

BARN NOTES

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

Meyers Eyes More Sycamore Magic with Defending Champ Desvio

Desvio gave Madison Meyers two reasons to celebrate over the last year – once for a win and once even in defeat – and the Mid-Atlantic-based trainer and Lexington native hopes for one more Friday.

Meyers, who is based at the Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland, will send out Desvio in search of back-to-back victories in the Sycamore (G2). The 5-year-old gelding by Yoshida (JPN) upset last year's Sycamore at 34-1. He returned to Keeneland for this year's Spring Meet and finished second, 9¾ lengths behind Breeders' Cup Turf (G1)-bound Burnham Square, in the VisitLEX Elkhorn (G2).

Meyers and her team and owners Stonelea Stables and Bonnie Rye Stable cheered the late-running gelding home in his Sycamore win and saluted him despite that April defeat.

"We celebrated that like a win because he ran huge," Meyers said. "He was beat by an absolute monster. It was off the layoff and the ship and everything. I was just so proud of him that day, and obviously proud of him last fall when he won."

Meyers hopes for another win in this year's 1½-mile Sycamore, the featured ninth race on Friday's 10-race card. Desvio takes on a big field entered for the turf marathon, including several familiar foes in Just a Touch, Vote No, Navy Seal (IRE) and Goldeneye. He comes in off a dull ninth in the AGS Kentucky Cup Turf Invitational (G2) that came after decent fourths in the Cape Henlopen at Delaware Park and Bowling Green (G2) Presented by Emerald Ecovations at Saratoga following his Elkhorn run.

"I don't think he loved that," Meyers said of the trip to Kentucky Downs. "He's fine with the ups and downs, the undulations and stuff. I don't think that really bothered him, but the ground



Desvio and Madison Meyers

was a little inconsistent there on the inside rail. It was also brutally hot that day, which everybody was in the same boat dealing with that. He actually handled the heat really well, thankfully, and bounced right out of it. It was just a bit firm for him. And honestly, that race came up like a Breeders' Cup race."

Desvio avoids the likes of Burnham Square in the Sycamore – that gelding is training up to the Oct. 31 Breeders' Cup Turf for trainer Ian Wilkes. He's one of four graded stakes winners in the field and one of just four runners in the body of the race with a victory over Keeneland's turf course.

"He seems to really like it at Keeneland, and he enjoys the environment and the atmosphere," Meyers said. "Whenever we've shipped into Keeneland, he just settles right in. There's a lot to look at and he likes that. He's obviously run two good races there and likes the ground."

Luan Machado picks up the mount on Desvio for the Sycamore from post 11. ■ *By Tom Law*

Race Day Essentials



How to Watch

Every Race Day
FanDuel TV
Keeneland YouTube

WATCH HERE

**Friday, Oct. 9 &
Saturday, Oct. 10**
4-6 p.m.
FS2

Sunday, Oct. 11
3:30-5:30 p.m.
FS1

Complimentary Digital Program



FREE DOWNLOAD

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Oct. 8
Make-A-Wish Day

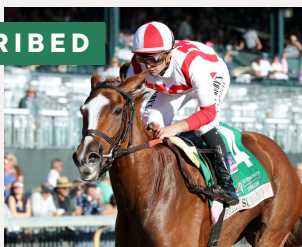
Friday, Oct. 9
Big Blue Day
\$400 Fall Challenge



COOLING OUT

FULLY SUBSCRIBED

Klaravich Stables' 4-year-old Tiz the Law filly collected her second straight Grade 1 victory and third graded stakes win in a row in Sunday's \$650,000 Juddmonte Spinster. Trained by Chad Brown, she'll go next in the Oct. 31 Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) at Keeneland.



"It was a great race for her. She came out of the race really well. Chad was happy and is excited about the big race coming up, the Breeders' Cup." – Jose "Baldo" Hernandez, assistant to trainer Chad Brown

ADONIUS (IRE)

On Sunday, the European import passed his first U.S. test with late-running win in the \$350,000 Indian Summer (G3)



Presented by Keeneland Select, earning an automatic berth in the Oct. 30 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (G1). Trainer Rebecca Menzies also won her first race in America with her first starter before heading home to England Monday to tend to her Howe Hills Stables training yard.

"He slept all day (Monday). He'll have a few days of walking and then go to the track, just for some light stuff for a bit. We're good as of now. He's had everyone come to see him, stroking him. He's had lots of carrots. Sean (Clancy, co-owner) brought him loads of carrots and apples and mints Monday. We're all good. Rebecca went home yesterday now it's just me and the boy. I'm happy to be staying." – Diaz Gibson, work rider for trainer Rebecca Menzies

WHAT'S IN A NAME

CLONMACNOISE



klon-mak-NOYSS

Race 8

Named for the historic sixth-century monastery on Ireland's River Shannon. Trainer and co-owner John Ennis, a native of County Meath, Ireland, often names his horses after famous Irish landmarks and places.

Agate Gives McGehee First Breeders' Cup Candidate

Dede McGehee will have a short commute to Keeneland on Oct. 30 to watch her homebred Agate compete in the \$1-million Brown Advisory Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1).



Her Heaven Trees Farm — where Agate was born and raised — is just a few miles down the scenic backroad from the track. On Sunday, the Karakontie (JPN) gelding earned McGehee a ticket to the Breeders' Cup by winning the "Win and You're In" Castle & Key Bourbon (G2) at 1 1/16 miles on the turf and also gave McGehee her first Keeneland stakes win.

A retired equine veterinarian specializing in reproduction, McGehee has been raising Thoroughbreds on her 158-acre property for herself and others since the mid-1990s. Her own current broodmare band numbers about 15 not including retirees. McGehee's strategy has long been to retain her fillies for racing and breeding and selling the colts. For various reasons, some colts such as Agate remain to compete in her pink and green silks.

As a yearling, Agate went to trainer Kelsey Danner's young horse division at High Pointe Farm and Training Center in La Grange, Kentucky with other youngsters owned by McGehee. A quick study, the 2-year-old gelding debuted in May with a sixth-place finish in a Churchill Downs grass sprint. He rebounded to earn his first victory in a 1-mile Ellis Park turf test before checking in third in the Pepsi Kentucky Downs Juvenile Mile (L) also at 1 mile on grass.

"In his first start, he galloped out really good," Danner said. "So we knew he wanted to go longer. Then he was impressive winning his second start."

McGehee also bred and raced Agate's dam, the winning More Than Ready mare More Than Gracious, but Danner, who trained More Than Gracious, said there are few similarities.

"They don't look too much alike, but both are slightly built," Danner said. "He's always been athletic and is a pretty mover."

Even though McGehee will be making her Breeders' Cup debut with Agate, she is well familiar with competing in top-shelf races via her strong connection to Hall of Famer Rachel Alexandra. One of the most popular horses of her generation, Rachel Alexandra counted the 2009 Blackberry Preakness (G1) and the Kentucky Oaks (G1) among her 13 victories.

McGehee foaled and raised Rachel Alexandra at Heaven Trees while boarding her dam, Lotta Kim, for breeder Dolphus C. Morrison. After Morrison died in 2016, she acquired Lotta Kim and has since bred and raised the half-siblings to Rachel Alexandra. ■ *By Liane Crossley*

WinStar Farm Joins Prestigious List of Milestone Tray Recipients

American History's thrilling victory in Saturday's Claiborne Breeders' Futurity (G1) not only secured the colt a spot in the starting gate for the \$2 million FanDuel Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) Oct. 30 at Keeneland but gave co-owner WinStar Farm a unique piece of track history.

The win marked WinStar's eighth graded stakes victory here and earned the operation a Milestone Tray as part of Keeneland's prestigious Milestone Trophy Program, which provides several levels of recognition for owners whose horses excel at the highest level of competition.

Keeneland inaugurated the program at the 1952 Fall Meet. The first winner was Allie and Billie Reuben's Hasty House Farm during the 1955 Spring Meet. WinStar is the 29th owner to receive a Milestone Tray.

Here are the steps of the program:

- Owners of horses that win graded stakes receive a Keeneland Trophy Cup.
- Once an owner accumulates eight Trophy Cups, he or she receives a Keeneland Tray.
- Another eight Trophy Cups earns the owner a Keeneland Pitcher.
- Eight additional Trophy Cups earns the owner a Keeneland Bowl.
- Eight more (32 graded stakes wins total) merits the Keeneland Vase.

To date, Claiborne Farm (Fall 2003) and William S. Farish (Fall 2016) have achieved the highest level of recognition, the Bowl, and are working toward the Vase.

▪ By Amy Owens



KEENELAND TRAY RECIPIENTS

- 1 Hasty House Farm | Spring 1955
- 2 Claiborne Farm (Hancock Family) | Spring 1957
- 3 Brown, J. Graham | Spring 1965
- 4 Grissom, T.A. | Spring 1969
- 5 Bwamazon Farm (Millard Waldheim) | Fall 1972
- 6 Golden Chance Farm (Robert E. Lehmann) | Fall 1976
- 7 Whitney, C.V. | Fall 1976
- 8 Firestone, Mr. and Mrs. Betrram R. | Fall 1981
- 9 Darby Dan Farm (Daniel Galbreath) | Fall 1988
- 10 Paulson, Allen E. | Spring 1993
- 11 Farish, William S. | Fall 1993
- 12 Overbrook Farm (W.T. Young) | Spring 2001
- 13 Sam-Son Farm (Ernest L. Samuel) | Spring 2005
- 14 Juddmonte Farms (Khalid Abdullah) | Fall 2005
- 15 Tabor, Michael | Fall 2008
- 16 Augustin Stable (George Strawbridge, Jr.) | Fall 2010
- 17 Dogwood Stable (W. Cothran Campbell) | Spring 2011
- 18 Ramsey, Kenneth L. and Sarah K. | Spring 2013
- 19 Fink, Morton | Spring 2014
- 20 Oxley, John C. | Spring 2017
- 21 Shadwell Stable (Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum) | Spring 2021
- 22 Godolphin | Fall 2021
- 23 Humphrey Jr., G. Watts | Fall 2021
- 24 Brant, Peter M. | Fall 2023
- 25 e Five Racing Thoroughbreds (Robert J. Edwards Jr.) | Spring 2025
- 26 Gary Barber | Spring 2026
- 27 Michael Dubb | Spring 2026
- 28 Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners (Aron Wellman) | Spring 2026
- 29 WinStar Farm | Fall 2026



PERSONAL

PICK 5

ROBIN RIESENBECK

Keeneland Outrider

Birthplace: Columbus, Ohio

Robin is one of four Keeneland-employed outriders. The others are her husband Sam Hackler, Dale Mallory and Jeff Rowland Jr.



Q: What's your favorite part of the job?

A: I am on the horse all day, and I enjoy riding a lot.

Q: As an outrider, what is your daily routine?

A: I get up at 3 o'clock every morning. We come in and feed the horses so they're ready to go at least half an hour before they start. We tack the horses up and get their saddles on them, and we're on the track by 5:30. We are finished by 10 in the morning.

Q: Do you have any hobbies or things you like to do when you're not at the track?

A: On my off days, I trail ride. And sometimes even when I work in the morning, I go trail riding in the afternoon. We have a farm and I take care of the farm by mowing, weed eating and everything that comes with it.

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: My favorite food is anything chocolate. Chocolate cake, chocolate ice cream, anything chocolate. That's my favorite.

Q: What are you looking forward to most about the Fall Meet here at Keeneland?

A: That everyone is safe and that we have beautiful weather to make the Breeders' Cup extra-special.

INSIDE THE DETAILS

Know the Game

Fall Meet Leaders

Through opening weekend of the Fall Meet, the current meet leaders are:

- Jockey: John Velazquez — 6 wins
- Trainer: Chad Brown — 3 wins
- Trainer: Brendan Walsh — 3 wins
- Owner: Klaravich Stables — 2 wins

PEOPLE • HORSES • STATS

Worth Knowing

Owner and breeder Dr. Dede McGehee foaled and raised Rachel Alexandra, the champion, Horse of the Year and Hall of Famer, at her Heaven Trees Farm near Keeneland.



Dr. Dede McGehee (DVM)



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Keeneland Photos

2026 Breeders' Cup at Keeneland

Pre-Entries Released | Wednesday, Oct. 21

Post Position Draw | Monday, Oct. 26

Racing | Friday, Oct. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 31

Upcoming Sales Events at Keeneland

Championship Sale at Castleton | Wednesday, Oct. 28

November Breeding Stock Sale

Tuesday, Nov. 3-Wednesday, Nov. 11

November Horses of Racing Age Sale | Thursday, Nov. 12



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