



# THE POST TIMES

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LANESEND.COM



KEENELAND RACE COURSE IN LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

## A Spirit of Cooperation

Thoroughbred industry sets aside rivalries to come together in an unprecedented year

BY AMANDA DUCKWORTH

The entire concept of horse racing is built on competition. After last a reputation for coming together in a time of need. In 2020, that spirit of camaraderie in tough times extended far and wide, as people across the industry struggled with how to function in a pandemic. From racetracks to sales companies, traditions were set aside as the industry searched for the best path forward amid the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19.

### RACING, REIMAGINED

Because the pandemic in the United States escalated in mid-March, one of the first race meets to feel the full brunt of cancellation was Keeneland in April. Instead of having its major spring races lost for 2020, the track was able to run a unique abbreviated meet in the summer thanks to Ellis Park's cooperation. Ellis Park passed its summer meet to accommodate the five days Keeneland ended up running this July.

Rivalries were set aside as the industry searched for the best path forward amid the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19.

"We are all in this together," said Jeff Korman, Ellis Park's general manager. "Ellis Park is pleased to work with Keeneland on a plan that benefits our horsemen and Kentucky racing."

It was the first time in Keeneland's historic tenure that it hosted a summer meet. It featured 10 graded races, four of which were Grade 1s. Among the winners were Art Collector, who defeated Swiss Skydiver in the Blue Grass Stakes, and last year's Preakness Stakes winner, War of Will, who was raised at Lane's End and became a Grade 1 winner on both dirt and turf by winning the Maker's Mark Mile.

Because of safety protocols, fans were not allowed, but the all-sources handle totaled more than \$65 million.

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## "In it for the long haul."

Breeder Jon Clay is building a legacy, one broodmare at a time

BY AMANDA DUCKWORTH

When Vikoma broke from the starting gate of the 2019 Kentucky Derby, his breeder, Jon Clay, accomplished the goal he had set when he first started his Alpha Delta Stables in 2006 to breed a filly and a colt good enough to compete in the Kentucky Oaks and Derby.

The first part of his dream was achieved in 2016 when Lewis Bay finished third in the Oaks. The second was realized through superior colt Vikoma.

Vikoma, who was born and raised at Lane's End, has truly come into his own in 2020, winning the Carter Handicap (G2) and the Metropolitan Mile (G1) for his owners, R. A. Hill Stable and Gazan Stables. His achievements have only fueled Clay's love of the sport.

"I am in it for the long haul," said Clay, who is a sports marketer. "I enjoy it. I am always excited to see my yearlings go through the ring. I hope

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## Local Picks

FOR RESTAURANTS, SIGHTS & MORE



Shannon Arvin  
Keeneland President-Elect  
and Interim Head of Sales



Rusty Arnold  
Trainer

### DINNER

#### Dudley's

309 W Short Street  
(859) 254-2100  
dudleysrestaurant.com

#### Tony's

401 W Main Street  
(859) 952-8669  
tonysdining.com

### SIGHTS

#### Keeneland

4200 Versailles Road  
(859) 254-3400  
keeneland.com

#### Rupp Arena (University of Kentucky Basketball)

400 W Vine Street  
(859) 253-4967  
rupparena.com

### SHOP

#### Wilson Nurseries & Plant Co.

2700 Palumbo Drive  
(859) 349-2795  
wilsonnurseries.com

#### Cabela's

1100 Conservation Way  
(859) 286-5300  
cabelas.com

### LUNCH

#### Grub Kitchen

713 W Kentucky  
(859) 254-2100  
grubkitchen.com

#### Thoroughbred Restaurant

1475 Thoroughbred Road  
(859) 254-2100  
thoroughbredrestaurant.com

### DRINKS

#### My back porch After

399 N Limestone  
(859) 248-7199  
backporch.com

#### Rose and Jim's

3401 Georgetown Road  
(859) 429-9960  
roseandjimsrll.com

### TAKEOUT/DELIVERY

#### Malone's

3147 Yates Creek Road  
(multiple locations)  
(859) 330-0000  
maloneshospitality.com

#### Asian Wind

3735 Palomar Centre Drive,  
Unit 40  
(859) 333-0000  
asiawindlexington.com

Photo by Anna M. Elsworth

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Photo by Thomas Kelley/PhotoLibrary.com



TOP LEFT: CHURCHILL DOWNS TOP RIGHT: THE KEENELAND SALES PAVILION  
BOTTOM: THE INAUGURAL KEENELAND SUMMER MEET OF 2020

#### A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We thank our horsemen for their support of the Summer Meet and for always bringing their 'A Game' to Keeneland," said Bill Elliott, Keeneland's Vice President of Racing. "These stakes races are important targets on the racing calendar, representing significant income for horsemen and important black-type for breeders. We appreciate the cooperation of Ellis Park and the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission in helping us make this opportunity possible."

Of course, the biggest change to America's traditional racing calendar came when the Kentucky Derby was moved from the first Saturday in May to the first Saturday in September, after the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission gave its permission to do so.

"Throughout the rapid development of the COVID-19 pandemic, our first priority has been how to best protect the safety and health of our guests, team members and community," said Bill Cantanogian, the CEO of Churchill Downs Inc. "As the situation evolved, we reached the difficult conclusion that we needed to re-schedule. At no point did we ever consider canceling the Kentucky Derby."

#### GIVING BACK AT HOME

Keeneland also worked with the local Lexington community to help provide food to those at risk of going hungry during the pandemic. After canceling its Spring Meet, Keeneland donated 4,000 pounds of food to the new Northside Lexington program, and contributed 100% of the proceeds from online sales from The Keeneland Shop and Keeneland Merchandise during April to the effort.

It then expanded those efforts into Northside's Backstreet, powered by Keeneland, Northside Lexington and Blue Grass Farms Charities

(BGC), which provided weekly meals and groceries to the hundreds of stable area workers at Keeneland and The Thoroughbred Center. Proceeds from wagers placed through Keeneland Select, Keeneland's online AEW, during May were donated to the program.

"Keeneland is forever grateful to the industry's front-line heroes—the men and women on the backstretch who are out there every day taking care of the horses," said Bill Thompson, Keeneland's outgoing President and CEO. "We recognize and appreciate your hard work and dedication, and we are committed to support you during this challenging time where resources are scarce. You are vital to this industry and an important part of the Keeneland family."

The spirit of giving could also be seen in Louisville through the Churchill Downs Foundation, which launched the Relief for Equine Industry Needs (RELIN) to assist members of the racing community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was created to address the needs of the backstretch community by providing meals, money grants, and financial assistance for emergency needs.

Among the earliest supporters donating donations to the RELIN fund were trainer Jack Sittenso, jockeys Tyler Gaffalione and Julien Lepoivre, and owner Skyhill Racing.

"Horsemen are the most generous people I know," Sittenso said. "With us being so fortunate to respect our business, all the horsemen I talk to say, 'I wish I could help the less fortunate.'"

#### A COOPERATIVE SALES CALENDAR

Races and community outreach were far from the only aspects of the industry that required historic flexibility and cooperation in 2020. Sales giants Keeneland and Fasig-Tipton worked together throughout the year

to coordinate sales times in order to make travel and participation safer for consignors and buyers.

This included Fasig-Tipton consolidating its July, Saratoga, and New York Fall Yearling Sales into one selected yearling auction that was held in Lexington just before Keeneland's marathon September Yearling Sale.

Additionally, the rival sales companies presented a united front in terms of safety rules and regulations during the pandemic as those participating in the September yearling sales would have continuity. Working in collaboration with local and state health officials, the COVID-19 protocols that were enacted on applied to all sales attendees at both Keeneland and Fasig-Tipton.

"2020 has been a difficult year so far, and we are all being forced to make decisions that we never envisioned having to make," said Bob T. Browning, Jr., Fasig-Tipton's President and CEO. "For the travel convenience of buyers, as well as coordination of potential health and safety protocols, our sale and Keeneland September are best served to be positioned closer together."

"Fasig-Tipton and Keeneland have been in steady contact with one another and are working together in a cooperative effort to do what's best for our industry during these challenging times."

With so much uncertainty surrounding an unprecedented year, one continual effort lining was how much was still able to be accomplished thanks to the Thoroughbred world coming together in a spirit of resilience, cooperation, and shared commitment to the industry. ■

#### EMPLOYEE PROFILE

## 30 Years at Lane's End Todd Clauch reflects on his career—and what the future holds.

BY AMANDA DUCKWORTH

After more than four decades, Lane's End's Farm Manager Mike Cline announced his retirement earlier this year. While his departure after so many years is a transition for everyone involved, another long-term employee has been there to make it as smooth as possible: Todd Clauch.

Clauch, who served as the Assistant Manager under Cline, has spent the past three decades learning from and surrounding himself with the best, both when it comes to horses and people. He started his career at Lane's End 30 years ago as a groom. Today, he's the farm manager.

"I actually started as a groom here in the yearling barn," said Clauch. "It's just such a great place. It is such a wonderful facility, and any place from here would just be a lateral move at best. The facilities are great people to work for, and I've enjoyed working for Mike for 30 years."

"I am going to have some added responsibilities," Clauch continued. "Bill is going to take over a lot of the things that Mike was doing, and I will be doing the rest of it. It's all still pretty new. He has been here 40 years."

Clauch, a Lexington native, fell for horses as a kid. "My family was into horses at all, but luckily I lived near a horse farm," he said. "I started working on one when I was 12 or 13. I loved horses, and I started riding. I rode hunter/jumpers then switched to polo and was a polo groom for a while. I just had it in the blood. If you like them, you like them."

"I really like Keeneland," he said. "Starting to grow, and I like going up there. It's a really fantastic old track with a lot of tradition, but being a kid, I just loved it. Keeneland has given up on the road, but I think I started going to the races when I was 12."

"I used to love the July sale out there, too, and enjoyed the September sale," he remembered. "In 2000, when Lane's End sold at horses for almost \$4 million in one day, that was pretty special. Averaging a little over a million each was just a great day."

Clauch's current professional point of pride is multiple Grade 1 winner and 2019 Eclipse Award finalist Code of Honor, who races as a homebred for Lane's End.

"Over 30 years, there's just been so many good ones, but it's always the most current horse I am really excited about, and right now that's Code of Honor," said Clauch. "It's great having such a nice horse like him



TODD CLAUCH

for Mr. Farish right now. Seeing Mr. Farish lead Code of Honor into the winner's circle after the Travers Stakes (G1) last year, that makes it all worth it. The look on his face—I will never forget it."

Code of Honor, who was offered at the Keeneland September Sale but came home when he failed to meet his reserve, is also part of much special memory for Clauch—the crop of winners to hail from the farm's 2017 Keeneland September Sale contingent.

"Just in our 2017 Keeneland yearling contingent, we had six Grade 1 winners, and two of those Grade 1 winners—Code of Honor and Schemm—came out of this barn on the farm," he said. "They grew up together, two weeks apart. It's satisfying to know it's all worth it at the end of the day. When you put on those long nights and early mornings, when you see them perform like that it sure makes it easier."

With 30 years at Lane's End under his belt, Clauch has End memories of so many of the farm's legendary homebreds and stallions. In 2009, Lane's End homebred Minischaft was named the Horse of the Year and subsequently retired to stand next to his sire, the legendary A. P. Indy. Two years later, Lane's End consigned a yearling daughter of A. P. Indy to the Keeneland September Sale, and she sold to Godolphin for \$1.6 million. The filly grew up to be champion Rags to Riches, winner of the 2017 Belmont Stakes (G1) over Curlin. Clauch remembers both horses well.

"Minischaft was just awesome," said Clauch. "It was such a great run when he was racing, but Rags to Riches always has held a special spot for me, too. She was a really tough filly, hard to get along with, but everybody could see that she had a lot of talent. She was a really nice

re-horse, and her Belmont was great. To watch her run like that was fantastic."

Although horses take up the majority of his time, Clauch's biggest pride comes from being a father. His son, Nick, inherited his enthusiasm for horses and works for Eddie Case at Calumet Farm.

"My whole life kind of revolves around horses," Clauch said. "I have dabbled in horses and done sort of okay there, and I credit my parents, and I credit classic cars, but I would like to think that the horse movement made me the time. I just in riding my son, Nick. There that's got a son, a kind of hope he does the same thing."

As far as the horses go, Clauch feels the key to getting the best out of them is to invest time into them as well. He certainly has done that as far during his 30 years and counting at Lane's End.

"To think you really have to get to know your horses," he said. "You have to get to know their personalities and know something about them. We are blessed to have a lot of the best professionals around—the veterinarians, the farriers, the nutritionists, and all that—but they can't really ply their trade if you don't know your horses. Horses will tell you a lot if you know them."

"I guess the simplest way to put it is that I really wouldn't change my thing about my time with Lane's End," said Clauch. "It's been great. It's a really awesome place to work, and I have been around some amazing people and some amazing horses." ■



TODD CLAUCH (RIGHT), ALLAIRE RYAN, CHANCE TIMM AND PETER SHEEHAN OBSERVE A HORSE AT LANE'S END FARM





A.P. INDY'S LEGACY, BOTH ON THE TRACK AND IN THE BREEDING WORLD, IS UNDISPUTED.

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**A.P. Indy's stud career would  
renew the credibility of selective  
breeding, and of the basic tenets  
that hold our industry together.**

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...the silhouette of the colt who topped the 1990 July Yearling  
Sale at Fasig-Tipton. That was a landmark moment for Lane's End, whose  
founder, William F. Farish had to breed A.P. Indy with William Kilroy.

...back to the fold when a syndication  
...before A.P. Indy's final  
...both the  
...by half

As Tiz The Law rose to the top of the yearling  
leading sophomores of 2001 in the auction, he  
strands of gold into the A.P. Indy legacy, his  
son Bernardini, who has already established  
cocious broodmare sire. And Honor A.P.  
Code, meanwhile secured a place along

One of 36 named foals in A.P. Indy's  
distinctive, rather dramatic  
Nonetheless, in Honor A.P. Indy's  
range and leisurely, raking  
moment, the cadence of  
across the ground







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BY AMANDA DUCKWORTH

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CARTOONS BY BIRDIE @DarrenBirdie



I SPY

Find these objects:  
Birdie, Horse Shoe, Pitchfork, Saddle, Stopwatch, Wheelbarrow, Breeder's Cap, Flower Garland, Breeder's Cap Trophy

