

TRACK PHANTOM 2026 TRAVERS DAY GUIDE



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SARATOGA



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SARATOGA	SARATOGA	SARATOGA	SARATOGA	SARATOGA
Pick 5 - Ticket Cost \$324	Pick 5 - Ticket Cost \$480	Pick 5 - Ticket Cost \$441	Pick 5 - Ticket Cost \$343	BEST BET 2 VIRABHADRASANA (6/1) RACE 6 LIVE LONGSHOT 10 SILENT TACTIC (10/1) RACE 13 MOST LIKELY 4 ENGLISHMAN (3/5) RACE 8
Race 5 4,8	Race 7 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9	Race 9 2	Race 10 1,2,3,4,5,7,8	
Race 6 1,2,3,5,9,10	Race 8 4	Race 10 1,2,3,4,5,7,8	Race 11 1,6	
Race 7 1,2,3,5,6,9	Race 9 2,4,6	Race 11 1,4,6	Race 12 1,2,7,8,10,11,12	
Race 8 2,4,5	Race 10 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9	Race 12 2,7,8,10,11,12	Race 13 3,4,5,6,7,9,10	
Race 9 2,4,6	Race 11 1,2,4,6,8	Race 13 3,4,5,6,7,9,10	Race 14 4	

1 - SARATOGA (11:05 ET) 48 MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT 115K, 6F DIRT 8-1

6 BEAU VALOR	4-1 (3)
8 MISSION INTEGRITY	7-2
1 ROLL WAVE	8-1
2 SUBJUGATION	9-2

PICK: 6 BEAU VALOR

Sire fee is just 7500 but he sold last September for over 500k. Sire Beau Liam won 3 of 4. He had Beyers of 107, 106, 98 and 94 for Steve Asmussen. His top offspring is Crude Velocity, winner of the G2 Pat Day Mile for trainer Bob Baffert. Trainer is capable with a debut 2YO. Been working regularly and has 9 drills over this track. Ready.

VALUE: 1 ROLL WAVE

There was a lot of buzz about this one in the debut on August 1st. He had a sensational workout highlighted by a couple of 4F bullet moves (46.2B on June 28th was the best of them). He did not run a step in that first start. It was so bad it was hard to believe for this 900k purchase for Proctor. His dam was a G3 winning router on the dirt.

A) 6,8 B) 1,2,3 C) 5, 1 D)

2 - SARATOGA (11:42 ET) 44 ALLOWANCE 120K, 6F DIRT 11-1

7 GUN RANGE	6-1 (out)
6 SCULCOS FOLLY	8-5
1 CALDO CANDY	4-1
2 DR. KAPUR	5-1

PICK: 7 GUN RANGE

Despite the 13 post, this one was bet down to 4-1 in the last start. That race can be tossed as he went down to his knees at the start. Obviously came out of the race a bit sore as he hasn't been back in nearly 3 months. The debut was exceptional over a soft field at KEE. Female family produced \$1M earner Valid (7-time stakes winner).

VALUE: 1 CALDO CANDY

He was in the same race as the top choice in June two starts ago. He also got an awkward start and ran evenly at 13-1 when 8th. He came out of that race to fire nicely in the similar spot at 13-1 last time out. Massive jockey change from Rodriguez to Prat. Has 2 wins over the SAR dirt track. Third start off the layoff. Saves ground today.

A) 1,6,7 B) 2,5 C) 4,8 D) 3

3 - SARATOGA (12:19 ET) 51 ALLOWANCE 105K, 6.5F DIRT 4-1

6 K GUN	5-1 (out)
2 LIGHTNING STRIKE	3-1
8 LIBERTY'S SECRET	5-2
1 DANIELLA MARIE	15-1

PICK: 6 K GUN

She did some heavy lifting last out. The winner of that race has won 6 of 12 starts, all wire to wire, and this one was chasing that winner early while wide. She hung in gamely until late and was passed by the runner-up. It was on a wet, drying track. Only one to run back out of that race (4th) won at this level and was 2nd in a stakes.

VALUE: 1 DANIELLA MARIE

She did not have her mind on running in the comeback here on July 31st. She was slow from the gate, got out in the early stages and was awkward. She did flash a bit of run very late in the race but in general, she is better than that start. She was third in the 500k Ny Stallion in December. Only bad start in blinkers came last time out.

A) 2,6,8 B) 1, 1 C) 3,9 D) 4,5

4 – SARATOGA (12:56 ET) **39**
ALLOWANCE 120K, 1M 1/16 TURF **6-1**

1 NOBLE DYNASTY	8-1 (out)
5 KING'S REMARK	2-1
4 PRINT	7-2
8 ALTO BLUES	8-1

PICK: 1 NOBLE DYNASTY

He has the pedigree to be a champion turfer. Sire was a superstar overseas (won 7 of 8 and four Group 1's on the grass at 1M). Second dam on the female side is the \$4.8M earner, Royal Delta (won the BC Distaff in 2012 and 2011) for these same connections. Favored in most recent start but the slow start and 9 post was a problem.

VALUE: 8 ALTO BLUES

First start in the US after two runs overseas. He won the debut at 7-1 and was a decent fifth in the second start at 9-1. The winner of the 2nd start won a G3 in next start and was 3rd in the G2 Ribblesdale at Royal Ascot in June. Trainer doesn't win often first time in the US Euros but did win in last such for this ownership (150k Penn Oaks).

A) 1,5 B) 4,7,8 C) 2,6 D) 3

7 – SARATOGA (2:44 ET) **65**
OPTIONAL CLAIMING 120K, 1M 1/16 TURF **2-1**

5 SHELZAWA	3-1 (1)
3 BELLA KNOWS	5-2
9 COUNTERINTUITIVE	4-1
1 ALL OF IT	8-1

PICK: 5 SHELZAWA

French backbreeding has quite a few strong turfers in the female line back to G1 Prix Diane winner Shemaka from 1993. The one who beat her 3 back returned in a loaded G2 Ribblesdale at Royal Ascot and ran a decent 6th out of 12 runners. Chad Brown has a 27% strike rate at Saratoga routing on the grass in opt clm at 5-1 or less.

VALUE: 1 ALL OF IT

Was beaten by the filly to her outside in the most recent start. That was in a Ny-bred stakes sans Lasix which is back in the mix today. She is 2 for 2 racing on Lasix. She makes her fourth career start and third on this track for a high percentage trainer in these spots. Santana has a 27% win rate at SAR for Clement. Saves ground in here.

A) 3,5 B) 1,2,9 C) 6,7,8 D) 4

5 – SARATOGA (1:34 ET) **64**
ALLOWANCE 105K, 1M 1/16 TURF **4-5**

4 CAROLINE ST. BEAT	2-1 (1)
8 SAMMY C NOTE	4-1
11 NEWLYN	15-1
5 HONOREE	6-1

PICK: 4 CAROLINE ST. BEAT

Was looking for a way to beat this lower priced colt but the angles are strong. Broke his maiden here a year ago easily. He was game in back to back runner-up stakes. Adds Lasix. Franco rode 4 horses in this race in their last start but opts to stay here. Winner of last took another Ny-bred stakes next. Excellent worktab. The one to beat.

VALUE: 11 NEWLYN

He's been beaten by the top choice a few times (also by a few others in this race). But he has run some decent races and is making his third start in a form cycle off a layoff. He adds Lasix on the drop out of the same stake race the top choice exits. Looks as if Santana will have to drop back and make a run late from this wider post.

A) 4 B) 3,5,8,9,10,11 C) 6,7 D) 1,2

8 – SARATOGA (3:19 ET) **88**
ALLEN JERKENS (G1) 500K, 7F DIRT **2-5**

4 ENGLISHMAN	3-5 (1)
5 LOCAL KNOWLEDGE	4-1
2 DEEP FLAME	3-1
1 STICKUPWITHOUTAGUN	30-1

PICK: 4 ENGLISHMAN

Turned the tables, in a big way, on the Baffert trained Crude Velocity in the Woody Stephens. That was one of the more impressive efforts by any horse in 2026. Lone defeat was when he had to be sent in the Pat Day Mile two back to hold the rail. Crushed foes in 3 of 4. He has a world of talent and could be the BC Sprint Champion.

VALUE: 5 LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Will bred, expensive 3YO colt for Todd Pletcher. He has 2 wins in 3 starts and just won the G2 Amsterdam over this dirt track in 1:14.4. Obliteration was third and had been third to the top pick in the Woody Stephens. Key race two back as many from there have run well since. Third start of the year. Could hit peak form cycle today.

A) 4 B) 2,5 C) D) 1,6

6 – SARATOGA (7:09 ET) **77**
MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT 115K, 6F DIRT **10-1**

2 VIRABHADRASANA	6-1 (1)
3 FOXIEST	2-1
9 PSALM BEAUTY	8-1
5 ADIA	8-1

PICK: 2 VIRABHADRASANA

Trainer LaRose (former Tom Amoss asst) is just 1 for 20 with a firster (5 in top 3). But he's 3 for 5 with a second timer sprinting on the dirt (all 5 of those starts were on this SAR dirt track). Two of the winners were ridden by Santana and all 3 winners were for this owner. Big run for 4th in a loaded MSW in debut despite going 8-9 wide.

VALUE: 9 PSALM BEAUTY

Since 2024, Steve Asmussen has had 8 first time 2YO's sprinting on the dirt in a MSW with Jose Ortiz riding. He won 4 of them (50%) and was in the money in 6 of the 8 starts. That includes a 16-1 winner 3 weeks ago. Sire a 3-time G1 winner for Asmussen. Not much in the female line but still sold for 625k. Have to think she has talent.

A) 2,3,9 B) 1,5,10 C) 6,7,8 D)

9 – SARATOGA (3:55 ET) **79**
PERSONAL ENSIGN (G1) 500K, 1M 1/8 DIRT **4-5**

2 FULLY SUBSCRIBED	6-5 (1)
4 SCOTTISH LASSIE	7-5
6 SNOWYTE	8-1
1 MARGIE'S INTENTION	12-1

PICK: 2 FULLY SUBSCRIBED

Should have been beaten in the Shuvee last start. The runner-up sat comfortably off the speed, moved to the front and scooted away before this one closed strongly to get her. Will sit 3rd or 4th again. Brown won this race in '24 with Raging Sea (Prat) with the same pattern. She won the Comely, lost in the Phipps, and won the Shuvee.

VALUE: 6 SNOWYTE

Don't think this filly is the most talented but there is a scenario that makes her dangerous. She went fast early in the Shuvee and was outrun by the top two favorites late. Have to think the connections of the runner-up, Scottish Lassie, are going to try and save as much as they can for late, assuming this one backs out in the lane.

A) 2,4 B) 6 C) 1,3 D) 5

10 – SARATOGA (4:33 ET) 66
LAKE PLACID (G2) 4020K, 1M TURF 7-5

1 QUEEN OF HAWAII	2-1 (out)
5 NAOMIS	3-1
4 DEEP LEARNING	4-1
8 ULTIMATE LOVE	8-1

PICK: 1 QUEEN OF HAWAII

Winner of a Group 3 in Ireland and was 2 for 2 routing there. She was off slow in the BC Juv Fillies Turf but did pass some late. She took money when under 7-1 there. Last is better than it looks. The other route run on July 9th produced a wire to wire winner with a :47.2 half. This closed into a slow pace. This trainer is having a big 2026.

VALUE: 5 NAOMIS

Euro shipper is one of two for Chad Brown. This French filly is coming in off a win in the Group 2 Sandringham at Chantilly in May. Last two wins came at 19-1 and in the G2 at 2-1. There were a couple of G3 winners to exit the race two back. Brown has won this race 6 times so it is marked on the calendar. Has a 100 timeform rating.

A) 1,5 B) 4,8 C) 2,3,7,9 D)

12 – SARATOGA (5:49 ET) 70
BALLERINA (G1) 500K, 7F DIRT 6-5

2 KILWIN	8-1 (2)
7 WAYS AND MEANS	9-5
12 ECLATANT	3-1
11 BEAUTY REIGNS	15-1

PICK: 2 KILWIN

Undefeated 3 for 3 on the dirt and all 3 wins were very impressive over strong competition. She stumbled out of the gate in the G1 Test over this track but somehow righted the ship and won. Much the best in the return race last out in what was surely a prep for later races in 2026. Really looked awesome in the bullet work on 8/11.

VALUE: 11 BEAUTY REIGNS

Sharp win over this track last time out. That was her 4th start on the Saratoga dirt and she finished in the top 3 in all of them. That includes third in the G1 Test behind the top choice a year ago. She's a bit of a nibbler but is going to get the ideal pace setup at a distance she is 2 for 4 at. Dangerous trainer/rider team of Mott, Alvarado.

A) 2,7 B) 8,10,11,12 C) 1 D) 3,5,9

11 – SARATOGA (5:11 ET) 83
FOREGO (G1) 500K, 7F DIRT 9-2

1 TIP TOP THOMAS	5-1 (out)
6 SENIOR OFFICER	7-2
4 CRAZY MASON	12-1
2 HYMN	12-1

PICK: 1 TIP TOP THOMAS

When you break down the speed of this race, it lacks a lot of it for a race of this distance and class. This one is going to be the main speed and has a major edge with a rail draw. Ran as if he needed the race off the layoff in the last start as he started to tire a bit late. Prat remains aboard. Pletcher runners have been firing everywhere.

VALUE: 4 CRAZY MASON

Massive scratch of the overwhelming favorite, Book' Em Danno. This one comes from the clouds. He was a fast closing third in this race at 16-1 last year beaten a shade under two lengths. Has run well at the distance and here at Saratoga. Was too far back last time out at CD going a mile. That was a strong race. Fits well in here.

A) 1,6 B) 4 C) 2,8 D) 3

14 – SARATOGA (7:09 ET) 73
OPTIONAL CLAIMING 120K, 1M 1/16 TURF 17-1

4 THAT'S HOW WE LOVE	6-5 (out)
1 TAX HOLIDAY	9-2
3 NEW ROSE	12-1
10 ALIBI	5-1

PICK: 4 THAT'S HOW WE LOVE

Not often a debut winner at 1M 1/16 on the turf wins by 8 lengths or more in a MSW. The runner-up was second by a neck in a MSW at AQU in the race prior so that was not a terrible field. Sib to G2 Davona Dale winner from 2012, Yara. Trainer won 4 of the last 7 for this owner (a neck from 5 for 7). Anything near the debut should win.

VALUE: 3 NEW ROSE

It would have been hard to get a worse ride than what she got last out. She was four wide on the first turn and three wide on the second turn. She rightly faded in the lane from the ground loss. Pressed a fast pace two back that gave her no chance behind one who was beaten a neck in a G2 next out. She gets a significant rider change.

A) 4 B) 1,2,3,10 C) 1,7 D) 6,8

13 – SARATOGA (6:35 ET) 64
TRAVERS (G1) \$1.3M, 1M 1/4 DIRT 10-1

10 SILENT TACTIC	10-1 (out)
5 RENEGADE	3-1
3 NAPOLEON SOLO	8-1
7 SEA STRIKE	5-1
9 GOLDEN TEMPO	5-2

PICK: 10 SILENT TACTIC

It's not an easy task to come off a 4-month layoff due to a foot bruise and step right into a G2 with top class 3YO's. He was a legitimate win candidate in the last 100 yards of the Jim Dandy before being outfinished. Mark Casse has said he has him the best he's ever been in his career heading into this. He could end up with the run of the race or a very wide trip. Needs the best from Saez.

2ND: 5 RENEGADE

He almost always runs his race. Besides the debut in a sprint, his only subpar finish was in the G1 Belmont as the 8-5 favorite when he ran third some five lengths off of Golden Tempo. He was unlucky to lose the Ky Derby three back. Pace will play a big part in his chance here as it will with some other big closers. New rider up due to Irad Ortiz injured. Obviously talented enough to win.

3RD: 3 NAPOLEON SOLO

He feels like an all or nothing proposition here. He may be the main speed (likely) but how much pressure will he face early and how hard will he have to work are the big questions. The fractions he pressed were serious as the pace setter (Taj Mahal) stopped completely. He has 2 bullet drills on this track. Just a 40k purchase 2 years ago. If allowed to get comfortable early, he can win this.

4TH: 7 SEA STRIKE

Have to believe Prat had a choice of the two in here for Chad Brown. He lands here. Removed Lasix in the last start and stretched out for the first time. He blew away a very good Chief Wallabee with a massive 102 Beyer in that Curlin win. The rest of that field was not nearly as accomplished but he was a zip code ahead of them. If this is a riders race, having F Prat is a major advantage.

VALUE: 3 NAPOLEON SOLO

A) 3,5,7,10 B) 4,6,9 C) 1,8 D)