



Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	August 31, 2025
Tip Sheet By	Pete Visco

Race-Day Overview

The last Sunday of the Saratoga Summer Meet is upon us, even though there is another day of racing on Monday. Today we have a bigger card than normal with 14 races carded including a monster race in the 5th with the Jockey Club Gold Cup featuring Sierra Leone, Mindframe, and other top older, handicap horses. Seems like a great way to end our Sunday Power Picks with a card like this.

After last week's performance, I am hoping that we can turn it around and get back to our winning ways. It's always tough bouncing back from a crappy week, but it's all about getting back to work and turning it around.

Good luck and 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!**



Picks Tip Sheet

ABC Grid - Post Time 11:20am EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks*	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	5,7	1,6	3	5,7	\$0.50 P5	\$81
2	4,5,7	1,2,9	6,8	4,5,7	-	-
3	2,5	1,3	4	1,2,5	\$0.50 P5	\$81
4	2,3,4	6,10	7	2,3,4	-	-
5	2,3,4	7,8	1,5	2,3,4	\$0.50 P5	\$72
6	4,10	1,9	2,7,8	4,10	-	-
7	3,8,9	4,11	5,7	3,8,9	\$0.50 P5	\$72
8	2,7	4,8	5,6	2,4,7,8	-	-
9	9,10	3,4	6,11	9,10	-	-
10	5,6,8	7,9	1,3	5,6,8	\$0.50 P5	\$72
11	3,7,8,10	5,9	4	3,10	-	-
12	2,7	1,6,9	8	2,7	-	-
13	4,5,11	7,9,10	2	4,5,7,11	-	-
14	2,11	3,7	4,9	2,7,11	-	-

* Use in horizontal bets.

Top 3 Selections

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	5 - Aeolian	7 - Ivory and Ebony	1 - Bon Vivant
2	7 - Twenty One Red	4 - Mr. Bres	5 - Kuleana
3	5 - Dilger	2 - Echo Again	1 - Top Gun Rocket 1A - Passing Game
4	4 - Livin the Breeze	3 - Maria Callas	2 - Roseberns Dream
5	3 - Sierra Leone	4 - Mindframe	2 - Highland Falls
6	4 - Peak Hype	10 - Virgin Colada	1 - Cliffs
7	9 - Celebrity Quest	3 - Paige Turner	8 - Lovely Christina
8	7 - Tap Into This	2 - Vettriano	4 - Burning Glory
9	9 - Royal Guard	10 - Tacticality	3 - Chambersville



Picks Tip Sheet

10	5 - Twenty Six Black	8 - Works For Me	6 - Doncho
11	10 - Vibrant Express	3 - Rout	7 - Rare Society
12	2 - Navajo Warrior	7 - Systemic Change	1 - Swaggish 1A - Alternate Reality
13	4 - Lollipops	11 - Belle Cherie	5 - Kyle's Mom
14	11 - Deemer	2 - Hello Newman	7 - Blame It On KJ

P5 Analysis

As Paul mentioned on Friday's Saratoga Power Picks, this is a wild day for the degenerate, serial Pick-5 players with five, count'em five, Pick-5's on the wagering menu. Since I am one of those degenerates as well, I added caveman tickets for each of them in the ABC Grid above. The interesting aspect is that the 5th Race, the Grade 1 Jockey Club Gold Cup, is included in three of those Pick-5 sequences, so if you are going to play them all, you have to nail that tough race. As you can see, I chickened out and included three horses (Sierra Leone, Mindframe, Highland Falls) on my tickets since I just don't have a good feel for the race. The good thing for me is, I am skinny enough in the surrounding races to make that happen within the normal \$100 budget that we use for our Caveman tickets. The toughest sequence for me is the Late Pick-5 since I don't think they are very good races and a few of them are complete spread races for me, which can really blow up the cost of a ticket.

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)
1	5	Aeolian	4-1	3	\$15 Win - 5 \$10 Daily Double - 5 / 4,7

Notes

As you can see with my next couple of Spot Plays, we are going to try and really start this day off with a bang. In this Maiden Special Weight race, I am going to go with a 1st time starter on top, **#5-Aeolian**. On paper this looks like a horse that may need one 1st out of the gate and then would improve 2nd



Picks Tip Sheet

out, but I think we can get this one home. This horse is a full sister to Tapit Trice, who was goofy and up and down, but we know was at least very talented, so the bloodlines are there. From a connections standpoint, we are obviously in good hands with the C. Brown/F. Prat combination. C. Brown, who we generally think of as great on Turf, has been fantastic with 1st timers in Dirt Routes lately as well (see stats below). Lastly, since they are running out of the Wilson Chute, we know post position can have an affect, and the #5 PP is 23% Win at the meet, which is best by a good amount for posts that have more than 15 starts.

Key Stats:

- #5-Aeolian - C. Brown - 1st Time Starters in Dirt Routes in Past 8 Months - 5/14 W (36%), 10/14 ITM (71%), \$2.37 ROI
- #5-Aeolian - C. Brown - Last 5 3yo 1st Time Starters in Dirt Routes - 4/5 W/ITM (80%), \$5.24 ROI

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
2	7	Twenty One Red	8-1	4	\$20 Win/Place - 7 \$20 Daily Double - 7 / 5 \$10 Daily Double - 7 / 1,2

Notes

Might as well start the day off with my man, F. Prat, bringing home the early Daily Double. I went with him on a C. Brown horse in Race 1 and now we have him on a G. Weaver horse in Race 2. This is a wide open race with 8 of the 10 participants being 1st time starters. That always makes for some tough handicapping. With this race, I started with the fact that I just didn't love any of the lower priced horses. I thought that none of the top 4 morning line favorites stood out in terms of breeding statistics or training statistics or workouts to where I was scared of any of them. When that situation happens, it's nice to look for a price, so I landed on the **#7-Twenty One Red**. Looking at him from a breeding standpoint with some of the percentages, he doesn't stand out either. However, there were some G. Weaver stats (see below) that led me to maybe him being a sneaky price horse that can definitely outrun his odds. Plus, like I said, I am always intrigued when F. Prat jumps aboard.

Key Stats:

- #7-Twenty One Red - G. Weaver/F. Prat - Turf Sprints - 7/21 W (33%), 11/21 ITM (52%), \$4.34 ROI
- #7-Twenty One Red - G. Weaver/F. Prat - Last 4 Turf Sprints - 3/4 W (75%), 4/4 ITM (100%), \$9.69 ROI
- #7-Twenty One Red - G. Weaver - 1st Time Starters in Turf Sprints at SAR in Past 3 Years - 4/6 W (67%), 5/6 ITM (83%), \$6.57 ROI

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
--------	---------	------------	------	-------	--------



Picks Tip Sheet

3	5	Dilger	3-1	5	\$40 Win - 5 \$10 Daily Double - 5 / 3,4
---	---	--------	-----	---	---

Notes

This is My Play of the Day at SAR - #5-Dilger is actually a horse that I normally wouldn't like on top. He has a hard time winning races, he got beat last out by another horse in the race who has been a little more consistent lately, and he has lost place/ground in his last few races. However, I am going to overlook all that in this one (you all can call me an idiot on the show next week if he loses after all that...Ha!!). Timeform's Pace Figures have this horse as having the top early pace figure, which generally means he will be on the lead. While I think that's a possibility, I actually think I. Ortiz is going to sit a patient, stalking trip with this horse and let horses like the #1A and #6 go and then pounce getting the jump on the deeper closers like #1, #2, and #4. This horse had 4 different jockeys in his last 4 races, so I like that I. Ortiz is back up again and hopefully has a better feel for him. Plus, the trip I am looking for him to get fits I. Ortiz perfectly. Lastly, I was looking at some stats (see below) for trainer S. Joseph that led me to thinking we might see a nice move forward 2nd off the layoff and especially stretching out to a route of ground.

Key Stats:

- #5-Dilger - S. Joseph - Sprint-to-Route on Dirt in Past 1 Year - 17/54 (31%), 40/54 (74%), \$1.74 ROI
- #5-Dilger - S. Joseph - Sprint-to-Route on Dirt at SAR - 4/9 (44%), 9/9 (100%), \$5.47 ROI

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	3 9	Paige Turner Celebrity Quest	8-1 6-1	3	\$10 Win/Place - 3,9 \$5 Exacta Box - 3,8,9 \$2 Trifecta Box - 3,8,9

Notes

This is something that I never do and normally would never recommend on or Power Picks. I am actually adding two horses as my plays in this race. Aside from the morning line favorite, **#8-Lively Christina**, who I think has a nice shot but seems beatable, this race seems pretty wide open. So let's talk about each horse:

- **#3-Paige Turner:** This horse is a \$350k purchase on a \$20k stud free by Army Mule. Statistically, Army Mule horses have been good under these conditions with 14% W 2yo 1st time starters, 17% W 2yos, and 21% W Dirt Sprints. The Dam-Side has had 2 runners who are 1/2 W 1st time starters, 3/9 W 2yos, 2/8 W Dirt Sprints with one of those runners being Speed Boat Beach who was great on debut. This horse has been working well coming in and C. DeVaux has been hot under these conditions in 2025 (see stat below).
- **#9-Celebrity Quest:** This horse is a \$525k purchase by Nyquist. Statistically, Army Mule horses have also been good under these conditions with 18% W 2yo 1st time starters, 18% W 2yos,



Picks Tip Sheet

and 17% W Dirt Sprints. The Dam has only produced one runner who was pretty bad, which makes me like the fact that the purchase price was so solid for this horse anyway, which makes me think there was something to like when she was in the Keeneland sale. On paper, her works back that up since she has some nice works on the tab coming in. Lastly, trainer T. Amoss, who has been hot at this meet, has also been hot under these conditions in 2025 (see stat below).

Like I said, this is an odd choice for me, but I think both of these horses could have value and playing them each and hooking them up with the logical favorite could be a way to go.

Key Stats:

- #3-Paige Turner - C. DeVaux - 1st Time Starters in Dirt Sprints in 2025 - 8/19 W (42%), 9/19 ITM (47%), \$5.35 ROI
- #9-Celebrity Quest - T. Amoss - 2yo 1st Time Starters in Dirt Sprints in 2025 - 5/11 W (45%), 7/11 ITM (64%), \$4.39 ROI

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	9	Royal Guard	4-1	4	\$25 Win - 9 \$10 Exacta Box - 9,10 \$5 Daily Double - 9 / 5,8

Notes

Let's go back to the maidens one more time with this play. Trainer B. Cox tried to run **#9-Royal Guard** in his debut going 7f, but the race was rained off and they wound up running on sloppy dirt instead. Even with that, he ran pretty well considering he was in the back in a short field chasing 2 horses up top who got away on the lead after setting a slow pace. Now, this horse is finally getting on the Turf and is stretching out to 8.5f, which, from a breeding standpoint, seems like it should be a better fit. Finally, there are some trainer stats for B. Cox that put it over the top for me (see below).

Key Stat:

- #9-Royal Guard - B. Cox - 2nd Time Starter in Turf Routes in Past 2 Months - 3/7 W (43%), 7/7 ITM (100%), \$1.94 ROI
- #9-Royal Guard - B. Cox - Turf Routes in Past 2 Months - 16/51 W (31%), 28/51 ITM (55%), \$2.56 ROI

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
13	4	Lollipops	6-1	3	\$15 Win/Place - 4 \$0.50 Trifecta Key Box 4 w/ 5,7,9,10,11

Notes



Picks Tip Sheet

This is a pick that I wasn't going to include, but wound up adding at the last minute so it's not necessarily my most confident play, but I thought there were a couple of reasons to put it on here. On figures, **#4-Lollipops** is a notch below some of the others in this race. However, I do think she has been running better in her last few since she started being on or just off the lead. In this race, Timeform shows her with the top Early Pace figure which supports my thought that she could potentially be the speed of the speed. What helps with that is the pickup of F. Prat to ride. He is someone I trust to get a horse on the lead, even with other speed signed on, and take them around the track, and, if he doesn't get the lead, he is patient enough to sit just off and not get hooked up in a speed duel. Add to that this horse being 1st off the claim by L. Rice, who has been great under these conditions (see stat below), and we could see a nice move forward. Finally, 2 back they may have shot a little high with this horse, then dropped her down last out to the level she is at here, which seems like a level where she is a good fit.

Key Stat:

- #4-Lollipops - L. Rice - 1st After Claim in Mid-Level Claiming on Dirt at SAR - 15/36 W (42%), 25/36 ITM (69%), \$3.23 ROI
- #11-Belle Cherie - M. Maker - Last 10 Starts Route-to-Sprint on Dirt - 5/10 W (50%), 10/10 ITM (100%), \$3.71 ROI

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

Race	Selections	Cost
1	\$5 Pick-3 - 5,7 / 4,5,7 / 1,2,5	\$60
14	\$0.50 Trifecta Key Box - 7 w/ 2,3,4,9,11	\$30

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

