

JEREMY PLONK'S CHURCHILL DOWNS PICKS

Kentucky Derby Saturday – Full Card – May 2, 2026

1	11-9-3-2	No surprises. Time off since TB Derby should put 11-Powershift closer to that debut Tampa form. Strong California company lines for fast 9-Winston Ave. 3-Silent Way good post, improving.
2	8-7-6-4	Hot pace sets up late for 8-Taptastic, impeccably bred on class drop. 7-Very Connected ran into a heavy-chalk buzzsaw at Kee & posted strong 9F BRIS late pace. 6-Make My Day versatile style.
3	14-10-12-5 KEY PLAY	Classy 14-Bullard got no pace help at TP but will here. Once considered barn's ace, not Journalism. Beware 12-1 ML. Regally bred 10-Vibe fits perfect at 1M. 12-Praetor underachieves.
4	6-5-4-1	4-Ways and Means and 5-Splendora will take all the money, but former 0-2 at CD and latter never ran outside CA. Not confident in 6-R Disaster at 7F but should make lead and hope to wing it.
5	9-7-3-10 KEY PLAY	Closing turf sprinter 9-Litigation goes from speed jock to Irad Ortiz, a perfect fit. Confident tab with 7-Yellow Card also coming late. 3-My Boy Prince only 1 work since Kee win, rivals had 2.
6	6-2-9-10	6-Tour Player loves Churchill, loves 1M trip and beat ML favorite 2-Dragoon Guard at Colonial. 9-Scotland 20-1 ML exotics price look--add blinkers/2 nd off layoff/aggressive Mott rider swap.
7	7-8-3-2	7-Movin' On Up compromised in couple recent tries by extreme posts. 12-1 ML, gets some relief, adds hot-riding J Ortiz & was 3 rd in this race in '25. 8-Pin Up Betty 2 nd last year, loves CD.
8	9-6-1-8	Pat Day Mile hasn't been kind to dashing class risers like 1-Englishman & 6-Crude Velocity, both who could be future stars. Race avg 10/1 winner last 10X. 9-Lockstocknpharhoah trip fits.
9	12-4-5-10 KEY PLAY	12-Remember Mamba blasted late at Kee when barn wasn't hot, outrunning his mates. Dialed on high. 4-Stark Contrast makes for showdown. 5-Blackout Time bred to like turf, exotics price.
10	10-6-7-9	6-Knightsbridge been steamroller but will catch fastest pace of career; race loaded w/ early heat. 10-Banishing just missed last year vs. tougher CD Hcp field. Finishes. #7 Imagination late bid.
11	5-3-6-9	5-Mercante ever-steady, just missed here near lead last year at 13-1; every bit that price or more. 3-Asbury Park lures Prat off Chad Brown stablemate. 6-Rhetorical most talented, but 9F?
12	6-11-12-15 KENTUCKY DERBY KEY PLAY	Trustworthy 6-Commandment exits the best prep w/ best BRIS late pace fig in race loaded with longshot speed waiting to melt down. 11-Incredibolt caught eye in final furlong in VA + works.
13	7-8-10-11	20-1 ML 7-San'n Money has kept very strong company and 6.5F will suit beautifully. 8-Gilded Bandit ran down heavy fav at Kee impressively. 10-Buetane adds Lasix trying to find form. Trust?
14	9-1-3-7	9-Big Jake debuts for Baffert (wife owns) and looks like barn's typical "beer money" horse to cover big-race expenses. Tough placement in finale for so many rookies – spread in pick 4s, 5s.