

Fall Meet 2026

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026

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BARN NOTES

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

Magnitude Among BC Candidates on Work Tab

On Saturday, a number of horses aimed at the Oct. 30-31 Breeders' Cup at Keeneland breezed over the fast main track. The group included multiple Grade 1 winners Magnitude for trainer Steve Asmussen and Fully Subscribed, Kathrynmarissa and Segesta for trainer Chad Brown.

Magnitude (Classic) worked after the first maintenance period under jockey Flavien Prat, going 5 furlongs in 1:00.60. The 4-year-old son of Not This Time worked on the outside of stakes winner and Grade 1-placed Publisher. The duo turned in the co-fastest 5-furlong work of 24 at the distance Saturday.

Prat, who rides Saturday's card at Keeneland, flew in from New York to breeze Magnitude for the second time. He was named as Magnitude's rider for the \$7 million Classic last week after Jose Ortiz opted to stay with dual classic winner Golden Tempo.

"Good, good breeze," Prat said. "It was pretty much the same as last week. Magnitude is doing good, moving well."

Magnitude shipped to Keeneland in late September, and Saturday's work was his fourth on the main track. He turned in a 5-furlong move last Saturday, Oct. 10 in 1:00.60 in company with two-time winner Preside.

Fully Subscribed (Distaff) turned in her first breeze since winning Keeneland's Juddmonte Spinster (G1) on Oct. 4, breezing a half-mile after the second maintenance period in :49.80.

Kathynmarissa (Filly and Mare Turf), a recent arrival to Brown's barn at Keeneland, went a half in :50.20. The 5-year-old daughter of American Pharoah heads into the Breeders' Cup off back-to-back wins in the Dunkin' Diana (G1) at Saratoga and the Flower Bowl (G2) at Belmont Park.

Segesta (Filly and Mare Turf), winner of the Jenny Wiley (G1) during the Spring Meet, went a half in :49.80. The 5-year-old daughter of Ghostzapper finished ninth in Keeneland's First Lady (G1) on Saturday, Oct. 3 in her most recent start.

Among other Breeders' Cup candidates in action Saturday:

Coach Pope (Juvenile) runner-up in Keeneland's Claiborne Breeders' Futurity (G1) on Oct. 3, breezed 5 furlongs in 1:02.20 under jockey Jose Ortiz after the first maintenance period for trainer Kenny McPeck.

East Avenue (Dirt Mile) breezed 5 furlongs in 1:02.40 for trainer Brendan Walsh. Winner of the Salvator Mile (G3) in June at Monmouth, the 4-year-old son of Medaglia d'Oro finished fourth in two subsequent Grade 3 stakes.

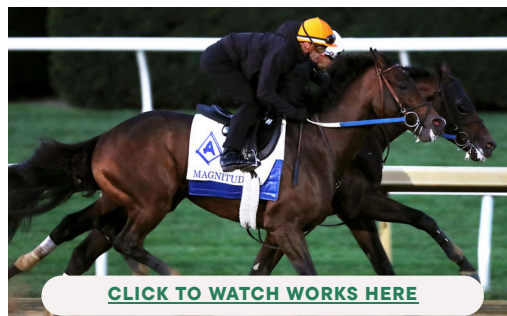
How's Al Today (Juvenile Turf) breezed 5 furlongs in 1:01.80 for trainer Riley Mott. The 2-year-old son of Munnings won back-to-back races less than two weeks' apart at Kentucky Downs, including the Pepsi Kentucky Downs Juvenile Mile (L) Sept. 9.

Hymn (Sprint) turned in his first workout after missing Keeneland's Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix (G2) on Oct. 3, going a half in :49.40 shortly after the track opened for training at 5:30 a.m. Trained by Ron Moquett, the 4-year-old McKinzie gelding won the Forego (G2) in late August at Saratoga.

Stradale (Sprint) turned in the fastest half-mile work of 81 at the distance, going in :47.80 for Asmussen. A 3-year-old by Yaupon, Stradale won the Gallant Bob (G2) at Parx Racing last time out.

Zulu Kingdom (IRE) (Mile) breezed a half in :49 for Brown. Winner of the Maker's Mark Mile (G1) at the Spring Meet, he finished fifth in Keeneland's Coolmore Turf Mile (G1) on Oct. 3 in his most recent start.

The deadline to pre-enter horses in the 14 Breeders' Cup races is noon ET on Monday, Oct. 19. Pre-entries are to be announced at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 21. ■ *By Liane Crossley, Tom Law, Amy Owens, Jax Rogers*



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Upcoming Events

Sunday, Oct. 18
Heroes Day

Heroes can register to receive up to four tickets for General Admission via Etix.



Poppy the Princess Connections Look Forward to Sunday Stamina Test

The connections of Poppy the Princess freely admit the daughter of Cairo Prince finds herself in the “deep end” against her 11 opponents in Sunday’s \$350,000 Rood & Riddle Dowager (G3) at Keeneland.

They also know the 4-year-old filly will appreciate the extended 12 furlongs on the turf, a trip she hasn’t had since last year.

“She ran here going a mile and a half here last fall and ran second to a nice horse,” trainer Troy Newton said of a runner-up performance to Argentine Group 2 winner and eventual U.S. stakes winner Ayra Stark (ARG). “That’s our thoughts for this race at this distance. If you go back and look at her races, she’s truly had excuses. Every trainer makes excuses, of course.”

Newton hopes he won’t need any excuses this time. Poppy the Princess was entered in a 1 1/16-mile allowance race on the turf on Saturday’s card, but Newton and owners and breeders Barrett Partners opted instead for the Rood & Riddle Dowager. The filly was 30-1 for Saturday’s allowance, and she’s 50-1 on the morning line for Sunday in her first stakes run since a fifth in the Ellis Park Turf in August 2025.

Based at Highpoint Farm and Training Center in La Grange, Kentucky, Newton has 198 wins with purse earnings of more than \$4 million heading into Saturday. He’s trained seven runners that have earned six figures, including Poppy the Princess at the top of the group with a bankroll of \$298,990.

Newton has 13 wins this year, including a July 25 allowance win at Ellis Park with Poppy the Princess that played a role in her landing in the Rood & Riddle Dowager.

“We had planned on going in a race going a mile and a half at Kentucky Downs in September,” Newton said. “They had the race at Ellis Park, a two-other-than, then she won that race at the end (of the Ellis meet) so she wasn’t eligible for the Kentucky Downs race. We didn’t get to run in the mile and a half.”

Now Poppy the Princess does, along with the opportunity for her first win over Keeneland’s turf course. She’s finished second in three starts on the course, with the other runner-up coming in her second start as a 2-year-old going 1 mile during the 2024 Fall Meet.

“If she’s going to be anything significant, it’s going to be as one of those route-type horses,” Newton said. “If not, that’s OK. She’s a nice little allowance horse.”

Axel Concepcion will ride Poppy the Princess from post seven in the Rood & Riddle Dowager, which goes as the seventh of nine races Sunday with post time of 4:12 p.m. ■ *By Tom Law*

Ringman Kennedy Living Special Dream as Racehorse Owner

Aaron Kennedy is well known at Keeneland as a dedicated all-around horseman who works for Keeneland Sales as a “ringman,” who leads Thoroughbreds in the sales ring at auctions. Kennedy now is identified as a racehorse owner with Love in Lights (GB) set to run in Sunday’s eighth race, a 6-furlong claiming event for older horses.

For Kennedy, having a runner at his home track means more than the chance to win a share of the \$58,000 purse.

“I have done all phases of Thoroughbreds – mares and foals, weanlings, yearlings, stallions, racehorses,” said the 60-year-old Kennedy, who owns the 5-year-old Love in Lights with his family and trainer Anthony Stephen. “I have pretty much done it all in my 42 years of working with Thoroughbreds.”

Yet he has never had a horse of his own race at Keeneland.

“Friends, co-workers, everyone has been calling,” he said. “Even my mom, who doesn’t know anything about racing, called to talk about the horse. Racing brings people together. This horse is taking us on a journey, and I am like a jockey holding on for the ride.”

In his decades of having “done it all,” Kennedy has honed his instincts for knowing a quality horse when he sees one. He noticed something special about Love in Lights when he met him last year at Magdalena Farm and training facility in Lexington, where he works. After finishing third then second in his first two starts, Love in Lights was there for some time off.

“He just looked classy; he had class written all over him,” Kennedy said.

When Kennedy learned that Love in Lights’ connections had no

long-term plans for him, he acquired the gelding. Eventually he struck an agreement with Michelle Elliott to train him in exchange for part ownership. Love in Lights returned to racing in October 2025 with two unplaced finishes at Horseshoe Indianapolis. He found his best stride at Turfway Park, where he was among the top three in a trio of races before scoring his initial career victory March 20 against \$30,000 claimers.

After Love in Lights placed in two more races in Indiana, Kennedy sent the gelding to Stephen, who is based at Keeneland-owned The Thoroughbred Center in northeast Lexington.

Love in Lights makes his Keeneland debut after a second in allowance company at Turfway and an off-the-board effort at Kentucky Downs on Aug. 30 in his most recent effort.

Kennedy is especially looking forward to Kurt Becker calling the Sunday race.

“He’s my friend, and I am proud that he is going to call my horse’s name,” Kennedy said about Becker, who also announces pedigrees at Keeneland auctions. “It is so meaningful to me. I never dreamed I would have a horse running at Keeneland. My Keeneland family and all the people who support me and cheer for me — it means the world to me.”

■ *By Liane Crossley*





Speed Shopper

FROM KEENELAND
LIBRARY ARCHIVES

OCT. 17, 1936

Future Hall of Famer Myrtlewood won Keeneland's Ashland Stakes by 12 lengths. During the same meet (Keeneland's first) she also won the track's first stakes race: the Keen Handicap.

Speed Shopper Returns to Keeneland Seeking Another Graded Stakes Victory

Gary Barber, Bridlewood Farm and Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners' Speed Shopper will return to Keeneland for the first time since winning the Bewitch (G3) Presented by Keeneland Sales in April when she lines up in Sunday's \$350,000 Rood & Riddle Dowager (G3).

Speed Shopper, one of 12 fillies and mares entered in the 1½-mile turf marathon, will look to build on her previous success over the Keeneland turf course as she faces a competitive field.

"She's back here doing what she loves," trainer Will Walden said about the 5-year-old daughter of Quality Road. "She's had a ton of space in between races. Been working great at Turfway, and she has a graded stakes win here. We're confident. She's got to beat a good group of fillies, but we're under no illusion she can't do it."

Speed Shopper has had time between starts to prepare for her return, coming off a sixth-place finish Aug. 29 in the Personal Ensign (G1) at Saratoga. Her victory in the Bewitch Presented by Keeneland Sales came at the same 1½-mile distance as Sunday's Rood & Riddle Dowager, giving her another opportunity to showcase her ability over the distance.

Walden expects the pace to be a key factor in how the race unfolds. With a field of fillies and mares that might lack early speed, the running order could depend on which horses establish themselves near the front.

Speed Shopper typically settles into a stalking position, and Walden is leaving the race-day strategy to her Hall of Fame jockey, John Velazquez.

"She's usually sitting fourth or fifth in a stalking position," Walden said. "It's a riders' race and they have to be smart and kind of read the room as far as pace and stuff goes. We'll just let Johnny do his thing."

Speed Shopper will break from post nine in the Rood & Riddle Dowager and is the 7-2 second choice. On Nov. 3, she is scheduled to sell in Book 1 of the Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale. Consigned by Frankfort Park Farm, agent, Speed Shopper is cataloged as a racing or broodmare prospect.

▪ By Jax Rogers



PERSONAL

PICK 5

STEVE BUTTLEMAN

Keeneland Bugler

Birth Date: Sept. 22, 1964

Birthplace: Cedar Rapids, Iowa



Q: How did you become the Keeneland Bugler?

A: When George “Bucky” Sallee retired after 54 years, Keeneland reached out to me at Churchill Downs (where I was the bugler) to see if it would be a good fit. I came and interviewed, and I was lucky enough to get the position here. I’ve been here 14 years.

Q: What is something most people wouldn’t know about you?

A: I got out of music for a while before I got back into it and got the job as the bugler at Churchill (fall 1995). I thought about going into physical therapy, nursing and pre-med. Then I got married and when our first daughter was on the way, I reexamined my life. I realized that trumpet playing was something I really wanted to do. I got back into school at the University of Louisville and finished my (music) degree. When the job opened up at Churchill, I took the audition and was lucky enough to get it.

Q: When you’re not at the race track, what do you like to do?

A: I love spending time with my grandkids. I make jewelry in between races at Churchill and in my spare time. I love gardening and woodworking. Anything creative is something that I enjoy.

Q: What’s your favorite Keeneland memory?

A: I’ve played (“Happy Birthday to You”) for a kid (every year) since he was two years old, and (he and his family have) come back to Keeneland (ever since), and now he’s 15. That’s really cool.

Q: What else do you do with your music?

A: Besides my job here (and at Churchill) as the bugler, I play at different events: the Lexington Junior League (Charity) Horse Show, the World Championship Horse Show (in Louisville among other events). I also play with the Lexington Brass Band occasionally, and I also cantor (lead music) at church at least once a month.

WHAT’S IN A NAME

MASHALLAH



MAH-shah-LAH

Race 9

An Arabic word meaning
“What God has willed” or
“As God has willed.”

MEET LEADERS

LEADERS THROUGH FRIDAY’S ELEVENTH DAY OF THE FALL MEET BY WINS:

Jockeys

14 | Irad Ortiz Jr.

12 | Tyler Gaffalione
Jose Ortiz

Trainers

8 | Wesley Ward

7 | Brendan Walsh

Owners

3 | Klaravich Stables
(Seth Klarman)

2 | Steve Asmussen
Gainesway Stable
(Antony Beck) & Andrew
Rosen
Lael Stables (Roy Jackson)

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