KEENELAND Power Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026
Picks By	Howard Kravets

Race-Day Overview

Welcome to Day #2 of the Keeneland Fall Meet….it's FALL STARS SATURDAY!!

Always one of my favorite days of the racing calendar, today does not disappoint. The Late Pick 5 is ALL-GRADED STAKES with 3 Win-And-You're-In races for the Breeder's Cup. There are the usual great races earlier in the card too, with nice allowance and maiden races mixed in.

Keeneland got a decent amount of rain yesterday, but it was supposed to clear out by early evening. I'd expect the main track to probably start as "good" and be fast by mid-card for sure. The turf races should all be on except perhaps R3. If that's the case, I'd expect many scratches….but we'll see how much rain we got yesterday. The stake races will DEFINITELY be on the turf, which could be listed as "good" or "firm".

Today's Picks

*****For information on how to read an "ABC Grid" and ticket construction, please refer to our podcast website, hhhracingpodcast.com, and go to the "Power Picks" section…a video explanation is also available on the page***

ABC Grid - Post Time 1:00pm EST

The "Stars" rating (last column) is #1 – 5 and represents the level of confidence we have in our "A" column for each race, with 5 being our highest confidence.

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Cost	Stars/Rating
1	2,4	7	5,6	2,4	$0.50 P5	$72	3
2	1,5	6	3,4	1,5,6	-	-	4
3	10,11	5,9	1,3	5,9,10,11	-	-	2
4	1,3	2,6	-	1,3	-	-	3

5	3,4,10	2	9	3,4,10	-	-	4
6	10	6	5,8	6,10	$0.50 LP5	$80 ($1)	5
7	7	6	4	6,7	-	-	5
8	2,3,8	4	5,6,9,11	2,3,4,8	-	-	3
9	1	2,5,6	-	1	-	-	5
10	2,3	9	7,8	2,3,7,8,9	-	-	3
11	3,10	1,2,9	7,11	1,2,3,9,10	-	-	1

Top 3 Selections

Race #	1st	2nd	3rd
1	4	2	7
2	5	1	6
3	11	10	5
4	3	1	2
5	10	3	4
6	10	1	5
7	7	6	4
8	2	3	8
9	1	2	5
10	3	2	9
11	10	3	1

Late P5 Strategy/Analysis (R6 - 10)

In the last 6 years that our podcast has covered this sequence, we usually spread mightily and the races seem very deep with many win candidates. Today, it doesn't feel that way. That's not to say there couldn't be upsets or the races won't be exciting….just seems like the horses at the top of the market could be tough. Therefore, I'd recommend pressing up your opinions and playing this Pick 5 for more than 50c. The most logical single for me would be Coach Pope in R9. On name alone (Men's Bball Coach at University of Kentucky), this horse will get all the extra money from the little

guys. I would consider singling the #10 in R6, and or the #7 (would be a slight upset) in R7. The two big turf races (R8 and 10) are more spready for me….that's where a price could be landed.

$3 All-Turf Pick 3 ABC Grid

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	10	6	5,8	6,10	$3 P3	$36
8	2,3,8	4	5,6,9,11	2,3,8	-	-
10	2,3	9	7,8	2,3	-	-

$3 All-Turf P3 Strategy/Analysis - (R6, R8, R10)

I'd never say a Turf Pick 3 at Keeneland is easy, but this one seems very reasonable to play without spending a ton of money. I could easily single the #10 in the first leg despite the 7-2 ML. I wouldn't use more than 2 horses in general. The next two could spread out depending on how much you want to spend. I'd lean on 2,3,8 and maybe use the rest as backups (see grid above). I like #3 Rhetorical in R10, but don't like the ML price of 2-1. The #2 is my longshot, have to use him, and probably just use those two and hope I'm right. I'm fading the #7 Lake Forest in general, but he'll take money as the "sexy" Euro in the field.

Howard's Play of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	2	Lush Lips	8-1	5	$25 WP #2 Trifectas: 2 / 3,4,8 / 3,4,5,6,8,9,11 3,8 / 2 / 3,4,5,6,8,9,11 3,8 / 3,4,5,6,8,9,11 / 2
Notes:					
THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT KEENELAND!! The G1 First Lady is a fun race that brings together a similar group of 3yo ladies, with one exception lately: **#2 Lush Lips.** The reason? She has been only seen once since the Spring, and that was a loss at Ellis as the heavy favorite. Before the layoff, she was in laser-sharp form as one of the leading 3yo turf fillies in the country. I'm not worried about her comeback race as I'm sure that was a tightener / prep for this big G1. She's won at Keeneland before (last year's QE II) and I'm expecting a big effort today, saving ground off the early speed and exploding late. She better be good….this is a nice bunch, including the world-traveler #3. 8-1 seems WAY too high a ML-price, so I think she'll be closer to 5-1. I wouldn't make a win bet on her much less than that. This is pretty much a big swing….let's hope it hits, or at least Lush Lips hits the board.					

Most Likely Winner of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	1	Coach Pope	4-5	5	$50 Win at 4-5 or more
Notes:					

I hate to be “Captain Obvious”, but sure feels like Coach Pope is the goods here, despite the fact young 2yo’s can change rapidly and there are some well-meant others in the field. He’ll sit a great trip in theory and tip out late to go by, unless no one wants the lead early and he takes it. The buzz around this horse based on the name alone in Lexington is gonna bonkers today. Will feel like Rupp Arena if the horse has the lead deep in the stretch.

Longshot Play of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	5	Jaded	15-1	3	$5 Win, $15 Place, $30 Show
Notes:					
#5 Jaded is in the same race as Coach Pope. He won his debut at Kentucky Downs on the turf, but has dirt breeding and worked exclusively on the Churchill dirt before his debut. He’s a half to BC Juvenile Filly winner Jaywalk, remember her? She won that BC at Keeneland by the way. Casse is no dummy….this horse must have some talent. Expect a late run and pick up some pieces.					

Price/Spot Play(s)

**** Price / Spot Plays are not usually the favorites, but horses we like that will provide some value (hopefully 5-2 or higher in general). The “Stars” rating is 1 – 5.***

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
2	5	Dormie	4-1	4	$20 WP #5
Notes:					
Trainer Chris Block is an excellent horseman from my territory in Chicago / Illinois. He knows what he’s got under the hood of his horses, so sending #5 Dormie to Keeneland shows confidence. After winning his debut well, he got a MUCH-WORSE than looks trip on paper in the stake in Iowa, between horses the whole way, before trying hard still in the stretch. The number came back a little light, but he figures to get a much better, stalking trip today in the clear. I like him quite a bit to upset this field, or at least finish 2nd.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
5	3	First Resort	8-1	3	$10 WP #3 BIG Exactas: 4,10 / 3 Smaller Exactas: 3 / 4,10
Notes:					
I might look stupid after this race with **#3 First Resort**, but it wouldn’t be the first time. I think this one actually drifts up from his morning line, we’ll see. He’s never run a bad race, until last time. My gut tells me he came back too quickly from his comeback run (only 3 weeks), and was making a move until flattening out badly while in between horses into a fast pace. He showed a ton of promise at 2yo winning the G2 at Churchill, and the connections had high hopes. I don’t distance is the problem, and he has a good post and tactical early speed. The favorites in here are underachievers or have wide draws, so I have a feeling this race is prime for a price to come in. If there’s moisture in the track, which is unexpected, I’d upgrade him too….interesting today. Very solid works add to the intrigue.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6	10	Doncho	7-2	4	$30 Win #10 BIG Exactas: 10 / 5,6,8 Small Exactas: 5,6 / 10
Notes:					
#10 Doncho is a big play for me today in this G2 affair. He's learning to rate a bit and finish, and has already beaten the other main threat in my opinion, #6 Joe Shiesty. My problems are two-fold: 1) He has to clear from the far outside so that he's not wide (shouldn't be an issue), and more importantly, 2) the rain yesterday has softened up the turf, no idea how he'll handle it….but you could say the same for many others in the race also. He's in fantastic form and I see no real solid reasons to go against him today….shocking how little early speed there is in a graded 5.5f turf stake at Keeneland.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8	7	Echo Sound	5-2	3+	$20 Win #7 Back-up Ex. 6/7
Notes:					
Today's G2 TCA, a WAYI race for the BC, is not one of the stronger renditions we've seen over the years. I've been a big Eclatant fan for a long time, but she was atrocious at Saratoga last time. She was eased late, so it looks much worse on paper, but she had little excuse really. She's back at Keeneland, and she could easily win today as the favorite. But **#7 Echo Sound**, in theory, should get the jump if Jose O. is aggressive early, and I really hope he is, he can either stalk Eclatant or ideally take the early lead over the #2 or Eclatant and wire the field with a softer early pace. Breaking outside Eclatant is a MAJOR advantage today. 3rd start of the form cycle should produce a very solid effort for Echo Sound.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	2	Brilliant Berti	6-1	2	$10 Win, $15 Place/Show
Notes:					
This is **more of an underneath play,** so for our Tip Sheet ROI, we'll go $1 PS. #2 Brilliant Berti used to be a horse I chased, sometimes with success, others not so much. I thought he was on the clear downswing earlier this year, until lately, when he ran two VERY good races, the last one could have been a winner vs. talented Euro Haatem and Lagynos with more racing luck in deep stretch. I'm not completely sold on the favorites, especially the Euro, and he should sit a good trip. I'd like to see him a little more forward with an anticipated tepid pace, and jock Hernandez knows him well. Trainer DeVaux can fire big at Keeneland…..he's here for a reason. Hope he hits the board with a solid effort, so use underneath in exactas and trifectas….maybe an "insanity" win bet just in case.					

Favorite Vertical/Horizontal Plays Not Included in Price/Spot Play Bets

Race #	Bet Type	Selections	Cost
2	$10 Daily Double	1,5 / 10,11	$40
5	$15 Daily Double	3,4,10 / 10	$45

Good luck with all your wagers…. CRUSH YOUR BETS!!!

