

BARN NOTES

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

Walsh in Line for Big Closing Weekend

Brendan Walsh heads into the final week of the Keeneland Fall Meet second in the trainer standings by wins and second by purses.

Walsh's eight wins at the Fall Meet tie him with Wesley Ward and are one behind leader Steve Asmussen. The barn's runners have earned \$1,039,923 here, which ranks just behind Mark Casse's \$1,108,502. The runners entered in 14 races over the next four days — including four stakes — could change that placement.

"We have a good few still to run," Walsh said Tuesday after breezing two of his Breeders' Cup hopefuls, Lush Lips (GB) and Expensive Queen (IRE), on the turf course.

Define (IRE), who goes in Friday's \$400,000 Bank of America Valley View (G2), might give Walsh his best chance of the stakes runners. She's the 9-2 second choice in the field of 10 entered in the 1-mile turf stakes, behind 6-5 favorite Sister Troienne.

Define has won two of three starts since coming to the U.S. and into Walsh's barn. The most recent came in a 1 1/16-mile allowance on the turf Sept. 20 at Churchill Downs following an eighth in the Aug. 22 Del Mar Oaks (G1) Presented by Keeneland Sales.

"She ran very well that last day," Walsh said. "She has a good chance I think. Seems like she's starting to fit in over here (in the U.S.). The Del Mar Oaks might have been too big of a step to take with the travel and everything. But she ran very well, she redeemed herself the last time."

Walsh will run Miss Anna, third last time out in the Pocahontas (G3) at Churchill, in Friday's \$300,000 Dean Dorton Myrtlewood for 2-year-old fillies.

San Siro comes into Saturday's \$350,000 Hagyard Fayette (G3) on a two-race win streak, including the Sept. 19 Greenwood Cup (L) going 1 1/2 miles on the dirt at Parx Racing. He won going the same 9-furlong trip as the Hagyard Fayette two starts back in an allowance race at Saratoga.

"He's doing great at the moment with those



back-to-back wins," Walsh said. "We're shortening up a little bit. There are not a ton of races available for him. We'll go here and then maybe the Brooklyn (G2) at Belmont (Dec. 5). This kind of keeps him ticking over."

Walsh's other two stakes runners – Infiltrate and Immortalised (FR) – figure to be longshots in Saturday's \$400,000 Bryan Station (G2) for 3-year-olds on the grass.

Infiltrate might offer the best chance in the 1-mile stakes if the son of Oscar Performance returns to his runner-up form in the Aug. 1 Secretariat (G2) at Colonial Downs. He's been 11th and fifth in two subsequent stakes starts and is 15-1 on the morning line for the Bryan Station.

Immortalized, 30-1 for the Bryan Station, won the Cutler Bay in late March at Gulfstream before back-to-back seconds in the Penn Mile (G3) and the American Derby (L). He finished 10th in the Mint Franklin-Simpson (G2) last time out at Kentucky Downs.

"Two nice horses," Walsh said. "Immortalize has been rock-solid all year. The mile should suit him. The other horse should go well, too. He's a nice horse. Second in the Secretariat, ran at Kentucky Downs and didn't run any good. I don't think he liked the track. Then we tried the dirt with him — that was probably too tough a spot. Ultimately, he's a grass horse so I'd expect a big improvement here with him." ■ *By Tom Law*

Race Day Essentials

How to Watch



Every Race Day
FanDuel TV
Keeneland YouTube

[WATCH HERE](#)

Complimentary Digital Program



[FREE DOWNLOAD](#)

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Oct. 24
Teacher
Appreciation Day

Free General Admission and access to Reserved Grandstand Seating for teachers, educators and staff



Nitrogen Turns in Final Breeders' Cup Work at Keeneland

On Tuesday and Wednesday, several horses aimed at the Oct. 30-31 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Keeneland breezed over the fast main track and good turf course.

Wednesday's group included champion Nitrogen and Grade 1 winner Dotsy on dirt. Tuesday's turf workers included Royal Ascot and York winner Bacio, Indian Summer (G3) Presented by Keeneland Select winner Adonius (IRE) and 2025 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1) Presented by Dixiana winner and 2026 First Lady (G1) runner-up Lush Lips (GB).

Nitrogen (Distaff) breezed a half-mile under exercise rider Autumn Lavertu just after the first maintenance period. Last year's champion 3-year-old filly went in :48 for trainer Mark Casse.

"Doesn't get any better than that," Casse said. "She went off kind of slow and I said to (my assistant on the pony), 'Tell her to pick it up a step,' and it was like, 'Whoosh,' " Casse said. "Then I was like, 'That's enough.' She looked great. And then she didn't want to pull up. That's not like her. She usually shuts off, says, 'OK, I'm done.' That's why I asked them to pick it up a touch. I wanted to see if she'd respond. She did. She's amazing."

Nitrogen figures to be the favorite for the Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) with victories this season in the Ogden Phipps (G1) Presented by Ford at Saratoga and the Beldame (G2) at Belmont.

Measure (Distaff) and **Voyager (Juvenile Fillies)** together breezed a half for Casse in :47, the fastest of 16 at the distance.

Measure, a 3-year-old daughter of Essential Quality, has placed in three straight Grade 1 stakes heading into the Distaff. Voyager, a 2-year-old Justify filly, has two consecutive wins, including the Johnnie Walker Natalma (G1) at Woodbine.

Dotsy (Juvenile Fillies), who arrived with trainer John Grabowski from Finger Lakes racetrack in upstate New York. Monday, breezed a half in :48.20. She comes into the Oct. 30 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) off a win in the Frizette (G1) at Belmont.

Wood Island (Turf Sprint) breezed a half in :48.20 for trainer George Weaver.

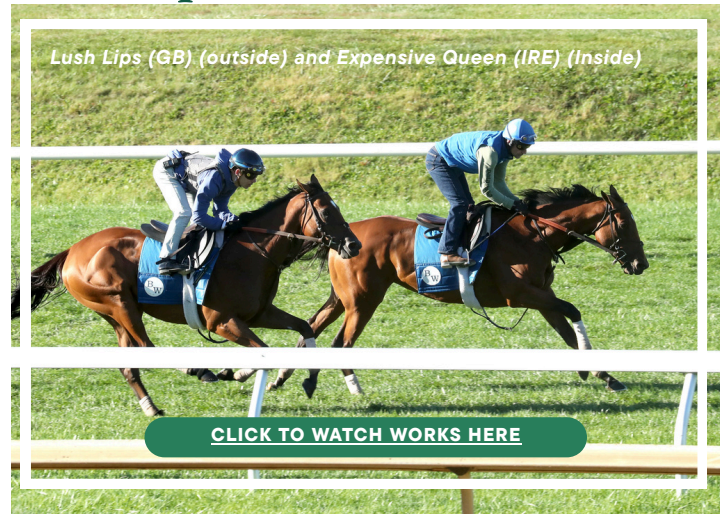
Keeneland's turf course was busy Tuesday with Breeders' Cup hopefuls. The workers went around the cones on the outer part of the course:

Bacio (Turf Sprint), who last won the Aug. 21 Coolmore City of Troy Nunthorpe (G1) at York in England, went 5 furlongs in 1:04 for trainer Wesley Ward.

Adonius (Juvenile Turf Sprint) went 3 furlongs in :38.20 for trainer Rebecca Menzies. Jockey John Velazquez, who rode the son of Soldier's Call (GB) in his Indian Summer Presented by Keeneland Select win, was aboard for the work.

"When he gets going, he gets going," Velazquez said. "I didn't want to let him do too much. He was going good. To pull him up, I had to take hold. I didn't want to let him go. He picked it up. And I wanted to make sure he made the turn, too, to slow him down enough."

Lush Lips and **Expensive Queen** (Filly and Mare Turf) went a half-mile in company for trainer Brendan Walsh. Lush Lips and jockey



Tyler Gaffalione finished ahead of Expensive Queen and exercise rider Jack Stack, timed in :50.40. Expensive Queen, cataloged as Hip 243 in the Nov. 3 Book 1 of the Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale, went in :50.80.

"It was good to get them out there," Walsh said. "They're fit, they're ready to go. It's just a question of keeping them ticking over. We'll go back out there Sunday or Tuesday next, whenever we can. Another little scoot around there. Not much more we can do."

Gaffalione rode Lush Lips to victory in last year's QEII Presented by Dixiana and again in the First Lady, where they finished a nose behind Classic Q.

"Perfect work," Gaffalione said. "She's straightforward, came out of the race in good order. She's high energy and ready to go."

Lake Forest (GB) (Mile) went 3 furlongs in :39 for trainer William Haggas.

No Nay Hudson (IRE) and **Outfielder (Turf Sprint)** breezed half-miles for trainer Wesley Ward. No Nay Hudson went in :55.80, while Outfielder was timed in :54.

Ruiva and **Fanshell Beach (Juvenile Turf Sprint)** each breezed a half for Ward. Ruiva went in :53.20, while Fanshell Beach went in :55.

Eccentric (CHI) (Turf), who clinched an automatic berth in the Breeders' Cup with a victory in the Gran Premio Club de Santiago-Hipico Falabella Breeders' Cup (G1), breezed 5 furlongs in 1:05.80 for Ward.

Mark Casse also breezed Breeders' Cup hopefuls Classic Q and Victory Achieved on the main track Tuesday.

Classic Q (Filly and Mare Turf), winner of the First Lady (G1) on Fall Stars Saturday, breezed a half in :48.40. The 4-year-old daughter of Classic Empire comes into the Breeders' Cup with three wins in her last four starts, including the Just a Game (G1) Presented by Resolute Racing.

Victory Achieved (Turf Sprint) breezed a half in :49. The 5-year-old Street Sense gelding won the Nearctic (G2) Presented by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance Oct. 3 at Woodbine. ■ *By Tom Law*

Forever Young, Sovereignty Arrive at Keeneland

Forever Young (JPN) and Sovereignty, two of the leading candidates for the Oct. 31 \$7 million Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), are on the grounds at Keeneland.

Japanese star Forever Young, winner of last year's Breeders' Cup Classic at Del Mar, arrived about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday after a flight from New York City to Cincinnati followed by a van ride to Keeneland. Champion and dual classic winner Sovereignty, winner of the Whitney (G1) Aug. 8 at Saratoga, arrived before sunrise at about 6 a.m. Wednesday after an overnight van ride from Saratoga.

Forever Young traveled with regular companion and frequent training partner Shin Emperor (FR). Trained by Yoshito Yahagi, Forever Young made his first visit to the Keeneland main track Wednesday just before 8 a.m. He walked up the stretch under Yuki Araki before galloping a little more than once around under a tight hold.

Forever Young returned to the U.S. in early September and trained at Belmont before and after his victory in the Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1). He breezed a half in :49.65 Sunday before making the trip to Kentucky.

Godolphin's Sovereignty, Horse of the Year in 2025 after a campaign that included victories in the Kentucky Derby (G1) Presented by Woodford Reserve and Belmont (G1) Presented by NYRA Bets, also breezed Sunday on Saratoga's Oklahoma Training Track. The 4-year-old son of Into Mischief traveled to Kentucky with Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) contender Knightsbridge and other members of trainer Bill Mott's stable.

Sovereignty is expected to make his first trip to the Keeneland main track Thursday morning. ■ *By Tom Law*

Ortiz, Asmussen, Klaravich Hold Narrow Lead in Standings

With four days remaining in Keeneland's Fall Meet, the leading jockey, trainer and owner all have tight advantages on their rivals.

Irad Ortiz Jr. leads jockeys with 16 victories, one more than Tyler Gaffalione at the start of Wednesday's races. Tied for third with 13 wins apiece are Jose Ortiz and Flavien Prat. Luis Saez is next with 12 victories.

Bidding for his third consecutive Keeneland riding title and his fourth title overall, Ortiz has won three stakes during the season: the Coolmore Turf Mile (G1) on Rhetorical; the Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix (G2) on Nakatomi; and the Franklin (G2) on Time to Dazzle.

He is named on horses in six races Wednesday, five races Thursday, seven races Friday and eight races on Saturday's closing day. Steve Asmussen — who is vying for his fourth leading trainer title but his first since the 2015 Fall Meet — has nine wins, one more than Brendan Walsh and Wesley Ward. Next with five wins each are Chad Brown and Mark Casse.

Asmussen has horses entered in three races Wednesday, three races Thursday, three races Friday and five races Saturday.

Among owners, Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stables leads the category with three wins, one more than six other owners. One of Klaravich's victories was the Juddmonte Spinster (G1) with Fully Subscribed.

Klaravich has three remaining entrants at Keeneland: one Wednesday, one Friday and one Saturday. ■ *By Amy Owens*

Former Zenyatta Jockey Enjoys New Role at Keeneland

Mornings or afternoons, David Flores isn't hard to find at Keeneland.

The former jockey who won 3,616 races — including three on Hall of Famer Zenyatta — still works as an exercise rider every morning at Keeneland. On race days, Flores suits up with a green jacket and tie and occupies a post outside the Jockeys Quarters as a member of the Keeneland Guest Services team.

"One of my friends had applied for a job here and he said, 'Why don't you join me?' " Flores said between races at his post. "I'd never done anything like it, and I'm liking it. I'm in the right place."

Flores enjoys his new afternoon gig and the continued camaraderie with the jockeys as they come and go for the races.

"I get to see everybody from here," Flores said. "I was just chatting here with (trainer) Steve Asmussen. Then some other guys stopped by. It's pretty cool."

Flores proved pretty cool during his time in the saddle as a jockey from 1984-2025. In addition to victories aboard Zenyatta, including the 2008 El Encino (G2) at Santa Anita, Flores rode three Breeders' Cup winners: Tempera in the 2001 Juvenile Fillies (G1); Action This Day in the 2003 Juvenile (G1); and Singletary in the 2004 Mile (G1).

Flores won 44 Grade 1 stakes in his career, including the 1998 Kentucky Oaks (G1) on Keeper Hill, and three graded stakes at Keeneland.

"And I'm still riding in the morning," Flores said. "I finish up at 10, jump in the shower and make my way here before 11 and then I'm here for the races. My kids, they know Keeneland, and they're excited. The first thing they asked is 'Do you like it? How do you feel about it?' I told them I love it. I feel great." ■ *By Tom Law*



David Flores at Keeneland

PERSONAL

PICK 5

TONI CORMAN

Keeneland Guest Services

Hiring Manager

Birthplace: Lexington



Q: How did you start working for Keeneland?

A: My sister (Carol) was working here and they were short-handed, so she told me, 'You're going to work tomorrow.' That was in 1990.

Q: What was your first job here?

A: Same thing I am doing now: hiring people, making their schedules and assignments, keeping up with their hours, etc.

Q: How many people do you hire now compared to when you started?

A: There were 39 'ushers' when I started, and now we are at the 300 mark for Guest Services. Most folks keep coming back so each race meet we hire about 20 to 30 new people.

Q: What is something people don't know about you?

A: I love the beach. Any beach. My family and I go to a different one each year but Panama City (Florida) is my favorite. We also go to Tennessee three or four times a year.

Q: Any funny stories about your job?

A: One meet I was coming up the escalator and one of our employees was standing there. Our job is to answer any questions and help our customers. A woman asked him a question and he said 'I don't know. Ask someone in a green coat.' And there he was in a green coat. I thought that was hilarious. And he was a retired doctor!

WHAT'S IN A NAME

SLOBBERKNOCKER



SLOB-ur-knok-ur

Race 7

Defined as match or contest that is particularly hard-fought, the term was popularized by WWE Hall of Fame commentator Jim Ross.

MEET LEADERS

**LEADERS THROUGH
SUNDAY'S 13TH DAY OF THE
FALL MEET BY WINS:**

Jockeys

16 | Irad Ortiz Jr.

15 | Tyler Gaffalione

Trainers

9 | Steve Asmussen

8 | Brendan Walsh
Wesley Ward

Owners

3 | Klaravich Stables
(Seth Klarman)

2 | Steve Asmussen
Rigney Racing
(Richard Rigney)
Gainesway Stable (Antony Beck) and Andrew Rosen
Lael Stables (Roy Jackson)
Southwest Racing Stables
(Genaro Garcia) and
William J. Wargel
Wesley Ward

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