KEENELAND Power **Picks Tip Sheet**

Date	Friday, Oct. 16, 2026
Picks By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

Only 7 days left in the glorious Keeneland Fall Meet and then it's on to the Breeders' Cup … right here at Keeneland. A competitive 10-race card awaits today and the forecast calls for (mostly) dry weather with the temperature dropping into the high 50s over the course of the card. There are only three turf races scheduled – just enough for the $3 Turf Pick 3, one of the best bets in racing – and they should be OK. One mitigating factor is that none of them is a stakes, and with the Breeders' Cup two weeks away, they may be a bit overprotective of the sod. I'm going to proceed as if they will be ON the turf.

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 p.m. 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	10	2,5,7	1,3	5,10	$0.50 P5	$72	4
2	3,5	4,7	1,2	3,4,5,7	-	-	4
3	5,7	4,9	1,3	4,5,7	-	-	3
4	5,9	6,7	3,10	5,7,9	-	-	4
5	6,8	4	3,10	6,8	-	-	4.5

6	8	2	1,7	2,8	$.50 P5	$90	4
7	2,12	5,8	1,10	12			4.5
8	4,7	3	8,10,14(AE)	3,4,7	-	-	3.5
9	4,8	2,11	1	1,2,4,8,11	-	-	3
10	7,8	4,5	2,3	2,3,4,5,7,8	-	-	3.5

Top 3 Selections

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	10	7	5
2	5	3	4
3	5	7	3
4	5	7	9
5	8	6	4
6	8	2	1
7	12	5	2
8	3	4	7
9	8	4	11
10	7	8	5

Late P5 Strategy/Analysis (R7 - 11)

My caveman ticket will look like a pyramid - thin at the top and very wide at the bottom. If I had to, I could single in both of the first two legs, but I'll go two deep in the opener in which I am against the ML favorite #7. I think the #12 in the second leg should be very tough, even in a 12-horse maiden special weight. I'm looking to get as much coverage as I can in the ninth and 10th races. It would be nice to get alive to a half-dozen, wouldn't it?

$3 All-Turf Pick 3 ABC Grid

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	6,8	4	3,10	6,8	$3 P3	$72
8	4,7	3	8,10,14(AE)	3,4,7	-	-
10	7,8	4,5	2,3	4,5,7,8	-	-

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

I will sink or swim with the 6 and 8 in the first leg as I think it is very likely one of them takes the fifth. In an ideal scenario, one of them would be scratched then I could spread even more in the subsequent legs. Same as the late Pick 5, I'll want to be as deep as much as possible in the finale. I think there should be a decent payout in this bet today and I hope my ADW reflects it!

Paul's Play of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
5	8	Grand Premiere	7-2	4	$25 WP

Notes:

Start with the trainer – Brendan Walsh, a superb horseman and simply one of the best human beings in the game, who is atop the Keeneland standings with 7 wins and a 23-percent strike rate. Now factor in the jockey. No disrespect to Jamie Spencer, who wins his fair share in Europe, but on these shores Tyler G. is an upgrade. This horse did all the dirty work from the 12 post at Kentucky Downs, setting the pace and remaining in contention until the final sixteenth. Even though this race is a half-furlong longer, I think the two-turn configuration will benefit him in a race that doesn't look like it is loaded with speed, unless the firsters are sent. First-time gelding may get away with easier fractions today and doesn't necessarily have to be on the lead, though he figures to be close. A Grand slam.

Most Likely Winner of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
7	12	Fumed	5-2	4.5	$10 EX 12 / 2,5,8

Notes:

I love a cutback in a 7-furlong race and the 12 post is not an issue with a long run to the turn. Daughter of Volatile led until mid-stretch at Churchill Downs before getting caught by a filly who went on to run third in the Grade 1 Darley Alcibiades. Coming right back with Tyler G., who has ridden for Delacour only six times in the last five years, winning one. $7,000 yearling purchase goes gate to wire in an $85,000 maiden race at Keeneland. What's so hard about this game?

Longshot Play of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	4	Bourbon's Fault	10-1	3	$15 WP

Notes:

Timeform says this race favors frontrunners and I concur, which is why I think this gelding presents good value at double-digit odds. Chris Hartman is having a very good meet - 6-2-0-2 - and Rafael Bejarano is best on the front end.

Other 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)
3	5	Booray	8-1	3	$15 WP
Notes:					
Seems like I'm counting on Tyler having a big day, but why not? He is fourth in wins with 10, three behind leader Irad Ortiz Jr. Bucking some stats here, with George Weaver 4-69 at Keeneland the last five years, but this meet he has three thirds in eight starts. This horse will have to take a big step up on the Beyer scale, but that is entirely possible in his third career start. And who really scares you in this race? The 5-2 favorite who was claimed for $20K last time? The 7-2 second choice coming off a win at Mountaineer? This is far from a lock, but we look for value in the Spot plays and I think we might find it.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	7	Transformative	10-1	3.5	$20 WP
Notes:					
There is an aspect of *In Graham (and Johnny V) We Trust* with this pick, but in a salty maiden special weight without a standout on paper, I'm going to take a shot with this first-time starter. The pedigree is there – by War Front, whose progeny win at 16% in turf route, out of a mare who won her debut on dirt but is a half to four turf winners, including a Grade 2 winner. Motion wins at 16% with first-time starters in maiden turf routes, and it's never a bad thing when he gives a leg up to the ageless Hall of Famer. I would expect Transformative to be somewhat forward and within striking distance then leave it up to Johnny to make his 6,900th trip to the winner's circle (unless he gets the milestone win in one of his two earlier mounts).					

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

Race #	Bet Type	Selections	Cost
6	$20 DD	2,8 / 12	$40
9	$1 Tri	4,8 / 11 / all 4,8 / all / 11	$36

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

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