



## Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	August 29, 2025
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### Race-Day Overview

*The Final Friday. Day 37. This card has plenty of competitive races that offer some good wagering opportunities. Six dirt, six turf. Five maiden races. Two stakes. A much-anticipated debut. This is a delicious appetizer for a fantastic weekend of racing nationwide. Soak in the Spa while you still can. And, of course, crush your bets.*

### Today's Picks

***\*\*For information on how to read an "ABC Grid" and ticket construction, please refer to our podcast website, [hhhracingpodcast.com](http://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 12:35 p.m. EST

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
1	2	3,6	5,7	2,3,6	\$.50 P5	\$60
2	2,7	4,5	1	2,7		
3	1,2	3	4,5	1,2	\$2 P5	\$60
4	7,8	3	4,5	3,4,5,7,8		
5	2,12	11	4,10	2,12	\$1 P5	\$48
6	2,8	9	1,4	2,8,9		
7	1A,5	4	7,9	1A		
8	2,8	1,7	9	1,2,7,8	\$.50 P5	\$96
9	3,5	1,6	2	3,5		
10	4,5	7	2,3	4,5,7		
11	5,6	2,7	4,9	5,6		
12	1,2	4,8	6,9	1,2,4,8		

### Top 3 Selections

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	2	6	5
2	2	7	4
3	1	2	4
4	7	8	3
5	12	2	11
6	2	9	8
7	1A	4	5
8	8	2	1
9	5	3	6
10	4	7	5
11	5	6	2
12	1	2	8



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### Pick 5 Analysis

There are four Pick 5s and in the spirit of true degeneracy, I have cavemen plays for all of them on the above grid. The one horse I think you can lean on in the two sequences that include Race 7 is Schwarzenegger. He is listed as an also eligible, but he **will** get in, because if there are no other scratches, Wesley Ward will scratch the other part of the entry so that Schwarzenegger can run. In talking to Wesley Thursday about his Kentucky Downs horses, he made that clear. He has been trying to get Schwarzenegger into the starting gate for more than a month, but the son of red-hot sire Not This Time has been scratched four times at Saratoga for a variety of reasons. He will run today and he will most likely win. In the late Pick 5 that starts with Race 8, check the board in the first leg, which has seven FTS. I think you can lean on – but not quite single - Baby Yoda in Race 9 and Dynamic Pricing in Race 11.

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

### Price/Spot Play(s)

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
3	1	Major Dude	3-1	4	\$30 Win #1 \$15 Exacta 1-2

**Notes** **PLAY OF THE DAY** This pick will require beating a Chad Brown favorite off an almost 15-month layoff with Flavien Prat aboard. That's why you will likely get the 3-1 morning line. Major Dude ran well in the Grade 2 United Nations at Monmouth, leading into the stretch before getting caught late in the 1 3/8-mile race. I think today's 1 1/16-mile distance will suit him well and he should get a nice trip from the rail under Johnny V. If Program Trading runs his "A" race he will be very tough to beat and Chad is 23% off a 365-540-day layoff. No knocks on him, but I think Major Dude may have an advantage at 8.5 furlongs.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
4	7	Edistrudis	5-1	3.5	\$20 WP #7

**Notes** In hockey, they have the 7<sup>th</sup> Player Award for the player who performs much better than what was expected heading into the season. If they had a similar award for Saratoga jockeys, Ricardo Santana would be a unanimous winner this year, with 35 wins heading into today's card. Jay Provenzano of Flying P Stable badly wants to win the owner's title and spots his horses accordingly, hence the 50% drop off the claim here. (He trails Klaravich by one win and is tied with Mike Repole heading into today.) Mike Maker is 17% off the claim, a percentage that holds up when you add dirt sprints as a filter, which is noteworthy due to Maker's success on the grass. This daughter of Practical Joke has fewer starts than any horse in the field and comes in off a bullet 4-furlong work on August 19.



## Picks Tip Sheet

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	8	Connect the Stars	9-2	3.5	\$20 WP #8
<b>Notes</b> I get the feeling there are no monsters among the FTS in this race, though you should monitor how much action the Cherie DeVaux horse on the rail, the ML favorite, takes. Connect the Stars, for Mark Casse and Dylan Davis, has improved her Beyer in each start and has run two good seconds in her last two, both at Saratoga. The second choice on the ML is Todd Pletcher's Always Ready. A sibling won on debut at Kentucky Downs, but Practical Joke progeny win turf routes at only 8%. There are negative Formulator stats on several other horses in this wide-open race, so I will go with the consistent Connect the Stars, whom I believe will be in the thick of it in the stretch and hopefully good enough to get her picture taken.					

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

Race	Selections	Cost
1	\$10 DD 2 / 2,4,5,7	\$40
5	\$8 Pick 3 2,12 / 2,8,9 / 1A	\$48

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

