



Before the Hammer

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KEENELAND

WEANLINGS HEADLINE EATON'S KEENOV OFFERINGS

by Christie DeBernardis

Before the Hammer is a series presented by Keeneland that spotlights consignors, their stories of success and their featured offerings at the upcoming Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale.

In 2015, Eaton Sales' Keeneland November consignment was topped by a trio of seven-figure weanling fillies and Eaton Principal Reiley McDonald feels the foals will be the stars of the show for his company again at this year's renewal of that auction.

"We have the best weanling consignment that I have ever brought to Keeneland," McDonald said. "I think the market is shaping up to be a very, very solid weanling market. It is going to be a good market all the way through, but I think the weanling

sales are going to be really strong. We have put together a very legitimate bunch of weanlings, particularly in Books 1 and 2. They are in there because they are top physicals at this moment in their lives."

Eaton will offer 31 weanlings throughout Books 1 and 2, representing top sires such as American Pharoah, Tapit, Into Mischief, Quality Road and Uncle Mo. While McDonald had a difficult time choosing the standouts of his strong foal group, he did highlight a pair of uniquely bred Tapit fillies.

The first of the two Tapit misses to go through the ring will be the second daughter of champion female sprinter La Verdad (Yes It's True) ([Hip 116A](#)). The Linda Rice-trained mare won 16 of her 25 starts, including 11 black-type victories and a runner-up effort in the 2015 GI Breeders' Cup F/M Sprint, and earned over \$1.5 million. Like her dam, the chestnut filly was bred in New York, giving future buyers the option of partaking in the lucrative NY-bred racing program.



Champion La Verdad is the dam of [Hip 116A](#), a weanling filly by Tapit | Coglianese



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The other Tapit filly McDonald pointed out from his group was **Hip 230**, a daughter of the Galileo (Ire) mare Urban Ball (Ire), who is a half-sister to Canadian champion, Grade I-winning millionaire and sire Perfect Soul (Ire) (Sadler's Wells). The chestnut was bred by Breeze Easy, who purchased Urban Ball for \$350,000 at last year's Keeneland November sale with this filly in utero.

"It is across the board just a really remarkable group, so it is hard to single out one or two," McDonald said. "We have a filly by Tapit out of La Verdad, who is the second foal of the Eclipse winner and is an absolutely stunning physical. There is a Tapit filly out of Urban Ball, who is a Galileo mare. The filly has a great family behind her and is a beautiful physical as well. We have a couple of American Pharaohs that are very nice. We have some Into Mischiefs who are very nice. Across the board, everything we have in Book 1 is physically a standout and that carries into Book 2."

The American Pharaoh weanlings that will be offered in November are from the second crop of the 2015 Triple Crown winner. There was a great demand for his first crop at last year's November sales and this term's yearling sales, with a plethora of seven-figure transactions, and McDonald thinks that trend will continue with the Ashford sire's second crop.

"I have a number of weanlings by American Pharaoh and mares in foal to him," he said. "I think his yearling crop is so outstanding physically that there is no reason I can see why it wouldn't be the same in November."

The yearling market has been exceptionally strong in 2018 with the 27 seven-figure yearlings sold at Keeneland September as the most recent example. McDonald is confident that strength will carry into the weanling market.

"I expect that we will see equal or better demand in November, barring some unforeseen economic melt down," McDonald said. "Assuming everything is status quo in the world and the stock market, I think we are going to see a very strong weanling sale."

While the weanlings may be the stars of the Eaton shedrow, that does not mean that the consignment lacks quality mares.

For instance, McDonald's company offers a pair of Galileo mares, Key to My Heart (Ire) and Pretty Perfect (Ire), in foal to War Front, a cross that has produced the likes of Grade/Group 1 winners Fog of War, U S Navy Flag and Roly Poly.

Catalogued as **Hip 105**, stakes winner Key to My Heart is a daughter of GSW A Z Warrior (Bernardini), who is a half-sister to GSW and GISP Jojo Warrior (Pioneerof the Nile), GSW and GISP EZ Warrior (Exploit) and GSW and GSP J Z Warrior (Harlan's Holiday). Pretty Perfect (**Hip 166**) is a daughter of GSW and G1SP Milanova (Danehill), who is a full-sister to MG1SW Holy Roman Emperor (Ire). The Group 3 winner will be followed into the ring by her War Front weanling filly (**Hip 167**).

"It has turned out to be an incredible cross," McDonald said of the War Front/Galileo cross. "I think those mares are both somewhat unique in this American marketplace. They should be attractive to not only American buyers, but to buyers from Europe and Japan, so I like their spot in Book 1 at Keeneland."

Eaton has another unique offering in Pavini (Fr) (**Hip 163**), a daughter of Dubawi (Ire) and GSW Peinture Rare (Ire) (Sadler's

▼ Wells), who is carrying a foal by American Pharaoh.

Another standout mare in the Eaton consignment is stakes winner and GSP Silvertoni (Tapit) (**Hip 191**), who is carrying her first foal by the red hot Quality Road. Silvertoni is out of GSP Somasach (Johannesburg), a daughter of GSW Easy Now (Danzig), who is a half-sister to Hall of Famer Easy Goer (Alydar).

"Silvertoni is a very pretty gray mare," McDonald said. "She is a daughter of Tapit. She is not very big, but a very beautiful 15.3 [hands]. She is a wonderful mover with a huge overstride."

He continued, "What can you say about Quality Road? I think the current owner mated her perfectly with a first foal by a very leggy sire. She is a good mare in her own right and I think will find a good market."

With a trio of million-dollar babies in 2015 and a sales topper in 2016 with \$3.8 million Unrivaled Belle (Unbridled's Song), Eaton consistently makes a strong showing at the November Sale and McDonald feels that will continue in 2018.

"I think we are going to be just as strong if not stronger this year," McDonald said. "We have a group of high quality mares and the foal crop we are offering may be our best yet. It wasn't that long ago we had three yearlings that brought over a million dollars. There is still a top weanling market in there and I'm sure end users will attend the sale again this year."



Silvertoni | Coady