KEENELAND Power Picks Tip Sheet

Date	Friday, Oct. 9, 2026
Picks By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

Time to get out your pedigree books and first-time starter stats out with five maiden races on today's card – four of them for 2-year-olds. Remember, this is the Keeneland Fall Meet so you can't just pick the Wesley Ward(s) and move on. The feature is the Grade 2 Sycamore, a turf marathon that drew a full field of 12 plus an AE. The weather was perfect Thursday and is supposed to be equally idyllic today - 83 and not a cloud in the sky. Have I mentioned what a special place this is? If you are on track, there is a $400 handicapping/betting contest, the Fall Challenge, which serves as a precursor to Saturday's $3,500 NHC-BCBC Fall Handicapping Challenge. Crush your bets!

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	1,5	7	2	1,5,7	$0.50 P5	$96	4
2	5,12	2,3	8	5,12	-	-	4
3	6,8	1,2	4	6,8	-	-	4.5
4	2,8	7	4,5	2,4,7,8	-	-	3
5	2,4	7,11	12	2,4,7,11	-	-	3.5

6	6,7	4	1	6,7	$.50 P5	$64	4
7	1,5	3,8	4,11	1,3,5,8			3
8	2,5		4,6	2,5	-	-	4
9	2,8	4,13 (AE)	10	2,8	-	-	4
10	7,8	1,11	2,12	1,7,8,11	-	-	3.5

Top 3 Selections

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

Late P5 Strategy/Analysis (R7 - 11)

Just a Touch looks good on paper and will be a sentimental choice with his mother Touching Beauty, having died this week. Brad Cox got off the schneid Wednesday with a good-looking Godolphin by Flightline, so he may be round to round back into Cox form. I understand those who will lean on Just a Touch, who is 3-for-4 since Cox moved her to the turf. I also like another horse in that race - #8 Tiz Dashing for the ageless Barclay Tagg I think the seventh and 10th are spread races.

$3 All-Turf Pick 3 ABC Grid

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
5	2,4	7,11	12	2,4,7,11	$3 P3	$72
7	1,5	3,8	4,11	1,5,8	-	-

9	2,8	4,13(AE)	10	2,8	-	-

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

Good luck with this sequence. I'd like to get as much coverage as possible in the first two legs and try to get by with the logicals in the finale. Even going four deep in the opener, I'm not totally comfortable in a 12-horse field. The seventh looks fairly wide open, and we'll see if the Sycamore provides an opportunity to get relatively skinny. I think this is a good sequence to play because I anticipate a decent payoff.

Paul's Play of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
3	6	Dazzling	3-1	4	$25 WP
Notes:					
I am fully expecting that Dazzling will be ridden more aggressively under Jose Ortiz today than he was last time and I think that will play well in this race. Let's get the negative stat out of the way: Steve Asmussen is 2-44 in turf routes at Keeneland the last 5 years. I'm happy to excuse the even effort at Kentucky Downs for reasons already stated and the fact that it was on only 9 days rest. This filly won at a mile at KD and while her dam, Victory Kingdom, was a turf sprinter, a sibling also won at a mile on turf so I think 1 1/16 should be within her range.					

Most Likely Winner of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6	6	Real Macho	2-1	3	$30 WIN
Notes:					
This is a tepid Most Likely pick, but Diodoro wins at 20% off the claim and moves this horse up a level, which shows confidence. Gelding figures to get a tracking trip under Christina Torres and get first run on the leaders on the turn of a race that finishes at the first finish line. I actually like this horse better at 2 turns that the 1-turn mile he most recently ran in at Churchill.					

Longshot Play of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
2	3	Honor and Courage	10-1	3	$10 Win, $20 Place
Notes:					
Tom Vance trainee lost by a head last time and has a speed figure that puts him in the mix with these.					

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)
7	5	Tiger Man	9-2	3.5	$20 WP
Notes:					
Coming right back with Jose Ortiz in this highly competitive maiden special weight. Three Chimneys paid a handsome $1.6 million for this son of Gun Runner, who took money in his debut at Kentucky Downs and was on the pace from the 12 post before coming up short in the up-hill stretch. Ward has an other-worldly winning percentage of 30 with second-time starters at Keeneland the last 5 years. This horse has every right to improve off the debut and could be a decent price.					

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
9	8	Tiz Dashing	9-2	4	$20 WP
Notes:					
Barclay Tagg has started only one horse at Keeneland the last 5 years and it was Tiz Dashing in the Grade 1 Maker's Mark at the Spring Meet this year. That was a swing for the fences, but today's Grade 2 Sycamore, while a very good race, is a much more realistic spot. As mentioned in the beginning of this sheet, Just a Touch is a deserving favorite, but I think Tiz Dashing – owned by the Funny Cide and Tiz the Law connections (Sacakatoga Stable) – has a good chance to make it two in a row. He easily won an allowance at Saratoga and it is encouraging to see Tagg not only move him back up in class, but also ship to Kentucky for the race. Regular rider Javier Castellano and going 12 furlongs might be more forward than usual.					

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

Race #	Bet Type	Selections	Cost
1	$10 DD	1,5 / 5,12	$40
7	$10 DD	1,5 / 2,5	$40

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

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