

Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021

# Express Players' Guide

Best Bets • Expert Analysis

Today's commentary by:

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## Selections

<b>1</b>	4-3-1-6	<b>5</b>	1-6-4-7	<b>9</b>	3-2-1-6-7
<b>2</b>	2-3-5-1	<b>6</b>	4-1-5-6	<b>10</b>	3-5-6-7
<b>3</b>	4-2-1-8-3	<b>7</b>	2-1-6-5	<b>11</b>	1-5-6-3
<b>4</b>	3-2-6-5	<b>8</b>	3-4-6-1	<b>12</b>	5-1-6-3-7

**Harrah's**  
PHILADELPHIA

## Early Pick-4 Ticket

**Race 1:** 1, 3, 4  
**Race 2:** 2, 3  
**Race 3:** 2, 4  
**Race 4:** 2, 3, 6

**Total Stake: \$18**

## A Closer Look

*This section features more in-depth analysis on selected events from each card of racing at Harrah's Philadelphia, with something for the novice player and seasoned handicapper alike.*

### Race 2

2 - IT'S JUST TOO MUCH nearly took it all two weeks ago and gets a brief, beneficial rest. Nudges up to the higher class, it fits with the trend of improvement. "Second-favourite" type value feels about right. Coming close of late to very best recent marks. George continues the assignment. 3 - TODDLER TANTRUM readily got by tired foes and improved to get fourth last week. He's in a good draw for pressing at the speed or even serving as it. What's their plan? 5 - THESPYWHOLOVEDME joins from an autumn mostly in New Jersey. A littler easier drawn today, a start three prior jumps out. That form repeated could well win this mile. Now Marcus. 1 - MCERLEAN receives prime post and is back in more conventional conditioned activity. Absolutely towering back class with historic local success.

### Race 5

1 - MIGHTY SANTANA N has totally changed approach in the last month and it has been working well for all connected. Will they seek initial control again? He remains narrowly eligible to the class and is in a fantastic spot to close 2021 winning. Mind value and expect substantial play. 6 - SAILBOAT HANOVER ships into PHL after some disappointing miles at higher-value affairs in Yonkers. Good spot for reconstruction of confidences. Nap takes the lines; they likely need speed to chase for a win ... and that win would likely arrive with some value, but he was fairly level (even improving late slightly) against a class posing too much overall difficulty. Better opportunity than the form might suggest. 4 - TYMAL PEACEMAKER dips one level today and the post is a little better. Won at the level well-favoured recently. Much respect.

### Race 8

3 - BENEVOLENCE is a horse worth giving another consideration to. He had to bid well off the pylons strongly in his last and while being passed by charging rivals (including our second choice this race) he did still manage to be a quite-nearby seventh. Part of our interest in choosing this horse is the question of a day's likely trend, which we explain through our second choice: 4 - LITTLE TORO, who swarmed in on a much-improved last mile (at level and local) at giant odds. Bear in mind, Christmas Eve at PHL was filled with many races where speed fell apart in the lane. Consider making your own top choice based in the questions of how you think the day's trend is playing, plus the likelihood of pace scenarios weighed against the tote offer. Additional horses of interest include 6 - YER SO BAD, who also closed in well at long odds on his last and has superb training connections, as well as 1 - CAFFEINE BUZZ, who also raced the aforementioned Christmas Eve event and was passed late by several after being the among the main overall pressure.

### Race 11

1 - CHOCO'S CHOICE won attractively in his last and maintains eligibility under the lifetime purse clause. His break two prior appears more and more an anomaly. Had struggled at the level, clearly doesn't now. Groff and Marcus team up here. 5 - LOVE THIS BAR improved to a medium-priced second place finish last week and draw behind the car today. Leah comes back for another drive. 2022 looks promising for this member of the Cantab Hall family. 6 - TRIXSTAR makes sense as a trend play and thoroughly outstepped his odds last week. Plenty raw speed to mix in. 3 - BREEZING PRAYER commenced trotting well on local arrival but broke in the later stages. Pennsylvania successes noted but must keep gait.

### Race 12

5 - BENSON BOYS N was able to buck the closer trends on Christmas Eve and wire his field. Allard keeps the drive, fits the circumstance fine to repeat. We see the horse worked out increasingly forward placement through recent times. 1 - ALLGONOWHOA perked up sizeably in New Jersey and now comes back to the three turns. Ideal draw, top training. Choices abound at "go." 6 - REVELRY has continued to improve across this month and makes a second local start, this time at higher money. Does he go for that early lead again? 7 - MR CENSI has some back class locally and while recent miles have disappointed from tougher posts, like this one today, raw speed and old skills may shine through to help him get at least a small share.