





Race Day Date	Monday, April 7
Picks By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

Opening Day at Keeneland. Make that Day 2 at Keeneland. On a Monday. Got it? To state the obvious, the good people at Keeneland absolutely made the right decision to move the first two cards - scheduled for last Friday and Saturday - to Monday and Tuesday. I won't say they have gotten a lot of rain in Lexington, but a guy name Noah (not Meagher) showed up at Tony's looking for a steak after parking his boat in Rupp Arena across the street. (He didn't try to bring in all the pairs of animals.) The postponements gave us all a few extra days to handicap, and with the all the uncertainty caused by the weather, we needed it - at least I know I did. As I write these Monday Power Picks, they are OFF the turf on Sunday, as expected. THESE PICKS PRESUME THAT NON-STAKES RACES ON MONDAY WILL BE OFF THE TURF AND THE TRANSYLVANIA STAKES - RACE 8 - WILL STAY ON (maybe). If that race comes off, the last three AEs on the outside should all be tough. The feature is the Grade 1 Ashland offering Kentucky Oaks qualifying points to the top five finishers (100-50-25-15-10). There are three maiden races, one which we are assuming is moving from turf to dirt. It is a solid card overall, and for a Monday in April it's off the charts! Note I am using several AEs in my selections so please take a close look at the scratches when they come out late Monday morning.

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.

Go to the next page for our analysis of the races......good luck!







ABC Grid - Post Time 1pm 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	Α	В	С	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost	Stars/Rating
1	8, 13(AE)	3	5,9	8	\$.50 P5	\$96	5
2*	8	2,9	3	2,3,8,9			3
3	2,3	6,8	1	2,3,6,8			4
4*	9,13(AE)	7,8	1,3	7,8,9,13			4
5	9,11	1,3		1,9,11			4
6*	4,13(AE)	2	8,12	2,4,13	\$1 P5	\$72	3
7	2	4,5	1	2,4,5			5
8	2,6	4,13(AE)	7,11	2,6			4
9	4,6	2,3		4,6			4
10	8,13(AE)	6,11	1,6	8,13			3

^{*}Picks are for OFF the turf

Late P5 Strategy/Analysis (R6 - 10)

Obviously, whether the Transylvania stays on the turf will have a significant impact on how the sequence is played. I'm really hoping it stays ON because the horse I like the most – and one of my best bets of the day, #2, Reagan's Wit, has a dominating win on "good" turf, which makes him even more appealing. The potential value in the P5 is if you are able to beat #4 Muhimma in the Ashland. She is likely to go off under 2-1 and could be a popular single on skinny tickets. I think she is the most likely winner, but will also use Kenny McPeek's #6 Take Charge Milady as an "A" on my grid. George Weaver's #2 Colloquial will also be a heavy favorite in the Lafayette Stakes (Race 7), so if those three chalks all win, you are going to need to hit it with a base bet larger than \$.50. I will punch my all "A" tickets at least a few times.

\$3 Turf Pick 3 ABC Grid

Race	А	В	С	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
OFF						

\$3 Turf P3 Strategy/Analysis

As previously mentioned, the chances of running three races on turf Monday are very slim, so we will not offer Turf P3 play today.

Top 3 Selections







Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	8 – Pinky Finger	13(AE) – Double Talker	3 - Monster
2*	8 - Peignoir	2 – Amber Cascade	3 – Pin Up Betty
3	3 – Shoot It True	6 – Foie Gras	8 – Lynn's Milky Way
4*	13(AE) - Hideaway	13(AE) - Hideaway 9 - Grayleigh	
5	11 – Unwavering Trust 1 – Debt Free		9 - Kapoor
6*	4 - Wico	13(AE) – Archie the Giza	2 – Georgie W
7	2 - Colloquial	4 - Touchy	5 – Gate to Wire
8**	ON 2 – Reagan's Wit OFF 14(AE) - Septarian	7 – Test Score 16(AE) - Valentinian	6 - Versus 15(AE) – Pretty Capable
9	4 - Muhimma	6 – Take Charge Milady	2 – La Cara
10	13(AE) - Zaghruta	8- Bindi	7 – Carolina Smokeshow

^{*}Picks are for OFF the turf

Howard's Play of the Day - Based on last year's survey, Howard will provide this pick on occasion when someone else authors the Tip Sheet

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	6	Take Charge Milady	8-1	5	\$15 WP #6

Notes: She's baaaack! If this horse looks familiar, it should. This was a Spot Play for Oaklawn until McPeek decided to run here instead. There's enough early speed to set it up, and she's already beaten the likes of Quietside this year. If she fires her best, she can win at a price and stamp her ticket to the Oaks. Sorry, Paul, don't mean to steal your longshot play below!

Most Likely Winner of the Day

Race #	Horse #	orse # Horse Name	
1	8	Pinky Finger	7-5

Longshot Play of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds
9	6	Take Charge Milady	8-1

^{**} ON TURF PICKS FOR RACE 8 IN GREEN OFF TURF picks for Race 8 in RED







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)
4 (OFF)	13(AE)	Hideaway	7-2	4	\$20 Win/Place

Notes: This selection is based on the race coming OFF the turf. If that happens, this Todd Pletcher trainee will almost certainly draw in and I'm guessing TAP will run him. Though he debuted on turf, running second in a 9-furlong MSW at Gulfstream, being by Curlin out of a Tapit mare who won on dirt indicates that won't be an issue and if it is still wet (likely), even better (for extra credit, watch the 2007 Breeders' Cup Classic and see how my beloved Curly relished the slop). In a field that may be half the size of the original group, Irad should be able to get a good trip from a PP that will be well inside of #13.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
8 (ON)	2	Reagan's Wit	4-1	4	\$20 DD 2-4 \$10 DD 2-6

Notes: This selection is based on the race staying ON the turf and if so is MY PLAY OF THE DAY. If the field holds together at all, I expect a speed duel among several horses and a fast pace, even if not on firm ground. I look for this son of Authentic – sire of Saturday's Wood Memorial winner Rodrigues – to get a second-flight trip behind the speed and be in position to make a winning move in the stretch. You get the white-hot combination of Cheric DeVaux and Jose Ortiz, who will have to coax his mount into much cleaner lead switching than he showed at Tampa in a neck loss last out.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	8	Bindi	5-1	3	\$6 exacta 8 / 1,6,7,11,13 \$3 exacta 1,6,7,11,13 / 8

Notes: Have always been a fan of jockey Reylu Gutierrez, especially at Keeneland (see 2023 Grade 1 Gamble for details) and good to see him ship from his new West Coast base. The key in this race will be avoiding a speed duel with #11 Golden Irish, another horse who is going 1 furlong longer than his last race. There are some good trainer angles here with Bill Morey, who wins at 25% off a maiden win, 19% when it is on dirt. Morey is 21% going synthetic to dirt. Sire Ransom the Moon won on all three surfaces and was a Grade 1 winner on dirt. There is also some decent dirt pedigree on the dam side. The Morey-Reylu combo is 2-8 the last five years.

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

Race	Bet Type	Selections	Cost
1	\$40 Win	8	\$40
7	\$20 DD \$10 DD	2/2 2/6	\$30
9	\$15 DD	4 / 8,13(AE)	\$30







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

