

## BARN NOTES

OCT. 2-24 | NO RACING Mondays &amp; Tuesdays | First Post 1 p.m. | Gates Open 11 a.m.

## Distaff Contenders Nitrogen, Measure Breeze through the Fog

The heavy fog that covered much of the Lexington area early Monday morning didn't stop two of trainer Mark Casse's leading Breeders' Cup contenders, Nitrogen and Measure, from putting in important works with less than three weeks until the World Championships Oct. 30-31 at Keeneland.

Champion and multiple Grade 1 winner Nitrogen and multiple Grade 1-placed Measure, Casse's two expected runners for the Oct. 31 Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1), each breezed a half-mile without company. The fog prevented official clockings for the two fillies, but Casse timed the works using Equilibrium by Vayu Technology — a system that uses wearable sensors to produce a variety of information about a horse's health and performance.

D.J. Stable's homebred Nitrogen, last year's champion 3-year-old filly and Distaff runner-up, went in :48.40 under exercise rider Autumn Lavertu. Gary Barber, Bridlewood Farm and Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners' Measure, runner-up in the Alabama (G1) Presented by Keeneland Sales and third last time out in the Cotillion (G1), went in :50 under exercise rider Belter Revelorio.

"Nitrogen went faster than Measure," Casse said. "Measure is usually not much of a work horse, and Nitrogen's not a huge work horse either. Measure, before the Cotillion, she worked fast. I was shocked by how fast she went. This time I thought both fillies went really well. It was so foggy that you could hardly see. Of course, we had a light on the helmet cover of the riders and we could tell where they were.

"We just started using the system. It was developed by Karan Kanchan and we were introduced to his system through Aron Wellman (of Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners)."

Casse said Equilibrium times horses from a signal from an Apple Watch placed in a small pouch in a horse's saddle.



"It clocks the works," Casse said. "It tells us their stride. It tells us if they're hitting differently on one leg than the other. It analyzes soundness."

Nitrogen's work was her first since her victory in the Beldame (G2) Sept. 25 at Belmont Park. The 4-year-old daughter of Medaglia d'Oro typically works about every 10 days, and she breezed 13 days before her Beldame victory. Measure last breezed Sept. 12 at Belmont, a week before the Cotillion at Parx Racing. The 3-year-old Essential Quality filly also breezed Aug. 12, 10 days before her second to My Gun's Loaded in the Alabama.

Ten days after Monday's fog works will be Thursday, Oct. 22, nine days before the Distaff.

Nitrogen and Measure are two of Casse's Breeders' Cup contenders, along with First Lady (G1) winner Classic Q and potentially Lexi's Charm, Facteur Cheval (IRE), Time to Dazzle, My Boy Prince, Victory Achieved and Canada.

Classic Q will be pointed to the Maker's Mark Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1). Lexi's Charm, who won a 6-furlong allowance by 12 lengths Oct. 7 at Keeneland, could wind up in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1). Canada, winner of the Cup & Saucer Oct. 4 at Woodbine, could be in the Brown Advisory Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1). Two-time Franklin (G2) winner Time to Dazzle, My Boy Prince and Victory Achieved are considered for the Prevagen Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1).

▪ By Tom Law

### Race Day Essentials



#### How to Watch

Every Race Day  
FanDuel TV  
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[WATCH HERE](#)

### Complimentary Digital Program



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### Upcoming Events

**Friday, Oct. 16**  
College Scholarship  
Day Presented by  
Lane's End



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# Undefeated With a Kiss Ready for Lexus Raven Run

**With a Kiss walked into Todd Pletcher's barn at Belmont Park last spring with big expectations.**

How big? Consider the filly was bred by Chelston, the operation closely associated with John Magnier and Coolmore, and she's owned by Michael Tabor. Also consider she's by leading sire Gun Runner and out of Kentucky Oaks (G1) winner Cathryn Sophia.

With a Kiss delivered on those expectations with a victory as the 3-5 favorite in her debut going 6 furlongs in late October 2025 at Aqueduct. She went to the sidelines after that, and didn't return until early September, when she won again going 6½ furlongs at Saratoga.

"She was a filly we had some setbacks with, had to give her some time off after she was impressive in her maiden win," Pletcher said. "But she seems like a filly that should improve as she gets older and gets to stretch out."

With a Kiss stretches out a bit more in Saturday's Lexus Raven Run (G2), a 7-furlong stakes for 3-year-old fillies.

"We wound up in the Raven Run looking at possible opportunities," Pletcher said. "You know, we're at the end of the calendar year and there are not many straight 3-year-old filly opportunities left, so we thought we'd give this a try."

With a Kiss brings her reputation — and unbeaten record — to the Lexus Raven Run after training forwardly on Saratoga's main track and Oklahoma Training Track since her early September victory. She's breezed four times since the win, including a sharp half in :48.75 Oct. 2 and another half in :49.37 last Saturday, Oct. 10. With a Kiss shipped to Keeneland Sunday, arrived in good order and trained on the main track early this week for Saturday's assignment.

"We wanted to see how she came back from her win before thinking about the (Lexus Raven Run)," Pletcher said. "She trained very well before that win. We were expecting a good run from her and got that. After that we kind of looked at what opportunities with had and this seemed like the most logical one."

Pletcher heads into Wednesday's card with two wins from five starts at the Fall Meet. He won the Claiborne Breeders' Futurity (G1) on Fall Stars Saturday and a 1 1/16-mile maiden race on Fall Stars Sunday with Damavand. American History earned an automatic spot in the Oct. 30 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) with his "Win and You're In" score in the Claiborne Breeders' Futurity. ■ *By Tom Law*

# Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint on the Table for Time to Dazzle

**Tracy Farmer's Time to Dazzle won her second straight Franklin (G2) Sunday at Keeneland and might have earned her way into the Oct. 31 Prevagen Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1) on her favorite course.**

"She loves it there, she really does," trainer Mark Casse said Tuesday. "We always knew she liked Keeneland and were looking forward to getting her back there. We're going to see how she trains, but there's a shot she may go in the Breeders' Cup."

Time to Dazzle edged Kehoe Beach by a nose in the 5½-furlong Franklin for her first win in seven starts this season. She finished second in back-to-back starts prior to the Franklin: the Hendrie (G3) at Woodbine and the Never Say Die Kentucky Downs Ladies Turf Sprint (G1) at Kentucky Downs.

The Turf Sprint is limited to 14 entrants. Time to Dazzle is ninth on the list of contenders — behind seven "Win and You're In" runners who automatically qualified and Kentucky Downs Ladies Turf Sprint winner In Our Time — with 12 points earned from those graded stakes, including the Franklin. The points are valuable because, if any Breeders' Cup race is oversubscribed, a system that ranks horses in preference based on Breeders' Cup Challenge winners, a point system and the judgment of a panel of racing experts determines the fields.

"She's got 12 points, so I would probably get in," Casse said. "But we're going to see. Like I said, I want to see how she does between now and then."

Time to Dazzle could be joined in the Turf Sprint by two stablemates: My Boy Prince and Victory Achieved.

Gary Barber's My Boy Prince remains under consideration despite a fifth in the Woodford (G2) Presented by FanDuel on Fall Stars Saturday, Oct. 3 at Keeneland. The 5-year-old Cairo Prince gelding won the Valvoline Global Shakertown (G2) going the 5½-furlong trip at Keeneland during the Spring Meet. He's 3-for-9 this season, with victories in the Turf Dash at Tampa Bay Downs and the Van Clief (L) at Colonial Downs.

"We have a few horses that might be questionable, like My Boy Prince," Casse said. "I was disappointed in his last race, but he's another one, let's see how he trains."

Live Oak Plantation's homebred Victory Achieved has finished first or second in each of his five races this season, winning the Nearctic (G2) Presented by The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance Oct. 3 at Woodbine. The 5-year-old Florida-bred Street Sense gelding was second in three straight stakes prior to that win, including behind My Boy Prince in the Van Clief.

■ *By Tom Law*

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# American History, Damavand Sharp in Wednesday Breezes

**FanDuel Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) contenders American History and Damavand breezed in company Wednesday at Keeneland, a day earlier than trainer Todd Pletcher originally planned.**

American History, winner of the Claiborne Breeders' Futurity (G1) on Fall Stars Saturday, Oct. 3, and Damavand, a \$1 million purchase at last year's Keeneland September Yearling Sale who won a maiden race Oct. 4 at Keeneland, were slated to breeze Thursday.

John Velazquez rode American History while Humberto Zamora was aboard Damavand. They went a half in :47 over the fast main track after the second maintenance period Wednesday, turning in the fastest of 30 times at the distance.

"I kept looking at the forecast and this morning said, 'You know what, let's go ahead,'" said Pletcher, who watched the work from the box seats along with WinStar Farm's David Hanley.

American History, on the inside, finished just ahead of Damavand at the finish before a strong gallop out well onto the backstretch.



"He worked terrific, did it effortlessly and seemed to have bounced out of the race in good shape," Pletcher said of American History, a son of Constitution who is co-owned by WinStar, First Go Racing and CHC Inc. Wednesday's work was American History's first since he improved to 2-for-2 with his victory in the Claiborne Breeders' Futurity.

Damavand also worked for the first time since winning a 1 1/16-mile maiden on Fall Stars Sunday. The son of Not This Time won in his second start for owner AMO Racing USA. He's under consideration for the Juvenile but not definite, Pletcher said.

"He worked fine," Pletcher said. "It seemed like he was working a little harder than the other guy but not a bad move. We'll continue to see how it goes before making a decision."

Pletcher's other Breeders' Cup contender, Castle & Key Bourbon (G2) runner-up Bold Leadership, is also training at Keeneland for the Brown Advisory Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1).

▪ By Tom Law



## FROM KEENELAND LIBRARY ARCHIVES

**OCT. 14, 1948**

*Olympia became the first horse to fly to Keeneland. Nine days later, he won the Breeders' Futurity.*



## PERSONAL

# PICK 5

JOSE ORTIZ

### Jockey

**Birth Date:** Oct. 2, 1993

**Birthplace:** Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico



### Q: Who is your favorite sports team?

**A:** Right now, I cheer for the Dodgers, but I have always been a Mets fan. I'm the godfather of (Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher) Edwin Diaz's kid, so I root for (Diaz) on whatever team he's on.

### Q: After winning the Kentucky Derby with Golden Tempo, you and your brother Irad Ortiz Jr. went back home to Puerto Rico for a parade. What was that like?

**A:** We had a very huge parade. (I went) horseback riding, and I grew up doing that. It's a great community, and I was very happy, very pleased that they welcomed us that way.

### Q: Do you have a favorite Keeneland memory?

**A:** Keeneland is always great. Every year, I make so many memories, and it would be unfair to pick one. I love this place, and it's been great to me.

### Q: What's your favorite food?

**A:** My favorite food is Puerto Rican food: rice, beans and pork chops seasoned the Puerto Rican way with some avocado on the side. That's my go-to.

### Q: Do you have hobbies or things you like to do away from racing?

**A:** I like to be home on my farm and riding my horses. Two (of my three) children like to ride horses, but the other one doesn't ride much. He likes to ride around in the golf cart.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

*CARA FELCE*



**KAH-rah FEHL-cheh**

### Race 8

*Cara Felce means  
"dear fern" in Italian.*

## MEET LEADERS

LEADERS THROUGH SUNDAY'S  
EIGHTH DAY OF THE FALL MEET BY  
WINS:

### *Jockeys*

**10** | Tyler Gaffalione

**10** | Irad Ortiz Jr.

### *Trainers*

**5** | Mark Casse  
Brendan Walsh  
Wesley Ward

**4** | Chad Brown  
Eddie Kenneally

### *Owners*

**3** | Klaravich Stables (Seth Klarman)

**2** | Gainesway Stable (Antony Beck) and Andrew Rosen  
Lael Stables (Roy Jackson)

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