



Before the Hammer

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

BLUEWATER BRINGS LEXIE LOU TO KEENOV

by Lucas Marquardt

With a slew of seven-figure sale horses to her credit, Bluewater Farm's Meg Levy has accomplished much as a consignor. One thing she hasn't done, however, is bring a Horse of the Year to auction. That will change in a few weeks when the Bluewater crew leads the millionaire Lexie Lou (Sligo Bay {Ire}) up to the pavilion on Day 1 of the Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale, where she's been cataloged as [Hip 232](#). Keeneland November kicks off its 13-day run on Tuesday, Nov. 8.



Meg Levy & Lexie Lou | Lucas Marquardt

"We've been very lucky and have sold some really nice fillies, but I'm particularly excited about Lexie Lou," said Levy. "She's a special horse, and everything she did, from beating the boys in the Queen's Plate to coming in second to California Chrome, has really made her a fan favorite. We've been big fans of her, as well."

Lexie Lou was owned by J.R. Racing Stable Inc. when she won a pair of stakes at Woodbine during her 2-year-old season in 2013, but had been privately purchased by Gary Barber by the time she annexed the Woodbine Oaks and Queen's Plate in successive starts the following year for trainer Mark Casse.

She added the Wonder Where S. and GIII Autumn Miss S., then closed out her sophomore campaign with an excellent second to pro-tem U.S. Horse of the Year California Chrome (Lucky Pulpit) in the GI Hollywood Derby. That effort helped ensure her own selection as Canada's Horse of the Year.



Lexie Lou | Horsephotos

"It was an exceptional performance, and it looks even better now in hindsight, given what California Chrome has gone on to do," said Levy. "And one thing I love about this filly is how durable and sound she's been."

In addition to being named Canada's Horse of the Year in 2014, Lexie Lou was also honored as champion 3-year-old filly and champion grass mare. To date, she's compiled a record of 24-10-4-4 and earnings of over \$1.7 million.

That record would undoubtedly have had a few more wins added to it had Lexie Lou not suffered a freak eye injury in her stall that abbreviated her 4-year-old season. But she returned at five this year better than ever, winning the GII Nassau S. and GII Dance Smartly S., both at Woodbine.

"She beat some pretty classy fillies in those races," said Levy. "There were five stakes winners behind her in the Nassau, including the champion filly Strut the Course. And there were eight stakes winners behind her in the Dance Smartly, including three graded winners and a Grade I winner."

In her most recent start, Lexie Lou registered a facile win at 1-5 in the Victoriana S. at Woodbine in July. Lexie Lou, cataloged for the November Sale as a racing or broodmare prospect, has been relaxing at Bluewater's Lexington-based farm for the past month or two.

"It's been fun having her here," said Levy. "We've had people call the farm wondering how she is. People have sent mints, even."

Lexie Lou has earned over \$1.7 million. She was produced by a daughter of the Grade II winner Favored One, and is a paternal granddaughter of Sadler's Wells.

"We've had good luck selling fillies from this sire line, and I'm really hoping, and confident, that she'll be internationally appealing," said Levy.

Before the Hammer Cont.

This will be the second consecutive year that the Keeneland November Sale has featured a female Canadian Horse of the Year. Twelve months ago, the 11-year-old Sealy Hill (Point Given) sold for \$750,000. Sealy Hill was recently represented by her third graded winner when Gale Force (Giant's Causeway) won the Gill Mazarine S. on debut.

The inclusion of Lexie Lou in Bluewater's November Sale draft is another feather in the cap of Levy, who launched Bluewater back in 1999. Since then, Bluewater has sold well over \$150 million in bloodstock as a largely boutique operation.

"We're proud of what we've accomplished, especially given our numbers," said Levy, who noted that, in 2013, Bluewater sold more \$800,000-plus mares than any other consignor in the country.

Levy said the key to Bluewater's success is its strong relationships with clients.



Sarasota, the dam of GISW Salutos Amigos (pictured) will be offered by Bluewater at Keeneland November as Hip 580

Joe Labozzetta/NYRA photo

"Really, all our success is built on the relationships we have with our clients," she said. "We've had a longtime, close relationship with Eclipse Thoroughbreds, for instance, and that's how we met [Lexie Lou's owner] Gary Barber. And it's these kind of relationships that allow us to focus on these graded stakes fillies coming off the track."

Barber, it should be noted, not only campaigned Canada's 2014 Horse of the Year, but last year's, too: the brilliant Catch a Glimpse (City Zip) carries his hot-pink silks.

Bluewater's 2016 November Sale consignment also features Shannon Faith (Discreet Cat) ([Hip 56](#)), a 5-year-old mare from the family of Take Charge Lady, et al., who sells in foal to Pioneer of the Nile; Quality Rocks (Rock Hard Ten) ([Hip 556](#)), a graded winner of \$304,600 who sells as a racing or broodmare prospect; and Sarasota (Arg) (Luhuk) ([Hip 580](#)), dam of the Grade I winner Salutos Amigos (Salute the Sarge) and the Grade II winner Sarah's Secret (Leroidesanimaux {Brz}).

Top-flight weanlings are always in demand at the November Sale, and Bluewater's Book 1 quartet of colts are by the likes of Uncle Mo ([Hip 193](#)), Giant's Causeway ([Hip 81](#)), Curlin ([Hip 188](#)) and Ghostzapper ([Hip 214](#)). The



Hip 214, a colt by Ghostzapper out of Holy Blitz, is a full-brother to champion Judy the Beauty | Lucas Marquardt

Ghostzapper colt has a pedigree with plenty of family to those around Keeneland—he's a full-sibling to the outstanding sprinter Judy the Beauty, who earned an Eclipse Award after winning the GI Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint in 2014. Judy the Beauty went four-for-six at Keeneland, with her wins including the GI Madison S. during her championship season. "He's a really beautiful colt," said Levy. "We're excited to have him in the consignment, as well."



Click to listen to an interview with Meg Levy of Bluewater Sales
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