



## Eddie Kenneally

**Born:** June 19, 1966 in West Waterford, County Waterford, Ireland.

**Resident:** Louisville, Ky.

**Family:** Single.

**Eddie Kenneally's record at Keeneland**

**Total wins: 17**

**Stakes Wins (2)**

- Won his first Grade 1 races last year—the Ashland, the Acorn, and the Mother Goose—all with Bushfire, an Eclipse Award finalist.
- Won his first two Keeneland stakes in 2006—the Ashland with Bushfire and the Phoenix Breeders' Cup (G3) with Kelly's Landing.

Eddie Kenneally is coming off his best year as a trainer in 2006 when his stable won 30 of 153 races for earnings of \$1,786,418. He won at a 20 percent clip, which is above the average for trainers of 16 percent.

He also had his best horse to date in Bushfire last year. The daughter of Louis Quatorze won five of her nine starts and earned \$761,659 during the year. She had been acquired by Kenneally privately for \$37,000 on behalf of Ron and Ricki Rashinski after she failed to sell at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale in 2004.

Bushfire opened the season with a win in allowance company on Jan. 13 at Gulfstream Park. In her first start in stakes competition, she ran seventh in the Davona Dale (G2). She followed that up with her first stakes victory on March 18 at Tampa Bay Downs when she captured the Florida Oaks.

Shipped to Kentucky, she was sent off at odds of better than 15-1 in the Ashland on April 8. She led throughout and drew away to win by six and a half lengths.

"If you let her run early, she'll relax for you," said Kenneally. "She looked like she relaxed nicely going down the backside and had a lot left turning for home. She ran a huge race."

In her next outing, the Kentucky Oaks (G1), she finished third to Lemons Forever before going to New York where she won the Acorn by a neck, defeating Hello Liberty. In the Mother Goose on July 1, she defeated another Eclipse finalist, Pine Island, by three-quarters of a length. She concluded the year with a fifth-place finish in the Gazelle (G1) and an 11th in the Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1). She was among the three finalists for the Eclipse Award for best 3-year-old filly.

After her win in the Mother Goose, Kenneally told Jennie Rees of *The Louisville Courier-Journal*: "It's fantastic. I've worked hard for a long time to get one like that. They don't come around very often. It's gratifying, too, because I purchased her for a small price."

Kenneally only saddled five starters at Keeneland last spring, and in addition to the Ashland victory, his stable also posted one

second and one third for earnings of \$327,940. In the fall, he saddled six winners, finishing in a four-way tie for third, and his 20 starters earned \$315,488.

For Kenneally, who had not previously had a Breeders' Cup starter before last year, Bushfire was his second. Earlier on the card, Kelly's Landing became his first in the Sprint.

The then-5-year-old son of Patton was fresh off an upset victory in the Phoenix Breeders' Cup at 12.10-1 odds. A winner of nearly \$500,000, he finished 10th in the Sprint.

"He broke from Post 14 and ran in the middle of the pack," Kenneally said. "He didn't run very well."

But after a brief time away from the track, Kelly's Landing began 2007 on a good note, winning the Mr. Prospector Handicap (G3) at Gulfstream Park on Jan. 6. The Golden Shaheen in Dubai in March was under consideration for Kelly's Landing.

Kenneally also reported in January that Bushfire was with Eddie Woods in Ocala being freshened for a spring/summer campaign as a 4-year-old. Also with Woods was Irene's Mon, who finished second, beaten a neck by It's No Joke, in the Ack Ack Handicap (G3) on Breeders' Cup Day. Irene's Mon then ran fifth behind Premium Tap in the Clark Handicap (G1) on Thanksgiving Day.

Irene's Mon is being pointed for the Ben Ali (G3) at Keeneland in April. And Bushfire was due to rejoin him at the track in mid-February.

Stabled at Palm Meadows Downs with 18 horses through the winter, he also left 12 horses at Turfway Park because he is a big fan of Polytrack.

He has some 2-year-olds being readied by Eddie Woods to join him. "I buy quite a few yearlings at Fasig-Tipton and at the Keeneland September sale," he said, with prices depending on the client. "I haven't bought any expensive horses yet.

"I'm always looking for new quality people who want to do good in the business," he added.

Kenneally, a native of West Waterford in County Waterford, Ireland, grew up around horses. His father, Tommy, rode hunters and

broke horses, while his uncle John Kenneally was a steeplechase jockey who then became a flat and steeplechase trainer. His uncle finished second aboard Purple Silk in the 1964 Aintree Grand National, beaten just a nose. His brother Johnny operates Erinvale Thoroughbreds, one of the largest consignors in Australia.

Kenneally went to work for Camas Park Stud in Ireland and then came to the United States in 1987 to prep Camas Park horses at Pegasus Stud near Lexington for the American sales.

He explained his rationale: "I had done it in Europe and wanted to see how it was done in the U.S."

After a year, he began working at the racetrack, breaking yearlings and exercising horses and then became an assistant trainer. He worked for Rusty Arnold and then for Tom Skiffington for several years before going with fellow Irishman Niall O'Callaghan for two years. "Niall and I were both assistant trainers for Tom Skiffington," Kenneally said. He was also assistant trainer for O'Callaghan.

He took his first training job in 1994 for Jack Kent Cooke, who owned Elmendorf Farm at the time, as private conditioner. After Cooke died in 1997, he opened a public stable for the first time.

He saddled his first stakes winner on Sept. 25, 1999, when Cuchulainn's Honor won the Illinois Cavalier Stakes at Hawthorne. His stable earned \$416,284 that year, according to Equineline.com.

The following year, he won his second stakes race with Haitian Vacation, who captured the Selima Stakes at Laurel in November. The stable earned \$550,245 that year.

One of his stable's victories in 2002 was that by Belle of Perintown in the Pocahontas Stakes, which was also his first stakes score at Churchill.

Belle of Perintown also provided him with his first graded stakes victory the following February when she scored in the Silverbulletday Stakes (G2) at Fair Grounds. And Vicki Vallencourt added another stakes victory for him in 2003, the Ellis Park Breeders' Cup Handicap. Stable earnings reached \$588,953.

In 2005, Kenneally won two Grade 3 races at Churchill—the Aristides Breeders' Cup Handicap with Kelly's Landing and the Iroquois Stakes with Catcominatcha. For the year, the stable won 25 races and earned \$902,902.

Through Jan. 9, 2007, Kenneally had won 222 races and his stable had earned \$6,607,399, according to Equineline.com.

Kenneally, who will turn 41 in June, lives in Louisville and is based at Churchill when he isn't in Florida.

