Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	July 20, 2025
Tip Sheet By	Pete Visco

Race-Day Overview

Once again, we are closing out the weekend at Saratoga. This time it is week 2. Hopefully, today's card can avoid ticking off Mother Nature and we are able to have all the races on the Turf, as intended. This week's feature is the Grade 2 - Honorable Miss Stakes, which, on paper, looks to be a wide open affair with quality horses at all three levels (speed, stalkers, and closers). Races that setup that way are always the best puzzles to analyze since you can go multiple different ways. Overall, this is a solid card top-to-bottom with some spots that look chalky and others that could be a crap shoot. Hopefully, we are able to tell which races are which.

Good luck today!! Let's cash some tickets!!

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 on the "Standard" Power Picks page…a video explanation is also available on the page.

Go to the next page for our analysis of the races. Good luck to everyone today!

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ABC Grid - Post Time 1:10pm EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks (use in horizontal bets)	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	5,6	1,4	7,8	1,5,6	$0.50 P5	$81
2	1,5	2,4	6	1,5	-	-
3	1,3	6	5,7	1,3,6	$0.50 P5	$81
4	3,5,6	4,8	1,7	3,5,6	-	-
5	4,5,6	3,7,8	1/1A	4,5,6	-	-
6	2,5	-	4,7	2,5	$0.50 P5	$81
7	5,6,7	1,2,4	-	5,6,7	-	-
8	2,4,7	1,3	6,9	2,4,7	-	-
9	2,4,9	3,7,8	1,6	2,4,9	-	-
10	1,3	4	6,8	1,3,4	-	-

Top 3 Selections

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	5 - Last Man Standing	6 - Makes Sense	1A - The Taco Lady
2	5 - Regalton	1 - My Divine Spirit	4 - Fast Market
3	3 - Then	1 - Debt Limit 1A - Move to Gold	6 - Slapintheface
4	3 - Trade Imbalance	6 - Eliminate	5 - Confabulation
5	5 - Catherine Wheel	6 - Cassiar	4 - Save Time
6	2 - Miztertonic	5 - Coach Case	7 - Charles J
7	5 - Tidal Forces	6 - Fuerteventura	7 - Johnny's Fireball
8	2 - Geez Eloise	4 - Theprincessfactor	7 - Volatile Market
9	2 - R Disaster	4 - Scylla	9 - Jody's Pride
10	3 - Just Add Water	1 - Quick Power Nap	4 - Miss Bourbon

Late P5 Analysis: R6 - 10

Oddly enough, my ABC Grid above has an $81 cavemen ticket for all three Pick-5 sequences. That actually makes some sense to me since I look at each as being equally difficult. The Late Pick-5 and Middle-Pick-5 were toughest for me to construct a reasonably priced ticket for one reason only, and that's Race 7. That is the race on the card for which I have the least amount of confidence and, honestly, would like to go about six deep if I could. Once the caveman tickets, I went with my top three choices, but, just based on my analysis of and confidence in the race, make me feel like three deep just isn't enough. What you should do with that information will depend on your bankroll, which sequence(s) you want to play, and whether you have stronger opinions than I do in Race 7 or can go skinnier than I have in a surrounding leg and go deep in Race 7 like I am suggesting.

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.

Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
2	5	Regalton	4-1	4	$25 Win - 5 $10 Exacta Box -1,5
Notes					

#5 - Regalton is finally getting a chance to make her second start after scratching out of her last two races. She debuted on the synthetic and ran a nice second after taking decent money. In that race, she sat 2nd behind a leader (Luna Louska) who got up by a big margin early and kept on running. There was almost no chance of catching her even though #5 - Regalton showed a decent closing kick, cutting into the margin late. Luna Louska wound up moving to the turf for her next two starts and won both handily, the 2nd in a stakes race, with 84 and 88 Beyers, respectively. So, that debut race has come back decent at least in terms of the winner.

Now, **#5 - Regalton** is moving to turf for the 1st time. From a turf pedigree standpoint, her Sire's (Zoustar) progeny are 23% on the win end in Turf Sprints. On the Dam-Side, her Damsire was a Group 1 Winner sprinting on turf in Europe. Additionally, she has a 373 Tomlinson on turf and an 88 Timeform

Breeding Rating in turf sprints. This gives me enough confidence that the move to the turf should be okay.

Key Stats:
- G. Weaver - Synthetic-to-Turf - 2/30 W (7%), 9/30 ITM (30%), $0.69 ROI
- G. Weaver - 2nd Time Starter in Turf Sprints in Past 3 Years - 9/28 W (32%), 18/28 ITM (64%), $5.13 ROI

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
4	3	Trade Imbalance	12-1	3	$10 Win/Place/Show - 3 Exacta Dutch - $10 - 3,6; $5 - 6,3 $0.50 Trifecta Key Box - 3 w/ 4,5,6,8

Notes

This one is more of hit the board play than a true win contender, even though I am going to recommend a small play on the win end just in case. **#3 - Trade Imbalance** was claimed two races back into the L. Rice barn, who is also the owner. He immediately won his 1st race for L. Rice against lower-level claimers stalking a solid pace and getting up late. Now he's moving up from 17.5k to 30k claimers to take on much tougher, especially the 7-5 morning line favorite, **#6 - Eliminate**, who looks very formidable. He's 2-for-2 on the win end at Saratoga and is still at a level where L. Rice as both owner and trainer has been very successful lately, as shown by the stat below, so I like taking a shot to see if he can improve enough as a still lightly-raced horse to win at this level.

Key Stat:
- L. Rice Trainer/Trainer - Mid-Level Claiming Dirt Sprints in Past 5 Months - 7/11 W/ITM (64%), $3.72 ROI

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	2	Geez Eloise	9-2	3	$15 Win/Place - 2 $5 Exacta Box - 2,4

Notes

The 8th Race is evenly matched on paper without a horse that truly stands out, in my opinion. The Morning Line reflects that as well with the favorite being a lukewarm 4-1 and there being 7 of the 9 entries being between 4-1 and 6-1. A race like this is one where, if you can tell a decent story, you have a chance to get a decent score. Where I landed was the **#2 - Geez Eloise** for a variety of reasons.

This is the 2nd race under L. Rice after a trainer switch. Although it's not exactly the same, L. Rice is 72% hitting the board 2nd after the claim in Dirt Sprints at Saratoga, which makes me think she can improve this horse 2nd out. There are a few other factors that I like. From a pace standpoint, Timeform

is projecting there to be a hot pace. That should play into this filly's hands since she will be looking to come from behind. In her recent races, she has been chasing slow-to-moderate paces, especially in her last race where they crawled on the lead, so this should be a welcome change if the pace projection is correct. From a class standpoint, she shot too high two back after back-to-back wins and now is running for the 2nd time at a level that I think better suits. Finally, I like the cutback from 8f to 6f, which is a distance where this horse has both of her lifetime wins.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	2	R Disaster	9-2	3	$25 Win - 2

Notes

In the feature race of the day, the Grade 2 Honorable Miss Stakes, I am going with a pure pace play. The **#2 - R Disaster** is a horse at her best when getting on the lead or sitting just off. In this race, I think she has a shot to get on the lead and run them off their feet even though the horses chasing her, like **#4 - Scylla** and **#9 - Jody's Pride**, have shown the ability to do just that in high level races. The other advantage is the distance. This race is 6f at which she is 4-for-4 on the win end while it may just turn out to be a little sharp for the top two contenders since they have been used to going longer. Finally, she gets J. Ortiz back, who has been hot at the meet, so is an upgrade over J. Ruiz. There is one negative stat that I came across, but even that has a somewhat positive spin. S. Joseph is 2/25 (8%) on the win-end in Graded Stakes at Saratoga. However, both wins are in Dirt Sprints including this race last year. So, I am looking to see if we can get S. Joseph back-to-back Honorable Miss victories.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	3	Just Add Water	7-2	4	$25 Win - 3 $5 Exacta Box - 1,3

Notes

This is my Play of the Day at Saratoga: Let's lose to close out the day with a winner. #3 - Just Add Water jumped up in her 2nd start from a figure and result standpoint to break her maiden and now is jumping up to Allowance. I like that the maiden breaker was at Saratoga going this configuration, so there are no question marks from that standpoint. If she can move forward again off that race, which is plausible since she is so lightly raced, she will be right at the top of this field. One other angle I like is when a horse was training really well then runs in a race and runs well, and then comes out of that race working well. For me, that just means the horse is holding their strong form, and that's exactly the case here. There is one other scenario where there is a negative stat with a positive twist to it. C. Summers is 2/26 (8%) on the win-end with last out maiden winners. However, in his last 4 races under that condition, his horses have 2 wins and 1 2nd.

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

Race	Selections	Cost
3	$5 - Daily Double - 1,3 / 3	$10
8	$3 - Pick-3 - 2,4,7 / 2,4 / 1,3	$36
9	$10 - Daily Double - 2,4 / 1,3	$40

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