Power Picks

Race Date	4/26/25
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Race-Day Overview

Today is the appetizer….next week is the full-blown buffet / 6-course meal! Today, we'll feature the Opening Night Late Pick 5 at Churchill Downs as they warm-up for Derby Weekend. Then, we'll travel to New York (races of course run BEFORE CD today during the afternoon). Turf racing has retired to the Empire State (assuming the weather cooperates), so that'll add some flair and bigger-sized fields to the card. NY features a turf stake and fun Late P5 sequence. CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES, ESPECIALLY IN NY…CHANCE OF STORMS.

Make you check out our large number of shows covering the Derby / Oaks that have already occurred plus a bunch next week. Tonight (Sat)., we'll be on LIVE for the Derby and Oaks Post-Position Draw at 7pm EST. Let's build our bankroll today for one of the biggest weekends of the year next week…the 151st Run for the Roses!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): $2.13 ($1,769.08 / 832)

YTD: $2.23 ($178.78 / 80)

Racetrack: Churchill Downs

Howard Kravets' Grid: Late Pick 5

R6 starts at 8:04pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Use in horizontal bets	Caveman Bet	Cost
6	4	2,3,9	10	4,9	$0.50 P5	$96
7	2,8	1,4	5,6	1,2,4,8		
8	7,8,9	1,2,3	-	7,8,9		
9	1,2,6,8	5	7	1,2,6,8		
10	3,7	8	5,10	3,7		

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Pete Visco's Late P5 Grid:

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

Paul Halloran's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	2,10	4,11	-	2,10	$.50 P5	$96
7	1,2	8	4,6	1,2		
8	1,4	8,9	-	1,4,8,9		
9	1,5	2	8	1,2,5		
10	1,3	8,10	2,7	1,3,8,10		

Late P5 Analysis (R6 - 10): <mark>(Yellow background denotes Plays of the Day!!)</mark>

Depending on how much bankroll you want to spend this weekend, you'll have to carefully think about your ticket construction tonight. Without knowing scratches as of this writing, I thought the sequence is VERY difficult, so tread lightly / carefully. I'll be spreading mightily in R8 and R9, while trying to get skinny in the other legs….with trepidation. The rails are out 36 ft. on the turf (assuming they race on

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grass), so I would lean towards early speed in those races…there's just less track to navigate in the stretch.

The following are today's Price / Spot Plays. AS ALWAYS, I'M LOOKING FOR VALUE AND WON'T USUALLY TIP OUT FAVORITES UNLESS I REALLY LIKE THEM. The "Stars" rating is the usual 1 – 5, with 5 being the MOST CONFIDENT / RECOMMENDED PLAYS.

Full-Card Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6	4	Tapakena	4-1	3	$15 WP #4

Notes: I'll start today's Spot Plays with #4 Tapakena, who drops down the Mdn. Claiming level. He had no chance in his first two starts at GP, where he faced some monsters going 7f. They switched him to turf with moderate success, but now he gets a realistic chance to show his stuff on dirt vs. horses he can handle with the right trip. There's enough early speed to close into…look for him late.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	6	Harbor Springs	3-1	4+	$20 Win #6 BIG Exactas: 6 / 1,2,8 Small Exactas: 1,2,8 / 6

Notes: THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT CHURCHILL!! First, let me say I found it difficult to find a horse I love in this sequence, so this is a soft Best Bet. I do like how this gal was able to rate and finish well in her last at the Fairgrounds. And in a race tonight with plenty of early speed, that style would suit her well here. The presence of Irad exudes confidence, and based on the wide-open field, maybe we'll get that ML-odds of 3-1.

Racetrack: Aqueduct

Late Pick 5; R9 – 13, Post 4:34pm EST

Howard Kravets' Grid:

Turf Picks Green, Dirt Picks Brown - No Caveman Picks due to weather uncertainty.

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	4,6 / 1,3	1,2 / 7	3		$0.50 P5	$90
7	1,3 / 15	2 / 5,12,14	5,10,12			
8	2	-	4,7,8,10			
9	4,9,11,12 / 8	1, (14) / (15)	-			
10	5,10,14 / 2,12	1,3 / 6	-			

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Late P5 Analysis

Today's Pick 5 in NY is challenging….a lot more so because of the weather. There are scattered thunderstorms scheduled, and I have no idea if these races will stay on turf. I offered some possible picks / scenarios in the ABC Grid on the previous page. TAKE CAUTION IN THE SPOT PLAYS BELOW…it could be dry, wet, I don't know scratches, etc…tricky read today.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	2	Grace Reformed	5-2	4	$25 Win #2

Notes:

We know this race will be on the dirt. It's not the most creative pick, but Grace Reformed is in fine form right now, and should get a nice stalking trip behind the speeds on the outside…and there are plenty of them. Between the #8,9,and 10, Grace Reformed could get a dream setup. Plus, she's the fastest in the field when running her best anyway. I'll take 9-5 all day here.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	12	Spool	6-1	5	$20 WP #12 BIG Exactas: 12 / 4,9,11 Small Exactas: 4,9,11 / 12

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT AQUEDUCT! I hope this race stays on turf, because I really like what I saw from Spool last time at Tampa Bay. She waited patiently in behind horses, then found room and exploded late, to blow by a well-meant Chad Brown horse. I'm a little concerned about the layoff, but I assume it was planned and she's ready to go here for excellent trainer Graham Motion. The steady works at Fair Hill give me more confidence…needs to trip out, but she's got talent.

SANTA ANITA - SUNDAY

Howard Kravets' Grid: Late Pick 4
R8 starts at 7:38pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Use in horizontal bets	Caveman Bet	Cost
8	9,10	1,3,7	-	9,10	$0.50 P4	$81
9	3,4,7,9	1,2,6,8,10	-	1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10		
10	6,7,8	4,5	-	6,7,8		
11	2,6,7	1	-	2,6,7		

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$3 Late Pick 3:

Big Budget: 3,4,7,9 / 6,7 / 2,6,7 ($72)

Small Budget: 3,4,7,9 / 6 / 2,6,7 ($36)

$5 Late Double:

Big Budget: 6,7 / 1,2,6,7   ($40)

Small Budget: 6 / 2,6,7 ($15)

Key Horse of the Sequence: _Perhaps the most likely winner of the sequence, #6 Running Ute in R10 looks tough. BUT....I'm not sure I trust him going the distance, so I'm going to use others in addition to Running Ute. If he wins, the Pick 4 will pay much less. But if you beat him....oh boy, this thing could back racks on racks!!_

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