



Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	July 11, 2025
Tip Sheet By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

WELCOME TO THE 2025 SARATOGA MEET!! I don't know about you, but when handicapping this card I had to remind myself a few times that over the course of 40 days of racing at the Thoroughbred oasis that is Saratoga, every day can't be Whitney or Travers. The reality of today's U.S. racing environment is that there will be some pedestrian cards mixed in, even at Saratoga. This is one of those days – especially in the first half of the program, where there are only six betting interests in the main body of each of the first five races. It does pick up with a competitive MSW in the sixth, turf sprint stakes in the seventh and fields of eight, 10 and 12 betting interests to complete the card. The plan for me will be to tread lightly early and take bigger swings late.

Today's Picks

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

Go to the next page for our analysis of the races.....good luck!



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Racetrack: Saratoga

ABC Grid - Post Time 1:10 p.m. EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	3,4	-	1	3,4	\$.50 P5	\$24
2	1,2,4	3	-	1,2,3,4		
3	4,6	1	2,5	4,6		
4	1,6	2	3,4	1		
5	1,4	2	5,6	1,2,4		
6	1,2	5	3,6	1,2	\$1 P5	\$96
7	3,5	1,6	4	1,3,5,6		
8	3,7	1	2,8	1,3,7		
9	1	9	5,8	1,9		
10	2,12	3,5	11	2,12		

Top 3 Selections

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

****All selections assume grass races stay on the turf. Obviously, please pay attention to surface changes, as the weather in Saratoga Springs can be unpredictable as we all know. As of this writing, there is a chance of heavy thunderstorms on Thursday night into Friday morning.**

****Also, there are many 2yo first-time starters this meet. The workout reports arrive AFTER we write our tip sheet, so we'll try to send out workout info via email in the mornings**



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Pick 5 Analysis

As noted in the intro, I'm going to go Jenny Craig in the early sequence, a series in which I don't feel confident enough to press up the As. I think Collaboration – the straight 1 – in the fourth is the most likely winner. And have I mentioned recently that using coupled entries is one of the stupidest, bettor-unfriendly practices in all of racing? The late sequence is very playable and has the potential to pay. I will lean the most on the 1 entry in the ninth and will not deviate if either half scratches. I like Rhetorical more, but could live with Dylan Davis aboard Set from the far outside. There could be value in the first leg – Race 6 – with 5-2 ML favorite Dr. Agne, a son of the phenomenal Lady Eli, maybe being bet more than he should for that reason. Will be looking to get as much coverage as possible in the seventh and 10th.

Below are today's Price / Spot Plays. These are not usually the favorites, but horses I like that will provide some value. The "Stars" rating is 1-5, with 5 being the MOST CONFIDENT /RECOMMENDED PLAYS.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
5	2	Madeline's Promise	3-1	3	\$20 Win-Place #2

Notes: This is strictly a value play and I would only pull the trigger at odds of at least 3-1 and ideally a few ticks higher. This filly looks to hold a significant pace advantage in a race that is devoid of other speed. The question is whether she can carry that speed for 7/8 of a mile, a demanding distance under any circumstances. The red-hot Junior Alvarado takes the call for Dale Romans, who is 3-60 at SAR over the last five years, 2-20 when giving a leg up to Junior. Check the tote board and act accordingly.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	3	Cloe	5-2	4	\$25 Win #3 \$10 Exacta 3-5 \$5 Exacta 3 / 1,4,6

Notes: Florida-based trainer Jose D'Angelo has a potent uncoupled entry (Hallelujah!) in Cloe and the #5 Spirited Boss, whom I picked second. I prefer Cloe based on her 2-1-0-1 record on turf, Irad returns and her 86 Beyer on March 23 at GP represents the top turf speed figure in the field. D'Angelo kept her in when the Soaring Softly was taken off the grass Belmont Stakes Weekend and she ran second as the 2-1 favorite (Spirited Boss was third). Timeform thinks this race favors horses who will be forwardly placed, and Irad figures to employ that strategy. D'Angelo wins at 10% at Saratoga the last five years. This looks like the right spot to improve on that number. You won't get rich on 5-2, but she is not the ML favorite and maybe we get 3-1. *(if it comes off the turf, cheer on the MTO #9 Twirling Beauty for Adelphi Racing Club and Howard, who has an ownership piece of this one and will be in the Winner's Circle w/Patrick if she runs and wins!)*



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Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	3	Munson	4-1	4	\$30 Win #3 \$5 Ex key box 3 / 1,7

Notes: PLAY OF THE DAY: As a lifelong Red Sox fan, Yankees captain Thurman Munson was the rare pinstriper that I disliked yet respected (most I just disliked). I remember vividly hearing about his tragic death when a plane he was piloting crashed. The guy was a consummate pro. That label also applies to Tom Amoss, the trainer of the equine Munson. There are several angles working in this horse's favor, starting with the biggest drop in racing, from MSW to maiden claiming. Amoss runs with a purpose at Saratoga and the numbers back that up: 18% wins over the last five years, 20% in maiden claimers. Overall in that time frame, he has a 22-percent strike rate when dropping from MSW to MCL. This horse ran out of racetrack in his 5½-furlong debut at CD in June of 24 and followed that with a mid-pack finish. He was off for 11 months before returning in a restricted MSW at CD on June 12 (Happy Birthday to me), but I'm willing to toss that based on the layoff. You can look at the drop to \$50,000 as a negative, but they only paid \$70K and if he wins here and is claimed, that results in an \$80,000 payday. 4-1 would be great.

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

Race	Selections	Cost
4	\$5 TRI 1 / 6 / all 1 / all / 6	\$60
8	\$20 Pick 3 3/1/2	\$20

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

