



Today's playbook provided by Fair Grounds racing analyst Joe Kristufek, who has an extensive background in the horse racing industry as a handicapper, on-air talent, producer and fan development specialist. He is well recognized for his creative analysis and wagering tactics and he loves interacting with racing fans. **Follow on Twitter @JoeyDaKRacing**

Subject to change due to track conditions and scratches. Tune into the paddock show for the most up-to-date information. Check program numbers for accuracy.

Joe's 25-26 Top Pick Stats thru 2-4-26

Races	Wins	2 nd	3 rd	Win%	WIN ROI	WPS%
240	67	47	33	27.9%	\$1.66	61.3%

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Race 1 – 50-cent PK 5 (15%)

#1 Thunderhawk – Was favored in a \$75K (nw2) last out at OP and now takes a massive drop off that disappointing effort.

Joe's Picks: 1/7-3-2/5-6-4

Race 2 – 50-cent PK 4

#7 Lady Orient – Has been a disappointment relative to the way she began her career. Big drop off the bench for Amoss.

Joe's Picks: 7/2/5-6-4

Race 3 – 50-cent PK3

#8 Notion – Scored a visually impressive victory around two turns last out at this level. A fast pace should set the table.

Joe's Picks: 8-1-2/7-4/5-6

Race 4 – 50-cent CC 6 (15%)

Carryover = \$19,499

<p>#6 Aurora Sky – Overcame a slow start and a wide trip to just miss on turf sprint debut. The one to beat if she runs back to it.</p> <p>Joe's Picks: 6/2-8-9-1</p>
<p>Race 5 – 50-cent PK 5 (15%)</p> <p>#6 Hay Jude – Showed unexpected speed vs. stakes company last out only to get caught late by the favorite. His race to lose.</p> <p>Joe's Picks: 6/1-2-3-4-5</p>
<p>Race 6 – 50-cent PK 4</p> <p>#5 I B Flyin – Won much more impressively than the margin of victory indicates on turf sprint debut. Form darkened since.</p> <p>Joe's Picks: 5-6-1/2-4-7/3</p>
<p>Race 7 – 50-cent PK3</p> <p>#5 Evanescence – G2 placed class of the field returns off an eight-month layoff. The presence of Ortiz indicates intention.</p> <p>Joe's Picks: 5-4-2/6-3-1</p>
<p>Race 8</p> <p>#8 Provider – Half sibling to the G1 turf placed Medoro, who recently won the Krantz Memorial at FG. Ready for debut.</p> <p>Joe's Picks: 8-7-3/2-1-6-10/9-4</p>
<p>Race 9</p> <p>#8 Sweet Aurora G – Finished a better than it looks 3rd last out for double the price tag. Should have pace to close into here.</p> <p>Joe's Picks: 8-7/1-2-5</p>

Best Bet: Race 3 -- #8 Notion (8-1 ML)

Likely Overlay: Race 6 -- #5 I B Flyin (8-1 ML)

Favorite Against: Race 4 -- #2 Twolatebabydoll (5-2 ML)

