



**FRIDAY 7/17/2026 \*\*UPDATED\*\***

The Simulcast Best Bets Sheet features ALL Crystal Ball Best Bets in the Betting Window from the tracks I'm offering that day. In some cases, there will be 3 on a big racing day for a track that I don't usually cover. You will receive selections, race analysis and wagering strategies for all Best Bets (ranging from 5-7 plays a day, 9-10 if I'm doing a third track). Includes the Pick of the Day FREE OF CHARGE. Each Best Bet will be listed in post time order, including track and race number for ease of use and structure. Place parlays from the tracks with Betting Windows.

## Saratoga - Race 1

Post Time: 1:10 PM

### Wagers & Race Notes

#### Begin Pick 3 Play

\* Begin a Pick 3 play, 2 suggested tickets = \$50

Ticket 1: 2-3-5-7 / 1-2-3-5-6 / 4-8 = \$40 for a \$1 wager

Ticket 2: 2 / 1-2-3-5-6 / 4-8 = \$10 for a \$1 wager

This race, not my top selection, I consider a Crystal Ball Best Bet play. There's very little separating my top 4 selections, but I'm giving a slight nod to (2) Red Square. He was bet down to the 2-1 favorite in his debut facing 11 rivals going 5f at Churchill. He was bumped at the start quickly finding himself in last place. He was moving well in deep stretch when his rider was forced to steady in tight between horses. Shook clear from that trouble too late, but then galloped out well past the field after the wire. He's a half brother to Arrest Me Red, an 11 time winner with \$1.5 million in earnings, who was also trained by Wesley Ward. I feel today's extra 1/2 furlong will help with Irad Ortiz Jr. back aboard. I'm going to attack this early Pick 3.

### THE WIZARD'S PICK OF THE DAY

## Saratoga - Race 8

Post Time: 5:11 PM

## Race 8

Post Time: 5:11 PM

1 1/16 Miles. Turf. 4 Year Olds And Up. CLAIMING(\$40,000). Purse: \$73,000



Exacta (\$1), Trifecta (.50), Super (.10), Double (\$1) 8 & 9, Pick 3 (\$1) (8-10)

| Prg. # | PP | Horse              | Jockey              | Trainer              | Wt. | Claim \$ | Equip. | Med. | ML   |
|--------|----|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----|----------|--------|------|------|
| 1      | 1  | Classic Creation   | Dylan Davis         | John P. Terranova II | 121 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 15-1 |
| 2      | 2  | Ice Chocolat (BRZ) | Jose L. Ortiz       | Mark E. Casse        | 123 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 7-2  |
| 3      | 3  | Belouni (FR)       | Jaime Rodriguez     | Jorge R. Abreu       | 121 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 6-1  |
| 4      | 4  | Beef Winslow       | Tyler Gaffalione    | Robert B. Hess, Jr.  | 121 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 3-1  |
| 5      | 5  | Heathguard         | Junior Alvarado     | Roy S. Lerman        | 121 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 12-1 |
| 6      | 6  | Presider           | Manuel Franco       | Mertkan Kantarmaci   | 121 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 12-1 |
| 7      | 7  | Santorini          | Flavien Prat        | Michael J. Maker     | 121 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 5-1  |
| 8      | 8  | Treaty Obligation  | Ruben Silvera       | Rudy R. Rodriguez    | 123 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 20-1 |
| 9      | 9  | Lou                | Christopher Elliott | Maria M. Mann        | 121 | \$40,000 | Blk-O  | L    | 30-1 |
| 10     | 10 | Ocean Atlantique   | Irad Ortiz, Jr.     | Joe Sharp            | 123 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 4-1  |
| 11     | 11 | Ambition           | Manuel Franco       | Ilkay Kantarmaci     | 123 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 15-1 |



WIN WITH THE WIZARD

# SIMULCAST BEST BETS



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| Prg. # | PP | Horse           | Jockey           | Trainer            | Wt. | Claim \$ | Equip. | Med. | ML   |
|--------|----|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|-----|----------|--------|------|------|
| 12     | 12 | Inexorable      | Irada Ortiz, Jr. | Linda Rice         | 123 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 2-1  |
| 13     | 13 | Pineapple Man   | Rider TBA        | Michelle Nevin     | 121 | \$50,000 |        | L    | 8-1  |
| 14     | 14 | Three Technique | Edgard J. Zayas  | Mertkan Kantarmaci | 121 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 10-1 |
| 15     | 15 | Power Seeker    | Ruben Silvera    | Rudy R. Rodriguez  | 123 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 6-1  |
| 16     | 16 | Brazenly        | Rider TBA        | Chris J. Englehart | 121 | \$40,000 |        | L    | 7-2  |

### Wagers & Race Notes

\* Win bet on (3) BELOUNI

\* Exacta box 3-7-10 = \$12 for a \$2 wager

With the late scratch of (2) Ice Chocolate, I am going to pass up on the Pick 3 I originally gave out, a play a simple win bet and an exacta box on the 3 horses I feel fit very well in this spot. I have a slight preference too (3) Bellouni who will take back and make 1 run from his good inside post. He will be a generous price as well.

### Del Mar - Race 6

Post Time: 7:32 PM

### Wagers & Race Notes

\* A win bet on (4) DETAIN

\* Exacta box 3-4-6-7 = \$12 for a \$1 wager

\* Trifecta 4 over 3-6-7-8 over ALL = \$18 for a \$0.50 wager

\* Trifecta 4 over 3-6-7-8 over 3-6-7-8 = \$6 for a \$0.50 wager

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Detain showed class last year in Europe, and he's had an excellent prep off the 8-month layoff, so today looks like 'go' day to earn his first win in this country. In his six races in England and France last year this 4-year-old colt lost by just 3/4 length in a rich Group 1 race that had an 18-horse field, and he also finished a strong 3rd in a Group 2 race in his final start of the year, earning a Timeform figure that would be very tough on today's group. This half-brother to two Group turf stakes winners made his U.S. debut going a mile at Santa Anita on June 7, and ran very well, given the 8-month layoff, finishing fast with a :23 flat final quarter. Now he gets more distance and an expected honest pace to rate behind and rally into.

### Del Mar - Race 9

Post Time: 9:02 PM

### Wagers & Race Notes

\* A win bet on (4) MATT AT FIVE

\* Exacta boxes 4-5, 4-8

\* Trifecta 4 over 1-5-8-9 over ALL = \$12 for a \$0.50 wager

\* Trifecta 4 over 1-5-8-9 over 1-5-8-9 = \$12 for a \$1 wager



WIN WITH THE WIZARD

# SIMULCAST BEST BETS



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Lightly-raced and improving 3-year-old gelding Matt At Five had been on a sharp upward trajectory with each race before regressing on June 6. He had won two in a row in 6F turf sprints on May 10 and May 24, showing the ability to win on the lead and pressing the pace, but he just didn't care for the stretch to a mile on June 6. He chased a solid pace in 2nd that day and bid through most of the stretch before tiring to finish 5th, and he should love this cutback to a sprint. He's never finished worse than 2nd in 4 career sprints, including clear wins in his last 2 such races, and now trainer Peter Miller returns him to dirt. Matt At Five finished 2nd in his two dirt sprints to start his career, so he handles the main track well, and he's coming off an excellent bullet 5F stamina move from the gate on dirt on July 10. I also like the rider change to Hall of Famer Joel Rosario.

## ADDITIONAL PLAYS

**Del Mar - Pick 4 (Races 2 - 5)**

**Post Time: 5:31 PM**

\* 2 suggested tickets = \$48

Ticket 1: 2 / 1-4-5-6 / 1-4-5-8 / 3-4-6 = \$24 for a \$0.50 wager

Ticket 2: ALL / 1-6 / 1-4-5-8 / 6 = \$24 for a \$0.50 wager

**Del Mar - Pick 4 (Races 7 - 10)**

**Post Time: 8:02 PM**

Ticket 1: 4-5-7-10 / 4-6-8-11 / 4-5 / 4-5-9 = \$48 for a \$0.50 wager

## PLACE PARLAY PLAY OF THE DAY



A featured daily wager meant to be fun and engaging, while also seeking to convert a small investment into a significant profit. Begin with a small place bet on the first race of the sequence – \$2.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 or an amount within your budget. Roll any winnings forward with place bets on the subsequent races until the parlay loses or is completed successfully.



WIN WITH THE WIZARD

# SIMULCAST BEST BETS



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## DEL MAR

**Race 2 (#2)**

Red Cherry

**Race 3 (#1)**

Charlie's Clock

**Race 6 (#4)**

Detain (IRE)

**Race 9 (#4)**

Matt At Five

## SARATOGA

**Race 3 (#4)**

Two Eagles River

**Race 4 (#8)**

Juneau

**Race 5 (#5)**

Twisted Filigree