

Power Picks

Race Date	2/28/26
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Race-Day Overview

Can you feel the energy / excitement? Kentucky Derby Prep season is DEFINITELY heating up this weekend, as Gulfstream, Aqueduct, and Oaklawn all put on BIG Derby Preps today and tomorrow with cards that have multiple stake races. Those Derby Preps have a total of 105 points to be earned, including 50 to the winner. Whomever wins is practically GUARANTEED a spot in the Ky. Derby starting gate (see Paladin in the dictionary). Plus, I would argue the GP card today is better than Pegasus Day, it's a real doozy!

Our first feature sequence on today's Tip Sheet is the All-Stakes Gulfstream Late P5. Hope Mother Nature will cooperate. The big one is the finale, the Gr. 2 Fountain of Youth. Then, we'll travel to NY for their first big day of 2026, Gotham S. Day, w/a Late P5 including 2 stakes and nice allowance fields.

FYI, Oaklawn's \$1mil. Rebel S. Day card is TOMORROW. However, Co-Host of Bettin N Boozin, Patrick Kuenzel, and yours truly put on a short but detailed video of the two big races there earlier this week. See [HERE](#) for the video preview. CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES, GOOD LUCK!!

****We have two live "Weekend Warrior" shows this weekend on our YouTube Channel:**

Today (Sat): GP and NY Racing, 4:30 - 6:30pm EDT

Tomorrow (Sun.): Oaklawn Late P3 / TwinSpires contest / Rebel: 5:30-7pm EDT

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.

Racetrack: Gulfstream Park

Howard Kravets' ALL-STAKES Late P5 ABC GRID - R8 starts at 4:04pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
10	4,9	6,8	1,2,3	4,6,8,9	\$0.50 LP5	\$96
11	7,8,9	3	4,5	7,8	-	-
12	10	6,8,9	3	6,8,9,10	-	-
13	5,6	4,7	2,3	4,5,6	-	-
14	6	4,7	1,3,10	4,6	-	-

Paul Halloran's Late P5 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
10	3,4	9	6,8	3,4,8,9	\$0.50 LP5	\$96
11	7,9	8	5	7,9	-	-
12	9,10	6,8	1	6,9,10	-	-
13	3,7	2	5	3,7	-	-
14	4,6	1,5	7,10	1,4,5,6	-	-

Pete Visco's Late P5 ABC Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
10	4,9	2,3	1,6	2,3,4,9	\$0.50 LP5	\$108
11	8,9	7	4,5	7,8,9	-	-
12	9,10	1,6	3,8	9,10	-	-
13	2,3,7	5,6	1,8	2,3,6	-	-
14	4,6,7	1,5	10	4,6,7	-	-

Howard's Late P5 Analysis - Races 10-14

Today's ALL-Stakes Late P5 at Gulfstream is an excellent sequence, one of the best we've seen so far in 2026. As stated in the introduction of today's tip sheet, it might be better than Pegasus Day. With no real standouts in any of the 5 races, finding a single will be difficult. I took a stand in the FOY S. , but you could do that in a few other races too. I'm going to spread relatively evenly in the first 4 legs, then try and crush with my PLAY OF THE DAY in the competitive FOY S. I always find the long-distance turf races (R10 & 13) tricky and trip-dependent, but I'm not sure you have to VERY

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deep in those races. I almost took a stand in R11 (see Spot Plays) for the Late P5 ticket, and still might, based on scratches and overall vibe. While I'm not sure any bombs will hit in the sequence and nice prices (6-1+) could easily hit the ticket. I'm expecting a MONSTER-SIZE pool with plenty of equity and payouts in the 4-5 digit range. It's DEFINITELY a sequence worth playing today!

Be aware of the weather / track conditions....50-50 chance of scattered thunderstorms, really hope the wet weather stays away today in S. Florida.

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	4	Candy Quest	5-2	3	\$15 WP #4 BIG EXACTAS: 4 / 6,8,9 Smaller Excatas: 6,8,9 / 4

Notes:

I'm looking for a "fresh face" in this division, as many of these have traded off beating each other. I'm not enamored by anyone in particular that are established at this level and distance, so I'll go with an up-in-comer in the 4yo filly **#4 Candy Quest**. While the "Irada Tax" will be in full effect, lowering my price, it also practically guarantees a fair run / good trip. Candy Quest has been involved in two slow-early races lately, not really giving her a chance to run her best. Last time, she ran very well when finished 2nd to loose-on-the-lead Aussie Girl in the Tampa contest I won on TwinSpires. She was the only horse making any impression late. One of her best efforts was going very long at KD vs. the talented Fionn last year, so the 1 3/8miles should be within her scope. She'll need great timing by Irada a little pace up front, but I think she'll get both. Just hope the price is not too low to bet, I'm hoping around 7-2, but that they may be wishful thinking. No win bet at the ML odds of 5-2 for me.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
11	8	She Be Smooth	5-1	4	\$20 Win #8

Notes:

The G2 Davona Dale is an important Oaks Prep with big-time points....the girls equivalent to the Fountain Of Youth S. for the boys later in the card. **#8 She Be Smooth** is my pick here. Pletcher's got two in here, but I like this one more with Flavian in S. Fla. to ride today. She was as professional as can be in her debut, albeit with a very good trip. She waited down on the inside, and when Irada pushed the button, she angled out and won nicely, beating next-out winner Prom Queen. Irada sticks with his mount just to the outside for Cox, but in this case, I don't see this as a negative. She's already won at the distance, more than I can say for most in the field, and doesn't need the lead. A good trip should be coming from probably mid-pack. Slight improvement required....and expected.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
14	6	Chief Wallabee	9-2	5	\$40 Win #6 Trifectas: 6 / 4,7 / 1,3,4,7,10 4,7 / 6 / 1,3,4,7,10

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT GULFSTREAM PARK!! It's also the race of the weekend, with all due respect to the \$1mil Rebel S. tomorrow at Oaklawn. I expounded the virtues of #6 Chief Wallabee all

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week long on our pods, so check those out. When Trainer Mott places a maiden into a spot like this, you best pay attention. There are so many things to like about this homebred by Constitution, I could talk forever. But, to be fair, there are also question marks. Let's talk positives first: 1) He's SUPER-ATHLETIC and SUPREMEY TALENTED by my eyes. You can't win more impressively, going 7f, than this one did last time, 2) He has tactical speed and doesn't need the lead at all today, which is good because the pace could be scorching, 3) He's worked steadily in the morning since his win, 4) Two turns should not be an issue, we'll worry about the Derby distance later, today is only 1 1/16th miles, 5) Junior got to know the horse last time and stays on today...and that guy Mott is pretty damn good too! Negatives? 1) No two-turn experience, but I'll take my chances, 2) This is a VERY good field, 3) Will he be the "wise-guy" horse and take a ton of money? 4) Mott's stats with a horse from maiden to stakes race NOT good, 1/13 last 11 years, but no one's trainer stats are probably good in that scenario. And finally, 5) He supposedly wanted to go into an allowance race instead of the FOY, but it did not fill.

All that being said, his potential is bountiful, and, I REALLY LIKE him today. A big win bet is incoming for me depending on his off-odds...I'm hoping for 3-1 +, but again, that could be a pipedream. 5-2 is probably as low as I would go for a win bet. I don't know about the Derby distance of 10f, but I think we could be seeing something special today. It's also possible he can fall flat on his face due to the competition. If I had to choose a different horse, I'd go with the Cox-trained Commandment.

Racetrack: Aqueduct

Howard Kravets' Late P5 ABC GRID - Race 7 starts at 3:14pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	4,11	2,6,12	1,5,10	1,2,4,5,6,10, 11,12	\$0.50 LP5	\$48
7	2,5	9	8	2,5,9	-	-
8	3	2	6	2,3	-	-
9	3	2,4,8	5,7,12	3	-	-
10	6	5	1,2,3	5,6	-	-

Howard's Late P5 Analysis - Races 6-10

Big day in NY for Gotham S. Day, with nice-sized fields and talent abound. The feature is an interesting race with some FAST 3yo's vying for the 50pt. first place prize. While there's quality in the sequence, I'm not sure you have to spread in certain races, and there are singles to choose from as options. The first leg, R6, is VERY tough and I would use as many as your bankroll will allow. R9 might be the key to the sequence. #3 Dreamlike will be the favorite, and while not a win machine, he appears to be the fastest / class of the race. If he doesn't win, you could spread mightily. You also could spread in the feature Gotham S., but I don't think you need to do so.

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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)
7	5	Calling Card	2-1	3	\$15 Win #5 BIG Exactas: 5 / 2,9 Smaller Exactas: 2,9 / 5

Notes:

I've always had a thing for **#5 Calling Card**, as he helped me cash a nice Pick 5 on Nov. 17th, 2024 when I singled him and he trounced the field. Then, the connections threw him to the wolves as a 3yo thinking he was stakes quality, and his results were mixed at best. They tried him back on turf and synthetic, and that didn't work out. Then, it appears he was ready for a Saratoga race and they had to stop on him....clearly something went wrong. While that is obviously a concern (hence the layoff), he's had 7 works at Turfway Park, not interrupted by weather, to prepare today for Maker who's good off the layoffs. Perhaps 6.5f is a bit short for him, but the field is very "meh" and if Santana can make sure he's not too far back, he has the class and speed to run them down late. If not him, it could be many others, right? Would never place a win bet on him however at 2-1 today...need a bigger price.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	3	Phileas Fogg	9-5	4	\$25 Win #3 BIG Exacta: 3/2 Smaller Excata: 2/3

Notes:

Mike Repole's favorite horse outside of his ownership group (tongue and cheek of course) is my Spot Play here, **#3 Phileas Fogg**. His accomplishments are obvious, and he finds a good spot to land for his 2026 debut. I don't mind the cutback, and the only real speeds he has to worry about are the rail horse and the new Atras acquisition on the outside...but they don't class up, especially the rail horse. He probably needed that break from last year, facing VERY good horses like Bishop's Bay (4th in the Saudi Cup) and others. I don't think he needs the lead, and I expect jock Rodriguez to read the break and not get caught in some stupid speed duel with the rail horse. He'll get first run on #2 Full Screen, who's in raging form for Cox, but who also wants to go further. For me, these two are VERY likely to finish 1-2. For my wallet, I hope the "Fogg" hits the wire first.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	5	Right to Party	8-1	5	\$10 Win, \$30 Place Trifecta: 5 / 6 / 1,2,3 6 / 5 / 1,2,3 (bigger than 5 in 1st) 6 / 1,2,3 / 5 (bigger than 5 in 1st)

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT AQUEDUCT!! The G2 Gotham S. is an important prep points-wise for the Ky. Derby, but only a mile long, which is a big annoyance to me, but we'll move on. There is a TON of early speed on paper assuming they all draw in and run, so someone will have to close in the stretch you'd assume. When I see an extreme pace scenario on paper, my "bunny ears" perk upward. That's the case in today's Gotham. If #6 Iron Honor is ready and gets the distance, I think he'll be tough today. But **#5 Right to Party** is extremely interesting, especially underneath. For our ROI, we'll go \$1 Win and \$3 Place. He already faced Iron Honor and lost handily by 9 lengths, but did close some in a race that held together. Last time, he did run a slower fig breaking his maiden, but listen to our Thursday Picks

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and Ponies show for the reason why, IMO. He's been working well for this race and McPeek places him here with confidence. I don't know if he's talented enough to upset the field, but look for him flying late to pick up at least a piece at a good price. I wouldn't be shocked if he wins, but it's more likely he'll finish in the money given the right ride and expected pace scenario. McPeek is known to bring his 3yo's along a little slower at times, and this horse has the profile of one that'll get better with racing and could surprise despite looking way too slow on paper.

Coast-to-Coast (CTC) Pick 5 Preview

Sponsored by Santa Anita / 1st Racing

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).

First leg starts at approx. 4:20pm EDT

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
GP11	7,8,9	3	4,5	7,8,9	\$1	\$72
SA5	2,4	-	1,3	2,4		
GP13	5,6	4,7	2,3	4,5,6		
GP14	6	4,7	1,3,10	4,6		
SA7	3,7	1,2,4	-	3,7		

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Overall opinion: Another challenging Coast to Coast bet today, and one that's worth betting, especially if I'm correct in the closeout leg at Santa Anita. I think you'll need to spread a bit in the Gulfstream legs, especially R13. You could single in the Fountain of Youth, but with whom...wow is that race a doozy! I don't think you need to spread very deep in the Santa Anita races. And in the last, I don't like heavy morning line favorite #1 Thought Process off the layoff. Of course he can win, but I'll be betting against. If you beat that one and you're alive in the bet, you absolutely will get paid!!

YouTube preview...."Wire to Wire Ep. #9": <https://youtube.com/live/FtFK1Qw5rb8?feature=share>

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

