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INSIDE TRACK

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Mid-Summer Derby

Essential Quality Looks to Paddle His Way to Victory

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WELCOME



This **Inside Track to the Travers Stakes** wagering guide gives you an inside look at the seven stakes running at Saratoga on August 28, 2021, including the \$1.25 million Runhappy Travers Stakes (G1). Also known as the “Mid-Summer Derby,” the Travers is one of the oldest stakes races for 3-year-olds in the United States and is the traditional centerpiece of the Saratoga meeting.

The Racing Dudes' **Inside Track to the Travers Stakes** combines some of the best handicapping forces in the country. The Dudes have been at it for years, offering handicapping picks and analysis daily for over 9 years. The Racing Dudes handicappers have scoured over these Travers Stakes competitors all year and are ready to cash in BIG!

Your main Dudes Aaron and Jared will be at it again LIVE from the Spa at the Travers Stakes with an exclusive bankroll wagering article **only available in this guide**. Bet alongside the Dudes, who currently have a 32.9% ROI when teaming up!

The historic \$1.25 million “Mid-Summer Derby” headlines a massive card featuring 7 graded stakes (6 Grade 1s) worth nearly \$5 million in purses. The undercard includes the \$750,000 Sword Dancer (G1), the \$600,000 Personal Ensign (G1), the \$600,000 Forego (G1), the \$500,000 Ballerina (G1), the \$500,000 H. Allen Jerkens Memorial (G1), and the \$400,000 Ballston Spa (G2). The Sword Dancer, Personal Ensign, and the Ballerina are all Breeders' Cup “Win and You're In” Challenge Series events with the winners receiving automatic berths into the Breeders' Cup this fall at Del Mar.

But that's not all! Along with the 7 graded stakes races Saturday at Saratoga, this Inside Track to the Travers Stakes wagering guide also includes race-by-race analysis, betting suggestions, and multi-race plays for the entire card!

IN THIS ALL-INCLUSIVE INSIDE TRACK TO THE TRAVERS STAKES, YOU WILL FIND:

- ◆ Race-by-race analysis of all stakes races on the Travers Stakes card, including:
 - ◆ Overview of the Race
 - ◆ Race Shape and Pace Analysis
 - ◆ Top Selections
 - ◆ Major threats
 - ◆ Longshots to Use
 - ◆ Exclusive Picks and Plays for each race which include: Win bet, place or show bet, longshot across the board play, exacta, trifecta, superfecta, horses to use in multi-race wagers, what to play on a straight wager, and what to play on an exotic wager.
- ◆ Race-by-race analysis, betting suggestions, and multi-race plays for the entire Travers Stakes card
- ◆ Travers Stakes Live Bankroll Plays, featuring the exact tickets the Dudes will be playing LIVE at Saratoga for all stakes races on the Travers Stakes card from Racing Dudes' own Aaron Halterman and Jared Welch.
- ◆ Top 4 choices for all stakes races from the expert handicappers at racingdudes.com including Racing Dudes' Aaron Halterman and Jared Welch, Mike “Saratoga Slim” Spector, Mike “Somobomb” Somich, Curtis “Magic” Kalleward, Ricky “Rocket Man” Pasternak, Papa Dude, and Vinny Blond from Real Dynasty Picks!

Each Win, Place, Show, or Across the Board wager comes with a confidence rating so that you can see how strongly we feel about each pick.

Finally, always remember to wager responsibly and never wager more than you can afford.

Good luck!



LIVE TRAVERS 2021 STAKES BANKROLL

with the Racing Dudes own *Aaron Halterman & Jared Welch*

It's time for the 2021 Travers Stakes, which is one of the biggest racing days of the entire year! Once again, we're giving you our EXACT race-by-race wagering plans for each of the 7 stakes races on the Saturday card at Saratoga. This will be the sixth time we've done one of these articles, and we currently have a solid 32.9% ROI to date!

The Dudes have invested \$370 for the weekend, but be sure that you don't bet more than you can afford to lose. Here we go!

Race #4: BALLSTON SPA STAKES

We'll kick it off with a great race, but a short field, which makes it tough to make money. We both like **#3 Viadera** on top, so we'll start this out with a simple win wager. She should be ready to fire.

\$50	Race #4 Ballston Spa: WIN
1st	#3 Viadera (GB)
\$50	Ticket #1 Total

Race #7: BALLERINA STAKES

There's no value betting **#1 Gamine** to win, so we'll play a Pick 3 in this spot and try getting value that way. We single her up, then play 5,7 in the next leg, then use the two big stars **#2 Jackie's Warrior** and **#6 Life Is Good** in the last leg. We'll press our opinions on this with a \$20 base.

\$20	Race #7 Ballerina: PICK 3
7th	#1 Gamine
8th	#5 Doubly Blessed, #7 Yaupon
9th	#2 Jackie's Warrior, #6 Life Is Good
\$80	Ticket #2 Total

Race #8: FOREGO STAKES

Call us crazy, but we like both kind of like the 15/1 shot **#5 Doubly Blessed** in this race. The card looks very chalky, but this race could produce a price because a couple of the shorter odds horses look a little sketchy. Let's try to get this one home with a small win wager at what should be a very good price.

\$20	Race #8 Forego: WIN
1st	#5 Doubly Blessed
\$20	Ticket #3 Total

Race #9: H. ALLEN JERKENS STAKES

Wow, this is an absolute showdown. We could not agree on a top horse and the single race exotics won't pay much. We started another Pick 3 here, playing **#6 Life Is Good** in this leg. We'll single **#6 Letruska** in the next leg and use **#1 Tribhuvan** single in the last. \$30 base wager, let's go!



\$30	Race #9 H. Allen Jerkens: PICK 3
9th	#6 Life Is Good
10th	#6 Letruska
11th	#1 Tribhuvan (FR)
\$30	Ticket #4 Total

Race #10: PERSONAL ENSIGN STAKES

This is one of our two strongest opinions on the card. **#6 Letruska** is our next \$50 win bet here. She's been awesome all year long and we don't see that stopping in this spot. She'll face a tough test in **#4 Swiss Skydiver**, but Letruska defeated her by 6 1/2 lengths the last time that they faced each other. We're looking forward to this one.

\$50	Race #10 Personal Ensign: WIN
1st	#6 Letruska
\$50	Ticket #5 Total

Race #11: SWORD DANCER STAKES

We've had a lot of luck in the past with 2-horse exacta boxes, especially on the turf. We have a lot of faith in **#1 Tribhuvan** and **#2 Gufo** in this spot, so we are going to play them in a solid \$20 exacta box. Many people will play #6 Japan in this spot, but we believe these two American runners will outkick the European down the lane.

\$20	Race #11 Sword Dancer: EXACTA BOX
1st 2nd	#1 Tribhuvan (FR), #2 Gufo
\$40	Ticket #6 Total

Race #12: TRAVERS STAKES

Once again, we feel strongly about a win wager. **#2 Essential Quality** is the horse to beat in this year's Travers. He's proven to be the best horse in this crop, and if he shows up with his top effort, they all will be running for second. With another short field, a win wager makes the most sense. Hopefully he can close

out a successful card for all of us who back him.

\$100	Race #10 Travers: WIN
1st	#2 Essential Quality
\$100	Ticket #7 Total
\$370	TOTAL BUDGET

That brings us to \$370 in total bets. If you followed our first four guide articles, you are up a total of \$656 going into this event. Our strongest plays will come late in the day, so let's hope we crush the back half of the card. Let's get a few of these home!

Good luck, everyone! 🐾



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RACE No. 4:

BALLSTON SPA STAKES (G2)

1 1/16 MILE (TURF)
Fillies & Mares
4-Year-Olds & Upward
\$400,000

OVERVIEW:

This might be the most wide-open stakes event on the card. The other races look like they could end up being chalky, but this field looks solid from a betting perspective, even though it's a small field. Maybe we can get a price home in this spot.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A SLOW PACE

Pure Speed: NONE

Pressing Speed: *Platinum Paynter*

Stalkers: *Tamahere, Kalifornia Queen*

Closers: *High Opinion, Viadara, New York Girl,*

Who is going to be on the lead? It looks like it will be Platinum Paynter by default, but there is a serious lack of speed in this race. Whoever can get to the lead is going to have a big advantage.

TOP CHOICE: #3 VIADERA

We should see a better performance from her after losing her debut last time out, when she was starting off of a long layoff. Last year, this horse won multiple stakes, including a Grade 1 event at Del Mar to close out her season. She has enough tactical speed to sit closer than she did last time out and should be able to out kick this group down the lane.

MAJOR THREATS: #5 Platinum Paynter,
#6 Kalifornia Queen

Platinum Paynter looks to be the lone speed in the race, which is always dangerous on New York turf. Kalifornia Queen gets Flavien Prat aboard once again, which is a great sign. They nearly won a graded stakes together at Monmouth Park last time out.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 Tamahere

This is the "other other" Chad Brown horse, as he also entered Viadara and Kalifornia Queen. She doesn't look as strong as her two stablemates, but she does get Irad Ortiz Jr. aboard. He's Brown's go-to rider and Chad has been known to pull an upset with this type of horse.

OTHERS: #1 High Opinion, #4 New York Girl

High Opinion has to move up in class for this one, which will be tough for her. New York Girl has run pretty poorly in her last few starts.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #3 Viadara - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #6 Kalifornia Queen - Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #5 Platinum Paynter - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 3,5,6 BOX

TRIFECTA: 3,6/2,3,5,6/2,3,5,6

SUPERFECTA: 3,6/2,3,5,6/2,3,5,6/2,3,5,6

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 3,6

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 Win on #3 Viadara

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 cent Trifecta 3,6/2,3,5,6/2,3,5,6



RACE No 7:



7 FURLONGS (DIRT)
Fillies & Mares
3-Year-Olds & Upward
\$500,000

KETEL ONE BALLERINA HANDICAP (G1)

OVERVIEW:

Always one of the best races on this card, the Bob Baffert-trained Gamine ships in while looking unbeatable sprinting. However, several tough sprinters are looking to take her down.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

Pure Speed: *Gamine*

Pressing Speed: *Truth Hurts*

Stalkers: *Sconsin, Ce Ce*

Closers: *Lake Avenue, Casual, Estilo Talentoso*

They might go fast early in this spot because Gamine is very quick; however, she should not be pressed much. If she shows up with her normal effort, she'll have a great chance to go gate to wire.

TOP CHOICE: #1 GAMINE

Not many will be rooting for her to win because Baffert is not very well-liked these days, but she clearly looks to be the best horse in this division and 7 furlongs is a great distance for her. Baffert fought like crazy to run horses at Saratoga this year just so he could bring this monster in and win. With her normal effort, they won't be catching her.

MAJOR THREATS: #2 Lake Avenue, #5 Sconsin, #7 Ce Ce

Lake Avenue continues to improve when running in sprint races and 7 furlongs seems to be perfect. Sconsin started the year hot but didn't really run all that well in her last start. Ce Ce comes into the race off a victory in the Princess Rooney Stakes (G2) last time out.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #3 Casual

This Steve Asmussen trainee always seems to be around with a chance in these types of race but just can't finish the deal, which is likely what will happen again here. Still, if you're looking for value, she's the only one who really makes much sense at a big price.

OTHERS: #4 Truth Hurts, #6 Estilo Talentoso

The truth really does hurt for Truth Hurts; she's just not fast enough. Estilo Talentoso has won some nice races; however, this spot just looks to be a bit tougher than what she defeated in the past.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #1 Gamine - Confidence Level: 5 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #2 Lake Avenue - Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #5 Sconsin - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 1,2/1,2,5

TRIFECTA: 1,2/1,2,5,7/1,2,5,7

SUPERFECTA: 1,2/1,2,5,7/1,2,5,7/1,2,5,7

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 1,2

STRAIGHT WAGER: NO BET, NO VALUE

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 cent Trifecta 1,2/1,2,5,7/1,2,5,7



RACE №8:

FOREGO STAKES (G1)

7 FURLONGS (DIRT)
4-Year-Olds & Upward
\$600,000

OVERVIEW:

The Forego seems like it could get a little tricky, with no real standout entered. Former winner Whitmore is still looking for his first victory of the year and the Vanderbilt Stakes (G1) upsetter Lexitonian tries to make it 2 in a row.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

Pure Speed: *Yaupon*

Pressing Speed: *Lexitonian, Mind Control*

Stalkers: *Mischevious Alex, Whitmore, Firenze Fire*

Closers: *Doubly Blessed, Chance It*

They might go fast early because Yaupon is very quick and Mind Control and Lexitonian won't be far behind. Still, this is likely not to be as fast of a pace as what we usually see in dirt sprints.

TOP CHOICE: #5 DOUBLY BLESSED

Look, you've got to take a shot somewhere on this card, so let's swing with a 15/1. He has the meet's top jockey aboard and Mike Maker's horses have been running off the screen. He's coming out of longer races, so I like the cut back here, and his speed figures match up with this group. The field is a bit suspect, so let's hope for a price.

MAJOR THREATS: #2 Whitmore, #4 Mind Control, #7 Yaupon

Whitmore is still looking for a victory in 2021; however, he's put up solid efforts in each of his starts. Yaupon is the speed of the race, which makes him tough, but will have to stretch out to 7 furlongs for the first time. Mind Control looked much improved in his last start, which was his first for trainer Todd Pletcher when he won the John Nerud Stakes (G2) at Belmont Park.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #3 Lexitonian

Lexitonian upset the Vanderbilt last time out against a similar group of horses. This is a bit tougher today, but he's proven he can do it, but do you want to play him at a much shorter price. That is the big question mark.

OTHERS: #1 Mischevious Alex, #6 Chance It, #8 Firenze Fire

Saffie Joseph horses continue to struggle this summer, which doesn't bode well for Mischevious Alex (so bad in his last start) and Chance It, who's overmatched. Firenze Fire needs to reverse his Saratoga form to have a shot.

PICKS and PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #5 Doubly Blessed - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #7 Yaupon - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #2 Whitmore - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 2,5,7 BOX

TRIFECTA: 2,4,5,7 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 2,4,5,7 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 2,4,5,7

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 Win on #5 Doubly Blessed

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 cent Trifecta BOX 2,4,5,7



RACE No. 9:

7 FURLONGS (DIRT)
3-Year-Olds
\$500,000

H. ALLEN JERKENS MEMORIAL STAKES (G1)

OVERVIEW:

The superstar sprinters are ready to throw down! Jackie's Warrior looked simply unbeatable last time out over this track; however, he must tackle the ultra-talented Life Is Good, as well as a few other very talented horses. This could be the race of the weekend!

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: Jackie's Warrior, Life Is Good

Pressing Speed: Drain the Clock, Following Sea

Stalkers: Newbomb

Closers: Judge N Jury

Wow, they could really be blazing early in this race. Jackie's Warrior, Life Is Good, and Following Sea are pure speed horses. Can any of them last 7 furlongs on the front end?

TOP CHOICE: #2 JACKIE'S WARRIOR

This is going to be a showdown. Jackie's Warrior looked incredible in his last start, destroying the Amsterdam Stakes (G2) field by several lengths. This is a much tougher challenge, but he might be the "speed of the speed" and still could get out ahead of this group. Life Is Good is a major threat, but Jackie's Warrior is in top form.

MAJOR THREATS: #6 Life Is Good

It's great to see this horse finally back on the track. At one time, he seemed like he was going to be a heavy favorite in the Kentucky Derby (G1), but an injury forced him off the trail. He'll face a monster in this spot, though, which is a tough ask off of a lengthy layoff.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #4 Following Sea

This horse is interesting cutting back in distance to one turn, which is where he's been deadly. However, the two monsters he faces here are legit, so I'm a bit worried that he'll be able to keep up when the real running begins.

OTHERS: #1 Drain the Clock, #3 Newbomb, #5 Judge N Jury

Drain the Clock was not great in his last start and is from ice cold trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. Newbomb and Judge N Jury looked overmatched.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #2 Jackie's Warrior - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #6 Life Is Good - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #4 Following Sea - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 2,6 BOX

TRIFECTA: 2,6/2,4,6/1,2,4,6

SUPERFECTA: 2/6/4/1,3,5

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 2,6

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$20 Win on #2 Jackie's Warrior

EXOTIC WAGER: \$10 Exacta BOX 2,6



Race No 10:

PERSONAL ENSIGN STAKES (G1)



1 1/8 MILES (DIRT)
Fillies & Mares
4-Year-Olds & Upward
\$600,000

OVERVIEW:

This should be a showdown between the top horses in the older filly and mare division. Can Swiss Skydiver bounce back from a couple of poor efforts and take down Letruska? That is the big question heading into this race, which drew a great field.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

Pure Speed: *Letruska*

Pressing Speed: *Swiss Skydiver, Miss Marissa*

Stalkers: *As Time Goes By, Graceful Princess*

Closers: *Dunbar Road, Bonny South, Red Flag, Harvey's Lil Goil*

Letruska could control the early pace; however, a couple of horses might decide to press her early. Either way, it should not be extremely fast up front.

TOP CHOICE: #6 LETRUSKA

I toyed with trying to bet against her, but the bottom line is this horse has just been too good this season to fade here. Another big factor is that she looks to be the lone speed, which makes her very dangerous. She faces some stiff competition here, but her best race will beat this field, and there's no reason to believe that she won't show up with a big effort.

MAJOR THREATS: #4 Swiss Skydiver, #8 Harvey's Lil Goil

Swiss Skydiver gets back against the girls, which will suit her much better. She's been training well leading up to the race. Harvey's Lil Goil intrigues because she's been great on turf, but I trust Mott entering her on the dirt.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #5 Royal Flag

She comes into this race off of a nice victory in the Shuvee Stakes (G3); however, the waters are much deeper here. These are the best older females in the country, so she'll have to raise her game to another level to have a shot.

OTHERS: #1 Dunbar Road, #2 As Time Goes By, #3 Bonny South, #7 Miss Marissa, #9 Graceful Princess

There are a lot of options in this field if you want to pick a longshot, but most of them look outclassed, which is how we labeled this group.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #6 Letruska - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #4 Swiss Skydiver - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #8 Harvey's Lil Goil - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 4,6,8 BOX

TRIFECTA: 4,6/4,5,6,8/4,5,6,8

SUPERFECTA: 4,5,6,8 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 4,6,8

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$20 Win on #6 Letruska

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 cent Trifecta 4,6/4,5,6,8/4,5,6,8



Race No 11:



1 1/2 MILES (TURF)
4-Year-Olds & Upward
\$750,000

RESORTS WORLD CASINO SWORD DANCER STAKES (G1)

OVERVIEW:

The highly-talented Japan invades from Europe for the great Aidan O'Brien and takes on a suspect group of American horses. We've struggled in the long distance turf races all year long against European shippers, so will this race be any different?

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A SLOW PACE

Pure Speed: *Tribhuvan*

Pressing Speed: *Channel Maker, Moretti*

Stalkers: *Cross Border*

Closers: *Gufo, Rockemperor, Japan*

These races always start slow and this one should be no different, with Tribhuvan looking like lone speed. If they let him go early, then he'll be hard to catch down the lane.

TOP CHOICE: #1 TRIBHUVAN

USA! USA! USA! The European runners have dominated us in longer turf races this year, but I think we turn the tables here with the speedy Tribhuvan, who's in fantastic form coming into this race. He looks like the fastest horse in the race by far, which gives him a big advantage over his main rivals who all do their best running late. He's the one they'll all have to catch.

MAJOR THREATS: #2 Gufo, #3 Rockemperor, #6 Japan

Gufo will be closing like a beast, but will he get up in time? He has trouble winning at this level. Speaking of losing, Rockemperor is the king of that, but he's running better than ever coming into this race. Japan ships in from Europe for one of the world's best turf trainer; he's a must-use based purely on that.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #7 Cross Border

This horse always runs well at Saratoga, so you have to respect him, especially after winning the Bowling Green Stakes (G2) last time out. However, this field is tougher, which leaves us skeptical that he can make it 2 in a row.

OTHERS: #4 Channel Maker, #5 Moretti

It's hard to throw out Channel Maker, the defending champ, but he struggled in his last 2 starts. Moretti is a strange entry. He'll make his turf debut in this tough Grade 1 event.

PICKS and PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #1 Tribhuvan - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #2 Gufo - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #6 Japan - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 1,2,6 BOX

TRIFECTA: 1,2,3,6 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 1,2,3,6 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 1,2,3,6

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 Win on #2 Gufo

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 cent Trifecta BOX 1,2,3,6



RACE No 12:

1 1/4 MILES(DIRT)
3-Year-Olds
\$1,250,000

RUNHAPPY TRAVERS STAKES G1

OVERVIEW:

Here we go, time for the main event! It's been an eventful Saratoga season, but this race is always the highlight of the meet. This year, we've got a heavy stand-out in Essential Quality, who could be one of the best 3-year-olds we've seen in a while. Can anyone beat him?

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A SLOW PACE

Pure Speed: *Midnight Bourbon*

Pressing Speed: *Masqueparade*

Stalkers: *Essential Quality*

Closers: *Keepmeinmind, Dynamic One, Miles D, King Fury*

We won't see much pace in here, as Midnight Bourbon looks like the only speed horse. Masqueparade might press him early, but it still shouldn't be that fast.

TOP CHOICE: #2 ESSENTIAL QUALITY

He's still the best horse in the crop, but he has to prove yet again that he can survive the graveyard of champions. Even with a horrendous trip last time out, he still won the Jim Dandy Stakes (G2), which was far from his best effort. If he can show up with a top effort here, then we could see a real show on Saturday, similar to his Belmont Stakes (G1) victory.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 Midnight Bourbon, #3 Keepmeinmind, #4 Dynamic One

Midnight Bourbon should set a comfortable pace and be the one who they'll all have to run down. Both he and Keepmeinmind have proven that they can hit the board in these types of races. Dynamic One is the "new shooter" coming off of a nice local win in the Curlin Stakes.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #5 Miled D

The Chad Brown trainee makes his third start off the layoff and his second time going two turns; those angles combined could lead to real improvement. He was decent last time out in the Curlin Stakes, finishing second in his stakes debut.

OTHERS: #6 Masqueparade, #7 King Fury

Masqueparade needs to improve off his so-so Jim Dandy Stakes (G2) effort last time out. King Fury also needs to up his game to have a shot against these types of horses.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #2 Essential Quality - Confidence Level: 5 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #4 Dynamic One - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #1 Midnight Bourbon - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 2/1,4

TRIFECTA: 2/1,3,4/1,3,4

SUPERFECTA: 2/1,3,4/1,3,4/1,3,4

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 2

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$50 Win on #2 Essential Quality

EXOTIC WAGER: \$10 Exacta 2/1,4

SARATOGA



NON-STAKES ANALYSIS & PLAYS

Race 1: 1-7-10-3

#1 Royal Spirit is a first-time starter for powerful connections who comes into the race off of a series of steady workouts. **#7 Doctor Davis** is a second-time starter for Bill Mott, who usually has his horses ready to run big in this situation. **#10 Sweeping Giant** ran well for Todd Pletcher in his debut race. **#3 Electability** is a nice-looking first-time starter for Chad Brown.

Exacta: 1,7,10 BOX

Trifecta: 1,3,7,10 BOX

Multi-Race: 1,3,7,10

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,3,7,10

Race 2: 3-2-5-6

#3 Be Better makes his debut for Todd Pletcher, who is winning 2-year-old races in bunches. **#2 Dr. Perry** is a first-time starter for Steve Asmussen who's had success at this meet with firsters. **#5 Jack Christopher** is nicely bred for this distance. **#6 Illustrious** has solid first-out connections and great breeding for this debut event.

Exacta: 2,3,5 BOX

Trifecta: 2,3,5,6 BOX

Multi-Race: 2,3,5,6

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 2,3,5,6

Race 3: 3-8-7-2

#3 Golden Plume gets Flavien Prat aboard and her works leading up to this race look good. **#8 Love and Thunder** has nearly won at this level 2 in a row. **#7 Kitten by the Sea** won impressively over this surface last time out in gate to wire fashion. **#2 Vividly** will be running fastest down the lane and picking off horses late if the pace is hot up front.

Exacta: 3,7,8 BOX

Trifecta: 2,3,7,8 BOX

Multi-Race: 2,3,7,8

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 2,3,7,8

Race 5: 1-4-3-6

#1 Koosman will be ridden by the meet's leading jockey Luis Seaz for his debut race, which is a good sign, considering he never rides for Tim Hills. **#4 Whittington Park** ran well on debut for red-hot trainer Brad Cox. **#3 Miracle Nicky** gets Irad Ortiz Jr. aboard for his debut race. **#6 Brady's Legacy** has solid first-out connections with New York-bred horses.

Exacta: 1,3,4 BOX

Trifecta: 1,3,4,6 BOX

Multi-Race: 1,3,4,6

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,3,4,6

Race 6: 11-1-10-9

#11 Big Package nearly won at this level last time out, losing by less than 2 lengths to a very nice horse. **#1 After Five** could be tough if he uses his speed from this inside draw. **#10 Christopher** scored impressively at a lower level over this track last time out. **#9 Shiraz** was game last time out, winning a New York bred allowance by a neck.

Exacta: 1,10,11 BOX

Trifecta: 1,9,10,11 BOX

Multi-Race: 1,9,10,11

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,9,10,11

Race 13: 1-10-12-7

#1 Dancing Firefly gets back to turf after a poor dirt showing last time out. She'll run better in this spot. **#10 Home for Christmas** also gets back to turf while taking a class drop and is running second off the layoff. **#12 Sister Luck** runs first time for Todd Pletcher and gets Irad Ortiz Jr. aboard. **#7 Tessler** is a first-time starter with a very solid pedigree.

Exacta: 1,10,12 BOX

Trifecta: 1,7,10,12 BOX

Multi-Race: 1,7,10,12

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,7,10,12



SARATOGA



MULTI-RACE ANALYSIS & PLAYS

RACE 1: \$0.50 PICK 5

1,3,7,10 with 2,3,5,6 with 3,8 with 3,6 with 1,3,4,6 = \$128

RACE 2: \$0.50 PICK 4

2,3,5,6 with 2,3,7,8 with 3,6 with 1,3,4,6 = \$64

RACE 4: \$0.50 PICK 4

3,5,6 with 1,3,4,6 with 1,9,10,11 with 1 = \$24

RACE 6: \$0.50 PICK 4

1,9,10,11 with 1 with 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 with 2,6 = \$32

RACE 8: \$0.50 PICK 5

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 with 2,5,6 with 4,6 with 1,2,3,6 with 2 = \$96

RACE 9: \$0.50 PICK 5

2,6 with 4,6,8 with 1,2,3,6 with 2 with 1,7,10,12 = \$48

RACE 10: \$0.50 PICK 4

4,6,8 with 1,2,6 with 2,4,5 with 1,10,12 = \$40.50



TRAVERS STAKES



Expert Picks

RACE	Aaron Halterman	Jared Welch	Mike "Saratoga Slim" Spector	Curtis "Magic" Kalleward	Mike "Somobomb" Somich	Ricky "Rocket Man" Pasternak	Vinny Blond	Mike "Papa Dude" Halterman
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SATURDAY, 8/28/2021

Ballston Spa Stakes (G2)	Viadara Kalifornia Queen Platinum Paynter Tamahere	Viadara Tamahere Kalifornia Queen New York Girl	Kalifornia Queen Viadara Tamahere Platinum Paynter	Viadara Platinum Paynter Kalifornia Queen Tamahere	Kalifornia Queen Tamahere Viadara New York Girl	Viadara Kalifornia Queen Platinum Paynter Tamahere	Viadara Kalifornia Queen High Opinion Tamahere	Viadara Tamahere Platinum Paynter Kalifornia Queen
Ballerina Stakes (G1)	Gamine Lake Avenue Sconsin Ce Ce	Gamine Ce Ce Sconsin Lake Avenue	Gamine Ce Ce Sconsin Lake Avenue	Gamine Sconsin Casual Ce Ce	Gamine Ce Ce Estilo Talentoso Casual	Gamine Estilo Talentoso Ce Ce Casual	Gamine Ce Ce Estilo Talentoso Sconsin	Gamine Lake Avenue Ce Ce Sconsin
Forego Stakes (G1)	Doubly Blessed Yaupon Whitmore Mind Control	Yaupon Doubly Blessed Whitmore Mind Control	Mind Control Whitmore Lexitonian Yaupon	Yaupon Mind Control Doubly Blessed Whitmore	Yaupon Mind Control Mischevious Alex Whitmore	Yaupon Mischevious Alex Firenze Fire Lexitonian	Mind Control Yaupon Whitmore Lexitonian	Yaupon Mind Control Whitmore Firenze Fire
H Allen Jerkens Stakes (G1)	Jackie's Warrior Life Is Good Following Sea Drain the Clock	Life Is Good Jackie's Warrior Following Sea Drain the Clock	Jackie's Warrior Life Is Good Judge N Jury Drain the Clock	Jackie's Warrior Life Is Good Following Sea Judge N Jury	Jackie's Warrior Life Is Good Following Sea Drain the Clock	Jackie's Warrior Life Is Good Drain the Clock Judge N Jury	Life Is Good Jackie's Warrior Following Sea Drain the Clock	Jackie's Warrior Drain the Clock Life Is Good Following Sea



TRAVERS STAKES



Expert Picks

RACE	Aaron Halterman	Jared Welch	Mike "Saratoga Slim" Spector	Curtis "Magic" Kalleward	Mike "Somobomb" Somich	Ricky "Rocket Man" Pasternak	Vinny Blond	Mike "Papa Dude" Halterman
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SATURDAY, 8/28/2021

Personal Ensign Stakes (G1)	Letruska Swiss Skydiver Harvey's Lil Goil Royal Flag	Letruska Swiss Skydiver Royal Flag As Time Goes By	Swiss Skydiver Letruska Bonny South Harvey's Lil Goil	Swiss Skydiver Harvey's Lil Goil As Time Goes By Letruska	Letruska Swiss Skydiver Harvey's Lil Goil Royal Flag	Letruska Swiss Skydiver Harvey's Lil Goil As Time Goes By	Letruska Royal Flag Harvey's Lil Goil Swiss Skydiver	Letruska As Time Goes By Swiss Skydiver Harvey's Lil Goil
Sword Dancer Stakes (G1)	Tribhuvan Gufo Japan Rockemperor	Gufo Tribhuvan Japan Cross Border	Tribhuvan Rockemperor Cross Border Channel Maker	Cross Border Tribhuvan Japan Gufo	Japan Tribhuvan Cross Border Gufo	Japan Cross Border Tribhuvan Gufo	Tribhuvan Japan Rockemperor Gufo	Tribhuvan Cross Border Rockemperor Gufo
Travers Stakes (G1)	Essential Quality Dynamic One Midnight Bourbon Keepmeinmind	Essential Quality Dynamic One Midnight Bourbon Keepmeinmind	Essential Quality King Fury Keepmeinmind Dynamic One	Essential Quality Midnight Bourbon Miles D Keepmeinmind	Essential Quality Midnight Bourbon Miles D Masqueparade	Essential Quality Dynamic One Masqueparade Midnight Bourbon	Essential Quality Dynamic One King Fury Keepmeinmind	Essential Quality Masqueparade Midnight Bourbon Keepmeinmind





TRAVERS 2021 STAKES

RACING DUDES

2021 TRAVERS STAKES