



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**

Selections are ranked on an ABC scale from A – top selections, B – tough to toss, and C – use in multi-race wager spreads & minors in intra-race wagers and are 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 23-24 Top Pick Season Stats thru March 22, 2024

Races	Wins	2 nd	3 rd	Win%	WPS%
484	128	103	79	26.4%	64%

Saturday, March 23, 2024 – Louisiana Derby Day

	Race Feel	A	B	C
Race 1 – 50-cent PK 5 (15%)	2 has been training lights out; 5 ran huge in his last start; no need for C	2, 5	6	7, 11
Race 2 – 50-cent PK 4	Longshot 1 steps up razor sharp & should like turf sprint; others are logical	1, 9	7, 2	
Race 3 – 50-cent PK 3	Lone A won her route debut & today's race shape should suit better	3	8, 4	6, 5, 2, 9
Race 4 – 50-cent PK 5 (15%)	1 held her own with good ones + advantageous post; 13 price if draws in	1, 13	4, 3, 6	8, 11, 7
Race 5 – 50-cent PK 4	6 ships from KY very well intended; 4 working well, may want route	6, 4	7	5, 2
Race 6 – 50-cent PK 3	Don't expect ML price on lone A -- been awesome winning two straight	2	8, 6, 7, 10	9, 4
Race 7 – \$1 PK 6 (15%, no jackpot) Carryover Pool = \$1,588	2 could easily have won last four; 7 has natural speed & should get trip	2, 7	4, 3	6, 1

Race 8 – 50-cent PK 5 All Stakes \$1 Million Est. Pool	Perhaps the most wide-open race on the card; narrowed best I could	12, 10, 7	6, 9, 1	4
Race 9 – 50-cent PK 4 \$1 Bayou/Bluegrass PK 5	Wildcard 7 may have the most upside; speedy 3 is super legit, earned this	7, 3	5, 9	4
Race 10 – 50-cent PK 3	ABSTAIN	Own an interest in	Johnny's Fireball	with Brilliant Racing
	1 returns to a fast track off needed race; 5 & 6 the fillies to beat	1, 5, 6	8	7, 2
	7 should step forward off needed run; 12 the one to beat once again	7, 12	10, 5, 4	2, 11

Thursday's Results: XABACBA

Most Likely Winner: Race 3 -- #3 Platinum Minut (9-2 ML) – There are no free spaces on this entire card. This gal won her route debut last out while having to adjust her running style due to the glacial early fractions. With a faster pace today, she should be able to sit back and make one big run.

Best Bet: Race 6 -- #2 Athens Moon (8-1 ML) – Dropped into a \$30K maiden claimer two back, this son of Nyquist responded with a gate-to-wire win. Relegated to the pocket last out, he once again won for fun. He takes a well-deserved rise in class off the claim and appears very capable of scoring a hat trick.

Longshot: Race 2 -- #1 Flower Cat (15-1 ML) – The winner of three in a row in increasingly impressive fashion, this razor-sharp son of Kantharos takes a sizeable step up the class ladder in here. He's only tried turf once, but his dam was good on the green. With the rails down, the inside draw is quite advantageous.

Favorite Against: Race 4 -- #11 War Siren (7-2 ML) – On this wide-open race day, there are several tepid ML favorites. The connections involved with this well-bred first timer are likely to deflate the price, and I simply prefer others with better expected value.

