



BETTING WINDOW

EVERY WIZARD PRODUCT IS A HANDICAPPING AND BETTING LESSON

WIZARD
RACE & SPORTS

PIMLICO Saturday 05/17/2025 **UPDATED**



Post: 10:30 AM

1

UPDATED



Selections 5 - 1 - 7 - 8

WAGERS: Visit Wizardraceandsports.com for valuable betting information. Read about the Wizard's Racing Stable and much more. Wagers updated after late scratches 45 minutes before first post which is 10:30 ET.

* Begin a PICK 3 wager, 3 suggested tickets = \$29

Ticket 1: 1-5-7-8 / 9 / 3 = \$16 for a \$4 wager

Ticket 2: ALL / 9 / 3 = \$7 for a \$1 wager

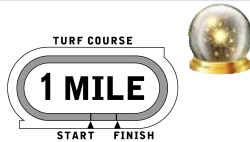
Ticket 3: 5 / 3-6-7-8-9-10 / 3 = \$6 for a \$1 wager

* Trifecta 5 over 1-7-8 over ALL = \$15 for a \$1 wager

* Trifecta 1-7-8 over 5 over ALL = \$7.50 for a \$0.50

Post: 11:05 AM

2



Selections 9 - 7 - 3 - 8 - 10
- 6

Off Turf 6 - 1

The Wizard's Crystal Ball Best Bet

WAGERS: TURF WAGERS ONLY

* Exactas 9 over 3-6-7-8-10, reverse each for 1/4 as much

* Trifecta 9 over 3-6-7-8-10 over ALL = \$20 for a \$0.50 wager

Drop the Hammer showed huge improvement Feb 23 at Gulfstream switching to the turf for the first time. She wired the field to break her maiden after setting quick fractions throughout and had plenty left in the tank after the wire. She was purchased privately by high profile owner Resolute Racing for a hefty price following the race. The 3-year-old filly finished a well beaten 6th last time out at Keeneland, but she had the misfortune of a tough trip in a strong allowance field. Drop the Hammer raced out of position from the start and was blocked on the far turn while seemingly full of run. She was not urged hard by Irad Ortiz Jr. in deep stretch when beaten, as he wisely saved her for another day. There's not much early speed in this race, so expect Ortiz to be aggressive right out of the gate and try for the lead despite breaking from an outside post. I also like the cut back to 1-mile for top grass trainer Graham Motion.

Post: 11:41 AM

3



Selections 3 - 1 - 7

WAGERS: * Exactas 3 over 1-7, no reverse

Post: 12:16 PM

4

UPDATED



Selections 7 - 6 - 5

WAGERS: * Win bet on (7) EPIC RIDE

* Exacta box 6-7

* Smaller Exacta box 5-7 for 1/2 as much



WIZARD
RACE & SPORTS

BETTING WINDOW

EVERY WIZARD PRODUCT IS A HANDICAPPING AND BETTING LESSON



PIMLICO Saturday 05/17/2025 **UPDATED**

Post: 12:51 PM

5

UPDATED



Selections 3 - 11 - 9
Off Turf 3 - 9 - 12 - 10

The Wizard's Crystal Ball Best Bet

WAGERS: TURF WAGERS ONLY

- * Exactas 3 over 9-11, reverse for 1/3 as much
 - * Trifecta 3 over 9-11 over ALL = \$16 for a \$1 wager
 - * Trifecta 3 over ALL over 9-11 = \$8 for a \$0.50 wager
 - * Trifecta 9-11 over 3 over ALL = \$8 for a \$0.50 wager
- *****

Glean returns from a 5.5-month layoff for top trainer Wesley Ward. Her 5th place debut finish when showing good speed throughout was a solid effort going 6.5 furlongs at the very competitive Kentucky Downs meet. Blinkers came off for her maiden win second time out in a quality field at Keeneland. Last time out, Glean switched to dirt for the first time and ran well, chasing fast fractions going 6.5 furlongs against males. Today, the 3-year-old returns to turf and cuts back to 5F, which is a perfect distance for this speedster. Blinkers are back on and she gets Lasix for the first time. Ward switches riders to Hall of Famer John Velazquez, who is an upgrade from the previous jockey, and he's won at a huge 30% rate for this barn in 2024-25. Her main pace rival breaks from an outside post, so if she can break sharply, Glean can take this field gate-to-wire.

Post: 1:28 PM

6

UPDATED



Selections 5 - 7 - 3 - 1

- WAGERS:**
- * Trifecta 5 over 1-3-7 over ALL = \$12 for a \$1 wager
 - * Trifecta 5 over 1-3-7 over 1-3-7 = \$6 for a \$1 wager
 - * Trifecta 1-3-7 over 5 over ALL = \$6 for a \$0.50 wager
 - * Trifecta 1-3-7 over 5 over 1-3-7 = \$3 for a \$0.50 wager
 - * Trifecta box 1-3-5-7 = \$24 for a \$1 wager
- TOTAL TRIFECTAS = \$51

Post: 2:07 PM

7

UPDATED



Selections 7 - 6 - 8

- WAGERS:**
- * Trifecta box 4-6-7-8-9 = \$30 for a \$0.50 wager

Post: 2:48 PM

8



Selections 7 - 6 - 3 - 8

- WAGERS:**
- * Win bet on (7) FASTER GATOR
 - * Exacta box 3-6-7-8 = \$24 for a \$2 wager
 - * Trifecta box 3-6-7-8 = \$24 for a \$1 wager



WIZARD
RACE & SPORTS

BETTING WINDOW

EVERY WIZARD PRODUCT IS A HANDICAPPING AND BETTING LESSON



PIMLICO Saturday 05/17/2025 **UPDATED**

Post: 3:30 PM

9

UPDATED



Selections 4 - 6 - 2 - 5

The Wizard's Crystal Ball Best Bet

WAGERS: * Win & Place bet on (4) WITTY

* Exacta box 4-6

* Trifecta 4-6 over 2-4-5-6-8 over ALL = \$20 for a \$0.50 wager

Mid-Atlantic and Fair Hill based trainer Elizabeth Merryman clearly had this stakes race circled on her calendar after Witty was put away for the winter. The 6-year-old resurfaced April 19 at Laurel off a 4-month vacation switching back to the turf in a stake at Laurel. He finished a fast-closing 2nd that afternoon, but might have won or made it very close at the wire with a cleaner trip after being bumped and squeezed back at the start. He was beaten a quickly diminishing 1-3/4 lengths. If you look back at last year, Merryman used the same stake, which he won, to help set him up for this Turf Sprint stakes over this course and distance. He ended up finishing 2nd after another troubled start and a wide trip. He actually took a narrow lead late, but was run down in the very late stages. That race was run over a very soggy turf course. I don't expect the turf to be as soft on Saturday, but it's expected to have plenty of "give" to it as a result of on and off rain the last few days. In his only other start at Pimlico, which also came at today's distance, Witty won, which was also in stakes race over a course listed "good". Today he gets an upgrade in riders to top U.S. jockey and Eclipse Award winner Flavien Prat. You know the connections are all in on getting a victory Saturday. At 10-1 on the morning line, the price is too generous for me to pass up.

Post: 4:11 PM

10

UPDATED



Selections 6 - 9 - 1

WAGERS: > I have given 3 Pick 4 tickets for different budgets. If your bankroll allows, you can play all 3 tickets or choose between which of the 3 you feel comfortable playing for the amount listed on each ticket.

Begin a Pick 4 play, 2 suggested tickets = \$72

Ticket 1: 1-6-9 / 4-6-7-8 / 1-4-5-6-7-8-10-13 / 2 = \$48 for a \$0.50 wager

Ticket 2: 1-6-9 / 7 / 1-4-5-6-7-8-10-13 / 2 = \$24 for a \$1 wager

* Exactas 6 over 1-9, reverse for 1/3 as much

Post: 4:53 PM

11

UPDATED



Selections 7 - 6 - 4

The Wizard's Crystal Ball Best Bet

WAGERS: * Exactas 7 over 4-6-8, reverse for 1/3 as much

* Trifecta 7 over 4-6-8 over ALL = \$15 for a \$1 wager

* Trifecta 4-6-8 over 7 over ALL = \$7.50 for a \$0.50 wager

He was a bit disappointing last time out at Keeneland as the 8-5 favorite when he finished 4th. I expect considerable improvement today dropping in class from a Grade 3 stake at Keeneland. Reagan's Wit tried to mount a rally in the stretch, but he was forced to take the overland route, which compromised his chances. In his previous start he was beaten by just a neck to Zulu Kingdom at this 1-mile distance. That rival returned next time out to win a Grade 1 stakes event. If this 3-year-old can come close to replicating that performance today, it will be difficult to deny his picture being taken in the winner's circle. This ungraded stakes race is a perfect spot to help give him a confidence boosting win for very good trainer Cherie Devaux. Any "give" to the turf course is also a plus. He broke his maiden by 8 lengths with a powerful closing run. Today there's enough speed in the race to help set up a similar rally through the stretch.



WIZARD
RACE & SPORTS

BETTING WINDOW

EVERY WIZARD PRODUCT IS A HANDICAPPING AND BETTING LESSON



PIMLICO Saturday 05/17/2025 **UPDATED**

Post: 5:52 PM

12

UPDATED



Selections 4 - 13 - 5 - 6 - 7
- 10

WAGERS: > Very competitive race so I want to keep it simple
* Small Win & Place bet on (4) NEAT

Post: 7:01 PM

13



Selections 2 - 1 - 6 - 7 - 4 -
8

WAGERS: * Exactas 2 over 1-6, reverse for 1/4 as much
* Trifecta 2 over 1-6-7 over ALL = \$21 for a \$1 wager
* Trifecta 2 over ALL over 1-6-7 = \$21 for a \$1 wager
* Trifecta 2 over 1-4-6-7-8 over ALL = \$17.50 for a \$0.50 wager
* Trifecta 2 over 1-4-6-7-8 over 1-4-6-7-8 = \$10 for a \$0.50 wager
* Trifecta 2 over 1-6 over 1-4-6-7-8-9 = \$10 for a \$1 wager
* Trifecta 2 over 4-7-8 over 1-6 = \$4 for a \$1 wager
* Trifecta 1-6 over 2 over 1-4-6-7-8-9 = \$10 for a \$1 wager
* Trifecta 1-6 over 2 over 1-4-6-7-8 = \$4 for a \$0.50 wager
TOTAL TRIFECTA WAGERS = \$97.50

Post: 7:43 PM

14

UPDATED



Selections 6 - 9 - 4

WAGERS: ARABIANS I ENJOY DOING EVERY YEAR ON PREAKNESS DAY

* Win bet on (6) RB GRAND SLAM
* Exacta box 6-9
* Exacta box 4-6-9 = \$12 for a \$2 wager



PIMLICO

Saturday 05/17/2025

Forecast High
87 F
Low
64 F



Chance Thunderstorms
Precip: 54%

THE WIZARD'S CRYSTAL BALL

9 DROP THE HAMMER (Race 2)

Drop the Hammer showed huge improvement Feb 23 at Gulfstream switching to the turf for the first time. She wired the field to break her maiden after setting quick fractions throughout and had plenty left in the tank after the wire. She was purchased privately by high profile owner Resolute Racing for a hefty price following the race. The 3-year-old filly finished a well beaten 6th last time out at Keeneland, but she had the misfortune of a tough trip in a strong allowance field. Drop the Hammer raced out of position from the start and was blocked on the far turn while seemingly full of run. She was not urged hard by Irad Ortiz Jr. in deep stretch when beaten, as he wisely saved her for another day. There's not much early speed in this race, so expect Ortiz to be aggressive right out of the gate and try for the lead despite breaking from an outside post. I also like the cut back to 1-mile for top grass trainer Graham Motion.

3 GLEAN (Race 5)

Glean returns from a 5.5-month layoff for top trainer Wesley Ward. Her 5th place debut finish when showing good speed throughout was a solid effort going 6.5 furlongs at the very competitive Kentucky Downs meet. Blinkers came off for her maiden win second time out in a quality field at Keeneland. Last time out, Glean switched to dirt for the first time and ran well, chasing fast fractions going 6.5 furlongs against males. Today, the 3-year-old returns to turf and cuts back to 5F, which is a perfect distance for this speedster. Blinkers are back on and she gets Lasix for the first time. Ward switches riders to Hall of Famer John Velazquez, who is an upgrade from the previous jockey, and he's won at a huge 30% rate for this barn in 2024-25. Her main pace rival breaks from an outside post, so if she can break sharply, Glean can take this field gate-to-wire.

4 WITTY (Race 9)

Mid-Atlantic and Fair Hill based trainer Elizabeth Merryman clearly had this stakes race circled on her calendar after Witty was put away for the winter. The 6-year-old resurfaced April 19 at Laurel off a 4-month vacation switching back to the turf in a stake at Laurel. He finished a fast-closing 2nd that afternoon, but might have won or made it very close at the wire with a cleaner trip after being bumped and squeezed back at the start. He was beaten a quickly diminishing 1-3/4 lengths. If you look back at last year, Merryman used the same stake, which he won, to help set him up for this Turf Sprint stakes over this course and distance. He ended up finishing 2nd after another troubled start and a wide trip. He actually took a narrow lead late, but was run down in the very late stages. That race was run over a very soggy turf course. I don't expect the turf to be as soft on Saturday, but it's expected to have plenty of "give" to it as a result of on and off rain the last few days. In his only other start at Pimlico, which also came at today's distance, Witty won, which was also in stakes race over a course listed "good". Today he gets an upgrade in riders to top U.S. jockey and Eclipse Award winner Flavien Prat. You know the connections are all in on getting a victory Saturday. At 10-1 on the morning line, the price is too generous for me to pass up.

7 REAGAN'S WIT (Race 11)

He was a bit disappointing last time out at Keeneland as the 8-5 favorite when he finished 4th. I expect considerable improvement today dropping in class from a Grade 3 stake at Keeneland. Reagan's Wit tried to mount a rally in the stretch, but he was forced to take the overland route, which compromised his chances. In his previous start he was beaten by just a neck to Zulu Kingdom at this 1-mile distance. That rival returned next time out to win a Grade 1 stakes event. If this 3-year-old can come close to replicating that performance today, it will be difficult to deny his picture being taken in the winner's circle. This ungraded stakes race is a perfect spot to help give him a confidence boosting win for very good trainer Cherie Devaux. Any "give" to the turf course is also a plus. He broke his maiden by 8 lengths with a powerful closing run. Today there's enough speed in the race to help set up a similar rally through the stretch.

EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO ENSURE ACCURACY OF PROGRAM NUMBERS. PLEASE VERIFY BEFORE WAGERING

RACE 1

Post Time 10:30 6 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up |
Allowance Optional Claiming(\$32,000) | Purse: \$58,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 1-2) 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3
(RACES 1-2-3) / 50 cent PICK 5 (RACES 1-2-3-4-5)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
5	AUGUSTA MELODY	9-5	ORTIZ, JR. I	RUSSELL B

Shows two solid races in a row upon getting a trainer change to Brittany Russell and returning from an 11-month layoff. Wired the field last time out at Keeneland as the 2-1 favorite while switching riders to Irad Ortiz, who is back aboard today. Has shown he doesn't need the lead to be effective, but in this field where there's a lack of early speed, Augusta Melody would make the lead and be tough to run down if allowed to slow down the fractions. Draws a perfect post but must pick up 8 Lbs. from his last race, spotting weight to all.

3	SHERIFF RONNIE	8-1	VILLALOBOS I	KREISER T
---	----------------	-----	--------------	-----------

In for the \$40,000 claiming tag in sharp and consistent form. Regressed a bit last time out over a sloppy track after racing out of position from the start and wide throughout. In his prior four starts, he sat up close to the leaders before attacking. Three of those races resulted in wins, along with a 2nd place finish. Has won at Pimlico in the past and 5 of his 6 wins are at this distance.

1	BAND CAMP	3-1	TORREALBA J	EUBANKS A
---	-----------	-----	-------------	-----------

Returns from a 7-month layoff following an excellent 2024 season. In 11 starts, he won 7 races when sitting a stalking trip or closing from farther back. Properly spotted at this level returning on Lasix. The only issue is if he will be sharp enough to win this race off such a long break. Certainly a must use in our wagers.

7	EXPLORATION	7-2	RUSSELL S	RUSSELL B
---	-------------	-----	-----------	-----------

With just 5 starts, he's the most lightly-raced horse in the field, but clearly has some upside. Looks to win his third straight race after defeating only 3 rivals last time out. Overcame a troubled start and a wide trip in that one and now reunites with Sheldon Russell, who rides for his wife Brittany. Steps up in class with good tactical speed.

8	CIRCLE P	9-2	CHIAPPE R	STITES F
---	----------	-----	-----------	----------

He's been facing tougher rivals his last 6 starts, all in stakes races. He was victorious once, and hit the board twice during that span. Cuts back to 6F, the distance of 3 of his 4 wins, and drops in class. Must overcome his outside post and a likely wide trip in a race which lacks much early speed.

RACE 2

Post Time 11:05 1 Mile | Fillies and Mares | 3 Year Olds
And Up | Allowance | Purse: \$54,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 2-3) 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3
(RACES 2-3-4) / 50 cent PICK 4 (RACES 2-3-4-5)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
9	DROP THE HAMMER (Best Bet)	2-1	ORTIZ, JR. I	MOTION H



Gaze into the "Wizard's Crystal Ball" (BEST BET) at the top of the sheet

7	SWAN HOUSE	7-2	SAEZ L	WALSH B
---	------------	-----	--------	---------

Gets back on the grass after running over a synthetic surface at Turfway Jan 26. She was overmatched and did not handle the surface well at all. Disliked the mud in an off the turf stakes race 2 starts back. Her prior start resulted in a decisive win on

the turf when closing boldly from far back after her rider made a premature middle-move. Makes her second start on Lasix and gets a huge upgrade in riders to the hot riding Luis Saez, who's won 28% when teaming up with good trainer Brendan Walsh in 2024-25. Sharp and steady works for her return.

3

KOBE'S SMILE

10-1 BRICENO J

BONIFACE K

Returns from a 6-month layoff for trainer Kevin Boniface, who does well with his returnees. I like her inside draw, which should allow rider Briceno to save ground before making his move. This jock has been aboard 2 winners from 4 mounts for this barn.

8

FIVECOMMATWO

20-1 PEREZ X

PERRI G

Sharpened in a sprint last time out returning from a 5-month layoff for this spot stretching back out to a mile. Her prior 3 starts on turf resulted in an upset win and 2 third place finishes. Expected to show more speed today. 20-1 on the morning line.

10

PARADISE WINS

5-1 SANCHEZ M

TROMBETTA M

Returns from a 5.5-month layoff making her first start as a 3-year-old facing several older rivals. She's had tough trips in her last 3 starts but was able to overcome it in her maiden win three races back. Makes her first start on Lasix for trainer Mike Trombetta, who can have a horse ready to fire a big shot off the bench.

6

MISS ELLARY

8-1 CRISPIN A

TRUEHART J

Showed considerable improvement last time out back on the turf. Finished a good 3rd at 24-1 after setting the pace until being passed in deep stretch at this distance over "good" turf. Likely the one to catch once again today.

OFF THE TURF SELECTIONS: # 5 Honor Cat # 6 Miss Ellary # 1 Be Inspired

RACE 3

Post Time 11:41 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 3, 4, 5 and 6 Year Olds | Maiden Special Weight | Purse: \$52,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 3-4) / 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3 (RACES 3-4-5) / 50 cent PICK 5 (RACES 3-4-5-6-7)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
3	VARNEY	6-5	PRAT F	BAFFERT B

The likely odds-on favorite stretches back out to 2 turns in his fourth start. Trainer Bob Baffert entered him 2 races back going a distance for the first time. Varney was pulled up early in the race after losing his action as the 8-5 favorite. He cut back to 6F last time out at Santa Anita, where he finished a non-threatening 4th in a "key" race which produced 4 next out winners! Today Varney is clearly the one to catch stretching out to 1-1/16 miles in a race which lacks much early speed. Gets an upgrade in riders to Prat.

1

LAST MAN STANDING

3-2 ORTIZ, JR. I

PLETCHER T

Rallied from well back while making a premature middle-move going 2 turns at Tampa in his debut. Last time out he checked leaving the gate, quickly finding himself with too much to do and too little time to launch a rally good enough to be a factor. Would greatly benefit from a better start breaking from the rail with Irad Ortiz Jr. back on for trainer Todd Pletcher.

7

DRILL BABY

8-1 LOPEZ P

COMPTON G

This \$350,000 2-year-old purchase has sprinted both starts at Oaklawn. Today he stretches out to 2 turns, which he's bred well to handle. Very good trainer Greg Compton wins at a strong 31% rate (2024-25) with horses going sprint-to-route. Expect more speed today getting an upgrade in riders to Paco Lopez.

RACE 4

Post Time 12:16 6 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up |
G3 Maryland Sprint S. | Purse: \$150,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 4-5) / 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3 (RACES 4-5-6) / 50 cent PICK 4 (RACES 4-5-6-7)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
7	EPIC RIDE	5-1	PRAT F	ENNIS J

All 4 of his wins have come when he's had the early lead. That won't happen today, with so much other early speed to his inside, which is expected to force top rider Flavien Prat to sit off a possible duel between Concrete Glory and Booth. Epic Ride has raced on dirt 5 times and has never finished first or second, earning two 3rd place finishes. When you analyze all 5 races, Epic Ride has run much better than it looks on paper, with legitimate excuses each time. His best chance is to stalk the expected hot pace, then to nail the leaders from behind. Getting a big upgrade in riders certainly helps. His morning line of 5-1 is certainly attractive enough to take a shot with him against his 2 pace rivals who will be far shorter prices.

6	BOOTH	7-5	ASMUSSEN E	ASMUSSEN S
---	-------	-----	------------	------------

With only 10 starts, Booth is the most lightly-raced horse in the field, but has already proven to have a lot of class and upside. In 10 starts, he's won 6 races, 5 at today's distance, and 4 have come wire-to-wire, while 2 have been stalking up close. His versatility is a plus, as is having trainer Steve Asmussen as his conditioner. Asmussen is at his best developing quality sprinters who show up on big days with huge efforts. Asmussen's son has been aboard in 5 wins, so the familiarity with Booth more than compensates for the rider advantage Concrete Glory has with Irad Ortiz Jr. aboard. Booth loves the Oaklawn dirt surface, but does have victories at Churchill and at Keeneland.

5	CONCRETE GLORY	2-1	ORTIZ, JR. I	JOSEPH, JR. S
---	----------------	-----	--------------	---------------

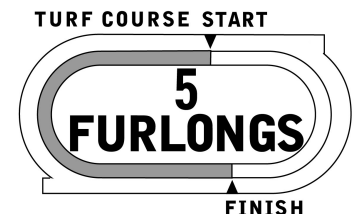
The most experienced horse in the field with 35 starts, he returns from a 3-month layoff for top trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. Since being claimed for just \$6,250 in 2022, the 6-year-old has spent most of his time at Gulfstream, where he's won many races. With 15 career wins, he's also been successful venturing outside of Florida. Speed is his best game, and he's got plenty of it. I like the freshening, and his last 2 workouts have been outstanding. Gets reunited with Irad Ortiz Jr., who was aboard for a 4-length win 2 starts back. Must overcome the pace pressure he will encounter with the speedy Booth breaking just outside of him.

2	PRINCE OF JERICHO	6-1	RUSSELL S	RUSSELL B
---	-------------------	-----	-----------	-----------

Cuts back to 6F after being caught in vicious duels in his last 2 starts. With quicker speed horses breaking to his outside, there's no doubt a switch to rating tactics will be employed today, which has been successful in the past. He will have to run a career-best race to have any chance of winning this stakes race, but never underestimate trainer Brittany Russell for owner Michael Dubb on marque days.

RACE 5

Post Time 12:51 5 Furlongs | Fillies and Mares | 3 Year
Olds And Up | Allowance | Purse: \$54,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 5-6) / 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3 (RACES 5-6-7) / 50 cent PICK 5 (RACES 5-6-7-8-9)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
3	GLEAN (Best Bet)	3-1	VELAZQUEZ J	WARD W



Gaze into the "Wizard's Crystal Ball" (BEST BET) at the top of the sheet

5

PAROLA SICURA

7-2

SAEZ L

SHARP J

Her 6th place finish April 18 was much better than it looks as the 3-1 favorite. She was checked hard soon after the start, impeding another rival, and quickly fell nearly 14 lengths behind the leaders. She managed to make up 6 lengths in the final 1/8th of a mile while kept very wide in the stretch. Expect her to be more forwardly placed today, getting an upgrade in riders to Luis Saez for trainer Joe Sharp, who continues to have an outstanding 2025 winning at 26% wins.

11

RIVER SEINE (IRE)

9-2

PRAT F

MERRYMAN E

She's a "wild card" making her first U.S. start while returning from 7-month layoff. She was no factor in her last 2 starts against quality fields while facing. Her prior 5 starts against fillies were all good efforts. She's been carrying weight from 123 to 128 pounds in several of her races. Today she's in with 115 lbs and a rider change to Flavien Prat. In watching her races overseas, she does have tactical speed going 5F in 6 of her 7 starts. Any "give" to the ground is a plus.

9

MISCHIEF MAXEY

5-1

CARMOUCHE K

SERVIS J

She showed huge improvement last time out switching to the turf for the first time. Won a hard fought battle at 35-1, but she was disqualified and placed 5th for impeding a rival in deep stretch under poor handling by a weak rider. Today she cuts back in distance and gets a big upgrade in jockey to Kendrick Carmouche, who has had an outstanding year riding at Aqueduct.

OFF THE TURF SELECTIONS: # 3 Glean # 9 Mischief Maxey #12 Preparefortakeoff #10 Noquestionaboutit

RACE 6

Post Time 1:28 6 Furlongs | Fillies and Mares | 3 Year Olds And Up | Skipat S. | Purse: \$125,000

START

6 FURLONGS

FINISH

EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 6-7) / 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3 (RACES 6-7-8) / 50 cent PICK 4 (RACES 6-7-8-9)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
5	ZEITLOS	2-1	ORTIZ J	ASMUSSEN S

She was last seen in the G1 2024 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint, finishing a well-beaten 7th going 7F, which is a furlong farther than she wants. She's proven in the past to run well fresh and now cuts back to 6F, the distance of 6 of her 8 wins. Prior to the BC, Zeitlos had run 8 times, winning 6 races, 4 in stakes races, including a Grade 2 victory at Keeneland. With just over \$1 million in earnings, she's raked in more money than any of today's opposition. Her running style is to take back towards the rear of the field and make one run. There's not an abundance of early speed in here, so I expect the pace to be honest, which is quick enough to help set up her late run. The question is her fitness off the bench while also trying to work out a trouble-free trip.

7

STRIKER HAS DIAL

5-2

CARMOUCHE K

DE PAZ H

Since switching back to the dirt in her last 3 starts and cutting back to 6F in her last 2 while also getting blinkers back on, this lightly-raced 4-year-old has shown a lot of improvement. She has good tactical speed, and today will be tested for class back in stakes company. The winter horses she was facing at Aqueduct were clearly weaker than these, but Striker Has Dial is very sharp and is trained by a very good horseman, Horacio De Paz. I like her outside post in the field of 7. Her last 3 workouts have been excellent.

3

ONE MAGIC PHILLY

9-5

PRAT F

D'AMATO P

The 9-5 morning line favorite has 3 wins, and all 3 were going longer than 6 furlongs. In her lone attempt at this distance, she finished a well-beaten 2nd in her debut at Santa Anita. Today the blinkers come off for the first time in 6 starts since returning from a 4.5-month layoff. Prat returns on the 4-year-old, who is the most lightly-raced filly in the field. She's a win factor, but one who appears vulnerable, and will likely be over bet.

1

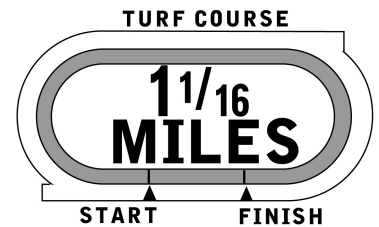
APPLE PICKER

8-1

RUSSELL S

RUSSELL B

Returns from a 9-month layoff for trainer Brittany Russell, who's won at a very strong 29% rate in 2024-25 with her returnees from layoffs of 6 months or more. Apple Picker won her debut by 6-3/4 lengths, and has another victory off a 7-month layoff. She also won this same stakes race last year, but it wasn't off a break. The 5-year-old is 2 for 2 at Pimlico and 3 for 4 at this distance. Switches back to Russell's husband, Sheldon Russell, who has been aboard in 4 of her victories.

RACE 7**Post Time 2:07 1 1/16 Miles | Fillies and Mares | 3 Year Olds And Up | G3 Gallorette S. | Purse: \$150,000****EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 7-8) 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3 (RACES 7-8-9) / 50 cent PICK 5 (RACES 7-8-9-10-11)**

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
7	THREE HAVANAS (GER)	5-2	ROSARIO J	CLEMENT C

She's a "wild card" in this field making her first U.S. start returning from a 7-month layoff and making her first start for top grass trainer Christophe Clement. The 4-year-old has 10 workouts at Payson Park in preparation for this Grade 3 stake, which it appears she was pointed for. Clement does very well winning with Euro imports first time in his barn off a layoff. Three Havanass has won 4 races in 12 starts, but has never raced this far. All of her wins have come between 6 furlongs and a mile. She is versatile, which helps, and should get the right pace set up to help set up her solid stretch run. Gets a rider change to Joel Rosario, who is riding in excellent form now, and he's had success with this trainer.

6	AUSTERE	8-1	ORTIZ, JR. I	WALSH B
---	---------	-----	--------------	---------

This lightly-raced 4-year-old had shown quality as a 2-year-old, completing her juvenile campaign with a solid effort in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. She showed some improvement as a 3-year-old, but I get the feeling we will see a career-best race today returning to the turf, the surface of all 3 of her wins, after running well in stakes races in her last 2 starts over a synthetic surface at Turfway. She's more mature now at 4, will race at her best distance, and gets an upgrade in riders to Irad Ortiz Jr. Look for her to close well late, aided by a possible quick and contested battle on the front end.

1	DANA'S BEAUTY	6-1	ORTIZ J	MAKER M
---	---------------	-----	---------	---------

Hard-knocking 7-year-old mare has been a gem of consistency throughout her career. In 45 starts, she's hit the board 27 times, winning 12 races. Most of her success has come over synthetic surfaces, but she has won 3 races on the turf, a surface she returns to today. What makes her dangerous is her tactical speed and inside post, and how much success she's had winning without Lasix, which she cannot run on today. Reunites with Jose Ortiz, who has a win and a second, beaten a head, the only 2 times he has been aboard Dana's Beauty.

8	SPARKLE BLUE	5-1	RUIZ J	MOTION H
---	--------------	-----	--------	----------

Her last 2 starts off a 5-month layoff have been solid, including a tough trip 5th against much tougher in a Grade 2 stake at Tampa in her return. Last time out she finished a fast-closing 2nd as the favorite going a mile, which is too short for her. Today she is helped by the added distance and a likely quick pace to close into. Trainer Graham Motion, who is based at Fair Hill, points for this day each and every year.

RACE 8**Post Time 2:48 6 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds | Chick Lang S. | Purse: \$150,000****EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 8-9) / 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3 (RACES 8-9-10) / 20 cent RAINBOW PICK 6 (RACES 8-9-10-11-12-13)**

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
7	FASTER GATOR	6-1	BOCACHICA A	FARRIOR A

Steadily improving 3-year-old makes his fourth start cutting back to 6F after being defeated by a head in a career-best race April 19 in the Bay Shore stakes at Aqueduct. After sitting a stalk and pounce trip in his win two starts back, Faster Gator went right

to the lead, battling "tooth and nail" for 7 furlongs, only to be out finished by the favorite in what was a 2-speed number. I like the cut back to 6f today by trainer Anthony Farrior, who has had a solid start to the short Pimlico meet and is winning at a solid 26% this year. I expect his rider Bocachica to returning to stalking tactics today. Bullet 4F work May 7 at Laurel.

6KEEP IT EASY

4-1ALVARADO J

ROMANS D

Returns from 2.5-month freshening after being eased in the Grade 2 Fountain of Youth at Gulfstream. I'm willing to toss that race out because Keep it Easy, at this point in his career, is strictly a sprinter. His 2 wins, both decisive victories, came at 6 and 6-1/2 furlongs. His versatility was on display in both races, wiring the field in his maiden win, then rating successfully in a career-best race 2 starts back in a stakes event at Churchill off a similar layoff. His works at Churchill have all been solid. Trainer Dale Romans is having a career best 2025. Today he switches riders back to Derby winning jockey Junior Alvarado.

3ANCIENT WORLD

6-1ORTIZ J

SHARP J

This \$525,000 yearling purchase is living up to his price tag after closing from "another zip code" in his maiden win at the Fairgrounds. Last time out he showed more early speed, sustaining a nice run from 5th to draw clear in the stretch while earning a second straight win. In both races he was bet down to even money. He will be a much bigger price today stepping up in class, where he will have to continue to improve to be a win factor. There's enough pace to help set up his late run and trainer Joe Sharp has had an outstanding 2025.

8ONE NINE HUNDRED

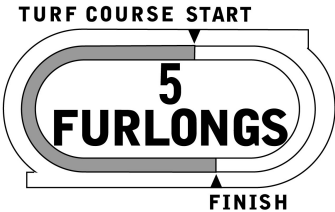
7-2PRAT F

MORLEY T

I may be underestimating him by picking him 4th, because he's run faster than any of his opposition, pairing up 2 fast races. My concern is the step up in class off his maiden win, and how he will react to more pace pressure than he's faced in his last 2. He did rate in his debut, so maybe this versatility becomes an asset in this race where there are some quick horses. He could just be faster early than those pace rivals, but will have to run hard right from the start. Gets a rider change to Prat for good trainer Tom Morley.

RACE 9

Post Time 3:30 5 Furlongs | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up |
Jim McKay Turf Sprint S. | Purse: \$125,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 9-10) 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3 (RACES 9-10-11) / 50 cent PICK 5 (RACES 9-10-11-12-13)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
4	WITTY (Best Bet)	10-1	PRAT F	MERRYMAN E



Gaze into the "Wizard's Crystal Ball" (BEST BET) at the top of the sheet

6COPPOLA

2-1RISPOLI U

ROMANS D

This speedster will be a short-priced favorite who can certainly take this field gate to wire, but he will be over bet. He's fast early, but there's other speeds in the race who could put some pressure on him early on, and then he must fend off the closers. His last 2 starts, finishing off the board in both, were run at 5-1/2 furlongs, which is a half furlong longer than he wants to go. Today he's back at his best distance of 5F, and will be getting a rider change to top speed jock Rispoli. Coppola also drops in class after running in 2 straight Grade 2 stakes.

2NO NAY HUDSON (IRE)

5-2ALVARADO J

WARD W

With plenty of early speed and a fast pace expected, this 5-year-old could sit a perfect stalking trip. He exits a sharp win at Keeneland, but today steps up in class. Top trainer Wesley Ward switches riders to Junior Alvarado for the first time, and Alvarado has had 8 mounts for Ward, winning 5 races. The negative is that he's never put together back-to-back wins.

He failed to fire as the odds-on favorite last time out returning from a 6-month layoff, but he did chase a fast pace racing wide throughout. His sharp and consistent form last year, which included 4 wins, is enough to give this 6-year-old another chance to rebound today for very sharp trainer Michael Trombetta.

RACE 10 Post Time 4:11 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds |
Spendthrift Farm Sir Barton S. | Purse: \$100,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 10-11) / 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3 (RACES 10-11-12) / 50 cent PICK 4 (RACES 10-11-12-13)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
7	HYMN	4-1	SAEZ L	MOQUETT R

Exits a career-best race April 19 at Oaklawn finishing a "better than it looks" 4th while stepping up into a \$200,000 stakes event. He set the pace right from the start with the addition of blinkers and racing without Lasix for the first time and was pressured every step of the way while racing on a dead rail throughout. Hymn held until deep stretch and then gave ground grudgingly in the late stages. Luis Saez, who was aboard for the first time, is back on today. Impressive 4F workout May 10 at Churchill Downs. Showed in his prior 2 starts that this homebred from very good young sire McKinzie can also be effective sitting a stalking trip.

6 INVICTUS **9-5 PRAT F** **COX B**

Showed dramatic improvement last time out in his return from an 8-month layoff. It was no surprise that this beautifully bred son of top sire Into Mischief, purchased for \$1.2 million, would rebound from a 7th place finish last July at Saratoga in his well-bet debut. In his maiden win at Keeneland going 7F, Invictus stalked in 3rd before bounding clear in mid-stretch while racing very "greenly". He finally settled into a more fluid stride, changing to his correct lead nearing the wire. Once he did that, the 3-year-old galloped out strongly. Certainly bred well for today's stretch out to 2 turns.

9 JUST A FAIR SHAKE **6-1 RODRIGUEZ J** **MCKENZIE D**

Showed a lot of improvement last time out stepping up in class into a stakes race at Laurel and stretching out to 1-1/8 miles. Racing without Lasix, the son of Laoban was forced to race very wide throughout after breaking from the far outer post 10. He sustained a long rally only to fall 1-1/2 lengths back of the winner, but nearly 2 lengths in front of the 3rd place finisher, who came back to run very well in last Saturday's Peter Pan at Aqueduct.

1 CRUDO **5-2 VELAZQUEZ J** **PLETCHER T**

Enjoyed the stretch out in distance to 7F at Keeneland, breaking his maiden by 7 lengths going wire to wire as the odds-on favorite. Today Crudo stretches out to 2 turns for the first time as the likely pacesetter breaking from the rail. There's other speed in this race to occupy him early, but with his long-winded pedigree and top connections, he could move forward enough to be a major danger to wire this field.

RACE 11 Post Time 4:53 1 Mile | Open | 3 Year Olds | James W. Murphy S. | Purse: \$100,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 11-12) / 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3 (RACES 11-12-13) / 50 cent PICK 4 (RACES 11-12-13-14)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
7	REAGAN'S WIT (Best Bet)	5-2	ORTIZ J	DEVAUX C



Gaze into the "Wizard's Crystal Ball" (BEST BET) at the top of the sheet

3	CLOCK TOWER	5-1	ORTIZ, JR. I	WARD W
---	-------------	-----	--------------	--------

He was entered in a stake at Horseshoe Indiana on Wednesday, but was rerouted to this race after it was switched to the main track. Clock Tower is clearly the one to catch breaking from an inside post. He's been racing in graded stakes in his last 4 starts, so this ungraded event is a softer spot, which he is expected to benefit from. Cuts back to 1 mile, which is the same distance at which he went wire to wire 3 starts back in a Grade 3 stake at Del Mar. Today he gets an upgrade in riders to Irad Ortiz Jr., who's won at a great 30% for Ward in 2024-25.

5	END OF ROMANCE (IRE)	9-2	VELAZQUEZ J	MOTION H
---	----------------------	-----	-------------	----------

Set for an improved effort making his third start off a layoff for top turf trainer Graham Motion, who points for this particular racing day. Responded well to the addition of blinkers last time out, making up 5-1/2 lengths in the final 1/8th of a mile, falling just a length short of the winner. He was switching back to the turf after finishing a good 3rd in his prior start over a synthetic surface at Turfway in his U.S. debut off a layoff. Gets a lively pace to close into and is reunited with Velazquez.

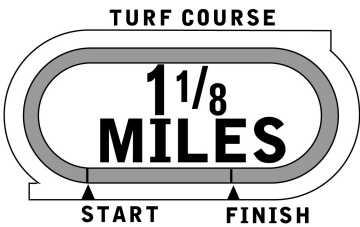
6	SOLEIL VOLANT	7-2	PRAT F	MOTION H
---	---------------	-----	--------	----------

Has shown steady improvement in his last 3 starts with the addition of Lasix. Today he cannot race with Lasix, but in his previous outings he ran respectably without it. I feel his improvement is a result of him being gelded in December. Gets a huge upgrade in riders to Flavien Prat. Has tactical speed to sit a good trip for trainer Graham Motion, who also has End of Romance entered right to this one's inside.

4	BARBADIAN RUNNER	12-1	BOYCE F	WALTERS H
---	------------------	------	---------	-----------

He will be a big price, but I cannot dismiss him because he only raced once on the turf last year, and it was a "sneaky" good effort. Finished a fast-closing 3rd following a very rough trip at today's distance. He gets reunited with jockey Boyce, who rode him to back-to-back victories in stakes races during the winter. He's also improved a lot since blinkers were added 4 starts back.

RACE 12 Post Time 5:52 1 1/8 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds And Up | G3
Dinner Party S. | Purse: \$250,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 12-13) / 10 cent SUPERFECTA 50 cent PICK 3 (RACES 12-13-14)

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
4	NEAT	8-1	ROSARIO J	ATRAS R

He's never gone 1-1/8 miles, but his late-running style and pedigree indicate that Neat should handle the stretch out just fine. He was beaten 2 lengths last time out in a stakes race at Laurel after suffering a very tough trip. He was overmatched 2 starts back in a Grade 1 stake at Santa Anita when returning from a 3-month layoff. Today he gets a huge upgrade in riders to Joel Rosario and drops 6 lbs from his last start. Expect Rosario to have Neat closer to the pace in a race where the fractions should be moderate.

13	TRIKARI	5-2	VELAZQUEZ J	MOTION H
----	---------	-----	-------------	----------

The morning line favorite must overcome a tough outside post, but this class drop after facing much tougher rivals in many of his prior starts makes him a major player. He's never attempted 1-1/8 miles, but he does have a Grade 1 win going longer last year in the Belmont Derby at Aqueduct. In a race which doesn't have an abundance of early speed, I expect John Velazquez to have him more forwardly placed, while hopefully not losing too much ground into the first turn.

Ships in from Florida for top trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. and stretches out to 1-1/8 miles, a distance he's attempted once before, with the result being a narrow defeat after setting a pressured pace from the start in a race that was run over a turf course listed as "good". Abrumar is also cross-entered in a stakes race today at Gulfstream, where he's in the body of the race. If the connections ship him to Pimlico, they obviously feel confident that he will make a good showing. Gets an upgrade in riders to Jose Ortiz. 20-1 on the morning line is very generous.

He's been running in much tougher stakes going marathon distances. The drop in class while getting a rider change to Prat makes him a major player. He does have a win at today's distance, and that came in this same stakes race last year run over a "soft" turf course. With on and off rain for several days leading up to today, the course will certainly have some "give" to it, which he obviously can handle.

Stablemate of Abrumar, both trained by Saffie Joseph Jr., is also cross-entered in a stake at Gulfstream and is in the body of the race. If one of these 2 is shipped to Pimlico for this stake event, I must respect their chances. Gets an upgrade in riders to Irad Ortiz Jr.

Depending on which of the two Saffie Joseph runners ship to Pimlico, or if both stay at Gulfstream, I would have to consider Fort Washington to be included in my wagers. He's been running well in tough fields and can handle today's distance successfully.

RACE 13

Post Time 7:01 1 3/16 Miles | Open | 3 Year Olds | G1
 Preakness S. | Purse: \$2,000,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 13-14) / 10 cent SUPERFECTA \$1.00
 JACKPOT SUPER HIGH 5

PGM #	Horse Name	M/L	Jockey	Trainer
2	JOURNALISM	8-5	RISPOLI U	MCCARTHY M
<p>Journalism's effort during the running of the 2025 Kentucky Derby proved him to be a worthy heavy favorite in the Preakness. Like many drawn among the inside half of the field, Journalism bumped with rival Burnham Square at the start, then found himself shuffled back and in mild traffic when rail horse Citizen Bull veered out in front of and into the paths of rivals to his immediate outside. Jockey Umberto Rispoli gathered Journalism up and veered in for running room in the clear along the inside. From there, Journalism enjoyed a nearly perfect trip inside before Rispoli angled him off the inside late down the backside, gaining clear running room outside rivals. Journalism gamely picked off rivals into the far turn and emerged in the clear at the top of the stretch with dead aim on tiring leaders. Journalism would lead for a moment, then stay on gamely, but he was unable to hold off the hard-closing Sovereignty.</p> <p>AE Baeza, drawing into the race and finishing a strong third, stamped the Santa Anita Derby as the best Derby prep. You recall Rispoli had Journalism pinned in traffic along the inside behind a tiring leader and rival Barnes. Journalism showed tractability when forced to drop back, angle out, and then, with good energy and a steady grind, run down perfect trip rival Baeza.</p> <p>The colt's connections took the necessary time for Journalism to "tell" them he was right for a run in the Preakness. Derby winners and heavily-bet strong finishing non-winners of the Derby are usually strong win contenders in the Preakness. Journalism is well drawn in post 2, should enjoy a clean break with speed to both sides, and can secure a good stalking position into and around the clubhouse turn. He will be the short betting favorite and likely winner for trainer Michael McCarthy, who won the 2021 Preakness with Rombauer.</p>				

With G2 Wood Memorial winner Rodriguez sidelined by injury, trainer Bob Baffert goes to his bench for the lightly-raced and undefeated Goal Oriented. The pedigree on the dam side is all class, with some lean towards turf. Dam Bizzy Carolina won two

G3 turf routes, carrying her speed to a 9-furlong win and graded stakes placings at 10 and 12-furlongs. Bizzy Caroline is a half-sister to the fabulous multiple G1 turf winner Lady Eli. Second-damsire Saint Ballado, a full brother to the great Devil's Bag, won the G2 Arlington Classic on dirt as a three-year-old. Dam Sire Afleet Alex is a Preakness stakes winner. Sire Not This Time won the G3 Iroquois and was a short neck second in the G1 Breeders Cup Juvenile. Grand Sire Ginat's Causeway won multiple Groups 1 races in Europe over turf and completed his career finishing second, also by a short neck, in the G1 Breeders Cup Classic. The pedigree throughout says stakes career on either surface.

Goal Oriented faced a competitive group of maidens on debut, a race which produced a repeat winner and two next out winners. He veered in slightly at the start, bumping with rivals, settling at the rear while climbing as the field galloped on. He then settled down into a fluid stride as the leaders hit the first call, gained steadily into the turn, looking more professional with each stride. Emerging from the far turn 5-6 wide, Goal Oriented changed to his proper lead, kicked in and drew clear in an impressive performance.

Next out on the Derby undercard over a sealed sloppy track, Goal Oriented broke cleanly, raced in and among rivals in the short run to the turn, and then pulled new rider Flavien Prat to the lead. From there the colt set an honest pace under mild pressure throughout the run down the backside, spurted clear in the lane, felt pressure from closers, and kept on gamely without being threatened.

Goal Oriented is a talented colt, and he demonstrated maturity and marked improvement in that second start. He has good cruising speed, determination, the Preakness Stakes' most successful trainer, and top jock Flavien Prat. The key to his success will be how sharply he breaks, what tactics will be employed by Nick Juarez aboard American Promise, and whether or not Clever Again will be hard sent to the lead. The break will determine if Prat will try for the lead or stalk. Either of these two styles could be employed with success.

6 RIVER THAMES

9-2 ORTIZ, JR. I

PLETCHER T

River Thames has done little wrong in his 4-race career. The pedigree suggests distance limitations. However, he just missed at 9-furlongs, and, under the right circumstances, horses like this can outrun their pedigree.

River Thames won his debut, defeating a next-out winning stable mate in Skate Away, now a two-time winner. Next out he crushed 7 rivals, an effort that earned him a shot in the G2 Fountain of Youth. That day he led to deep stretch, only to be nipped on the wire by eventual Derby winner Sovereignty. Trainer Todd Pletcher opted to avoid Sovereignty and Tappan Street in the G1 Florida Derby, and chose the G1 Blue Grass at Keeneland as River Thames' final Derby prep. In the Blue Grass, River Thames hopped at the start, which perhaps cost him early position. Jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr. got him to relax before angling off the inside for a wide trip in the 3-4 paths down the backside behind East Avenue's strong pace, with that rival being loose on the lead. River Thames continued wide but was slow to change leads while running on and gaining on the tiring leaders. From there, this colt was engaged by deep closer and eventual winner Burnham Square, the main beneficiary of that strong pace. River Thames fought hard to the wire in a solid effort but was beaten less than a length.

Todd Pletcher pointed River Thames to this race and I expect a good effort for a Hall of Fame trainer who remarkably has never won a Preakness.

7 SANDMAN

4-1 VELAZQUEZ J

CASSE M

Sandman's declaration of entrance into the Preakness was followed by a Blood Horse article recounting the colt's pre-Derby foot issues. As part of my preparation, I constantly scour sources and resources on the health of horses I expect to handicap for my selections. If it is to be known, I'm going to know it for myself and my customers. The release of this article on Monday, May 12 was stunning. Millions of dollars were wagered on this horse on May 3. The hype from an internet "influencer" and a connection to the band Metallica further promoted this horse to the betting public. And, just before the second leg of the Triple Crown, Hall of Fame trainer Mark Casse revealed Sandman experienced sore foot issues, resulting in shoe changes prior to the Derby. "Nuff said..."

Sandman's G1 Arkansas Derby effort was a bias-aided victory behind an unnecessary, silly, suicidal pace duel. As a result, I was dead set against Sandman as a win contender in the 2025 Kentucky Derby, using him only on the bottom end of a few tickets. Be it the effort at Oaklawn, the newly announced sore feet, or the track delivered to fans and horses on Derby Day, Sandman, in my opinion, had no visible excuse for the effort. He experienced no mishap at the start. He was away cleanly from post 17 and kept clear outside while avoiding any crush from other horses. When jockey Ortiz, Jr. asked him leaving the backside, Sandman was beaten to the punch, bumped and passed by a rival while seeking a running lane. He never made any move and raced one-paced throughout.

Which Sandman will break from the gate this Saturday? At times in his 9-race career, Sandman has raced more forwardly. Are the foot issues far enough behind him to not be a factor again? Casse quoted legendary trainer Allen Jerkens, saying, "Run em when they're good." Casse is saying Sandman is good. Given what we have seen, and what we think we know, Sandman is a tough horse to trust to win, but he can certainly be a factor late to land a piece if the fractions are fast enough, and there's a meltdown of the speed late.

4 HEART OF HONOR (GB)

12-1 OSBORNE S

OSBORNE J

Heart of Honor is one of many new shooters entered in today's Preakness Stakes with legitimate question marks. It has been reported that this colt was purchased for connections whose stock felt overmatched by Godolphin in Middle Eastern turf racing, and looked for a potentially good dirt horse. They appear to have found one in Heart of Honor, out of three-time turf winning Chilean mare Ruby Love. Her sire, Scat Daddy, was all dirt, winning the G2 Sanford and G1 Champagne Stakes on the NYRA circuit before a troubled trip in the G1 Breeders Cup Juvenile behind winner Street Sense. In his first race as a 3-year-old, Scat Daddy prepped in the G3 Holy Bull. He went on to win both the G2 Fountain of Youth and G1 Florida Derby, both at 9-furlongs. Scat Daddy suffered a troubled trip from post 12 in the 2007 Kentucky Derby, his last career start. Sire Honor A. P. is a son of G1 Santa Anita Derby, G1 Belmont Stakes, and G1 Breeders Cup Classic winner A. P. Indy. In an abbreviated 6-2-3-0 career, Honor A. P. won the G1 Santa Anita Derby and placed fourth in the 2020 Kentucky Derby, before moving to stud duties.

Heart of Honor has never been out of the exacta in his 6-2-4-0 career. He has faced fields of 9 or more and his last three placings were in a Group 3, a listed stakes race, and the G2 UAE Derby. His running style places him in mid-pack of Euro-style racing, which might have him more to the rear facing quality American speed/stalking types.

Two races back in the listed Al Bastikiya at Maydan Racecourse, regular rider Saffie Osborne had him inside in mid-pack behind a moderate pace. When asked, Heart of Honor moved out and up in between rivals, found clear running in the lane, and closed determinedly, just falling a head short. The winner, Galactic Star, sat a perfect trip just off the pace and made first run on the leader, barely holding off Heart of Honor. Last out in the UAE Derby, rider Osborne had Heart of Honor covered up early and opted to ask for run earlier than two races back, moving up to and in between the leaders. These three battled to the wire, with Derby also ran Admire Daytona narrowly holding sway. Under intense pressure in the vice between rivals for the length of the stretch, Heart of Honor failed to change leads but battled gamely, dropping back a tad, then coming again at the leader while still on the wrong lead, a heart wrenching defeat for the connections.

Admire Daytona's effort or non-effort in the Kentucky Derby is irrelevant to Heart of Honor's prospects in Saturday's Preakness Stakes. Heart of Honor is bred for the main track, has twice successfully handled today's distance, and runs on gamely. He could blow up the tote board, or merely blow up.

8 CLEVER AGAIN

5-1 ORTIZ J

ASMUSSEN S

The key to any success he has in the Preakness is dependent on the start of the race. Clever Again stretches out in distance after wiring the field in a career-best race going a mile at Oaklawn. He breaks very sharply from the gate, and if he's able to establish the early lead, he could carry his speed a long way. Getting the lead is dependent on how aggressive jockey Nick Juarez will be aboard American Promise, and what tactics will be employed by Goal Oriented. If those two break ahead of Clever Again, he's likely done while breaking from post 8, with those 2 speedsters in posts 1 and 3. He's bred very well on both his sire and dam sides to love a distance of ground.

RACE 14 Post Time 7:43 1 1/16 Miles | Open | 4 Year Olds And Up |
G1 Uae President Cup S. | Purse: \$200,000



EXACTA, 50 cent TRIFECTA & 10 cent SUPERFECTA

<u>PGM #</u>	<u>Horse Name</u>	<u>M/L</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
6	RB GRAND SLAM	3-1	RODRIGUEZ A	TORREZ J

Vastly improved with maturity and sustained racing. Expected to get some pace to close into. Uncoupled barn mate of the favorite for a trainer who points to these Arabian races.

9	DIAMOND GEM AA	7-5	CEDENO C	TORREZ J
----------	-----------------------	------------	-----------------	-----------------

Hard hitter who is super consistent. Has very good tactical speed. Trainer has the 2 most likely winners in the race.

4	WMA SMOKE SIGNAL	15-1	ASMUSSEN E	TULEY R
----------	-------------------------	-------------	-------------------	----------------

Ran a career-best race the one time he went 2 turns on dirt. Has a big workout May 6 in preparation for this race.

2	RB MOTHERLOAD	7-2	CRUZ A	TORREZ J
----------	----------------------	------------	---------------	-----------------

Consistent closer who must prove he classes up to my top 3 selections going 2 turns on dirt.

Any questions or comments can be sent to: wiz@wizardraceandsports.com

THE WIZARD® and THE WIZARD Design are registered service marks of Wizard Publications, INC. © 2025 Wizard Publications, Inc. Republication, retransmission or dissemination of the contents of this document in any form, is prohibited without the written permission of Wizard Publications INC. Use, including viewing, of the material contained herein shall constitute acceptance of these terms.

Copyright © 2025 Wizard Publications, Inc, all rights reserved