



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 2-16-26

Races	Wins	2 nd	3 rd	Win%	WIN ROI	WPS%
287	77	58	38	26.8%	\$1.55	60.3%

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Race 1 – 50-cent PK 5 (15%)

#4 Remi – Run down in the final strides in his first try at a mile last out. Finds a similar field & his speed will play well.

Joe’s Picks: 4-3/2-1

Race 2 – 50-cent PK 4

#5 Mister Banderas – Beaten as the odds of favorite in consecutive starts at this level he once again looks tough.

Joe’s Picks: 5/6/2-3

Race 3 – 50-cent PK3

#5 Sweet Alexis – Had a turf prep & now returns to the dirt off that needed run. Would be tough with her A-game.

Joe’s Picks: 3-2/4--6

Race 4 – 50-cent CC 6 (15%)
Carryover = \$62,299

#2 Citatus – Finished a better than it looks 3rd on debut and has every right to take a step forward at a square price today.

Joe's Picks: 2-4/9-7-3-1-5-8-6

Race 5 – 50-cent PK 5 (15%)

#5 Flash of Chaos – Has improved with every start for a hot barn. Fits like a glove at this level & should get over the hump.

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

Race 6 – 50-cent PK 4

#6 Exclusive Star – Left with too much to do last out but she still almost won. Tactical speed should have her in position.

Joe's Picks: 6/1-5-9-7

Race 7 – 50-cent PK3

#3 Tap to Open – Lost early position on debut and was rank and forced to steady. Still got third. Big step forward expected.

Joe's Picks: 3-5-6/1-2-4/7-8

Race 8

#6 Shining Star – Won for fun, ran fast & had plenty left in the tank in her first local start. Stalks "Candy" & gets first run.

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

Race 9

#3 My Touch – Full sibling to the Louisiana-bred monster Touchuponastar, this colt has a bullet gate work at FG.

Joe's Picks: 3-4-9/8-5/1-2

Best Bet: Race 7 -- #3 Tap to Open (4-1 ML)

Likely Overlay: Race 4 -- #4 Good Willie (10-1 ML)

Favorite Against: Race 8 -- #7 Lotsandlotsofcandy (2-1 ML)

