

BELLADONNA RACING LLC

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SEPTEMBER 2022

Q&A with Cormac Breathnach

THE KEENELAND SEPTEMBER YEARLING SALE



Q: What year was the first Keeneland Yearling sale held in Lexington, KY?

A: The first yearling sale was held at Keeneland Aug. 9-11, 1943, under a tent in the Paddock. A total of 312 horses sold for \$929,850, an average \$2,979. Fred W. Hooper paid \$10,200 for the yearling Hoop Jr., who won the Kentucky Derby two years later.

Q: What are the dates of the 2022 Keeneland September Yearling Sale?

A: The September Yearling Sale, the world's largest and most significant marketplace for Thoroughbred racing prospects, covers 12 sessions, from Sept. 12-24.

Similar to the 2021 September Sale, Week 1 of this year's auction will feature Books 1 and 2 during the first four days, and more than 1,100 horses judged as the sale's finest individuals based on pedigree and conformation are cataloged. The aim of the format is to position the largest number of exceptional horses possible before major domestic and foreign buyers prior to the "dark day" on Friday, Sept. 16 when no sale will be held. The sale resumes on Saturday, Sept. 17 for Week 2, with sessions continuing through Saturday, Sept. 24.

The entire September Sale will be streamed live on Keeneland.com.

Q: How many Yearlings are cataloged in the 2022 September Sale?

A: Keeneland has cataloged 4,152 yearlings to this year's September Sale. This includes five yearlings that

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have been supplemented to Book 1 since the catalogue went to print. Among the offerings are 21 yearlings bred outside North America, exemplifying the auction's international appeal to overseas breeders. The catalog is available on Keeneland.com.

Q: What criteria determines where a horse is placed in the sale?

A: The placement of yearlings in our September catalogue is based on several criteria. Once entries to the sale are received after the May 1 entry deadline, their locations are compiled and Keeneland sends two teams of inspectors on the road for five or six weeks to inspect as many of the entrants as possible. This year the teams inspected close to 3,000 yearlings in total; with conformation notes and grades recorded on each one. Coinciding with the end of the inspection period in mid-June, consignors are

**CORMAC
BREATHNACH**
(pronounced Brannock)

**Director of Sales
Operations**



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Q&A with Cormac Breathnach



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invited to submit to Keeneland a “wish-list” of where they feel each yearling best fits in the sale – the highest quality yearlings in Book 1, etc. This is our starting point when we put the sale together. We can catalogue ~400 yearlings per day, but typically the wish-list requests are heaviest in the middle books and some yearlings have to be moved forward or back in the sale in order to make it work. We choose which yearlings to move based on our inspection grades, the strength of their pedigrees, and the sales histories of their families. We are fortunate to have several lifelong horsemen on our team that have bought and sold countless Thoroughbreds in their careers prior to joining Keeneland. We do our best to put that experience to work in making the sale the most successful it can be for all of our participants.

Q: The Keeneland September Yearling Sale is one of the largest in the world. Why do you think it is so popular worldwide?

A: The September Sale has become acknowledged as the bellwether for the state of the Thoroughbred industry at large, and there are a few important elements that make it so popular. Firstly, the September Sale presents the cream of the North American Thoroughbred yearling crop. Secondly, it offers a critical mass of yearlings at all levels of the market, so there are quality yearlings to fit almost any budget or any racing circuit. Thirdly, and maybe most importantly, the proven success of its sales graduates at the highest levels of racing all around the globe draws the largest and most diverse buying bench in the world to Keeneland year after year. The concentration of horsemanship here in Central Kentucky is unmatched, and Keeneland was founded in 1936 to provide a local venue to race, and later to sell, some of the world’s best bloodstock.

Q: Are most of the buyers at the sale domestic or do you have buyers from other parts of the World?

A: The Keeneland sales team employs a year-round strategy to recruit buyers from across the U.S. and from all corners of the world. Staff members travel throughout the year and work closely with Keeneland representatives in Europe, Australasia, and Japan.

Buyers from nearly every U.S. state and across the world

annually participate in the September Sale. During the 2021 September Sale, buyers represented 27 countries such as England, Ireland, France, Japan, China, Australia, Hong Kong, Peru, Argentina, United Arab Emirates and Singapore.

Q: What was the gross sales revenue for the 2021 September sale?

A: The 2021 September Sale grossed \$352 million, the sixth-highest total in sale history, which resulted in record cumulative average and median prices. Average price of \$132,045 was up 30% over 2020 and surpassed the previous record of \$129,331 set in 2018. The sale’s median price rose more than 75% from 2020 to \$65,000 and smashed the record of \$57,000 set in 2017.

Fifteen yearlings sold for \$1 million or more, led by a colt from the first crop of City of Light who brought \$1.7 million. The sale’s 15 seven-figure horses were bought by 13 distinct buyers.

Large crowds of enthusiastic buyers and buoyant trade from start to finish drove a record high clearance rate of 81% that reflected a confident market and an excitement for owning racehorses.

Q: Please give us an idea of a few of the better horses that are graduates of the sale in the past 10 years?

A: Keeneland is represented by more champions and stakes winners than any other Thoroughbred auction house in the world. Standouts during the last decade include:

- 2018 Triple Crown winner Justify
- Kentucky Derby winners Authentic, Always Dreaming, Nyquist, and I’ll Have Another
- Preakness winners Swiss Skydiver, War of Will, Cloud Computing, Exaggerator, Oxbow, and I’ll Have Another
- Belmont winners Sir Winston, Creator, and Palace Malice
- Breeders’ Cup Classic winners Knicks Go, Authentic, Vino Rosso, Accelerate, and Arrogate
- Horses of the Year Knicks Go, Authentic, Bricks and Mortar and Justify
- Champions such as Malathaat, Monomoy Girl, Beholder, Lady Eli, Channel Maker, Midnight Bisou, and Jackie’s Warrior.

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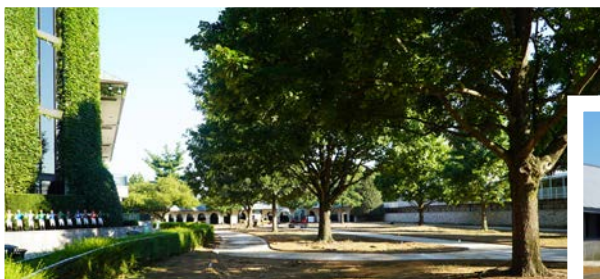
Saratoga Winner's Circle



DAME CINCO

AUGUST 11TH, \$43,650, 1 MILE

Dame Cinco was an easy 2 ½-length winner at one mile over Saratoga's main track on August 11th. She broke well and stalked the pace to the quarter-pole, then took command down the stretch under Luis Saez. It was nice to have several partners in the Saratoga winner's circle celebration.



The construction crews at Keeneland have been quite busy with many updates for the upcoming September yearling sale, their October Fall meet, and the Breeders' Cup Championship.

Belladonna Racing V Purchase

2022 Saratoga Select Yearling Sale



MATHEA KELLEY PHOTO

2021 Colt, Munnings – Above the Crowd

Purchased at Saratoga Select for \$385,000

The Belladonna Racing V venture was successful in securing our first horse for the new venture at the ultra-competitive Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling sale. We outlasted all bidders on this stout chestnut colt by leading sire, Munnings (see link to pedigree below) out of Above the Crowd. He is the second foal from a winning half-sister to multiple stakes winner Good Luck Gus (\$644,586) and is from the family of Spinaway-G1 winner Strategic Maneuver and La Canada-G2 winner Cat Fighter.

Munnings needs no introduction: he is currently 5th on the 2022 General Sires' List with \$9M in progeny

earnings. His 12 stakes winners thus far in 2022 include five Graded stakes winners, led by headliner Jack Christopher. Munnings is the leading son of top-flight stallion Speightstown, and he stands for \$85,000 at Coolmore's Ashford Stud in Kentucky.

This physically imposing Colt is bred and built to thrive at distances from 5F to 8F. His tremendous balance may allow him to get more ground, but only time will tell.

[→ CLICK TO VIEW](#)

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Saratoga Stable Tour

(excerpts from an article in the Saratoga Special Newspaper)

CHERIE DEVAUX

Trainer Cherie DeVaux's Saratoga season started with a bang when Tarabi won the Wilton Stakes out of the new Wilson Chute on Opening Day. (She's added three more wins) as her Spa string settled into Barn 21 between Phil Serpe and Rob Atras under the trees on the main track.

With 60-ish horses in Kentucky, her Saratoga string can revolve, but she walked the shedrow with The Special's Joe Clancy Monday morning.



Keeneland), she shipped to Belmont for a stakes and they postponed because of rain. Then she breezed and chipped her hind ankle. She was entered at Churchill the day they took all the races off the turf. She was coming off this extended layoff because of no fault of her own and I had to get special permission to run at Canterbury. She ran great, but she lost a lot of weight. It was hot. From Lexington to Canterbury, back to Lexington and then up here. It was cooler when she got here. She just didn't fire in her last race. She had a couple of excuses when she got back to the barn, but nothing significant.

BOUT TIME:

Belladonna Racing's 4-year-old filly has won half her six starts and was sixth in the Caress S. here July 23 after winning two in a row, topped by a stakes at Monmouth Park in June. "It was disappointing last out and there was really no excuse, but she's been quite impressive and a couple of the favorites didn't fire that day. She breezed back (half-mile in :49.05 at Oklahoma Aug. 6) and is doing well. We'll come up with a plan this week about what exactly we're going to do with her. She's training well and looks good. The turf could have been a little bit firm for her liking. She's run on firm turf, but sometimes up here without rain it can be a little tough. She's had one bad race on the turf, we're not disappointed in her."

BLISSFUL:

Owned by Belladonna, Manganaro and Edward Hudson, 3-year-old Empire Maker filly won her debut on the turf here last summer, then missed almost a year. Fourth in the Curtis Sampson Oaks at Canterbury Park June 22, she finished seventh in an allowance here July 30. "She exited her first race with an entrapped epiglottis last year and then just couldn't get into races. She was also-eligible in the Jessamine (at

COASTANA:

Five-year-old Kitten's Joy mare won here last summer going 1 3/8 miles on the turf, then missed just shy of a year before finishing fourth here July 31. Beaten 2 3/4 lengths, the two-time winner might have a stakes race on her agenda. "She's a full-sister to (Grade 1 winner) Real Solution. She's shown a lot of promise, but she's had a couple significant injuries along the way. It's really important to get her some black type so we're trying to find a spot where we can get her that. She has a lot of ability, and she needed the race she ran in. She's a big mare with a lot of substance. She had pneumonia as a 2-year-old, really bad, it was touch and go for that. Then she fractured her pelvis (breezing from the gate) as a 3-year-old. It was just a hair-line, wasn't anything really bad but it took her awhile. She was 4 when she got to the races. She's a big, strong mare now and she's hard on herself a little bit. That's the trainer's job sometimes, help them through that."

VAHVA:

Two-year-old Gun Runner filly finished fifth in her debut here July 24 after doing her major prep work at Keeneland. "She trained really well at Keeneland and the track is not as tiring there. She had shown a

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Saratoga Stable Tour

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lot of promise. She was breezing :48, :47, out a minute with big gallop outs and here she got tired. At the eighth pole she was really tired. She probably needed the race and the experience. She came out of the race in good shape."

SHESJUSTANICEGIRL:

At 16.2 hands tall, the Justify 2-year-old filly would start at center on the Saratoga backstretch freshmen women's basketball team and she proved it by easily looking over her hay net. "She's only 2... she's got big everything. Mentally, she's mature but she's going to take awhile before she physically matures into this body. She's lovely. We'll manage our expectations knowing that she's just really big and is probably going to take some time. For as big as she is, she's very athletic."



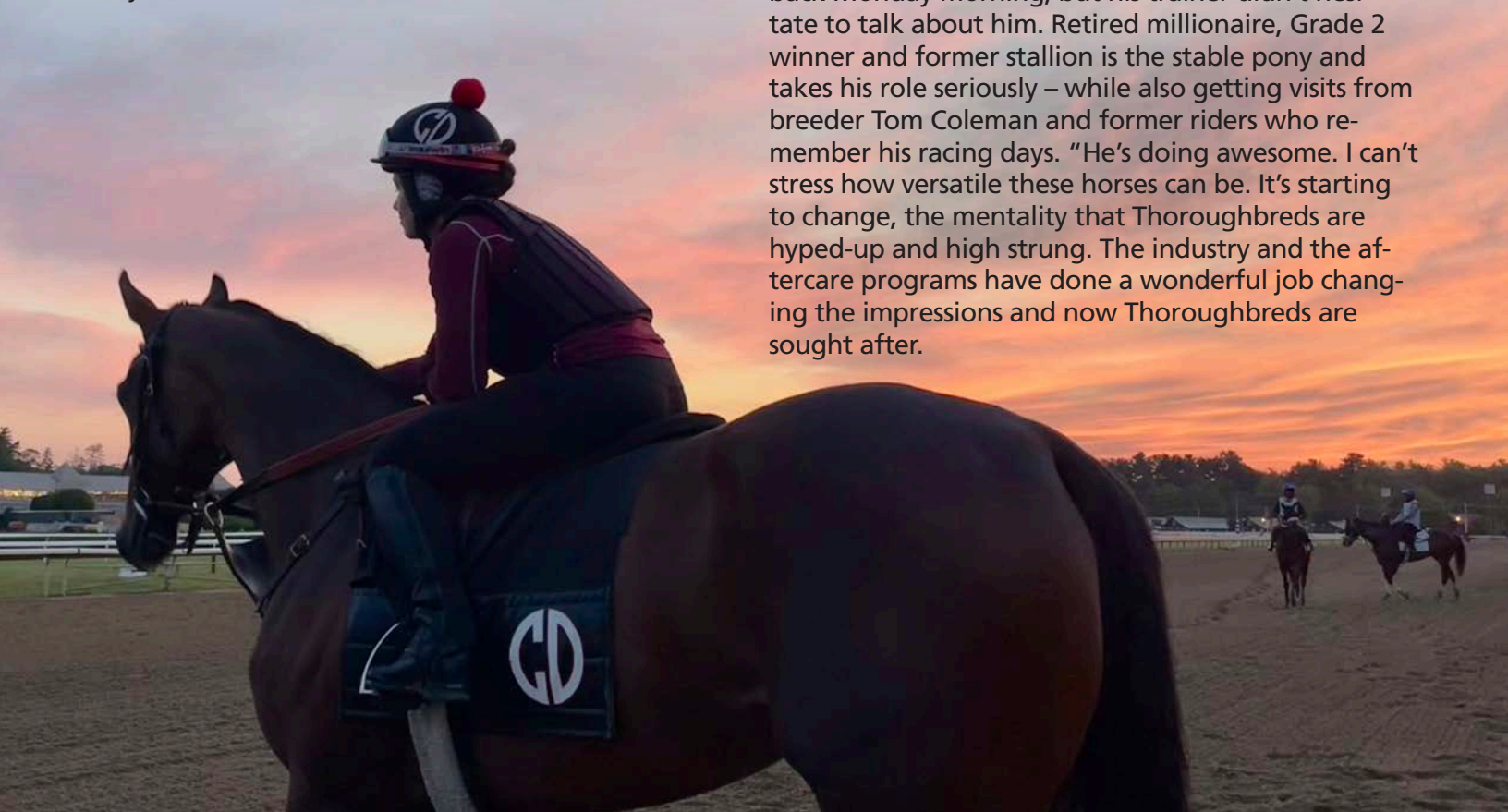
Millionaire stable pony Zivo with DeVaux's sister and assistant Adrienne aboard, is back in Saratoga

PROUVER:

Another Justify filly, this the complete opposite of her neighbor so might be the quick point guard. Small, gray, refined and dotted with white spots in various places, she just arrived from Keeneland – where she breezed half-miles in a bullet :47.40 July 30 and :49.60 Aug. 5. Grade 2-winning dam Ready To Act was in Brown's barn with DeVaux, and stamped her daughter. "She looks just like the dam – gray, small, really pretty. She'll be ready to go probably the last weekend. The Justifys come in all sizes and all colors."

ZIVO:

The 13-year-old New York-bred was chilling in the back Monday morning, but his trainer didn't hesitate to talk about him. Retired millionaire, Grade 2 winner and former stallion is the stable pony and takes his role seriously – while also getting visits from breeder Tom Coleman and former riders who remember his racing days. "He's doing awesome. I can't stress how versatile these horses can be. It's starting to change, the mentality that Thoroughbreds are hyped-up and high strung. The industry and the aftercare programs have done a wonderful job changing the impressions and now Thoroughbreds are sought after."



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RECENT NEWS & NOTABLE DATES

CURRENTLY RUNNING TRACKS

Belterra Park	April 28 - Oct. 6
Canterbury Park	May 18 - Sept. 17
Charles Town	Jan. 6 - Dec. 18
Colonial Downs	Jul. 11 - Sept. 7
Del Mar	Jul. 22 - Sept. 11
Delaware Park	May 25 - Nov. 5
Finger Lakes	April 25 - Nov. 23
Fort Erie	May. 31 - Oct. 18
Gulfstream Park	Apr. 7 - Sept. 25
Horseshoe Indianapolis	April 19 - Nov. 23
Laurel	Sept 6 - Dec. 31
Louisiana Downs	May 7 - Sept. 27
Monmouth Park	May 7 - Sept. 18
Mountaineer	April 18 - Dec. 14
Parx Racing	Jan. 3 - Dec. 28
Penn National	Jan. 4 - Dec. 30
Prairie Meadows	May 13 - Oct. 2
Presque Isle	May 16 - Oct. 27
Remington Park	Aug. 19 - Dec. 17
Saratoga	Jul. 14 - Sept. 5
Thistledown Racino	April 25 - Oct. 13
Woodbine	April 16 - Dec. 11

MAJOR TRACKS OPENING SOON

Belmont Park	Sept. 15 - Oct. 30
Churchill Downs	Sept. 15 - Oct. 2
Kentucky Downs	Sept. 1 - 14

MAJOR TRACKS CLOSING SOON

Saratoga	Sept. 5
Colonial Downs	Sept. 7
Del Mar	Sept. 11

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KEENELAND SEPTEMBER YEARLING SALE SEPTEMBER 12-24

BY THE BOOK

Book 1 (Sept 12-13) Hips 1-375+ Starts at 1pm ET
Book 2 (Sept 14-15) Hips 380-1130 Starts at 11am ET

No sale on Friday, Sept 16

Remainder of sale starts at 10am ET each day

Book 3 (Sept 17-18) Hips 1131-1958
Book 4 (Sept 19-20) Hips 1959-2780
Book 5 (Sept 21-22) Hips 2781-3587
Book 6 (Sept 23-24) Hips 3588-4164

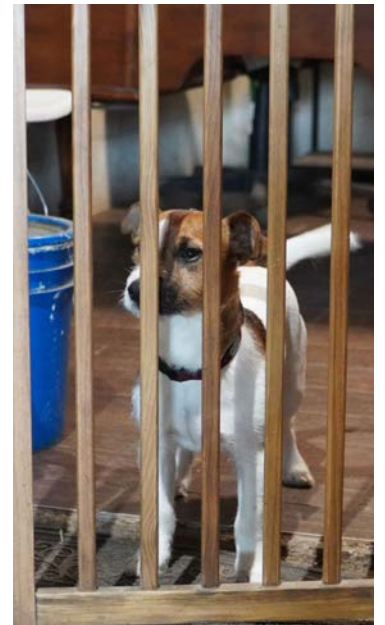


**Q: What is the largest number of
horses cataloged to the Keeneland
September Yearling Sale?**

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Around THE TRACK



Answer: In 2008, 5,555 yearlings were entered into the Keeneland September Sale.

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Around THE TRACK



BLISSFUL



VAHVA (OUTSIDE)

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SHESJUSTANICEGIRL (INSIDE)

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BOUT TIME

