Power Picks

Race Date	3/22/25
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Race-Day Overview

I'm back from Vegas….and today starts a series of INCREDIBLE RACING the next three weeks, as the major Derby Preps are upon us. Accompanying those races are very good stakes / big fields at tracks around the country. The next three weekends are simply some of the best all year long and a bunch of my favorite cards on the calendar.

We'll start off at the Fair Grounds in New Orleans, for their premier day of racing, including the Louisiana Derby and the return of Sierra Leone in the New Orleans Handicap. Their average field size today is 11 horses, although there are some cross-entered at Turfway. Expect to see a few scratches in New Orleans in the stake races…see our analysis for that info. Then, we'll go to Turfway for their big day, Jeff Ruby Steaks S. Day. Both races begin the 100-50-25-15-10 points allocation. Any horse that finishes 1st or 2nd is certain to qualify for a place in the starting gate in Louisville if they choose to go.

STRAP IT IN Y'ALL, IT'S GONNA BE A FUN RIDE THE NEXT THREE WEEKENDS!!

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

Overall ROI (since Feb. 2021): $2.10 ($1,700.76 / 808)

YTD: $1.97 ($110.40 / 56)

Racetrack: The Fair Grounds

Howard Kravets' Grid: Late Pick 5

R8 starts at 4:32pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Use in horizontal bets	Caveman Bet	Cost
8	1,4,12	3,8,13	7,9,10,11	1,3,4,8,12,13	$0.50 P5	$90
9	7	2,9	3,6	2,7,9		
10	6,7	5	3	6,7		
11	7	9	3	7		
12	2,9	1,7,10	5,6	1,2,7,9,10		

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Pete Visco's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1,3,4	7,11	12,13	1,3,4	$0.50 P5	$90
9	2,7	-	9,10	2,7	-	-
10	5,6	3,7	4,8	3,4,5,6,7,8	-	-
11	7	3	2,8	7	-	-
12	1,9,10	6,7	2,4,5	1,6,7,9,10	-	-

Paul Halloran's Late P5 Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1,3	4	7,13	1,3,4,7,13	$2 P5	$80
9	7	2		2,7		
10	6,7	5,8		6,7		
11	7		3,9	7		
12	1,9	2,6	3,5	1,9		

Late P5 Analysis (R8 - 12): <mark>(Yellow background denotes Plays of the Day!!)</mark>

Very interesting sequence today at the FG. I know many are going to say, "this could be chalky and pay nothing." How many times do we think that however and it's the opposite result? Sure, if Sierra Leone, a chalk in the Muniz, and Good Cheer win, you may be right. But the bookend races (R8 and R12) are very difficult in my opinion and could yield double-digit odds, so the value could still be there today. I'll be spreading in the aforementioned R8 and R12 while trying to beat soft favorites I don't love, then going pretty skinny in the middle three. I will say for me, Good Cheer is more likely a winner than Sierra Leone, so I'll be using a few in the Sierra comeback race. I'll be playing a relatively small "press-up" ticket as my main play and try to hit the Late P5 for more than once, which should have a VERY BIG pool as the main sequence across the country today. **There's also a special Pick 5 w/a $1 BASE BET combining FG and TP stakes, so look into that too! It's called the Bayou-Bluegrass 5, starting at 5:05 EST w/a low 15% takeout.**

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**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)
8	4	Tufani	5-1	2	$15 WP #4

Notes: The main reason for the relatively low 2-star designation is more about the field size and wide-openness of the race, rather than anything against Tufani…obviously, I like her. But she doesn't have a sneaky trip or strong edge on the field….I just like the fact she's 2nd off the layoff, is consistent, ran a little better than it looked last time, and should be ready for a big effort. There's plenty of tactical speed to her outside that will create, in theory, an honest pace. She'll need to receive the right trip, but at somewhere around 7-2, I'd take a small win-bet stab.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	7	Rebel Red	4-1	4	$20 Win, $10 Place #7 BIG EXACTAS: 7 / 3,5,6 Smaller Exactas: 5,6 / 7

Notes: I like Rebel Red more than Tufani….and if you pay attention to the show, you know the mad love/respect I have (as well as Paul) for Trainer Cheri DeVaux. She's been good to me at the windows for months now. Rebel Red is coming off a layoff, but that has not been a problem for the DeVaux runners. Today MIGHT be more of a prep for something longer, as the trainer has indicated, but I really like the tactical speed he showed last time in a very solid field. Rebel is more likely to take back today off the layoff, but he's really getting good, and if he can hold his form or even improve from last year, he could upset the favorite Spirit of St. Louis. He is a little better going longer than today, but has won at the distance or close to it before. The presence of jock J. Ortiz here gives me more confidence. I'm hoping for a mid-pack trip and a late wicked kick…will he run out of ground, or can he win at a distance slightly shorter than he prefers? We'll find out today.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	9	Instant Replay	6-1	5	$15 Win, $20 Place Trifectas: 9 / 2,7,10 / 1,2,5,6,7,10 1,2,7,10 / 9 / 1,2,5,6,7,10 1,2,7,10 / 1,2,5,6,7,10 / 9

Notes: THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT THE FAIR GROUNDS!! I wouldn't say this is my most confident Play of the Day, but considering it's the La. Derby, here we go! It worked out well last week when I touted bomb Render Judgement on the Picks & Ponies show, who finished 2nd at Colonial Downs. Brad Cox's Derby Trail run has not been nearly as smooth as his Oaks run, where he has the predominant

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Racetrack: Turfway Park

Late Pick 5; R8 – 12, Post 4:13pm EST

Howard Kravets' Grid:

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
8	1,4	2,3,5	-	1,2,3,4,5	$0.50 P5	$100
9	4,7	-	1,6,8	4,7		
10	3,7	8,10,11	2,9,12	3,7,8,10,11		
11	1,5	3,11,12	8	1,5		
12	5,9	-	3,6,10,11	5,9		

Late P5 Analysis

This sequence at Turfway is fun and challenging, with big fields and even bigger decisions to make for us handicappers. Here's my main theme: when it comes to the two big Oaks and Derby Preps later in the Pick 5, I prefer interlopers coming in from out of town than the local horses that have been running at Turfway. While the "home team" may have the advantage races over the surface, I think the ones shipping in are just more talented, faster animals and will prove that today. In general, I'd go skinny in the first two legs, spread in the next two (R10/R11), then take some stands in the big one, the Jeff Ruby Steaks S. Many will single #9 Poster on the end, but I'm not sure it's that simple. If Poster (who will be less than 3-1 for sure) loses, that will bolster the Pick 5 payout big-time. Good luck!

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Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	7	**Tapit Shoes**	10-1	4	**$10 WP #7** **BIG Exactas: 7 / 3,8,10,11** **Small Exactas: 3,8,10,11 / 7**

Notes:

Video replays don't always tell the full story, but if you watch Tapit Shoes' last race, it does say a lot, especially when measured up to #3 Verstappen and #8 Hush of a Storm. At a crucial point on the backstretch, Tapit Shoes got shuffled back, lost about 2 lengths, and lost valuable momentum. He re-rallied in the stretch on a day where speed was holding better than normal to finish a close 3rd. He's in great form now and has found his niche…2 turns on the Tapeta. It's a big, competitive field, so he'll need his best, but I see no reason why he won't run well, and the price is too juicy. Forget the 10-1, I see more like 6-1, but still a good bet around that price. I wouldn't touch him on the win end any lower than 4-1.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
12	5	**Flying Mohawk**	15-1	5	**$10 Win, $25 Place** **BIG Exactas: 3,6,9 / 5** **Smaller Exactas: 5 / 3,6,9,10**

Notes:

THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT TURFWAY PARK!! The Jeff Ruby Steaks S. is a big prep for the Derby, and it's on a synthetic surface that can (but not always) be kind to turf horses. #9 Poster is definitely the horse to beat here, as he closed nicely to finish a close 3rd to John Hancock and Owen Almighty. He ran better than it looks too, waiting way too long before launching wide in a race dominated on the front end. But he's not a monster and will be overbet here, probably around 8-5. There's plenty of early speed signed on, and because I don't love the local prep for this one, I'll go with a solid closer from out of town at a price, #5 Flying Mohawk (I'm guessing 8-1 at the post). There's many places Trainer Beckman could have gone, including an allowance N1X. But he's always thought highly of Flying Mohawk, as he was staked last year. His 2025 debut was a beaut…waited patiently, then blew by the field while winning easier than it appears. They've taught him to rate and finish, a characteristic that should be very advantageous today. He'll need to run big and get the right trip, but his figs are not too far behind the top ones, has been pointed to this, and has been working well. If he takes to the surface, look out at a price, at least an in-the-money finish. *I'll go $1 WP for our ROI stats.*

Go to the next page for Santa Anita Sunday info.

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SANTA ANITA - SUNDAY

Howard Kravets' Grid: Late Pick 4
R6 starts at 6:30pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Use in horizontal bets	Caveman Bet	Cost
6	4,7,9	1,5	6,8	4,7,9	$0.50 P4	$60
7	1,6	5,8	-	1,5,6,8		
8	4,5	1	3	1,4,5		
9	7,8	2,4,5	1,9,10	2,4,5,7,8		

Suggested Special Wagers:

$3 Late Pick 3:

Big Budget: 1,6 / 1,4,5 / 2,4,5,7,8 ($90)

Small Budget: 1,6 / 4,5 / 7,8 ($24)

$5 Late Double:

Big Budget: 1,4,5 / 2,4,5,7,8   ($75)

Small Budget: 4,5 / 7,8 ($20)

Key Horse of the Sequence: R9....#7 Doncic might take more money on the tote in S. California just because of the name of the horse. On paper, his last race looks awful, and it was. However, it was his first off a long layoff and he set a blazing early pace, only to completely fall apart late and give it up. I find it interesting that Eurton claimed the 7yo and puts J.J. on the horse, which gives me confidence. Eurton has won his last three horses in a row after a claim! You might think the extra ½ furlong hurts Doncic...I actually think it helps him. In theory, the pace will be MUCH slower, and he should be out front if ridden aggressively. Even if he isn't, he has plenty of back-numbers to go to. If he can still run, we're going to see it today, and we might get an OK price in a wide-open finale.

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