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# Player's choices

Keeneland Simulcasting features the Triple Crown during its summer racing action

By **Jude T. Feld**

Just because Keeneland's spring meeting ends on Friday, April 25, don't think that exciting racing action has exited Lexington. Keeneland Simulcasting presents the best Thoroughbred action and wagering opportunities at North America's top racetracks until live racing resumes here on Friday, October 3.

Keeneland Simulcasting is located in the second level of the Grandstand center section and in the Equestrian Room and is open six days a week. You can watch and wager on races from as many as 13 tracks a day, with action generally starting at noon. You can participate in major wagering pools and also attempt to cash in on lucrative carryovers as they occur. Keeneland Simulcasting also offers a variety of handicapping contests that test your skills and just might qualify you to a national handicapping tournament.

Accommodations in the Grandstand include open table seating (and outdoor seating during warm weather) and a betting carrel with an individual television available for \$3. Dining options range from upscale Grandstand concessions with daily soup and entrée specials, along with burgers and hot dogs, to pub-style fare in the Equestrian Room.

The Equestrian Room is a casual trackside dining room and bar that features booth and table seating and tableside wagering using the free Keeneland FastBet card, a reusable plastic voucher that provides ticketless wagering at any self-service terminal. Races are shown on the 110 Sharp

LCD flat-screen TVs for enhanced viewing. And with daily food and drink specials, the Equestrian Room is also a great place to entertain your business associates and out-of-town guests.

Reservations are accepted but not required for the Equestrian Room, which is closed for simulcasting during the live race meets. Admission is \$3 per person. Preferred seating is available by calling (859) 288-4379.

## Back to the track

Following the spring race meeting, Keeneland Simulcasting moves into high gear with the Triple Crown. Kentucky Derby (G1) week officially kicks off on Saturday, April 26, as Churchill Downs presents the historic Derby Trial for three-year-old Thor-



During the summer, Keeneland Simulcasting offers outdoor seating, live music and good food.

Photo by Z



Matt Anderson

On the first Saturday in May, Keeneland will hold its 14th annual Kentucky Derby Day celebration.

oughbreds on opening day. Around this time, the atmosphere at Keeneland heats up as horsemen and racing aficionados from around the globe arrive in Kentucky for the Derby.

Keeneland Simulcasting will again offer the popular Oaks-Derby Double wager, which requires you to pick the winner of the \$500,000 Kentucky Oaks (G1) for fillies on Friday, May 2, and the winner of the \$2 million Kentucky Derby on Saturday, May 3.

If you aren't making the drive to Louisville, come to Keeneland for one of the biggest Kentucky Derby parties in the United States. Last year, 21,242 racing fans attended Keeneland's 13th annual Kentucky Derby Day celebration. They wagered \$1,858,653 on the Derby, won by Street Sense. Street Sense, you might remember, finished second by a nose to Dominican in Keeneland's Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G1).

Thrilling Triple Crown coverage will continue at Keeneland with the Preakness Stakes (G1) from Pimlico Race Course on May 17 and the Belmont Stakes (G1) from Belmont Park on June 7.

### Contest time

In July, Del Mar in California and Saratoga Race Course in New York will

open their doors to the best horses and horsemen across the land, giving simulcast players excellent wagering opportunities all afternoon and into the evening. Weekend racing at the two tracks is especially thrilling because virtually every stakes race has Breeders' Cup World Championships implications.

In addition, Keeneland Simulcasting will offer a number of contests to challenge your handicapping talents. Dates of special summertime events include:

**May 7**—Return of the popular Keeneland Blastoff contest for a three-week run with at least \$1,000 on the line each week. The Blastoff requires players to pick a horse that finishes in the top four of a designated race on Wednesday, the top three on Thursday, the top two on Friday and a winner on Saturday. On Sunday, any remaining contestants must pick a winner in a race of their choosing. The player with the highest-priced winner takes home a guaranteed \$1,000, but if there is a carryover, the winner will receive even more.

**May 9**—First day of "Friday Night Happy Hour." With live music, Chef Ed Boutilier's appetizer specials, a low-priced special drink menu and great

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# Player's choices

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racing action, Keeneland is a great place to stop on your way home after work on Fridays or before you head out for dinner.

**May 10**—Return of Keeneland Simulcasting's popular handicapping contests, with wagering on Churchill Downs. The contests, with a \$25 entry fee, offer horseplayers a chance to square off against their fellow handicappers and earn a piece of the guaranteed \$2,000 purse, while qualifying for a berth in Keeneland's Tournament of Champions in November. A delicious buffet of snacks, soft drinks, coffee or tea and a complimentary program are all included with the entry fee.

The winner of the November tournament will represent Keeneland at the *Daily Racing Form*/National Thoroughbred Racing Association National Handicapping Championship in January 2009 in Las Vegas.

**Sunday, June 1**—Qualifying contest for Keeneland's Tournament



Photo by Z

of Champions, with wagering on Churchill Downs.

**Thursdays from June 5-July 31**—Three Keeneland Betting Spree drawings will be held each Thursday. Winning players will be able to make all the \$2 bets they can call in 30 seconds.

**Saturday, June 28**—Qualifying contest for Keeneland's Tournament of Champions, with wagering on Churchill Downs.

**Wednesday, July 16**—Opening day at Del Mar.

**Wednesday, July 23**—Opening day at Saratoga Race Course.

**Saturday, August 2**—Qualifying contest for Keeneland's Tournament of Champions, with wagering on Churchill Downs.

**Sunday, August 17**—Qualifying

contest for Keeneland's Tournament of Champions, with wagering on Ellis Park.

## Electronic age

For the latest information about Keeneland Simulcasting, visit Keeneland's website at [www.keeneland.com](http://www.keeneland.com) and click on the link titled Simulcast Racing. The section includes a schedule of racetracks and information about contests, promotions and special events.

A visit to Keeneland's website also will enable you to sign up to receive an eNewsletter filled with news about all of the track's simulcast action, including lucrative carryovers. 🐎

**Jude T. Feld, who won 23 stakes as a trainer, is a racing publicist and bloodstock consultant in Lexington who develops simulcast promotions for Keeneland.**



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