

COLONEL JOHN

There are some horses that you can scrutinize over and over and not be able to find any flaws in them. Colonel John looks to be that kind of horse. As his trainer Eoin Harty said, "He is, as far as I'm concerned, the complete package. He's got the mind, he's got the pedigree, and I believe he's got the ability. Nobody's touched on his mental outlook yet, but it's surprising how mature he is mentally. I couldn't ask for any more."

That says it all. You couldn't ask for any more from a young horse. Colonel John has the right running style—he rates kindly and can sit wherever the rider wants him. And he demonstrated the quick, powerful acceleration you like to see in a Kentucky Derby horse when winning the 1 1/16-mile Real Quiet Stakes coming off a seven-furlong maiden score.

He was sent off as the 2-1 favorite in the CashCall Futurity (gr. I), but did not have the smoothest of trips, stuck down on the inside. When he finally was able to split horses in the stretch, he closed strongly, but the victorious Into Mischief had gotten too big of a jump on him, beating him by 1 1/4 lengths.

Since then, Colonel John has been a gem in the morning, doing whatever Harty's asked of him. After he turned in two bullet works—six furlongs in 1:10 1/2 and five furlongs in :58 1/2—Harty felt it was time to slow him down. He put his "slow work" rider up, and the colt went six furlongs in 1:17, the slowest work on the tab. "He's a big, leggy, light-framed colt, and putting another three-quarters in 1:10 and change in him wasn't going to do him or anybody any good," Harty said.

So, now it's on to the nine-furlong Sham Stakes (gr. III) at Santa Anita. If Harty's "complete package" is still complete afterward, look out on May 3. 📺

Thus far, Tiznow has been an inconsistent sire, with just nine stakes winners from his first three crops (a total of 293 named foals). But when everything comes together, the Taylor Made/WinStar Farm stallion can get a horse with considerable talent. Colonel John appears to be such a horse.

One question for the Colonel may be just how fast he can move forward off a pedigree that suggests late maturity. Tiznow himself did not even make his first start until late April of his 3-year-old season, and of his top stakes horses last year, both Tough Tiz's Sis and Bear Now were better in the second half of their 3-year-old seasons than they were early on.

Turkoman, the broodmare sire of Colonel John, was also a late-maturing type. A winner of the Affirmed Handicap (gr. III) at 3, at 4 the son of Alydar won the Widener Handicap (gr. I) and the Marlboro Cup Handicap (gr. I).

As a sire, Turkoman has shown a bent for siring long-winded turf runners, including grade I winners Turk Passer and Man From Wicklow. To date, his daughters have produced 44 stakes winners (6%) from 748 named foals of racing age. The best of those stakes winners, of course, has been 2001

Horse of the Year Point Given, but Turkoman is also the broodmare sire of 2007 King's Bishop Stakes (gr. I) winner Hard Spun.

Sweet Damsel, the dam of Colonel John, was not particularly classy but was fairly durable, winning five of her 33 starts. Her dam, the Zen mare Grande Dame, won a restricted stakes for Illinois-breds and was produced from grade I-placed Fia, a daughter of the staying Northern Dancer horse One for All. Both Colonel John's dam and granddam showed ability over grass, so even if the colt proves unable to translate his best form from synthetics to dirt, he may well have a bright future ahead on turf. 📺

COLONEL JOHN
 Bay colt, foaled March 4, 2005;
 Bred in Ky. by WinStar Farm

Tiznow	Cee's Tizzy
	Cee's Song
Sweet Damsel	Turkoman
	Grande Dame

▶ For an expanded pedigree analysis, go to tcm.bloodhorse.com

Haskin's Derby Dozen

	HORSE/TRAINER	PEDIGREE	COMMENT
1	PYRO Steve Asmussen	Pulpit—Wild Vision, by Wild Again	Many people seem to be getting a bit carried away over his Risen Star tour de force. If his :22.30 final quarter is correct, then Unbridled Vicar and Blackberry Road closed in around :23 flat, so let's not get too time-crazy just yet.
2	COURT VISION Bill Mott	Gulch—Weekend Storm, by Storm Bird	Breezed six furlongs in 1:19...yes, 1:19. It is Payson Park, so no cause for alarm, but that is slow even for Payson. As mentioned before, he's shown a lot of determination, but still needs to run faster. Big test coming up.
3	MONBA Todd Pletcher	Maria's Mon—Hamba, by Easy Goer	Breezed six furlongs in 1:14 1/2 for debut against Court Vision and company in Fountain of Youth . Owners won Hallandale Beach with Why Tonto, now it's his turn. Still believe this is a top-class colt, but he, too, has to step up.
4	WAR PASS Nick Zito	Cherokee Run—Vue, by Mr. Prospector	Expected to make much-anticipated debut in one-mile allowance race Feb. 23 . Tampa Bay Derby and Wood Memorial could be next. Worked six furlongs in 1:13 1/2; ready for big effort. Let's hope race fills.
5	COLONEL JOHN Eoin Harty	Tiznow—Sweet Damsel, by Turkoman	After sharp works in :58 1/2 and 1:10 1/2, he breezed an easy six furlongs in 1:17, by design. Harty said another 1:10 and change work is not what he needs right now. Will debut in Sham Stakes , but it won't be an easy spot.
6	TALE OF EKATI Barclay Tagg	Tale of the Cat—Silence Beauty, by Sunday Silence	Make no mistake, this colt is a runner, and he's right up there talent-wise with the best of them. A bit of a concern is late debut in Louisiana Derby , meaning he'll have only two pre-Derby starts with not much two-turn foundation.
7	CROWN OF THORNS Dick Mandella	Repent—Crowning Touch, by Thunder Gulch	He's another who turned in a slow six-furlong work, breezing in 1:17 1/2. But as Mandella pointed out, he won the Robert B. Lewis off a seven-furlong work in 1:31 1/2. Still needs to step up in class, but is a gifted colt.
8	EL GATO MALO Craig Dollase	El Corredor—One Bad Cat, by Mountain Cat	If he's going to remain in California, would rather see him go back up north for the El Camino Real Derby , just to get the synthetic-to-dirt question answered. He's blown away all his opponents and has done it the right way.
9	FIERCE WIND Nick Zito	Dixie Union—Post Parade, by A.P. Indy	Yes, he beat Big Truck by a half-length, but there were some quality horses in the field, and he ran like a class horse. And check out his splits—:24%, :23%, :24%, :24%, and :06%. He's now won at all three Fla. tracks.
10	ANAK NAKAL Nick Zito	Victory Gallop—Misk, by Quiet American	Same owner and trainer as Fierce Wind. Turned in a sharp five-furlong drill in 1:00 1/2 for Fountain of Youth . Still some questions regarding Ky. Jockey Club victory, but a big effort Feb. 24 will catapult him up the list.
11	INTO MISCHIEF Dick Mandella	Harlan's Holiday—Leslie's Lady, by Tricky Creek	He had a good sharpener in the San Vicente and now stretches back out in the San Felipe . Did show a little greenness in the San Vicente, shying from a right-handed whip and switching leads, but should keep improving.
12	GEORGIE BOY Kathy Walsh	Tribal Rule—Ippodamia, by Peterhof	OK, he's run only on synthetic surfaces and only sprinted. But he's won over dead Polytrack and souped-up Cushion Track, with and without blinkers, and has never lost coming from off the pace. And Walsh is a top trainer.

COLONEL JOHN

Over the past decade, Eoin Harty has developed some of the best juveniles and 3-year-olds in the world. Yet, for a couple of different reasons, the Irish-born trainer has never had a horse of his own on the Triple Crown trail.

That is, until now.

Harty, training for WinStar Farm, is the man behind talented Tiznow colt, Colonel John, who is 2-2-0 from four lifetime starts, and is on the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I) radar of many.

Harty, who came to America at the age of 17, has played a vital role in the development of many of the sport's top horses for some time now. In 1997 and 1998, working as an assistant trainer for Bob Baffert, Harty helped craft the Kentucky Derby and Preakness (gr. I) winning campaigns of champions Silver Charm and Real Quiet, though in the eyes of the national media he was a virtual unknown.

After going to work for Sheikh Mohamed's Godolphin Racing in 2000, Harty assumed training duties for Street Cry, guiding him to a third-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I). But Street Cry, now a leading sire, was handed over to Saeed bin Suroor in the United Arab Emirates, where he eventually captured the Dubai World Cup (JAE-I).

In 2000-01, Harty also helped develop a cou-



Trainer Eoin Harty has his first horse on the Triple Crown trail in Colonel John, left

ANNE M. EBERHARDT

ple of other Godolphin colts that were eventually transferred to Suroor—Essence of Dubai, who went on to become a graded/group stakes winner in North America and Dubai and a Kentucky Derby/Belmont (gr. I) starter, and E Dubai, a two-time graded stakes winner and Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) starter.

Although Harty did campaign Tempera—the

2001 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (gr. I) winner and 2-year-old champion filly—on his own, Colonel John is the first colt to give him a solo trek along the Triple Crown trail.

"It would be great to be on the trail. This is my first real chance at going to the Kentucky Derby," said Harty, who is based in California. "It's still so early, though. There is a long way to go.

"If we do get there, I do have that experience from Real Quiet and Silver Charm that would help. I think I would have a good idea of what to expect with the media blitz and the level of excitement. You have to stay focused and can't be influenced by all the outside stuff. But the main thing is, if your horse is good enough and you prepare the right way, he'll show up at the Derby."

It remains to be seen if Colonel John will be good enough to show up the first weekend in May, but you can bet Harty will be ready if it is meant to be. Like a good racehorse, it is in his bloodlines.

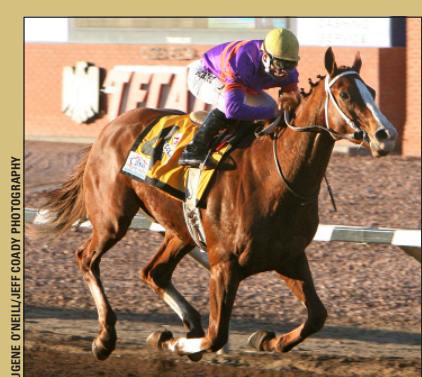
Harty is a fourth-generation horseman, his great-grandfather beginning the family legacy in the 1880s as a jockey and trainer in Ireland. Harty's grandfather, Cyril, was a successful trainer in the 1940s, saddling, among others, Irish Grand National winner Knight's Crest. Finally, Harty's father, Eddie, was an accomplished equestrian who competed in the 1960 Olympics and later won the Grand National as a steeplechase jockey.

"I've grown up my whole life around friends and family who were horsemen, and spent a lot of time in England," Harty said. "It's always been a part of my life. I've really never been exposed to anything else.

"I've been fortunate to have some very good influences throughout my career. John Russell (who he was an assistant for upon landing in California in the 1980s) was an excellent horseman, and Baffert pretty much speaks for himself." 🐾

Triple Crown Preps

RACE	DATE	TRACK	PURSE	DIST.	TIME	FIRST THREE FINISHERS
Risen Star Stakes (gr. III)	2-9	FG	\$300g	8.5	1:44.68	Pyro, Z Fortune, Visionaire
Turf Paradise Derby	2-9	TuP	\$100g	8.5	1:42.81	Nikki'sgoldensteed, Ez Dreamer, Meer Kat
San Vicente Stakes (gr. II)	2-10	SA	\$150g	7	1:20.01	Georgie Boy, Into Mischief, Massive Drama
Darley OBS Ch'ship Stakes (R)	2-11	OTC	\$100g	8.5	1:46.40	Halo Najib, Hello From Heaven, Ghostly Thunder
Sam F. Davis Stakes	2-16	Tam	\$200g	8.5	1:44.13	Fierce Wind, Big Truck, Smooth Air
Borderland Derby	2-16	Sun	\$100g	8.5	1:47.19	Poni Colada, Cape Time, No Jepordy
Hallandale Beach Stakes	2-16	GP	\$100g	8.5T	1:40.20	Why Tonto, Cowboy Cal, Cannonball
Jim's Orbit Stakes	2-16	Hou	\$125g	8	1:30.97	Ab blaze With Spirit, Gold Coyote, Summer Ballad
Southwest Stakes (gr. III)	2-18	Aqu	\$250g	8		
Fred "Cappy" Capossela Stakes	2-18	Aqu	\$75a	6		
Fountain of Youth Stakes (gr. II)	2-24	GP	\$350g	9		
Sham Stakes (gr. III)	3-1	SA	\$200g	9		
John Battaglia Memorial Stakes	3-1	TP	\$100g	8.5		
Sportsman's Paradise	3-1	DeD	\$75g	8		
Baldwin Stakes (gr. III T)	3-2	SA	\$100a	6.5T		
Louisiana Derby (gr. II)	3-8	FG	\$600g	8.5		
El Camino Real Derby (gr. III)	3-8	BM	\$150g	8.5		
Gotham BC Stakes (gr. III)	3-8	Aqu	\$200/50	8.5		
Rebel Stakes (gr. II)	3-15	OP	\$300g	8.5		
San Felipe Stakes (gr. II)	3-15	SA	\$200g	8.5		
Tampa Bay Derby (gr. III)	3-15	Tam	\$300g	8.5		
Pasadena Stakes	3-15	SA	\$75a	8T		
New Mexico Breeders' Derby	3-15	Sun	\$100g	8		
WinStar Derby	3-16	Sun	\$600g	9		
Lane's End Stakes (gr. II)	3-22	TP	\$500g	9		
Private Terms Stakes	3-22	Lrl	\$80g	8		
Rushaway Stakes	3-22	TP	\$100g	8.5		
Florida Derby (gr. I)	3-29	GP	\$1000g	9		
Palm Beach Stakes (gr. III T)	3-29	GP	\$150g	9T		
Transylvania Stakes (gr. III T)	4-4	Kee	\$150g	8.5T		
Santa Anita Derby (gr. I)	4-5	SA	\$750g	9		



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Poni Colada

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