

COURT VISION

If a young horse is capable of spoiling a trainer, then consider Bill Mott spoiled. Normally, a trainer will have to nurture a young horse through his immaturity and hope he matures into a professional, battle-tested racehorse by the spring of his 3-year-old campaign.

Court Vision is not that kind of horse. The son of Gulch came gift-wrapped with all the attributes a trainer looks for. In four starts, he's won three, with one second, including victories in a pair of graded stakes, at Churchill Downs and Aqueduct. There is nothing unusual about that record, except for the fact that Court Vision accomplished it by displaying a determination and will to win you rarely see in a young horse, as well as the ability to overcome adversity.

In both the one-mile Iroquois Stakes (gr. III) and 1 1/8-mile Remsen Stakes (gr. II), he turned certain defeat into victory by unleashing a relentless stretch run to nail classy juveniles Halo Najib and Atoned, respectively, right at the wire. What made Court Vision's Remsen score all the more impressive was that he had to overcome a nightmare trip, getting boxed in badly behind a wall of horses at the head of the stretch, and then getting the better of two severe bumping incidents. The first one he caused himself by shoving a horse out of his way in order to extricate himself from his dicey predicament. In the second incident, he was slammed into by a horse on his outside, caroming off the aggressor twice before finally getting in the clear and bearing down on his opponent, stakes winner Atoned. On both occasions, he had four to five lengths to make up in the final furlong and was able to get up in time.

A 50% interest in the colt was acquired recently by IEAH Stables from owner WinStar Farm. As of now, it looks like a sound purchase that could take them to Louisville, Ky., on the first Saturday in May. 🐾

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

COURT VISION
 Dk b or br colt, foaled March 27, 2005;
 bred in Ky. by W.S. Farish &
 Kilroy Thoroughbred Partnership

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Gulch | Mr. Prospector Jameela |
| Weekend Storm | Storm Bird Weekend Surprise |

Haskin's Derby Dozen

| | HORSE/TRAINER | PEDIGREE | COMMENT |
|----|---|--|--|
| 1 | COURT VISION Bill Mott | Gulch—Weekend Storm, by Storm Bird | To be truthful, I'm not confident with any horse in the top slot right now. With his strong 2-year-old foundation, he won't need much to get ready. Only hole is that he needs to run faster and not rely on winning in the final strides. |
| 2 | MONBA Todd Pletcher | Maria's Mon—Hamba, by Easy Goer | He also has a solid 2-year-old foundation and should be primed for his first start. Plenty of stamina and just looks like a hard-knocking colt with room for improvement. Your Round flattered him with big effort in WEBN Stakes. |
| 3 | WAR PASS Nick Zito | Cherokee Run—Vue, by Mr. Prospector | He's over his bout with colic and worked a bullet half in :46% at Palm Meadows, fastest of 42 works. It's not known where or when he'll make his first start. He could debut at Tampa if nothing is available at Gulfstream. |
| 4 | PYRO Steve Asmussen | Pulpit—Wild Vision, by Wild Again | He should return loaded for bear after six-furlong drill in 1:13 and five panels in 1:00%. If he debuts in the Risen Star he'd have to face stablemate Z Fortune. Pedigree is just OK for 1 1/4 miles, but with his closing kick, he should stay. |
| 5 | TALE OF EKATI Barclay Tagg | Tale of the Cat—Silence Beauty, by Sunday Silence | Tagg gave him a good sharpener, drilling a half in :47% before two easy five-eighths in 1:02 and 1:03. This is a brilliant, classy colt, with an awesome female family, and love the way he was geared down winning the Futurity. |
| 6 | Z FORTUNE Steve Asmussen | Siphon—Fortunate Faith, by Fortunate Prospect | Either he or Pyro will have to leave town unless Asmussen is OK with running them against each other. He's versatile, he's won over three tracks, and you have to respect an undefeated colt who keeps improving every race. |
| 7 | COLONEL JOHN Eoin Harty | Tiznow—Sweet Damsel, by Turkoman | He skipped the Robert B. Lewis to await the nine-furlong Sham Stakes . Harty keeping him razor sharp, drilling him six furlongs in 1:10%. There's no reason why he shouldn't handle transition to dirt. He just looks like a top-class colt. |
| 8 | CROWN OF THORNS Dick Mandella | Repent—Crowning Touch, by Thunder Gulch | Sneaking him in ahead of El Gato Malo based on pedigree, sound defeat of San Rafael runner-up Indian Sun, and rapid-fire acceleration on turn in the Robert B. Lewis. Beautiful-moving colt who appears to have all the tools. |
| 9 | EL GATO MALO Craig Dollase | El Corredor—One Bad Cat, by Mountain Cat | He could also show up in the Sham . With his pedigree, he needs to stretch out to 1 1/4 miles and pass that test. Like Colonel John, he seems to have the raw talent. But the runners-up to him have not run well in their next starts. |
| 10 | ANAK NAKAL Nick Zito | Victory Gallop—Misk, by Quiet American | Turned in his fifth straight half-mile work with a :49% half-mile. How ironic would it be to have his sire come up with a Derby winner after being sold to Turkey? He has the pedigree and lots of room for improvement. |
| 11 | INTO MISCHIEF Dick Mandella | Harlan's Holiday— Leslie's Lady, by Tricky Creek | Bad weather in California has altered his plans, and he'll now drop back to seven furlongs in the San Vicente . He turned in a sharp seven-furlong drill in 1:25%. Gives Mandella a powerful 1-2 punch, even without Dixie Chatter. |
| 12 | MAJESTIC WARRIOR Bill Mott | A.P. Indy—Dream Supreme, by Seeking the Gold | Breeded a half in :49% as he continues on the comeback trail. Still a ways from a race, so it might be tight getting three races into him, and he'll probably need three to give him enough foundation for the Derby. |

COURT VISION

You know the old adage, if you keep knocking on the door, eventually it will open?

Well, for WinStar Farm, it is a saying that applies to the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I), and after entering four horses in the last two runnings of the classic, those at the farm are hoping Court Vision will finally usher them through.

WinStar, which is located near Versailles, Ky., has been one of the upper-echelon racing and breeding operations since Kenny Troutt and Bill Casner purchased the 1,450-acre farm, formerly known as Prestonwood Farm, in 2000. A full-service operation that includes more than 100 broodmares and six stallions, WinStar is perhaps the most state-of-the-art farm in the industry, complete with its own hyperbaric oxygen chamber and research lab. In 2006, WinStar was the nation's 14th-leading owner by purse earnings, with \$2,737,762.

Doug Cauthen, president and CEO of WinStar, said one of the reasons the farm has been so successful in such a short period of time is because of exceptional teamwork, which was instilled by Troutt and Casner.

"You have to give credit to Kenny and Bill for their vision," Cauthen said. "They truly came in with a goal and a dream, and even though there were some ups and downs, they knew what they wanted. They both understand the business, have



ADAM COGLIANESE



ANNE M. EBERHARDT

WinStar president and CEO Doug Cauthen has high hopes for Court Vision (left)

a lot of knowledge, and they complement each other very well.

"We are really blessed. They support the management, and they are good at helping us help them."

The large-scale success began with their New York-bred Funny Cide. By now, the story is well known, with Sackatoga Stable buying the son of Distorted Humor as a yearling for \$22,000, then watching him go on to win both the 2003 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes (gr. I). Although

one would think that losing a dual-classic winner for such a small price would be bittersweet for WinStar, Cauthen said they do not see it that way.

"That is part of the business; you sell some of your very best," he said. "But one of the things we try to do is to make our sires desirable. And that is what Funny Cide did for Distorted Humor (a leading sire who now stands at WinStar for \$300,000). It made everyone believe in Distorted Humor."

The last two years, WinStar has been right on the edge with Derby runners it owned. In 2006, the farm entered homebred Bluegrass Cat, who was runner-up to Barbaro, and Sharp Humor, who was owned in partnership with Purdedel Stable. Last year, WinStar also sent a pair of starters to the Run for the Roses, with Any Given Saturday and Cowtown Cat, both owned in partnership.

"We had high hopes for all of them, especially Bluegrass Cat and Any Given Saturday," Cauthen said. "Both were similar coming into the Derby, as they both entered off losses. With Bluegrass Cat, any other year you don't have a horse like Barbaro, he wins. With Any Given Saturday, we'll never know if he would have been there because he came out of the race with a bruised foot.

"It would be great to win one someday. It's everyone's goal, and we'll keep trying."

WinStar may have its best chance yet in 2008 with Court Vision, the well-bred son of Gulch purchased from Robert LaPenta for \$350,000 as a 2-year-old. Court Vision, who will be campaigned in partnership with IEAH Stables after WinStar recently sold a 50% interest in the colt, is on everyone's top five Derby contender list after victories in the Iroquois (gr. III) and Remsen (gr. II) Stakes.

"The Remsen was awesome," Cauthen said. "You never know if a horse has that or not, but he proved it.

"Right now, he is our hopes and dreams." 🍀

Triple Crown Preps

| RACE | DATE | TRACK | PURSE | DIST. | TIME | FIRST THREE FINISHERS |
|-----------------------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|---------|---|
| Tropical Park Derby (gr. IIT) | 1-1 | Crc | \$100g | 9T | 1:46.95 | Cowboy Cal, Why Tonto, Cannonball |
| Hutcheson Stakes (gr. III) | 1-5 | GP | \$150g | 7 | 1:23.2 | Smooth Air, Silver Edition, Halo Najib |
| Count Fleet Stakes | 1-5 | Aqu | \$75a | 8/70 | 1:41.14 | Giant Moon, Spanky Fischbein, Roman Emperor |
| Turfway Prevue Stakes | 1-5 | TP | \$50g | 6 | 1:16.94 | U.S. Cavalry, Mr. Harry, Cape Hatteras |
| Lecomte Stakes (gr. III) | 1-12 | FG | \$100g | 8 | 1:37.79 | Z Fortune, Blackberry Road, Mad Flatter |
| San Rafael Stakes (gr. III) | 1-12 | SA | \$150g | 8 | 1:33.37 | El Gato Malo, Indian Sun, Massive Drama |
| Pasco Stakes | 1-19 | Tam | \$75g | 7 | 1:24.75 | Honey Honey Honey, Gentleman James, Surrealdeal |
| San Pedro Stakes | 1-20 | SA | \$75a | 6.5 | 1:13.07 | Gayego, Sea of Pleasure, Cardinal Zin |
| Jimmy Winkfield Stakes | 1-21 | Aqu | \$75a | 6 | 1:10.18 | Go Go Shoot, Law N Dora, Accredited |
| Smarty Jones Stakes | 1-21 | OP | \$50g | 8 | 1:38.15 | Liberty Bull, Isabull, Rich Young Ruler |
| Pepsi Cola Handicap | 1-26 | Sun | \$125g | 6 | 1:10.42 | Brax, Run Like Fire, Playingwithchimes |
| Sunshine Millions Dash (R) | 1-26 | SA | \$250g | 6 | 1:06.53 | Bob Black Jack, Winsome Charm, Afleet Ruler |
| California Derby | 1-27 | GG | \$150g | 8.5 | 1:44.57 | Yankee Bravo, Cafe Tortoni, Victory Pete |
| Robert B. Lewis Stakes (gr. II) | 2-2 | SA | \$200g | 8.5 | 1:40.76 | Crown of Thorns, Coast Guard, Reflect Times |
| Swale Stakes (gr. II) | 2-2 | GP | \$150g | 6.5 | 1:15.63 | Eaton's Gift, Surrealdeal, Wincat |
| La. Premier Night Prince (R) | 2-2 | DeD | \$125g | 7 | 1:27.29 | Doble Quebrado, Pantara Phantom, Cubera |
| Whirlaway Stakes | 2-2 | Aqu | \$100a | 8.5 | 1:44.47 | Barrier Reef, Roman Emperor, Texas Wildcatter |
| Risen Star Stakes (gr. III) | 2-9 | FG | \$300g | 8.5 | | |
| Turf Paradise Derby | 2-9 | TuP | \$100g | 8.5 | | |
| San Vicente Stakes (gr. II) | 2-10 | SA | \$150g | 7 | | |
| Darley OBS Ch'ship Stakes (R) | 2-11 | OTC | \$100g | 8.5 | | |
| Sam F. Davis Stakes | 2-16 | Tam | \$200g | 8.5 | | |
| Borderland Derby | 2-16 | Sun | \$100g | 8.5 | | |
| Hallandale Beach Stakes | 2-16 | GP | \$100g | 8.5T | | |
| Jim's Orbit Stakes | 2-16 | Hou | \$125g | 8 | | |
| 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 | | |

PURSES SHOWN IN THOUSANDS; DISTANCES IN FURLONGS. (R) RESTRICTED. © ADAM COGLIANESE



Eaton's Gift