

FULL RACE PREVIEWS & WAGERING STRATEGIES FOR ALL STAKES RACES ON THE CARD

# INSIDE TRACK

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INCLUDES RACE-BY-RACE ANALYSIS  
AND BETTING SUGGESTIONS FOR  
THE ENTIRE KEENELAND  
SATURDAY CARD



# Essential Quality

**Derby Favorite Ready for Final Tune Up**

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# WELCOME



This **Inside Track to the Blue Grass** wagering guide gives you an inside look at the six stakes running at Keeneland on April 3, 2021, including the \$800,000 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G2). The 1 1/8-mile race is worth 100-40-20-10 points to the top 4 finishers on the Road to the Kentucky Derby (G1).

Will 2-year-old champion Essential Quality stay perfect in his final prep for the Kentucky Derby?

The Racing Dudes have been at it for over 9 years, offering daily handicapping picks and analysis for every track across the country. For this year's **Inside Track to the Blue Grass**, our lead handicappers have been scouring through the card at Keeneland in search of winning tickets on this loaded day of racing.

The six stakes - all graded - total \$2.1 million in purses and include both Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks (G1) prep races in the Blue Grass and the \$400,000 Central Bank Ashland (G1), as well as the \$300,000 Madison (G1), the \$200,000 Appalachian (G2), the \$200,000 Shakertown (G2), and the \$200,000 Commonwealth (G3).

**But that's not all! Along with the six major stakes races, this Inside Track to the Blue Grass wagering guide also includes race-by-race analysis, betting suggestions, and multi-race plays for Keeneland's entire Saturday card.**

For each of the six stakes at Keeneland, you will find the following:

**FULL PREVIEW FOR THE RACE**, including:

- ◆ Race Overview
- ◆ Race Shape and Pace Analysis
- ◆ Top Selections
- ◆ Major Threats
- ◆ Longshots to Use

**You will also find specific wagering under the "Picks and Plays" section, which includes:**

- ◆ Win Bet
- ◆ Place or Show Bet
- ◆ Longshot to Play Across the Board
- ◆ Exacta
- ◆ Trifecta
- ◆ Superfecta
- ◆ Horses to use in Multi-Race Wagers
- ◆ What to Play on a Straight Wager
- ◆ What to Play on an Exotic Wager

Each Win, Place, Show, or Across the Board wager comes with a confidence rating so that you can see how strongly we feel about each pick.

Finally, always remember to wager responsibly and never wager more than you can afford.

## Good luck today!



# Race 6:

## Appalachian Stakes (G2)

**1 MILE (TURF)**  
FILLIES 3-YEAR-OLDS  
**\$200,000**

### OVERVIEW:

The Appalachian kicks off the stakes action on this great day of racing. This one drew a small field, but several will have a chance to win with the right trip. The sophomore turf filly division is always fun to follow this time of year.

### RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

**Pure Speed:** *Jouster*

**Pressing Speed:** *Spanish Loveaffair, Gift List*

**Stalkers:** *Plum Ali*

**Closers:** *Flown, Saranya*

It looks as though Jouster could get loose on the lead, which would be bad news for the rest. Keeneland's turf course historically favors speed pretty heavily, which is more good news for the front-running Jouster.

### TOP CHOICE: #1 JOUSTER

This filly has the advantage of being in good form while also having a shot at being lone speed. If that happens, then she'll be tough to catch as she shortens up to a mile. She lost by a nose last time out in the Florida Oaks (G3).

**MAJOR THREATS:** #2 Spanish Loveaffair,  
#4 Plum Ali

Spanish Loveaffair ran a huge race last time out, finishing first in the Herecomesthebride Stakes (G3) at Gulfstream Park before being disqualified. She might run even better with this being her second start off the layoff. Plum Ali, one of the most accomplished in this division last year, makes her first start since a fifth-place effort in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1) over this course.

### LONGSHOTS TO USE: #5 Gift List

This interesting horse makes her American debut after running no worse than second in 5 starts overseas. She didn't face top-level competition in those starts, though, which is a bit of worry.

### OTHERS: #3 Flown, #6 Saranya

Flown broke her maiden over this track last time out; however, that was in October of last year. Saranya needs to improve from a speed figure standpoint to have a shot here.

## PICKS AND PLAYS:

**BET TO WIN:** #1 Jouster - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**BET TO PLACE:** #4 Plum Ali - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY:** #2 Spanish Loveaffair -  
Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**EXACTA:** 1,2,4 BOX

**TRIFECTA:** 1,4/1,2,4,5/1,2,4,5

**SUPERFECTA:** 1,4/1,2,4,5/1,2,4,5/1,2,4,5

**MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES:** 1,2,4

**STRAIGHT WAGER:** \$10 to Win on #1 Jouster

**EXOTIC WAGER:** \$2 Exacta BOX 1,2,4



# Race 7:

## COMMONWEALTH STAKES (G3)

**7 FURLONGS (DIRT)**

**4-YEAR-OLDS & UPWARD**

**\$200,000**

### OVERVIEW:

The sprinters take center stage in this event, which drew a field of 7 going the speciality distance of 7 furlongs. This group looks evenly matched on paper, which could lead to some fireworks despite the short field.

### RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A SLOW PACE

**Pure Speed:** *Special Reserve*

**Pressing Speed:** *Hidden Scroll*

**Stalkers:** *Flagstaff, Mucho, Hog Creek Hustle*

**Closers:** *Bango, Attachement Rate*

Usually, these sprint events have hot paces; however, this one doesn't look that quick on paper. Special Reserve can run early, and we know Hidden Scroll won't be far behind, but most of these do their best running late.

### TOP CHOICE: #2 HIDDEN SCROLL

Our old friend Hidden Scroll found the perfect spot to pick up his first graded stakes win. The field is full of horses who have talent but struggle to finish the deal, which leaves the door wide open. He also possesses a lot of speed in a race without much else to join him up front. Everything seems set up perfectly for him to get it done.

**MAJOR THREATS:** #1 Flagstaff,  
#7 Hog Creek Hustle

Flagstaff is one of the more consistent horses in racing, but he just can't quite finish the job and pick up a big win. This distance should be to his liking. Hog Creek Hustle is pretty much the same way. He has trouble winning but is always around with a chance, and he also likes this 7-furlong distance.

**LONGSHOTS TO USE:** #4 Special Reserve,  
#5 Attachment Rate

Special Reserve is the only other speed horse in this race. With the right trip, he can make some noise at a nice price. Attachment Rate is inconsistent but enters this spot off of a victory last time out.

**OTHERS:** #3 Bango, #6 Mucho

Bango and Mucho must improve from a speed figure standpoint to compete with this group. It's not out of the question, though, in a field where everyone has trouble winning.

### PICKS and PLAYS:

**BET TO WIN:** #2 Hidden Scroll - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**BET TO PLACE:** #1 Flagstaff - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY:** #7 Hog Creek Hustle -  
Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**EXACTA:** 1,2,7 BOX

**TRIFECTA:** 1,2/1,2,4,7/1,2,4,7

**SUPERFECTA:** 1,2,4,7 BOX

**MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES:** 1,2,7

**STRAIGHT WAGER:** \$10 to Win on #2 Hidden Scroll

**EXOTIC WAGER:** \$2 Exacta BOX 1,2,7





# Race 8:

## SHAKERTOWN STAKES (G2)

**5 1/2 FURLONGS (TURF)**

**3-YEAR-OLDS & UPWARD**

**\$200,000**

### OVERVIEW:

While most of the day's stakes entries came up a little short, this one attracted a large field of 13 runners. Turf sprints always draw well here and usually produce some nice prices. This is a great race to kick off the Late Pick 4.

### RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A LIGHTNING FAST PACE

**Pure Speed:** *Chess Master, Hollis, Readyforprimetime, Just Might, Johnny Unleashed, The Critical Way*

**Pressing Speed:** *Turned Aside, High Crime, Bound for Nowhere*

**Stalkers:** *Imprimis, American Butterfly*

**Closers:** *Smart Remark, Kanthaka*

They are going to absolutely fly in this race, as 9 of the 13 entries can really gun it out of the gate. The closers should have an advantage here.

### TOP CHOICE: #2 IMPRIMIS

This guy just keeps showing up with solid efforts in races like this. He had a solid 2020 campaign, winning 2 stakes before a poor Breeders' Cup showing. This season, he's 1 for 2 so far but didn't get much pace to run into last time out. He'll have plenty to run into in this spot, making him a logical win candidate.

**MAJOR THREATS:** #4 Hollis, #9 Just Might, #11 High Crime, #13 Bound for Nowhere

Hollis gets back to the turf, which is his best surface. Just Might also moves back to the turf after a rained-off gate-to-wire stakes win at Fair Grounds. High Crime just missed in the Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint last time out, finishing second to Leinster. Bound for Nowhere always runs well at Keeneland, plus he won this in 2018 and missed by a neck in the last two runnings.

**LONGSHOTS TO USE:** #5 Turned Aside, #7 Kanthaka, #12 The Critical Way

Turned Aside is a son of American Pharoah making his 2nd start off the layoff. Kanthaka's late running style should suit this race well if he avoids traffic. The Critical Way won a stakes at Tampa Bay Downs last time out in gate to wire fashion and is a very consistent runner.

**OTHERS:** #1 Smart Remark, #3 Chess Master, #6 Readyforprimetime, #8 American Butterfly, #10 Johnny Unleashed

Many in this group have proven to not be fast enough to compete with the top horses. In a race this flush with talent, it's hard to think that anyone from this group can make an impact.

### PICKS and PLAYS:

**BET TO WIN:** #2 Imprimis - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**BET TO PLACE:** #13 Bound for Nowhere - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY:** #9 Just Might - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

**EXACTA:** 2,9,13 BOX

**TRIFECTA:** 2,4,9,13 BOX

**SUPERFECTA:** 2,4,9,13 BOX

**MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES:** 2,4,9,13

**STRAIGHT WAGER:** \$10 to Win on #2 Imprimis

**EXOTIC WAGER:** \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 2,4,9,13



# Race 9:

## CENTRAL BANK ASHLAND STAKES (G1)

1 1/16 MILES (DIRT)

FILLIES 3-YEAR-OLDS

\$400,000

### OVERVIEW:

This year's Kentucky Oaks seems pretty wide open, making this race ultra-important. The Ashland drew a small field of just 6, but we've got some heavy hitters lined up. The Oaks winner very well could be in this field.

### RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

**Pure Speed:** *Simply Ravishing, Malathaat*

**Pressing Speed:** *Curlin's Catch, Pass the Champagne*

**Stalkers:** *Will's Secret*

**Closers:** *Moon Swag*

We shouldn't see anything too quick early. Simply Ravishing and Malathaat should set moderate fractions up front, which could make them tough to catch when the real running begins. Small fields tend to produce slower paces, especially in routes.

### TOP CHOICE: #6 WILL'S SECRET

Will's Secret enters this race on fire, winning 3 in a row including 2 stakes at Oaklawn Park. She seems to be getting better with each start. We know that she has good form heading into this race, while her biggest challengers will be making their 3-year-old debuts in this spot.

### MAJOR THREATS: #3 Simply Ravishing, #5 Malathaat

It'll be interesting to see if Simply Ravishing returns solid as a 3-year-old. At one time, she was the best-looking 2-year-old in the crop, but she ended her season with back-to-back off-the-board efforts. Malathaat went undefeated as a 2-year-old, wrapping up her season winning the Demoiselle Stakes (G2) at Aqueduct. We'll see if she can live up to the hype today.

### LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 Curlin's Catch, #2 Pass the Champagne

Curlin's Catch should bounce back and run a better race in this spot. The two-turn setup will help. Pass the Champagne enters this off of a nice maiden-breaker last time out. She is bred for this distance.

### OTHERS: #4 Moon Swag

Moon Swag has had some chances against this kind of competition but couldn't quite compete, so it's hard to think this tough spot will end much differently.

## PICKS AND PLAYS:

**BET TO WIN:** #6 Will's Secret - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**BET TO PLACE:** #5 Malathaat - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY:** #3 Simply Ravishing - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**EXACTA:** 3,5,6 BOX

**TRIFECTA:** 5,6/2,3,5,6/2,3,5,6

**SUPERFECTA:** 2,3,5,6 BOX

**MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES:** 3,5,6

**STRAIGHT WAGER:** \$10 to Win on #6 Will's Secret

**EXOTIC WAGER:** \$2 Exacta BOX 3,5,6





# Race 10:

## Madison Stakes (G1)

**7 FURLONGS (DIRT)**

**FILLIES & MARES 4-YEAR-OLDS & UPWARD**

**\$300,000**

### OVERVIEW:

Year after year, the Madison attracts and produces some of the best female sprinters. The field is short, but we'll see many of these compete in the division's big stakes all season long. Let's see who takes their first big steps towards the Breeders' Cup!

### RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

**Pure Speed:** *Sanenus, Mundaye Call*

**Pressing Speed:** *Kimari*

**Stalkers:** *Fair Maiden*

**Closers:** *Estilo Talentoso, Bell's the One, Sconsin*

This shouldn't be too quick as far as sprints go. Sanenus and Mundaye Call have the most early speed, and one of them could sneak away up front if the other doesn't join. The closers should still have a chance, though.

### TOP CHOICE: #5 KIMARI

This filly has looked like a monster in her dirt starts, winning all 3 while never coming close to losing. This is a tough field, but her kick is ultra-impressive and hard to hold off. She enters this off of an impressive win at Oaklawn Park in the Spring Fever Stakes, where she won by 4 1/4 lengths.

**MAJOR THREATS:** #1 Sanenus, #3 Mundaye Call, #4 Bell's the One

Sanenus was ultra-impressive in her last start, winning the La Canada Stakes (G3) at Santa Anita by an eye-catching 6 lengths. Mundaye Call's form faded late last season, but she has talent and could be alone on the lead. Bell's the One will be flying down the stretch trying to pass them all in the late stages.

### LONGSHOTS TO USE: #6 Sconsin, #7 Fair Maiden

Sconsin has shown that she can jump up and run big races over the course of her career, so it would be no surprise to see her do it here. Fair Maiden was impressive 2 starts back, winning the La Brea Stakes (G1) by over 2 lengths. Both will be running late.

### OTHERS: #2 Estilo Talentoso

She moves up in class having never won a graded stakes. That's not a good combo when facing a field of this caliber.

## PICKS and PLAYS:

**BET TO WIN:** #5 Kimari - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

**BET TO PLACE:** #3 Mundaye Call - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY:** #1 Sanenus - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**EXACTA:** 1,3,5 BOX

**TRIFECTA:** 1,3,4,5 BOX

**SUPERFECTA:** 1,3,4,5 BOX

**MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES:** 1,3,4,5

**STRAIGHT WAGER:** \$20 to Win on #5 Kimari

**EXOTIC WAGER:** \$2 Exacta BOX 1,3,5



# Race 11:

## TOYOTA BLUE GRASS STAKES (G2)

1 1/8 MILES (DIRT)

3-YEAR-OLDS

\$800,000

### OVERVIEW:

There is no track in the country like Keeneland. The Blue Grass is the marquee event of the spring meet at this historic track, which tells you all you need to know about this race's importance. There aren't too many races more important than this Kentucky Derby prep.

### RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A SLOW PACE

**Pure Speed:** NONE

**Pressing Speed:** *Essential Quality*

**Stalkers:** *Untreated, Highly Motivated*

**Closers:** *Hidden Stash, Rombauer, Leblon, Hush of a Storm, Sittin On Go, Keepmeinmind*

There's a serious lack of speed on paper in this race. It's very possible that the heavy favorite Essential Quality sets the pace, which could be bad news for everyone else.

### TOP CHOICE: #4 ESSENTIAL QUALITY

It's very difficult to get past the favorite here, no matter how you analyze it. Nearly all of his competitors have major question marks, while this guy checks all the boxes. This is still an important last prep race for him, though. He can't afford any hiccups before the Derby.

**MAJOR THREATS:** #2 Untreated, #3 Highly Motivated

Untreated is the interesting "new shooter" who's exiting a maiden win in which he dominated rivals at Tampa Bay Downs. Joel Rosario jumping aboard adds to the intrigue. Highly Motivated should run better in his second start off the layoff. His biggest win came over this track in the Nyquist Stakes on the Breeders' Cup Future Stars Friday undercard.

**LONGSHOTS TO USE:** #1 Hidden Stash, #5 Rombauer, #9 Keepmeinmind

Hidden Stash is a good "hit the board" candidate who has trouble winning. Rombauer and Keepmeinmind both do their best running late, but they need a fast pace to have a chance.

**OTHERS:** #6 Leblon, #7 Hush of a Storm, #8 Sittin On Go

Leblon and Sittin On Go have to rediscover their best form here to have a chance; that's unlikely. Hush of a Storm won 3 in a row over Turfway Park's synthetic but has questionable dirt form.

### PICKS AND PLAYS:

**BET TO WIN:** #4 Essential Quality - Confidence Level: 5 out of 5

**BET TO PLACE:** #3 Highly Motivated - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY:** #2 Untreated - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

**EXACTA:** 3,4/2,3,4

**TRIFECTA:** 3,4/2,3,4,5/2,3,4,5

**SUPERFECTA:** 4/2,3,4/2,3,4,5/2,3,4,5

**MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES:** 4

**STRAIGHT WAGER:** \$50 to Win on #4 Essential Quality

**EXOTIC WAGER:** .50 Cent Trifecta 3,4/2,3,4,5/2,3,4,5



# KEENELAND



## Race 1: 5-4-1-3

**#5 Bennyfromthebronx** is a Tapit colt who should appreciate this stretch out in distance and should improve in his second career start. **#4 American Law** has a solid distance pedigree. **#1 Ghazaaly** should set the early pace and be tough to catch. **#3 Biggie** tries dirt for the first time in this spot.

**Exacta:** 4,5/1,4,5

**Trifecta:** 4,5/1,4,5/1,3,4,5

**Multi-Race:** 1,4,5

**Suggested Bet:** \$2 Exacta 4,5/1,4,5

## Race 2: 5-6-7-2

**#5 Perfect Cut** broke his maiden by a nose at Gulfstream Park last time out at odds of 25/1. This seems like a logical spot for his first time facing winners. **#6 Two Princess** impressively beat maiden special weight foes last out. **#7 A C Expressway** takes a small class drop after unsuccessful allowance attempts in his past 3 starts. **#2 Mahomes Money** fits in with this group from a class standpoint and should like this distance.

**Exacta:** 5,6,7 BOX

**Trifecta:** 2,5,6,7 BOX

**Multi-Race:** 5,6

**Suggested Bet:** \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 2,5,6,7

## Race 3: 5-10-9-11

**#5 Shadow Matter** just missed on debut last time out at Fair Grounds. He should win with any improvement and also gets the riding services of Luis Saez. **#10 K C Rocket** exits the same race as Shadow Maker, where he finished third. **#9 Recidivist** makes his dirt debut after a solid runner-up effort at Turfway Park. **#11 Primary Endpoint** is a first-time starter from the powerful Brad Cox barn.

**Exacta:** 5,9,10 BOX

**Trifecta:** 5,9,10,11 BOX

**Multi-Race:** 5,9,10,11

**Suggested Bet:** \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 5,9,10,11

## Race 4: 2-11-1-4

**#2 Osaka Girl** could set the pace and be tough to run down in this spot. **#11 Enjoyitwhilewecan** has been knocking on the door recently, finishing second in tough Gulfstream Park allowances. **#1 Secret Time** takes a class drop, which should be to her liking. **#4 Vividly** has run 2 solid races at this level.

**Exacta:** 1,2,11 BOX

**Trifecta:** 1,2,4,11 BOX

**Multi-Race:** 1,2,4,11

**Suggested Bet:** \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 1,2,4,11

## Race 5: 7-8-9-2

**#7 Warrant** was impressive last time out, winning a maiden special weight at Fair Grounds over a decent field. This is a logical next step. **#8 Democracy** impressively won on debut at Gulfstream Park and is spotted well here. **#9 Founder** looks to rebound in this spot after a couple of lackluster performances to end his 2-year-old season. **#2 One Fast Cat** switches to the dirt after an impressive win at Turfway Park on debut.

**Exacta:** 7,8,9 BOX

**Trifecta:** 2,7,8,9 BOX

**Multi-Race:** 7,8,9

**Suggested Bet:** \$2 Exacta BOX 7,8,9



# KEENELAND



## MULTI-RACE ANALYSIS & PLAYS

### RACE 1: \$0.50 PICK 5

1,4,5 with 5,6 with 5,9,10,11 with 1,2,4,11 with 7,8,9 = \$144

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### RACE 2: \$0.50 PICK 4

5,6,7 with 5,9,10 with 1,2,4,11 with 7,8,9 = \$54

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### RACE 4: \$0.50 PICK 4

1,2,4,11 with 7,8,9 with 1,2,4 with 1,2,7 = \$54

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### RACE 7: \$0.50 Pick 5

1,2,7 with 2,4,9,11,13 with 2,3,5,6 with 1,3,4,5 with 4 = \$120

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### RACE 8: \$0.50 PICK 4

2,4,9,11,13 with 2,3,5,6 with 1,3,4,5 with 4 = \$40

