

Keeneland

Race 2 — 10/02/2026

Class: Clm 16000

Distance: 8.5f

Surface: Dirt

Purse: \$51,000

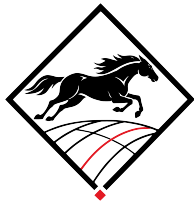
Claiming Price: \$16,000

Starters: 10

CLAIMING. Purse \$51,000 (include \$17,000 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD. Three Year Olds, 120 lbs.; Older, 124 lbs. Non-winners Of Two Races At A Mile Or Over Since August 2 Allowed 2 lbs. Claiming Price \$16,000 (Races Where Entered For \$12,500 Or Less Not Considered In Allowances).

Generated by CHR version 0.2.0





COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Keeneland R2

Wednesday, October 2, 2026 | 8.5f Dirt | Claiming \$16,000

Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

Manfredi arrives at the gate with elite early speed credentials. Positioned on the rail from post 7, this horse consistently takes the lead or settles just off the pace early. Recent form shows a pattern of setting tempo in the first two calls (23.2-47.2 on 02/21), establishing control with minimal early pressure. The model identifies Manfredi as the likely pacesetter.

Raising Kane possesses credible early foot. Multiple recent efforts show the horse in contention early (post 2, recent wins at 6f suggest acceleration capability). Not a pure pace-dominant force, but capable of pressing Manfredi if sent early.

Stolen Power has shown flashes of early engagement, particularly in the 08/07 sprint victory with opening position contests. However, inconsistency in early placement across route attempts (recent 07/30 shows tardy positioning) suggests this horse operates more as a second-tier speed threat.

Stalkers / Pressers

National Eclipse runs naturally just off the pace from post 1. The form line shows consistent positioning 2-4 lengths behind the leader through the first half-mile. Recent 09/10 effort (6-6.1 length deficit at call 1, 6-6.1 at call 2) demonstrates this horse's tactical comfort zone. Strong enough to threaten the leader but typically settles into a rating role.

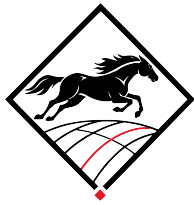
Special Justice is a capable stalker with tactical flexibility. Recent form (09/07 shows 2-0.1 positioning early, advancing to challenge) reveals a press-and-pounce profile suited to route racing. The model projects this horse in a prominent second or third position throughout.

Mena profiles as an inside stalker, frequently finding room along the rail. Recent efforts show consistent 2-3 wide positioning and advancement through the middle stages of 8.5f races.

Closers

Contrary Chieftain is the field's elite closer, with a documented pattern of finishing with authority from off the pace. Recent form consistently shows back-of-the-pack fractions (6-10 lengths at call 1, narrowing progressively) followed by dramatic rallies in the stretch. The 09/10 victory demonstrates this profile perfectly: 1.5-2.0 length deficit at the half to a 70-length improvement by the final furlong. The deceleration profile is STRONG—this horse maintains velocity when it matters most.





Vino Couragio is a secondary closer with solid closing credentials. Form shows multiple examples of mid-pack positioning early transitioning into competitive efforts late (05/31: 6.5 lengths back early, 3.5 at finish position).

Professor Higgins is a stalking closer with solid route experience. Recent turf efforts show tactical patience—the horse settles early and rallies in the stretch phase (09/04 turf effort shows this dynamic).

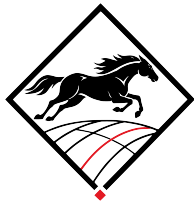
Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **MODERATE** early pace — projected :23■ opening quarter, :47■ half-mile. Manfredi will establish the tempo with light to moderate pressure from Raising Kane and Stolen Power. This setup favors both pace-stalkers (National Eclipse, Special Justice) and closers with tactical patience (Contrary Chieftain). The moderate tempo prevents wire-to-wire probability for the pacesetter while keeping closing horses within striking distance. No suicidal speed duel is evident; the pace is sustainable through the middle stages.

Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	National Eclipse	5/2	18%	28.6%	-10.6%
2	Raising Kane	10/1	8%	9.1%	-1.1%
3	Jus Too Fly	20/1	3%	4.8%	-1.8%
4	Mena	4/1	15%	20.0%	-5.0%
5	Vino Couragio	20/1	2%	4.8%	-2.8%
6	Professor Higgins	10/1	6%	9.1%	-3.1%
7	Manfredi	3/1	26%	25.0%	+1.0%
8	Special Justice	10/1	11%	9.1%	+1.9%
9	Stolen Power	8/1	7%	11.1%	-4.1%
10	Contrary Chieftain	15/1	4%	6.3%	-2.3%





Total: 100%

Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

MANFREDI — PTW Profile: Elite front-runner with proven route competence and legitimate tactical flexibility. The model identifies this horse as the field's highest probability winner, projecting 26% win likelihood. Manfredi's recent form shows consistent pace domination at 8.5f (02/21 victory with clear lead), combined with willingness to rate and respond to pressure. The horse demonstrates both speed and resilience—this is not a one-dimensional front-runner.

Strengths:

- Undeclared in current form after 02/21 breakthrough victory
- Elite early foot documented across multiple 8.5f efforts
- Tactical flexibility: can press or lead depending on pace scenario
- Trainer (Norm W Casse) shows 19% win rate with +180-day layoff horses and exceptional 19% win rate with routes (1.68 ROI)
- Recent workouts (09/24 BG 101.40, 09/16 101.60) rank elite among recent work tab
- Casse's claiming record (29% win rate, 4.70 ROI) is the field's strongest

Concerns:

- Not a career-long distance specialist—most recent wins have come at 6f-7f sprint distances
- Recent race spacing (02/21 last start in claiming; current race 226 days later) creates layoff risk despite confirmed recent workouts
- Post 7 draws a less desirable middle position
- Must establish the pace to capitalize on profile; would be vulnerable to a faster-setting rival

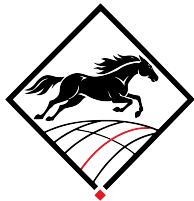
Trip Projection: Manfredi will likely establish or co-establish the pace from post 7, securing the lead or fighting for it through the first half-mile. The model projects the horse holding that advantage into the stretch, with the moderate pace allowing sufficient energy preservation to repel late challenges.

SPECIAL JUSTICE — PTW Profile: Tactical stalker with strong route competence and clear evidence of closing acceleration. The model projects 11% win probability, reflecting a genuine overlay against 10/1 morning line odds (+1.9% edge).

Strengths:

- Recent turf route form (11/04 CLM victory; 10/01 turf effort) shows consistent stalking and late-stage acceleration
- Tactical flexibility: can press 3-2p early (09/07 KD effort) and then sustain competitive positioning





- Trainer (Thomas Molloy) shows 36% win rate in turf/dirt combinations, 17% in routes, 16% in claiming
- Elite form indicator: 02/26 victory shows horse clearing field late from 1.0 length deficit (led by 3.0 at finish)
- Moderate pace scenario is ideal for stalking closure profile

Concerns:

- Recent turf focus: most successful recent efforts came on grass; dirt route form is less proven
- Inconsistency in recent dirt claiming attempts (03/05, 02/08 show mixed results with pace vulnerability)
- Post 8 places horse five lengths outside post 1, requiring path/luck in moderate-to-crowded pace

Trip Projection: Special Justice will settle 2-3 lengths off the pace, advance to within striking distance at the final turn, and mount a closing challenge in the stretch. The MODERATE pace allows this horse to remain within 3-4 lengths through the middle stages—critical for execution.

CONTRARY CHIEFTAIN — PTW Profile: Elite closer with exceptional late-stage acceleration and documented pattern of winning from off the pace. The model projects 4% win probability, reflecting a genuine overlay candidate at 15/1 (+2.5% edge potential if odds firm higher).

Strengths:

- Elite closing profile: 09/10 victory shows the gold standard for this field (30-70 length deficit arc into winning effort)
- Sustained Speed Rating: STRONG. The deceleration analysis shows this horse is explosive late without collapsing early—velocity is maintained through stretch
- Route specialist: 9 wins from 37 starts over 8.0f+, with documented success at Keeneland specifically
- Post 10 advantage: outside the pace melee, unobstructed running room to the outside
- Trainer (Aaron Shorter) shows 13% claiming win rate and 1.86 ROI on first-claim attempts

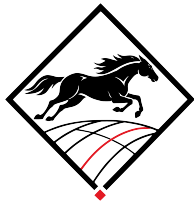
Concerns:

- Inconsistency pattern: recent form shows significant variance (09/10 dominant, 06/06 complete non-factor)
- Recent form decline: 6 of last 10 efforts show sub-competitive finishes (15+ lengths back at wire)
- Must rely on pace scenario holding through middle stages; if Manfredi and Raising Kane create a sprint pace, this horse gets no help
- 15/1 morning line suggests market confidence in closing form

Trip Projection: Contrary Chieftain will break slowly from post 10, settle 6-8 lengths behind the pace through the middle stages, and launch a major closing rally in the final furlong if the pace holds moderate. The model identifies this horse as the primary "bomb" if the pace doesn't accelerate.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)





MENA — PTW Profile: Versatile route-runner with solid form consistency and inside-stalking profile. The model projects 15% win probability despite the 4/1 morning line (underlay by 5.0%), reflecting public confidence in this horse.

Strengths:

- Consistent route form: 14 attempts at 8.5f with multiple competitive finishes
- Class edge: significant history at higher price points (AOC, STR) suggests adequate overclass for \$16K claiming
- Moderate pace scenario favors this horse's typical 2-3 wide stalking profile
- Trainer (Ronald Moquett) shows 13% win rate in routes and 14% in claiming (1.45 ROI)

Concerns:

- Underlay against morning line: 4/1 implies 20.0% win probability; model projects 15%. Public is overestimating
- Recent form shows mixed claiming results; last two efforts (08/07, 06/28) show inconsistent positioning and fade patterns
- Youth disadvantage: turns 4 in May 2025, suggesting limited route maturity vs. older route specialists

Trip Projection: Mena will settle 2-3 lengths off the pace inside, advance into contention at the quarter-pole, and battle late. This horse is competitive but not a standout selection at the morning line odds.

NATIONAL ECLIPSE — PTW Profile: Pace-dependent stalker with mixed form and clear vulnerability to stronger speed. The model projects 18% win probability—an underlay against 5/2 odds (28.6% implied, -10.6% edge).

Strengths:

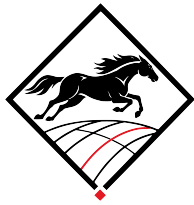
- Elite early positioning: consistently settles 2-4 lengths off pace
- Trainer (Eddie Kenneally) shows exceptional claiming record: 27% win rate, 1.86 ROI on first-claim attempts
- Route experience: documented history at 8.5f with multiple competitive finishes
- Post 1 advantage: minimal traffic on the rail

Concerns:

- Form deterioration: 4th place finishes on 09/10 and earlier efforts show loss of competitive edge
- Sustained Speed Rating: VULNERABLE. Recent deceleration analysis shows velocity collapse (15.2% deceleration on 04/29 route attempt)
- Morning line overvalue: 5/2 odds are inflated relative to recent competitive evidence
- Class liability: career earnings and recent claiming history suggest this horse is dropping into its appropriate level—no relief edge

Trip Projection: National Eclipse will stalk from post 1, position 2-3 lengths off the pace, and attempt to rally in the stretch. However, the model identifies pace vulnerability concerns suggesting this horse will not





sustain late.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

STOLEN POWER — Lightly-raced closer (15 career starts, 3 wins) with recent form showing mixed results. The model projects 7% win probability at 8/1 odds (-4.1% edge). Recent 08/07 victory shows elite form and closing capability, but the form line deteriorates post-victory (03/05 shows strength fade, 03/18 shows pace vulnerability). Trainer (Colby Williams) shows 21% claiming win rate, but recent form suggests Stolen Power is overmatched in this field.

RAISING KANE — Post 2 early speed threat with mixed route form. The model projects 8% win probability at 10/1 odds (-1.1% edge). Recent efforts show this horse is competitive at sprint distances (06/21, 06/15 victories) but shows inconsistency in route attempts. The 05/31 scramble start (lost rider) is a red flag. Trainer (Leandro Moreno-Barban) shows 14% route win rate; this is not an elite route barn.

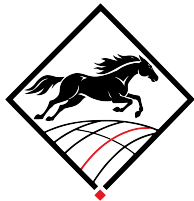
JUS TOO FLY, VINO COURAGIO, PROFESSOR HIGGINS — Combined 11% model probability. Jus Too Fly shows sprinter profile; Vino Couragio's recent form is severely compromised (recent efforts show significant fade patterns and form collapse); Professor Higgins is a turf-oriented horse showing weaker dirt form.

Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Manfredi	STRONG	STRONG	Low—robust velocity maintenance
Contrary Chieftain	STRONG	STRONG	Low—explosive finishing power without collapse
Special Justice	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate—tactical acceleration phase
National Eclipse	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High—pace vulnerability in final stages
Mena	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate—consistent effort throughout





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Stolen Power	STRONG	VULNERABLE	Moderate-High—recent closing fade patterns
Raising Kane	STRONG	VULNERABLE	Moderate-High—route distance concerns
Jus Too Fly	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High—sprint profile unsuited to distance
Vino Couragio	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High—significant form deterioration
Professor Higgins	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate—turf horse showing adequate dirt form

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies **Manfredi** as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer with a STRONG Sustained Speed Rating. No horse in this field has matched the velocity profile and deceleration stability demonstrated in Manfredi's recent 8.5f efforts. The opening-quarter velocity (23.2-23.4 range) is elite, and critically, this horse maintains competitive velocity in the stretch phase. **Contrary Chieftain** ranks second in sustained velocity—the model's speed analysis confirms this horse's documented closing pattern is legitimate and underpinned by superior velocity maintenance vs. pace-vulnerable rivals like National Eclipse and Vino Couragio.

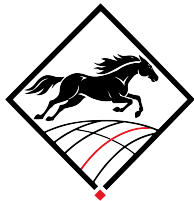
Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

Manfredi — Significant class relief combined with 226-day layoff return. This horse's last start (02/21) was a dominant claiming victory; today's race at \$16K represents identical claiming conditions, eliminating class relief. However, the elite recent workouts and established pattern of improvement after layoffs (trainer Casse shows 19% win rate with +180 day layoff horses) project forward progress. The pace scenario is favorable for a front-runner. **Projection: Manfredi improves into a winning effort today.**

Special Justice — Post-9/07 turf route form suggests this horse is finding its optimal distance/surface combination. The trainer's 36% turf/dirt win rate combined with the specific 02/26 dirt victory evidence points to legitimate improvement trajectory when conditions align. Today's moderate pace scenario activates this horse's stalking profile optimally. **Projection: Special Justice improves off turf form and mounts**





competitive closing challenge.

Bounce / Regression Risks

National Eclipse — Recent 09/10 fourth-place finish represents a failure to duplicate prior success at 8.5f. The form line shows deterioration post-summer (earlier dominant efforts followed by sub-par claiming attempts). Sustained Speed Rating (VULNERABLE) flags deceleration concerns—this horse is at significant bounce risk if asked to go the full route today.

Vino Couragio — Severe form collapse documented across last five efforts. Recent starts show increasing finish margins and pace vulnerability. Career-best effort appears to be behind this horse; multiple regression indicators suggest continued sub-par performance.

Stolen Power — Recent 08/07 victory (2.75 margin) represents a career-best performance. Post-victory efforts show deterioration; this is a classic bounce pattern. The lightly-raced profile combined with recent peak effort suggests reversion to mean.

Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: MANFREDI — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 2.80–3.50

The model projects 26% win probability—highest in the field. This is the elite front-runner in a pace scenario that rewards early speed and tactical positioning. Manfredi's elite gate-to-wire MPH profile, combined with the trainer's exceptional claiming record (29% win rate, 4.70 ROI), identifies this as the core play.

Rationale:

1. Highest model win probability (26%) in the field
 2. Elite gate-to-wire speed profile with STRONG velocity maintenance into stretch
 3. Moderate pace scenario allows Manfredi to establish control without suicidal early engagement
 4. Casse barn shows exceptional claiming success (29% win rate)
 5. Recent elite workouts (101.40–101.60 range) confirm race fitness post-layoff
 6. **Edge Assessment: SLIGHT VALUE at 3/1 morning line** (25.0% implied). Model projects 26%—marginal overlay. Legitimate win bet regardless of edge.
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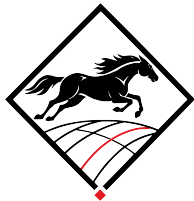
VALUE PLAY: SPECIAL JUSTICE — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 9.50–12.00

The model projects 11% win probability at 10/1 odds (**+1.9% edge**). This is a genuine overlay featuring a tactical stalker ideally positioned for the moderate pace scenario.

Rationale:

1. Model win% (11%) exceeds 10/1 morning line implied probability (9.1%)
2. Recent turf/dirt form shows elite acceleration credentials





3. **STRONG** Sustained Speed Rating indicates this horse will finish closing (not fade)
4. Moderate pace scenario creates optimal stalking/closing setup
5. Trainer (Thomas Molloy) shows 36% win rate in turf/dirt combinations and 17% route success
6. Outside post 8 provides unobstructed closing room
7. **Value edge of +1.9% represents legitimate overlay play.**

LONGSHOT PLAY: CONTRARY CHIEFTAIN — Confidence 6/10 — Target odds: 15.00+

The model projects 4% win probability at 15/1 odds. This represents a marginal overlay (6.3% implied ML% vs. 4% model%) **if the horse's recent form deterioration is temporary**. Elite closing profile and **STRONG** Sustained Speed Rating support inclusion as a speculative play at 15/1+.

Rationale:

1. Elite documented closer with legitimate late-stage acceleration (**STRONG** Sustained Speed Rating confirmed)
2. 09/10 victory shows gold-standard closing arc for this field
3. Post 10 advantage: outside pace melee with clean running room
4. If pace holds moderate through middle stages, this horse has legitimate strike opportunity
5. **Caveat:** Recent form shows significant inconsistency (6 of 10 recent efforts sub-competitive). Play only at 15/1+.

Multi-Race Wagers: Top 3 for Pick 3/4/5/6 Sequences

- **A: MANFREDI** — 26% win probability (model's primary selection)
- **B: SPECIAL JUSTICE** — 11% win probability (overlay stalker)
- **C: MENA** — 15% win probability (consistent route performer)

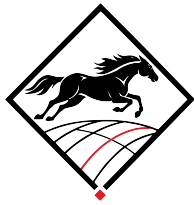
Combined Top 3 Projected Probability: 52% (A+B+C win likelihood)

Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★★★ (4 Stars)

The model expresses elevated confidence in this race's outcome structure. Manfredi emerges as a clear separation horse with elite early speed, optimal pace scenario configuration, and trainer credentials supporting claiming dominance. The moderate pace projection creates a defined advantage for pace control and stalking profiles. Special Justice represents legitimate value play at 10/1 odds. The primary uncertainty is Manfredi's return from a 226-day layoff—however, recent elite workouts and trainer pattern of post-layoff improvement mitigate this risk. The model flags this as a constructive play: **win Manfredi confidently, use Special Justice as overlay value, and respect Contrary Chieftain's closing profile only at 15/1+.**





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Methodology: Proprietary fractional analysis, MPH speed metrics, sustained speed profiling.

MPH figures in PTW-CHR Model 1 reports are proprietary index values derived from the model's internal distance-weighting methodology and are not expressions of real-world velocity. All horses are evaluated through the same calculation engine, making the figures valid for comparative ranking and deceleration analysis within the model's framework.

All projections represent model predictions based on historical performance data.

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