WIN WITH THE WIZARD

PICK OF THE DAY

SARATOGA SATURDAY 8/8/2026 **UPDATED**

Forecast

High: 86°F
Low: 68°F
Chance Thunderstorms
Precipitation: 65%

The Pick of the Day is the Wizard's one strongest play from all Crystal Ball Best Bets for tracks available that afternoon. Includes wagering strategies updated after late scratches. Track, race number and post time listed.

Race 12

Post Time: 6:33 PM 1 1/8 Miles. Dirt. 3 Year Olds And Up. G1 Whitney S.. Purse: $1,000,000



Exacta ($1), Trifecta (.50), Super (.10), Double ($1) 12 & 13 Pick 3 ($1) (12-14)

Prg. #	PP	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	Wt.	Claim $	Equip.	Med.	ML
1	1	Magnitude	Jose L. Ortiz	Steven M. Asmussen	126	$0			9-5
2	2	Nitrogen	John R. Velazquez	Mark E. Casse	121	$0			4-1
3	3	Antiquarian	Manuel Franco	Todd A. Pletcher	126	$0			10-1
4	4	Forged Steel	Micah J. Husbands	Saffie A. Joseph, Jr.	124	$0			20-1
5	5	White Abarrio	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	Saffie A. Joseph, Jr.	126	$0			8-1
6	6	Sovereignty	Junior Alvarado	William I. Mott	126	$0			3-1
7	7	Tiztastic	Tyler Gaffalione	Steven M. Asmussen	124	$0			30-1
8	8	Baeza	Flavien Prat	William I. Mott	126	$0			7-2

Wagers & Race Notes

* Win bet on (6) SOVEREIGNTY
* Exactas 6 over 1-8, reverse for 1/3 as much
* Trifecta 6 over 1-2-3-5-8 over 1-2-3-5-8 = $20 for a $1 wager
* Trifecta 1-5-8 over 6 over 1-2-3-5-8 = $12 for a $1 wager

I never thought we would ever see (6) Sovereignty 3-1 on the morning line. He's been the odds on favorite in 4 straight races and today is the second choice behind (1) Magnitude who is the 9-5 morning line choice. It's obvious to me that Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott would never be running in the Whitney if he didn't feel that redemption from his last 2 defeats was the likely outcome for him today. Sovereignty would be in the breeding shed, not here on this day. His return from an 8 month layoff in the Oaklawn handicap was a terrific effort in defeat. For the first time in his career, he got caught up in a cut throat pace battle right out of the gate, only to tire very late in the race. Last time out, Sovereignty caught a sealed sloppy track at Churchill that he simply didn't like. If you look back at all 11 of his starts, it's clear he needs a few races to reach peak form. He didn't break his maiden until 3rd time out. He did win the Fountain of Youth last year off 4 month break. As you can see, Sovereignty got better with every subsequent start, which concluded with one of the greatest performances you will ever see over this track in last year's Travers. I expect Junior Alvarado to place Sovereignty in perfect striking position entering the backstretch and then make his move on the far turn. He's won 3 races in 4 starts at the Spa. I expect Sovereignty to bring his 'A' game today and that would be enough to get his redemption. (8) Baeza is a danger to win the Whitney making his 3rd start off a layoff following 2 very good efforts despite

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breaking poorly each time, which has become as habit for him. Being the last one to load and breaking from an outside post, I feel it won't hurt him today, but rather help his cause. There's enough speed in here early on to ensure a solid pace. It's on the far turn when the real racing will begin and the fractions will heat up. Jockey Flavian Prat can bide his time and see all this developing from the rear. Prat will time his move to perfection like he always does, and in the late stages of the race, could be the one finishing best. Baeza lost to Sovereignty all 3 times they met last year, but he did beat Magnitude in the Pennsylvania Derby and Sovereignty last time out in the Stephen Foster. (1) Magnitude is the 9-5 morning line favorite looking to win his 5th straight race. He wired the field in the Dubai World Cup, defeating the best dirt horse in the world Forever Young. He then wired the field once again in the Stephen Foster last time out, benefitting by the sealed sloppy track. Depending on the track conditions leading up to the Whitney, if the track is wet, (5) White Abarrio will scratch and (4) Forged Steel will run. If the track is fast, White Abario will start and Forged Steel will scratch and point for the Pacific Classic at Del Mar. If that happens, and Forged Steel does not run, Magnitude will have an easier time on the front end, which would make him that more dangerous. (2) The filly Nitrogen will not allow Magnitude a free ride on the lead and will attack on the far turn as will Sovereignty. Magnitude would be no surprise if he were to win, but as the favorite, I'm going to look to defeat him.

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