KEENELAND Power **Picks Tip Sheet**

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| **Race Day Date** | Saturday, October 10, 2026 |
| **Picks By** | Ben Kudla |

## Race-Day Overview

**Welcome to Day #7 of the Keeneland Fall Meet….it's G1 Queen Elizabeth II Day!**

**Today's feature is the G1 QEII, which has produced a highly competitive field of 11 fillies, however this race does include the play of the day with #4 Faithful Departed.**

**I'll be focusing my betting attention in the later part of the card, with the late pick 5 in races 6 through 10 and a few horses I'll be tipping out that will be bet heavily vertically and using horizontally. Good luck today…as always, CHECK FOR SCRATCHES AND CHANGES ESPECIALLY IF IT RAINS!!**

## 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 | 4,7 | 1,6 | - | 4,7 | $0.50 P5 | $108 | 4 |
| 2 | 6,8,10 | 1,11 | - | 4,6,7,8 | - | - | 3 |
| 3 | 4,6 | 1,3,8 | 2,6 | 1,4,6 | - | - | 3 |
| 4 | 5,7 | 2,8 | 1 | 2,5,7 | - | - | 4 |
| 5 | 5,9,(13) | 1,2,4 | 6,7,11,12 | 5,9,(13) | - | - | 2 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1,5,7 | - | - | 1,5,7 | $0.50 P5 | $72 | 4 |
| 7 | 3,7,9 | 2,6,<br>12 | 5,6 | 2,3,6,7,9,12 | - | - | 2 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | - | 1,4 | - | - | 5 |
| 9 | 4 | 2,3,8,9 | 10 | 4 | - | - | 5 |
| 10 | 11, (13) | 10,12 | 1,6 | 10,11,12,(13) | - | - | 2 |

## Top 3 Selections

| Race | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 - Lost Chord | 7 - Lexico | 1 - Unlimited Gold |
| 2 | 6 - Coherent | 8 - Maple Ridge | 10 - Dolly P |
| 3 | 6 - Merlin Monroan | 4 - Battlefield Hero | 3 - Showa |
| 4 | 7 - Alder | 5 - Gilded Craken | 2 - Morunning |
| 5 | (13) - Follow Your Heart | 5 - Camphor | 9 - Global Unrest |
| 6 | 7 - Where Luck Lives | 5 - Sneaky Good | 1 - Braverthanubelieve |
| 7 | 7 - Rumana | 6 - Tannhauser | 9 - Sugar Hallow |
| 8 | 1 - Thailand | 4 - Bold Strength | 6 - Corona de Oro |
| 9 | 4 - Faithful Departed | 3 - Tam Tam | 2 - Luster |
| 10 | (13) - Just a Girl | 11 - Kaykay | 10 - Big Life |

## Late P5 Strategy/Analysis (R6 - 10)

***The late pick 5 is a challenge with two of the legs being wide-open maiden races. The strategy is to spread in those maiden races (7 & 10) while going skinny in the other legs to save the bankroll. Today's late P5 is very playable for a $72 ticket. In race 6, going with 1, 5 and 7. In race 7, spreading with 2,3,6,7,9, and 12. In race 8, I will go skinny with just 1,4. Race 9 is a single to me on Faithful Departed, if you have the bankroll then adding Tam Tam would be a good idea, however that makes the ticket $144. In race 10, going a little deeper with 10, 11, 12 and 13.***

## $3 All-Turf Pick 3 ABC Grid

| Race | A | B | C | Caveman Picks | Caveman Bet | Caveman Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 5, (13) | 1,2,4,9 | 6,7,11,12 | 5,9,(13) | $3 P3 | $54 |
| 7 | 6,7,9 | 2,3,12 | - | 2,3,6,7,9,12 | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 3,4 | 2,9 | 6,8,10 | 4 | - | - |

## $3 All-Turf P3 Strategy/Analysis - (R5, R7, R9)

***This is an extremely tough all turf pick 3 to say the least. The first two legs are 2-year-old maiden races for fillies where you might have to spread a little too much for the bankroll. You can save money by going skinny in the last leg.***

## Ben's Play of the Day

| Race # | Horse # | Horse Name | Odds | Stars | Bet(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 4 | Faithful Departed | 7-2 | 5 | $40 Win #4<br>$2 EX 4 w 2,3,8,9,10 |

**Notes:**

**THIS IS MY PLAY OF THE DAY AT KEENELAND!! #4 Faithful Departed** is a filly that has been targeting this race since the summer following two monster efforts in the G1 Belmont Oaks and G2 Saratoga Derby, finishing runner-up in both of those races after huge rallies. Faithful Departed is returning to her preferred 1 ⅛-mile distance here, a distance that she dominated the G3 Regret while splitting horses over Tam Tam, who went on to dominate the Tepin Stakes and G1 Del Mar Oaks. Jose Ortiz retaining the mount is huge as Grant Forster and Ortiz win at 41% together in all races over the last five years. Faithful Departed has been able to close into a slow or hot pace and should find the winner's circle at a decent price while closing into the tempo presumably set by Kensington Lane (IRE). This will be a big win bet and the focal point of the late pick 5 to save on bankroll.

## Most Likely Winner of the Day

| Race # | Horse # | Horse Name | Odds | Stars | Bet(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | Thailand | 4-1 | 5 | $20 Exacta 1-4 |

**Notes:**

**#1 Thailand** will be making his first start since winning an allowance optional claiming $125K on April 4 at Keeneland by 3 ½ lengths for trainer Wesley Ward with Flavien Prat retaining the mount. That race was Thailand's first career start on dirt and he is back in at a similar level on dirt once again. Prat and Ward have just 9 starts together this year, winning 4 of them. While Thailand is coming off a +180 day layoff - Ward has excelled with this move winning at 26% from 47 starts over the last year.

## Longshot Play of the Day

| Race # | Horse # | Horse Name | Odds | Stars | Bet(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | Nyktos | 12-1 | 2 | $10 WP #6 |

**Notes:**

While the morning line favorite is set at 4-5, this is a vulnerable horse in a type of race that should have no horse set under odds on. **#6 Nyktos** is an interesting Midnight Lute filly owned and trained by Jack Sisterson. Purchased for $250K as a 2-year-old, Nyktos started her career on turf with a distant 7th but came back to win at a mile distance at Belterra when switching to the dirt drawing clear to win by 3 ½ lengths despite a slow start at the back of the pack. Nyktos then went to Kentucky Downs and again

just didn't fire on turf. Now back on her seemingly preferred surface dropping from maiden special weights and allowance company to claiming, she could be a surprise at a big price to start the day in the first race.

## 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) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 7 | Where Luck Lives | 3-1 | 5 | $20 WP #7 |

**Notes:**

**#7 Where Luck Lives** was eased up last time out in the G1 Test at Saratoga, however if you cross a line through that race this filly looks like an easy winner in this allowance optional in the 6th race. Where Luck Lives broke her maiden at Keeneland in April and then nearly two months later dominated an AOC$125K at CD by 5 ¼ lengths going this same 6F on the dirt. She earned a 100 ESF for that effort, which is the highest speed figure of any filly in this race. She is 1-for-1 at KEE and 1-for-1 at this distance. Notably Luis Saez stays aboard, he and Brian Lynch win at 31% with a +19% ROI in all races together on the Kentucky circuit (20-for-65). She has been working well since being eased in the Test and should come back in good order at this level.

| Race # | Horse # | Horse Name | Odds | Stars | Bet(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 7 | Alder | 8-1 | 3 | $10 WP #7 |

**Notes:**

**#7 Alder** is an interesting Hard Spun gelding owned and trained by David Jacobson, who does very well in all claiming races at Keeneland. Over the past three years, Jacobson wins at 39% and finishes 72% in claiming races at Keeneland with 7 wins from 18 starts. Alder has been running at the allowance optional claiming level throughout his 5-year-old campaign with four of five of those starts on the turf. Alder will be switching back to the dirt here, which is a notable positive considering his one win this year came on the dirt. This seems like a great spot for Alder and gets Tyler Gaffalione in the irons. The last time Gaffalione was aboard Alder they won a CLM$50K over the Churchill dirt. While it may be tough at this distance, he should run well with a solid 8-1 morning line.

| Race # | Horse # | Horse Name | Odds | Stars | Bet(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 7 | Rumana | 9-2 | 4 | $20 WP #7 |

**Notes:**

**#7 Rumana -** While 2-year-old maiden races at Keeneland are always tough, Rumana brings a solid price with a tremendous pedigree. The daughter of Tapit out of Mexican Gold is a half-sister to Touch of Fire who won by 7 lengths on career debut in a turf route and went on to win an allowance and the Audubon Stakes in turf routes on the Kentucky circuit. Rumana worked a bullet 4F in 47.60 for trainer Brad Cox on the all-weather in her most recent breeze and will have red-hot Irad Ortiz, Jr. aboard. Cox and Ortiz, Jr. win at 33% in all races at Keeneland over the last 3 years together (20-for-60). Cox also wins at a solid 25% with 2-year-olds at Keeneland over the last 3 years.

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

| Race # | Bet Type | Selections | Cost |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | $1 Pick 3 | 2,5,7 / 5,9,13 / 1,5,7 | $27 |
| 7 | $5 Daily Double | 2,3,6,7,9,12 / 1 | $30 |
| 8 | $10 Daily Double | 1,4 / 3,4 | $40 |

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

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