

FULL RACE PREVIEWS & WAGERING STRATEGIES FOR ALL STAKES RACES ON THE CARD

RACING DUDES **INSIDE TRACK** TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY



EXCLUSIVE RACE ANALYSIS

WAGERING STRATEGIES AND RACE BREAKDOWNS FOR ALL
STAKES INCLUDING KENTUCKY OAKS AND KENTUCKY DERBY

EXOTIC WAGERS

KENTUCKY DERBY EXOTIC WAGERING STRATEGIES
FROM AWARD-WINNING HANDICAPPER
MIKE "SARATOGA SLIM" SPECTOR

MULTI-RACE WAGERS

KENTUCKY DERBY DAY MULTI-RACE PLAYS FROM
HANDICAPPING EXPERT MIKE "SOMOBOMB" SOMICH

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WELCOME



The *Kentucky Derby* is part of the American fabric. In a year unlike anything other, the nation turns its eyes to *Churchill Downs* on September 5, 2020, in Louisville, Kentucky, to see which 3-year-old horse will win the “Run for the Roses” in *Kentucky Derby 146*.

This **Inside Track to the Kentucky Derby** combines some of the best handicapping forces in the country.

The Racing Dudes have been at it for years, offering handicapping picks and analysis daily for over 9 years. Aaron and Jared have scoured over the *Kentucky Derby* competitors for literally a year, but Mike “*Saratoga Slim*” Spector and Mike “*Somobomb*” Somich have been just as busy.

Saratoga Slim needs no introduction. A legend in the game, he is the master at crushing major tickets on big days. In addition to his handicapping skills, he is also a national award-winning writer for expertly predicting the *Kentucky Derby* pace.

Mike Somich has become famous for his consistent monster (think \$15k) multi-race scores at the nation’s biggest tracks. He has also become a force on the tournament scene, cashing for over \$80k in the last 7 months, and is ready to make serious money on the sport’s biggest day.

As a special bonus this year, Ricky “*Rocket Man*” Pasternak will also be contributing to the **Inside Track to the Kentucky Derby**! While Ricky is fairly new to *The Racing Dudes* team, he’s already created a following due to his in-depth handicapping analyses and consistent hits.

Known as the “*The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports*”, the historic 1 1/4-mile *Kentucky Derby* headlines a card featuring seven stakes in all. The undercard includes the \$1 million *Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic* (G1), the \$500,000 *Derby City Distaff* (G1), the \$500,000 *American Turf* (G2), the \$500,000 *Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile* (G2), the \$500,000 *Pat Day Mile* (G2), and the \$200,000 *Iroquois* (G3), a *Breeders’ Cup “Win and You’re In” Challenge Series* event for the *TVG Juvenile*.

But that’s not all! Along with the seven major stakes races on *Kentucky Derby* day at *Churchill Downs*, this *Inside Track to the Kentucky Derby* wagering guide also includes race-by-race analysis and betting suggestions for the entire Saturday card, PLUS bonus analysis for Friday’s *Kentucky Oaks* (G1)!

The Racing Dudes have consistently dominated the *Kentucky Derby*! Along with **correctly predicting 5 of the last 7 winners**, the past guides cashed on a \$4,000+ Trifecta in 2017 and **CRUSHED** the *Justify/Good Magic* **STRAIGHT** Exacta. What will we do this year?

IN THIS ALL-INCLUSIVE INSIDE TRACK TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY, YOU WILL FIND:

- ▶ Race-by-race analysis of all stakes races on the *Kentucky Derby* 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 and betting suggestions for the entire *Kentucky Derby* card
- ▶ Exclusive bonus analysis of the **Kentucky Oaks**
- ▶ *Kentucky Derby* Exotic Wagering Strategies and Picks from award-winning writer Mike “*Saratoga Slim*” Spector
- ▶ *Kentucky Derby* Day Multi-Race Wager Plays and Strategies from multi-race expert Mike “*Somobomb*” Somich
- ▶ *Kentucky Derby* Day Pick 5 Analysis from new handicapper Ricky “*Rocket Man*” Pasternak
- ▶ Top 4 choices for all stakes races from the expert handicappers at racingdudes.com, including Mike “*Saratoga Slim*” Spector, Mike “*Somobomb*” Somich, Curtis “*Magic*” Kalleward, Ricky “*Rocket Man*” Pasternak, 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!

KENTUCKY DERBY EXOTIC WAGERING STRATEGY

by Mike "Saratoga Slim" Spector



A lot of people call the Derby just another race, but what makes it such a special race are the monster-sized pools that offer bettors tremendous value. Last year, the exacta, trifecta, and superfecta pools totaled \$75 million! With so much uneducated money pouring into them, these combinations always pay more than they would in any other race.

Let's dive into the 2020 Kentucky Derby Exotic Wagering Strategy right now!

DERBY BETTING STRATEGY WITH A BIG FAVORITE

Partly due to the Derby's four-month delay, the Belmont (G1) and Travers (G1) winner **#17 Tiz the Law** is expected to be the biggest Derby favorite of this millennium. Uniquely, the Barclay Tagg trainee has already won the Travers at this 1 1/4-mile distance and dominated all comers in his 4 races this year, so he's deservingly at the top. It'd be foolish to play against him head-on.

In a situation like this, where you don't want to get beat by a strong favorite who's also the most likely winner, you have to use him. At the same time, you don't want to try beating him with a lot of horses because your ticket prices will balloon. A clever approach is equally using who you think is the most likely upsetter in order to inject value into your plays. For me, that's **#16 Honor A. P.**

Yes, Honor A. P. is the likely second choice in the wagering, but if a longshot or two hits the board and I playing these bets at higher denominations, then I should earn a healthy Return on Investment (ROI). Remember: these pools are huge, so if you cash any ticket multiple times, then you should be happy.

The Kentucky Derby is often won on the far turn, so if Honor A. P. replicates the closing kick that he displayed when winning the Santa Anita Derby (G1), he should be there late with Tiz the Law. I'll use these two equally on all tickets.

TRIFECTA WAGERING STRATEGY

As I explained in my 2020 Kentucky Derby Pace Thesis (available now on RacingDudes.com), I expect the pace to be slow-to-moderate compared to other Derbies run this millennium. That type of pace benefits horses like Tiz the Law and Honor A. P. who are able to stay within range of the early front-runners.

#18 Authentic and **#6 King Guillermo** should be setting the pace, but both have questions when it comes to excelling at this distance. Authentic looked like he was tiring late during his 1 1/8-mile Haskell (G1) win, and King Guillermo returns from a four-month layoff to race the farthest distance of his career. Since Authentic is expected to be the third betting choice and King Guillermo should vie for fourth or fifth, playing against both of them should increase my tickets' values.

The other top-class horses who possess early speed and should benefit from a moderate pace are **#15 Ny Traffic** and **#10 Thousand Words**. Ny Traffic has been the runner-up in his last 3 races, including losing by a nose while charging late in the Haskell last time out. He has the guts to keep hanging around at the end. Thousand Words beat Honor A. P. in the Shared Belief last time out and seems to be back in top form for his two-time Triple Crown-winning trainer Bob Baffert.

My goal budget for my trifecta and superfecta bets is \$150. Ticket #1 will be a \$10 trifecta using Tiz the Law and Honor A. P. in the 1st and 2nd spots, then using Ny Traffic and Thousand Words in 3rd. The total cost for Ticket #1 is \$40.

\$10 Trifecta Straight	
1st	#16 Honor A. P., #17 Tiz the Law
2nd	#16 Honor A. P., #17 Tiz the Law
3rd	#10 Thousand Words, #15 Ny Traffic
\$40 Ticket #1 Total	

Ticket #2 will move Ny Traffic and Thousand Words into 2nd place and split the top two choices into first and third. Ticket #2 is a \$5 trifecta totaling \$20.

\$5 Trifecta Straight	
1st	#16 Honor A. P., #17 Tiz the Law
2nd	#10 Thousand Words, #15 Ny Traffic
3rd	#16 Honor A. P., #17 Tiz the Law
\$20 Ticket #2 Total	

You can tell that I like these four horses a lot in this race and I want to be covered if they come across in any combination, so for Ticket #3, I'll box them in a \$1 trifecta for a \$24 cost.

This may seem foolish, but if only one of the two top choices hits the board (say it comes across as Tiz the Law over Ny Traffic and Thousand Words), I'd expect a \$1 trifecta to pay at least \$100. If Ny Traffic or Thousand Words somehow win, then the payout could be astronomical.

\$1 Trifecta Box	
1st	#10 Thousand Words, #15 Ny Traffic, #16 Honor A. P., #17 Tiz the Law
2nd	
3rd	
\$24 Ticket #3 Total	

My total trifecta wagers add up to \$84, which still leaves me with \$66 to bet on superfectas while sticking with my \$150 budget.

SUPERFECTA WAGERING STRATEGY

The superfecta is the Holy Grail of Kentucky Derby bets, and this year's is much easier to bet on a budget because the minimum amount wagered was reduced from \$1 to \$0.10. This may lower the payouts, but it's still a bet that I'd like to hit multiple times.

I'll start with a "2x2 super" with Tiz the Law and Honor A. P. in 1st and 2nd, then Thousand Words and Ny Traffic in 3rd and 4th. I'll play this ticket for \$4 in order to really press my strongest opinion. Ticket #4 has a total investment of \$16.

\$4 Superfecta Straight	
1st	#16 Honor A. P., #17 Tiz the Law
2nd	#16 Honor A. P., #17 Tiz the Law
3rd	#10 Thousand Words, #15 Ny Traffic
4th	#10 Thousand Words, #15 Ny Traffic
\$16 Ticket #4 Total	

In Ticket #5, I'll play a \$1 superfecta box using my top four choices. That covers me in all combinations for a \$24 total.

\$1 Superfecta Box	
1st	#10 Thousand Words, #15 Ny Traffic, #16 Honor A. P., #17 Tiz the Law
2nd	
3rd	
4th	
\$24 Ticket #5 Total	

Even though the pace is expected to be moderate, the best closers have often filled out the bottom of the superfecta in similarly-paced points-era Derbies, so I'll throw a couple of my favorite closers into the mix.

#3 Enforceable has looked great over the local track in his works and has the pedigree to excel at this distance; his full brother Mohaymen finished fourth in the 2016 Derby and his half-brother New Year's Day sired Maximum Security, who crossed the wire first in last year's event. As a son of Tapit, the Lecomte (G3) winner could be maturing at the right time for newly-named Hall of Fame trainer Mark Casse and will be moving late.

The classiest closer in the group is **#2 Max Player**, who finished third behind Tiz the Law in both the Travers and the Belmont. The Withers (G3) winner's move to the Steve Asmussen barn may be the extra boost that he needs to keep performing well against this type of Grade 1 company.

There's one horse who I don't want to beat me underneath because I can't leave a Todd Pletcher-trained horse off of every ticket. **#7 Money Moves** was a late addition to the field, but I expect him to be forwardly-placed in his stakes debut; perhaps he'll hold on for a piece. He's the field's true mystery horse.

Ticket #6 joins Enforceable, Max Player, and Money Moves with Ny Traffic and Thousand Words in the 3rd and 4th spots under the top two choices. This \$1 superfecta is a \$40 ticket that brings my total wagers to \$164, just over my \$150 budget. If you're not comfortable going beyond \$150, you can remove one of the five underneath horses to save \$16.

\$1 Superfecta Straight	
1st	#16 Honor A. P., #17 Tiz the Law
2nd	#16 Honor A. P., #17 Tiz the Law
3rd	#2 Max Player, #3 Enforceable, #7 Money Moves, #10 Thousand Words, #15 Ny Traffic
4th	#2 Max Player, #3 Enforceable, #7 Money Moves, #10 Thousand Words, #15 Ny Traffic
\$40 Ticket #6 Total	
\$164 Total Budget	

Feel free to use these wagering strategies to mix and match with any horses that you like better than others.

Good luck wagering on the 2020 Kentucky Derby! 🐾



Happy Kentucky Derby Day! Regardless of the month, this will always be a wonderful day of racing, and this card did NOT disappoint! After looking it over, I decided to go after the mid-card Pick 5, which kicks off with Optional Claimers before going into four graded stakes, including the Iroquois (G3), which will award the first points toward the 2021 Kentucky Derby!

Let's dive in!

Race 7 – \$62,000 Optional Claiming – 3-year-olds and up going 1 1/16 miles (8 1/2 furlongs) on the dirt

Our first leg in this mid-card Pick 5 also happens to be the toughest. I'll go to **#9 Aurelius Maximus** as my top pick. He's coming out of the Steve Asmussen barn after a monster effort going two turns for the first time at Fair Grounds. While I do think you could see improvement, he's taking a step up in class and adding weight, which creates a spread situation. I'll include **#4 Signalman** based off last year's form. You can throw out his last start since it was on turf, and a return to his 3-year-old form would make him a real player. Since I'm including Aurelius Maximus, I've got to add **#7 Chess Chief**, who was favored over him and has since faced much better horses. This is a big step down in class. I just can't quit **#10 Bodexpress**, who returns to a class level where he's dangerous. I'll add **#1 Award Winner** and **#3 Casino Star**, both price plays who are returning long layoffs and have Beyer Speed Figures that fit with this group.

Race 8 – American Turf Stakes (G2) – 3-year-olds going 1 1/16 miles (8 1/2 furlongs) on the turf

Pace is going to make this race; there's a lot of it signed up. That leads me right to **#4 Field Pass**, who should sit the perfect trip behind a wall of leaders and pounce turning for home. This Mike Maker trainee loves this turf course (3-1-1-1 record), earned a career-best 93 Beyer Speed Figure the last time that he ran here, and is 2-for-5 at the distance. I'll include **#5 Smooth Like Strait** mainly as a defensive use. He's got the talent to win, but he'll

have to face a large amount of other pace pressure and a significantly softer turf than what he traveled over in California. Finally, I'll add **#1 Taishan**, who'll be trying turf for the first time. He's a son of Twirling Candy, who turns out good turf runners and trainer Richard Baltas is more than capable with first-timers on grass and runners making their second starts after a layoff. At 15/1, the price is right to take a shot.

Race 9 – Pat Day Mile Stakes (G2) – 3-year-olds going 1 mile (8 furlongs) on the dirt

After struggling to get 1 1/16 miles, trainer Bob Baffert cuts **#1 Cezanne** back to a one-turn mile, which should be perfect for him. This race will be a sprint from the break, so expect Cezanne to sit the perfect stalking trip and be ready to pounce around the turn. I'm only going to go two-deep here and I'm including **#4 Vertical Threat**. The Slam Dunk ownership team chose this spot over last weekend's Pat O'Brien Stakes (G2) at Del Mar, a massive show of confidence in his ability to get the distance. Additionally, this is only his fourth career start, so there's still a possibility for significant improvement.

Race 10 – Iroquois Stakes (G3) – 2-year-olds going 1 mile (8 furlongs) on the dirt

With the first points of the next Derby season on the line, I'm going to spread out. I'll put **#10 Therideoofalifetime** on top based on his strong effort in the Saratoga Special Stakes (G2), where he ran second to a sharp juvenile named Jackie's Warrior. He's coming into this race with the most experience and the best Beyer Speed Figures, and he could prove to be tough here. Since we're talking about 2-year-olds, it's not unlikely that one of these takes a big step forward. The Steve Asmussen-trained pair are logical choices to see such an improvement, so I'll include both on the ticket. Of the two, I'd lean on **#3 Super Stock**, which is where Asmussen's top jockey Ricardo Santana, Jr., lands. **#8 Midnight Bourbon** showed huge improvement last time out and could logically take another step forward here. Last on the ticket is **#5 Dreamer's Disease**. Robertino Diodoro started him out on

dirt, but he looked great winning at a mile on the turf last time out. He's had no issues training on dirt in the morning, so I don't see any reason why he can't make some noise in this spot.

Race 11 – Churchill Distaff Turf Mile Stakes (G2) – fillies and mares, 4-year-olds and up going 1 mile (8 furlongs) on the turf

Let's close out the sequence on the lawn with one of the most resurgent fillies of 2020, **#4 Newspaperofrecord**. She's done absolutely nothing wrong in her two starts this year and has never been behind a horse at any point. She didn't face an abundance of pace pressure in those races, but I expect her to see some here; three other horses will want the same lead. I've been high on **#3 Juliet Fox Trot** for the last couple of months and I like her in this spot. She ran a good third behind Rushing Fall and Jolie Olimpica in the Jenny Wiley Stakes (G1) last time out and now shortens back up to her best distance on a race track where she's won in the past. 🐾

\$0.50 TICKET

1,3,4,7,9,10 / 1,4,5 / 1,4 / 3,5,8,10 / 3,4

COST: \$144

\$5.00 TICKET

9 / 4 / 1,4 / 10 / 3,4

COST: \$20





RACE 12:

KENTUCKY OAKS [G1]

1 1/8 MILES (DIRT)
3-YEAR-OLDS FILLIES
\$1,250,000

OVERVIEW:

After waiting four extra months, the biggest day for 3-year-old fillies is finally here. By the looks of this field, it may end up being well worth the wait, as three of the best horses in the country - regardless of age or gender - are set to do battle. Sit back and enjoy this one!

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: *Gamine*

Pressing Speed: *Swiss Skydiver, Donna Veloce*

Stalkers: *Speech, Shedaresthedevil, Hopeful Growth*

Closers: *Tempers Rising, Bayerness, Dream Marie*

With plenty of speed signed on, expect the fractions to be quick up front, especially since Gamine is exiting sprint races. If she was fast enough to set the pace in those events, it's pretty easy to predict that she'll be the one playing "Catch me if you can" in this spot.

TOP CHOICE: #5 GAMINE

After a lot of thought and consideration, I had to stick with my gut feeling that Gamine might be something truly special. I'm picking her despite the legitimate distance question marks, and this is not a spot where I would feel comfortable singling her, but her talent level is ultra-impressive.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 Swiss Skydiver, #4 Speech

It was extremely hard to not pick Swiss Skydiver on top in this spot. Her resume speaks for itself and she is proven at this distance. She must be on every exotic ticket and is the deserving second choice. Speech has a lot of positives heading into this event, including a win in the Ashland Stakes (G1) last time out. She's come the closest of anyone to beating Gamine, missing by just a neck.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #3 Donna Veloce, #7 Shedaresthedevil

Donna Veloce was the leading Kentucky Oaks contender before injuries sidelined her for most of 2020. She has talent but is returning from a 6-month layoff, a huge question mark. If any of the big 3 fail to show up, then Shedaresthedevil is the most logical candidate to hit the board.

OTHERS: #2 Tempers Rising, #6 Bayerness, #8 Hopeful Growth, #9 Dream Marie

No offense to this group, but there just doesn't seem to be any chance of them matching up with the top three horses in this race. These types will find success when dropping down to the Grade 3 level.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

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

BET TO PLACE: #1 Swiss Skydiver - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #4 Speech - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 1,4,5 BOX

TRIFECTA: 2,5/2,4,5/1,3,4,5

SUPERFECTA: 1,3,4,5 BOX

MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES: 1,4,5

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$40 to Win on #5 Gamine

EXOTIC WAGER: \$2 Trifecta 1,5/1,4,5/1,3,4,5



RACE 8:

1 1/16 MILES (TURF)
3-YEAR-OLDS
\$500,000

AMERICAN TURF STAKES [G2]

OVERVIEW:

The 3-year-old turf horses take center stage what looks like a pretty solid betting race. Most of these horses have had success in the past, but a few up-and-comers will try to make a splash as well. With the Kentucky Derby looking so chalky this year, high-priced payouts on the card will have to come from other races, and that could happen here.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: Taishan, Sugoi, Sunsation, Fancy Liquor

Pressing Speed: American Butterfly, Smooth Like Strait

Stalkers: King Theo

Closers: Field Pass

The pace has a shot to be pretty rapid, as several of the main contenders will want the early lead. They'll also have several horses wanting to press and stalk them, which could lead to the race really falling apart down the stretch. That sets it up perfectly for closers like Field Pass.

TOP CHOICE: #4 FIELD PASS

Even though he struggled last time out in the Saratoga Derby, he looks like the logical winner here. He cuts back to a distance that he prefers and the pace should set up absolutely perfectly for him. With so much speed signed on, he should drop back into a good position and be ready to pounce in the lane.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 Taishan,
#5 Smooth Like Strait, #8 Fancy Liquor

Taishan is an interesting prospect who will try turf for the first time. He has plenty of class, so if he likes the turf, then he has a shot. Smooth Like Strait has won 2 in a row, including the La Jolla (G3) at Del Mar last time out. Fancy Liquor also comes into this event off of a win, taking home the Caesars Stakes at Indiana Grand by a neck.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 American Butterfly

Trainer D. Wayne Lukas has tried to enter this horse on grass twice before, only to see each race get taken off of the turf. He'll finally get his chance here, which should be interesting. He's by American Pharoah, who is a solid turf sire, and out of a mare by War Front, who also sires mostly turf runners.

OTHERS: #3 Sugoi, #6 Sunsation, #7 King Theo

Sugoi will likely be up on the early pace, along with Sunsation, which might lead to a speed duel. If it does, then they may not have enough left in the tank when the real running begins. King Theo has a shot to sit a good trip in this race, but he might not be good enough to compete with this group.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #4 Field Pass - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #5 Smooth Like Strait - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #1 Taishan - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 1,4,5 BOX

TRIFECTA: 1,4,5,8 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 1,4,5,8 BOX

MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES: 1,4,5,8

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$25 to Win on #4 Field Pass

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,4,5,8



RACE 9:

PAT DAY MILE STAKES [G2]

1 MILE (DIRT)
3-YEAR-OLDS
\$500,000

OVERVIEW:

The Pat Day Mile is always one of the most popular races of the Churchill Downs season. It usually attracts a competitive field, which is exactly what we've gotten this year. The H. Allen Jerkens Stakes (G1) winner Echo Town leads this field, but several other solid horses are ready to take him down.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: *Vertical Threat, Tap It to Win, No Parole*

Pressing Speed: *Cezanne, Rushie*

Stalkers: *Echo Town*

Closers: *Shashashakemeup, Digital, Sonneman*

This race always has a fast pace, and this year should be no different. No Parole and Tap It to Win have both put their speed on display in stakes races this season, and Vertical Threat seems like the type who can stay with them. That should create a situation where the closers have a good shot of mowing them down late.

TOP CHOICE: #9 RUSHIE

This horse could have run in the Kentucky Derby, but his connections chose this much more logical race instead. This mile distance might be his best. He should sit a perfect trip, stalking the pacesetters before getting first run on them when turning for home.

MAJOR THREATS: #2 Echo Town, #6 Tap It to Win, #7 No Parole

Echo Town comes into this race hot, winning the Jerkens Stakes (G1) at Saratoga last time out. No Parole has the most speed in the race, but he must rebound from a poor effort last time out. Tap It to Win will show early speed and this one-turn mile should suit him well. He definitely has the class to get the job done here.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 Cezanne, #3 Shashashakemeup

Cezanne cuts back in distance and takes a slight drop in class. Shashashakemeup always has an upset chance, especially in one-turn races. He was recently second to C Z Rocket, who later won the Pat O'Brien Stakes (G2) at Del Mar to earn a Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile berth.

OTHERS: #4 Vertical Threat, #5 Digital, #8 Sonneman

Vertical Threat is likely to get caught up in a hot pace duel, which will be his undoing. Digital hasn't been in great form lately after starting the year hot. Sonneman needs a class drop after struggling in his last few races.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #9 Rushie - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

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

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #6 Tap It to Win - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 2,6,9 BOX

TRIFECTA: 2,6,7,9 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 2,6,7,9 BOX

MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES: 2,6,7,9

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 to Win on #9 Rushie

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 2,6,7,9



RACE 10: IROQUOIS STAKES [G3]

1 MILE (DIRT)
2-YEAR-OLDS
\$200,000



OVERVIEW:

It's truly unique that we'll run the 2020 Kentucky Derby on the same day that the first prep race for the 2021 edition will be held. The Iroquois is always a celebrated race at Churchill Downs and helps us turn the page to the next class of stars. This race has been known to produce big prices in the past, so remember that when handicapping.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: *Dreamer's Disease, Midnight Bourbon*

Pressing Speed: *Super Stock, Ultimate Badger, Therideofalifetime, Notary*

Stalkers: *Pico d'Oro, Crazy Shot*

Closers: *Drop Anchor, Sittin On Go, Belafonte*

This race is likely to have a hot pace up front. Like most 2-year-old events, this one is full of speed, which is what it takes to win early as a young horse. Even if it gets fast up front, a few of these horses might have enough stamina to keep going.

TOP CHOICE: #10 THERIDEOFALIFETIME

From a speed figure standpoint, this horse really jumps off of the page. He also comes into this race after running a solid second in the Saratoga Special (G2) last time out. He's also bred to handle the added distance, which makes him tough to beat here.

MAJOR THREATS: #3 Super Stock, #7 Pico d'Oro, #8 Midnight Bourbon

Super Stock comes to Kentucky from Lone Star Park, where he broke his maiden with ease last time out in a stakes event. He also gets Asmussen's top rider, Ricardo Santana, Jr. Midnight Bourbon also starts for Asmussen after breaking his maiden at Ellis Park last time out. Pico d'Oro was an impressive winner of the Runhappy Juvenile at Ellis Park in his last start.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #4 Ultimate Badger, #5 Dreamer's Disease, #6 Belafonte

Ultimate Badger was impressive on debut last time out, winning an Ellis Park maiden special weight by over 4 lengths. Dreamer's Disease was a flashy winner in his last start as well, but that was on turf. Belafonte is yet another impressive Ellis Park debut winner who shows up here.

OTHERS: #1 Drop Anchor, #2 Sittin On Go, #9 Crazy Shot, #11 Notary

It's always tough to handicap the 2-year-olds at this time of year, especially as they stretch out in distance. This race has been known to produce upsets in the past, so don't count these horses out if you like any of them. Almost anything can happen here if the favorite doesn't show up with his best effort.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #10 Therideofalifetime - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #7 Pico d'Oro - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #8 Midnight Bourbon - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 7,8,10 BOX

TRIFECTA: 3,7,8,10 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 3,7,8,10 BOX

MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES: 3,7,8,10

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 to Win on #10 Therideofalifetime

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 3,7,8,10



RACE 11

LONGINES CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE STAKES [G2]

1 MILE (TURF)
FILLIES & MARES 4-YEAR-OLDS & UP
\$500,000

OVERVIEW:

The older fillies and mares get their moment under the spotlight in this event featuring several quality entries. The Chad Brown-trained Newspaperofrecord will certainly be talked about the most in this spot, especially after her 2 straight dominant victories this season at Belmont Park. She lost the last time that she was at this track, though, which makes things interesting.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: *She'sonthewarpath, Newspaperofrecord, Harmless*

Pressing Speed: *Juliet Foxtrot*

Stalkers: *La Signare, Belle Laura*

Closers: *Daddy Is a Legend, Beau Recall*

There is no doubt that we'll see a fast pace here. Expect Newspaperofrecord to roll to the lead early, though she won't be alone. This race has much more of a pace presence than what she faced last time out and should set up for any closers good enough to make a move.

TOP CHOICE: #4 NEWSPAPEROFRECORD

It's really hard to go against her after she ran away from the competition for 2 easy wins. She has always been a crazy-talented horse and is an undefeated in 3 starts at a mile or less. Look for her to go to the front and play "Catch me if you can" with her competition.

MAJOR THREATS: #3 Juliet Foxtrot, #6 Beau Recall

Juliet Foxtrot has a ton of class and seems to be getting better with each race. Last time out, she lost narrowly to Rushing Fall, who may be the best turf female in the country. Beau Recall is a hard-knocking mare who's always around in big turf races and won this race last year over eventual the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) runner-up Got Stormy.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 Daddy Is a Legend, #7 La Signare

Daddy Is a Legend can match up with anyone in this group and has been ultra-consistent in stakes races for years, but she must rebound from a poor 2020 debut last time out. La Signare cuts back to a mile, which seems to be her best distance. She should improve in this spot.

OTHERS: #1 She'sonthewarpath, #5 Harmless, #8 Belle Laura

All three of these horses are solid, they just ran into a much tougher group. This race is very difficult and these three seem just a bit outclassed.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

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

BET TO PLACE: #3 Juliet Foxtrot - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #6 Beau Recall - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 3,4,6 BOX

TRIFECTA: 3,4,6/3,4,6/2,3,4,6

SUPERFECTA: 2,3,4,6 BOX

MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES: 3,4,6

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$25 to Win on #4 Newspaperofrecord

EXOTIC WAGER: \$2 Exacta BOX 3,4,6



RACE 12:

DERBY CITY DISTAFF STAKES [G1]

7 FURLONGS (DIRT)

FILLIES & MARES 4-YEAR-OLDS & UPWARD

\$500,000

OVERVIEW:

The older filly and mare sprint division is always an exciting opportunity for bettors because big prices often come through. A good-looking field has taken shape for this event, including former Kentucky Oaks winner Serengeti Empress, who enters red-hot after winning the Ballerina Stakes (G1) over this same distance at Saratoga.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: *Lady Kate, Serengeti Empress*

Pressing Speed: *Mia Mischief, Bellafina*

Stalkers: *Shesomajestic, Crazy Sexy Munny, Ce Ce*

Closers: *Bell's the One, Sally's Curlin, Wildwood's Beauty*

Anytime Serengeti Empress is in the race, you know the pace will be fast up front. However, don't let that fool you; she can run very fast early and still keep going down the lane. On paper, the closers should have an honest shot, making for an interesting race from start to finish.

TOP CHOICE: #10 CE CE

Cutting back in distance should do her well after running a little flat in her last 2 starts. Some of her best races came when going one turn and she projects to sit a perfect stalking trip on the outside. If the speed horses begin to tire, she should get the first jump on them.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 Mia Mischief, #8 Serengeti Empress, #9 Bellafina

Mia Mischief won this race last season and loves running at Churchill Downs. She'll be in with a big shot. Serengeti Empress is such a cool horse and will no doubt be on the lead after winning the Ballerina in front-running fashion last time out. Bellafina has trouble winning outside of California, but she ran well enough to finish second in the Ballerina last time out.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #4 Bell's the One, #6 Sally's Curlin

Bell's the One picked up a huge victory in the local 6-furlong Winning Colors Stakes (G1) earlier this year. Sally's Curlin won a stakes here last fall, making her dangerous as well. The home track advantage could help close the speed figure gap between themselves and the top contenders.

OTHERS: #2 Shesomajestic, #3 Wildwood's Beauty, #5 Crazy Sexy Munny, #7 Lady Kate

These horses look a bit overmatched against what seems to be a star-studded lineup. It would be a big surprise if any of these makes an impact in this difficult spot.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #10 Ce Ce - Confidence Level: 3.5 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #8 Serengeti Empress - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #1 Mia Mischief - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 1,8,10 BOX

TRIFECTA: 1,8,9,10 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 1,8,9,10 BOX

MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES: 1,8,10

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 to Win on #10 Ce Ce

EXOTIC WAGER: \$2 Exacta BOX 1,8,10



RACE 13:

OLD FORESTER BOURBON TURF CLASSIC STAKES [G1]

1 1/8 MILES (TURF)
4-YEAR-OLDS & UP
\$1,000,000

OVERVIEW:

This event is always a staple on the Kentucky Derby card and has an impressive list of past winners. This year's race drew another solid field, with some of the country's best turf trainers aiming for victory in this \$1 million event. Churchill Downs turf races have been known to produce prices, so don't be surprised to see a longshot win.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: *Factor This, Somelikeithotbrown*

Pressing Speed: *Bowies Hero, Spectacular Gem*

Stalkers: *Rockemperor, Mr Dumas*

Closers: *Digital Age, Dontblamerocket, True Valour, Sacred Life*

Surprisingly, this turf route may have a pretty solid pace set up front. Factor This has shown several times this year that he can win gate to wire and Somelikeithotbrown has always been a strong front-runner. They could set this race up well for the closers.

TOP CHOICE: #8 SACRED LIFE

He shipped to the United States with a bit of hype last summer, but he never broke through with a signature big win. His only start was an impressive victory in the Oceanport Stakes, and while this is a step up from that race, trainer Chad Brown shows good confidence placing him here. He could finally be ready to take the next step.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 Factor This, #2 Bowies Hero, #3 Rockemperor

Factor This has been solid this season, winning 4 straight stakes on the front end, and will be tough to pass. Bowies Hero ships in from California after 2 solid efforts in tough races. Brown's second runner, Rockemperor, might be the most frustrating horse in training. He's ultra-talented, but he's also lost 2 straight stakes in heartbreaking fashion.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #4 Digital Age, #6 Mr Dumas, #9 Somelikeithotbrown

Digital Age is the "other-other" Brown entry and won a Saratoga allowance with ease last time out. Mr Dumas is always around with a shot in races like this one. Somelikeithotbrown will likely be applying pressure to Factor This every step of the way, but if he somehow gets out on a loose lead, he could be dangerous.

OTHERS: #5 Dontblamerocket, #7 True Valour, #10 Spectacular Gem

From a speed figure standpoint, these horses need to improve just a little too much. This is another race that has come up tough with a top-heavy field.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #8 Sacred Life - Confidence Level: 3.5 out of 5

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

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

EXACTA: 2,3,8 BOX

TRIFECTA: 1,2,3,8 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 1,2,3,8 BOX

MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES: 1,2,3,8

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 to Win on #8 Sacred Life

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,2,3,8



RACE 14:

KENTUCKY DERBY [G1]

1 1/4 MILES (DIRT)
3-YEAR-OLDS
\$3,000,000

OVERVIEW:

It's hard to believe that we're running this race on the first Saturday in September, but it's happening. This year has been far from normal, but amidst the chaos, Tiz the Law has remained the constant on which we can rely time after time. The big horse is ready to take his next step toward history, even without live fans cheering him home.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: King Guillermo, Authentic

Pressing Speed: Storm the Court, Money Moves, Thousand Words, Ny Traffic, Tiz the Law

Stalkers: Finnick the Fierce, South Bend, Necker Island, Attachment Rate, Honor A. P.

Closers: Max Player, Enforceable, Major Fed, Mr. Big News, Sole Volante, Winning Impression

You can always expect a fast pace in the Derby. Look for Authentic to fly from his outside post to the front and for King Guillermo to not be very far behind.

TOP CHOICE: #17 TIZ THE LAW

He's been the best horse in the crop so far, this field isn't all that difficult, and the pace should set up perfectly for his running style. Simply put, his normal effort is good enough to get the job done and it's going to be awfully difficult to upset this heavy favorite - especially since he drew outside.

MAJOR THREATS: #16 Honor A. P.

If anyone can beat the heavy favorite, it will be Honor A. P. He's the only one who's shown the turn of foot necessary to compete and he should love this race's extra distance. He does enter the event off of a loss, though, which is not a good thing, but he's been training exceptionally well leading up to the race and jockey Mike Smith has been raving about him.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #2 Max Player, #6 King Guillermo, #10 Thousand Words, #15 Ny Traffic, #18 Authentic

Max Player and Ny Traffic are logical hit-the-board candidates who likely have no shot to win. King Guillermo is the mystery horse who has talent but hasn't been seen in four months. The Bob Baffert-trained duo of Authentic and Thousand Words are potential upset threats if they get the right trip and Tiz the Law no-shows.

OTHERS: #1 Finnick the Fierce, #3 Enforceable, #4 Storm the Court, #5 Major Fed, #7 Money Moves, #8 South Bend, #9 Mr. Big News, #11 Necker Island, #12 Sole Volante, #13 Attachment Rate, #14 Winning Impression

There is no way around it: this year's field has a lot of "filler." None of these pose a serious threat and only a couple can even hit the board. After the Derby pushed back four months, this field became a bit watered down.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #17 Tiz the Law - Confidence Level: 5 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #16 Honor A. P. - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #15 Ny Traffic - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 16,17/10,15,16,17

TRIFECTA: 16,17/10,15,16,17/10,15,16,17,18

SUPERFECTA: 17/10,16,18/10,15,16,18

MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES: 16,17

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$50 to Win on #17 Tiz the Law

EXOTIC WAGER: \$1 Superfecta 17/10,16,18/10,15,16,18

CHURCHILL DOWNS



NON-STAKES ANALYSIS & PLAYS

Race 1: 5-1-3-2

#5 Hog Creek Hustle gets back to the dirt for this race, while also getting back to his preferred distance of seven-furlongs. **#1 Home Base** could be the danger, though, especially if he gets out to an easy lead. He nearly won a stakes race on the lead two starts back. **#3 Bourbon Resolution** will be the one trying to close from the back; however, he could be compromised by the short field. **#2 Seven Trumpets** always seems to show up with a solid effort in these types of races.

Exacta: 1,5/1,3,5

Trifecta: 1,5/1,3,5/1,2,3,5

Multi-Race: 1,5

Suggested Bet: \$2 Exacta 1,5/1,3,5

Race 2: 5-6-1-7

#5 Idol is a first-time starter for Richard Baltas, who does with horses on debut. Plus, this field leaves a lot to be desired, so it could be a great spot for a debuter to win. **#6 Full Authority** hopefully catches a dry dirt track, which is where he is at his best. **#1 Thrill Ride** ran decent on debut last time out. With improvement this around, he'll be tough to beat. **#7 Kadri** should also run an improved race in his second career start.

Exacta: 1,5,6 BOX

Trifecta: 1,5,6,7 BOX

Multi-Race: 1,5,6,7

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Trifecta BOX 1,5,6,7

Race 3: 6-1-2-7

#6 Pit Boss ran consistently well in 4 starts, just not quite well enough to get the job done. This seems like an easier spot, though, so he should have a solid shot. **#1 Storm King** was well-beaten on debut, but trainer Steve Asmussen is 22% with second-time starters. **#2 Fastly** ran well at a mile last time out, showing that this may be his best distance. **#7 Dynacharge** will run as a first-time gelding, so he could show improvement.

Exacta: 1,2,6 BOX

Trifecta: 1,2,6,7 BOX

Multi-Race: 1,2,6,7

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,2,6,7

Race 4: 12-1-5-3

#12 King's Mischief had a solid debut on the Ellis Park turf, finishing second while earning a solid speed figure. His pedigree suggests that he'll like the dirt, so he's worth a shot at a price. **#1 Big Lake** and **#5 Essential Quality** each debut for trainers who always do well with first-time starters at Churchill Downs. **#3 Lock Up** showed plenty of speed last time out before fading down the stretch. With more fitness, he could last a bit longer on the lead here.

Exacta: 1,5,12 BOX

Trifecta: 1,3,5,12 BOX

Multi-Race: 1,3,5,12

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,3,5,12

Race 5: 5-8-10-11

#5 Spanish Kingdom won at this level 2 starts back before finishing a close fifth in the Transylvania Stakes (G3) last time out. **#8 On a Spree** has hit the board in 9 straight races, most of which came against similar company. **#10 Parkland** broke his maiden last time out at Ellis Park and earned a solid speed figure. **#11 Cavalry Charge** broke his maiden over this track 2 starts back.

Exacta: 5,8,10 BOX

Trifecta: 5,8,10,11 BOX

Multi-Race: 5,8,10,11

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 5,8,10,11

Race 6: 6-11-7-5

#6 Cool Bobby has the best recent form in this field. He won a claiming race by 10 lengths in the slop 2 starts back, then finished second at a similar level last time out. **#11 Cowboy Diplomacy** faces winners for the first time after breaking his maiden at Ellis Park. **#7 Street Class** has been close several times and is a logical hit-the-board candidate. **#5 Wild Popit** was a solid third against similar competition last time out.

Exacta: 6,7,11 BOX

Trifecta: 5,6,7,11 BOX

Multi-Race: 5,6,7,11

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 5,6,7,11

CHURCHILL DOWNS

NON-STAKES ANALYSIS & PLAYS

Race 7: 9-10-12-3

#9 Aurelius Maximus returns after a long layoff, but trainer Steve Asmussen is good with horses off the bench. His last race was an impressive win at Fair Grounds against similar company.

#10 Bodexpress takes a much-needed competition drop and is the field's classiest entry. **#12 Locally Owned** has hit the board in 4 straight races and won a local allowance 2 starts back. **#3 Casino Star** hasn't been seen in a while, but he has solid back class and picks up Florent Geroux to ride.

Exacta: 9,10,12 BOX

Trifecta: 3,9,10,12 BOX

Multi-Race: 3,9,10,12

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 3,9,10,12



MULTI-RACE WAGER TICKET SUGGESTIONS

Race 1: \$0.50 Pick 5

1,5 with 1,5,6,7 with 1,2,6,7 with 1,5,12 with 5,8,10 = \$144

Race 2: \$0.50 Pick 4

1,5,6,7 with 1,2,6,7 with 1,3,5,12 with 5,8 = \$64

Race 4: \$0.50 Pick 5

1,5,12 with 5,8,10,11 with 5,6,7,11 with 3,9,12 with 5,6 = \$144

Race 5: \$0.50 Pick 4

5,8,10,11 with 5,6,7,11 with 3,9,12 with 5,6 = \$48

Race 7: \$0.50 Pick 5

3,9,10,12 with 1,4,5,8 with 2,6,7,9 with 7,10 with 3,4 = \$128

Race 8: \$0.50 Pick 4

1,4,5,8 with 2,6,7,9 with 3,7,8,10 with 3,4 = \$64

Race 10: \$0.50 Pick 5

3,4,5,6,7,8,10 with 3,4 with 1,8,10 with 1,2,3,4,8,9 with 17 = \$126

Race 11: \$0.50 Pick 4

3,4,6 with 1,8,10 with 1,2,3,4,8,9 with 16,17 = \$54



KENTUCKY
DERBY
DAY



PICK 5 ANALYSIS

BY RICKY "ROCKET MAN" PASTERNAK

In a crazy 2020, one thing has remained constant: our love of horse racing. Even without fans, Kentucky Derby Day is one of the sport's best moments of the year. Before we get to the big races later on in the card, we have a great opportunity to make money from the start. One winning ticket can make the whole day. Let's take a look at Saturday's Early Pick 5.

Race 1 – \$150,000 Allowance Optional Claiming – 3-year-olds and upward going 7 furlongs on the dirt

One of the most difficult races in the sequence due to the quality of its five-horse field, this race is the equivalent of a listed stakes, so I'm going to buy my way through it and hope that the highest price wins.

#1 Home Base has had success at Churchill Downs before, winning 2 of his 6 prior starts over the main track. This field doesn't possess a lot of early speed, but he has won on the front end more than once. Joe Rocco, Jr., and Mike Tomlinson have won 21% as a jockey/trainer duo in the last 365 days.

Dale Romans has found massive success with **#2 Seven Trumpets** at Churchill Downs. He's won 4 of his 5 starts here, with his one misstep coming at the end of 2018 in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1). He's a veteran on these grounds and should be eager to return after being out of form for quite some time.

#3 Bourbon Resolution is still searching for his first local score after failing to win his first 5 starts. He's been competitive at this level in the past and Julien Leparoux, aboard last time out, gets the call once again.

The unknown in this group is **#4 Midnight Sands**, who makes his first United States start here. The best way to handicap these types of horses is to look at their prior level of competition and to examine the stats of his new jockey and trainer. He put together a 5-race win streak at Meydan Racecourse in Dubai, where several of the best international dirt horses race in the winter, and Tyler Gaffalione and Brendan Walsh have a 21% jockey/trainer win rate in the last 365 days.

Vickie and Grey Foley have done a great training job with **#5 Hog Creek Hustle**, who won the Woody Stephens (G1) and finished second in the H. Allen Jerkens (G1) last summer. He hasn't returned to that same form yet this year, but this is a much easier spot than what he's been facing and he finished a close second at a similar level over the Churchill Downs dirt 3 starts back.

PICKS: 1,2,3,4,5

Race 2 - Maiden Special Weight – 3-year-olds and upward going 6 furlongs on the dirt

#1 Thrill Ride has just 1 start under his belt, coming this past May 3 at Gulfstream Park, when closed well but ultimately ran out of time while going this same distance. After watching the replay, I expect him to break a little bit better and show improvement in his second career start.

Those who follow the sport closely know that trainer Richard Baltas is a consistently strong performer on the west coast, so the fact that he ships **#5 Idol** east to make his career debut on the track's biggest day of the year should not be taken lightly. The 3-year-old by top stallion Curlin posted a 5-furlong workout in :59.80 on August 28, indicating that he's raring to go.

PICKS: 1,5

Race 3 – Maiden Special Weight – 3-year-olds and upward going 1 mile (8 furlongs) on the dirt

This race is all about forgiveness and projecting who can improve from prior starts. **#1 Storm King** debuted over a muddy Indiana Downs track at the beginning of last month and showed speed out of the gate, but then he tired around the far turn and faded. Trainer Steve Asmussen wins 20% when his runners are given more ground to cover, which he should enjoy here.

The Bret Calhoun runner **#2 Fastly** can't seem to get out of his own way, putting himself into trouble from the start. From a

bettor's perspective, it's hard to get over 2 consecutive races where he's caused his own mess, but he managed to run well and stay competitive each time. It's hard to expect a young runner to persevere through these situations, but the fact that he has gives me hope for success if he gets a clean break. Mitchell Murrill keeps the mount for the third straight time and knows how to get Calhoun runners home - they have a 19% win rate together.

#6 Pit Boss will try to break his maiden in his fifth career start. He's shown the ability to be on the front end or close from well back, versatility that will give Corey Lanerie plenty of options after they break from the gate. Lanerie hasn't ridden for Wayne Catalano often in the last year, but they've done well together, winning at 2 of their past 8 shared mounts.

PICKS: 1,2,6

Race 4 – Maiden Special Weight – 2-year-olds going 6 furlongs on the dirt

#1 Big Lake may become a horse who we talk about for a long time. He's from the second crop of the 2015 Triple Crown winner American Pharoah, already a proven sire from his first group. Big Lake will try win his debut, much like fellow American Pharoah progeny American Monarch and Zero to Sixty did last month at Saratoga.

The first-time starter theme rolls on with the Brad Cox-trained **#5 Essential Quality**, a son of Tapit looking to make a splash in his first ever start on the track. Tapit has been one of the best sires of the past 20 years, producing several Grade 1 classic winners. Essential Quality gets Brad Cox's top rider Shaun Bridgmohan; the two have teamed up to win 24% in the last 365 days.

One of the few experienced runners is the Wesley Ward-trained **#10 Copley**, who debuted in a key race at Woodbine that featured a pair of next-out stakes winners. Gerardo Corrales is Ward's top jockey with younger horses; they've won at a combined 39% together in the last 365 days.

PICKS: 1,5,10

Race 5 – Allowance – 3-year-olds and upward going 1 1/16 miles (8 1/2 furlongs) on the turf

One of my top choices in the entire Early Pick 5 is **#5 Spanish Kingdom**, who has faced several top 3-year-olds on dirt and turf this year. He's performed well in the past and might give us a price on the morning line, but it's unreasonable to think that he'll be any higher than 3/1 at post time. If that happens, I'll probably throw some win money on him.

#8 On a Spree dominated the Tampa Bay Downs claiming ranks

this past spring, and while he looks a little overmatched on paper, if anyone can help a turf horse improve, it's Mike Maker, who wins 17% in turf races. He's shown early speed and has finished in the money in 4 of his 5 attempts at this distance, so any improvement makes him a logical threat.

It took **#11 Cavalry Charge** 8 starts to break his maiden, but once he tried turf, his career changed for the better. He followed up his winning grass debut and managed to gain ground in the stretch despite a terribly wide trip. Trainer Dallas Stewart has a knack for pulling off big-priced upsets on days like Saturday, so don't be scared off if his price floats up.

PICKS: 5,8,11

Good luck wagering on Kentucky Derby day! 🐎



THE TICKET

\$.50 PICK 5 (Races 1-5)

1-5 (ALL)

1,5

1,2,6

1,5,10

5,8,11

\$150



<div>  <div> <div>expert</div> <div>picks</div> </div> </div>								
RACE	Aaron Halterman	Jared Welch	Mike “Saratoga Slim” Spector	Curtis “Magic” Kalleward	Mike “Somobomb” Somich	Ricky “Rocket Man” Pasternak	Vinny Blond	Sean Alvarez
FRIDAY, 9/4/2020								
Kentucky Oaks (G1)	Gamine Swiss Skydiver Speech Shedaresthedevel	Gamine Swiss Skydiver Speech Shedaresthedevel	Gamine Swiss Skydiver Speech Shedaresthedevel	Swiss Skydiver Gamine Speech Donna Veloce	Gamine Speech Swiss Skydiver Donna Veloce	Swiss Skydiver Speech Gamine Shedaresthedevel	Swiss Skydiver Gamine Speech Shedaresthedevel	Gamine Speech Swiss Skydiver Dream Marie
SATURDAY, 9/5/2020								
American Turf Stakes (G2)	Field Pass Smooth Like Strait Taishan Fancy Liquor	Field Pass Smooth Like Strait Taishan Fancy Liquor	Field Pass Smooth Like Strait Fancy Liquor Taishan	Smooth Like Strait Field Pass American Butterfly Sugoi	Field Pass Taishan Smooth Like Strait Fancy Liquor	Field Pass Smooth Like Strait Fancy Liquor Sugoi	Field Pass Smooth Like Strait American Butterfly Fancy Liquor	Field Pass American Butterfly Taishan Smooth Like Strait
Pat Day Mile Stakes (G2)	Rushie Echo Town Tap It to Win No Parole	Rushie Cezanne Echo Town No Parole	Echo Town Cezanne No Parole Tap It to Win	Rushie Echo Town No Parole Cezanne	Cezanne Vertical Threat Rushie Echo Town	Echo Town Cezanne Rushie Tap It to Win	Echo Town Tap It to Win Rushie Cezanne	Rushie Digital Echo Town Cezanne
Iroquois Stakes (G3)	Therideofalifetime Pico d’Oro Midnight Bourbon Super Stock	Therideofalifetime Midnight Bourbon Super Stock Dreamer’s Disease	Therideofalifetime Super Stock Midnight Bourbon Pico d’Oro	Ultimate Badger Therideofalifetime Midnight Bourbon Notary	Therideofalifetime Super Stock Midnight Bourbon Dreamer’s Disease	Therideofalifetime Midnight Bourbon Pico d’Oro Bellafonte	Therideofalifetime Drop Anchor Pico d’Oro Sittin On Go	Therideofalifetime Notary Super Stock Bellafonte
Longines Churchill Downs Distaff Turf Mile Stakes (G2)	Newspaperofrecord Juliet Foxtrot Beau Recall Daddy Is a Legend	Newspaperofrecord Beau Recall La Signare Juliet Foxtrot	Newspaperofrecord Beau Recall Juliet Foxtrot Daddy Is a Legend	Juliet Foxtrot Newspaperofrecord Beau Recall Daddy Is a Legend	Newspaperofrecord Juliet Foxtrot Beau Recall Daddy Is a Legend	Newspaperofrecord Beau Recall La Signare Juliet Foxtrot	Newspaperofrecord Beau Recall She’sonthewarpath Daddy Is a Legend	Newspaperofrecord La Signare Beau Recall Juliet Foxtrot
Derby City Distaff Stakes (G1)	Ce Ce Serengeti Empress Mia Mischief Bellafina	Serengeti Empress Ce Ce Mia Mischief Bellafina	Bellafina Serengeti Empress Ce Ce Mia Mischief	Serengeti Empress Mia Mischief Ce Ce Bell’s the One	Serengeti Empress Bell’s the One Ce Ce Bellafina	Serengeti Empress Ce Ce Mia Mischief Bellafina	Bell’s the One Bellafina Ce Ce Serengeti Empress	Ce Ce Serengeti Empress Sally’s Curlin Mia Mischief
Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic Stakes (G1)	Sacred Life Rockemperor Bowies Hero Factor This	Digital Age Rockemperor Sacred Life Bowies Hero	Digital Age Rockemperor Sacred Life Factor This	Sacred Life Mr Dumas Factor This Rockemperor	Digital Age Sacred Life Mr Dumas Dontblamerocket	Rockemperor Digital Age Factor This Bowies Hero	Digital Age Somelikeithotbrown Rockemperor Bowies Hero	Bowies Hero Rockemperor Factor This Spectacular Gem
Kentucky Derby (G1)	Tiz the Law Honor A. P. Thousand Words Ny Traffic	Tiz the Law Honor A. P. Authentic Thousand Words	Honor A. P. Tiz the Law Thousand Words Ny Traffic	Tiz the Law Honor A. P. Ny Traffic Enforceable	Tiz the Law Honor A. P. Thousand Words Money Moves	Tiz the Law Honor A. P. Authentic Max Player	Tiz the Law Honor A. P. Money Moves South Bend	Honor A. P. Tiz the Law Ny Traffic Sole Volante