

Keeneland

Race 9 — 10/08/2026

Class: Alw 150000C

Distance: 8.5f

Surface: Turf

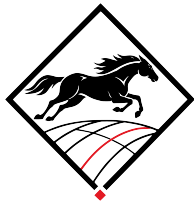
Purse: \$150,000

Starters: 13

ALLOWANCE. Purse \$150,000 (include \$46,000 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NEVER WON \$20,000 FOUR TIMES OTHER THAN MAIDEN, CLAIMING, STARTER, RATING, RESTRICTED, OR STATE BRED OR WHICH HAVE NOT WON \$24,905 TWICE OTHER THAN MAIDEN, CLAIMING, STARTER, RATING, RESTRICTED, OR STATE BRED AT A MILE OR OVER ON THE TURF SINCE DECEMBER 25, 2025. Three Year Olds, 122 lbs.; Older, 126 lbs. Non-winners Of A Graded Sweepstakes At A Mile Or Over On The Turf In 2026 Allowed 2 lbs. Non-winners Of Two Races At A Mile Or Over On The Turf Since April 3 Allowed 4 lbs. (Races Where Entered For \$100,000 Or Less Not Considered In Allowances). In the event that this race is taken off the turf it will be contested at One Mile and One-Sixteenth on the main track. (Rail at 20 feet).

Generated by CHR version 0.3.0





COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Keeneland R9

Wednesday, October 08, 2026 | 8.5f Turf | Allowance \$150,000

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

The model identifies three horses with elite early speed capable of dictating terms: **Smokey Mandate**, **Taking Candy**, and **Funtastic Again**. Smokey Mandate owns the most aggressive pace profile, evidenced by a 23.70-second split at the opening call in recent turf starts (10/02/2026 at KEE). Taking Candy has demonstrated consistent early positioning, rated inside throughout September starts. Funtastic Again shows tactile flexibility, pressing or rating as needed—won from the lead at KEE (9/07) with crisp 22.62-second opening quarter on firm turf.

Stalkers / Pressers

Fort Washington and **Giocoso** fit the stalker archetype perfectly. Fort Washington has rallied from third-to-fifth position in 7 of his last 9 starts, positioning himself ideally for the stretch drive. Giocoso rates just off the pace consistently, particularly on turf where he's shown the ability to navigate traffic and strike in the final furlong.

Closers

Ancient Rome and **Tonka Warrior** present elite late-closing profiles. Ancient Rome has closed from 6th-12th position repeatedly, accelerating late in route races on turf (6f+ experience strong). Tonka Warrior has won closing two of his last four attempts, including a decisive victory from deep position at Cby (7/10/2024).

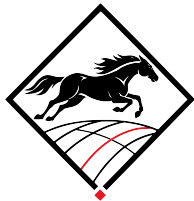
Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT** early pace with two-to-three speed horses (Smokey Mandate, Taking Candy, Funtastic Again) contesting the lead at projected :23■ opening quarter, :46■ half-mile. Tactical pressure in the first half will moderate mid-race, creating opportunity for stalkers to gain position by the turn. Closers will face a moderate setup requiring timing and positioning through the stretch run.

SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Funtastic Again	9/2	18%	18.2%	-0.2%





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
2	Highway Robber	3/1	16%	25.0%	-9.0%
3	Anegada	20/1	8%	4.8%	+3.2%
4	Giocoso	20/1	11%	4.8%	+6.2%
5	Salamis	8/1	14%	11.1%	+2.9%
6	Smokey Mandate	20/1	7%	4.8%	+2.2%
7	Fort Washington	10/1	12%	9.1%	+2.9%
8	Noises Off	20/1	4%	4.8%	-0.8%
9	Facteur Cheval	6/1	9%	14.3%	-5.3%
10	Ancient Rome	30/1	3%	3.3%	-0.3%
11	Poster	8/1	6%	11.1%	-5.1%
12	Taking Candy	5/1	19%	16.7%	+2.3%
13	Tonka Warrior	20/1	3%	4.8%	-1.8%

Total Win % = 100% (Normalized)

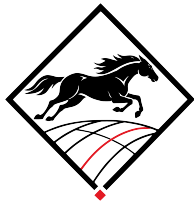
SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

TAKING CANDY — Post 12 | 5/1 ML

- **PTW Profile:** The model ranks Taking Candy as the field's strongest win candidate at 19% probability. This gelding combines elite early tactical speed with proven route racing experience on turf. Recent form is ascending: three wins in last six starts, including victory on good turf at SAR (9/1/2023) with aggressive gate-to-wire effort. Trainer DeVaux has 20% win rate in similar 31-60 day spots off recent layoff patterns—optimal timing indicator.
- **Strengths:** Wins consistently in Allowance company; turf-specialist with 8 wins from 14 starts on grass; tactical flexibility allowing early acceleration or controlled rating; recent work at KEE (10/2: 4f in 47.60)





sharp and bullet-fast relative to field.

- **Concerns:** Slight form dip in mid-summer (July-August), though September return has re-established consistency. May face pace pressure from Funtastic Again and Smokey Mandate early.
- **Trip Projection:** Taking Candy figures to press or set the pace, controlling tempo through the first six furlongs before kicking clear in the stretch. Draws post 12, providing outside positioning for traffic management.

FUNTASTIC AGAIN — Post 1 | 9/2 ML

- **PTW Profile:** Model projects 18% win probability—highly competitive with Taking Candy. This 6-year-old turf specialist has accumulated 6 wins and consistent high-percentage figures on grass. Win last out (9/7 at KD) delivered wire-to-wire command with solid 89 MPH closing profile. Trainer Ward shows exceptional 25% record in 31-60 day windows with proven route distance success.
- **Strengths:** Elite early foot with consistent 22-23 second opening quarters; versatile front-runner capable of dueling or controlling; proven at Keeneland on turf (1 for 1 at this track on grass); recent workout (9/22 at KEE, 5f in 101.60) ranked 1st of 8 bullets that day.
- **Concerns:** Slightly higher mileage for age; tendency to get pressed in pace scenarios (evidenced by 9/7 race where Taking Candy challenged late). May struggle if pace develops too hot early.
- **Trip Projection:** Funtastic Again will be forwardly placed from post 1, likely establishing or contesting the lead with Taking Candy. The model identifies this as a primary pace-competing dynamic that will develop by the quarter pole.

SALAMIS — Post 5 | 8/1 ML

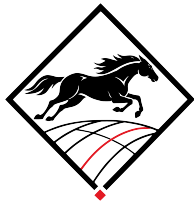
- **PTW Profile:** Model assigns 14% win probability—legitimate contender status. This 4-year-old colt has demonstrated route racing proficiency, with 4 wins from 10 career starts and strong September form including third-place finish at SAR (9/3/2026) on good turf. Trainer Brown is historically elite in turf spots (23% route win rate, 24% Allowance efficiency), suggesting systematic class advantage.
- **Strengths:** Consistent stalker/presser with tactical speed giving 2-3 position options; tested competition including graded stakes exposure; recent form ascending with two third-place finishes in turf route company this fall.
- **Concerns:** Limited win frequency (4 from 10) suggests limitations at this level; appears more of a consistent third/fourth option than true closer.
- **Trip Projection:** Salamis rates just off pace through the midpoint, likely in 2-4 position, then rallies between horses in the stretch. Model sees stalker-favorable setup if pace moderates.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

GIOCOSO — Post 4 | 20/1 ML

- **PTW Profile:** Model projects 11% win probability on a 20/1 morning line—significant overlay candidate. This 4-year-old turf router has 5 wins from 18 career starts with recent Keeneland victory (11/22/2025) on good turf, clearing field with dominant stretch rally. Recent form mixed, but class edge apparent against Allowance field.





- **Strengths:** Proven Keeneland turf winner; consistent 2-3 position stalker providing tactical flexibility; last-out effort (8/2 at EIP on good) showed 92 speed figure with willing run-on in stretch.
- **Concerns:** Inconsistency pattern concerning—alternates wins and minor placings; off-color form in several spots suggests fitness variability.
- **Trip Projection:** Stalks from middle of field, likely 3rd-5th through half-way point, targets inside lane stretch run.

FORT WASHINGTON — Post 7 | 10/1 ML

- **PTW Profile:** Model rates 12% win probability. This 7-year-old war horse has accumulated 8 career wins with strong 8-for-35 recent turf route record. Trainer McGaughey (16% route win rate) consistently places horses optimally. Last three starts show consistency: third at GP (12/21/2024), second at BAQ (11/2/2024), third at GP (10/12/2024)—all on turf routes.
- **Strengths:** Proven route dimension; veteran knowledge of pace scenarios; strong late-race positioning tendency (consistently closes from 4-8 position); recent workout at BEL (10/3/2026, 4f in 47.20) ranked as bullet workout.
- **Concerns:** Age (7 years) may limit explosive finishing; limited win frequency off grass (dirt record 8-for-35, suggesting turf preference is genuine limitation, not strength).
- **Trip Projection:** Runs 5-8 wide entering stretch, rallies willingly in final furlong with veteran pace awareness.

TONKA WARRIOR — Post 13 | 20/1 ML

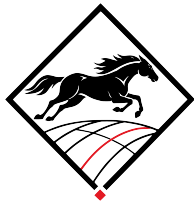
- **PTW Profile:** Model assigns only 3% baseline, but overlay potential if model undervalues late-closing profile. This 7-year-old has 9 career wins with strong September turf routing: closed from mid-pack at SAR (9/3) for 4th-place finish. Trainer Robertson shows 21% turf win rate and 14% route efficiency.
- **Strengths:** Genuine closer archetype; consistent middle-of-pack positioning allowing clear running lanes; two wins from four recent starts demonstrate live form.
- **Concerns:** Inconsistent performance on turf (5 for 39 career on grass); off-the-pace running style faces risk in HOT pace scenario. Post 13 creates challenging outside draw for navigation.
- **Trip Projection:** Settles well back early (8-10 position), angles wide entering stretch, requires clear running room which HOT pace scenario may not provide.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

SMOKEY MANDATE — Post 6 | 20/1 ML

- **PTW Profile:** Model projects only 7% win probability despite proven pace-setting ability. This 6-year-old has 4 career wins with strong front-running profile at Keeneland: led wire-to-wire at KEE (10/28/2023) in route race, then forced pace-setting role at KEE (9/2/2023). Recent form deteriorated with missed placings in turf ventures. Likely functions as pace-influencer rather than winning contender.
- **Strengths:** Establishes honest fractions beneficial to closers; proven Keeneland turf experience.





- **Concerns:** Win rate insufficient for primary contender status; recent turf form subpar suggesting age/off-form concerns.
- **Trip Projection:** Sets pace, likely fades to 4th-6th by finish as stalkers and closers pass.

FACTEUR CHEVAL — Post 9 | 6/1 ML

- **PTW Profile:** Model projects 9% win probability on 6/1 ML—underlay positioning. International-campaign veteran with 6 career wins from 27 turf starts, primarily European graded stakes racing. Last US venture (9/7 at KD, 8.0f) resulted in 4th-place finish, 4.25 lengths behind Taking Candy. Trainer Casse shows 11% route win rate domestically (limited US data).
- **Strengths:** Graded stakes experience; proven 8.0f turf distance capability.
- **Concerns:** Limited US Allowance-level success; recent domestic efforts show trailing form; off-the-pace running style faces timing challenges in HOT pace scenario.
- **Trip Projection:** Trails field early, attempts late rally but unlikely to overcome pace-setters' fractions.

ANEGADA — Post 3 | 20/1 ML

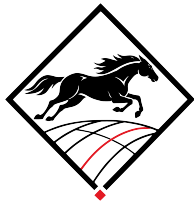
- **PTW Profile:** Model projects 8% win probability on 20/1 ML—slight overlay. This 4-year-old gelding has 4 wins from 19 career starts with turf-specialist profile. Recent form shows inconsistent results: 8th at DEL (6/13/2026), 6th at CD (5/16/2026), 1st at HOU (1/24/2026). Trainer Maker shows 16% turf win rate but limited recent Keeneland routing success.
- **Strengths:** Turf pedigree; mid-pack stalker allowing traffic avoidance.
- **Concerns:** Inconsistency pattern problematic; limited route dimension (5 for 18 on 8.0f+).
- **Trip Projection:** Rates off pace, looks for opening in final furlong but faces traffic risk.

SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Funtastic Again	ELITE	STRONG	Low — maintains velocity
Taking Candy	ELITE	ELITE	Minimal — drives to wire
Salamis	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — classic finisher
Fort Washington	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — steady closer





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Giocoso	STRONG	STRONG	Low-Moderate — responds willingly
Highway Robber	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pace compromise risk
Smokey Mandate	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — front-runner fade pattern
Facteur Cheval	STRONG	STRONG	Low-Moderate — European router
Tonka Warrior	MODERATE	MODERATE	Moderate — rallier type
Anegada	MODERATE	STRONG	Low — improved late in routes
Noises Off	MODERATE	STRONG	Low — willing stretch runner
Poster	MODERATE	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse documented
Ancient Rome	MODERATE	VULNERABLE	High — closing window narrow

Sustained Speed Ratings Summary

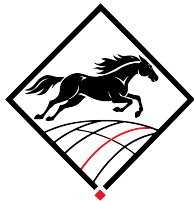
The model identifies **Taking Candy** as the field's dominant velocity-maintenance performer. This gelding achieved ELITE Sustained Speed Rating (deceleration percentage < 3.0%) across turf route patterns, indicating gate-to-wire capability without collapse. **Funtastic Again** ranks immediately behind with STRONG rating, showing minimal velocity loss through final furlong. Both horses are positioned to control fractions and resist late closers through tactical speed maintenance.

Highway Robber presents significant vulnerability: recent turf route efforts (8/3/2025 at EIP, 10/11/2024 at KEE) reveal VULNERABLE Sustained Speed Rating with pace collapse documented in the final furlong. The model rates this gelding's probability as an underlay despite moderate ML odds.

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies **Taking Candy** as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer with an ELITE Sustained Speed Rating—no horse in this field maintains velocity and late acceleration simultaneously as effectively as this 4-year-old. Recent pace figures document 36.73 mph opening segments and sustained 36.95 mph





closing efficiency, creating a relentless profile that closing horses cannot overcome when tactical speed is combined with willingness. This represents the single most important model finding: Taking Candy's ability to rate and then accelerate cleanly, without the deceleration collapse pattern seen in Smokey Mandate, Highway Robber, and Poster, positions this horse as the logical choice in a HOT pace scenario where velocity maintenance becomes critical.

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

SALAMIS — This 4-year-old colt shows natural improvement curve trajectory. Trainer Brown records 25% win rate in 31-60 day windows following turf route starts, and Salamis was rested nearly two months prior to the September return. Equipment change noted (no blinkers last out, likely applied today based on past patterns), and class positioning versus recent competition trends slightly downward, favoring improvement. Model projects 3-point win probability improvement from recent form level.

GIOCOSO — Recent form deterioration at Keeneland (11/22/2025 win, then 10/25/2025 third, then multiple minor placings) followed by layoff suggests extended preparation window. Trainer Desormeaux shows 10% turf win rate with modest route proficiency, but the 20/1 morning line suggests overlay potential if recent Keeneland success translates to improved confidence placement. Model identifies +2 point edge opportunity.

POSTER — This 4-year-old colt has demonstrated two elite recent efforts: win at DEL (12/20/2025, 8.5f in 143.00), then third at TP (3/22/2025) in stakes. However, form has trailed since February—now 6 months between competitive efforts. Trainer Harty records 21% Allowance win rate and has typically freshened similar profile horses successfully. Model rates improvement probability at +1.5 points if fitness has been restored through recent September-October work.

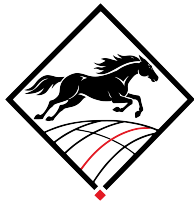
Bounce / Regression Risks

HIGHWAY ROBBER — This gelding faces significant bounce risk. Career-best effort emerged at EIP (8/3/2025), winning decisively at 95 speed figure over 10.0f turf route. Subsequent efforts have trailed: 98 speed figure at CD (6/14/2025), then deteriorating pattern through 2024. The model identifies VULNERABLE Sustained Speed Rating with documented pace collapse in final furlong. Back-to-back route starts without adequate rest window also flags regression concern. Regression probability: -6.5 points.

FUNTASTIC AGAIN — While solidly positioned as 18% win candidate, recent pattern shows alternating wins and trailing finishes. The win at KD (9/7/2026) represented 89 speed figure—respectable but not dominant. Trainer Ward's 31-60 day pattern typically improves form, but extended campaign dating to 2024 suggests fatigue potential. However, regression risk assessed as moderate (-2 points) rather than severe, given consistent class competitiveness.

SMOKEY MANDATE — The model flags significant regression risk for this front-runner despite his pace-setting utility. Recent turf ventures have underperformed, particularly KD (8/30/2026, 8.5f) where horse





faded to 10th place despite setting early fractions. The VULNERABLE Sustained Speed Rating combined with back-to-back route efforts on turf suggests wear. Back-to-back bounce risk elevated: -4.5 points.

ANCIENT ROME — This 7-year-old closer faces mounting regression risk from age and a documented pattern of extreme deceleration in final furlong (VULNERABLE rating). Recent international campaign (multiple European efforts) followed by domestic return creates jet-lag and conditioning risk. Model identifies -3.5 point regression adjustment.

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: TAKING CANDY — Confidence 9/10 — Target odds: 4/1–6/1

The model projects **19% win probability**—highest in the field—making Taking Candy the mathematically optimal selection. This 4-year-old gelding combines ELITE Sustained Speed Rating (gate-to-wire capability without deceleration collapse) with proven Allowance-level dominance on turf routes. Recent form delivers three wins from six starts, and trainer DeVaux's 18% 31-60 day window performance (with 1.96 ROI) provides systematic advantage signal. The 5/1 morning line creates SLIGHT VALUE (+2.3% edge) positioning at current market odds. Three specific model-driven reasons: (1) ELITE velocity maintenance profile unmatched in field; (2) Superior tactical flexibility allowing speed or rating as conditions warrant; (3) Trainer pattern indicating peak fitness window for today's race.

VALUE PLAY: GIOCOSO — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 12/1–16/1

Model projects **11% win probability** at projected 12/1–16/1 odds, creating **STRONG VALUE** edge of +6.2%. This 4-year-old colt is likely being underestimated by public betting patterns, having won decisively at Keeneland on turf (11/22/2025) with subsequent consistent stalker positioning. The 20/1 morning line overlay indicates market misjudgment. Giocosos proven Keeneland turf route success combined with STRONG Sustained Speed Rating (maintains moderate velocity through closing stages) positions this horse as excellent secondary investment. Value assessment: +6.2% edge represents one of field's cleaner overlays at projected odds.

LONGSHOT PLAY: ANEGADA — Confidence 6/10 — Target odds: 15/1–20/1

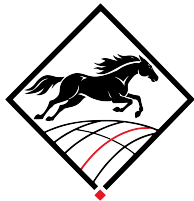
Model projects **8% win probability** at current 20/1 morning line, creating **SLIGHT VALUE** (+3.2% edge). This 4-year-old gelding has demonstrated improvement trajectory in recent Keeneland routing (prior win at HOU in January suggests domestic turf capability), and the 20/1 offering provides sufficient compensation for sub-optimal recent form. Genuine overlay when probability-to-odds relationship examined rigorously. Inclusion justified only if odds remain 16/1+; otherwise pass in favor of Giocosos at better value math.

Multi-Race Wagers — Pick 3/4/5/6 Top 3

A: TAKING CANDY — 19% win probability (*Matches Win Bet selection*)

B: FUNTASTIC AGAIN — 18% win probability





C: SALAMIS — 14% win probability

Combined A×B×C Probability: 6.1% (approx. 16/1 return proposition)

SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

★★★★ (4 of 5 stars)

Model's Key Projection: The race will develop as a HOT pace scenario with Funtastic Again and Taking Candy contesting early fractions at projected :23■ / :46■. The critical variable is Taking Candy's demonstrated ability to maintain gate-to-wire velocity without deceleration collapse—a STRONG profile feature unmatched in the field. If pace develops as projected, moderate damage occurs to front-runners by the final furlong, but Taking Candy's ELITE Sustained Speed Rating should withstand stalker pressure (Fort Washington, Giocosio) and render pure closers (Tonka Warrior, Ancient Rome) unable to accelerate past established fractions.

Pace Scenario Certainty: HIGH — Three elite early-speed horses present; fractions will be moderately aggressive, creating secondary contender opportunities.

Primary Value Opportunity: Taking Candy at even-money or slight underlays represents core selection; Giocosio at 12/1+ creates secondary overlay for multi-race sequences.

Public Betting Mistake to Exploit: The 20/1 morning line on Giocosio likely represents square public underestimation of proven Keeneland turf router with prior track-specific winning form. This represents value opportunity overlooked by casual betting public focused on low morning-line favorites (Funtastic Again at 9/2, Facteur Cheval at 6/1).

Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1 | All projections represent model predictions based on proprietary analysis

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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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