seems to be getting good. 7f hits him right between the eyes and I expect a nice run in the stretch from a ground-saving position. For our ROI, we'll go \$1 WP.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	3	Final Gambit	6-1	4	\$25 Win #3 Trifectas: 3 / 5,7 / All 5,7 / 3 / All

Notes:



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I have a strong opinion here....if I'm right and you join me, we'll get paid nicely. #7 Hotazhell is 7-5 on the ML and has faced serious foes in Europe, many of which would be 2-5 odds in this race. I don't know if he'll be that low, because I expect #5 Test Score to come down from that 7-2 ML. But Hotazhell will be the fave, I predict. While classy, I think he peaked as a 2yo last year, and DOES NOT WANT THE DISTANCE in my humble opinion...he's always losing ground in the stretch recently. Perhaps today will be different due to the flat, firm track, we'll see. I talked extensively about **#3 Final Gambit** on the Thursday preview show. Flavian waited too long to launch his bid, and had to angle out late behind a wall of horses. If he rides him like he was ridden in the Jeff Ruby and Ky. Derby in the spring, I think he's got a big shot. He'll want every inch of this 1 3/16mi. distance.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	3	Look Forward	8-1	3	\$20 WP #3

Notes:

The Grade 1 Test is a very nice group of 3yo filly sprinters, but I wouldn't say it's top-notch quality or any real monsters like there have been in the past. I'm a sucker for turn backs in distance, and **#3 Look Forward** is who I want here. The McCarthy-trainee has probably faced the toughest company, including La Cara twice and Scottish Lassie, who freaked last week. She's 2-for-2 going 7f and should sit a great trip just off the speed. Many of these have been in smallish fields and are suspect at low prices in my opinion. She's been working forwardly at her home base out West and comes here with intent.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	5	Sierra Leone	2-1	5	\$40 Win #5

Notes:

FYI, I expect #1 Mindframe and #2 Skippy longstocking to scratch as of this writing (Thu.) Welp, here we go again..... **THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT SARATOGA! No, I DON'T pick **#5 Sierra Leone** every time he runs, it's very situational. But I predict today will be his day. Chad guarantees (in theory) a fast pace in the race by inserting a "rabbit" in the #8. I don't know why he hasn't done this before, as it's a tactic that's been used for decades, on the dirt and turf all over the world. I'm not even sure it's necessary, with Mama's Gold, Fierceness, and to some extent White Abarrio already going forward. Sierra Leone has run well in his first two starts, despite what some people think. In his last when he lost to Mindframe, the pace was moderate, and he made a HUGE middle move that was discussed on the Thursday show. He still closed well after that move and ran BIG, just coming up short. Today, he'll make that big move into a warm-to-hot pace, and he's geared up for this 3rd start of the form cycle. Chad's been pointing to this all year, along with the BC Classic. Fierceness is a SERIOUS contender and can easily win. For me, it's a 2-horse race, but I'm going back to my boy Sierra, and hoping to get 2-1.



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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	12	Leslie's Humor	9-2	3	\$15 WP #12
Notes:					
Chad Brown is unlikely to run a horse on today's big day if he/she is not ready to run. That's PART of the reason I feel #12 Leslie's Humor will win today. It's not easy to win a turf sprint from the far outside post, so Manny will have to work out a trip. But as a 3yo last year, she ran some big figs, and appears to be training well for this. She has tactical speed, but doesn't need the lead, and this field is nothing special for the level. I hope the filly can break well, sit off the speed, and go by in the lane. The horse cost half a mild and was in the great hands of Clement last year. By the way, Chad is 33% win, 67% in the money with this move: Off 6 months, turf sprinting, at Saratoga, last five years.					

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

Race	Selections	Cost
7	Pick 3: 3,5,10,11,13 / 3,4,6 / 3,5	\$30 for \$1
10	Double: 1,3 / 5	\$20 for \$10

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

