

BARN NOTES

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

Street Beast Makes Dirt Debut in Perryville

Midway Racing's Street Beast will be in new territory on Saturday when he makes his dirt racing debut in the \$350,000 Perryville (G3) at 7 furlongs for 3-year-olds. Competing exclusively on grass and all-weather surfaces, the son of Street Sense has accumulated nearly \$1 million in earnings with a 10-3-1-0 record that includes two stakes victories and a fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1).

The question of "Why try the main track?" might better be asked as "Why not?" Street Beast is certainly no stranger to the surface as a member of trainer Ben Colebrook's year-round Keeneland division.

"You don't know if you don't go," Midway Racing Managing Partner Davant Latham said. "He trains on the dirt at Keeneland, and he trains well on it. But he has run so well on the other surfaces that there was no need to try dirt sooner."

Latham, an avid fox hunter who rides his two retired Thoroughbreds, credits Street Beast's attitude for much of his success.

"He's been a professional from Day 1," Latham said. "He's a smart horse and easy to be around."

Street Beast began his career with a runner-up effort at Ellis Park in the summer of his 2-year-old season. He then went to Kentucky Downs for two victories, including the Global Tote Juvenile Mile (L) prior to the Breeders' Cup at Del Mar. The colt opened his 3-year-old season with a score in the Leonatus on Turfway Park's synthetic track. In his only Keeneland race, he was a close fourth in the UK HealthCare Transylvania (G3) on April 26.

Regardless of the Perryville outcome, Latham said a sure bet is that the Midway Racing group — a mix of seasoned partners and newcomers from Latham's hometown of Memphis and elsewhere — will have a good time.

"It is going to be fun either way," Latham said. "The colt doesn't owe us anything. We have had a great run with him. This could be a new chapter, or it could be that we go back to Turfway in the winter to race on the all-weather surface." ■ *By Liane Crossley*



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Friday, Oct. 16

College Scholarship
Day Presented by
Lane's End



A Fine Chardonnay Seeks Second Keeneland Stakes Win

Double 22 Stables' A Fine Chardonnay likes things her way.

The 3-year-old Maclean's Music filly dropped way behind in Saratoga's Victory Ride (G3) before making a rallying run to finish third in the July race. She raced close to the pace in her next race, running second in the Audubon Oaks Presented by OG Cappers in August at Churchill Downs. Then she dropped far back again in her most recent try in the Sept. 19 Dogwood (G3) Presented by Resolute Racing at Churchill, finishing fourth.

"We don't dictate where she is," trainer Ian Wilkes said. "She puts herself where she wants to be."

Wilkes, jockey Brian Hernandez Jr. and members of the Double 22 ownership group, along with fans taking in the races Saturday at Keeneland, will find out how A Fine Chardonnay wants to run when she meets 11 rivals in the Lexus Raven Run (G2).

Wilkes hopes they see a return to the style and result that yielded A Fine Chardonnay's victory here in the MiddleGround Capital Beaumont (G2) during the Spring Meet. Under Hernandez for the second time, A Fine Chardonnay raced fifth of six early but never too far back before rallying wide out of the turn on the way to a three-quarter-length win over Sneaky Good in the 7-furlong stakes. She tries the same distance Saturday and brings a 2-for-2 record at Keeneland to the featured event on the 10-race card.

"She's temperamental," Wilkes said. "Not in a bad way, but look at the Victory Ride. She dropped herself way back. That wasn't by design to do it, she put herself there. Her next start, in the Audubon Oaks, she sat just off the speed. She was right there. Then we go to the Dogwood and she drops herself way back again."

"She's a filly and you've got to ask them sometimes. I think Brian tried to tell her. One thing about her, she's going to find her own traction."

A Fine Chardonnay, drawn in the middle of the field in post seven between likely favorites Percy's Bar (post six) and Conceit (eight), is 3-for-9 with four placings in her career. Her other Keeneland win came in the Dean Dorton Myrtlewood in her second start during last year's Fall Meet.

Wilkes likes what he's seen from A Fine Chardonnay in the almost four weeks between her run in the Dogwood and the Lexus Raven Run. She showed it with a half-mile breeze in :47.18 Sunday over Skylight Training Center's synthetic track in a time that was fastest of 11 at the distance.

"I feel she's better now than she was last time," Wilkes said. "Her work the other day was exceptionally good. I wanted a little tighter work. Maybe I was a little soft on her last time. She's put some weight on. She's a light filly, but she's put weight on. She's responded well."

The Lexus Raven Run, which shares the card with the Perryville (G3) for 3-year-olds, goes as the ninth race at 5:16 p.m.

▪ *By Tom Law*

Jockey Overcomes Eventful Start to Finish Second in Riding Debut

Yomar Ortiz Jr.'s first professional mount did not get off to the start he envisioned, but the 17-year-old apprentice jockey showed composure under pressure to guide Eli's Promise to a second-place finish in Wednesday's third race for trainer Joe Sharp.

Eli's Promise jumped out of the starting gate at the start, leaving Ortiz well behind his six rivals as the 6-furlong race began. Despite the start, Ortiz regrouped, settled his mount into a rhythm and rallied to finish second 3 lengths behind the winner.

"It was pretty crazy. It all happened so quick," Ortiz said.

Rather than rush Eli's Promise after the slow start, Ortiz allowed the gelding to find his footing before making his move late in the race.

"I just let him find his own rhythm," Ortiz said. "Turning for home, I saw Mario (Gutierrez on Coming in Hot) coming back, and I just started following Jose (Ortiz on Heavenlyconveyance), because he looked like he was moving."

The young jockey credited Ortiz (no relation) with encouraging him to stay prepared for the unexpected before heading to the starting gate.

"Before we even went out, Jose told me to expect anything," Yomar said. "(He said) 'Once you get out there, the race can unfold in a very, very different way.' When we broke, I just went to plan B, and I knew (Eli's Promise) would come running for me."

Ortiz began his professional riding career after spending years watching his father, jockey Yomar Orlando Ortiz, and dreaming of following in his footsteps. After training in Puerto Rico at the same jockey school his father attended (Escuela Vocacional Hípica), Ortiz continued developing his skills with trainers in Maryland and New York before joining Sharp's stable.

Joining Sharp for Ortiz's riding debut were his wife, retired jockey Rosie Napravnik — a three-time Keeneland meet leader — and their sons. Others included owner Daisy Phipps Pulito and Anthony Hamilton, a former assistant to Hall of Fame trainer Shug McGaughey who knew Ortiz from Maryland. Hamilton helped Ortiz land a job galloping horses for McGaughey, longtime trainer for the Phipps Stable, last summer.

"I'm super happy for him," said Hamilton, now Yearling Manager at Claiborne Farm. "He deserves everything — he's such a hard worker. I know his heart is racing about 3,000 beats a second right now. He's going to do great things. He's the perfect size. He's dedicated. It's all he wants to do. He's so committed to it. It's fun to see."

Ortiz even impressed retired jockey David Flores, who won 3,616 races in his career, gallops horses at Keeneland in the mornings and is a Keeneland Guest Services employee — called "Green Coats" — stationed outside the Jockeys Quarters.

"He did great for his first ride," Flores said. "Never panicked. He made us (jockeys) all look bad. We didn't do that in our first rides."

Ortiz is named on two horses Thursday at Keeneland for Sharp: Motivated by Grace in the second and Salty Viking in the fifth.

▪ *By Jax Rogers*

Today marks Keeneland's 90th Anniversary

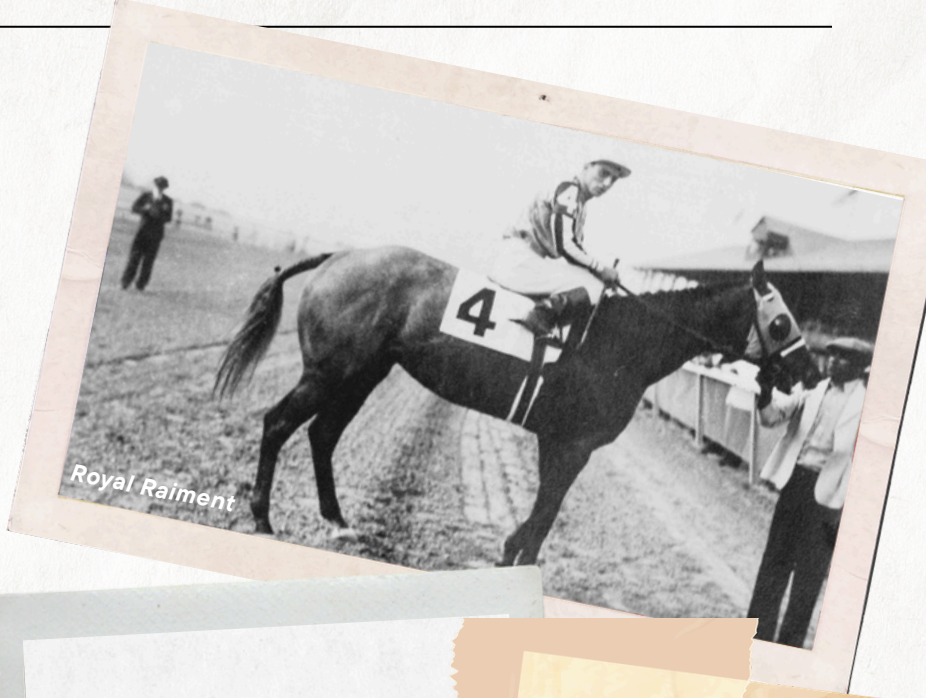
The track was developed on property owned by international sportsman John Oliver "Jack" Keene and opened Oct. 15, 1936, for nine days of racing that drew tremendous attention in Lexington and beyond.

Opening day featured seven races worth a total of \$7,380. Royal Raiment won the first race, a \$1,000 allowance race for 2-year-old fillies going 6 furlongs.

Future Hall of Famer Myrtlewood won the fifth race, the Keen Handicap, first of four stakes of the season. Myrtlewood went on to win two more races that meet.

About 8,000 people in attendance that first day wagered \$74,639. For the season, total attendance was 25,337 and total handle was \$534,497.

Ninety years later, Keeneland is an international leader in Thoroughbred racing and auctions, while the vision of its founders continues to guide the beloved organization: to be a model race track and sales company, invest in the future of the sport, enrich the Central Kentucky community and always do what is best for the horse.



FIRST RACE			
THE TOP FLIGHT (First Division)			
Purse \$1,000. For Two-year-old Fillies. Weight 119 lbs. Non-winners of \$15,000 allowed 3 lbs.; \$4,000 or \$2,000 twice allowed 5 lbs.; a sweepstakes or three races, 8 lbs.; two races, 10 lbs.; maidens, 12 lbs. (Claiming races not considered). Six Furlongs			
(A member of Keeneland Association will present the owner of the winner with a trophy).			
Ask for HORSE by This Number		Post P.-Rating and Jockey	
Owner	Trainer		
A. B. Hancock	Orange	A. Baker	J. Cowley 05
1 RECUSSION	B. f. 2, Gallant Fox—Percussion	W B 109	
Everglades Stables (P. A. Burton)	White, red stars	W. Stephens	C. Landolt 01
2 WISE DART	B. f. 2, Wise Counsellor—Darter	W 109	
Southland Stable (C. Bacharach)	Light Blue, Dark Blue Sleeves, Light and Dark blue cap.	C. Porter	5 South E. Steffen 00
3 LUCKY DUCKY	B. f. 2, Zaccwelsta—Carrie B.	W 114	
John Hay Whitney	Pink, Black and White Striped Sleeves	J. W. Healy	J. Gilbert 02
4 ROYAL RAIMENT	Gr. f. 2, Royal Minstrel—Brocade	W B 109	
Hal Price Headley	Navy Blue, White Sash, Collar, Cuffs and Cap	D. A. Headley	E. Steffen 06
5 THE QUEEN	B. f. 2, Supremus—Ancient Queen	W B 109	
C. V. Whitney	Light Blue, Brown Cap	J. A. Healey	R. Wootton 07
6 PERCENT	Br. f. 2, Pharamond 2nd.—Hargin	W B 109	
E. D. Shaffer	Scarlet, White Sleeves and Cap	John Baird	5 Mc Coy 04
7 LOG	Dk. br. f. 2, Bull Dog—Wild Waters	W Bd 109	
Brownell Combs	Orange, Blue Bars on Sleeves	R. A. Kindred	H. Beatty 03
8 BEAUTY SLEEP	Ch. f. 2, Infinite—Manta	W B 109	

THOMAS B.

PERSONAL

PICK 5

GABBY GAUDET

Keeneland Director of Communications

Birth Date: Jan. 22, 1991

Birthplace: Silver Springs, Maryland



Q: What's your favorite Keeneland memory?

A: It's hard. I've had a lot of great ones. I think when American Pharoah won the (2015) Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), that was a lot of fun. I announced pedigrees at (a session of the 2020 Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale), and that was a really important moment. I think back (at) how nervous I was. Being nervous is sometimes a good thing because it means you're challenging yourself — it definitely was the case with that. It was one of my favorite times.

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A: Just working with the team at Keeneland. The team is unbelievably talented and creative and funny. When we're all stressed out, someone always provides levity to the situation, but we all focus and get our work done as well. It's just been such a pleasure to work with everyone here.

Q: You grew up in a racing family and married into another one. How do you balance work and home life?

A: I remember (being) at the dinner table with my mom and dad and sister, and they all loved racing and all they wanted to do was talk about it. I'd be like, "I'm on an island here. I want to talk about sports or anything else." Fast forward (when) I married into a racing family. We separate it at home. We talk about everything other than racing. I think it's really important to have that balance.

Q: What is your best piece of advice for new handicappers?

A: Look at horses in the Saddling Paddock. If a horse really looks good there, then go with it. You have to trust your gut. When I started looking at horses, I was not a good handicapper just off past performances and was really insecure in picking them. But growing up in a racing family and being in the (barn), where I tacked horses and put their bandages on, taught me a lot about horses and how they should look.

Q: What are your hobbies outside racing?

A: I love to travel. I love to explore. I don't always like to go to the same place twice, which makes it a little difficult, especially with kids. We look forward every year to a family vacation in Florida. There's like 40 of us, and it's crazy. But it's something I look forward to every year.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

FARROKH



fuhr-ROHKH

Race 5

A nod to Farrokh Bulsara, better known as Freddie Mercury, the legendary frontman of Queen. With a dam named Bohemian Queen, this horse was clearly born to rock you.

MEET LEADERS

LEADERS THROUGH WEDNESDAY'S NINTH DAY OF THE FALL MEET BY WINS:

Jockeys

12 | Irad Ortiz Jr.

11 | Flavien Prat

Trainers

7 | Brendan Walsh

5 | Steve Asmussen
Mark Casse
Wesley Ward

Owners

3 | Klaravich Stables
(Seth Klarman)

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

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