

**DARRAGH KENNY**  
**PRECISION IN MOTION**



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**DARRAGH KENNY IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD SHOWJUMPING RIDER KNOWN FOR HIS GROUNDED AND PROFESSIONAL APPROACH AND BRILLIANT TALENT IN THE ARENA. CURRENTLY RANKED AS THE WORLD NUMBER 11 IN THE LONGINES FEI RANKINGS, KENNY HAS DEMONSTRATED REMARKABLE CONSISTENCY AND DETERMINATION THROUGHOUT 2025, ACHIEVING OUTSTANDING RESULTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE.**

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His impressive performances contributed to him being selected as part of the Irish team for the 2024 Paris Olympics, and some of his recent results include podium wins at Spruce Meadows and the Traverse City Horse Show with his horses Colibelle Hero Z, Lighting and Zero K. And just a couple of weeks ago, he secured a commendable seventh place at the Longines FEI European Jumping Championship in A Coruna with his gelding Eddie Blue, as well as a second place with Diaroubet at the \$75,000 CSIO 3\* Traverse City Nations Cup.

With such focused dedication to the sport, Kenny is now planning to make a major impact at this year's Dublin Horse Show, aiming to add yet another significant victory to his already impressive career.

**Can you tell us about the horses you'll be participating with?**

I have LE Coridal, Zero K, and my good horse Eddie Blue here. Eddie Blue jumps in a small class the next few days and hopefully I'll be part of the team for the Nations Cup on Friday. They haven't announced the team yet, but I'm one of the five riders being considered. And then of course, also with Eddie Blue, I'll compete in the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland this coming Sunday.

**How do you prepare Eddie Blue for jumping on**

**grass after competing in a sand arena?**

This summer I took him to Spruce Meadows in Canada for two weeks to get him accustomed to jumping on grass. It helps him transition smoothly between surfaces.

**Is there a specific routine you follow before a major event like the Dublin Horse Show?**

Honestly, I keep it simple and consistent. I focus on ensuring the horses are fit, healthy, and happy. Since they're experienced horses, I believe that maintaining their usual routine and staying relaxed is the best approach. Preparation should be about consistency, treating the day like any other show, but with extra care for their well-being.

**Do you seek technical advice from anyone?**

Not typically. I handle most of the technical aspects myself at the moment. However my family is quite involved so if I need advice, I always turn to them.

**Do you invest in mental preparation before big events?**

I used to but not so much in recent years. For me, the key is to stay consistent and not overthink. I believe that maintaining the same mindset and



treating the show like any other helps ensure success. Trying to do more or different often can be counterproductive.

**You're known for your speed against the clock; what skills have you developed to ride so quickly?**

I think smoothness is crucial. Many riders think they're going fast, suddenly become erratic, so they end up being slower. The best clocked riders make their speed look effortless which is the trick; speed combined with precision and fluidity.

**Out of your horses, how did you choose Eddie Blue for this event?**

This is a very important show for me, being at home in Ireland. I brought my best horses to compete here, and Eddie Blue is currently my top horse. I plan to ride him in both the Nations Cup and the Grand Prix because I believe he has the potential to perform very well.

**You're the owner of Oakland Stables in the USA. Are all your horses owned by you or do some have other owners?**

Most of my horses are owned by a wonderful group of owners I'm very fortunate to work with. I own a few myself, but the majority are owned by others.

**Is there a message you'd like to share with your owners through this interview?**

Absolutely. I'm incredibly grateful for my owners, they're a fantastic group. I truly appreciate their

support and trust. Their backing means everything to me and my team, and I'm thankful for their continued partnership.

**You're often referred to as Ofally's Darragh Kenny in Irish publications. Is there a distinction between counties in Ireland?**

Yes, that's correct. It's a reference to where I'm from. It's simply where I grew up, my childhood home. It's part of my identity and background.

**Beyond showjumping, what are your other interests?**

Right now I'm very focused on the sport. But I do enjoy relaxing with good dinners, spending time with friends, traveling, and enjoying quiet moments at home. When I'm not competing, I like to unwind and recharge.

**Have you ever travelled to the Middle East?**

I've only been to Doha, Qatar.

**Do you think there's a question we should've asked you but didn't?**

No, I think you covered everything quite well.

Was a pleasure speaking to you Darragh and many thanks for your time. We'll be watching you and all the best! 🍀

*Photos by FEI/Benjamin Clark*

