

April 15, 2026

## Dave Nichols takes down Keeneland's Grade One Gamble

Dave Nichols continued his amazing run through the tournament world by capturing Keeneland's Grade One Gamble on Saturday, April 12, edging out perennial tournament powerhouse Christian Hellmers with a bold move in the last two races of the day.

The Grade One Gamble is one of the most prestigious cash tournaments in the country, with a \$3500 buy-in and a lucrative prize package that includes 6 Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge entries, 10 National Horseplayers Championship entries, and 3 berths into the TwinSpires Kentucky Derby Betting Challenge. In addition, cash prizes were offered to the top 20 finishers, with Dave Nichols pocketing \$68,250 as the winner and Christian Hellmers taking down \$34,125 as the runner-up. The contest drew a record 309 entries and generated a record handle of \$1.3 million.

Hellmers had held the lead since going all-in on Noble Confessor in the 7<sup>th</sup> race, turning a \$10,690 bankroll into \$30,146. Nichols hit a \$250 double beginning with Trendsetter, the \$66.68 winner of the Grade 3 Stonestreet Lexington Stakes, into West End Kid in the 11<sup>th</sup> race, cashing for \$28,035. To pass Hellmers, he also needed a cold \$1,000 exacta in the 11<sup>th</sup> that netted him \$5,290 and a total final bankroll of \$33,325.

Following is a list of winners; complete tournament results can be found at:

<https://members.breederscup.com/bcbc/keeneland>

Position	Display Name	Account Balance	BCBC	NHC	KDBC	Prize Money
1	David Nichols	\$33,325.50	x		x	\$68,250
2	Christian Hellmers	\$27,675.80	x		x	\$34,125
3	Quinn Strander	\$21,397.02	x			\$15,750
4	Andrew Asaro	\$20,812.89	x	x		\$8,400
5	David Kramer	\$19,003.55	x	x		\$6,300
6	John O'Brien	\$17,709.48	x	x		\$3,675
7	Brett Wiener	\$17,571.86		x		\$3,675
8	Mark Haidar	\$17,336.88				\$3,675
9	Christopher Cupples	\$16,016.48			x	\$3,675
10	James Metzger	\$15,614.32		x		\$3,675
11	Howard Kravets	\$15,198.75		x		\$1,575
12	Anthony Fortunato	\$12,827.90		x		\$1,575

13	Blaise Brucato	\$11,990.45	x	\$1,575
14	Paul Matties	\$11,800.40	x	\$1,575
15	Rock Edwards	\$11,010.50	x	\$1,575
16	Kenneth Mollicone	\$10,575.25		\$1,575
17	Evan Trommer	\$10,350.25		\$1,575
18	Dan Slattery	\$10,188.50		\$1,575
19	Steve Pennington	\$10,082.52		\$1,575
20	Michael Goodrich	\$9,968.00		\$1,575