

STEADY AS SHE GOES AT KEENELAND

The 2006 version of the Keeneland September Yearling Sale was remarkable on many accounts. It saw the sale of an eight-figure yearling and nearly \$400 million of gross receipts were rung up. While those two benchmarks won't be reached this year, Keeneland Director of Sales Geoffrey Russell has been overwhelmed with the performance of this year's market.



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"This year's sale is probably more impressive than last year's sale," he stated. "Everyone is concentrating on the top end of the market, but the middle is phenomenal. This is day eight of the sale, and buyers are still very enthusiastic to purchase a top quality horse." As the sale

passed its midway point yesterday afternoon, there was plenty of competition for the day's best offerings, much to the pleasure of Jim and Pam Robinson of Brandywine Farm and Rob Whiteley of Liberation Farm. The two organizations pooled their resources nearly two years ago to snap up 11 reasonably priced mares at the 2005 Keeneland November sale and are now returning those foals to the auction ring. One of their purchases was Proper Dance (Nureyev), a half-sister to MGSW Doneraile Court, which the Robinsons and Whiteley secured for \$72,000 carrying a foal by Cape Town. Consigned by Brandywine on behalf of the partnership, the dark bay colt, consigned as hip 2745, was hammered down to the bid of Marsha Naify for \$260,000. Proper Dance is not represented by a foal of 2007 and was bred this past season to Claiborne Farm's Strong Hope. While the cumulative average