

BARN NOTES

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

Brown Eyes More Keeneland Grade 1 Success

Trainer Chad Brown got word recently that he stood atop Keeneland's all-time leaderboard for Grade 1 wins.

He found it hard to believe, despite plenty of success in Lexington over the years.

Brown heads into the 25th Fall Stars Weekend on opening weekend of Keeneland's Fall Meet with a record 33 Grade 1 victories, and more than a chance to add to his haul.

Brown sends out four stakes runners over Fall Stars Weekend: Forever Carina in the Darley Alcibiades (G1) Friday; Segesta in the First Lady (G1) and Zulu Kingdom (IRE) in the Coolmore Turf Mile (G1) Saturday; and Fully Subscribed in the Juddmonte Spinster (G1) Sunday. He also entered five other horses in undercard races over opening weekend.

"We've had a lot of luck at Keeneland," Brown said. "We've had a lot of success at Keeneland. It's a great place to compete and a great place to win."

Segesta and Zulu Kingdom know how to win on Keeneland's turf course and are part of Brown's record tally.

Juddmonte's Segesta won the Jenny Wiley (G1) at the Spring Meet in a dead heat with Expensive Queen (IRE), who also is entered in the First Lady, and sports a 2-for-3 mark at Keeneland heading into the 1-mile First Lady. The 5-year-old Ghostzapper mare is one of 11 fillies and mares entered in the \$800,000 stakes. Brown owns eight First Lady wins, including a run of seven straight from 2018-2024.

Zulu Kingdom won the Maker's Mark Mile (G1) during the Spring Meet for owners Madaket Stables, Michael Dubb, William Strauss and Michael J. Caruso. The 4-year-old son of Ten Sovereigns comes off a third in the Fourstardave (G1) at Saratoga and takes on eight others in the \$1.25 million Coolmore Turf Mile.

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Zulu Kingdom (IRE) wins the Maker's Mark Mile (G1)

Race Day Essentials



How to Watch

Friday, Oct. 2
4-6 p.m.

NBCSN/Peacock
FanDuel TV

Saturday, Oct. 3
3-6 p.m.

NBC, FanDuel TV

Sunday, Oct. 4
5-6:30 p.m.

NBCSN/Peacock
FanDuel TV

Keeneland
YouTube

WATCH HERE

Complimentary Digital Program



FREE DOWNLOAD

Upcoming Events

Friday, Oct. 2–
Sunday, Oct. 4

Tailgating on The Hill

Saturday, Oct. 3
Sunrise Trackside





Chad Brown and Tyler Gaffalione

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"I have found with Keeneland, it's not a requirement to run well, but it certainly helps you when you go back there and know they really like the turf course," Brown said. "With Segesta, she's already won and has already run well there several times, so that gives me a lot of confidence.

"As for Zulu Kingdom, he's shown a fondness too, and that's one reason we circled this race," Brown added. "He seems to be coming into the race well and comes off a nice work at Saratoga. Hopefully he gets a good trip. He drew on the far outside so that's going to be a challenge. We'll have to see."

Three Chimneys Farm's homebred Forever Carina, a full sister to this year's Kentucky Oaks (G1) winner, Always a Runner, meets Spinaway (G1) winner Summer Starlet and seven others.

"It came up a very solid field," Brown said about the Darley Alcibiades. "She's only run once. It's a big step up going to a mile and a sixteenth, but she's certainly bred for it. She looks like a filly that's looking for more distance. We've been very impressed with her since the first time we worked her. She has special abilities."

Klaravich Stables Inc.'s Fully Subscribed looks to cap the weekend and put her name in the mix for a potential Eclipse Award in the older female dirt division in the Juddmonte Spinster. The 4-year-old Tiz the Law filly exits a win in the Personal Ensign (G1) at Saratoga and takes on four others led by top 3-year-old filly Counting Stars.

"She's really peaking right now," Brown said. "We took a look at the Beldame (G2) and just felt like two things: She could benefit from an extra week of recovery time and also getting a race over the strip at Keeneland — obviously where the Breeders' Cup is going to be — would be beneficial for her." —*Tom Law*

'The Reeds' Take on Heavyweights in Friday's Darley Alcibiades

Bret Jones met Reed Claypool last fall and immediately felt like he was home and talking to one of his sons.

"I've got three boys of my own right around Reed's age," said Jones, who runs his family's Airdrie Stud in Midway, Kentucky. "And he just reminded me of all three of them so much. Just super into sports, athletic, fun, competitive."

Jones met Reed and his family, including his parents, Nathan and Meagan Claypool, and their other three children, Ruby Kate, Shelby and Miller, last fall during the renowned Make-A-Wish Day at Keeneland. The family from Prospect in Oldham County, Kentucky, took in a day at the races and joined Jones and his team at the farm. Reed, 11, and recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor that often proves fatal in children his age, immediately made a bond with a filly in one of Airdrie's keeper fields.

"We've been attached to the Make-A-Wish program for years and years, ever since John Greeley approached us," Jones said of the late Kentucky horseman who was a driving force behind the program. "It was something that he was unbelievably passionate about and has been an incredible legacy for him.

"At the end of our visit we said to Reed, 'Now you pick a horse out.' It was a horse from our keeper field, horses that we either took the sale and (didn't sell) or planned on racing. A filly immediately came right up to him. She put her head over the fence and made it impossible for him to choose a different one."

The filly, a daughter of Upstart out of stakes winner and Grade 3-placed Badge of Silver mare She's the Berries, was unsold at last year's Keeneland September Yearling Sale. She's now High Speed Reed, named after the young athlete's nickname given by one of his coaches. High Speed Reed takes on seven other juvenile fillies in Friday's \$650,000 Darley Alcibiades (G1) with a chance to earn a spot in the field in the Oct. 30 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) at Keeneland.

Reed and his family will be at the races Friday, along with Jones and his family, to see the filly take on the likes of Forever Carina and Spinaway (G1) winner Summer Starlet. High Speed Reed comes off a win in a Sept. 13 maiden race going 1 mile at Churchill Downs after a third — with her namesake in attendance — in her 7-furlong debut Aug. 9 at Ellis Park.

"We tried to make it work to be there for that, too, we just couldn't," Nathan Claypool said. "But she won and then Bret called said, 'Hey, we're going to give it a run and run this big race, a Grade 1, and, we'd love if you could be a part of it and be there.

"We're all super excited. It looks like she's going to be an 8-1, 9-1. I know that the best 2-year-old fillies in the country are going to race against her, so it will be a good test." —*Tom Law*

Winter Vacations Keep Nakatomi Coming Back for More

On Friday's opening day of Keeneland's Fall Meet, Qatar Racing and Mrs. Fitriani Hay's Nakatomi returns for the fourth time in the 174th Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix (G2).

He will bid for his second consecutive victory in the race after running second in 2023 and 2024. The Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix not only is the oldest U.S. stakes race but has been a staple of the 7-year-old Nakatomi's annual schedule.

Also on Nakatomi's agenda is a routine winter vacation at a farm close to Keeneland where he enjoys special attention from 13-year-old Elle-Marie Galvin, daughter of Fergus Galvin, Qatar's U.S. Racing Manager.

An accomplished equestrian, Elle-Marie sometimes rides Nakatomi bareback around his field and spends time grooming and just socializing with him.

Trainer Wesley Ward proudly displays pictures on his phone of Elle-Marie in the field petting Nakatomi and posing with him at his stall.

"Nakatomi is certainly her favorite on the Qatar Racing roster," Fergus Galvin said.

The vacation has served Nakatomi well with a ledger of seven wins, four seconds and seven thirds and a \$2-million bankroll in 27 starts. His resume includes a victory in the 2024 Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap (G1) at Saratoga, three starts in the Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) and three trips to Dubai for the Dubai Golden Shaheen (G1) Sponsored by Nakheel.

Ward credits Nakatomi's longevity to the time away from the track.

"Fergus and his family, especially his daughter, really know him," Ward said. "Horses are like dogs, and they really get to know their people. When she comes walking up to the fence, I am sure he comes running. When horses get those winters off, they come back in mentally fresh"

The trainer said Nakatomi's long career has endeared him to fans.

"I would assume that a horse who has been around this long and won over \$2 million, won so many races, especially here at Keeneland, that he would have a following," Ward said. "Just like athletes. It's one thing to have a great athlete and another to have a football player or basketball player that stays around a long time. You know they have followings."

Nakatomi's next planned race is the Breeders' Cup Sprint at Keeneland on Oct. 31. —*Liane Crossley*



Elle-Marie and Fergus Galvin

FROM THE ARCHIVES

OCT. 3, 2025

Qatar Racing and Mrs. Fitriani Hay's Nakatomi becomes the first horse to have their photo taken in the new Keeneland Stakes Winner's Circle after winning the Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix (G2).



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When she comes walking up to the fence, I am sure he comes running. When horses get those winters off, they come back in mentally fresh."

—**TRAINER WESLEY WARD**

PERSONAL

PICK 5 WESLEY WARD

Trainer

Birthplace: Selah, Washington

Birth Date: March 3, 1968



Q: What kind of vehicle do you drive?

A: I pretty much drive a Ford F-250 pickup because I'm always working.

Q: What do you do when you're not with horses?

A: I do it (training) seven days a week, every day, all day, and I just can't get enough. My children are all college graduates now. I've told them that when they get out into the world to make sure that they get into a profession they love, and then it's never work.

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: Italian food. Just about any of it.

Q: If you could have dinner with a celebrity who would it be?

A: I'd love to go back in time and have dinner with Charlie Whittingham and Eddie Arcaro in their day, and a lot of the older, older trainers.

Q: What was your first impression of Keeneland?

A: I came here a lot for the sales, but never racing. First time I came and saw the crowds that were here and how everybody was really into racing, it really made a big impression on me. I knew right then and there when I first came to the Spring Meet 20 years ago, that this is where I wanted to make my home."

INSIDE THE DETAILS

Know the Game

Beard Course

At Keeneland, the Beard Course refers to a distance of 7 furlongs and 184 feet on the main track. The course is named for Major Louis A. Beard, who was a founding member of Keeneland.

PEOPLE • HORSES • STATS

Worth Knowing

Trainer D. Wayne Lukas holds the record for most Darley Alcibiades (G1) victories with six, beginning with Lucky Lucky Lucky in 1983 and followed by Wonders Delight (1988), Special Happening (1989), Stellar Cat (1993), Cara Rafaela (1995) and Be Gentle (2003).



Trainer D. Wayne Lukas



Barn Notes Contributors

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Amy Owens
Jax Rogers
Keeneland Photos

2026 Breeders' Cup at Keeneland

Pre-Entries Released | Thursday, Oct. 22

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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