



THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008

Pedigree Profiles

presented by **BloodHorse.com**

Kentucky Derby Contenders Seen Through TrueNicks

With the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands mere days away, we thought it was worth giving TrueNicks a tryout on the leading contenders. TrueNicks came through its Derby Trial with flying colors. Of the top 24 contenders at time of writing, nine (37.5%) were A + +; 17 (71%) were A or above; 21 (87.5%) were B + or higher. Of the remaining three, two are D; one, a non-stakes winner, does not achieve a rating.

A++ ANAK NAKAL (Victory Gallop – Misk, by Quiet American) – By a Belmont (gr. I) winner out of a mare by the sire of a Derby winner – oddly enough, both from the Fappiano line. Won't be distance concerns that stop him.

A++ BIG BROWN (Boundary – Mien, by Nureyev) – At first glance this is the pedigree of a sprinter/miler, but he's also inbred to Damascus and Round Table, who could both run all day long. Wouldn't bet against him getting the trip, at least against other 3-year-olds in spring.

A++ BOB BLACK JACK (Stormy Jack – Molly's Prospector, by Native Prospector) – Sire was a West Coast sprinter, and broodmare sire was a sprinter/miler. Very fast and has done well to carry his speed as far as he has, but it doesn't look like a 10-furlong pedigree.

A++ COOL COAL MAN (Mineshaft – Coral Sea, by Rubiano) – From the first crop of a Horse of the Year who had no problems with 10 furlongs. Dam by a champion sprinter, but is a half sister to the long-running Signal Tap (by Fappiano). Second dam a sister to Storm Bird. Distance no problem.

A++ PYRO (Pulpit – Wild Vision, by Wild Again) – By Pulpit, his dam is a sister to Wild Wonder, a very fast horse who could carry his speed 8 1/2 furlongs. The pedigree isn't absolutely guaranteed to get 10 furlongs, but his late-closing style might help.

A++ Z FORTUNE (Siphon (BRZ) – Fortunate Faith, by Fortunate Prospect) – By Siphon, a fast horse who won two grade I races at 10 furlongs. Dam has a lot of speed in her pedigree, but was a grade II winner at 9 furlongs. He should get the trip.

A++ Z HUMOR (Distorted Humor – Offtheoldblock, by A.P. Indy) – By the same sire as Derby winner Funny Cide, and bred on an identical cross to Any Given Saturday. Distance shouldn't be a problem.

A+ COWBOY CAL (Giant's Causeway – Texas Tammy, by Seeking the Gold) – By a horse who won over an extended 10 furlongs, out of a half sister to Behrens, this is one who won't find the distance his biggest obstacle.

A+ DENIS OF CORK (Harlan's Holiday – Unbridled Girl, by Unbridled) – From first crop of the sire, who might have been better at nine than 10 furlongs, out of a mare by a Kentucky Derby winner. Should get the trip.

A ADRIANO (A.P. Indy – Gold Canyon, by Mr. Prospector) – Bred on the same cross as Mineshaft and Pulpit to name but two. Granddam won the Santa Anita Oaks (gr. I), and is half sister to Derby runner-up and Belmont winner Bet Twice. Stamina won't be a problem.

A GAYEGO (Gilded Time – Devils Lake, by Lost Code) – By speed influence Gilded Time, out of a mare by a fast horse who could carry that speed nine furlongs. Gayego has already outstayed his pedigree. Most unlikely to get 10 furlongs.

A RECAPTURETHEGLORY (Cherokee Run – Cold Awakening, by Dehere) – By a champion sprinter, out of a mare by a champion 2-year-old. Mostly speed close-up in the dam, although there is some stamina further back. Pedigree doesn't look like a 10-furlong horse.

A SMOOTH AIR (Smooth Jazz – Air France, by French Deputy) – Sire was a

speed horse pure and simple, and the broodmare sire was best at a mile. Success at the Derby distance would be a real surprise.

A TALE OF EKATI (Tale of the Cat – Silence Beauty (JPN), by Sunday Silence) – Brilliantly fast sire did get Derby runner-up Lion Heart. Dam by Derby winner Sunday Silence, out of Maplejinsky, a grade I winner by English Triple Crown winner Nijinsky II, out of champion sprinter Gold Beauty. Not a 10-furlong pedigree.

A VISIONAIRE (Grand Slam – Scarlet Tango, by French Deputy) – This is an example of an emerging cross, Grand Slam having four stakes winners out of Deputy Minister-line mares. This one has the pedigree of a miler, however.

B+ BIG TRUCK (Hook and Ladder – Just a Ginny, by Go For Gin) – From the first crop of a very fast horse, out of a mare by a Kentucky Derby winner, with quite a lot of stamina in the dam. Ten furlongs might be a stretch.

B+ COURT VISION (Gulch – Weekend Storm, by Storm Bird) – Bred on an identical cross to Thunder Gulch. Dam is a sister to Preakness winner Summer Squall, and half sister to A.P. Indy. Looks sure to stay on pedigree and running style.

B+ EIGHT BELLES (Unbridled's Song – Away, by Dixieland Band) – Filly will apparently await the draw before a final decision. By a horse that is primarily a speed influence and out of a stakes-winning sprinter, the distance wouldn't be in her favor.

D COLONEL JOHN (Tiznow – Sweet Damsel, by Turkoman) – This is one contender who looks sure to stay. He's not bred on a particularly successful cross, but on the inside of the pedigree there is the excellent combination of Seattle Slew and Turkoman.

D MONBA (Maria's Mon – Hamba, by Easy Goer) – By the sire of a Derby winner out of a Belmont winner, so distance no problem. Has a low nick rating, but a clever pedigree with inbreeding to the Raise a Native/Buckpasser cross.

DERBY HOPEFULS GRADED EARNINGS

	Horse	Earnings	Page #
1	Pyro	\$1,020,000	2
2	Tale of Ekati	\$738,000	2
3	Colonel John	\$720,000	2
4	Gayego	\$640,000	3
5	Big Brown	\$600,000	4
6	Z Humor	\$579,000	4
7	Monba	\$515,000	5
8	Court Vision	\$331,872	6
9	Z Fortune	\$329,000	6
10	Adriano	\$310,000	7
11	Recapturetheglory	\$300,000	8
12	Smooth Air	\$290,000	9
13	Cool Coal Man	\$212,767	9
14	Anak Nakal	\$212,216	10
15	Eight Belles	\$210,000	10
16	Cowboy Cal	\$207,660	11
17	Visionaire	\$202,500	12
18	Big Truck	\$194,500	12
19	Bob Black Jack	\$180,000	13
20	Denis of Cork	\$165,000	14

2008 Kentucky Derby Pedigree Analyses



PYRO

Trainer: Steve Asmussen
Jockey: Shaun Bridgmohan
Owner: Winchell Thoroughbreds
Breeder: Winchell Thoroughbreds

PULPIT, b, 1994	A.P. Indy, 1989	Seattle Slew, 1974	Bold Reasoning
		Weekend Surprise, 1980	My Charmer
PYRO dkb/br, c February 19, 2005	Preach, 1989	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Secretariat
		Narrate, 1980	Lassie Dear
WILD VISION, b, 1998	Carol's Wonder, 1984	Icecapade, 1969	Raise a Native
		Bushel-n-Peck, 1958	Gold Digger
		Pass the Tab, 1978	Honest Pleasure
		Carols Christmas, 1977	State
			Nearctic
			Shenagigans
			Khaled
			Dama II
			Al Hattab
			Dantina
			Whitesburg
			Light Verse

After playing bridesmaid to champion War Pass as a juvenile, Pyro finally grabbed a share of the limelight for himself with a powerful victory in the Risen Star Stakes (gr. III) at Fair Grounds Feb. 9. He is a son of Pulpit (by A.P. Indy), who won the 1997 Fountain of Youth Stakes (gr. II) and Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (gr. II) before finishing fourth in the Kentucky Derby (gr. I).

Pulpit is from the family of Monarchy, a full sister to 1958 Horse of the Year Round Table who won the 1959 Arlington Lassie Stakes at 2, but failed to train on at that level. Generally speaking, Monarchy's family has been more noted for speed than staying ability, and perhaps in keeping with that ancestry, Pulpit has generally thrown a bit less stamina than his sire.

Pyro is out of the Wild Again mare Wild Vision, a winning full sister to multiple graded stakes winner Wild Wonder. The siblings were produced from Carol's Wonder (by Pass the Tab), a stakes-placed half-sister to 1991 Hollywood Derby (gr. IT) winner Olympio (by Naskra), to 1994 Del Mar Debutante Stakes (gr. II) winner Call Now (by Wild Again), and to stakes winner Your Call (also by Wild Again). The dam of Carol's Wonder, Carols Christmas, was a solid allowance runner by Whitesburg. Aside from the produce already mentioned, she is the granddam of 2003 Futurity Stakes (gr. I) winner Cuvee (by Carson City), 2007 True North Handicap (gr. II) winner Will He Shine (by Silver Deputy), WinStar Galaxy Stakes (gr. IIT) winner Bien Nicole (by Bien Bien), 2001 San Vicente Stakes (gr. II) winner Early Flyer (by Gilded Time), and 2004 Buena Vista Handicap (gr. IIT) winner Fun House (by Prized).

Generally speaking, the best members in the family of Carols Christmas have been strongest in the range of seven to nine furlongs. If Pyro has a touch of stamina, he should remain among the leading contenders on the road to the Triple Crown. — *By Avalyn Hunter*



TALE OF EKATI

Trainer: Barclay Tagg
Jockey: Eibar Coa
Owner: Charles Fipke
Breeder: Charles Fipke

During 2007, Tale of Ekati wrote a brief but impressive story for himself, winning the Futurity Stakes (gr. II) during a four-start campaign. Whether he can write as good a follow-up for 2008 is anyone's guess.

Tale of Ekati is by 1997 King's Bishop Stakes (gr. II) winner Tale of the Cat, whose son Lion Heart ran second to Smarty Jones in the 2004 Kentucky Derby (gr. I). A son of Storm Cat out of Yarn, by Mr. Prospector, Tale of the Cat is closely related to 2001 U.S. and European champion juvenile Johannesburg, who is by Storm Cat's son Hennessy out of Yarn's daughter Myth (by Ogygian). To date, Tale of the Cat has been more a source of speed than stamina.

Tale of Ekati may get more help in the stamina department through his dam, Silence Beauty. A Japanese-bred daughter of 1989 Horse of the Year Sunday Silence, Silence Beauty is a half-sister to 1994 champion older female Sky Beauty (by Blushing Groom), whose 13 graded stakes wins include the 10-furlong Coaching Club American Oaks (gr. I) and the Alabama Stakes (gr. I). The half-sisters' dam, Maplejinsky, was also an Alabama winner, taking the historic race in 1988, and was sired by 1970 English Triple Crown winner Nijinsky II out of 1982 champion sprinter Gold Beauty (by Mr. Prospector), also the dam of the brilliant sprinter and multiple European champion Dayjur.

Tale of Ekati has yet to prove that he has inherited enough stamina to stay classic distances, but there is no question about the quality of his breeding, which doubles up on the most important American classic influences of the late 20th century: Northern Dancer and Mr. Prospector. The colt is, in fact, inbred 4x6x4 to Northern Dancer and has an additional line of Northern Dancer's granddam Almahmoud through Halo (out of Cosmah, out of Almahmoud), sire of Sunday Silence. Tale of Ekati is also inbred 3x4 to Mr. Prospector via Yarn and Gold Beauty. *By Avalyn Hunter*

TALE OF THE CAT, dkb/br, 1994	Storm Cat, 1983	Storm Bird, 1978	Northern Dancer
		Terlingua, 1976	South Ocean
PYRO	Yarn, 1987	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Secretariat
		Narrate, 1980	Crimson Saint
TALE OF EKATI b, c March 31, 2005	Sunday Silence, 1986	Halo, 1969	Raise a Native
		Wishing Well, 1975	Gold Digger
SILENCE BEAUTY(Japan), dkb/br, 1997	Maplejinsky, 1985	Nijinsky II, 1967	Honest Pleasure
		Gold Beauty, 1979	State
			Hail to Reason
			Cosmah
			Understanding
			Mountain Flower
			Northern Dancer
			Flaming Page
			Mr. Prospector
			Stick to Beauty



COLONEL JOHN

Trainer: Eoin G. Harty
Jockey: Corey Nakatani
Owner: WinStar Farm
Breeder: WinStar Farm

Following the Breeders' Cup World Championships each year, a major focus for race fans is the game of "spot the classic candidate," with bragging rights for the earliest identification of a future star. Colonel John was added to several lists when the youngster scored an impressive victory in a seven-furlong maiden at the Oak Tree-at-Santa Anita meet, and in all probability he has now moved several places up those lists following a decisive win in the Real Quiet Stakes at Hollywood Park, an effort which may have earned him a tilt at the Hollywood Futurity (gr. I).

Colonel John is a member of the third crop sired by two-time Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) winner Tiznow. By the California-based Relaunch stallion Cee's Tizzy, out of a mare by Seattle Song, Tiznow didn't have the most fashionable of pedigrees, and his first two years

TIZNOW, b, 1997	Cee's Tizzy, 1987	Relaunch, 1976	In Reality
		Tizly, 1981	Foggy Note
	Cee's Song, 1986	Seattle Song, 1981	Lyphard
		Lonely Dancer, 1975	Tizna
COLONEL JOHN b, c March 4, 2005	Turkoman, 1982	Alydar, 1975	Seattle Slew
		Taba, 1973	Incantation
SWEET DAMSEL, dkb/br, 1995	Grande Dame, 1986	Zen, 1973	Nice Dancer
		Fia, 1974	Sleep Lonely
			Raise a Native
			Sweet Tooth

with runners were marked by a mixed start. He's now putting together a rather nice resume, however, and looks to be in demand at his 2008 fee of \$30,000 at WinStar Farm in Versailles, Ky.

Tiznow did actually upset the pedigree handicappers with his freshman crop because, despite having not starting at 2, he ended 2005 as the leading freshman sire. This was due to almost entirely to his daughter Folklore, who captured the Adirondack Stakes (gr. II), Matron Stakes (gr. I) and Alberto VO5 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (gr. I) to gain the crown as champion filly of her generation. Unfortunately, Folklore failed to add to her honors at 3, and Tiznow's first crop produced only one other stakes winner, the restricted scorer Lauren's Tizzy. Thus, for much of 2006, little was heard from Tiznow, but help was close at hand in the shape of a very good second crop. The first of these to make his name was Tiz Wonderful, who took the Iroquois Stakes (gr. III) and Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (gr. II) – edging out Any Given Saturday – at 2, but whose subsequent career was first sidelined, and then ended, by injury. Folklore was out of a Storm Cat mare, and Tiz Wonderful out of a mare by Storm Cat's son Hennessy, but fears that Tiznow might be a “one cross wonder” have now been firmly set aside. With Tiz Wonderful on the sidelines, the banner was picked up very effectively by 2007 second-crop graded winners Tough Tiz's Sis (Lady's Secret Stakes (gr. I) and Hollywood Oaks (gr. II)), Bear Now (Fitz Dixon Cotillion Handicap (gr. II) and Selene Stakes (gr. III)), and Slew's Tizzy (Coolmore Lexington Stakes (gr. II) and Lone Star Derby (gr. III)). In addition to Colonel John, Tiznow's third crop also includes the Lane's End Breeders' Futurity (gr. I) runner-up, Slew's Tiznow.

Unlike many horses being cited as 2008 classic prospects, there is little doubt about Colonel John getting the Kentucky Derby (gr. I) distance. In addition to being a son of a horse whose two finest performances came at 10 furlongs, he is out of Sweet Damsel, a mare by champion Turkoman, a two-time grade I winner at 10 furlongs, and runner-up in the Jockey Club Gold Cup (gr. II) in the days when that event was contested at 12 furlongs. Sweet Damsel herself was a useful performer, winning five times and finishing fourth in the Imp Stakes at Thistledown. She is also dam of the Dogwood Breeders' Cup Stakes (gr. III) third Caroline's Gold (a daughter of Touch Gold).

Colonel John's granddam, Grande Dame, was an Illinois-bred daughter of local stallion standout Zen (by Damascus), and captured the listed Illinois Fillies Stallion Stakes. She is related to a recent classic aspirant, as her half sister Bodhavista is dam of Imperialism, who took third to Smarty Jones and Lion Heart in the 2004 Kentucky Derby and also won the San Rafael Stakes, San Vicente Stakes, and Pat O'Brien Breeders' Cup Handicap (all gr. II). Colonel John's third dam, Fia, (by champion turf horse One For All) never won a stakes, but she was third in the Coaching Club American Oaks (gr. I), beaten only two lengths by champion Our Mims. Rather unusually for a top-class horse, Fia was foaled in Indiana, and the next two dams were born in Tennessee, states not generally associated with taproot families of classic candidates. That said, the immediate female line has produced some other runners of note. Fia's third dam, Tweeny, was also granddam of the Louisiana Derby winner Whirling Bat (one

of the few good horses sired by Triple Crown winner Whirlaway). She was also half sister to the Sanford Stakes and Junior Champion Stakes winner First Minstrel, and her dam, Untidy, is also ancestress of grass star London Company and Breeders' Cup Turf (gr. I) heroine Miss Alleged.

Colonel John is one of only three stakes winners produced on a Relaunch/Alydar cross; in this case, however, the key is probably the combination of Seattle Slew (grandsire of the dam of Tiznow) and Turkoman on the inside of the pedigree. Another third-crop sire, Point Given, has had similar results. Point Given's sire, Thunder Gulch, and grandsire, Gulch, have both been generally disappointing when crossed over Seattle Slew line mares. The story is quite different for Point Given, who is out of a Turkoman mare. So far, Point Given has stakes winner Naseem, out of a mare by Seattle Slew; grade I winner Point Ashley, out of a mare by Seattle Slew's son Slew o'Gold; and Canadian Triple Tiara heroine Sealy Hill, out of a mare by Seattle Slew's grandson, Boston Harbor – as well as graded stakes winner Point Determined, whose second dam is by a son of Seattle Slew. The general Seattle Slew/Turkoman cross has far outperformed opportunity, and looking at the reverse, Man From Wicklow, one of only three grade I winners sired by Turkoman, is out of a mare by a son of Seattle Slew.

Comparing the pedigrees of Seattle Slew and Turkoman, it quickly becomes evident why the pair should have such an affinity. Seattle Slew is by a son of a stallion bred on a Nasrullah/Polynesian cross, out of a mare by Poker (by Round Table out of a Nasrullah mare), where Turkoman is by a stallion bred on a Polynesian/Nasrullah cross, out of a mare by Table Play (by Round Table out of a Nasrullah mare). For good measure, Turkoman is heavily linebred to Teddy through sons, where Seattle Slew's dam is inbred to La Troienne, who is the most important daughter of Teddy. — *By Alan Porter*



GAYEGO

Trainer: Paulo Lobo

Jockey: Mike Smith

Owner: Cubanacan Stables

Breeder: Hargus Sexton & Sandra Sexton

GILDED TIME, ch, 1990	Timeless Moment, 1970	Damascus, 1964	Sword Dancer
		Hour of Parting, 1963	Kerala
	Gilded Lilly, 1979	What a Pleasure, 1965	Native Dancer
		Luquillo, 1961	Sweet Sorrow
GAYEGO dkb/br, c March 26, 2005	Lost Code, 1984	Codex, 1977	Bold Ruler
		Loss Or Gain, 1975	Grey Flight
DEVILS LAKE, dkb/br, 1994	Diamonds 'n Dust, 1981	Bob's Dusty, 1974	Princequillo
		Ribot's Branch, 1974	Lulalu
		Arts and Letters	
		Roundup Rose	

With his game victory in the Arkansas Derby (gr. II) April 12, Cubanacan Stables' Gayego answered not one but two questions: He showed himself able to stay nine furlongs, and he demonstrated the ability to carry his form from a synthetic surface to dirt. He now appears poised to tackle the ultimate test for a 3-year-old in the spring: the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I).

Bred in Kentucky by Hargus Sexton and Sandra Sexton, Gayego has one of the more offbeat pedigrees among this year's Derby candidates, although one that is not without quality. His sire is Gilded Time, champion juvenile male of 1992. On the sidelines due to injury for most of 1993, Gilded Time came back in one of the toughest of spots, the Breeders' Cup Sprint (gr. I), and ran third behind the late-running Cardmania and the extremely fast filly Meafara.

Retired to Vinery in Kentucky, Gilded Time never managed to break into the top ranks as a sire but has had a fairly useful career nonetheless. To date, he has sired 52 stakes winners from 1,065 foals of racing age worldwide, among them grade/group I winners Elloluv, Mandy's Gold, Barely a Moment (AUS), Band Gypsy, and Emit Time (AUS). Generally speaking, his offspring have been at their best over a mile or less, which is not too surprising given both his pedigree and his powerful, muscular build. For 2008, he has moved to Bar None Ranches in Alberta, Canada.

Gilded Time is by Timeless Moment, a sire of fairly similar merit. Although sired by the great Damascus, a horse that could stay up to two miles, Timeless Moment preferred shorter distances. His biggest win came in the 1974 Nassau County Handicap (gr. III), a seven-furlong race in which he managed to defeat the great Forego, albeit with the help of a sizable weight concession. Timeless Moment sired 35 stakes winners before his death in 1998. His other top runners included Culture Vulture, highweighted juvenile filly in England, Ireland, France, and Italy, and grade I winners Moment to Buy and All Fired Up.

The dam of Gilded Time, Gilded Lilly, is by What a Pleasure (Bold Ruler-Grey Flight) out of Luquillo, by Princequillo. This is a similar genetic background to that of champion juveniles Bold Lad and Successor, both by Bold Ruler out of Misty Morn (Princequillo-Grey Flight). The mix was not nearly as successful for Gilded Lilly, however; although a half-sister to 1970 Belmont Stakes winner High Echelon, she won but four minor races from 25 starts. Gilded Time was her only stakes winner as a broodmare.

Gayego is out of Devils Lake, a winning half-sister to 1992 Monmouth Oaks (gr. II) winner Diamond Duo (by Badger Land). As Devils Lake is by Lost Code out of Diamonds 'n Dust, she is bred on a very similar pattern to Diamond Duo; both Lost Code and Badger Land are sons of 1980 Preakness Stakes (gr. I) winner Codex.

One of the best colts of the 1984 crop — a group that included Alysheba, Bet Twice, and Gulch — Lost Code had withering speed and used it with devastating effect over his favorite range of eight to nine furlongs. His nine graded stakes victories included grade I scores in the Arlington Classic at 3 and the Oaklawn Handicap at 4. He sired 53 stakes winners prior to his death in 2001. His best runner was the popular Kalookan Queen, whose five graded stakes wins included a win over males in the Ancient Title Breeders' Cup Handicap (gr. I). He has also had his moments as a broodmare sire, as his daughters have produced 2001 U.S. champion sprinter Squirtle Squirt and 2005 Japanese champion miler Hat Trick (JPN), who is currently standing his first year at Walmac Stud in Lexington.

The sire of Diamonds 'n Dust, Bob's Dusty, was a solid runner but of a lower class than Lost Code, winning three grade III races at nine furlongs. Diamonds 'n Dust was produced from Ribot's Branch, whose sire Rungus was closely related to full brothers Graustark and His Majesty (both by Ribot out of Flower Bowl, by Alibhai-Flower Bed) as he was by Ribot out of Flower Bowl's full sister Floral Park. Given that Floral Park was a stakes winner, if not quite in the same class as Flower Bowl, one might have expected good results from this mating, but Rungus never made it to the races and did little as a sire.

Overall, Gayego's pedigree is dominated by horses whose maximum effective range was between eight and nine furlongs. His performance in the Arkansas Derby, thus, is within the limits indicated by his ancestry, but his ability to last 10 furlongs is more questionable, especially given that it took him :38.54 to cover his final three furlongs at Oaklawn Park after getting a near-perfect stalking trip. Still, he has proven himself more than a pure sprinter, and he has punched his ticket to the Kentucky Derby with consistent performances throughout the spring. That kind of consistency is always nice to see and should bode well for his career even after this year's Triple Crown campaign is in the books. — *By Avalyn Hunter*



BIG BROWN

Trainer: Rick Dutrow

Jockey: Kent Desormeaux

Owner: IEAH Stable and Paul Pompa

Breeder: Monticule

BOUNDARY, b, 1990	Danzig, 1977	Northern Dancer, 1961	Nearctic
		Pas de Nom, 1968	Natalma
BIG BROWN b, c April 10, 2005	Edge, 1978	Damascus, 1964	Admiral's Voyage
		Ponte Vecchio, 1970	Petitioner
		Northern Dancer, 1961	Sword Dancer
MIEN, b, 1999	Miasma, 1992	Special, 1969	Kerala
		Lear Fan, 1981	Round Table
		Syrian Circle, 1979	Terentia
			Nearctic
			Natalma

Question: How does a colt go from being an unraced maiden to being the probable favorite for the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I) in just three starts? Answer: In Big Brown's case, by winning all three races, including a romp in the Florida Derby (gr. I).

Question: Where does a colt by a sprinter and sire of sprinters get the stamina to win laughing at nine furlongs? Answer: There's a little more here than meets the eye. For starters, while it is true that Big Brown's sire, Boundary, never won beyond sprint distances, it is also true that he was never tried farther. A son of Danzig, Boundary had offset knees that limited his durability. He won six of eight starts, including the grade III A Phenomenon and Roseben Handicaps, and might perhaps have stayed farther had he been better able to withstand training.

Big Brown is the second foal of his dam, Mien, a winner at 8.5 furlongs. She is by Nureyev out of Miasma, a winner at nine furlongs. Miasma, in turn, is by Lear Fan, whose progeny included some good stayers, out of Syrian Circle, a Damascus half-sister to 1997 champion older female Hidden Lake.

Boundary and Mien are closely related, for Boundary is by a son of Northern Dancer out of a mare bred on a Damascus/Round Table cross, while Mien is by a son of Northern Dancer out of the daughter of a mare bred on a Damascus/Round Table cross. Neither Damascus nor Round Table require much introduction as stayers or sources of stamina, and this inbreeding in Big Brown's pedigree may be the key to his staying ability.

Big Brown still has several tests to face. He has a history of quarter cracks; further, he is still inexperienced, and there is no telling how he will respond to the barely-controlled chaos that often marks both the lead-up to the Derby and the running of the race itself. And he must still run a furlong farther than he has ever been asked to go. But the potential for stardom is clearly there. —*By Avalyn Hunter*



Z HUMOR

Trainer: Bill Mott

Jockey: Rene Douglas

Owner: Zayat Stables

Breeder: Jayeff "B" Stables

Zayat Stables' Z Humor is one of those hard-trying colts with a relatively modest record when it comes to big wins but a knack for picking up checks against good company. Although his only graded stakes win is a dead-heat victory in the 2007 Boyd Gaming's Delta Jackpot S. (gr. III), he has graded placings in the 2007 Sapling Stakes (gr. III) and Champagne Stakes (gr. I), and the 2008 Illinois Derby (gr. II).

DISTORTED HUMOR, ch, 1993	Forty Niner, 1985	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Raise a Native
			Gold Digger
		File, 1976	Tom Rolfe
			Continue
Z HUMOR b, c February 14, 2005	Danzig's Beauty, 1987	Danzig, 1977	Northern Dancer
			Pas de Nom
		Sweetest Chant, 1978	Mr. Leader
			Gay Sonnet
OFFTHEOLD-BLOCK, dkb/br, 2000	A.P. Indy, 1989	Seattle Slew, 1974	Bold Reasoning
			My Charmer
		Weekend Surprise, 1980	Secretariat
			Lassie Dear
Chip, 1993		Norquestor, 1986	Conquistador Cielo
			Linda North
		Big Pride, 1987	Bet Big
			Alto Pride

Whether this is a good enough record to warrant entry in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I) is a matter of personal opinion, but it is certainly good enough to warrant optimism regarding the colt's future. In eight starts, Z Humor has finished in the money five times and has earned \$621,450.

Bred by Jayeff B Stables, Z Humor is by Distorted Humor, who proved his credentials as a classic sire in his first crop with 2003 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes (gr. I) winner Funny Cide. Although pegged as a sprinter after taking his biggest wins in the Commonwealth Breeders' Cup Stakes and Churchill Downs Handicap (both gr. II) in 1998, Distorted Humor also won the 1997 Salvador Mile Handicap (gr. III) and placed in graded races at up to nine furlongs.

Retired to Prestonwood Farm (now WinStar Farm) in 1999, Distorted Humor's first published fee was \$12,500. The price for his services is now up to \$300,000, thanks to Funny Cide and 64 other stakes winners worldwide from the 621 foals of the stallion's first six crops. Last year, Distorted Humor was represented on the Triple Crown trail by Any Given Saturday, eventually the winner of the Haskell Invitational Stakes (gr. I), and by Illinois Derby (gr. II) winner Cowtown Cat.

Distorted Humor has done extremely well with mares returning Seattle Slew and Buckpasser in their pedigrees, and the dam of Z Humor, Offtheoldblock, has both of those great horses in her pedigree through her sire, 1992 Horse of the Year A.P. Indy. As might be expected from a top sire who has served excellent books of mares throughout his career, A.P. Indy is now emerging as a force to be reckoned with in the broodmare sire ranks. He was 12th on the broodmare sire list in 2007 and currently stands 10th in 2008, and is the broodmare sire of 2006 champion 3-year-old filly Wait a While, 2006 Kentucky Derby runner-up Bluegrass Cat, Any Given Saturday, and 27 other stakes winners.

Offtheoldblock was produced from the Norquestor mare Chip, a multiple graded stakes winner whose biggest win came in the 1997 Rampart Handicap (gr. II). Chip, in turn, is a daughter of the Bet Big mare Big Pride, a bargain yearling who cost \$6,500 at the 1988 Fasig-Tipton Keeneland October sale and racked up \$115,011 and four stakes wins. Neither Chip nor Big Pride could be called fashionably-bred mares but proved racing ability is always worth being given solid opportunities in the breeding shed. In this case, those opportunities have helped to produce a nice performer who should get better as he continues to mature. — *By Avalyn Hunter*



MONBA

Trainer: Todd Pletcher

Jockey: Ramon Dominguez

Owner: Starlight, Lucarelli and Saylor

Breeder: Mill Ridge Farm Ltd. & Jamm, Ltd.

With the victory of his son Monba in the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (gr. I), Maria's Mon became one of a handful of horses who have

sired a grade I winner on dirt, turf, and all-weather surfaces. All the more tragic, then, that he died last year at the age of 14, during his most successful season to date.

A son of Wavering Monarch — from the Majestic Prince branch of the Raise a Native line — Maria's Mon was voted champion 2-year-old of what, on reflection, turned out to be an exceptional juvenile crop. At 2, Maria's Mon won four of his five starts, including the Sanford Stakes (gr. III) and the Futurity Stakes and Moet Champagne Stakes (both gr. I), and accounted for such as Unbridled's Song, Hennessy, Honour and Glory, Louis Quatorze, Gold Fever and Editor's Note. Maria's Mon raced twice at 3 without winning, which when coupled with a less than fashionable pedigree, is the reason his fee was set at just \$7,500 when he retired to Pin Oak Stud in Versailles, Ky.

From that inexpensively-sired first crop of 74 foals came 10 stakes winners, headed by Kentucky Derby (gr. I) winner Monarchos, and graded winners Wander Mom and Silver Tornado. Maria's Mon sired six more stakes winners in his second crop, including grade I winner See How She Runs, but none in his third, which at 58 foals was his smallest to date.

Monarchos' Kentucky Derby came in 2001 and as a result, the mares that Maria's Mon received in the next few years were of much higher quality. Having sired South American grade I victress Cheiron in his fourth crop and four graded winners from his fifth, Maria's Mon really took off with his 2003 crop — the first conceived after Monarchos' 3-year-old campaign — which included the champion turf filly Wait a While; Malibu Stakes (gr. I) winner Latent Heat; Dwyer Stakes and Super Derby (both gr. II) victor Strong Contender; Cause to Believe, successful in the El Camino Real Derby (gr. III); and Criminologist, who took the Cardinal and Athenia Handicaps (both gr. III).

Sky Mom, winner of the WinStar Sunland Park Oaks, and Monba are stakes winners from Maria's Mon's current crop of 3-year-olds. For Monba, the Blue Grass was his first stakes victory (he won his first two starts at 2, before ending the year with a closing fourth in the CashCall Futurity (gr. I) at Hollywood Park, and his only other outing was an unplaced run in the Fountain of Youth Stakes (gr. II) earlier this year).

Bred by Mill Ridge Farm and Jamm Ltd., Monba is out of Hamba, a winner of two races and placed second twice in five starts. Hamba is dam of five other runners, headed by the listed stakes-placed Red Ransom filly Gijima. Out of the Pocahontas Stakes winner Ciao, Hamba is a half-sister to a trio of stakes-winning siblings sired by Private Account. They are Secret Hello, winner of four graded stakes including the Arlington-Washington Futurity (gr. I); Silent Account, who took the Alcibiades Stakes (gr. II), and who is dam of stakes winner and sire Gold Case; and the Anne Arundel Stakes winner By Your Leave. Hamba is also a half-sister to Hadif, a group winner in England and stakes winner in the U.S. and Canada, who was a successful and now-pensioned regional sire in Texas.

What is interesting about Easy Goer (the sire of Hamba) and Private Account (the sire of Hamba's trio of talented siblings) is the similarity between the distaff sides of their pedigrees: Both are out of mares by Buckpasser, and both go tail-female to the great mare La

MARIA'S MON, gr/ro, 1993	Wavering Monarch, 1979	Majestic Light, 1973	Majestic Prince
			Irradiate
		Uncommitted, 1974	Buckpasser
			Lady Be Good
MONBA gr/ro, c March 16, 2005	Carlotta Maria, 1984	Caro, 1967	Fortino II
			Chambord
		Water Malone, 1974	Naskra
			Gray Matter
Easy Goer, 1986		Alydar, 1975	Raise a Native
			Sweet Tooth
		Relaxing, 1976	Buckpasser
			Marking Time
HAMBA, b, 1992	Ciao, 1974	Silent Screen, 1967	Prince John
			Prayer Bell
		Ave Valeque, 1965	Bold Ruler
			Pillow Talk

Troienne, who is also the third dam of Buckpasser. When combined with Hamba's bloodlines, this pedigree pattern becomes an intriguing one for many reasons. Through her third dam, Pillow Talk, heroine of the 1957 Black Eyed Susan Stakes, Hamba traces back to the Kentucky Oaks victress Alcibiades. That mare was a home-bred from the Beaumont Farm of Hal Price Headley (it is on land once occupied by Beaumont Farm that Mill Ridge Farm, owned by Headley's daughter, Alice Chandler, now stands). Alcibiades turned out to be a great foundation mare for Beaumont and Mill Ridge, producing champion 2-year-old Menow and the good stakes winners Sparta, Salamina (third dam of Sir Ivor, the first top-class horse raised at Mill Ridge), and Lithe. Hamba's fourth dam, Hipparete, was a minor winning full sister to Menow, and this becomes important when noticing that Buckpasser is by Menow's great son Tom Fool. As a result, Hamba and her stakes-winning Private Account siblings all have the brother and sister Menow and Hipparete 5 x 4.

That's not all. Hamba's dam, Ciao, is by Silent Screen, who in turn is out of a mare by Better Self. Better Self was a talented performer — he won several important races, including the Carter Handicap, and ran second in the Belmont Stakes — but his long-term influence has been significantly greater than his immediate impact as a runner or sire would have suggested. This is because he is by Bimelech, the most successful son of La Troienne, out of a mare by War Admiral, which makes him a reverse cross to the legion of important producers who are by War Admiral out of daughters of La Troienne (including Busanda, Striking, Busher, and Mr. Busher). Since Buckpasser is out of Busanda, the matings of Easy Goer and Private Account with Ciao gave the relatives Busanda and Better Self 4 x 4.

While these clever patterns proved an explosive mix in the case of the Private Account siblings, they didn't ignite in the same way for Hamba. However, when a clever pattern fails to produce the desired results, intensifying it in the next generation can often pay dividends, and Monba is an excellent example of that dictum. A look at the pedigree of Maria's Mon's sire, Wavering Monarch, shows that his dam is by Buckpasser out of a Better Self mare who is herself closely related to the dam of Silent Screen. Therefore, this mating strongly reinforces the La Troienne sources in the pedigree of Hamba (in total there are five crosses of the great mare in the pedigree of Monba).

In addition, since Wavering Monarch is a product of the Raise a Native/Buckpasser cross, he has a pattern that is a parallel to that of Easy Goer. Duplicating the Raise a Native/Buckpasser cross — as here — has proved to be a very effective technique. Maria's Mon's only other graded winner out of a Raise a Native-line mare, Criminologist, has a dam by Seeking the Gold (again Raise a Native/Buckpasser), and he also sired grade I winner Latent Heat, whose second dam, Proflare, was bred on the same pattern. Other examples of inbreeding to this successful cross (with the sources of the cross in parentheses) include last year's brilliant 2-year-old Ready's Image (Woodman/Wavering Monarch); group I winner Teggiano (IRE) (Woodman, and the mare Beautifully Aly); group winner La Chunga (Woodman/Wavering Monarch); and graded winners Petionville (Seeking the Gold/Wavering Monarch), Watchmon (by Maria's Mon; Wavering Monarch/Miswaki), Happy Hunting (Seeking the Gold/Easy Goer), and Sue's Good News (Woodman/Easy Goer). — *By Alan Porter*



COURT VISION

Trainer: Bill Mott
Jockey: Garrett Gomez
Owner: WinStar Farm and IEAH Stables
Breeder: W. S. Farish & Kilroy Thoroughbred Partnership

For those who believe in omens, there are plenty of good

GULCH, b, 1984	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Raise a Native, 1961	Native Dancer
		Gold Digger, 1962	Raise You Nashua Sequence
COURT VISION dkb/br, c March 27, 2005	Jameela, 1976	Rambunctious, 1960	Rasper II Danae II
		Asbury Mary, 1969	Seven Corners Snow Flyer
WEEKEND STORM, b, 1992	Storm Bird, 1978	Northern Dancer, 1961	Nearctic Natalma
		South Ocean, 1967	New Providence Shining Sun
WEEKEND STORM, b, 1992	Weekend Surprise, 1980	Secretariat, 1970	Bold Ruler Somethingroyal
		Lassie Dear, 1974	Buckpasser Gay Missile

ones in Remsen Stakes (gr. II) winner Court Vision's pedigree. The colt is by Gulch out of the Storm Bird mare Weekend Storm. If that breeding sounds familiar, it should, for 1994 Remsen winner Thunder Gulch, also by Gulch out of a Storm Bird mare, went on to win the 1995 Kentucky Derby, Belmont Stakes, and Travers Stakes (all gr. I) on the way to a title as champion 3-year-old male.

Gulch is, of course, no stranger to the pedigrees of good horses, having sired 66 stakes winners. While the son of Mr. Prospector and the multiple grade I winner Jameela was the champion sprinter of 1988, he won grade I events at up to nine furlongs and has not been a pure speed sire by any means. In fact, the average winning distance for his progeny is 7.7 furlongs, compared to a breed average of 6.8 furlongs.

Court Vision's second dam, Weekend Surprise (by Secretariat), has written her name into modern pedigrees through her sons Honor Grades, Summer Squall, and, best of all, two-time leading sire A.P. Indy. Weekend Storm (by Storm Bird and so a full sister to Summer Squall) is the first of Weekend Surprise's daughters to suggest that the 1992 Kentucky Broodmare of the Year may also leave an important legacy in the female line. Aside from Court Vision, Weekend Storm is the dam of Hong Kong group II winner Garcia Marquez (a full brother to Court Vision) and of Kipling (also by Gulch), sire of 2007 NetJets Breeders' Cup Mile (gr. IT) winner Kip DeVille.

With classic influences aplenty in his pedigree, Court Vision has the genetic package to be a contender on this year's Triple Crown trail, and so far he has delivered performance to match the package. That is all anyone can ask. — *By Alan Porter*



Z FORTUNE

Trainer: Steve Asmussen
Jockey: Robby Albarado
Owner: Zayat Stables LLC
Breeder: Delahanty Stock Farm

SIPHON(Brz), b, 1991	Itajara, 1983	Felicio, 1965	Shantung Fighting Edie
		Apple Honey, 1975	Falkland Irish Song
Z FORTUNE gr/ro, c March 1, 2005	Ebrea, 1979	Kublai Khan, 1968	Sideral Fantasista
		Resela, 1971	Svengali Eridan
FORTUNATE FAITH, gr/ro, 1990	Fortunate Prospect, 1981	Northern Prospect, 1976	Mr. Prospector Sleek Dancer
		Fortunate Bid, 1971	Lucky Debonair Biddy Big
FORTUNATE FAITH, gr/ro, 1990	Keep the Faith, 1979	Duck Dance, 1967	Water Prince Classic Rhythm
		Gail Gluckin, 1970	Steel Viking Miss Bonus

Zayat Stables' Z Fortune has demonstrated both talent and a frustrating inability to get the job done in his last several races. After a competent win in the Lecomte Stakes (gr. III) and a good second to Pyro in the Risen Star Stakes (gr. III), the colt headed for Arkansas and supposedly softer competition in the Rebel Stakes (gr. II) but finished a well-beaten fifth behind Sierra Sunset. He looked much better in running second to Gayego in the Arkansas Derby (gr. II) but will have to improve still further to be a contender in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I).

Bred in New York by Delehanty Stock Farm, Z Fortune is by Siphon (BRZ), who demonstrated both the ability to stay 10 furlongs and the blistering speed to run opponents right off their feet in seven-furlong sprints. Winner of the 1996 Hollywood Gold Cup Handicap (gr. I) and the 1997 Santa Anita Handicap (gr. I), Siphon retired to Airdrie Stud with hopes that he would provide a good outcross for the dominant Northern Dancer and Mr. Prospector sire lines. Unfortunately, Siphon has proved a difficult horse to match well within the North American mare population. Although he has sired some brilliant individuals, most notably 2001 Hollywood Futurity (gr. I) winner Siphonic and 2005 Frank J. DeFrancis Memorial Dash Stakes (gr. I) winner I'm the Tiger, overall, his record has been disappointing. Now standing at Pin Oak Lane Farm in Pennsylvania, he has sired 231 winners (45.7%) and 13 stakes winners (2.6%) from 506 foals of racing age worldwide.

The distaff side of Z Fortune's pedigree is more familiar but also more workmanlike. His dam, Fortunate Faith, was good enough to win the nine-furlong Demoiselle Stakes (gr. II) at Aqueduct at 2 but did not train on to that level following her juvenile season. She was something of a pleasant surprise as her sire, Fortunate Prospect, was better known for sprinting ability, getting the biggest of his 12 stakes wins in the 1984 San Vicente Handicap (gr. III) before becoming a useful regional sire in Florida. Her dam, Keep the Faith (by the good sprinter Duck Dance), failed to win in seven starts but was twice stakes-placed.

Keep the Faith was produced from stakes-placed Gail Gluckin, whose sire Steel Viking was a modest stakes winner by the Mahmoud horse Silver Wings. It is not until Gail Gluckin's dam Miss Bonus is reached that one comes within sight of a high-class horse that could get 10 furlongs, for Miss Bonus was sired by Vertex, whose nine stakes victories included the Gulfstream Park Handicap. As Vertex is also the sire of 1965 Kentucky Derby winner Lucky Debonair, who is also sire of Fortunate Prospect's broodmare sire, Fortunate Faith was inbred 4x4 to Vertex, perhaps accounting for her staying ability.

Should Z Fortune pull the upset in the Derby, he will become only the second New York-bred to win the race, following in the hoof prints of 2003 victor Funny Cide. With only one out-of-the-money finish in six starts, he looks to be a nice, consistent colt with a good future ahead of him regardless of the outcome on the first Saturday in May. — *By Avalyn Hunter*



ADRIANO

Trainer: Graham Motion

Jockey: Edgar Prado

Owner: Courtlandt Farm

Breeder: Courtlandt Farm

"Bred to be a good one" is an old phrase, but it certainly applies to Courtlandt Farm's homebred Adriano. The colt has certainly demonstrated that he does have talent, capturing his first stakes win in the Lane's End Stakes (gr. II) at Turfway Park. The question now is whether he can improve on that form in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I) while going from Polytrack to dirt, going from nine furlongs to 10, and coming off a six-week layoff.

On pedigree, Adriano should be one of the Derby horses that will have no trouble with the distance. He is by A.P. Indy, who won the

A.P. INDY, dkb/br, 1989	Seattle Slew, 1974	Bold Reasoning, 1968	Boldnesian
		My Charmer, 1969	Reason to Earn
ADRIANO ch, c May 20, 2005	Weekend Surprise, 1980	Secretariat, 1970	Poker
		Lassie Dear, 1974	Fair Charmer
GOLD CANYON, ch, 1996	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Raise a Native, 1961	Bold Ruler
		Gold Digger, 1962	Somethingroyal
GOLDEN TREAT, 1989	Theatrical, 1982	Golden Dust, 1972	Buckpasser
		Golden Dust, 1972	Gay Missile
		Golden Dust, 1972	Native Dancer
		Golden Dust, 1972	Raise You
GOLDEN DUST, 1972	Dusty Canyon	Nashua	Sequence
		Nashua	Nureyev
DUSTY CANYON	Turn to Joy	Tree of Knowledge	Tree of Knowledge
		Tree of Knowledge	Dusty Canyon
DUSTY CANYON	Turn to Joy	Turn to Joy	Turn to Joy
		Turn to Joy	Turn to Joy

1992 Belmont Stakes (gr. I) and Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) on the way to Horse of the Year honors. The leading sire of 2003 and 2006, A.P. Indy was bred to go classic distances, for he is by 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew, out of Weekend Surprise, a daughter of 1973 Triple Crown winner Secretariat; as if those were not enough in the way of classic connections, he is also a half-brother to 1990 Preakness Stakes (gr. I) winner Summer Squall. Small wonder, then, that A.P. Indy is one of the most reliable sources of stamina in the current stallion market, with an average winning distance of 8.24 furlongs for his progeny.

The sire of 111 stakes winners and 66 graded stakes winners as of April 30, A.P. Indy has formed half of a golden cross with Mr. Prospector, whose daughters have produced 13 of those graded stakes winners including 2003 Horse of the Year Mineshaft. In Adriano's case, his dam is Gold Canyon, a winning daughter of Mr. Prospector and 1992 Santa Anita Oaks (gr. I) winner Golden Treat, who was purchased by Courtlandt Farm for \$400,000 as a yearling at the 1997 Keeneland July sale. Golden Treat, in turn, is a half-sister to 1987 Belmont Stakes winner Bet Twice (by Sportin' Life), as both are out of the winning mare Golden Dust, by Dusty Canyon. Golden Treat is by 1987 champion turf male Theatrical (IRE) (whose victories included that year's Breeders' Cup Turf (gr. IT) in a dramatic stretch drive over Trempolino).

Golden Dust, who also produced the 1980 Del Mar Futurity (gr. II) winner Bold and Gold (by Bold Joey), won only one of her nine starts but is a full sister to a two-time juvenile stakes winner in Joy to the World and a half-sister to another juvenile stakes winner in Metal Vendor (by Sailing Along). Dusty Canyon, a son of Fleet Nasrullah and the Goya II mare Miz Danielle, won or placed in six of his eight starts but never earned black type. He proved a fairly useful stallion, getting 15 stakes winners from 233 foals, but Golden Dust has been by far his most important contribution to his breed.

The famous Italian breeder Federico Tesio maintained that it was very difficult for a sire line or female family to maintain top-class production for more than three generations. The female family of Golden Dust would seem to be a case in point. Her fifth dam, 1934 champion juvenile filly Nellie Flag, was an excellent producer for Calumet Farm, her foals including 1943 champion handicap female Mar-Kell (by Blenheim II), 1943 Kentucky Oaks winner Nellie L. (a full sister to Mar-Kell), and four-time stakes winner Sunshine Nell (by Sun Again). All did well as producers, with Mar-Kell producing the top-flight Mark-Ye-Well and stakes winner Amoret (both by Bull Lea), Nellie L. producing the good stakes colt De Luxe (by Bull Lea), and Sunshine Nell producing the nice stakes winners Sunny (by Princequillo) and Dewan (by Bold Ruler).

Ore-the-Lea (by Bull Lea out of Nellie Flag, and so closely related to Mark-Ye-Well, Amoret, and De Luxe), raced only twice, placing third once, and produced the stakes winner Blentigo (by Blenheim II) and Whirla Lea (by Whirlaway), runner-up in the 1952 Kentucky Oaks. Whirla Lea, in turn, produced the minor stakes winners Lindaway (by Olympia) and Joy Bauer (by Decathlon), but the quality

of these runners did not equal that of the stakes horses produced by Nellie Flag or her stakes-winning daughters. The family reached its nadir with Whirla Lea's daughter First Add (by Hasty Road), who managed only one win from 25 starts and produced no black type runners among her foals. The road back up began with Turn to Joy (Turn-to-First Add), winner of one of her 10 starts, producer of two minor stakes winners, and the dam of Golden Dust, who returned the family to the top level.

A winner over both turf and Polytrack, Adriano finished a soundly beaten ninth in the Fountain of Youth Stakes (gr. II) at Gulfstream Park prior to the Lane's End, so his ability to handle the dirt at Churchill Downs is still a major question mark. He has also developed a reputation for getting heated up in the paddock, not a good trait for a horse about to face the keyed-up Derby atmosphere. Still, the colt has been in training at Churchill Downs since mid-April and has shown enough in his works for his connections to be satisfied with his chances in the Derby. In a year filled with so many questions regarding runners coming from synthetic surfaces to the dirt, that is all anyone can reasonably ask. — *By Avalyn Hunter*



RECAPTURETHEGLORY

Trainer: Louie J. Roussel, III

Jockey: E. T. Baird

Owner: Ronnie Lamarque

Breeder: Charles Jacobi

CHEROKEE RUN, dkb/br, 1990	Runaway Groom, 1979	Blushing Groom, 1974	Red God
		Yonnie Girl, 1966	Runaway Bride
RECAPTURETHE- GLORY b, c February 11, 2005	Cherokee Dame, 1980	Silver Saber, 1972	Call the Witness
		Dame Francesca, 1966	Po'chile
COLD AWAKEN- ING, dkb/br, 1996	Dehere, 1991	Deputy Minister, 1979	Drone
		Sister Dot, 1985	Happy Flirt
		Raise a Native, 1961	Francis S.
		Out in the Cold, 1968	Maid to Rule
CHEROKEE RUN, dkb/br, 1990	Chilly Chick, 1986	Native Dancer	Vice Regent
		Articana	Mint Copy

In recent Derby trials we've seen surprise victories combined with the eclipse of many high-profile classic candidates. Offspring of Cherokee Run finished on both ends of the spectrum.

In the Wood Memorial Stakes (gr. I), Cherokee Run's 2007 champion 2-year-old, War Pass, was gallant in defeat, battling on after being pushed to suicidal early fractions by a "rabbit" but still gave the impression that the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I) trip may be a "bridge too far." A little later in the day, Cherokee Run's son Recapturetheglory started at nearly 16-1 for the Illinois Derby (gr. II) but triumphed by four lengths, with the highly-rated Denis of Cork and Atoned finishing off the board.

Recapturetheglory is owned by Louie Roussel III and Ronnie Lamarque, and trained by Roussel. The glory they are hoping to recapture is what the duo experienced with Secretariat's son Risen Star. Third in the 1988 Derby, Risen Star went on to capture the Preakness and Belmont (both gr. I), earning an Eclipse Award as the best 3-year-old colt of his crop. Recapturetheglory has something in common with him, as Risen Star cost \$300,000 as a 2-year-old at the Fasig-Tipton February 2-year-olds in training sale, and Recapturetheglory was a \$215,000 purchase at the same sale. Recapturetheglory had previously realized \$160,000 at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July as a yearling and \$130,000 as a Keeneland November weanling.

Recapturetheglory took a while to demonstrate the potential to justify his price. Off the board first time out, and third in his second

start – both of which came in sprints – he gained a nose victory when stretching out to an extended mile at Hawthorne Sept. 29. Runner-up to subsequent Fountain of Youth Stakes (gr. II) winner Cool Coal Man in an 8 1/2-furlong Churchill Downs allowance event to close out his juvenile career, Recapturetheglory started his sophomore campaign Feb. 29 with a third in an 8 1/2 furlongs turf contest at Fair Grounds. The nine furlongs of the Illinois Derby (gr. II) was the furthest that Recapturetheglory has been asked to go, and he finished strongly with a last three-eighths in :36.17.

This pattern of improvement with distance is the opposite shown by Cherokee Run. A winner of five of seven starts at 2, Cherokee Run ran second in the 8 1/2-furlong What a Pleasure Stakes (gr. III) in his only juvenile stakes start. At 3, Cherokee Run impressed in the spring, equaling the track record while capturing the seven-furlong Lafayette Stakes (gr. III) and taking the one-mile Derby Trial (gr. III), before running Prairie Bayou – the champion 3-year-old of his crop – to a half length in the Preakness Stakes (gr. I). An unplaced effort in the Belmont Stakes (gr. I) was followed by a six-length victory in a muddy Dwyer Stakes (gr. II), but defeats in the Haskell Invitational and Travers Stakes (both gr. I) indicated that Cherokee Run was not best suited by middle distances. The following year confirmed that Cherokee Run's true forte was as a sprinter/miler. The campaign began with an allowance win before a series of minor rewards: thirds in the Westchester Handicap (gr. III) and Carter Handicap (gr. I); a second, behind a rampaging Holy Bull, in the Metropolitan Handicap (gr. I); and another second, beaten a head by Virginia Rapids, in the Tom Fool Stakes (gr. II). Cherokee Run gained his first graded success of the year in the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash (gr. II) – then contested in July – and followed up with a second in the A Phenomenon Handicap (gr. III) and a third in the Vosburgh Stakes (gr. I). Although far from dominant through the season, Cherokee Run's consistency made him the starting favorite for the Breeders' Cup Sprint (gr. I), and he narrowly justified the backers confidence with a late charge that carried him to the wire a head to the good of the filly Soviet Problem. In a year when there had been no clear leader in the ranks of the speedsters, this effort was sufficient to earn Cherokee Run an Eclipse Award as champion sprinter. Kept in training, Cherokee Run won the Gulfstream Park Sprint on his first start of the year, but came out of the Bold Ruler Handicap (gr. III) with an injury. He worked towards a return but was never seen in competition again.

Cherokee Run retired at a modest stud fee but made a bright start with champion 2-year-old filly Chilukki in his first crop, and another grade I winning juvenile, Yonaguska, in his second. There were only two stakes winners in Cherokee Run's third crop, but he was then represented by a fourth crop that was deeper than any of the three preceding it, producing seven stakes winners, headed by the multiple graded winners During, Kafwain, and Sir Cherokee. Cherokee Run then went through something of a quieter phase, just when an upsurge with his "post-Chilukki" crops might have been predicted. However, he enjoyed a very good year in 2007, with nine stakes winners including the 5-year-old mare Indian Flare, winner of the Vagrancy Handicap (gr. II); 3-year-olds Zanjero,, who took the Indiana Derby (gr. II) and West Virginia Derby (gr. III) on his way to earnings of over \$1.1 million, and Chelokee, successful in the Barbaro Stakes and Northern Dancer Stakes (gr. III); and juvenile champion War Pass.

That Recapturetheglory would improve as the distances lengthened would have been hard to predict from a look at either side of his pedigree. In addition to Cherokee Run's influence for speed (only five of his stakes winners have won at as far as nine furlongs, the best at that distance being During, who took the Swaps Stakes (gr. II); Sir Cherokee, who was successful in the Arkansas Derby (gr. II); and Zanjero. The distaff side of Recapturetheglory's pedigree doesn't exactly shout stamina, either. Recapturetheglory's dam, Cold Awakening, a daughter of champion 2-year-old Dehere, broke her maiden over seven furlongs, and ran second in the one-mile Kentucky Cup Juvenile Fillies Stakes. However, after finishing nearly 50 lengths behind Silverbulletday in the 8 1/2-furlong Walmac International Alcibiades

Stakes (gr. II) she was never asked to go as far again, and spent most of the latter part of her career running over 5 1/2 and six furlongs. Cold Awakening is half-sister to a very fast horse in Rotsaluck, winner of the Hollywood Turf Express and Phoenix Gold Cup Handicaps (both gr. III), Morvich Handicap, and Foothill Stakes. Another of Cold Awakening's siblings, Chilly Rooster, did have more stamina. A son of Arch, he won the Fort Marcy Handicap (gr. III) over 8 1/2 furlongs, but was also third in the 13-furlong Gallant Fox Handicap.

Recapturetheglory's second dam, Chilly Chick, a daughter of Raise a Native, was half-sister to Exuberant, a fleet 2-year-old, who won the 5 1/2-furlong Cabrillo Stakes and was second in the Arlington-Washington Futurity and Hopeful Stakes (both gr. I) and third in the Hollywood Juvenile Championship (gr. II), all of which were then run at six to 6 1/2 furlongs. Further back in the pedigree we do find some potential stamina sources — the third dam, Out in the Cold, won 10 times and earned a stakes placing with a third in the 10-furlong Vineland Handicap (gr. II). She was by Beau Purple, a dedicated front-runner who was Kelso's nemesis during the 1962 campaign and who set a new track record when defeating that champion in the 12-furlong Man o' War Stakes. The female line arrived in the U.S. with Recapturetheglory's fifth dam, Nato II, an English stakes winner by English Derby winner Court Martial, and was half-sister to 1957 Irish One Thousand Guineas heroine Even Star (GB). The family goes back to the great foundation mare Marchetta.

Recapturetheglory follows the 2003 Mazarine Breeders' Cup Stakes (Can-II) victress, Dream About, as the second stakes winner bred on the Cherokee Run/Deputy Minister cross, and is TrueNicks rated A. He also shares a pedigree factor with Cherokee Run's millionaire, Zanjero: both Recapturetheglory and Zanjero are out of mares sired by stallions, who in turn are out of daughters of Secretariat. This is potentially significant, as Cherokee Run's broodmare sire, Silver Saber, is a grandson of Secretariat's half-brother Sir Gaylord. — *By Alan Porter*



SMOOTH AIR

Trainer: Bennie Stutts, Jr.
Jockey: Manoel Cruz
Owner: Mount Joy Stables Inc.
Breeder: Mount Joy Stables Inc.

SMOOTH JAZZ, dkb/br, 1999	Storm Boot, 1989	Storm Cat, 1983	Storm Bird
		Aliata, 1983	Mr. Prospector
SMOOTH AIR b, c March 12, 2005	Blushing Issue, 1994	Blushing John, 1985	Blushing Groom
		Gold Issue, 1980	Key to the Mint
AIR FRANCE, ch, 1999	French Deputy, 1992	Deputy Minister, 1979	Vice Regent
		Mitterand, 1981	Mint Copy
	Twin Propeller, 1993	Known Fact, 1977	Hold Your Peace
		Ahpo Hel, 1982	Laredo Lass
			In Reality
			Tamerett
			Mr. Leader
			Tiy

Among this year's crop of Triple Crown hopefuls, Smooth Air has not had the smoothest of sailing. Although winner of the Hutcheson Stakes (gr. II) at Gulfstream Park Jan. 5, he got a less than ideal trip when running third in the Sam F. Davis Stakes and then ran into a buzz saw named Big Brown in the Florida Derby (gr. I). Still, his second in the Florida Derby was a good effort and suggested that he is more than a clone of his sire.

Not that a clone of Smooth Jazz would be a bad thing, of course. A son of Storm Boot (by Storm Cat), Smooth Jazz proved a good sprinter during his two seasons of racing, winning the 2002 Best Turn

Stakes and the 2003 Commonwealth Breeders' Cup Stakes (gr. II). He stood his first season at stud at Cloverleaf Farms II near Reddick, Fla., in 2004 and was moved to Buckridge Farm in New York for 2008 after Cloverleaf shifted its operations to Kentucky.

Smooth Air is out of Air France, whose sire, 1995 Jerome Handicap (gr. II) winner French Deputy (by Deputy Minister), is also the broodmare sire of this year's Gotham Stakes (gr. III) winner, Visionaire. Air France is out of the Known Fact mare Twin Propeller, winner of two sprint stakes and a half-sister to four other stakes winners, including 1994 Prioress Stakes (gr. II) winner Penny's Reshoot. Twin Propeller, in turn, was produced from the Mr. Leader mare Ahpo Hel, a half-sister to three stakes winners, including 1989 Bold Ruler Stakes (gr. II) winner Pok Ta Pok.

The family of Smooth Air has had an excellent record since the importation of his 10th dam, Royal Rose, dam of the good sire Pennant; however, the branch to which Smooth Air belongs has generally produced its best results running at shorter distances. Still, Smooth Air has already turned in a respectable performance at nine furlongs, and while he does not appear bred to stay 10, stranger things have happened before on the road to the Triple Crown. — *By Avalyn Hunter*



COOL COAL MAN

Trainer: Nick Zito
Jockey: Julien Leparoux
Owner: Robert LaPenta
Breeder: Will Farish, E.J. Hudson Jr.,
 and Irrevocable Trust

MINESHAFT, dkb/br, 1999	A.P. Indy, 1989	Seattle Slew, 1974	Bold Reasoning
		Weekend Surprise, 1980	My Charmer
COOL COAL MAN b, c May 24, 2005	Prospectors Delite, 1989	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Secretariat
		Up the Flagpole, 1978	Lassie Dear
CORAL SEA, gr/ro, 1995	Rubiano, 1987	Fappiano, 1977	Raise a Native
		Ruby Slippers, 1982	Gold Digger
	South Sea Dancer, 1981	Northern Dancer, 1961	Hoist the Flag
		South Ocean, 1967	The Garden Club
			Mr. Prospector
			Killaloe
			Nijinsky II
			Moon Glitter
			Nearctic
			Natalma
			New Providence
			Shining Sun

Thanks to an apparent problem with the track's teletimer, there has been no shortage of controversy regarding the internal fractions and final time of the Fountain of Youth Stakes (gr. II) at Gulfstream Park Feb. 24. But there has been no controversy at all regarding the winner, Cool Coal Man, who has always been looked on as a horse with high potential.

Cool Coal Man is from the first crop of 2003 Horse of the Year Mineshaft, who stands at William Farish's Lane's End Farm. Co-bred by Farish (in partnership with W. Temple Webber Jr. and James Elkins), Mineshaft bears the stamp of Farish's breeding program on both sides of his pedigree. His sire, 1992 Horse of the Year A.P. Indy, was bred by Farish and William S. Kilroy (as was his dam, 1992 Kentucky Broodmare of the Year Weekend Surprise) and was leading sire in 2003 and 2006.

Mineshaft's female family has served Farish well since his acquisition of The Garden Club, a 1966 filly by Herbager out of Fashion Verdict, and so, a direct female descendant of the fabulous La Troienne. Mineshaft descends from The Garden Club through her daughter Up the Flagpole (by Hoist the Flag) and granddaughter Prospectors Delite (by Mr. Prospector), both graded stakes winners and excellent producers for Farish and his partners.

Coral Sea, the dam of Cool Coal Man, was also bred in partnership

by Farish (the other partners were Kilroy and E.J. Hudson). A daughter of 1992 champion sprinter Rubiano, Coral Sea is out of South Sea Dancer, a stakes-placed full sister to champions Storm Bird and Northernette, and is inbred 4x2 to Northern Dancer.

A.P. Indy has done well when crossed to mares carrying Northern Dancer, and since Mineshaft is free of Northern Dancer blood, it was only reasonable that the same strategy should be tried with him. Cool Coal Man, who is inbred 3x4 to Mr. Prospector, is bred to go classic distances, and if he continues to mature well, may be a genuine contender on the first Saturday in May. — *By Avalyn Hunter*



ANAK NAKAL

Trainer: Nick Zito

Jockey: Rafael Bejarano

Owner: Four Roses Thoroughbreds

Breeder: Buckram Oak Farm

VICTORY GALLOP, b, 1995	Cryptoclearance, 1984	Fappiano, 1977	Mr. Prospector
		Naval Orange, 1975	Killaloe
	Victorious Lil, 1989	Vice Regent, 1967	Hoist the Flag
			Mock Orange
ANAK NAKAL dkb/br, c April 23, 2005	Quiet American, 1986	Glass House, 1979	Northern Dancer
			Victoria Regina
MISK, b, 1997	Perlee, 1979	Fappiano, 1977	Mr. Prospector
		Demure, 1977	Killaloe
		Margouillat, 1970	Dr. Fager
		Zirconia, 1970	Quiet Charm

To judge by his second-best performance in the Nashua Stakes (gr. III) against Etched in October, Four Roses Thoroughbreds' colt Anak Nakal does not yet rank among the top three or four colts of the 2005 North American crop. But his win in the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (gr. II) November 24 indicates that Four Roses does have a promising young racehorse with plenty of potential for improvement. That's a nice thing to have when looking forward to the 2008 Triple Crown trail.

Bred by Buckram Oak Farm, Anak Nakal was the second graded stakes winner of the long Thanksgiving weekend for 1999 champion older male Victory Gallop, the other being Tom Crouch's home-bred filly Kettleoneup, who scored in the Falls City Handicap (gr. II) on Thanksgiving Day. The two have helped to cap what has been a breakout year for the WinStar stallion, whose only graded or group stakes winner prior to 2007 was his first-crop filly Victory U. S. A., winner of the 2004 Stonerside Beaumont Stakes (gr. II) as a 3-year-old. Victory Gallop is represented by six graded/group stakes winners of 2007: the other four are Eishin Dover, winner of the Keio Hai Spring Cup (Jpn-II); Eishin Lombard, winner of the Tokyo Chunichi Sports Hai Musashino Stakes (Jpn-III); Sir Gallovic, winner of the British Columbia Premiers Handicap (Can-III); and Texas Fever, winner of the Kentucky Cup Juvenile Stakes (gr. III).

Although Eishin Dover has scored his biggest wins in the range of 1,200-1,400 meters (about six to seven furlongs), most of Victory Gallop's progeny like a bit more distance – hardly surprising considering that Victory Gallop won the 1998 Belmont Stakes (gr. I) as well as running second to Real Quiet in the first two legs of the Triple Crown. In fact, Victory Gallop's profile in this regard is not dissimilar to that of his own sire, Cryptoclearance, himself a Belmont runner-up. Victory Gallop's progeny have an average winning distance of 7.51 furlongs compared to 7.54 furlongs for the sons and daughters of Cryptoclearance. By way of comparison, the popular market sires

Storm Cat and Unbridled's Song have average winning distances of 7.08 and 7.21 furlongs, respectively, for their progeny.

Any stamina transmitted to Anak Nakal by Victory Gallop is supplemented nicely by the distaff side of his pedigree. To be sure, his dam, Misk, looks more the part of a miler; not only did she have an average winning distance of 7.66 furlongs herself, but she is a half-sister to the Lyphard mare Pearl Bracelet, winner of the 1989 Dubai Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (Fr-I) over 1,600 meters (the so-called "metric mile"). The longest distance Misk ever tried was nine furlongs, and her best finish at the distance was a badly-beaten third.

Misk, however, is by Quiet American, who actually compares favorably to Victory Gallop and Cryptoclearance as a source of stamina despite being seen as a talented miler during his own racing days. Winner of the 1990 NYRA Mile Handicap (gr. I), Quiet American has an average winning distance of 7.57 furlongs for his progeny, which include the aforementioned Real Quiet and 1997 champion older female Hidden Lake.

Quiet American also has a solid reputation as a broodmare sire. He first captured headlines in that area when his maternal grandson Saint Liam (out of Quiet Dance) won the 2005 Breeders' Cup Classic – Powered by Dodge (gr. I) and Horse of the Year honors along with it. The following year, Quiet American's daughter Cara Rafaela earned Broodmare of the Year honors thanks to her son Bernardini, 2006 champion 3-year-old male. So far, Quiet American's daughters have produced 24 stakes winners (15 graded) from 364 foals.

Misk was produced from Perlee (FR), who scored her biggest win in the 1982 Prix de Minerve (Fr-III) over 2,400 meters. She was sired by *Margouillat, who won the 1973 Prix Hocquart (Fr-II) over 2,400 meters and was a close third to the brilliant Allez France in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (Fr-I) the following year at the same distance. *Margouillat, in turn, was by the Washington, D. C., International winner *Diatome — whose sire was the 1951 Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) and Grand Prix de Paris winner Sicambre (FR) — and was out of a mare by 1958 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Tim Tam. The stout French strain in Misk's pedigree is continued via Perlee's dam Zirconia (IRE), whose sire Charlottesville (GB) (by French-bred Prince Chevalier) duplicated Sicambre's double in the 1960 Prix du Jockey Club and Grand Prix de Paris.

Anak Nakal is the second graded stakes winner to sport inbreeding to Fappiano, the sire of both Cryptoclearance and Quiet American. The first was Symphony Sid (by Fappiano's son Unbridled out of Happy Tune, an A.P. Indy mare out of Fappiano's daughter Hum Along), winner of the 2006 Carleton F. Burke Handicap (gr. IIIT). Given that such inbreeding has been tried very little as yet, as Fappiano's great-grandsons and great-granddaughters are only just now retiring to the paddocks, the results are not unpromising. Anak Nakal is also inbred 5x5x4 to Dr. Fager and 5x5 to Nearctic.

There is not a great deal about Anak Nakal's pedigree that says "precocity," so the fact that he has already shown good form as a juvenile is quite promising. Should he live up to both the promise and the stamina inherent in his breeding, he will be one to watch in the spring of 2008. —*By Avalyn Hunter*



EIGHT BELLES

Trainer: J. Larry Jones

Jockey: Gabriel Saez

Owner: Fox Hill Farms

Breeder: Robert N. Clay & Serengeti Stable

While this year's Triple Crown hopefuls are staging the usual spring drama, the 3-year-old fillies have been putting on some pretty good shows themselves on the road to the Kentucky Oaks (gr. I), not least among them Eight Belles' performance in the Honeybee Stakes (gr. III) at Oaklawn Park. Not only did she defeat previously unbeaten grade II winner Pure Clan without breaking a sweat, but her time was

UNBRIDLED'S SONG, gr/ro, 1993	Unbridled, 1987	Fappiano, 1977	Mr. Prospector
		Gana Facil, 1981	Killaloe
	Trolley Song, 1983	Caro, 1967	Le Fabuleux
		Lucky Spell, 1971	Charedi
EIGHT BELLES gr/ro, f February 23, 2005	Dixieland Band, 1980	Northern Dancer, 1961	Fortino II
		Mississippi Mud, 1973	Chambord
AWAY, ch, 1997	Be a Prospector, 1991	Mr. Prospector , 1970	Lucky Mel
		Belonging, 1979	Incantation
			Nearctic
			Natalma

only .03 seconds off the time posted by Sierra Sunset in Oaklawn's Rebel Stakes (gr. II) at the same distance the previous day.

Racing for Fox Hill Farms, Eight Belles has three consecutive impressive wins under her belt and will now be the likely favorite for Oaklawn's major Oaks prep, the Fantasy Stakes (gr. II), on April 6. She is a daughter of Unbridled's Song, who was a pretty impressive racehorse on his own account when he was right. The son of 1990 champion 3-year-old male Unbridled (by Fappiano, by Mr. Prospector) and the winning Caro (IRE) mare Trolley Song won the 1995 Breeders' Cup Juvenile and 1996 Florida Derby, both grade I events, but was troubled by foot problems by the time the 1996 Kentucky Derby rolled around and flattened out to finish fifth after having briefly assumed the lead. He never seemed to come back to his best form after that and retired after a brief campaign at 4.

A tall, lengthy, elegant gray who stands at Taylor Made Farm, Unbridled's Song has been one of the more popular commercial sires of the early 21st century. His progeny have not done badly on the track, either. To date, his first eight crops, totaling 846 foals, have yielded 432 winners (51.1%) and 67 stakes winners (7.9%) worldwide — a good record, if no threat to the memories of Northern Dancer or Mr. Prospector. His 25 graded stakes winners include last year's grade I winners Octave and Political Force, who were the first of their sire's progeny to win grade I races at the American classic distance of 10 furlongs.

Bred by Robert Clay and Serengeti Stable, Eight Belles is the third graded winner by Unbridled's Song to feature inbreeding to Mr. Prospector. The others are 2005 Honorable Miss Handicap (gr. II) winner Forest Music and 2006 Durham Cup Handicap (Can-III) winner Barracuda Boy, whose dams both descend from Mr. Prospector in the male line. Eight Belles' Mr. Prospector inbreeding takes another route, as she gets her second cross of Mr. Prospector through a daughter of the great sire and broodmare sire.

Eight Belles is the second foal of the Dixieland Band mare Away, previously the dam of the winning Elusive Quality colt Escape Route. A solid sprint filly, Away won seven of her 24 starts, including the 2002 Minaret Stakes, and placed in two grade III races. She is a half sister to another stakes winner in Rich Find (by Exploit) and a full sister to stakes-placed Fiddler's Find.

Away is a daughter of multiple grade II winner Dixieland Band, who has forged a fine record even among the many excellent sire sons of the great stallion Northern Dancer. The sire of 114 stakes winners as of March 17, including champions Drum Taps, Cotton Carnival, and Check the Band, Dixieland Band is also the maternal grandsire of 111 stakes winners and led the broodmare sire list in 2004. As of this writing, Dixieland Band is still active at Lane's End Farm.

Away was produced from the Mr. Prospector mare Be a Prospector, an unraced half-sister to the multiple grade III winner and good sire Belong to Me. The siblings' dam, Belonging (by Exclusive Native), is, in turn, one of three stakes winners produced by 1967 champion handicap female Straight Deal, a great-granddaughter of the remarkable matriarch *La Troienne. Straight Deal was a great success as a "dam of dams," for she had three other daughters that produced

graded stakes winners. Desiree (by Exclusive Native's sire Raise a Native and, thus, closely related to Belonging) produced multiple grade I winner Adored (by Seattle Slew); So Endearing, a full sister to Desiree, produced 1986 Del Mar Futurity (gr. I) winner Qualify; and Reminiscing (by Never Bend) produced three stakes winners headed by 1986 Sanford Stakes (gr. II) winner Persevered (by Affirmed).

Be a Prospector is a closely inbred mare (2 x 3 Raise a Native), which may not have helped her on the track but obviously did not hurt her as a broodmare. Away, a better racer, is inbred 4 x 4 x 5 to Raise a Native's sire, Native Dancer (also the sire of Natalma, dam of Northern Dancer), while Eight Belles is inbred 4 x 3 to Mr. Prospector, Raise a Native's best son. This type of repeated inbreeding to a prepotent sire line has been touted by some pedigree theorists as increasing the chances of success for a stallion prospect. How well it works as a strategy for producing a good broodmare may be another question, but in this case, it certainly has not hurt in producing a good racehorse. — *By Avalyn Hunter*

COWBOY CAL

Trainer: Todd Pletcher
Jockey: John Velazquez
Owner: Stonerside Stable
Breeder: Stonerside Stable



GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, ch, 1997	Storm Cat, 1983	Storm Bird, 1978	Northern Dancer
		Terlingua, 1976	South Ocean
	Mariah's Storm, 1991	Rahy, 1985	Secretariat
		Immense, 1979	Crimson Saint
COWBOY CAL dkb/br, c February 1, 2005	Seeking the Gold, 1985	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Blushing Groom
		Con Game, 1974	Glorious Song
TEXAS TAMMY, dkb/br, 1998	Hot Novel, 1986		Roberto
			ImsoDear
			Raise a Native

While Toyota Blue Grass Stakes winner (gr. I) Monba is at or near the top of many pundits' lists for May 3rd's main event, his stable companion Cowboy Cal should not be overlooked. Both the Todd Pletcher trainees, who finished one-two in the Blue Grass Stakes look certain to stay the Derby trip, but Monba has an important edge in that he has good dirt form to his credit. Cowboy Cal has started on grass four times out of his six lifetime starts. He finished off the board in his one start on dirt, his juvenile debut in a \$62,000 six-furlong Saratoga maiden special weight. Following his victory in the Tropical Park Derby (gr. IIIT) at the start of his 3-year-old campaign, however, Cowboy Cal impressed Pletcher with his morning works on dirt, and Pletcher said he planned to try him again on that surface in the future. In between the Tropical Park Derby and the Blue Grass — his all-weather debut — Cowboy Cal finished second to Why Tonto in the Hallandale Beach Stakes, also on turf. His only other starts, both of which came at 2, resulted in wins in a maiden special weight at Belmont and the Laurel Futurity.

Cowboy Cal and 2007 and 2008 stakes winner Giant Moon are members of the third U.S. crop sired by Giant's Causeway. His first crop was conceived in Ireland and made the sire an immediate sensation. Overall, that 2002 crop produced nine group or graded winners, five of them group or grade I, including the English champion 2- and 3-year-old colt Shamardal; the Ultimatepoker.com Two Thousand Guineas (Eng-I) winner Footstepsinthesand (GB); the outstanding U.S. miler Aragorn (IRE); and My Typhoon (IRE), a winner of over

\$1.3 million.

Giant's Causeway's first U.S. crop – his second overall – was no less impressive, with 17 stakes winners and 10 graded winners. The most notable of these were First Samurai, winner of the Champagne and Hopeful Stakes (both gr. I) and the Fountain of Youth Stakes (gr. II); and Heatseeker (IRE), winner this year of the Santa Anita Handicap (gr. I). Giant's Causeway's second U.S. crop supplied his first North American classic winner in the shape of Mike Fox – who took last year's premier Canadian classic, the Queen's Plate – as well as graded winner Red Giant.

A Stonerside Farm homebred, Cowboy Cal is out of Texas Tammy, a daughter of Seeking the Gold. Texas Tammy was unplaced in her only start, but has an excellent pedigree, as she is half-sister to Behrens, an earner of over \$4.5 million, whose wins include two renewals of the Gulfstream Park Handicap (gr. I), the Oaklawn Handicap (gr. I), the Dwyer Stakes (gr. II), and the Buick Pegasus, Massachusetts and Suburban Handicaps (all gr. II). Texas Tammy is also half-sister to the Woodman mare Novel Encounter, she the dam of multiple listed stakes winner Hydrogen and graded stakes-placed Banned in Boston.

Cowboy Cal's granddam, Hot Novel (by Mari's Book), was a speedy and talented performer who took the Santa Ynez Stakes (gr. III), Rancho Bernardo Breeders' Cup Handicap (gr. III), Moccasin Stakes, and B. Thoughtful Stakes, and finished second in the Acorn Stakes (gr. I). Hot Novel is half-sister to stakes winner Makinanhonestbuck and the Crown Royal American Turf Stakes (gr. IIIT) winner Legislator. Another half-sister to Hot Novel, the non-winner True Grit, is very closely related to Texas Tammy, her sire, Woodman, being bred on the same pattern as Seeking the Gold. True Grit is dam of the stakes-winning Cogburn and granddam of the brilliant but somewhat fragile Commentator (whose dam is by Giant's Causeway's grandsire, Storm Bird, thus bred on rather similar lines to Cowboy Cal albeit through aptitudinally different strains).

Cowboy Cal's family has already produced a recent Kentucky Derby (gr. I) winner, and has a strong classic tradition: The female line traces to the notable tap-root mare Etoile Filante, dam of the 1934 Preakness Stakes winner High Quest, also ancestress of 1996 Kentucky Derby victor Grindstone; and 1995 Coaching Club American Oaks (gr. I) heroine Golden Bri (whose third dam, Cam Axe, is the fifth dam of Cowboy Cal). The family also produced Belmont Stakes winner and Horse of the Year Arts and Letters; three-time champion filly Parlo; champion 2- and 3-year-old filly Silverbulletday; and Jockey Club Gold Cup (gr. I) and twice Brooklyn Handicap (gr. I) winner Waquoit.

Rated an A+ by TrueNicks, Cowboy Cal is one of at least 17 stakes winners sired by Giant's Causeway out of Mr. Prospector-line mares. The cross of Giant's Causeway with mares by Cowboy Cal's broodmare sire, Seeking the Gold, appears to be a particularly potent one, as it has already also produced Carriage Trail, recent winner of the Doubledogdare Stakes (gr. III); listed stakes winner Scholastic Giant; and the Florida Derby (gr. I) runner-up Noble Causeway. — *By Alan Porter*



VISIONAIRE

Trainer: Michael Matz
Jockey: Jose Lezcano
Owner: Team Valor Int'l. & Vision Racing
Breeder: Reiley McDonald

After their promising Visionaire ran third to Pyro in the Risen Star Stakes (gr. III) Feb. 9, Team Valor International and Vision Racing elected to send the colt to New York for the Gotham Stakes (gr. III) rather than trying a second tilt with Pyro in the Louisiana Derby (gr. II). It proved a sound choice, as Visionaire got a graded win and a

GRAND SLAM, dkb/br, 1995	Gone West, 1984	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Raise a Native
		Secrettame, 1978	Gold Digger
	Bright Candles, 1987	El Gran Senor, 1981	Secretariat
		Christmas Bonus, 1978	Tamerett
VISIONAIRE ch, c February 16, 2005	French Deputy, 1992	Deputy Minister, 1979	Northern Dancer
		Mitterand, 1981	Sex Appeal
SCARLET TANGO, ch, 1998	Silver Tango, 1988	Silver Badge, 1971	Key to the Mint
		Royal Tango, 1980	Sugar Plum Time
			Vice Regent
			Mint Copy
			Hold Your Peace
			Laredo Lass
			Poker
			Silver True
			Princely Pleasure
			Tango in Paris

shot of confidence with a gritty, come-from-behind victory.

Visionaire is by Grand Slam, who proved both talented and unlucky during his racing career. After winning the 1997 Moet Champagne Stakes (gr. I), Grand Slam lost all chance in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I) when he suffered a severe cut to a hind tendon.

Amazingly, he came back at 3 to win the Peter Pan Stakes (gr. II) and finish second in the Breeders' Cup Sprint (gr. I). Grand Slam is by Gone West out of Bright Candles, by 1984 General Accident Two Thousand Guineas (Eng-I) and Joe McGrath Irish Sweeps Derby (Ire-I) winner and champion El Gran Senor and from the immediate family of the top runner and sire Alydar. To date, Grand Slam has sired 43 stakes winners from 875 named foals (including 127 2-year-olds). So far, none of his North American graded stakes winners have shown any taste for distances beyond nine furlongs, but his Japanese-raced son Cafe Olympus won the 2004 Japan Dirt Derby (Jpn-I) over 10 furlongs.

Visionaire is the second foal of stakes-placed Scarlet Tango, by 1995 Jerome Handicap (gr. II) winner French Deputy, a very fast miler. The dam of Scarlet Tango, Silver Tango, was a 10-time stakes winner over sprint distances. Overall, Visionaire's immediate pedigree seems tilted more toward speed than stamina, but his late-running style may be an asset in helping him use that speed where it counts: at the finish. His performance in his next race, the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (gr. I), will probably tell the tale as to whether he is a viable candidate for the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I) or a promising miler. — *By Avalyn Hunter*



BIG TRUCK

Trainer: Barclay Tagg
Jockey: Javier Castellano
Owner: Eric Fein
Breeder: A. Lakin and Sons

HOOK AND LADDER, dkb/br, 1997	Dixieland Band, 1980	Northern Dancer, 1961	Nearctic
		Mississippi Mud, 1973	Natalma
	Taianna, 1992	Cox's Ridge, 1974	Delta Judge
BIG TRUCK b, c February 12, 2005	Go for Gin, 1991	Prospector's Fable, 1987	Sand Buggy
		Cormorant, 1974	Best Turn
		Never Knock, 1979	Our Martha
JUST A GINNY, b, 1997	Evangelic, 1986	Halo, 1969	Mr. Prospector
		My Room, 1972	Fairway Fable
			His Majesty
			Song Sparrow
			Stage Door Johnny
			Never Hula
			Hail to Reason
			Cosmah
			Bold Lad
			Extra Place

Given that his shed row housed the Futurity Stakes (gr. II) winner and subsequent Bessemer Trust Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I) fourth, Tale of Ekati, it came as something of a surprise last year when trainer

Barclay Tagg suggested that New York-bred Big Truck might be his most promising juvenile.

At that stage, Big Truck had beaten fellow state-breds by 6 1/2 lengths in a 6 1/2-furlong maiden on his debut. He returned to take the restricted Bertram F. Bongard Stakes over seven furlongs by two lengths, but his reputation was dented by a defeat as odds-on favorite for another New York-bred contest, the Sleepy Hollow Stakes. Here, he appeared to be cruising, but failed to find another gear in the closing stages and was beaten a pair of heads by Giant Moon and Coastal Drive. Tried against open company in the Remsen Stakes (gr. II), Big Truck had a horrible trip – the form comment on the race reads “in trouble throughout” – and his fourth, five lengths from winner Court Vision, couldn’t be taken as a fair reflection of his ability.

First time out at 3, Big Truck appeared not to handle the sloppy going when beaten over 11 lengths in the Hutcheson Stakes (gr. II). He ran a much better race on his second start of the year when a closing second to Fierce Wind in the Sam F. Davis Stakes at Tampa Downs. He finally fulfilled the hopes that his impressive morning works had raised by running down the Remsen Stakes (gr. II) second, Atoned, to take the Tampa Bay Derby (gr. III) on March 15.

Big Truck is from the first crop of his sire, Hook and Ladder. Bred in Kentucky by the late Marshall Naify, Hook and Ladder started just twice in Naify’s colors. In his only start at 2, he won a six-furlong maiden at Hollywood Park by 5 1/4 lengths, recording a remarkable 110 Beyer speed figure. A close second in an allowance race at Hollywood Park in his first outing at 3, Hook and Ladder was sold to New Yorkers Chester and Mary Broman for \$800,000 at the dispersal of 505 Farms (Estate of Marshall Naify) conducted by Barretts.

Now trained by John Kimmel, who would handle him for the rest of his career, Hook and Ladder next ran at Saratoga in September, when he took a six-furlong allowance race by seven lengths. For his next outing, Hook and Ladder was asked to make a giant leap of class, being sent for a particularly tough renewal of the Jerome Handicap (gr. II). After battling for the lead, he faded after a half. Fusaichi Pegasus went to on score with El Corredor and Albert the Great trailing in second and third, respectively. Given a break until the Gulfstream Park meet, Hook and Ladder started his 4-year-old campaign with easy wins in allowance and optional claiming events. In the Gulfstream Park Breeders’ Cup Sprint Handicap (gr. II), he faced a much tougher task, tackling one of the previous year’s best 3-year-old sprinters, Trippi. The race proved to be something of an epic. After leading through a first quarter in :22.17, Hook and Ladder’s rider attempted to lose Trippi with a :21.72 second quarter, hitting the half in :43.89. The maneuver did open up a 1 1/2-length gap, but Trippi renewed his challenge, and it was only after a fierce battle to the wire that Hook and Ladder got the verdict by a half length, in a time of 1:21.85. It’s arguable that this contest took its toll on both protagonists, as Trippi never won again, and Hook and Ladder never quite regained the same level of form. Hook and Ladder did take third in the Carter Handicap (gr. I) next time out, but his only subsequent placing at 4 was a second in the Forest Hills Handicap (gr. II). He took the Mr. Prospector Handicap (gr. III) first time out at 5, but had only an allowance third to show from three more starts at that age, and he failed to win in three outings at 6.

When it came time to retire Hook and Ladder to stud, the 7-year-old’s reputation had inevitably lost some of its luster. Standing at Sequel Stud in Hudson, N.Y., in a partnership between the Bromans and Sequel Stallions, Hook and Ladder began his stud career at a fee of \$3,500. Realizing that support from outside mares was going to be thin, the partnership made a concentrated effort to support the horse with their own mares, and the effort has paid off. After an excellent reception for his first-crop yearlings, 28 of which sold for an average of \$49,825, Hook and Ladder covered 80 mares at an advertised fee of \$5,000 in 2006, and last year was bred to 124 mares at a fee of \$6,000. This year he is again booked full, now at \$10,000.

Big Truck – who was bred by Lewis Lakin, a partner of Sequel principal Becky Thomas – is one of four stakes horses to so far emerge

from Hook and Ladder’s first crop. The others – all bred by the Bromans – are the New York Stallion Great White Way Stakes winner Spanky Fischbein, also runner-up this year in the Count Fleet Stakes; I Promise, who was beaten inches in last year’s Schuylerville Stakes (gr. III) and who is also stakes-placed this year; and the New York Stallion Fifth Avenue Stakes third, Noble Fire.

A \$90,000 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old in training purchase, Big Truck is out of the Go For Gin mare Just a Ginny. A three-time winner, Just a Ginny is also dam of New York restricted-placed Logic Way, a son of Hook and Ladder’s stud companion, Freud. A half-sister to the graded stakes-placed Storm Cat colt Goodbye Doeny, Just a Ginny is out of Evangelic, a daughter of Halo. Evangelic herself was only a minor winner, but she is half-sister to Malevic, winner in Italy of the Premio Presidente della Repubblica (Ity-I). Big Truck’s fourth dam, Extra Place (by Round Table out of a mare bred on a cross similar to Northern Dancer’s sire, Nearctic), was something of a blue hen. She is dam of 11 winners, four of which won stakes, including the Princess Stakes (gr. III) winner Card Table and her sister Bold Place (both by Bold Bidder), and is granddam of several more, most notably Legal Case (IRE), winner of the Premio Roma (Ity-I) and Dubai Champion Stakes (Eng-I), and Schwebbes Australian Oaks (Aus-I) victress Belle Chanson (AUS).

Big Truck has a TrueNicks rating of B+ on the basis of the Dixieland Band/Cormorant cross, Cormorant being the sire of Go for Gin, and it is notable that Dixieland Band has also done well, in general, with mares descending from Cormorant’s sire, His Majesty. Since Cormorant stood a significant part of his stud career in New York, Hook and Ladder should have plenty of opportunity to cross with his daughters. Go For Gin gives the pedigree an extra twist, as his dam is by a son of Prince John out of mare by Never Bend, while Hook and Ladder’s third dam, Fairway Fable, is by Never Bend out of a Prince John mare. Halo, the sire of the granddam of Big Truck, plays into this, as his broodmare sire, Cosmic Bomb, is a half-brother to the dam of Prince John. Of course, Halo’s dam is also a half-sister to the dam of Northern Dancer (grandsire of Hook and Ladder), and since Big Truck also has Northern Dancer’s sire, Nearctic, and the closely-related Sybil’s Sister 4 x 6, there is a considerable reinforcement of his background.

It’s possible that Big Truck may now just train up to the Kentucky Derby (gr. I), and apparently Tagg has no doubts about his ability to get the distance. On pedigree there has to be a question, however, as Hook and Ladder did all of his best work at up to seven furlongs, and in fact was only once tried beyond that trip. Against that, he doesn’t have the build of a typical sprint specialist, and his pedigree – by Dixieland Band out of a Cox’s Ridge mare – is not a pure sprinting one either. The distaff side of Big Truck’s pedigree is pretty stout too. Go For Gin won the Derby (and finished second in the Preakness and Belmont (both gr. I)), and the second dam is both by a horse who won up to 1 1/2 miles (Halo) and is a half-sister to a group 1 winner over the classic 1 1/4-mile distance.—By Alan Porter



BOB BLACK JACK

Trainer: James Kasparoff

Jockey: Richard Migliore

Owner: Jeff Harmon and Tim Kasparoff

Breeder: Gary Howard, Marlene

Howard and Bruce Dunmore

When Bob Black Jack captured the Sunshine Millions Dash, scorching six furlongs 1:06.53 on Santa Anita’s all-weather track, it appeared that a new West Coast sprint star had arrived. However, Bob Black Jack – who had taken the seven-furlong California Breeders’ Champion Stakes in 1:20.37 on his previous start – has since shown unexpected dimensions. He followed his Sunshine Millions Dash victory with a bold attempt to lead throughout the 8 1/2-furlong San

STORMY JACK, dkb/br, 1997	Bertrando, 1989	Skywalker, 1982	Relaunch
		Gentle Hands, 1979	Bold Captive
	Tiny Kristin, 1988	Steelinctive, 1978	Buffalo Lark
		Pirate's Serenade, 1982	Three Red Bells
BOB BLACK JACK dkb/br, c March 29, 2005	Native Prospector, 1977	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Steel Heart
		French Blossom, 1969	Distinctiveness
	Spell Victory, 1980	Pirate's Bounty	Lyrical Approach
MOLLY'S PROSPECTOR, dkb/br, 1994	Native Prospector, 1977	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Raise a Native
		French Blossom, 1969	Gold Digger
	Spell Victory, 1980	Dance Spell, 1973	Carlemont
		Miss Nanith, 1971	Nalo
			Northern Dancer
			Obeah
			Victoria Park
			Nangela

Felipe Stakes (gr. II), eventually finishing third to Georgie Boy and Gayego, beaten 1 3/4 lengths. Then, in an even better effort, he was beaten just half a length by one of the likely Derby favorites, Colonel John, in the Santa Anita Derby (gr. I).

Bob Black Jack is a son of the Bertrando stallion Stormy Jack, who stands at Harris Farms in Coalinga, Calif. Stormy Jack was a smart West Coast speedster, winning eight races and \$596,673, including the I'm Smoking Stakes over 5 1/2 furlongs at 2; the seven-furlong Real Good Deal Stakes and one mile Oceanside Stakes at 3; and the 7 1/2-furlong On Trust Handicap at 4. Stormy Jack didn't retire to stud until the age of 7, and Bob Black Jack is a member of his first crop. To date, Bob Black Jack is the only stakes winner from that crop of 35, but 15 of them so far have made it to the races, with eight of them winning.

Bob Black Jack's dam, Molly's Prospector, is by the Mr. Prospector horse Native Prospector. Trained in England at 2 and 3, Native Prospector broke his maiden there in his second season. In the U.S. at 4, he won three of his first four starts, scoring at up to nine furlongs, with two of his wins coming on grass. His only other outings saw him finishing fifth in the 10-furlong Suburban Handicap (gr. I) – but only 1 1/2 lengths back of the winner, Temperence Hill – and unplaced behind Panamanian star Hechizado in the Brooklyn Handicap (gr. I).

Molly's Prospector won only one of her four starts, all of which came at 2, but still was probably one of the better-credentialed mares bred to Stormy Jack in his first season. A half-sister to three sprint stakes winners, the best of which was the Baldwin Stakes winner, What A Spell, Molly's Prospector is also a sister to Susan Powter. That mare was unraced, but is dam of two stakes winners, including the top-class sprinter Joey Franco, winner of the Triple Bend Breeders' Cup Invitational Handicap (gr. I) and Del Mar Breeders' Cup Handicap (gr. II). Molly's Prospector's dam, Spell Victory (by the Northern Dancer horse Dance Spell), is half-sister to the black type winner Mimi Baker, and to the dams and granddams of several other stakes winners, including the Vosburgh Stakes (gr. I) winner Taste of Paradise; Scottish Monk and Scott the Great, who both took the Poker Stakes (gr. III); and Lafayette Stakes (gr. III) stakes winner Wire Me Collect.

Spell Victory owns an intriguing pedigree, as she is inbred 3 x 3 to Nearctic – the sire of Northern Dancer. What makes this particularly interesting is that the second strain comes through Spell Victory's granddam, Nangela, whose own third dam, Sybil's Niece (GB), is an extremely close relative to Nearctic (she is by a son of Nearctic's broodmare sire, Hyperion (GB), out of a mare closely related to Nearctic). This close inbreeding certainly didn't have any negative impacts on Nangela's career as a runner or producer. At the track, she won four of 19 starts including the Carleton Stakes, and was twice stakes-placed. At stud she bred the Canadian Oaks heroine and Canadian champion 3-year-old filly Square Angel, and became ancestress of a host of major winners, among them Canadian champions Kamar and Key to the Moon; European Horse of the Year Fantastic Light; champion 2-year-old filly Golden Attraction; European highweight Swain; and group and grade I winners Seaside Attraction, Desert Lord (GB), Gorgeous, Cape Town, Love Smitten, Cuddles, and Tap to Music.

Stormy Jack is a son of Bertrando and it is interesting to find that Bob Black Jack earns an A++ TrueNicks score on the basis of the Bertrando/Native Prospector cross. Bertrando has sired five starters out of Native Prospector mares, and they include the multiple stakes winner Lady Bertrando. Bob Black Jack is the only runner so far by a son of Bertrando out of a mare by that horse.

Both of Bob Black Jack's parents were sprinters, and he is obviously a very fast horse. However, his two grandsires did both stay 10 furlongs, and he seems to have inherited a measure of stamina from them. Still, it will be a major surprise if he proves best suited by the Derby trip, although his front-running style looks likely to make him a major pace factor. —By Alan Porter



DENIS OF CORK

Trainer: David Carroll

Jockey: Calvin Borel

Owner: William and Suzanne Warren Jr.

Breeder: Westbury Stables

HARLAN'S HOLIDAY, b, 1999	Harlan, 1989	Storm Cat, 1983	Storm Bird
		Country Romance, 1976	Terlingua
	Christmas in Aiken, 1992	Affirmed, 1975	Halo
		Dowager, 1980	Sweet Romance
DENIS OF CORK b, c February 16, 2005	Unbridled, 1987	Fappiano, 1977	Exclusive Native
		Gana Facil, 1981	Won't Tell You
UNBRIDLED GIRL, b, 1998	Sound Wisdom, 1992	Pirate's Bounty, 1975	Honest Pleasure
		Kaylem Ho, 1978	Princessnesian
			Mr. Prospector
			Killaloe
		Le Fabuleux	
		Charedi	
		Pirate's Bounty, 1975	Hoist the Flag
		Kaylem Ho, 1978	Bad Seed
			Salem
			Kay Ho

So far, Denis of Cork has done everything right in his brief career. With the Southwest Stakes (gr. III) under his girth, the colt will doubtless be the favorite for Oaklawn Park's next Triple Crown prep race, the Rebel Stakes (gr. II).

Denis of Cork is from the first crop of Harlan's Holiday, who was one of the better members of the 1999 crop with grade I victories in the 2002 Florida Derby and Toyota Blue Grass Stakes and the 2003 Donn Handicap on his resumé. All three of his grade I wins were at nine furlongs, but he placed in three grade or group I races at 10 furlongs.

Harlan's Holiday is by Harlan, a son of Storm Cat and the stakes-winning Halo mare Country Romance. Harlan proved a durable but late-maturing sort who took his only stakes win at age 5 in the '94 Vosburgh (gr. I). He sired 102 foals before his death in February 1999, including another multiple grade I winner, Menifee. Harlan's Holiday was produced from the winning Affirmed mare Christmas in Aiken, whose granddam Princessnesian defeated males in the 1968 Hollywood Gold Cup Handicap.

Oddly, both Denis of Cork and Southwest Stakes runner-up Sierra Sunset belong to the family of the Quid Pro Quo mare Kay Ho, whose daughters include Toot Sweet (dam of Sierra Sunset) and stakes winner Kaylem Ho (by Salem). A fine producer, Kaylem Ho threw 15 winners from 16 foals, including Private Persuasion (by Pirate's Bounty), winner of the 1995 Vanity Invitational Handicap (gr. I); restricted stakes winner Sound Wisdom; and listed stakes winner Wishful Splendor (by Smart Strike), as well as three stakes-placed runners.

Denis of Cork was produced from Unbridled Girl, who placed in one of two starts. His pedigree certainly suggests that he should be able to get nine furlongs well, and if he has that extra spark that can carry him another eighth of a mile, he will be one to watch on the Triple Crown trail. — By Avalyn Hunter