



Kenneth G. McPeek

Born: Aug. 2, 1962 in Fort Chaffee, AK

Record at Keeneland

Total wins: 165

Stakes wins: 20

First Grade 1 Win:

2002 Florida Derby with Harlan's Holiday.

First Graded Stakes Win:

1994 Beaumont (G2) at Keeneland with Her Temper.

First Stakes Win:

1991 Red Wing Stakes at Canterbury Downs with Miss Echo.

First Career Win:

Oct. 27, 1985, with Final Destroyer at River Downs.

- Ranks seventh at Keeneland in career stakes victories with 20 and fourth by wins with 165.
- Stable won 75 races and earned \$4,903,939 in 2012; highlights included Grade 1 wins in the Hollywood Starlet by Pure Fun and in the Travers (dead heat) by Golden Ticket.
- **Triple Crown win:** 2002 Belmont (G1) with Sarava.
- Stable won 84 races in 2011 and ranked 23rd in earnings with \$3,994,070; highlights included Grade 3 victories by Kathmanblu, Noble's Promise, Salty Strike, My Baby Baby, Scotus and Bizzy Caroline.
- Won training titles at Keeneland (spring and fall 2011, fall of 2010 and 2009), Kentucky Downs (2003) and Churchill Downs (fall of 2012 in a tie and 2002 fall).
- Won 1,000th race on May 25, 2009, at Churchill Downs with Old Man Buck.
- Two-time winner of the Breeders' Futurity – 2009 with Noble's Promise and 1994 with Tejano Run.
- Finished in the Top 5 at the 2008 Keeneland and Churchill spring and fall, Turfway fall and Kentucky Downs meets, in 2010 at Saratoga, Churchill fall and Keeneland spring meets, and in 2012 at Keeneland's spring meet.
- Won Alcibiades three times – 2008 with Dream Empress, 2001 with Take Charge Lady and 2000 with She's A Devil Due.
- Won three Keeneland Grade 1 stakes in 2002 – Toyota Blue Grass with Harlan's Holiday, and the Ashland and Overbrook Spinster with Take Charge Lady.
- Won Spinster (G1) a second time with Take Charge Lady in 2003.
- Finished seventh in the national standings in '02 with earnings of \$6.6 million.
- In 2004, after winning the Gulfstream Park Breeders' Cup (G1), Hard Buck (BRZ) was shipped to Dubai where he finished second in the \$2 million Dubai Sheema Classic (G1), beaten a half-length. In England, he later finished second in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond (G1).
- Winner of the Big Sport of Turfdom Award in 2002.
- Donated \$50 for wins between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2009, to the Grayson Jockey-Club Research Foundation.
- Other graded stakes winners include Repent, Wild and Wicked, Prince Arch, Striking Dancer, Rogue Romance, Bold Start, War Kill, Bridgetown, Nistle's Crunch and Drilling for Oil.

Background:

Attended Bates Creek High School in Lexington where he played football. His father, Ron McPeek, had a few racehorses and subscribed to *The Blood-Horse*. "He'd leave it lying around, and I'd read it before he did," he recalled.

While still in high school, he worked at The Alchemy one summer, and then he went to the University of Kentucky. "In college, I carried around *The Blood-Horse* and *Thoroughbred Times* with me all the time. I was absorbed in the pedigrees and in racing."

After graduating with a business degree, he went to work for Hall of Famer Shug McGaughey. McPeek had considered putting his degree to use. "I went to New York to interview for jobs as a stockbroker, but I spent more time at Belmont Park than I did looking for a job."

When he obtained his first trainer's license in 1985, his first client was his father. He saddled his first winner, Final Destroyer, at River Downs that October.

It was Roy Monroe who enabled him to obtain better quality horses. McPeek had played high school football with Monroe's son, Brian.

In June of 2005, McPeek had reached the decision that his stable of 160 horses in six states had grown too large and that he could serve his clients' interests better by concentrating on being a bloodstock agent. One of his purchases, on behalf of Midnight Cry Stable, was Curlin for \$57,000 as a yearling. At that time, he turned the bulk of his stable over to longtime assistant, Helen Pitts.

McPeek owns and operates Magdalena Farm near Lexington. The property has a mile and a half turf gallop and access to a nearby dirt training track. After taking a self-imposed break from training for a little less than a year, Ken McPeek returned in the spring of 2006.