


COOL COAL MAN

How does the expression go? When one door closes another one opens? Well, not only did one door close for Robert LaPenta and Nick Zito, it hit them right in the face. That door was their pride and joy War Pass becoming unhinged in the Tampa Bay Derby (gr. III).

Whether that door will open again before the first Saturday in May no one knows, but, fortunately for them, there's always door No. 2, and who's to say the big prize isn't behind that one?

Door No. 2 is Cool Coal Man, who is not exactly a second-rate substitute coming in off the bench. Cool Coal Man has won four of his last five starts, including a victory in the Fountain of Youth Stakes (gr. II). So, as distraught as LaPenta and Zito are over the shocking developments regarding War Pass, they have to remember most owners and trainers would kill to have a horse like Cool Coal Man on the Derby trail. They even have a couple behind door No. 3 in Stevil and Da'Tara, who could make some noise.

So, all is far from lost. The Derby gods work in strange ways, and perhaps they have a grand plan for LaPenta and Zito, but are testing them first, just as they tested Bob Baffert with Cavonnier's heartbreaking nose defeat the year before granting him his Kentucky Derby (gr. I) with Silver Charm.

Cool Coal Man has demonstrated many of the traits you look for in a Derby horse, especially the quick-fire acceleration he showed approaching the quarter pole in the Fountain of Youth. He does have to work out a few kinks, like losing focus at the end of the race, but the talent no doubt is there. He's already won at Churchill Downs, and his speed figures are right up there, so perhaps that door is already beginning to open. 

Cool Coal Man
 Bay colt, foaled May 24, 2005;
 Bred in Kentucky by W.S. Farish,
 E.J. Hudson Jr. Irrevocable Trust, et al


Mineshaft	A.P. Indy
	Prospectors Delite
Coral Sea	Rubiano
	South Sea Dancer

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. 

Haskin's Derby Dozen

HORSE/TRAINER	PEDIGREE	COMMENT
1 PYRO Steve Asmussen	Pulpit—Wild Vision, by Wild Again	For some reason, he's not receiving the love the Derby favorite normally gets. Some feel he's not fast enough, but he's already proven he is, and you can bet Asmussen will have him fast enough May 3. Can't find any flaws in him.
2 DENIS OF CORK David Carroll	Harlan's Holiday— Unbridled Girl, by Unbridled	I have major concerns about the decision to skip the Rebel, but still believe he's an exceptional horse. He'll have to be to win the Derby off one start in 11 weeks and four career starts. And he loses his rider as well.
3 COURT VISION Bill Mott	Gulch—Weekend Storm, by Storm Bird	Garrett Gomez' decision to ride him over Colonel John is quite an endorsement. Not exactly Bill Richardson endorsing Barack Obama, but it moves him up. All he needs now is a good, tough race in the Wood Memorial .
4 COOL COAL MAN Nick Zito	Mineshaft—Coral Sea, by Rubiano	Maybe the Derby gods are testing Robert LaPenta by hurling a thunderbolt down on War Pass. If they feel he handles it well and is worthy of the coveted roses, perhaps this colt will be his reward May 3. It sounds good anyway.
5 ELYSIUM FIELDS Barclay Tagg	El Prado—Dreams, by Silver Hawk	He's as sharp as can be for the Florida Derby , drilling 6 furlongs in 1:12, and should get a good test from an odd collection of contenders, any one of whom could be headed for stardom. Figs say a bounce is coming, but still could win.
6 COLONEL JOHN Eoin Harty	Tiznow—Sweet Damsel, by Turkoman	Turned in a sharp five-furlong drill in :59% for the Santa Anita Derby . Most of the horses in the Top 12 are interchangeable; you can place them anywhere, they're that close. Needs a new rider after Gomez jumped ship.
7 EL GATO MALO Craig Dollase	El Corredor—One Bad Cat, by Mountain Cat	His seven-furlong work in 1:24% should put a lot more bottom into him, which he will need as the distances stretch. It would be no surprise if this hard-running horse turns the tables on Colonel John in the Santa Anita Derby .
8 GEORGIE BOY Kathy Walsh	Tribal Rule—Ippodamia, by Peterhof	The more I watch him the more exciting he looks. Synthetic track issue aside, and ignoring his less-than-appealing action, he can flat-out run, and his acceleration in the final furlong is awesome. Still needs to beat better.
9 VISIONAIRE Michael Matz	Grand Slam—Scarlet Tango, by French Deputy	This colt has a good deal of upside to him, as he seems to be progressing nicely, but like the others, how will he take to Polytrack in the Blue Grass Stakes and how much will he get out of the race? He needs to get a lot out of it.
10 FIERCE WIND Nick Zito	Dixie Union—Post Parade, by A.P. Indy	Moment of truth in the Florida Derby . There are a number of top horses in there and several unproven ones who could propel themselves into Derby contention. Big Truck flattered him, now it's his turn to move forward.
11 HEY BYRN Eddie Plesa	Put it Back—Restraining Order, by Skip Trial	He is one of those unproven ones, as are Big Brown and Tomcito. He's not getting as much hype as Big Brown, but has been every bit as impressive and has an edge in experience. He has really burst on the scene this year.
12 ATONED Todd Pletcher	Repent—Amidst, by Iccapade	Let him keep running second. It's on the first Saturday in May that he should peak. He's been right there against top horses and could easily have two straight wins under his belt with a better-timed move. Hope Johnny V stays with him.

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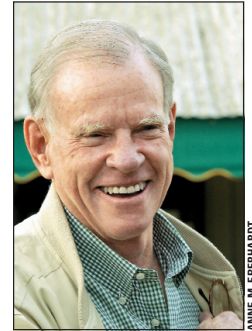
COOL COAL MAN

William S. Farish III first appeared on the national racing scene in 1972 when his Bee Bee Bee won the Preakness Stakes. Farish founded Lane's End Farm seven years later, and since then more than 150 stakes winners have appeared in the venerable horseman's colors. Countless others, bred and co-bred by Farish, have gone through sales to race for owners across the nation. One of those runners is Cool Coal Man, now racing under the care of Nick Zito and the silks of Robert LaPenta. Farish is keeping a keen eye on the Mineshaft colt, who is expected to put in a bid for the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I) this year.

Cool Coal Man is a perfect representation of Farish's operation. The colt's pedigree traces back through seven generations of Lane's End horses on his sire's side, and stays true to Lane's End lines through his dam, Coral Sea, who was co-bred and -raced by Farish along with partners E.J. Hudson and W.S. Kilroy.

"Coral Sea is a mare that I've had a great deal of hope for ever since we retired her from racing, and of course this is Mineshaft's first crop (of 3-year-olds), so we've got all kinds of things going on there in the family," Farish said. "Mineshaft is a horse very much like his sire, A.P. Indy, where he's not particularly going to be a sire of 2-year-olds. But his runners seem to be maturing as 3-year-olds and really making a statement."

Farish himself is used to making statements in the industry. Currently vice chairman and steward of The Jockey Club and a trustee of the Keeneland Association, he received the 1992 and 1999 Eclipse Awards (the latter in partnership) as North America's outstanding breeder, and is considered one of the world's most influential horsemen. He is also a major supporter of



Cool Coal Man, left, gives co-breeder William S. Farish, above, something to smile about in winning the Fountain of Youth Stakes

equine research through the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center.

The grandson of oil magnate William Stamps Farish Jr., who founded Lazy F Ranch and raced horses in Texas, Farish understands the anatomy of the industry. Raised around horses, watching his family's runners—including the great Forego—he developed a love for racing that continues to this day.

"I'd grown up with horses, ridden jumpers, Quarter Horses, polo horses, and galloped at the track," he said. "I have a background in horses that goes back to when I was about 10 years old, but as much as you know about a horse—even if you know what to look for from an athletic and soundness standpoint—so much luck is involved. You've got to have good trainers and good people to break the horse."

Triple Crown Preps

After Farish purchased his first yearling with father-in-law Bayard Sharp for \$12,500 at the 1963 Keeneland September yearling sale, things definitely went right. Singly and in partnership, he went on to breed Horses of the Year A.P. Indy (1992), Charismatic (1999), and Mineshaft (2003); leading sire Danzig; Preakness (gr. I) winner Summer Squall; and 1996 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (gr. I) winner Storm Song, to name just a few.

To this day, in spite of an active business and political life, including a 2001-04 term as the United States ambassador to Great Britain, Farish remains enthusiastically involved in multiple facets of the sport.

"I think my enjoyment of the industry is manifold," he said. "I've always loved the breeding end of it; I'm fascinated by the academic side of mating, looking at how great breeders did it in the past and applying new theories to the breeding end, but obviously the most fun part of it all is to own a great racehorse. All the buildup—to see a Thoroughbred born and broken, to see it train and eventually turn out to be a racehorse—is the most exciting part."

When asked if he anticipated that excitement with Cool Coal Man, Farish was optimistic.

"The Fountain of Youth win was very important," he said. "I know Zito had been high on him as a 2-year-old, and he's really bred to be a distance horse. He's just coming into his own, and I stay very much in touch with him." 📌

RACE	DATE	TRACK	PURSE	DIST.	TIME	FIRST THREE FINISHERS
Fountain of Youth Stakes (gr. II)	2-24	GP	\$350g	9	1:49.53	Cool Coal Man, Elysium Fields, Court Vision
Sham Stakes (gr. III)	3-1	SA	\$200g	9	1:50.15	Colonel John, El Gato Malo, Victory Pete
John Battaglia Memorial Stakes	3-1	TP	\$100g	8.5	1:44.69	Absolutely Cindy, Your Round, Dixie Decision
Sportsman's Paradise	3-1	DeD	\$75g	8	1:41.84	Crook's Bodgit, Gangbuster, Heresyasign
Baldwin Stakes (gr. IIIT)	3-2	SA	\$100a	6.5T	1:13.09	Ten Meropa, Sky Cape, D. Double You
Louisiana Derby (gr. II)	3-8	FG	\$600g	8.5	1:44.44	Pyro, My Pal Charlie, Yankee Bravo
El Camino Real Derby (gr. III)	3-8	BM	\$150g	8.5	1:43.17	Autism Awareness, Nikki'sgoldensteed, Tres Borrachos
Gotham BC Stakes (gr. III)	3-8	Aqu	\$200/50	8.5	1:44.60	Visionaire, Texas Wildcatter, Larrys Revenge
Rebel Stakes (gr. II)	3-15	OP	\$300g	8.5	1:43.88	Sierra Sunset, King's Silver Son, Isabull
San Felipe Stakes (gr. II)	3-15	SA	\$200g	8.5	1:42.35	Georgeie Boy, Gayego, Bob Black Jack
Tampa Bay Derby (gr. III)	3-15	Tam	\$300g	8.5	1:44.25	Big Truck, Atoned, Dynamic Wayne
Pasadena Stakes	3-15	SA	\$75a	8T	1:34.12	Polonius, Ez Dreamer, Aflleet Ruler
New Mexico Breeders' Derby	3-15	Sun	\$100g	8	1:37.58	Run Like Fire, Brax, Move Moves
WinStar Derby	3-16	Sun	\$600g	9	1:49.82	Liberty Bull, Screen to Screen, Ablaze With Spirit
Lane's End Stakes (gr. II)	3-22	TP	\$500g	9	1:50.20	Adriano, Halo Najib, Medjool
Private Terms Stakes	3-22	Lrl	\$80g	8	1:38.66	Double Or Nothing, Regal Solo, Vanderkaay
Rushaway Stakes	3-22	TP	\$100g	8.5	1:44.55	Big Glen, Miner's Claim, Icabod Crane
Florida Derby (gr. I)	3-29	GP	\$1000g	9		
Palm Beach Stakes (gr. IIIT)	3-29	GP	\$150g	9T		
Transylvania Stakes (gr. IIIT)	4-4	Kee	\$150g	8.5T		
Santa Anita Derby (gr. I)	4-5	SA	\$750g	9		
Wood Memorial Stakes (gr. I)	4-5	Aqu	\$750g	9		
Illinois Derby (gr. II)	4-5	Haw	\$500g	9		
Bay Shore Stakes (gr. III)	4-5	Aqu	\$150g	7		
OBS Sophomore	4-5	Tam	\$85g	7		
Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (gr. I)	4-12	Kee	\$750g	9		
Arkansas Derby (gr. II)	4-12	OP	\$1,000g	9		
Holy Bull Stakes (gr. III)	4-12	GP	\$150g	9.5		
Coolmore Lexington Stakes (gr. II)	4-19	Kee	\$325g	8.5		
Withers Stakes (gr. III)	4-26	Aqu	\$150g	8		
Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I)	5-3	CD	\$2,000g	10		



Double Or Nothing

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