

THE COMPLETE GUIDE FOR HORSE ENTHUSIASTS • 2021

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LIVING LEGENDS of the Triple Crown

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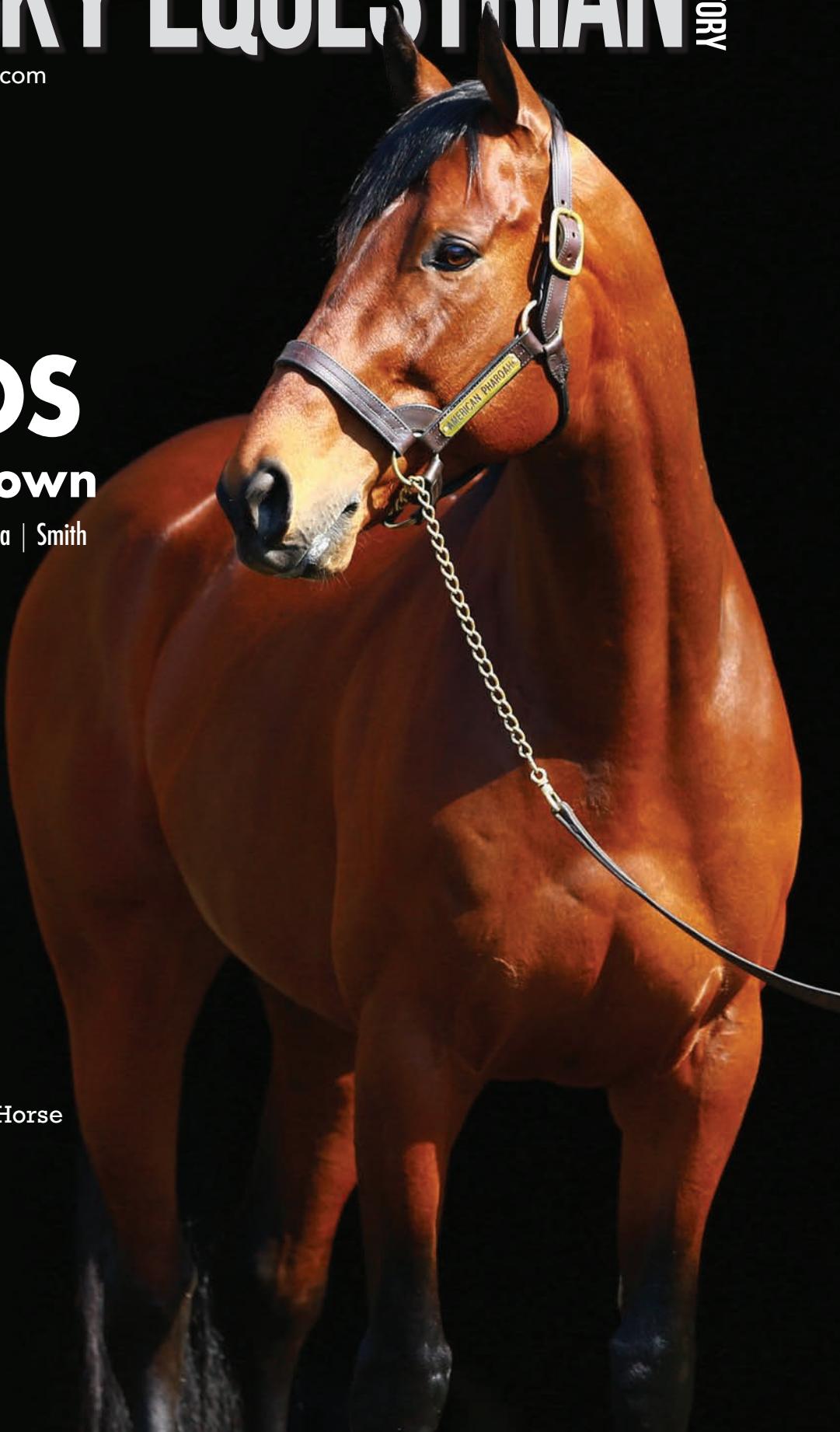
**Horses, Heart
and Kentucky's
Unbridled Spirit**

Athleticism Runs in Their Family

Pedigree's Influence on Sport Horse
Potential in Thoroughbreds

Sylvia Zerbini:

Living Every Horse-Crazy
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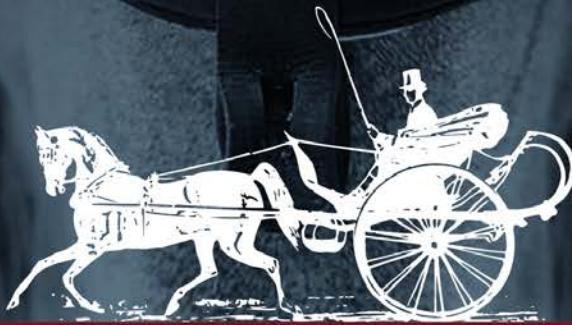
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ABOUT THE COVER

American Pharoah, photo taken at Coolmore Farm, Versailles, Kentucky, where he now stands at Ashford Stud, since being retired from racing in 2015.

Photo Courtesy of Coolmore America

American Pharoah was the first American Triple Crown winner in 37 years. Not since Affirmed, ridden by Steve Cauthen in 1978, were racing fans treated to such a phenomenal winning streak. In 2015, with jockey, Victor Espinoza up, American Pharoah not only won the three races (Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes) of the Triple Crown, but he went on to win the Breeders' Cup Classic (while setting a new track record), becoming the first horse ever to win the Grand Slam of Thoroughbred racing. American Pharoah was also named the 2015 Horse of the Year. Bred in Kentucky by his owner, Ahmed Zayat, and trained by Bob Baffert, "AP" has been described by his handlers as a calm, sweet horse who enjoys being around people. His extraordinary combination of temperament, conformation and stride can perhaps be summed up as that elusive "X Factor" possessed by champions.

No matter how talented a horse is, the jockey - and the special relationship between the two - creates the winning combo that ultimately propels them across the finish line first. We are honored to present **Living Legends of the Triple Crown**, featuring the five existing jockeys who have earned the prestigious title: from Ron Turcotte (Secretariat 1973), Jean Cruguet (Seattle Slew 1977), Steve Cauthen (Affirmed 1978), Victor Espinoza (American Pharoah 2015) to Mike Smith (Justify 2018). Our writer, Mandy Boggs, grew up visiting the race track with her grandfather, Jack, and caring for the racehorses on the farm. While most teenage girls were *fanning* over boy bands, Mandy was *crushing* on the jockeys she watched on TV! The opportunity to meet these five legendary "jocks" was a dream come true; the resulting friendships formed, no doubt will last a lifetime.

We are extremely grateful to the jockeys who generously shared their personal stories and photos. We would also like to thank the following for their endless encouragement, assistance and expert guidance: Coolmore Farm, Mathea Kelley - Photographer, Anne Hardy of

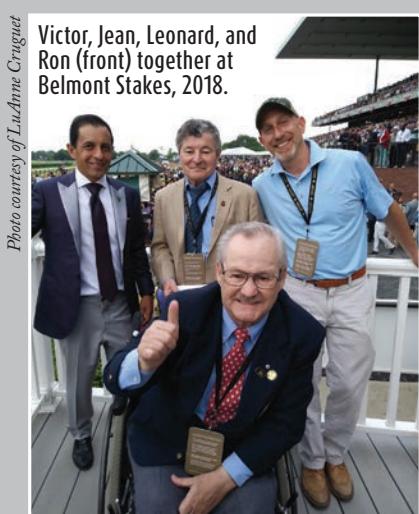


Photo courtesy of Ludaine Cruguet

Victor, Jean, Leonard, and Ron (front) together at Belmont Stakes, 2018.

Horse Country, and Leonard Lusky - President and Founder of Secretariat.com - for all things Secretariat, and Derby Legends - connecting fans with racing's greatest jockeys.

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From the publisher

Welcome to the 2021 issue of *Kentucky Equestrian Directory*!

Kentucky Equestrian Directory was created for YOU - owners, riders, professionals, and businesses of all disciplines - to help you connect within the local horse community. More than just a business directory, it also features content on trending topics, the best practices and innovators in the industry, plus tips from the pros.

2020 was a challenging year, with various industries being hit hard during the Covid-19 crisis. Ironically, many equine businesses, such as tack + feed shops, reported record sales. This just may support what we equestrians already know - that horses are considered *essential* especially during trying times! Venues, such as trade shows and competitions, had to reorganize to virtual events, many being forced to make last-minute decisions and announcements. Out of respect for these businesses we chose to extend our deadlines, postponing the launch of the new 2021 issue until closer to Spring. We hope you will agree that it was well worth the wait!

It is with much gratitude that we present you with this new issue.

Living Legends of the Triple Crown features five stories - including childhood memories, early life experiences, the unique personalities of each horse and rider, and the emotional highs and lows - on and off the track - of the existing Triple Crown champion jockeys. From Ron Turcotte (Secretariat 1973), Jean Cruguet (Seattle Slew 1977), Steve Cauthen (Affirmed 1978), Victor Espinoza (American Pharoah 2015) to Mike Smith (Justify 2018), we were granted "free rein" to interview the racing greats to uncover the secrets behind what makes these "jocks" and their mounts so spectacular! In an unprecedented collaborative effort, we are honored to share each and every one of these inspirational living success stories.

Speaking of success, **Sylvia Zerbini: Living Every Horse-Crazy Girl's Dream** features the "equine ballerina" who combined her circus aerialist experience with her love and compassion for horses to create a unique art form. Her impressive resume includes Ringling Bros. Circus and Cavalia. Sylvia is known for her graceful trapeze work, performed while her horses "dance" along with her. Having learned the *language* of the horse at a young age, Sylvia trains her horses (up to fourteen at a time!) in French. She now offers clinics to inspire equestrians to better understand and communicate with their own horses.

Horses primarily communicate with each other using body language. As humans, we need only to be quiet, present, and *listen* to the language of the herd to rediscover or *hear* our own inherent wisdom. **Horses, Heart and Kentucky's Unbridled Spirit** illustrates how horses are at the heart of Kentucky culture, symbolizing strength, resiliency, and forward movement, all of which are essential skills for a good life.

On the topic of skills, have you ever wondered why some horses excel in certain disciplines more than others? If you are a fan of OTTB's you may know that bloodlines can be important when choosing a suitable mount for your preferred discipline. **Athleticism Runs in Their Family** takes a look at how different Thoroughbred pedigrees trend in favor of specific characteristics and strengths needed for various secondary careers, but there are also many other factors to take into consideration. We are thrilled with the increase in equestrians choosing ex-racehorses to be their equine partners, and the number of organizations who support them!

Special thanks to the equestrians who generously shared their stories and the businesses that enthusiastically supported this issue!

We hope you find this to be an invaluable resource and ask you to please support our advertisers, without whom this complimentary directory would not be possible.

—Erika Milenkovich, Publisher, Ohio Equestrian Directory/Kentucky Equestrian Directory



Photo by Jessa Janes Photography



PUBLISHER
Erika Milenkovich

ART DIRECTOR
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Christine Hahn

MANAGING EDITOR
Linda Urban

PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT
Rayna Henry

FEATURED WRITERS
Mandy Boggs
Sarah E. Coleman
Jen Roytz
Jackie Stevenson, MSSA, LISW, BCC

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
American and International Associations of Professional Farriers
Danelle Cray
Tania Cubitt, PhD
Gina Fortunato
GG Equine
Anne Hardy
Lisa Kiley
Tom Riddle, DVM,
Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital
Lisa Lopez Snyder
Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance
Karen A. VonDollen, DVM, DACT, MS,
Hagyard Equine Medical Institute
Susan Wentzel
Kimber Whanger

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Jessa Janes
Pred Milenkovich

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Pred Milenkovich

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Peggy Dunkel

PROOFREADER
Yelena Milenkovich

ADVERTISING
info@kentuckyequestriandirectory.com
440 668-2812

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Make Your Next Horse a Thoroughbred

Photo: Erin Shea



Courtesy of the
**Thoroughbred
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As the OTTB movement grows, Thoroughbreds are further proving that they aren't just one-trick ponies. Five-star eventers, champion show hunters, lightning-fast barrel racers, sensitive therapy companions. You name it, Thoroughbreds are doing it.

With 81 accredited organizations now under its umbrella across North America, the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) and its accredited organizations have assisted more than 11,000 Thoroughbreds find a new life off the track.

These TAA-accredited organizations showcase the variety of careers available for Thoroughbreds after their racing or breeding days are over. If you're looking for your next equine partner, we recommend starting with a TAA-accredited organization. The TAA is represented by 11

organizations in Kentucky, with varying missions: CANTER Kentucky, Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, New Vocations, Old Friends, Our Mims Retirement Haven, Second Stride, Secretariat Center, Susan S. Donaldson Foundation, The Exceller Fund, and the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. There are also a number of organizations in surrounding states, such as Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Visit ThoroughbredAftercare.org/AccreditedOrganizations to find what organizations are close to you and would fit your needs.

Many organizations retrain and adopt out former runners. Pairing their natural athletic abilities with their strong work ethic, Thoroughbreds excel in a variety of equestrian disciplines—everything from eventing, hunter/jumpers, and dressage—to barrel racing, competitive trail,

Multimillionaire, Little Mike, is now enjoying life as part of the living tourism destination of TAA-accredited Old Friends in Georgetown, Kentucky.

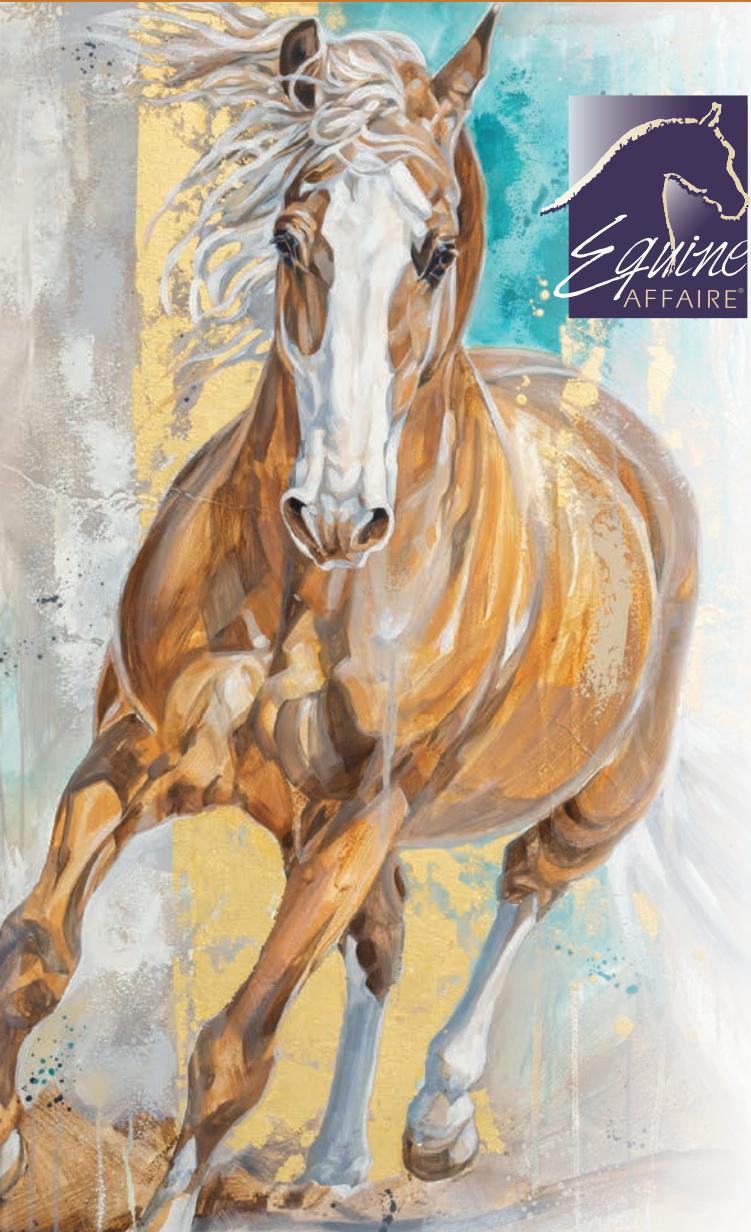
to a new level and, in the process, are reaffirming that these equines have value. In addition to providing a gold standard of care to their herds, many organizations are giving back to their communities through various equine-assisted programs. A growing area, equine-human therapy programs are using Thoroughbreds more and more due to the breed's incredible sensitivity. TAA-accredited organizations again are leaders in providing a variety of equine-human therapy programs, including those programs that work with veterans, inmates, and individuals with special needs, among others.

Across the majority of TAA-accredited organizations, whether they are adoption or sanctuary in nature, is the mission of not only caring for horses but to educate the public on the various facets of responsible horsemanship. Sometimes TAA-accredited organizations are where people meet a horse for the first time. Sometimes they are the location where an experienced horseman or horsewoman sharpens their skills in clinics. Sometimes, they are home to student interns looking to jump-start an equine career. Regardless of whether or not an official education program exists, TAA-accredited organizations are doing their part to carry the banner for the breed, the industry, and the individual horses they serve by showcasing the talent and versatility of off-track Thoroughbreds. To start your Thoroughbred adventure, whether you're adopting a horse, looking to volunteer, or just aiming to expand your knowledge and experience, you can't go wrong when you start with a TAA-accredited organization.

For more information: thoroughbredaftercare.org ♦

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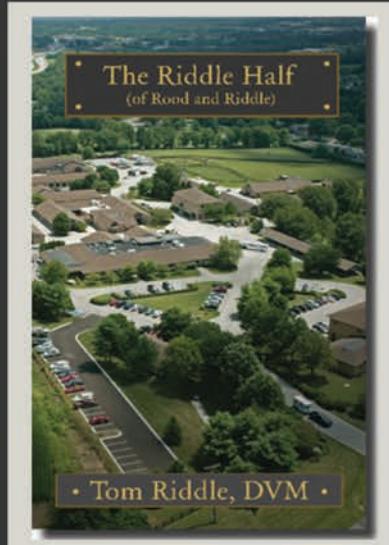
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Thoroughbred Park - seven horses and jockeys race to the finish line

A Horse Lover's Guide to Equine Art in the Bluegrass

Photos by Enso Media

by Sarah E. Coleman

Horses play a lead role in almost every aspect of living in Central Kentucky, including artwork! Many installations are on public display and some are within easy walking distance of downtown Lexington. Be sure to snap a pic and share your love for Lexington on social media, tagging #sharethelex to support local business and attractions!

Passengers need not even touch down at Blue Grass Airport before they are reminded they're arriving in the heart of horse country. An iconic horse farm scene sprawls over 6,000 square feet of retaining wall next to Keeneland Race Course and is one of the first sights arriving flights see. Once deplaned, visitors can browse the Paddock Gallery before stopping for a quick photo with "Big Lex," the city's big blue mascot,

while retrieving their luggage.

Thoroughbred Park

Located at the intersection of East Main Street and Midland Avenue, Thoroughbred Park pays homage to the town's devotion to and dominance in the Thoroughbred industry.

Be sure to get up close and personal with the 12 bronze statues strategically placed in five areas: seven racehorses and their jockeys gallop to the finish line; two horses are caught in a photo finish; broodmares graze while foals frolic; and Lexington, the great 19th century stallion, watches over it all. triangleparklexington.org

Secretariat

One of the most iconic Thoroughbreds in history, Secretariat was truly a sight to behold. A larger-than-life bronze statue at the roundabout

on Alexandria Drive depicts the stallion pounding down the track on his way to winning the 1973 Kentucky Derby, with Ron Turcotte up. Not something to be seen in passing, a parking area and overlook have been installed so visitors can take in the massive statue.

Ashland: The Henry Clay Estate

Known for its plethora of trees—over 400 representing 44 species to be exact—the Henry Clay Estate pays homage to more than just Kentucky flora: a massive horse head drinking water is carved from black maple in honor of Henry Clay, who formed the first Thoroughbred syndication in America.

Man o' War

Not to be outdone by his big, red, racing counterpart, Man o' War also receives special recognition here. A 30-foot

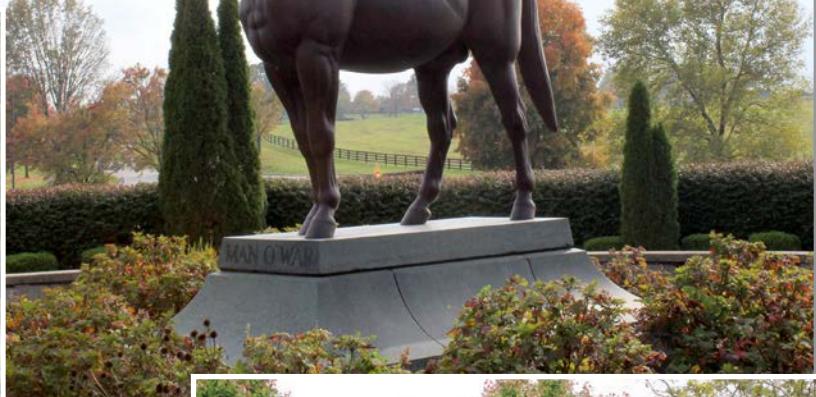
by 30-foot mural adorns the side of a building directly across from a public parking garage. Commissioned by Mt. Brilliant Farm, the mural depicts Man o' War parading in front of the crowd after his victory in the 1920 Belmont Stakes.

Looking for more equine info? **The Kentucky Horse Park** is home to a myriad of equine statues and artwork, including Sergeant Reckless, Bask++, Bret Hanover, Buck Davidson riding Eagle Lion, Cigar, Misty of Chincoteague, John Henry, and many more. kyhorsepark.com ♦

Based in Lexington, Kentucky, Sarah Coleman has a soft spot for chestnuts with chrome, including her off-the-track Thoroughbred, Chisholm, whom she adopted from New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program.



Promise and Frisky Filly - Kentucky Horse Park



"Maji Mazuri"
(translates to "Good Waters" in English)
Ashland: The Henry Clay Estate



Photo courtesy of Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate



Sergeant Reckless - Kentucky Horse Park

Passengers need not even touch down at Blue Grass Airport before they are reminded they're arriving in the heart of horse country.

Photo by Bill Straus Photography, Courtesy of Bluegrass Airport



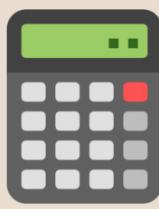
Secretariat statue at the roundabout on Alexandria Drive.

Photo by Enso Media





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Why Do Equine Professionals Recommend Grazing Muzzles?



Photo: Ashley Culpepper

by GG Equine

Whether or not veterinary science is ready to classify equine obesity as a disease, no one can deny it is one of the most significant problems in modern horse care. Excess weight affects a host of health issues, from exercise intolerance and colic risk, to metabolic disorders and laminitis. Increasingly, equine professionals across disciplines are recommending grazing muzzles as part of the solution.

We decided to ask three different equine professionals why they personally use and recommend grazing muzzles: Liv Gude, founder of ProEquineGrooms.com; Rebecca Wyatt, farrier and founder of Nature's Path Hoof Care; and Sarah Borns, former barn manager at Wyndham Oaks Farm in Boyds, Maryland. Here's what they had to say:

With years of experience grooming for Olympic riders, Liv Gude says that horse owners might be surprised to find out

that many professional riders use grazing muzzles on their performance horses between competitions to maintain body condition. For leisure horses who are not as active, Gude says that a grazing muzzle can mean the difference between spending their days on pasture or in a dry lot.

Gude's own horses have worn grazing muzzles for more than a decade. She believes that encouraging horses to eat more slowly over time "ensures a safer turnout experience." Gude also says that increased turnout "benefits a horse's natural instincts," such as grazing, exercising, and socializing.

Farrier Rebecca Wyatt agrees. She says that grazing muzzles "offer much more freedom and comfort than a dry lot, or living with the consequences of laminitis or founder." Wyatt has emphasized the physical, social, and behavioral benefits of grazing muzzles to her clients for over 15 years.

Having trimmed everything



Photo: Jj Jayhawk Sillman

from farm mules to retired thoroughbreds, Wyatt knows the work involved in rehabbing foundered and laminitic horses. She and her veterinary colleagues recommend GreenGuard Grazing Muzzles because they "offer a much more comfortable, as well as reliable, experience."

Caring for other people's horses is a position of sacred trust. As a barn manager at Wyndham Oaks, Sarah Borns was charged with keeping boarders' horses happy and healthy. She has been using grazing muzzles on her own ponies for nearly 15 years to maintain healthy weight and digestion. Despite her

own positive experience, Borns says that her boarders' reactions to muzzling were not always so positive.

However, over the course of her tenure as barn manager, almost

half of her boarders decided that muzzling was the best option for their horses. Borns says they changed their minds after seeing first-hand the mental and physical benefits of increased turnout time, made possible by using a grazing muzzle to slow their horses' consumption.

Spanning a range of different equine professional roles, Gude, Wyatt, and Borns are on the same page when it comes to grazing muzzles and horse health. They all agree that grazing muzzles, along with diet and exercise, are a gold standard in equine health and weight management best practices.

For more information:
gg-equine.com ♦



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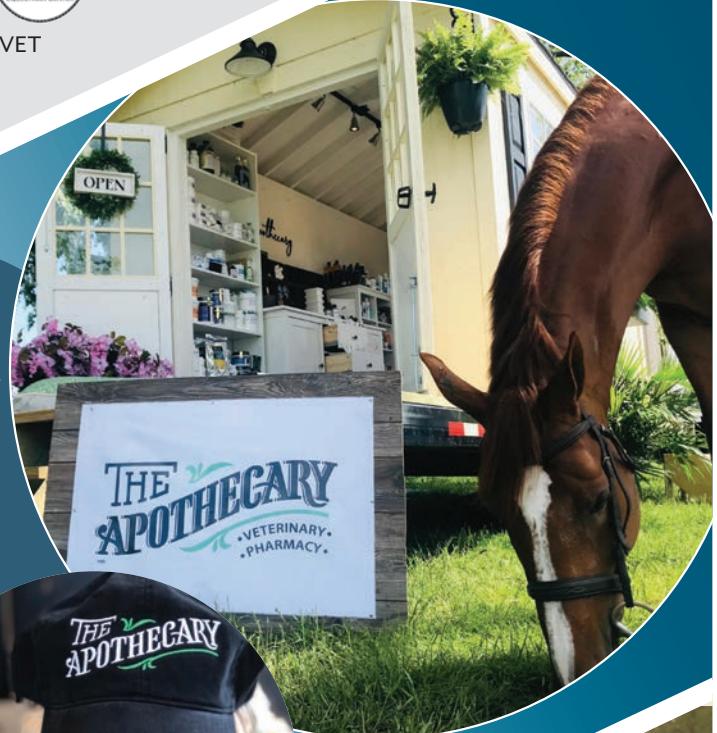
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My Horse Has Thrush, It's No Big Deal, Right?

by Resources of the American & International Associations of Professional Farriers

It is important that the horse owner understands, a hoof with any amount of thrush is NOT a healthy hoof! Thrush is a microbial invasion of the sulci, or the grooves surrounding the frog, that often leads to an infection in the tissue of the frog. The discharge associated with thrush is usually black in color and characteristically has a highly unpleasant odor. Infection of the frog and surrounding tissues often leads to lameness. High humidity or wet environments predispose horses to thrush. Once the organisms begin dividing in the frog sulci, the stage is set for a progressive invasion and subsequent infection of the frog tissue. Other factors that cause a hoof to be predisposed to thrush include: unclean stall environments, lack of oxygen to the frog, poor hoof maintenance, and/or poor trimming.

The health of your horse's hooves is not your farrier's responsibility alone. Treating and preventing thrush will take a joint effort from both you and your farrier. Thrush, and other hoof problems, will likely continue to develop and never resolve if you are not involved in the daily responsibility of caring for your horse's hooves. The responsibility of preventing thrush can be broken into three parts.

First is maintenance. There is more to hoof maintenance than scheduling your farrier every four to six weeks. Proper hoof maintenance is a daily objective that the horse owner must manage. This includes



Photos courtesy of AAPF/IAPF

picking feet daily, which will help reduce an environment conducive to thrush. Also, keeping a regular farrier schedule allows your farrier to spot early signs of thrush and assist in treating thrush. Be mindful that caustic chemicals are not be used for thrush treatment as they can create additional hoof damage where bacteria can thrive!

Second is nutrition. Nutrition plays a vital role in the development of a healthy hoof. A healthy hoof is more

resilient to the bacteria that causes thrush. As the horse owner, it is your responsibility to ensure your horse receives a balanced diet that supports hoof health. A quality hoof supplement can assist in developing new and healthier hoof growth. The nutrients provided will also strengthen the hoof, making it more resilient to chips and cracks which act as entry points for the microbial invasions that lead to crumbly hoof horn, White line disease and thrush.

This new growth will also quicken the recovery time of the hoof.

Third, but also very important is environment. Even with proper maintenance and nutrition, the environment can wreak havoc on your horse's hooves. Most cases of thrush are predisposed by environmental conditions. Leaving your horse in wet, mucky areas or unclean paddocks can quickly destroy the hoof. You will promote chronic thrush if your horse is regularly being exposed to these environments. It is important to consistently manage the environment surrounding your horse. To help prevent thrush, keep stalls clean/dry, limit exposure to wet/muddy paddocks, and apply conditioner to maintain hoof moisture balance.

When left unchecked, thrush can become a serious issue, even leading to lameness. It is important to act at the first signs of thrush and not wait until it becomes more serious. Through proper hoof management horse owners can not only treat current cases of thrush, but can also prevent future cases from developing. Always consult your farrier and veterinarian if your horse develops any hoof related issue. ♦

NOTE: The American and International Associations of Professional Farriers have created bi-lingual 11" x 17" posters on the topics of "Thrush 911" and "Laminitis 911". Through the support of AAPF/IAPF Educational Partners they are able to make these posters available to horse owners, trainers, grooms, and others at no charge (including postage). To order your posters, please visit their website: professionalfarriers.com

Questions to Ask When Hiring a Farrier

A List of Questions Compiled by the Members of the American and International Associations of Professional Farriers (AAPF/IAPF)

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What is their annual commitment to continuing education?

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Does your farrier subscribe to a code of conduct?

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Is your farrier a team player?

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the best hoof-care for the horse. AAPF/IAPF farriers also agree to provide assistance to ill or injured members at no cost to the ill or injured farrier.

Does your farrier have a support team?

AAPF/IAPF Accredited Farriers® belong to a global family of farriers who are willing to share their knowledge through mentoring – regardless of their age or years of experience. If there is a question about your horse's hoof-care, an AAPF/IAPF Accredited Farrier® can find the best solution.

Does your farrier carry liability insurance to cover her/himself, your horse, and you, as the horse owner?

AAPF/IAPF Accredited Farriers® are eligible for financial discounts for liability insurance. They are encouraged to take advantage of this program so as to provide coverage for the horses and horse owners for which they serve.



Other considerations:

Do they show compassion to your horse?
Take an appropriate amount of time?
Fully explain their planned treatment plans?

Have lameness expertise?
Display a pleasing demeanor?
Provide explanation of fees?
Value the opinion of the horse owner, trainer, rider, and others? ♦



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Eco-Friendly Manure Management by Composting

by Lisa Kiley

Working with horses can bring many enjoyable experiences, but manure management usually isn't on the top of the list. Fortunately, dealing with the by-product of our favorite animals doesn't have to be a headache. Implementing practices to compost and responsibly spread manure provides an opportunity to not just dispose of manure, but to make good use of it.

Clay Nelson, of Sustainable Stables LLC, has provided some great tips on creating a compost program yielding a viable product in an environmentally conscious way. While starting his career with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an Environmental Chemist, he is now helping horse owners create environmentally conscious properties utilizing sustainable practices.

Upon making the decision to compost, Nelson suggested some things to consider, "Placement is important, typically the closer to the barn the better, you want to make it easy to access it so that it is convenient to use." He suggested about 50 feet from the barn. What about concerns with flies and odors? "When compost is done correctly, it should not stink or harbor fly propagation."

Additionally, it is important to check with local municipalities for placement standards. "Typically, you want to position the compost area at least 100 feet away from any well or body of water connected to a community water source," Nelson recommends.

Once a spot is selected, "A bermed design with slope



and a top-down system will allow for the manure pile to be used from the high side down." Nelson continued, "Landscaping around the manure containment area can help disguise it, and plants and shrubs around the area have the added benefit of assisting with any unintended runoff." The size of the area devoted to a composting area will be determined by how many horses are on the property and allow for enough sections for all 3 stages of the composting process.

Nelson described the first stage as the "collection phase", when raw manure is added to a bin or pile. The second stage is the "active composting phase", during which new raw manure should not be added. "This 'Active Phase' takes about 4-6 weeks. It is important

to manage the oxygen level, turning the pile every 1 to 2 weeks." Moisture levels are also critical, "The compost should have the consistency of a damp sponge; if the compost isn't covered it will typically get too wet when it rains." The carbon/nitrogen ratio is also important. "While manure alone is more balanced, use of wood bedding may require an additive to bring the ratio back into balance."

"When the compost drops in temperature it indicates that the 'Curing Phase' has begun, which takes about 4 weeks to finish. Once finished, it can be stored until it's ready to be spread." Nelson described the benefits of spreading composted vs. raw manure. "With raw manure, only about 50% of the product will enhance the fields with the remaining portion

becoming surface runoff."

Spreading composted manure has a much different result. Nelson shared, "Composted manure is much more stable and nutrient rich, as much as 97% of the product will be used by the ground it is spread on, with 50% used in the first year, and a continual slow release of nutrients after that." An additional benefit is that horses can also be turned back out on pastures sooner when the manure has been composted first.

While choosing to compost may take a little time and effort to get started, there are many benefits. Composting is better for the environment, reducing runoff and creating a useful product out of waste.

For more information on composting and manure spreaders visit: cashmans.com. ♦



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Oxford, OH
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Coach: Beth Kupferle

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Kentucky is part of IEA Zone 5. The map below shows current teams (2020 season.) Membership for the 2021-2022 season opens in May 2021 with competitions running September 2021 to June 2022 (*depending upon discipline*).

Teams are made up of at least three riders in either middle school (grades 4-8) or upper school (grades 9-12) and a coach. Riders compete in divisions from Beginner Walk-Trot through Varsity Open.

Horses and tack are provided by the show host for each IEA competition and riders draw the horses they compete on the day of the show. IEA offers competitions in **HUNT SEAT** (flat and over fences), **WESTERN** (Horsemanship and Reining) and **DRESSAGE** (Test and Dressage Seat Equitation).

Riders compete in regular season shows in their local area. Qualified riders and teams can also compete at Regional, Zone, and National levels. IEA provides an affordable way for riders to compete in equestrian sport and prepares them for draw-based collegiate riding opportunities. IEA awards multiple scholarships at the Zone and National level each season.

For more information on finding or starting a team, visit the IEA website at www.rideiea.org or contact Jennifer Eaton, IEA Membership Marketing Coordinator at jenn@rideiea.org or at (877) RIDE-IEA (ext 203). Find us on Social Media @rideiea.

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(502) 432-2990
Coach: Sara Gardner

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3 Bridle Run Riding Team
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(513) 477-3447
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Hamilton, OH
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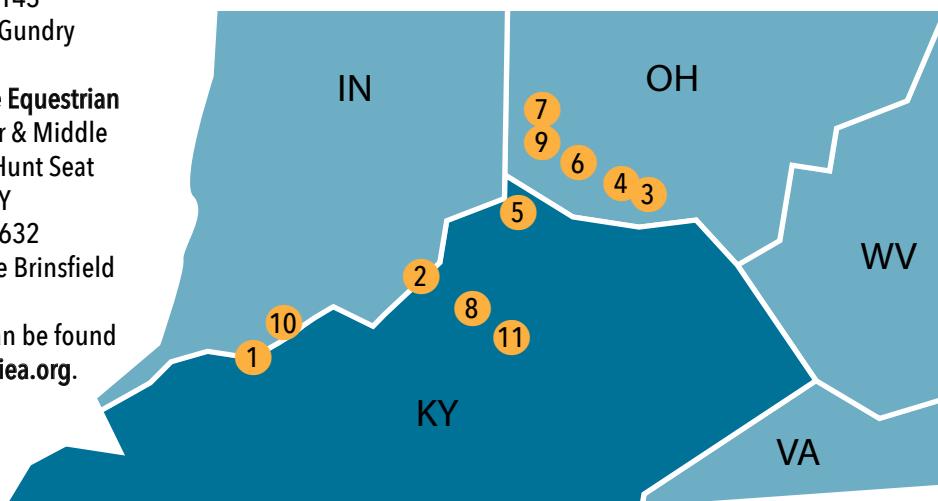
10 Meadowbriar Stables Team
Level: Upper & Middle
Discipline: Hunt Seat
Newburgh, IN
(812) 568-1143
Coach: Kim Gundry

5 Double H Cooper
Level: Upper & Middle
Discipline:
Burlington, KY
(859) 240-1238
Coach: Lynlee Foster

11 Powerhouse Equestrian
Level: Upper & Middle
Discipline: Hunt Seat
Versailles, KY
(859) 948-2632
Coach: Joyce Brinsfield

6 Great Parks Equestrian Team
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Discipline: Hunt Seat
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Full maps can be found
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Photo by GRC/Retired Racehorse Project

Reloaded, who was the Thoroughbred Makeover Champion in 2018, with trainer, Elisa Wallace.

Athleticism Runs in Their Family

Thoroughbreds are purpose-bred to be athletes, but for many, running is just one of their many strengths

by Jen Roytz

In the world of Thoroughbred breeding, the pedigree is king. Drive through the Central Kentucky countryside each spring and you'll likely see scores of Thoroughbred foals frolicking in the fields with their dams, testing out their new legs and discovering their love for running and racing with their friends.

Each of those foals represent not only their owner's aspirations of success on the racetrack, but the potential that lies ahead long after they've run their final race.

Purpose-bred to be superior athletes, every Thoroughbred foal began as an idea on paper, the result of careful planning and consideration about how the bloodlines of their sire and dam could potentially complement each other to create an individual that is greater than the sum of its parts. Significant investment backs that idea, from the stud fee of the sire to complete the mating, to the eleven months of care, proper nutrition, prenatal veterinary work, and more that is spent before the foal ever takes its first breath.

Just like humans or any other animal, not every Thoroughbred is athletically gifted in the same way. Their genetic makeup, conformation, and biomechanics might lend themselves to a horse having a propensity for turf over dirt, or sprint races versus route, or longer distance events.

In the same vein, these

characteristics can also lend themselves to non-racing attributes, such as suspension at the trot, form over fences, quick turns, temperament, and mental fortitude, all of which are considerations for equestrians looking for their next sport horse or recreational riding partner.

Notable Sire Lines

In the world of Thoroughbred breeding, primary importance is placed on the statistics and progeny results of stallions in a horse's pedigree, with the stallions of closest relation (sire, damsire, grandsire) often carrying greater significance in decisions.

Why not on the female progeny results some might ask? Only because of the ratio of parents to offspring – while a female horse can produce one foal in a calendar year, a stallion is able to sire many more progeny in a year (in the case of a popular stallion, that can mean well over 100 offspring in a given year and well over one thousand in a lifetime, versus a mare producing one foal a year and, even as a successful broodmare, likely less than 15 in her lifetime). From a purely data-driven perspective, there is simply a larger pool of subjects from which to glean information from the standpoint of stallion progeny than that of mare progeny.

That is not to say that the dam's side of the family is not important; it is significantly

so. Much of the information available for consideration, however, is dependent on the *sires* on the dam's side of the pedigree for the same reasons mentioned above.

As a stallion advances in his career, horsemen and handicappers alike begin to notice trends in their offspring, and as their offspring retire from racing and embark on new careers, predispositions for various disciplines, tendencies, or temperaments become apparent as well.

Upper level eventer, coach, and trainer, Jenn O'Neill, specializes in retraining Thoroughbreds for the sport of eventing under the banner of Lucky Dog Eventing. Based in Lexington, Kentucky, O'Neill estimates she restarts and sells more than 20 Thoroughbreds each year, putting the first rides and foundational retraining on them post-racing.

"I try to find horses that have a good, trainable mind," said O'Neill. "Talent is great, but if you can't harness that talent, that does you no good. If I'm looking for a lower level amateur-friendly horse, what I care about most is the horse's attitude."

While temperament and demeanor aren't typically



Jenn O'Neill says High Shine (Giant's Causeway - Silky Omega, by Fusaichi Pegasus) definitely gets his attitude from his damside, Fusaichi Pegasus.

the primary traits horsemen breeding to race are concerned with, they are predispositions that some sires are known for more than others.

"Arch, for example, is a sire that produces amateur-friendly, big horses. These guys typically are just quiet and happy to do whatever you want," said O'Neill. "I've had several horses by More Than Ready, or out of mares by More Than Ready. They tend to be on the smaller side, but they have such

great attitudes and can figure exercises out easily. They're good jumpers, but possibly a little tougher on the flat with their typically lower neck sets."

In addition to temperament, O'Neill places primary importance on the quality of a horse's canter. She says over the years she has found several sire lines that often offer that combination.

"Stallions I like to see as sires or damsires include Steven Got Even (or his son, stallion, First

Dude), Johar, Bellamy Road, and Candy Ride," said O'Neill. "All tend to throw good brains and great canters. Plus, all of the Candy Rides I've seen have huge tails, which is always a fun bonus."

Other sire "likes" O'Neill tries to seek out are Unbridled's Song ("good canters with a great jump"), Hat Trick ("really attractive, but usually on the smaller side; catty, with a great jump") and A.P. Indy ("usually have beautiful necks and front ends"), as well as Kentucky Derby winner Fusaichi Pegasus.

"I've had a few by Fusaichi Pegasus that were real hunter types physically, with tons of bone and pretty heads," she explained. "They tend to be stubborn to begin with, but once they understand their job, they'll work with you."

Thanks to the quantity of horses she re训s and sells in a given year, fellow Thoroughbred retrainer, Jessica Redman, has also learned which traits tend to come with certain sire lines. Redman, who operates Benchmark Sport Horses in Delaware, and often sources horses throughout Central Kentucky, re训s and sells more than 140 horses per year.

"The majority of my buyers tend to be eventers, so I look for bloodlines that throw uphill, good-moving, and

Continued on page 28

Breeder: Frederick M. Allor
State Bred: KY

Foaled April 2, 2015

Updated 29June2017

FIRST SAMURAI (USA) b. 2003	GIANTS CAUSEWAY (USA) ch. 1997 [C]	STORM CAT (USA) br. 1983	STORM BIRD (CAN) b. 1978	NORTHERN DANCER (CAN) b. 1961 [BC]
		MARIAH'S STORM (USA) b. 1991	TERLINGUA (USA)* ch. 1976	SOUTH OCEAN (CAN) b. 1967 *
		DIXIELAND BAND (USA) b. 1980	RAHY (USA) ch. 1985	SECRETARIAT (USA) ch. 1970 [IC]
SILKY OMEGA (USA) b. 2002	FUSAICHI PEGASUS (USA) b. 1997	FRISSON (USA) b. 1988	CRIMSON SAINT (USA) ch. 1969 *	CRIMSON SAINT (USA) ch. 1969 *
		MR. PROSPECTOR (USA) b. 1970 [BC]	FAPPIANO (USA) b. 1977 [IC]	BLUSHING GROOM (FR) ch. 1974 [BC]
		ANGEL FEVER (USA) b. 1990	MAVERA (USA) b. 1977	GLORIOUS SONG (CAN) dkb/br. 1976 *
SONG TO REMEMBER (USA) b. 1996	STORM CAT (USA) br. 1983	RAISE A NATIVE (USA) ch. 1961 [B]	ROBERTO (USA) b. 1969	ROBERTO (USA) b. 1969
		GOLD DIGGER (USA)* b. 1962	NORTHERN DANCER (CAN) b. 1961 [BC]	IMSOEAR (USA) b. 1967 *
		DANZIG (USA) b. 1977 [IC]	PAS DE NOM (USA) b. 1968	NEARTLC (CAN) br. 1954
	WEDDING RECEPTION (USA) b. 1978	ROWDY ANGEL (USA) b. 1979	HALO (USA) b. 1969	NATALMA (USA) b. 1957 *
		ROUND TABLE (USA) dkb/br. 1954 [S]	RAMHYDE (USA) b. 1972	DELTA JUDGE (USA) br. 1960
		PRODANA NEVUESTA (USA) ch. 1960	NORTHERN DANCER (CAN) b. 1961 [BC]	SAND BUGGY (USA) b. 1963
				SEQUENCE (USA) b. 1946
				PAS DE NOM (USA) b. 1968
				HALO (USA) b. 1969
				RAMHYDE (USA) b. 1972
				NORTHERN DANCER (CAN) b. 1961 [BC]
				SOUTH OCEAN (CAN) b. 1967 *
				SECRETARIAT (USA) ch. 1970 [IC]
				CRIMSON SAINT (USA) ch. 1969 *
				PRINCEQUILLO (IRE) b. 1940 [IS]
				KNIGHTS DAUGHTER (GB) b. 1941 *
				RENEGED (USA) b. 1953
				JOLIE DEJA (USA) b. 1954 *

Family Summary: 1-b (1), 1-n (1), 2-s (1), 2-f (2), 2-n (6), 2-d (3), 3-m (1), 4-j (2), 4-m (3), 5-c (1), 5-f (1), 7-a (2), 8-f (2), 8-c (7), 11 (4), 12-c (4), 13 (5), 13-c (3), 14-c (1), 16-a (2), 22-d (1)

Athleticism

Continued from page 27

good-jumping types that can hold their own against the Warmbloods," said Redman. "I tend to like sires by El Prado, Sadler's Wells and Galileo."

Other sires or sires-of-sires Redman likes include: Dynaformer, Arch, Empire Maker, English Channel, Stormy Atlantic, Malibu Moon, Maria's Mon, Medaglia d'Oro, Tiznow, Street Sense, and Kitten's Joy.

Exercise rider and show jumping competitor, Laura Moquett, has had the pleasure of riding hundreds of horses at the racetrack and transitioning some of them to sport careers afterward. One of her current favorite morning mounts is Breeders' Cup winner and fan favorite, Whitmore, who she gallops daily for her husband, trainer Ron Moquett.

Laura has noticed pedigree attributes that lend themselves to sport horse talent, but due to her job as an exercise rider, she often comes to her conclusions in a different way than O'Neill and Redman, noticing the attributes *before* knowing what the pedigree is.

"I am a sucker for a big-moving, good-looking horse when it goes by at the track," said Moquett, who acquired her current jumper, a gelding by Bellamy Road, when he caught her eye at the track. "Over the years, I've found turf horses to have a more natural, floaty action and often a good jump. I tend to like how they carry themselves behind – they often use themselves well and also often have a nice swing from their shoulder."

Moquett says she also looks for horses with higher-set necks, which one can often see as a physical characteristic thrown by certain stallions, such as Tiznow, Giant's Causeway, and Sadler's Wells.

"I feel like [the higher set neck] helps them put more of their weight behind them for things like rocking back into the jump or getting a proper



Jenn O'Neill aboard Lewis (Bar - Fast Beat, by Steady Beat), whose obscure pedigree didn't stop the pair from competing at the advanced level.

lead change," she said. "I also like a horse that tries and is smart, but not too smart. You want a horse to be a thinker, but not an over-thinker."

The Pedigree is Only the Beginning

So often, pedigree is an excellent indicator of a horse's propensity to have certain off-track (or on-track) characteristics and attributes. But, as most trainers will attest, a good horse is a good horse, no matter what the breeding, and from time to time a horse will overcome its breeding.

Such was the case with Champion racehorse, Runhappy. Runhappy was sired by Kentucky Derby winner, Super Saver, who himself is by Maria's Mon (both favorites of off-track Thoroughbred rehomers). He is out of the mare, Bella Jolie, whose two victories came in races farther than a mile, and who was sired by Broken Vow, a stallion known for producing distance runners. Runhappy was clearly bred to excel at the mile-and-a-quarter "Classic distance" – the distance of some of America's premier races, including the Kentucky Derby, Travers Stakes, and Breeders' Cup Classic.

Instead, Runhappy became an American Eclipse Award Champion Sprinter, setting a

new track record in capturing the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Sprint and earning most of his wins in front-running style. His only losses came when he was asked to go a mile or farther.

Cigar is another prime example of a racehorse bucking his pedigree. By Palace Music, a multiple Group/Grade 1 turf stakes winner in Europe and America, Cigar was expected to be a turf specialist. While he was good on the turf, he was truly exceptional on the dirt, putting together a 16-race winning streak that included victories in the Donn Handicap, Jockey Club Gold Cup, Hollywood Gold Cup, Woodward Stakes, Pimlico Special, Oaklawn Handicap, Gulfstream Park Handicap, and Breeders' Cup Classic, all Grade 1 dirt races.

While pedigree can be an excellent indicator of both on-track and off-track talent in a Thoroughbred, it must, of course, be *backed up* with said talent, and should be looked at more as a guide or suggestion rather than as a rule.

"Pedigree can be a useful tool in identifying prospects, but there is so much more that shapes a horse into what it's going to be besides his or her parents," said O'Neill. "You can train a Thoroughbred to be good at a lot of things – they are athletes – so long as they

have a good, trainable mind and you are capable of being a good teacher."

O'Neill says that when considering the purchase of a horse who has recently retired from the track, and taking on the task of retraining it for a new discipline, there are two key questions to keep in mind.

"You should ask yourself, 'Is the horse going to be safe for what you intend to do with it?' and 'will the horse's body allow him or her to physically do what you intend to ask of it?'" said O'Neill.

Redman and O'Neill both also offered credence to the idea of a potential horse shopper doing their due diligence to develop a sense of what attributes are important to them in their equine partner and what types of horses they enjoy riding. Do they enjoy a more forward ride or a "push ride" (a horse that requires encouragement to go forward)? Do they enjoy a hotter horse that is more energetic, or do they prefer a calmer mount? What size and body type of horse do they enjoy riding?

Developing one's preferences and any "non-negotiables" can come from riding different horses, watching horses competing or schooling in the disciplines of interest, and talking with their trainer about what they feel is best. Pedigree can then serve as a helpful tool

in identifying prospects based on those preferences.

Doing Your Own Research

There are a number of websites available to research the pedigrees, race records, and other pertinent information about Thoroughbreds that can be used when shopping for an off-track prospect.

Pedigree Query (www.pedigreequery.com) is a user-friendly website that offers a free five generation pedigree for Thoroughbreds. All sire and dam names in the pedigree are “clickable” and many offer notes about race record, sales history, or other information (sometimes even off-track information), allowing users to identify notable horses several generations back.

Pedigree Query also offers a “Progeny” feature (under “Reports” on the menu bar), which allows users to look up the offspring of both sires and dams in the pedigree. This is often useful when one is considering a horse and wants to identify any siblings or other notable progeny by the same stallion.

Another useful website when researching Thoroughbreds as potential sport horse prospects is Equibase (www.equibase.com). A subsidiary of The Jockey Club, Equibase offers information on a horse’s parentage, and also a complete, verifiable history of a horse’s race record, charts from each race, the horse’s most recent racing connections (owner, trainer, breeder), and Thoroughbred

auction (Keeneland, Fasig-Tipton, OBS, Barretts, etc.) results.

The Retired Racehorse Project’s Thoroughbred Sport Tracker (www.retiredracehorseproject.org) is designed to help people research and identify off-track potential in Thoroughbreds. This user-driven database has hundreds of horses listed whose owners have uploaded not only pedigree and competition statistics, but photos and/or videos and rankings on various off-track attributes, such as form over fences, suspension at the trot, soundness, temperament, and more.

“While a horse’s pedigree can offer insight into which non-racing sports he or she will excel, at the end of the day every horse is an individual,” said O’Neill. “Same with humans – offspring do not always show the same athletic aptitude as their parents, but some things tend to run in the family more often than not.” ♦

Jen Roytz is the executive director of the Retired Racehorse Project, a national nonprofit organization best-known for putting on the annual Thoroughbred Makeover. She is also a partner in Topline Communications, a Lexington, KY-based marketing and communications agency. She and her fiancé own and operate Brownstead Farm, a Thoroughbred breeding, sales, racing and retraining operation in Versailles, KY.

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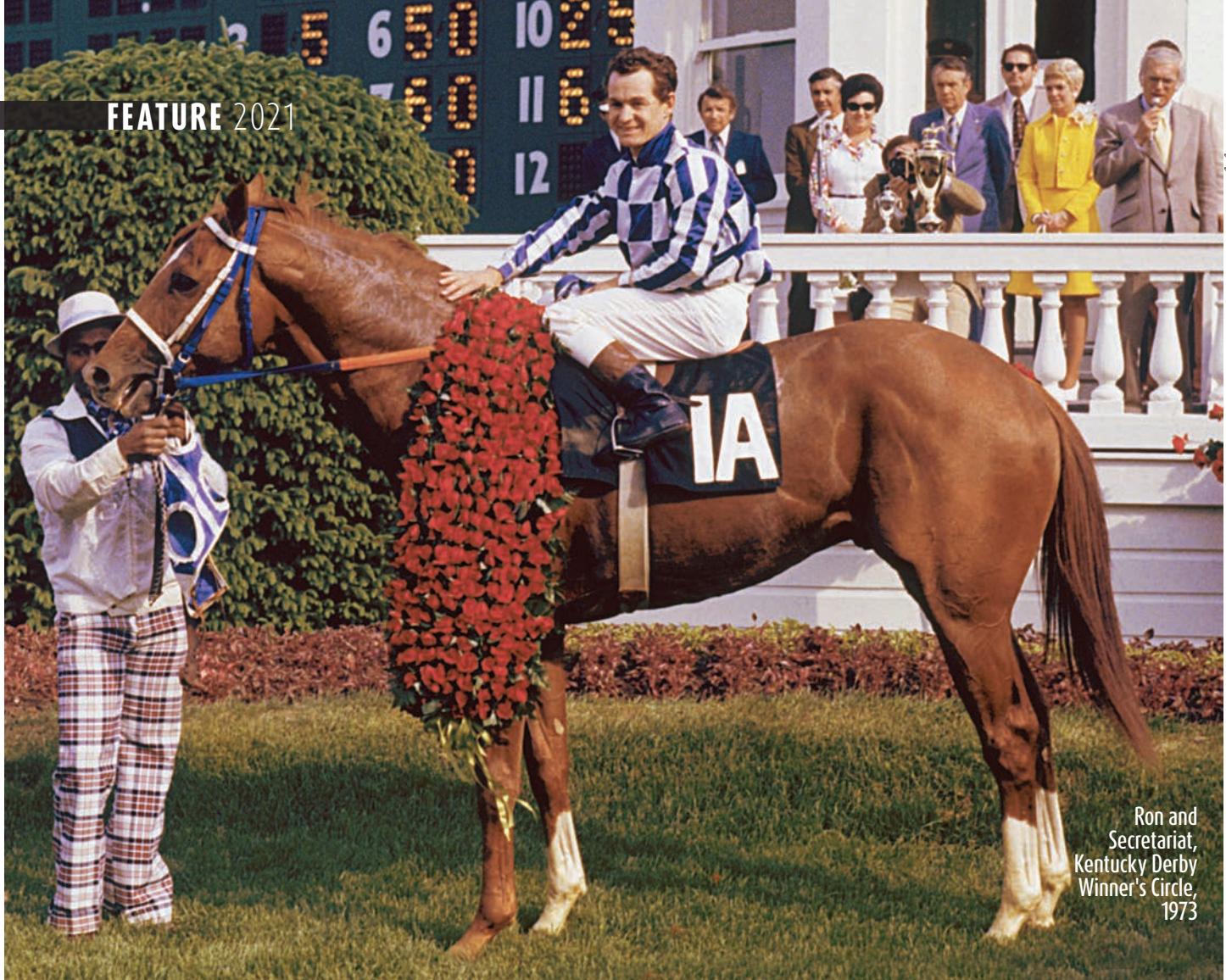


Photo courtesy of Ron Turcotte, Churchill Downs

LIVING LEGENDS OF THE TRIPLE CROWN

by Mandy Boggs

Each year over twenty thousand Thoroughbred foals are born in North America purposefully bred with the dream of becoming a racing champion. Only thirteen of those foals over the past century and a half, have had what it takes to win what is known as “the Triple Crown”, three of the most prestigious and challenging races in North America. In American Thoroughbred horse racing, there

is no greater goal for anyone involved; breeders, owners, trainers, grooms, and the jockeys, than winning the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes. Spanning five weeks starting the first Saturday in May, only the best 3-year-old colts and fillies can take their shot over three different tracks, all with varying lengths, to see if one of them has *what it takes* to seize the Crown.

Today there are only five living Triple Crown-winning jockeys, claiming this pinnacle achievement in racing. Before Ron Turcotte and Secretariat won in 1973, it had been 25 years since Citation (Eddie Arcaro) won the Triple Crown in 1948. Jean Cruguet (Seattle Slew 1977) and Steve Cauthen (Affirmed 1978) followed in Secretariat's *emblazed* path with their own inspiring feats, before a 37-year span left the Triple Crown trophies collecting dust again. Victor Espinoza and American Pharoah shattered that 37-year gap in 2015 with Mike Smith following close behind on Justify in 2018.

Horse racing has been around since Ancient Rome, further developing in Europe during the 18th century. Racing in North America began sweeping the country in 1665, in New York. In 1868, the American Stud Book was created, a clear sign that horse racing would become more than just a test of a few fast horses; an entire industry was beginning to take shape. By 1750 the Jockey Club (Europe) was established, setting rules and standards for the sport, with The Jockey Club of the United States and Canada following suit in 1894.

Early races, including those in North America, would often have just two horses running against each other to determine who had the fastest horse. These races were run down streets, through towns, on farms, and eventually, on racetracks, albeit primitive in comparison to the tracks we have today. Grandstands were built as crowds began to gather at these events, farms began to form entire business models around breeding, raising, and training Thoroughbreds, and the general public started placing their bets. The "Sport of Kings" was here to stay.

Ron Turcotte Secretariat 1973

Ron Turcotte was born in New Brunswick, Canada in 1941, a month



"I had to learn from an early age how to take care of the horses, from getting up early to feed them before I had my own breakfast, to being a blacksmith, I had to do everything. The horses always came first."

after Whirlaway claimed the Triple Crown. Being one of 14 children, he grew up around horses and hard work. "I was around horses all of my life. My job was hauling logs with my father; we had a bobsled in the winter, bringing the logs through the yard from the forest, hauling them over to the river. We hitched the horses up as singles or teams," Turcotte shared. "I had to learn

from an early age how to take care of the horses, from getting up early to feed them before I had my own breakfast, to being a blacksmith, I had to do everything. The horses always came first. My dad was a very good horseman, I learned my horsemanship from him and am very proud of that. He also taught me that horses are like us. They each have their own likes and dislikes and you often

can get more from a horse by getting to know them first."

Turcotte left home when he was 18, looking for work in Toronto before he found himself starting as a hot-walker and groom in 1959, eventually being recognized for his knowledge of horses and good work ethic. He started galloping horses each morning. "When I started galloping horses you had to start from the bottom. I had to work hard, learn to gallop a horse, and prove myself," said Turcotte.

Those early rides soon earned him racing silks, and almost as quickly as he started competing in races, the wins started coming. Crediting his horsemanship and innate ability to really connect with each individual horse and not just *ride the race*, he became an apprentice jockey, quickly getting matched with better and better horses. By the end of 1962, Turcotte was the leading rider in Canada with rides on the current Horse of the Year, Crafty Lace. In 1963, he was the regular jockey for Canadian-bred Northern Dancer, piloting him to his first win. Together they won the Coronation Futurity, the biggest stakes race for two-year-olds in Canada, and won the title of Two-Year-Old Champion in Canada. By fall of 1963, he was so far ahead of the second leading jockey, he had already assured himself the title for his second year in a row. He left Canada to try his luck in the U.S., proving that he could compete with American riders. He quickly became leading rider in both Maryland and Delaware, where he picked up the mount on Tom Rolfe. A Preakness Stakes win on Tom Rolfe in 1965

quickly moved him up the U.S. and Canadian leaderboards as a jockey. With a leading rider title at every track Turcotte had raced at, he soon found himself in New York. Lucien Laurin, trainer for the famed Meadow Stable, shared Turcotte's same French-Canadian accent,

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and soon had him riding his horses at the request of Penny Chenery, breeder and owner of Secretariat and stablemate, Riva Ridge. In 1972, Turcotte rode Riva Ridge to victory at the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes.

"I used to hear at the racetrack things like, 'Oh, that horse has the brain the size of a pea', and I would get so mad I couldn't help but talk back! Of course, I wouldn't get to ride for that guy (trainer) for a few days," he chuckled. "They are more intelligent than you realize. That was me, I love horses and cannot find much fault in them. Some don't have the same ability as the others, some can be more stubborn, but if you coach them, they will all come around and try."

Turcotte paid close attention to each horse he rode. He liked to be around them and noticed how they felt, what they liked, and how to keep them wanting to perform. If a horse felt a little "off", even as slight as swishing its tail in agitation, he would let the trainers know. Often this could catch an injury or problem before it became a bigger issue. This trait seemed to pay off, as often horses that other jockeys struggled with, Turcotte never had a problem riding, or winning on them. Some trainers appreciated his close observations, others brushed him away, telling him to just do his job and ride. With horses that had a reputation for being rogue or difficult to ride, he would look like he was out for an afternoon stroll, not understanding where the disconnect was with some of the other riders or jockeys. Many would argue that, while Secretariat was the greatest racehorse of all time, it seems almost inconceivable to imagine anyone other than Ron Turcotte as the jockey piloting him to greatness.

Secretariat was as brilliant



Ron and Northern Dancer, 1963

as a horse can be, standing 16.2 hands, his copper coat enhanced by nearly flawless conformation and a stature that demanded attention anywhere he went. The colt was known for his intelligence, and kind, yet playful, demeanor. Turcotte recalls that he was always relaxed on race days, sometimes not even breaking much of a sweat after the race. He loved to eat and take naps. He never misbehaved, even as a young horse, in a way that many racehorses are notorious for when their excitement and energy grow on race day. The crowds never bothered him, as he loved the attention. Turcotte genuinely loved everything about Secretariat from being around him in the barn, to being on his back, as they appeared to almost float

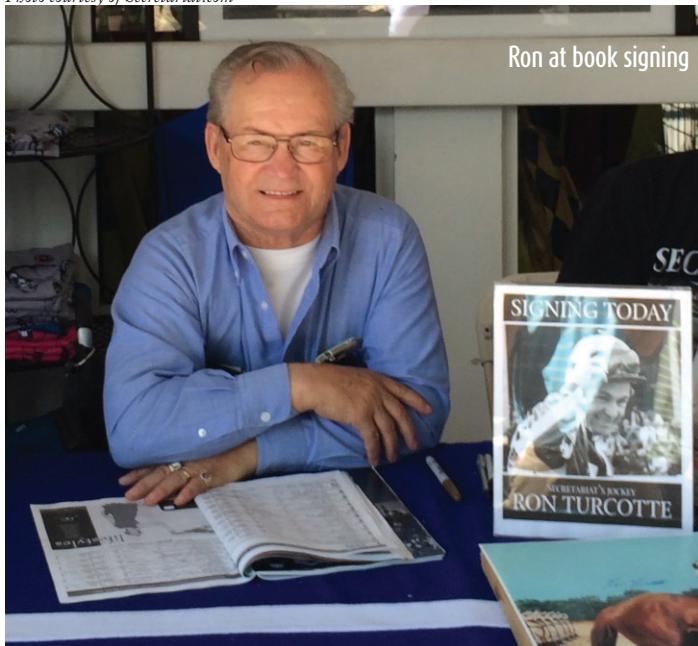
around the track. Turcotte rode Secretariat in all but three of his 21 career starts, breaking track records and making history every step of the way.

"I always said, to win the Triple Crown you need a horse that can go any distance, be placed anywhere in the race, and will relax. He has to be able to run on any kind of track, muddy, sloppy, or fast," explained Turcotte. "In 1972, on Riva Ridge, I likely would have won the Triple Crown with him had he been able to handle the mud. He was the best 3-year-old in the country that year, but when the rain came on Preakness day, I knew he wouldn't do it. Secretariat was a horse that could do all of those things." Turcotte always felt that, as Secretariat's overshadowing

veil of stardom cast itself over the entire country, it also concealed the authentic greatness of stablemate, Riva Ridge; a 3-year-old every bit as deserving of admiration for his greatness, even despite missing the middle jewel of the Crown for himself.

On May 5, 1973, a crowd of over 130,000 filled Churchill Downs in Kentucky, with Secretariat as the favorite, despite some chatter about Secretariat's third place finish in his previous race, The Wood Memorial, later learning was the result of a painful abscess in his mouth. "I couldn't figure out why he ran the way he did in the Wood Memorial until I heard about the abscess. I was so relieved when I learned about the abscess, knowing it would get better, and it did.

Photo courtesy of Ron Turcotte



Ron at book signing

I knew we were going to win then. He felt good and took ahold of the bit in his workout leading up to the Derby," said Turcotte. "Lucien didn't seem as confident saying, 'well he's a Bold Ruler running 1 1/4 mile, no Bold Ruler runs that', and I said don't worry about the extra 1/4 mile he will run as far as the race is!"

Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby by 2 1/2 lengths, setting the track record with a brilliant performance. Two weeks later, at the Preakness Stakes in Maryland, Secretariat won again by 2 1/2 lengths, breaking the record at Pimlico as well. "I noticed other riders were taking hold of their horses, waiting for me, thinking I was going to ride like I did in the Derby. I wheeled him to the outside and let him go. I went from last to first and took control of the race around the first turn. I could have won by another 10 lengths if I wanted to. It was that easy for him," he reminisced.

"At Belmont, I wasn't worried about the 1 1/2 mile distance because of how he pulled up at the end of his races, and when I worked him, running was like playing for him. He just loved running and I let him do what he wanted. I never fought with him," Turcotte explained, "the

Saturday before the Belmont he worked faster than he had run the Derby." Secretariat took an early lead in the Belmont before breaking into his signature long stride of over 25 feet, never needing the whip, galloping past every record ever set at Belmont, winning by an unprecedented 31 lengths, in world record time.

"I told Lucien that day, you are going to see something you've never seen before, but I didn't think it would be a win by 31 lengths!" chuckled Turcotte. Secretariat became the first Triple Crown winner in 25 years. His Belmont win, to this day, is still regarded as the greatest horse race in history. Secretariat went on to run six more times before retiring to stud, adding the Arlington Invitational, Marlboro Cup, Man o' War Stakes, and the Canadian International to his impressive resume of wins. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in both the U.S. and Canada, won five Eclipse Awards, Horse of the Year as both a two and three-year-old, has numerous statues in his honor, including one in the center of Turcotte's hometown in Canada. "Big Red" still holds the track record for all three of his Triple Crown races.

Turcotte went on to win over 3,000 races during his

career, winning the three races of the Triple Crown, *twice each*, among over 50 other prestigious races. He was the leading jockey for multiple years, Canadian Racing's Man-of-the-Year in 1978, has had multiple Hall of Fame inductions, and received the honorable Order of Canada award in 1974.

His brilliant career was tragically cut short due to a racing accident in 1978 on Flag of Leyte Gulf at the start of a race held at Belmont Park. He was thrown during an accident, resulting in becoming paraplegic - never to walk or ride again. Heartbreaking, not only to Turcotte, but to everyone that had followed his career, his fans, and those close to him. He has been able to overcome the initial difficult emotions he experienced with such a life-changing injury, finding a way to still enjoy his life and passion for horse racing, while continuing to share it with others. "I woke up in the hospital after the operation with no anger, just as a changed person. I became more patient, nicer to everybody. I had a very supportive family and just went through life taking it one day at a time," shared Turcotte.

Turcotte retired from racing, going back to Drummond, New Brunswick, Canada, to a farm he purchased many years ago. He and his wife, Gaëtane, raised four daughters. While Turcotte circled back to his roots, this time, however, rather than cutting down trees, he plants them. He has planted over 300,000 trees on his property over the years, appreciating the beauty of nature and the home it gives to the wild animals.

"I had a very good career; I've ridden some really good horses. I always stayed confident in myself and most importantly in my horses," shared Turcotte, "I am lucky I am still here today. I did get hurt and couldn't ride anymore, that is what I miss the most. I am still enjoying life, have made a lot of trips

to the racetrack over the years, and help raise money for the Jockeys' Guild and the Permanently Disabled Jockey Fund (PDJF)."

Turcotte has been praised by fellow jockeys and those that have known him over the years for his ongoing support of the racing industry, especially injured jockeys; attending charity events, signings, and offering not just encouraging words but being a true friend to many with his warm, positive outlook on life. Even just a few minutes talking with Turcotte feels as if you've known him your entire life. Penny Chenery remained friends with Turcotte for many years, never forgetting the remarkable journey they all went on together with Secretariat. He still remains good friends with many past jockeys, including Triple Crown-winning riders, Jean Cruguet and Steve Cauthen, whom he has attended events with on a regular basis over the years.

"I still watch those races on Secretariat and remember them like it was yesterday. I don't know that there is a word to use to describe the feeling I have when I watch them. I had the original reels of those races. Anytime someone came over to the house they wanted to watch them. The reels faded away, or maybe I just wore them out myself," he laughed.

"Secretariat is everything to me. He was special and so kind. He was even jealous, if I pet another horse, he would grab my coat and pull me back," he laughed while reflecting on his memories. Turcotte speaks of Secretariat's greatness anytime he is asked about winning the Triple Crown, often downplaying his own achievements, never one to discredit the partnership a jockey must have with their horse, or the talent a horse offers. "Nobody can carry a horse. They have to carry you." ●

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Jean and Seattle Slew -
iconic moment in sports history as
he stands up in his irons, reaching
for the sky, whip in hand, after
winning the Triple Crown, 1977.

Living Legends

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Jean Cruguet **Seattle Slew 1977**

Jean Cruguet was born in 1939, in southwestern France near Toulouse and Bordeaux. With his mother already struggling to make ends meet and his father never returning from the war, Jean and his brother were dropped off at an orphanage. Five-year-old Jean found himself rejected by his family and, seemingly, by everyone else around him. In the beginning he was treated kindly by the nuns at the orphanage, but by the time he was old enough for secondary school, and perhaps in part due to his short stature, he found himself an easy target for others' torment and mistreatment. His life at the orphanage had become unbearable. Against all odds, and coupled with his lifelong determination to make something more of himself – “*to be somebody someday*” –

Cruguet was able to find a way to ultimately parlay his physical attributes to become a Triple Crown-winning jockey.

“I would have done anything to be something special in my life,” said Cruguet. With tenacity, Cruguet began working at his grandfather’s small farm. By 16, he had begun working with horses at a neighboring farm and started riding horses for the first time in his life. He soon found himself with an opportunity to ride Thoroughbreds at a racetrack nearby, where he spent two years training at a farm with not much of a track to practice on, but he was able to live there and ride every day. His newfound purpose was interrupted when he was called to serve in the Algerian War with the French Army.

Focused on his unfailing perseverance to change the way his life had begun, Cruguet returned from the war and went back to the horses. In 1965, an Army friend contacted him about an opportunity with horses in Florida, all the way over in the United

States. Cruguet knew very little English and did not know anyone there besides his friend, but went to America with hopes of changing his life.

“It was difficult for me as I did not know anyone and to make a living in racing you have to make a big name,” explained Cruguet, “my wife (Denyse Pendanx) said, *yes, you must go*, so I went to America. We were some of the first ones to come here from France, but it seemed like everyone followed me. I wanted to go back home but my wife said, *no, stay here it will be worth it.*”

Cruguet’s wife, Denyse, was one of the first women jockeys and trainers in Europe, pioneering a path for women in the industry today. Cruguet attributes much of his own success to the guidance of his wife throughout his career. “She was a special woman, one in a million. We were together 47 years. I have always said if it weren’t for her, nobody would know me,” he shares. Cruguet began his career as most jockeys, having to work hard to get any races, competing

amongst the better jockeys, and hoping that each decision made is the right one to get closer to being at the top of the jockey rankings. He admits a lot of his career seemed to include some good luck, but he worked very hard to get there.

In 1970, Cruguet got the ride on Triple Crown hopeful, Hoist the Flag, a horse he still declares to this day as the greatest racehorse he ever rode, and one he proclaimed would win the Kentucky Derby in 1971. In fact, Cruguet made it known that he had the best horse in the country and did not hesitate to prove it, not surprising due to his outspoken nature. At the Bay Shore Stakes, Angel Cordero Jr., riding Jim French, jokingly prodded Cruguet saying his horse was going to beat Hoist the Flag. “I said, ‘You can’t beat this horse!’ and I threw my whip on the side of the gate and told him I don’t even need the whip,” laughed Cruguet, clearly a memory he still enjoys to this day. “Angel said, ‘Jean you are crazy!’ but I won that race easy.” Easy it was, winning

by seven lengths in a track record-breaking time of 1:21.

Leading up to the Derby, the unbeatable colt and race favorite shattered a hind leg during a workout, nearly bringing Cruguet to his knees with grief knowing the world would not witness the greatness he knew this horse had.

Cruguet fought back tears of emotion while Hoist the Flag's owners quickly summoned the top veterinary surgeons to save the horse's life, with no expense spared, a sentiment to just how special this horse was to so many. Over one thousand get well cards were sent to the colt, the owner answering every single one. The surgery, the first of its kind, saved his life allowing him to become a leading sire in North America. Knowing that the horse would never race again, Cruguet would wait another six years before his next true chance at a Triple Crown win.

For the next few years, Cruguet moved around the U.S. and often went back and forth to France, depending on where his career and opportunities took him. "We had great success in France, made good money, enjoyed life. I got a call from trainer, Billy Turner, about a young horse he wanted me to ride named Seattle Slew. I wasn't very interested. My wife had a lot of confidence in the horse and said I had to take the ride, so I did."

Seattle Slew started out as an awkward-looking colt, nicknamed, "Baby Huey", by many for his clumsiness and unremarkable, mule-like appearance. During his career, however, he quickly proved everyone wrong, including Jean Cruguet, an ironic twist of fate as both Seattle Slew and his jockey were on their way to becoming a pair that nobody would ever forget. In 1976-1977 he was the U.S. Champion 2-year-old and 3-year-old colt, winning Horse of the Year in 1977.

Cruguet recalled how Seattle Slew was sensitive to the nearly

Photo courtesy of Jean Cruguet, taken in 1965



Jean at 26 yrs. old after first arriving in the U.S. from his native France. In what his close friends jokingly refer to as the "Ralph Lauren" photo, he appears to be straight out of a RL equestrian photo shoot! Jean poses in front of the stable of Derby champion, Northern Dancer's famous trainer, Horatio Luro. Luro trained many other great horses, which he allowed Jean to ride.

deafening roar from fans in the crowd, as it echoed through the tunnel connecting the paddock to the track on the day of the Kentucky Derby. "He was so worked up, he got himself totally washed out in sweat before the race," said Cruguet, making efforts in the other legs of the Triple Crown to keep him away from the crowds as much as possible.

In May of 1977, Cruguet and Seattle Slew left the starting gate of the Kentucky Derby with a tumultuous start, knocking into the steel and slamming into the horse next to him as if a reflection of Cruguet's own rough start in life. Completely blocked by the horses in front of them, Cruguet took a chance, one he knew would cause either a win, or be one of the greatest risks

he had ever taken resulting in certain failure, he barged Seattle Slew through a slender opening with just a split second to succeed. A move considered by those watching as guaranteed to use up the horse's stamina too early in the race, both Cruguet and Seattle Slew proved the critics wrong, with an impressive victory by nearly two lengths.

"Sometimes you have to make a move first and take a chance, just hope that it pays off," he explained. "Most jockeys stay still, but if you always stay still, then before you know it, you've lost the race. There is only one Derby, you don't get that many chances so sometimes you just have to take it." Cruguet was able to harness the horse's amplified muscle and force on the track in a way that

even his trainer, Billy Turner, acknowledged; Cruguet was the ideal rider for Seattle Slew, being absolutely fearless in the saddle.

Two weeks after the Derby, Seattle Slew went on to win the Preakness Stakes by 1 1/2 lengths, after Cruguet eased up down the stretch for an easy win. Cruguet now realizing he had a real chance at winning the Triple Crown, he just had to keep the horse focused and continue believing in himself that he could claim the title.

In the weeks before the Belmont Stakes, Seattle Slew was so strong in his workouts they would have to pull up early with fear that the exercise rider would not be able to control him. His stamina proved to be accurate and he went on to win the Belmont by four lengths, over a muddy track, becoming the 10th Triple Crown winner and the only horse to earn the title with an undefeated race record, until Justify duplicated the feat in 2018. Cruguet had done it. Over 70,000 people knew his name and were cheering for him in a euphoric moment that even he himself could hardly contain. As he crossed the wire, Cruguet stood in his irons, thrusting his arm triumphantly over his head, his whip pointed toward the sky, sharing his joy not only with the fans present that day, but with the entire world. That photo has become an iconic piece of history, creating a tradition amongst many jockeys who, after winning prestigious races, will often be seen reaching skyward, celebrating their victory.

After a long career as both a historic racehorse and one of the most influential breeding sires in America, with over 100 stakes-winning offspring, including champion A. P. Indy, Seattle Slew died peacefully in his sleep at his farm in Lexington, KY. His death, as if poetic, occurred exactly 25 years to the day that he won the Kentucky Derby.

Cruguet retired from racing
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in the mid 1990's. He had over 2,400 career wins in the U.S. and another 450+ wins across Europe, as the leading jockey in France. With numerous impressive accomplishments over his 40-year career, from the dirt to the turf, all across the globe. Cruguet was often surpassed in popularity by American jockeys, with many fans left questioning his absence in the Hall of Fame, even after his Triple Crown win. Ron Turcotte shared his admiration for Cruguet when reflecting about his fellow jockeys that have earned their name on the Crown. "Jean Cruguet was a very tough jockey," said Turcotte. "He won a lot of big races. Every jockey's dream is to win the Triple Crown and only a few jockeys have been able to do it. Cruguet belongs in the Hall of Fame," Turcotte states emphatically.

For many years Cruguet and his wife ran a successful training stable. Eventually moving to Kentucky, Cruguet stayed busy attending various appearances and fundraiser events, making trips to the racetrack to watch the horses train, visit old friends, and place his bets. His wife, Denyse, had become ill and suffered a massive stroke in 2003. Cruguet devoted the years that followed to caring for his beloved wife in their home during her illness, keeping her out of a nursing home, before she sadly passed away in 2010. Over the years, Cruguet has been known to hop up on a horse here and there, even sitting on American Pharoah for a few minutes in 2015, before the horse went out for a morning gallop, a little over a week after the horse had just won the Triple Crown.

In 2018, at an event honoring legendary African-American jockeys, one poignant story left the crowd speechless, some even with



Jean Cruguet, who rode Seattle Slew in 1977, made a cameo appearance on another Triple Crown winner, American Pharoah, at Churchill Downs, 2015

goosebumps, as if a rush of cold air had swept throughout the room. The story was that of Jimmy Winkfield, Hall of Fame jockey and horse trainer, told by Churchill Downs' Communications V.P., John Asher. His unmistakable voice filled the room as he painted a picture of Winkfield's captivating rag-to-riches tale. Born into a sharecropping family in Kentucky, Winkfield's career as a jockey progressed into one that now decorates the walls of racing museums.

As the details of his story concluded, Asher spoke of how two champion jockeys in France shared an unbeknownst and deep friendship, both men coming from humble beginnings, and rising to overcome life's obstacles with a profound strength to prosper. A collective gasp echoed through the room when Asher stated that one of those men was sitting amongst them, many looked confused knowing Winkfield died in 1974. He asked if that man would stand up. Jean Cruguet

quietly rose from his seat, to even his wife's surprise, as everyone in the room gave him a standing ovation. Cruguet had never mentioned that Winkfield was one of his most treasured friends; a friendship which began instantly upon first meeting at the Maisons-Laffitte Racecourse in Paris in 1971. When asked by his wife how that sort of detail just slips one's mind, Cruguet just shrugged it off with a smile. While being a man known for speaking his mind on the track, those who know him often share their high regard for the tough and humble jockey that is Jean Cruguet.

Cruguet, 82, currently resides outside of Louisville, Kentucky, with his wife, LuAnne, where they breed and raise Thoroughbreds. ●



Jean and Billy Turner, trainer of Seattle Slew, pose in front of the famed "Barn 54", known for being Slew's Belmont home.

He still enjoys his morning walks and jogs, an established regimen from his days as a jockey. An avid handicapper, he relaxes by reading The Daily Racing Form, and watching the latest races. Cruguet enjoys being an ambassador for the industry, attending various appearances and signings to help raise funds for non-profit organizations. ●

Photo courtesy of Loren Hebel-Osborne

Photos courtesy of LuAnne Cruguet



Steve Cauthen (pink silks) on Affirmed, Jorge Velasquez (red) on Alydar, Eddie Maple (green) on Believe It - Kentucky Derby, 1978

Steve Cauthen Affirmed 1978

Just six days after Steve Cauthen was born in a Northern Kentucky town, 13 horses left the starting gate in the 86th running of the Kentucky Derby, on May 7, 1960. The thunderous roar of the race may have even echoed its way to his crib that day. Under a cloudy sky, a brilliant chestnut colt named Venetian Way won the race, ridden by Hall of Fame jockey, Bill Hartack. Ironically, both Hartack and Steve Cauthen would fill newsstands 20 years apart, each dressed in the same flamingo pink-colored silks. In 1978, Cauthen became the 11th Triple Crown winner

on a chestnut colt named Affirmed.

With his father, "Tex", working as a blacksmith (later becoming a member of the International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame), and his mother, Myra, balancing training horses along with raising three boys, Cauthen grew up on a large farm with a love of horses from the very beginning. He started breaking the young horses on the farm while he himself was still just a child. Attributing his love of horses, confidence, and deep understanding of how to work with them to his father, Cauthen credits his mother with his competitiveness and athletic ability, appreciating how both parents molded him into the horseman, husband, and

father he is today.

"As a kid, not only did I love the horses, but I was also really into sports. I was small but strong for my age and quick on my feet. In 7th grade I decided to join a Pee Wee football league. I was fast, but I think maybe weighed 72 lbs. and the fullback was 140 lbs. I started realizing after running for my life that I better start thinking about another sport," Cauthen laughed.

Cauthen was inspired from reading books and magazines about horse racing and began thinking about becoming a jockey. Living in the horse racing capital of the world, it just seemed to be the logical choice in his mind. He asked his parents if he could give it a try. His mother, fearful

of how dangerous the sport was, agreed with his father that he could give it a try, only if he promised to quit if maintaining weight became too difficult or dangerous to his health, and he had to keep up with his schoolwork. He was just 16 years old.

Cauthen was already 5'6" and 110 lbs., and still growing. With most U.S. jockeys' heights ranging from 4'10"- 5'6", and weighing between 108-118 lbs, he was not naturally destined to be the same size. His father and his brothers, Doug and Kerry, were of average size, with heights ranging from 5'9"- 5'11", and bigger, stronger builds. His mother was petite, but the family

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knew once Cauthen got older, maintaining weight was going to be difficult. The clock was ticking, but Cauthen was not one to ever let the clock win.

His first race at River Downs was just twelve days after his 16th birthday. He finished last. One week later, his horse was first to cross the wire. Cauthen's goal was to become the leading rider at the Ohio track. Almost as quickly as he set the goal, it was accomplished, establishing a new meet record. He began setting higher goals, conquering them before the ink could dry on his checklist. He studied races, jockeys, horses, and the tracks, from old racing films to watching them live any chance he had. It was common to find him practicing on bales of hay, perfecting his technique, position, or rotating his whip from left to right, as if nothing else in his life mattered more than being the absolute best.

In 1977, Cauthen became the first jockey to win over \$6 million in one racing season, breaking the national record by over \$1 million. He was the leading jockey in America with over 500 wins. Sports Illustrated named him the 1977 Sportsman of the Year, and still remains the only jockey or equestrian athlete to ever receive that award. He was 17 years old, still in high school, and at nearly every track he set foot upon, he broke records. It was only his first year as a jockey, and Steve Cauthen was regularly beating the best riders in the country.

"In the spring of 1977, I had a bad fall opening day at Belmont (New York). I was badly injured. I knew it was bad when I woke up in the hospital and my Mom was there. She lived in Kentucky," he chuckled. "They told me I would be out for three



Steve "The Kid" Cauthen - early racing days

Photo courtesy of Steve Cauthen

months. Exactly a month from that day I was back on a horse. His name was Little Miracle. I didn't know at the time, but he was actually a half-brother to Affirmed."

By the summer, with Cauthen back in the game, Affirmed became available, and his trainer, Laz Barerra, was looking for a rider.

"Affirmed was the smartest horse I have ever ridden," said Cauthen. "He was almost semi-human. He liked attention, not just someone petting him, and he would almost look for the cameras.

He had a lot of personality, anyone that truly knew him always talked about what a character he was. He didn't like birds and used to run flat out to chase them out of his pasture."

Like Cauthen, Affirmed kept his confidence and composure around big crowds, not letting the atmosphere, nor the murmurs about a budding rival, Alydar, divert his concentration. With the wave of success Cauthen immersed the country with, there was never any escape from fans, cameras, or the

media. Every microphone and camera in the country seemed to be pointing at this young man, now referred to as, "The Kid".

"I had just received three Eclipse Awards, I was winning a lot of races, hard races, against the best jockeys in the country. I felt like I did belong. I was winning on other horses all year, not just Affirmed, so I went into the Derby confident I could win," shared Cauthen. "However, I was aware of how good Alydar was. He was on the East Coast winning by 6, 8, 10 lengths. In the back of my mind the only thing I was worried about was if he improved more than my horse. We were on separate coasts, so it worked in our favor that we didn't have to meet Alydar until the day of the races."

Cauthen was preparing for the biggest race of his career. A career that was just six days short of two years, the day the Kentucky Derby ran on May 6, 1978. "I went into the Derby pretty excited. It was in my home state, my dad had fifty-some people asking to get tickets to the race. He told me if I ever ride in the Derby again, he's never getting people tickets again," he laughed. "Growing up we always went down to watch the Derby from the backside (barn area). We didn't realize how hard it was to actually get tickets to the Derby. Two nights before the race, my parents got a hotel room close to the track for us to stay in. The only room they could get had two twin beds. The first night, which was before The Oaks, I slept in one of the beds. The night before the Derby, my brothers said 'Hey! You got the bed last night!', so I actually slept on the floor the night before I won the Kentucky Derby."

Affirmed defeated ten other horses in the Kentucky Derby, beating his rival, Alydar, by 1 1/2 lengths. Cauthen was the youngest jockey to ever ride

"I did not want to be the one that made that mistake and cost us the race. Being so young, I didn't want anyone to say 'Well, they should have never had a little kid on that horse.'"

in the Kentucky Derby, at 17 years of age (just one week shy of his 18th birthday), let alone to *win* the race. "I remember looking over after I won the Derby, and my little brother, Kerry, was right in front of a huge crowd of all these photographers with big cameras, holding this little Kodak camera taking pictures," he chuckled. "He was seven or eight years old at the time. We were at a party later that night celebrating, standing next to Mr. Wolfson (owner and breeder of Affirmed) when he said, 'Kerry, we sure are proud of your brother, he did a great job for us today,' and my brother said, 'Mr. Wolfson, anyone could have won on your horse today.'"

The excitement from the Derby win quickly passed with a focus on the upcoming Preakness Stakes. "Affirmed was working great between races and was tactically superior to Alydar. He liked to be on the outside, so I had the advantage going into that race, and with fewer horses, I knew there was a good chance I would end up setting the pace," said Cauthen. That is precisely what happened. Affirmed set the pace and dueled with Alydar, winning by a neck. They just had one more race to go to win the Triple Crown.

"I've said it many times before, those three weeks between the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes were the longest three weeks of my life," shared Cauthen. "It doesn't really sink in that you have a chance to do something historic. It only takes one mistake that can give the other jockeys an upper hand. I did not want to be the one that made that mistake and cost us the race. Being so young, I didn't want anyone to say 'Well, they should have never had a little kid on that horse.'"

The day of the Belmont Stakes, Cauthen was oddly calm, confident, and focused.



Steve and his wife, Amy, with their beloved miniature donkeys who reside at their Dreamfields Farm.



Steve with his daughters, admiring Affirmed.

Once he had the leg-up onto Affirmed and gripped the reins between his fingers, the chaos of the day seemed to disperse. "You think to yourself, check the girth, check this, do your normal routine and just get things done," he explained. "I

had a good plan going into the race. I wanted to hold Affirmed a bit and was able to do that, getting Alydar to challenge us. I looked over at "Georgie" (Alydar's jockey, Jorge Velasquez) and thought, *go ahead*. I knew he didn't want to, and I didn't want the

inside. We just kept looking at each other down the stretch, head-to-head. I could feel Affirmed was starting to feel a little fatigued. That is when I tapped him left-handed for the first time ever with the whip. It surprised him, and he won by a head. It might have been by about 4 inches! It was the greatest race I have ever ridden."

Cauthen has been praised for staying humble, even during the intense media attention as a kid, recognizing his parents and family for instilling those values in him during a time that many would have crumbled under the pressure that came with being in the headlines, and frankly, a heartthrob to many young women at the time. If anyone could attract a new crowd of fans to the sport of horse racing, it was Steve Cauthen. Every set of eyes in America was looking at Cauthen. If he was not being interviewed or asked to make an appearance on TV, his photos and critique of every move were published in a newspaper.

Almost as quickly as Cauthen reached the top of the sport, the clouds keeping him aloft simply vanished, dropping him to the ground, quickly forgetting he was just a teenager. It was almost as if a curse had been placed on a young man that seemed unstoppable. Beginning in the summer of 1978, Cauthen went into an extended slump, losing over one hundred consecutive races. The media was ruthless and cruel. "Boos" began to echo down the rail, quickly catching him as he trailed behind in each race. His fans and friends who once greeted him with enthusiasm and kindness, stopped making eye contact. It was uncomfortable not just for Steve Cauthen, but for the entire country. It was as if the world forgot he was still human.

As Cauthen struggled with

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his streak of bad luck, the effort it took to stay at the low weight required for a jockey in America proved to be a harsher obstacle to overcome. His body was morphing from that of a teenager into a young man, now 5'6" tall, and still growing. He was offered an opportunity in Europe, where higher weights were allowed for jockeys, giving him the chance to continue his career without significantly jeopardizing his health as he matured.

The career move proved to be the right choice. With the media moving on to their next targets in the states, Cauthen began learning an entirely new world of horse racing. "Europe was so different. I had to really adjust and learn how they did things. I truly loved how they trained horses and realized pretty quickly that I would ride out the rest of my career there," Cauthen explained. "You gallop across the countryside, hills, changing terrain, you could have 40-foot drops or the track higher on the outside. It was pretty amazing. I lasted 14 years over there before I finally got tired of fighting my weight and decided to come home."

Cauthen never needed to prove his abilities to anyone but himself, and far surpassed what started out as a goal to be the leading jockey at his first racetrack. He won over 2,794 races during his career, winning both the Triple Crown in the U.S. and 10 of the top classic races in Europe in 1985. He's the only jockey to win both the Kentucky Derby in the U.S. and the Epsom Derby, known as "The Derby", in England, Britain's most prestigious and richest horse race. He won countless races in Great Britain, France, Ireland, Italy, and of course, the United States. He was inducted into the U.S. Hall of



One of the barns on Steve's farm, a barn that was originally at his grandfather's farm in Richwood, KY. They took the barn down block by block and rebuilt it at Steve's current farm.

Fame and National Museum in 1994, along with earning the British Champion Jockey Award in 1984, 1985, and 1987.

Retiring in 1992, Cauthen bought a large farm in Verona, Kentucky, aptly named 'Dreamfields', where he has continued to live out his dream with horses, raising his three daughters with his wife, Amy. With two large barns on the property, one is quite special. "The original barn was actually my grandfather's. We took it down brick by brick and rebuilt it here on my property. It saved me money at the time, but really it is a great memory," Cauthen said.

He breeds, raises, and trains racehorses, along with a few resident retirees lucky enough to call Dreamfields home. He can be found doing most of the work himself, something he genuinely enjoys, with his well-loved dogs in tow, quickly leading him to the tack room where they know a bin of biscuits is waiting for them. The horses are just as loved, never running out of their large bag of "the good horse treats", something Cauthen keeps around because "they really

like them." With hundreds of acres, he is always busy and can typically be found with the horses. His main barn is surrounded by an oval of recycled track footing, upon which he rides his young horses, while they learn how to become future racehorses at the hands of one of the greatest jockeys of all time. It is not uncommon for Cauthen, now 60 years old, to get on his horses while in training, going out for a gallop to get a feel of their potential, helping him make decisions on which of his horses might have *what it takes* to become a stakes winner. While preferring to use trainers with

smaller programs for more individualized care, he lets the trainers do their job and tries to leave them be.

"You don't get a brain surgeon and tell them what to do," he chuckled.

Humble, kind, and a genuine horseman, Cauthen is not what most would expect from an athlete with such an illustrious career. If you did not know who he was, you likely would never know of the endless awards and accolades filling the shelves of his office,

with a desk overlooking his pastures. "For one thing, I enjoy it, but it's also hard to find someone to do it the way I want. It's not difficult work but you have to have a passion. A lot of this stuff is boring, takes a while, and takes patience," shared Cauthen. "I have had the same guy with me for 36 years, he does the mowing, fixes the fence, holds horses, etc. I trim my own horses, something I learned from my dad, and do most of the work with the horses, getting them ready for training or the sales. I feel like I have a connection with them, I can get them handled better, help them have a good mouth and understand the right way to do things. It matters for the rest of their careers. I can't do it all, but what I can do, I really enjoy."

"I watch all types of sports, I can really appreciate high-quality athletes in any sport. I also enjoy planting trees, gardening, pretending to be a farmer. I get a few tomatoes and think we've done well!" he laughed. When Cauthen is not with his horses, he spends time with his family, enjoying a more private life at a slower pace. ●

Photo by Mandy Boggs



Victor and American Pharoah
win the Belmont Stakes, 2015

Photo by Mathea Kelley

Victor Espinoza American Pharoah 2015

Growing up as the second youngest of eleven siblings, Victor Espinoza cultivated his competitive nature and work ethic beginning on the family farm in Hidalgo, Mexico. Born on May 23, 1972, just a year before Secretariat set unbeatable records during his Triple Crown victory, Espinoza adjusted from an early age to long days and hard work, helping his family take care of the crops, gardens, and assortment of animals - from dairy cows, goats, sheep, chickens, horses, donkeys, and even the occasional armadillo the kids would sneak into the house and raise as a pet.

"Growing up with eleven brothers and sisters, oh my gosh it was wild," laughed Espinoza. "My schedule was full, from the

early morning into the late-night taking care of the animals and the farm. My brothers would play sports and act like brothers do, just have fun. My sisters, that was another story. I had to hear all about their problems, what they are going to do all day, their TV shows, and when they started getting boyfriends, if I didn't listen to them and give my opinion, I got in trouble. You can't give advice to one and not the other. It was crazy all the time but it was also a lot of fun when I look back. I really enjoyed that each sibling had different goals and views on life. We would talk about that a lot growing up."

It took years for Espinoza to appreciate his early life, now looking back and admitting it was the best childhood that could have ever happened to him. "When I moved out of the house I couldn't wait for a



A young Victor Espinoza "up" with his brother, Jose.

break. I can't imagine now how my mother, who is 90 years old and still alive, did it. She is just amazing; I don't know how she could deal with so many of us every day!" he said with a laugh. "The hardest part, honestly, waking all of us up every morning to go start chores. I am

so grateful for how she raised us. We hardly ever got sick. We raised all of our own food and meat, it was all organic, drank water from our well, and my mother only went to the store every few weeks just to buy spices."

Espinoza learned to ride, not on horses at first, but on donkeys. "I have always loved animals; my passion is animals. I used to teach the donkeys so many tricks. I would ride them without a bridle, just a stick and tap them to turn, or use my legs to go faster or slow down. I learned so much from the animals," shared Espinoza. "Nobody in my family was in the racing business back then, it just sort of happened one day. I was 15 years old and started working with my brother, Jose, on a racing farm with Quarter

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Horses. The next thing I knew, I was becoming a jockey."

At 17 years old, Espinoza began driving a bus in Mexico City to pay for jockey school. He moved to the U.S. in 1990, not speaking any English, with a dream as big as his family. Living in tack rooms in the stables, juggling school, workouts, and galloping horses, he was soon recognized for his efforts and became an apprentice rider. "I didn't want to be just a jockey, I wanted to be the best jockey in the country. If I could not do that, then why would I even do it?" said Espinoza.

His first races went well, almost easy, he thought. He quickly learned that nothing about horse racing is effortless. "In the beginning my career went up and down, but then I couldn't win another race. I thought 'well, this isn't good, maybe I am not good enough to be a jockey.' But I never gave up, I worked harder and harder, and if things got too hard, I would just push myself and do more," he said. "I don't know how or when exactly it happened, but all of a sudden, I started winning every race."

Espinoza moved to Santa Anita, knowing the best jockeys in the country were there, with the toughest circle to break into. "I didn't want to be stuck at the same level the rest of my career, if I can compete with the best then maybe I can become one of the best," he explained. "I knew I would learn a lot by being around all of these top jockeys and riding against them trying to win. There was no 'just go for a ride', no matter what horse I was on, my goal was to win because second was not good enough for me. If I beat the best jockey today, I would think 'okay, how do I also beat them tomorrow?'"

From 2000-2006 Espinoza dominated the tracks, winning countless races on many of the best horses in the country,



Victor on American Pharoah - crosses the finish line at Belmont, winning the Triple Crown, 2015

"I don't know how or when exactly it happened, but all of a sudden, I started winning every race."



Victor celebrating his Triple Crown win with trainer, Bob Baffert, 2015.

riding for the best trainers, and beating the top jockeys. Almost as long as he rode the waves of success, the ocean dissipated, and Espinoza found himself run aground in the sand, trudging for the next three years to regain his winning streak.

Espinoza won the Derby and Preakness Stakes on War Emblem in 2002, but was still young and naive, undervaluing the prestige and difficulty of the races. It was not until 2014, when he had his second chance at a Triple Crown sweep on the flashy chestnut, California Chrome, that he understood the amount of work, skill, and special talent a horse needs to win those races, and just how many jockeys chase this lifelong goal to even have a chance.

"I never knew how hard it was to win those races until I tried again, and again, and again. I failed so many times. To come back after all those years and win those races was pretty special," he explained.

In 2014, Espinoza got the ride on American Pharoah, a small horse in a plain brown wrapper, known for his gentle nature. "To be honest, American Pharoah was kind of a boring horse to be around. He was always quiet, just standing around, not much personality, even before a race in the warmup he was just like okay, whatever," chuckled Espinoza. "Riding him was different. Once he got into the gate, his mind changed. His body completely transformed into a different animal. Everything was so easy for him, the speed, power, endurance, just incredible. He's probably the only horse I have ridden that I have ever experienced that feeling."

On a warm day in May of 2015, American Pharoah won the Kentucky Derby by a length, defeating the efforts of 17 other horses, with Espinoza crossing the wire, not thinking that he just won the Derby, but

proclaiming that this was the year he was going to finally win the Triple Crown.

Two weeks later, under flooding downpours, thunder, and the anticipation of lightning causing the crowd of fans to be ushered to shelter, American Pharoah took an early lead in the Preakness Stakes while leaving his competitors almost unrecognizable, cloaked in mud, finishing ahead of them by seven lengths. Now, for the third time, Espinoza found himself on the threshold of winning the Triple Crown. Just three weeks stood between him and fulfilling the goal he spent 25 years chasing.

"Going into the Belmont, I wasn't really nervous, but just very confident. This was my third chance at the Triple Crown so it was a different feeling. I was excited and ready to go. I looked at AP who looked outstanding, and said, 'It's just you and me buddy,' he remembered. "I was going to

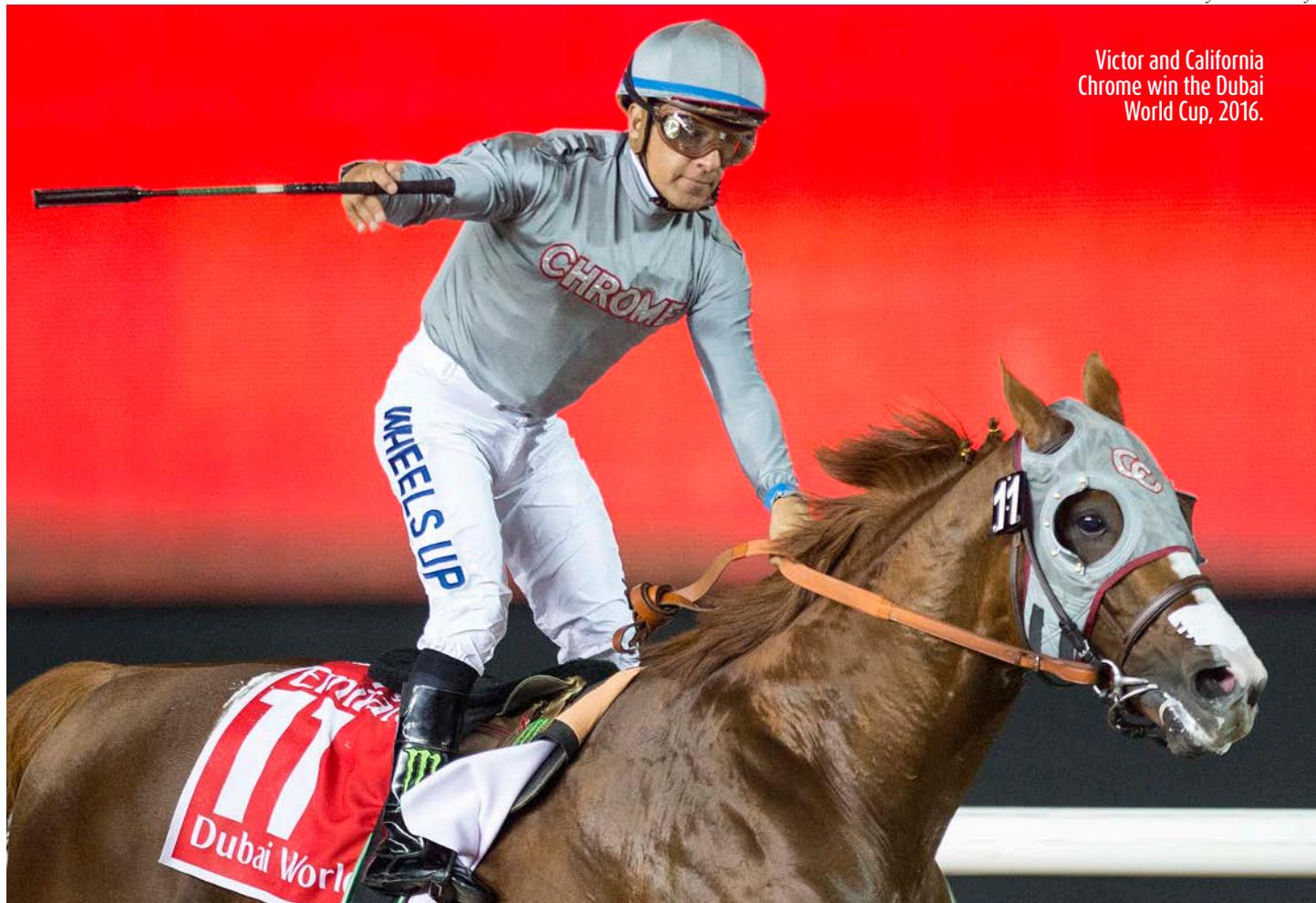
use all of my skills that I have learned over the years, from all these jockeys, you know all the techniques I have taken from them," he laughed. "This was the moment I needed to use all of that knowledge and use it on this horse. I told myself I could not blow it or I might as well quit."

Rain submerged the ground the morning of the Belmont Stakes, casting a shadow of uncertainty over the 90,000 spectators waiting for what many still considered to be something only a miracle could pull off. It had been 37 years since any horse had won the American Triple Crown, the longest drought since it began in the 1800's, with only 11 horses holding the title. Just hours before the horses began walking to the paddock, the clouds separated, while brilliant sunshine seemed as if it were there only to illuminate

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Photos by Mathea Kelley

Victor and California Chrome win the Dubai World Cup, 2016.





Victor, caught up in the the moment, just after hugging the outrider who came to lead them to the winner's circle.

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the path for Espinoza and American Pharoah, both of which were about to make history.

Starting in post No. 5, the same position Seattle Slew drew in his 1977 Belmont win, American Pharoah stalled coming out of the gate, eliciting an audible gasp from onlookers, fearing that was enough to seal his fate. "I just focused on my horse more than anything else. He was a little slow out of the gate but it just took two big steps and he took the lead early on. I was just enjoying the feeling, like walking in the sky. This was what I worked so hard for in my life," shared Espinoza.

They led the entire race, the crowd's roar accelerating

them along, crossing the wire 5 ½ lengths ahead of Frosted, breaking the 37-year streak. Horse racing fans across the world cheered, many not thinking they would ever witness another Triple Crown winner in their lifetime. Espinoza, overcome with a mix of emotion and excitement, hugged the outrider that came to gather him and American Pharoah, leading them to the winner's circle. Having trouble forming the right words to even describe the joy he felt, Espinoza credited his magnificent horse for the conquest.

Espinoza was the first Hispanic jockey to ever win the Triple Crown, and the first jockey to have three opportunities for a win. At 43 years old, a stark

comparison to 18-year-old Steve Cauthen's win 37 years prior as the youngest jockey to ever win the Triple Crown, Espinoza became the oldest jockey to win, keeping that record until Mike Smith claimed it in 2018.

Since the early 2000's, Victor Espinoza has donated a portion of his earnings to the City of Hope in California, supporting pediatric cancer research. After winning the Belmont, he donated his entire share of earnings, estimated to be around \$80,000., to the hospital.

Espinoza rode American Pharoah in every race, except for his very first, until the stallion was retired to stud in the fall of 2015, becoming the first horse to ever win the American 'Grand Slam': The Triple Crown and Breeders'

Cup Classic. Espinoza continues racing regularly, turning 49 this year, with over 3,400 wins and \$204 million in race earnings to date. His career wins are impressive for any jockey, from a Hall of Fame induction in 2017 to an astounding list of American Classic and International wins, such as the Dubai World Cup in 2016. There will always be bigger goals and harder races to win in his mind. "Before, nobody wanted my autograph, that moment winning the Triple Crown everything changed," laughed Espinoza. "Now I don't even have time to write something for my many nieces and nephews. That is okay, celebrate these wins later, I always have work to do. I have to go beat more jockeys!" ●



Mike Smith and Justify kept the lead throughout the race, sparing them both the mud bath their rivals took - Preakness Stakes win, 2018.

Mike Smith Justify 2018

If there is one place where jockey, Mike Smith, has always felt he belonged, it would be on the back of a horse. He was born in 1965. His father, George was once a jockey himself, and his mother, Vidoll, was just nineteen at the time. Their young love ended in divorce, subsequently resulting in Smith spending his youth raised by his maternal grandparents on their horse farm just outside of Roswell, New Mexico. Smith lived and breathed horses as if a necessity in his life. From an early age he was surrounded by horses, working with them daily. When he was only eight years old he started helping break the young horses, and by age eleven, while Seattle Slew was winning the

Triple Crown, Smith began riding match races in his native New Mexico. In 1982, when most teenagers are hoping to pass their driver's test, then sixteen-year-old Smith received his jockey's license, and began his professional career at Sante Fe Downs with his first win, along with riding at various tracks on the Midwestern circuit across Chicago, Omaha, and Hot Springs, Arkansas.

"I was really into sports as a kid and loved football, I just never grew big enough to do it," he laughed. "My uncle trained horses and both grandparents owned them, so I had easy access to riding early on, getting to practice a lot more than most kids probably did. Right from the start, if I wasn't breaking horses, I was teaching the babies how to lead, or doing 4H, rodeo, all kinds of things. I just

loved it all."

Watching Ron Turcotte and Secretariat on TV as a kid sparked the dream of becoming a professional jockey someday, coupled with his size and natural love for riding, it just made sense. "Honestly, I thought I was going to grow up, become a jockey, and win three Kentucky Derbies and two Triple Crowns. Why those numbers, I don't know, it has just always been something I told myself," said Smith.

By 1991, Smith had been the leading jockey in New York for three years in a row, and had also won the Irish 2000 Guineas (European) Classic. By 1993, he was known as a leading rider in the U.S., setting records across North America, following a path to what would become a distinguished career spanning over forty years. With over 26

Breeders' Cup wins, more than any other jockey, and currently earning more than \$333 million on the track, Smith earned the nickname "Big Money Mike", an honor for a kid who started out breaking young horses while still a child himself.

In 2018, Bob Baffert, trainer of 2015 Triple Crown winner, American Pharoah, gave Smith the ride on a massive chestnut colt that was creating a buzz in the industry as something quite spectacular.

"Justify was bigger, stronger, faster, than most horses and extremely intelligent," said Smith. Standing at 16.3 hands and weighing 1,380 pounds, the well-muscled horse almost demanded attention when he was present, puffing himself up and posing for onlookers. Starting his career as a 3-year-

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old, Justify quickly proved his almost cosmic abilities on the track, winning his very first race by 9 ½ lengths, his second by 6 ½ lengths, and the third by 3 lengths. His fourth race was the Kentucky Derby with Mike Smith in the saddle.

The rain poured down the day of the Kentucky Derby. Standing in the starting gate, Justify focused straight ahead, leaving the gate with his head down, as if he knew the other horses wouldn't dare cross the path in front of him. His white blaze still vivid, along with Smith's white racing silks that, while soaking wet, remained free of any mud, unlike *every* other jockey behind them. Justify won by 2 ½ lengths, earning Smith his second Kentucky Derby win.

"When he won the Derby, the most pressure was on me going into the Preakness. I thought all along that the Belmont would be a track he would handle really well," said Smith. "He has that nice big stride, high cruising speed, the stamina, and tactical speed needed. I knew when he won the Derby that if he could win the Preakness, he should really love Belmont."

Justify came out of The Derby with a heel bruise requiring a special shoe, causing some to worry if he would race, let alone win, at the Preakness. For days leading up to that race, the sky drenched Baltimore with merciless rain. Another sloppy track with mud greeted Smith and Justify the morning of the Preakness Stakes. Just before the race, the rain stopped, and a heavy fog moved in like the blanket of doubt that so many had in Justify pulling off another win.

Justify never faltered, staying calm and focused in the starting gate, exploding into high speed, quickly moving to the front with his exquisite power, not even jumping puddles along the way could stop him from



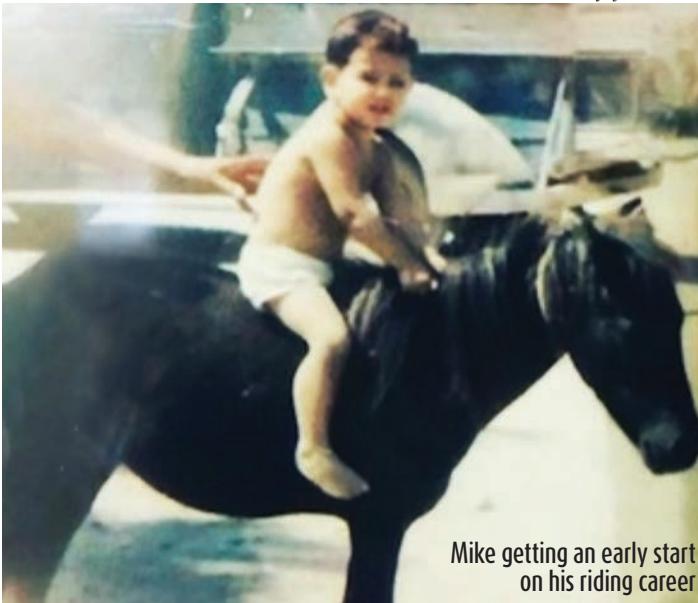
Mike giving Justify some love after a training workout

winning that day. He won by half a length, the flawless contrast of his white face pushing through the dense fog, an instant reminder that he was truly unbeatable. It was as if they had not even run the race, when comparing them to each horse coming up behind their

path, covered in mud, many almost unrecognizable.

Baffert used a similar training method that he had used for American Pharoah in 2015; keeping Justify in training at Churchill Downs (Kentucky), a track the horse liked, leading up to the Belmont Stakes. He was

Photo courtesy of Mike Smith



Mike getting an early start on his riding career

shipped to New York just days before the final race.

"Once we won the Preakness, I was able to just enjoy that entire day of the Belmont. I was smiling before I even went into the gate, I had to keep telling myself 'stop it, knock that smile off your face, you have a job to do,'" laughed Smith. "Everyone around me kept trying to stay calm. You would think I would be a nervous wreck, but I really wasn't. I just had this calm confidence in Justify. I remember they were showing a piece on NBC, and had my mother talking about how I used to go in the front door of the school and right out the back, where my uncle would pick me up to go work the horses. The camera panned over to me and I was laying there taking a nap before the big race."

Humbled by the support of other jockeys, the fans, and those who believed in him, one person in particular stood out to Smith that day. Ron Turcotte was there. Here was the very jockey that had inspired Smith as a child - to follow the same career path. Turcotte was witness to the eruption of emotions that Mike Smith was just minutes away from experiencing. The same feelings that made it seem like it was just yesterday that he had claimed the Crown himself, in 1973, aboard Secretariat.

Known for his ability to remain calm and focused, even during the biggest high-stakes races, Smith has a tactic he uses to his advantage. "The game is fast enough. If you can slow it down in your head, it makes it all easier. If you stay fast you are liable to make mistakes," explained Smith. "If you just slow things down enough, even though the game is still moving fast all around you, slow your mind, relax, and focus on what you need to do."

A sold-out crowd surrounded the track on a beautiful day at Belmont Park. Justify calmly walked into post No. 1 position, a place many trainers hope they do *not* get in the draw, as it often results in their horse becoming pinned up against the rail early



Mike Smith and Justify win the Belmont Stakes and Triple Crown.

on in a race. Smith morphed his wide smile into a focused expression, knowing that just 1 ½ miles stood between what may or may not become the greatest moment of his racing career. Justify broke flawlessly, taking an early lead from the start.

Justify won the race by 1 ¾ lengths without so much as a speck of dirt tarnishing the new champion. “I remember passing the wire and all those people screaming, it was all happening in slow motion. I was so happy and humbled. I just wanted to stop and tell everyone! I just don’t have the words in my vocabulary to describe the feeling,” said Smith.

Together, they broke “The Curse of Apollo”, a 136-year streak where no horse had won The Kentucky Derby without ever racing as a two-year-old. He became the only American Triple Crown winning horse that never lost a single race in his career. He matched Seattle Slew’s long-held record of initially being the only horse to win the Triple Crown while undefeated, where Seattle Slew did end up losing three races afterwards. Justify retired to stud after his Triple Crown win.

In total, he was undefeated in all six of his races, with Mike Smith being the jockey in all but his very first race. Smith broke the record previously held by Victor Espinoza, taking the new title as the oldest jockey in Triple Crown history to win, at the age of 52.

Smith praised Justify for allowing him to enjoy the ride and earn the unforgettable memories he will hold on to for the rest of his life, while also dedicating the Triple Crown win to disabled jockeys. As a horse that often preferred his personal space, to be left alone, and disliked visitors in his stall, Smith recalls him being a totally different horse when you were on his back. “He was happiest out on the track. You could love and rub all over him when you were on his back. He was so intelligent and was never phased by the environment around him, the crowds or noise. It was really special for me to ride this horse, I have said that he was sent from Heaven,” said Smith.

Mike Smith continues riding today, well into his fifties, maintaining focus on his career, riding at the highest level on the top horses in the country. With over 5,600+ career wins,

he certainly hasn’t slowed down, but has become more selective in the races he rides in, often choosing the more lucrative options, balancing time spent with his wife, Cynthia, and their dog, Bella.

Among many awards and recognitions, Smith received the ESPY Award for Top U.S. Jockey in both 1994 and 2019, an Eclipse Award in 1993 and 1994, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2003, an honor he often said he wasn’t sure he deserved compared to fellow jockeys that had not received the same honors, a statement that was unsurprising due to his humble nature that is often admired from his peers and fans. Smith is known to be universally liked and often admired for his genuine kindness and passion for the sport.

Mike Smith flashes his winning smile, Belmont Race Track.



As of the start of 2021, Smith has won The Kentucky Derby twice (2005, 2018), the Preakness Stakes twice (1993, 2018), and the Belmont Stakes three times (2010, 2013, 2018). According to his long-standing childhood goal, he just has to win the Triple Crown one more time before he can retire. ●

Living Legends continued on page 48

Photos by Martha Kelley



Triple Crown champions, American Pharoah (left) and Justify (right) size each other up, with trainer, Bob Baffert (center).

Since the early 1800's, only thirteen horses and their jockeys have had the perfect combination of skill, natural born talent, and likely, a dash of good luck to have what it takes to win the Triple Crown, a true test of champions. These five living legends have inspired not just the jockeys over the past century, but also future jockeys, and most likely everyone connected to the racing industry, and equine enthusiasts alike across the globe. Will there be more Triple Crown winners in the future? The answer remains unknown, but these stories will live on for generations...and for those privileged to witness their victories, the memories will last a lifetime! ♦



Photo courtesy of Coolmore America

“ Writing this story has been an experience that I will forever treasure. I want to thank each of these jockeys for sharing their stories and personal photos with me and our readers. I am especially grateful to Leonard Lusky for all of his help, knowledge, and for making this possible. I had the pleasure of spending time with Leonard at Wagner’s, the famed diner near Churchill Downs, absorbing his great stories and experiences in the racing industry. I never imagined I would receive a call from Ron Turcotte on Christmas Day, followed by many more conversations where he generously shared his memories and words of wisdom. Jean Cruguet and LuAnne and I have become fast friends, and we are already planning a visit this Spring. Steve Cauthen warmly welcomed me to his home complete with a personal tour of his beautiful farm (while piled onto the golf cart with the dogs, in true equestrian fashion). Victor Espinoza and Mike Smith shared stories, laughs, and time out of their busy days, even while boarding an international flight. Writing this has been an incredible honor, forming cherished friendships along the way. ”

Mandy Boggs is a lifelong equestrian, passionate for the sport and equine industry. Mandy grew up in a multi-generation family involved with Thoroughbred racehorses, breeding, and showing in the hunter/jumpers. She is a published writer, volunteers for various non-profit organizations, while running her marketing and design agency, Aristo Marketing LLC. She enjoys spending time with her family and many animals.

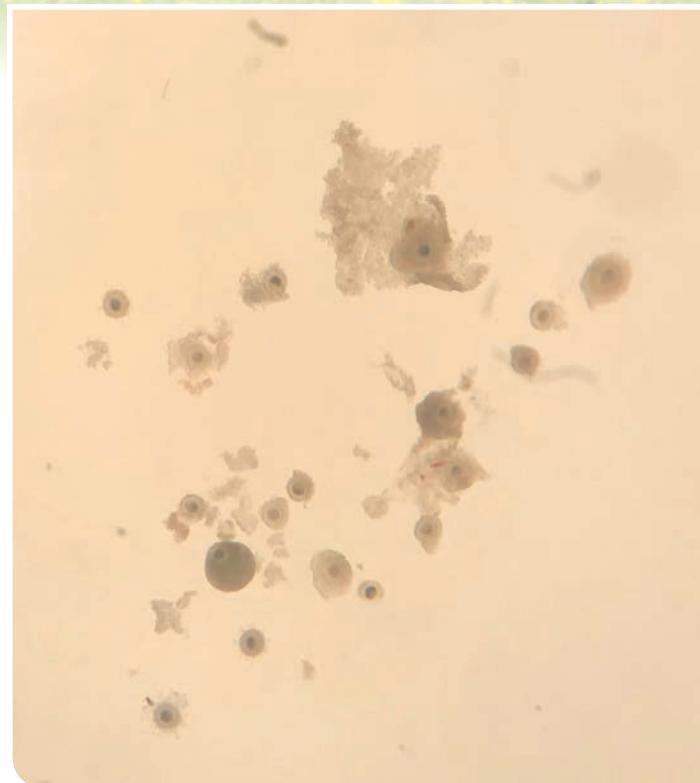
Expanding Options for Equine Breeding Management



by **Karen A. Von Dollen, DVM, MS, DACT**
Hagyard Equine Medical Institute

The decision of whether or not to breed your mare is difficult in and of itself, but this process can be complicated when considering the options which exist for *how* to produce a foal from your mare. First and foremost, you must decide whether you intend for your mare to carry her own foal, or whether you would prefer to utilize a recipient mare. Transfer of an embryo into a recipient mare allows a donor mare to continue a performance career unencumbered by the demands of gestation, provides a means to produce more than one foal per mare per year, and in some cases can circumvent subfertility

limitations of a donor mare. If you are planning to breed your mare to carry her own foal, your main decisions will be the method of semen delivery (natural mating or artificial insemination, AI) and type of semen if you are opting for AI (fresh, cooled, or frozen). Artificial insemination affords the ability to incorporate genetics into your breeding program from far flung geographic locations, both domestic and international. Semen can be shipped cooled, for short term use following collection and processing, or frozen. Frozen semen can be stored indefinitely and used months, years, or decades after a stallion is deceased. If you are planning for embryo transfer, the above decisions regarding semen still apply, but



Immature oocytes collected during transvaginal oocyte aspiration.

more choices must be made regarding embryo generation and handling.

While transfer of *in vivo* produced equine embryos (those flushed from a donor mare about a week after breeding) has been practiced for many years, advancements in laboratory techniques more recently have made it possible to produce equine embryos outside of a mare's uterus by fertilizing an oocyte with a single sperm. Once an embryo is produced (either by a mare or a lab), it can either be transferred directly into a synchronized recipient mare or cryopreserved through vitrification for transfer at a later date. The latter option can be attractive for owners who hope to produce embryos outside of the traditional breeding season and have them available to transfer in the future to have a foal born at their desired time of the year. Embryo vitrification also decreases the pressure to synchronize a recipient mare, as the embryo is safely stored in liquid nitrogen and can remain there until the ideal recipient uterus is available.

The above process of *in vitro* embryo production is known as Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI). In order to perform ICSI to produce embryos, oocytes must be collected from a donor mare. The most common way that this is achieved currently is by Transvaginal Oocyte Aspiration (TVA, also known as Ovum Pickup or OPU). As a macabre but practical consideration, oocytes can also be obtained from ovaries following the death of a mare.

The process of TVA involves transrectally guiding the mare's ovary close to the vaginal wall, while a rigid ultrasound probe is simultaneously placed in the vagina and the ovary held in close apposition to the ultrasound. A long needle traveling immediately adjacent to the ultrasound is used to puncture the ovary and aspirate the fluid from the mare's follicles while fresh fluid is repeatedly



An embryo flushed from a donor mare, just prior to transfer into a recipient mare.

flushed through the follicle and the needle manipulated to scrape the oocyte from the follicular wall. As you might expect from visualizing this description, this procedure is more invasive than many other reproductive techniques such as AI or embryo flushing, and is associated with unavoidable risks. Mare oocytes are more tenaciously adhered to the follicular wall than those of some other species, which presents a challenge for recovery yield. Once all accessible follicles are aspirated and flushed, the fluid is filtered and searched for oocytes. The oocytes can then be shipped to an ICSI laboratory or handled onsite, depending on the laboratory setup of the clinic performing TVA.

ICSI represents the most efficient way to use semen, as only a fraction of a breeding dose is used for the injection procedure. For this reason, it is an attractive method for semen which is in very limited supply (such as a stallion who is deceased but still has frozen semen banked). Maximizing efficiency in stretching the last reserves of precious stallion genetics is just one reason to consider ICSI. Other reasons can be broadly categorized as stallion-driven or mare-driven. Some subfertile stallions benefit from ICSI when other methods of breeding have been unsuccessful. On the mare side, ICSI offers an opportunity to attempt to salvage the reproductive career of a mare who has otherwise proved difficult to produce pregnancies or foals. Examples include mares affected by chronic

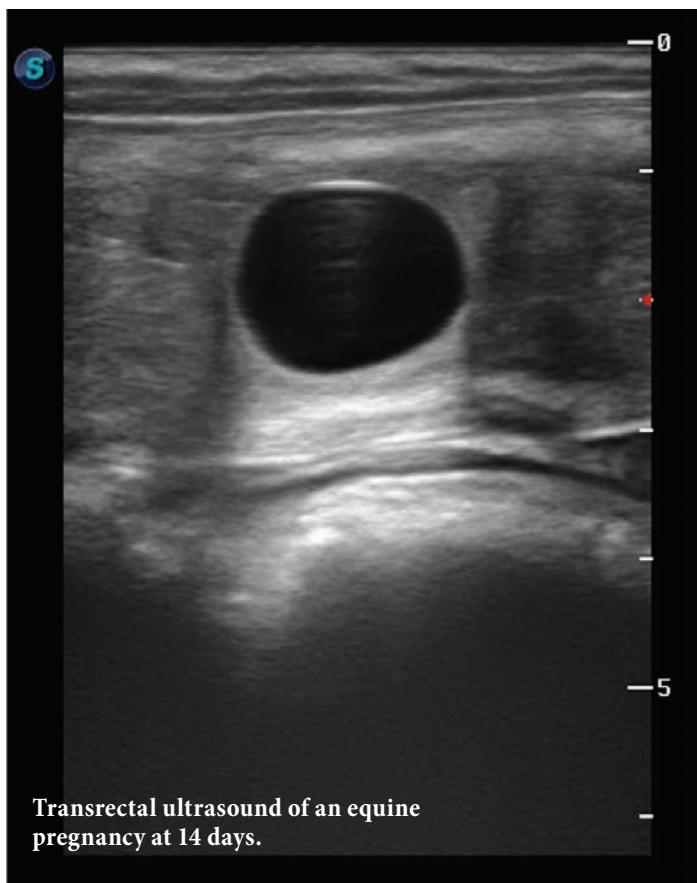
uterine infections, those with reproductive tract trauma (such as adhesions or cervical damage sustained during dystocia), or those that repeatedly fail to produce embryos despite optimized management. It can also offer more scheduling flexibility than breeding, as it can be performed at any stage of the estrous cycle and does not necessitate follow up appointments such as those required for an embryo flush or pregnancy checks. The ideal time to perform aspiration of immature oocytes is when the mare has a maximal number of small follicles, as this will increase anticipated oocyte yield.

Intercepting the reproductive process at the oocyte stage requires precision to nurture this delicate gamete from the moment it is aspirated from the mare to maximize the chance that it will realize its potential as an embryo, then foal. Even the best laboratory efforts are imperfect in this endeavor to mimic Mother Nature, and owners should embark on TVA/

ICSI with realistic expectations that multiple rounds may be necessary in order to reach a desired outcome, and that even then your perfect foal may not materialize. Success rates are variable and affected by a multitude of factors on both the stallion and mare sides of the equation.

Navigating the ever-broadening landscape of equine reproduction can be daunting, and making choices for a breeding program are not one-size-fits-all. Each choice in the decision tree has pros and cons, with each decision you make often budding into more branches of options. The scope of this article precludes an exhaustive discussion of considerations when weighing these decisions, but it is the intent that it may serve as a starting point for consultation with your veterinarian as we approach the 2021 breeding season.

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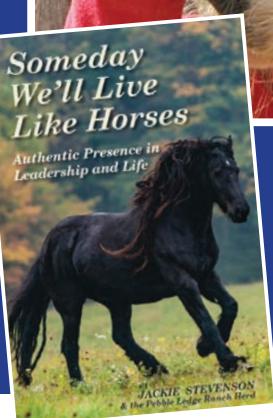
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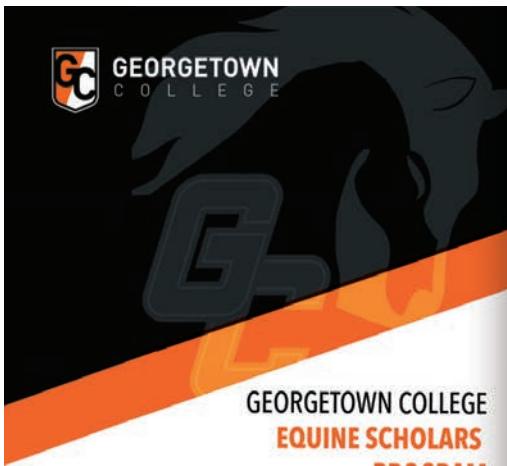
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Exploring Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness on Horseback

by Danelle Crary

A day on the trail with the 7 Lazy P Outfitting to explore Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness...

The sun rises above the mountain peak and starts to warm the ground as the day begins. The crew is up early to saddle the wrangle horses; two horses who have spent the night in a nearby portable enclosure. The wranglers mount up and head out to find and gather the rest of the horses and mules that were out grazing for the night. The camp cook is up early building a fire to get coffee and breakfast going. Camp starts to come alive as guests begin to emerge from their cozy tents to capture the warmth of the camp stove and that first cup of "mountain brew."

Soon the sound of bells is heard as the wranglers bring the stock back to camp. The satisfied stock is caught, brushed, saddled, and offered treat "cakes" made with grain and alfalfa. The horses happily munch as the cook finishes up breakfast. It is soon time to tear camp down, carefully manty and balance everything up, load it on the mules, and head down the trail toward the next campsite. The manty, a canvas tarp, completely covers and protects the packed items that the mules carry from campsite to campsite. Great care is used during packing to ensure the various mules are carrying safe and balanced loads (of between 60 and 90 pounds) on each of their sides. What a site the mule string is with their meticulously packaged loads!

With lunches distributed, guests get on their trusty mountain horses and start down the trail, guided by the knowledgeable 7 Lazy P crew. Surrounded by spectacular scenery, the next 10+ miles on horseback are astounding. No motorized or wheeled tools (such as bikes or carts) of any sort are allowed in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, so you can imagine the sounds of nature that can be heard. The steady beat of horse hooves moving down the trail becomes soothing, and allows the rider to continually scan and soak up the surroundings. Guests and their guide stop for breaks and lunch as they make their way toward the next campsite. The packers keep trudging ahead with the mule string.

Arriving at the next campsite well ahead of the guests,

the packers begin to transform the mantied mule loads into a comfortable camp. The transformation is truly magical. Arriving in camp, guests are welcomed with a cool glass of lemonade under the kitchen fly, a large tarp that serves as a "roof" over the camp "kitchen" area as protection from the hot sun or rain; used by the crew and guests as a gathering place to enjoy meals, coffee, and conversation when a camp fire isn't used.

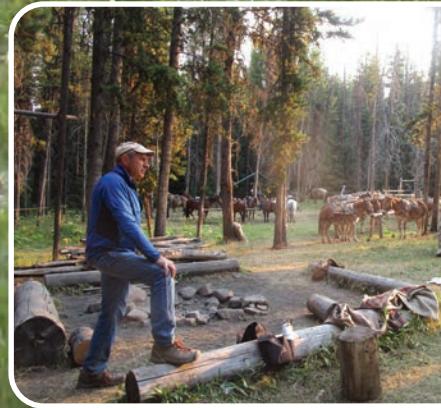
Horses are put up and guests start to scour the area for that perfect place for their tent. The location of the "green rocket" (outhouse tent) is made known to all. Details and being prepared matter in nature as firewood is gathered, equipment tended to, and water buckets filled, along with numerous other camp chores. Guests have the opportunity to explore around the area while the cook finishes setting up the kitchen and starts the evening meal. Well-planned, wholesome, homegrown meals prepared on a wood cook stove are highlights of the camp. The dinner bell rings, dinner is served, and folks share highlights of the day. With camp cleaned up and belled stock turned loose to graze, conversations continue around the campfire, while others choose to quietly take in the solitude. The serenity of the vast wilderness embraces your soul and calms your mind.

For another day in the wilderness, the chaos of the world is forgotten, and time seems to both stand still and yet, fly by. Lulled to sleep by the ripple of the nearby river, rustling leaves, the faint sound of the bells on the stock, one feels exhausted, yet so refreshed. The next day is a layover day, allowing time to explore the area. Authentic activities immersed in nature and guided by the 7 Lazy P crew will fill the day; hiking mountain trails, climbing peaks, fly fishing scenic wild waters, connecting with your horse on a day ride, or just relaxing in camp. A guest referring to a week-long trip into the Bob Marshall summed up the experience with, "you wonder how you are ever supposed to go back to 'real life,' because your soul understands that this was the 'reallest' you have ever lived."

For more information: sevenlazyp.com. Call or text 406-781-7496. ♦



Photos courtesy of Danelle Crary







Horses, Heart and Kentucky's Unbridled Spirit:

"United We Stand Divided We Fall" Galloping Toward a Better World

by Jackie Stevenson,
MSSA, LISW, BCC

*And Spirit grasped a handful of southerly wind,
Blew breath over it and created the horse...Virtue bound in the hair of the forelock,*

*A gaze from the depths of dream,
Given the power of flight without wings*
— Bedouin Tale

What does "Kentucky Unbridled Spirit" mean?

"Kentucky is a place where spirits are free to soar and big dreams can be fulfilled. We relish competition and cherish our champions for their willingness to push beyond conventional boundaries to reach new heights of success."

The horse is the central image in the Kentucky brand and is at the very heart of

Kentucky culture and daily life as a symbol of strength, dreams, resiliency, and forward movement.

Change is all around us and for many of us within us, as well. Now, more than ever, we need the ability to be resilient.

What is Resiliency?

"Resilience is that ineffable quality that allows some people to be knocked down by life and come back stronger than ever. Rather than letting failure overcome them and drain their resolve, they find a way to rise from the ashes." Psychology Today

Resilience is born in the heart and we all have it.

It involves behaviors, thoughts, and actions that can be learned, developed, and practiced by anyone. One of the ways we can cultivate and experience our natural internal resiliency is in relationship with our horses and within the

resilient realm of nature.

Masters of resiliency, horses trace their lineage back over 65 million years. Horses have embodied resilience for generations, thriving inherently through changing life conditions by:

- Being united as they stand steady and galloping forward as one
- Responding with a big heart and brave *sense-ability*
- Being optimistic and present to the moment
- Adapting effectively and efficiently to change
- Seeking safety, belonging, and connecting as a herd

How might we learn from the unbridled spirit of the Kentucky horse (and all our horses) about developing resiliency and come galloping through unprecedented personal and global changes stronger, better, and more resilient?

How might we be inspired by the resiliency of our horses to gallop unbridled beyond conventional boundaries to reach new heights of success?

United We Stand Divided We Fall

Resiliency: Horses are united as they stand steady and gallop forward as one

Horses stand steady, their hooves on the earth, aware of each other and their surroundings, ready to move as one should the need arise. Watching a herd of horses in the field on a peaceful morning it is common to see several horses napping on the ground with one or more horses standing guard over them. We might notice them touching each other in friendship or nipping to get one another moving. One horse discovers sweeter grass or shade on a hot day and the herd moves together to the next best place to be.

If the herd is quietly grazing and one horse senses danger, maybe a coyote slinking through the field or a loud unexpected noise, the message is passed instantly through the herd from one horse to the other and they all move as one. Watching over and out for one another and by moving together, the herd escapes danger and moves safely. The survival of each horse in the herd depends on them uniting into a strong resilient herd and the well-being of the herd depends on the resiliency of each individual horse.

The great state of Kentucky motto, "*United we stand, divided we fall*", captures this resilient spirit of the horse. The seal of Kentucky depicts two men, one in buckskin, and the other in more formal dress. The men are facing each other and clasping hands. The outer ring of the seal is adorned with the words, "Commonwealth of Kentucky", and within the inner circle is the state motto, "*United we stand, divided we fall*".

How might we be better prepared and able to



Photos courtesy of Spirit of Leadership



successfully navigate our challenges if *we* lived more like the resilient Kentucky horse and according to the Kentucky motto?

Resiliency: Horses have a big heart

This is literally true – an average horse heart is about seven times as large as a human heart and weighs (on the average) seven to nine pounds compared to a half pound human heart.

Thoroughbred horses' hearts weigh an average of nine to eleven pounds, while the "wonder horse", Secretariat, had a heart that weighed 22 pounds.

The scientific research of the Heartmath Institute has measured the electromagnetic field from a horse's heart extending out to a range of 40 - 50 feet or more, while the human heart was measured extending out only 8-10 feet.

Heartmath research has demonstrated that a horse's most natural state is one of

"coherence", where the mind and heart are connected, and the intelligence of the heart takes the lead. Horse hearts and human hearts have more neurons than our brains and take in essential information from our senses. However, unlike horses, who listen primarily from the intelligence of their heart, we humans override our heart intelligence in favor of our mind. Horses, in their most natural state, live in heartfelt calm and harmony with themselves, their herd mates and their environment, allowing for resiliency, agility, and adaptability.

Most of us can remember a time hanging out with our horse in the pasture, riding comfortably along a trail, or sitting curled up in the stall with them while they munched hay. Magically, any stress and worry melted away, our negative thoughts and anxiety disappeared.

In the presence of the horse, and the coherence and

harmony of their big hearts, we can feel the compassion of our heart towards ourselves and others, and a sense of inner calm and well-being.

How might our human relationships and relationships with our horses be more satisfying – if we lived like our horse buddies with their compassionate big hearts – not judging or criticizing, but simply accepting ourselves and others as we are? Can we create, in our human and horse herds, resilient heartfelt relationships of respect, trust, and maybe even love?

Resiliency: Horses live in the present moment rather than the past or future

Horses' natural state is always in the present moment, not looking over their shoulder with regret to the past, or out beyond the present to fears of the future, but optimistic that there is always a way out of a difficult situation. Being present-centered and aware of the world around them prepares them to be resilient; their choices and actions relevant to the moment, and

Continued on page 60



Horses, Heart

Continued from page 59

prepared for challenge, change, and opportunity.

In the presence of the horse we can slow up, calm down, and come to our senses - being present to our inner resources and what really matters to us. There are many things horses can teach us about living in the truth and honesty of the present moment. In this way, being fully present with the horse, we can feel deeply connected and tuned in to our horse and we can also tune into what is happening within ourselves as well.

Margo, a well-respected attorney and executive vice president of a successful global company, was in love with horses as a girl. She spent long hours playing, talking, and hanging out with her pony. She intuitively knew her most precious secrets were safe with her pony, Lucky, as his were with her.

Margo came to our ranch for executive coaching and to think through some important professional life choices. She came seeking my guidance as a coach, but knew that she was most clear thinking and feeling around horses, and so chose Tess, our Shetland pony, as her coach to support her through her dilemma.

Margo, like Tess, the pony, is small in height but big in

her authentic presence and her influence in the herds of her life.

In the good company of Tess and the open space of the pasture, Margo was able to think more clearly, listen to her heart, and tap into her intuition - all ingredients found in resilience. Margo reflected to me:

Surprisingly, in the presence of Tess, the questions that emerged from within me were not the ones I came with. Initially, my questions to Tess were, how can I be more effective in my work, have less stress, and how can I be a more effective and smarter boss in my law department?

But looking into Tess's compassionate eyes and stroking her soft body, I found myself asking deeper and more personal questions, *What do I want my life to be about, what makes me happy, and how can I best use my talents for good?*

Tess seemed to know when I was being 'authentically me' even before I did...

I sometimes forget who I am - moving too fast, losing myself in the future, or moving too slow - dragging my feet in the past.

Tess, in her *horse sense* way, reminded me to stay present **now**, listen with more patience and empathy, and move slowly and balanced in complex and sensitive situations."

Human relationship with horses, like Margo's

relationship with her pony, Lucky, and her "pony coach", Tess, can be traced back to ancient drawings captured on cave walls 25,000 years ago in France, and to the legends and stories of ancient tribal cultures throughout the world. Today, in our hearts, the horse still prances and our love affair with horses continues. Horses inspire our dreams and creativity, carry us farther and faster than we can travel alone, and bring us closer to our instinctual and authentic nature.

Horses carry us over the rough terrain of life and enable us to explore and move beyond our previous limitations. They operate from an authentic, inherent, and collective intelligence, and they can guide us to that place of wisdom within ourselves.

Resiliency, adapting effectively and efficiently to expected and unexpected change, is more than bouncing back - it is galloping forward to the next best place to be.

Like resilient horses in their herds we can tap into our resiliency, moving beyond our current reality, creating the conditions for our best possible future to emerge, and then be there to greet it.

Resiliency: Seeking safety, belonging, and connection as a herd

Seeking safety

We share with our horses

three basic needs: the need for safety, the need to belong, and the need for connection. Resiliency ensures that horses and humans have the capacity to meet these basic needs, especially in times of challenge and change.

Horses ensure their safety by paying attention and being aware of what is happening around them, moment to moment. Calm, relaxed, and alert - they are ready and prepared to take appropriate action as needed. My heart is warmed watching our herd when one or two of the horses "stand guard" over the other horses out napping or relaxing in the field on a sunny day.

In our herd, no horse is left behind. One of the herd members (usually our zebra) waits for the slower horse to join the herd, or safely accompanies a horse returning to the trough for water.

Horses are gifted with innate emotional wisdom, and listen to language beyond words. The language of the horse is "body", and free from a rational thought process - they can directly perceive reality and respond honestly.

The herd responds to the messages carried by the scents in the wind and also vibrations of movement from the earth - through their hooves and jaw bones. They read the subtle and not-so-subtle body language of each other and the other creatures that come

into their world, including humans. Horses are affected by our moods and emotions, our stress, nervousness, anger, or calm - as well as our peacefulness and joyfulness. Horses have an amazing ability to resonate with our true emotions and reflect to us our authentic self. This transparent, honest, and unbiased response and feedback offers us the

uneasy and often will walk away from us. When we remove the mask of incongruity - when we are who we say we are, and do what we say we will do - the horse visibly calms, relaxes, and often moves toward us. In this way, horses mirror our authentic selves and provide in-the-moment feedback about our thoughts, body language, and actions.

challenges us - in relationships and in organizational life - is beyond words and rational thought. Embodied language beyond verbal communication and the space of silence are key factors when engaging in a direct meeting with horses and with people.

In silent encounters with our horses, the quiet frees us from the chatter of inner and

behaviorally in a variety of ways that allows them to survive and thrive. Our modern form of humanity has evolved for about 200,000 years and we have had relationships with horses going back a mere 6,000 years.

Adaption is an evolutionary process, in our horses and in us, to be able to live successfully within our



opportunity to experience ourselves with more clarity, and adjust our thoughts, feelings, and behavior to be better horse and human partners.

Horses register incongruence; it is one of the skills they use to stay safe. When we are not congruent (not authentic) with ourselves or with them, they become

Emotion is information which registers through their entire bodies. A horse maintains its integrity - using only as much force and energy as necessary in the moment. When there is conflict within the herd it is appropriate to the time, place, and situation - and when it is over, it is over.

As humans, much of what

outer voices, the sounds of computers, and telephones. As we enter silent dialogue with horses, we also enter quiet dialogue with ourselves.

Resiliency: Adapting effectively and efficiently to change

Horses have evolved over more than 65 million years and have adapted physically and

changing environment. The process of adapting occurs over many generations - and the better the horse and the human adapts - the better the chance for survival. Adaption might be physical or behavioral traits learned from experience, instinct, or inherited from past generations.

Continued on page 62



Photos courtesy of Spirit of Leadership

Horses, Heart

Continued from page 61

Research has shown that horses have adapted to climate change by getting smaller. During extreme periods of global warming, it appears that some horses decreased in size by about 44 percent, but gained back approximately 76 percent of their size after the end of the global warming era.

In addition to size, the horse has adapted by changing physically in many ways:

- elongating its legs to run from predators
- altering its molars to live on scrub grass
- hair length that changes according to season
- large eyes on the side of their head to see a wide perspective
- ears to hear everything around it
- a long neck to raise its head high to be aware of what is coming
- nostrils to smell danger
- developing hooves that can dig for water
- the ability to sleep standing up

All of these physical adaptations allow horses to identify danger and run from it, rather than confront and fight.

Instinct and intuition are essential for the horse's survival. They have a direct perception of reality in the present moment, independent of rational process. Horses are invaluable because they help us develop and trust our intuition, an internal resource that can guide us in adapting effectively and efficiently within a changing social and physical environment.

Many of the behavioral problems we attribute to our horses are behaviors that have helped them survive for millions of years.

Some of the behaviors of horses which cause concern in their relationship with us - like quick reactions and running first and thinking later, are simply the horses' adapting over generations to its natural environment - even though our horses may not live in the environment.

Maybe, we too, like our horses, are doing our best to adapt, survive, and thrive in the

uncertain and unpredictable changing conditions of our personal lives and world.

Belonging

A sense of belonging is the feeling of being connected and accepted within one's family, community, and one's herd. Belonging asks us to accept ourselves just as we are - and others as they are.

Horses are social animals with a strong instinct to bond and "herd" together.

In a herd everyone belongs, everyone is essential, and everyone matters. Being left out of the herd is a core survival issue.

Most often, people bring horses into the human world. Entering the world of "horse and herd" as their guests is a unique opportunity to experience a culture of shared leadership, relational responsibility, and more than verbal communication. We can then reflect on the human cultures we create with more awareness and intention.

Margaret Mead approached visiting a culture as a respectful guest.

She would go to the edge of the culture and wait for an invitation from a member of the culture to enter. She would set up camp and patiently wait for the invitation, that might take weeks or months, and when it came they would be invited into the heart of the culture and there would be an exchange of gifts of value.

Generally, with horses the process unfolds in the moment, if the engagement is with *sense-ability*, respect, and a genuine and willing curiosity to engage.

Lisa attended a workshop on horses and teambuilding at our Ranch. After spending time with the horses in the herd at natural liberty, all choosing when to engage and with whom to engage, Lisa said it was one of the few times she felt she belonged, and the first time she felt that she belonged on her team.

The teambuilding activity that Lisa did with the horse and her human herd we call, *Finding Your Place of Belonging in the Herd*.

We ask people to explore

the question,

Where are your places of belonging?

We invited people to explore a variety of places of belonging - or not belonging - within the now "human and horse herd" wandering around the field.

The suggestion was to: Wander around in the field of the horse herd and human herd

Pause where you sense or feel you belong or your place of belonging.

Get the feel of where you are. What do you notice about the external landscape and internal landscape?

Make a change, wander around in the field of the horses, and pause. Get the feel of where you are. What do you notice about the external landscape and internal landscape?

Make a third change, wandering around in the field of the horses, and pause.

Get the feel of where you are. What do you notice about the external landscape and internal landscape?

Where did you feel most at home, comfortable, and authentically you? What place was a "stretch" and why?

What can you take with you from this experience to your home and work field?

You might want to try this with your horses and herd. Where do *you* feel most like you belong?

Relationship is primary in the herd; a non-adversarial, harmonious relationship based on shared trust, communication, understanding, and a complete acceptance of the importance of each member's place in the herd. There is care, compassion, and respect for all, and everyone is valued for their unique abilities. The survival of each herd member is dependent on the well-being of the herd, and the survival of the herd is dependent on the well-being of each of its members.

They live in groupings, and

move toward relationship. Being left out of the herd is a core survival issue. As members of the herd they do not blindly follow, but manifest their unique positions and individuality and fulfill their special position in the herd. When a horse knows its position and is supported by the herd in maintaining its place, anxiety in the individual horse and in the herd is low or nonexistent, while uncertainty of position creates high anxiety. There is generally one lead mare that has been entrusted with leadership by the herd, who will follow her absolutely, and challenge her continually.

Horse personality is usually friendly and generous, so they make a lot of both horse and human friends.

Horses do not care what kind of car we drive, how much money we make, or how many university degrees we hold. They want only to know how you will be with them. Are you fair and just? Kind and compassionate? Are you lively and fun, clear, purposeful, honest, and trustworthy? Will you listen to their needs and forgive their honest mistakes?

What does it take to belong in your horse's life or in your horse herd?

Just ask your horse.

Engaging with horses challenges us to learn *how* to think rather than *what* to think. The awesome beauty and inherent power of horses influences people in incredible ways. Horses have maintained much of their wild nature. They are large and powerful, so their presence creates a natural opportunity to face challenge and develop confidence. In relationship with horses, we learn to summon our own moment-to-moment calm, strength, focus, respect, and trust. We can explore and move beyond our previous limitations into freedom of choice. This experience is directly transferable to our family and

work relationships.

In the good company of our horses we can find our hooves, as united we stand with courage, opening our hearts with compassion - and finding our place of belonging.

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Horse hoof prints and human footprints--- together we gallop forward. In the awesome presence of these majestic beings, we meet ourselves in an expanded sense of freedom and awe. In relationship with horses we can discover our legacy and experience the grace of being human. ♦

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Jackie Stevenson is the founder and CEO of Spirit of Leadership, LLC, providing coaching, leadership, and team building training and seminars for corporations and non-profit organizations. For more information: spirit-of-leadership.com

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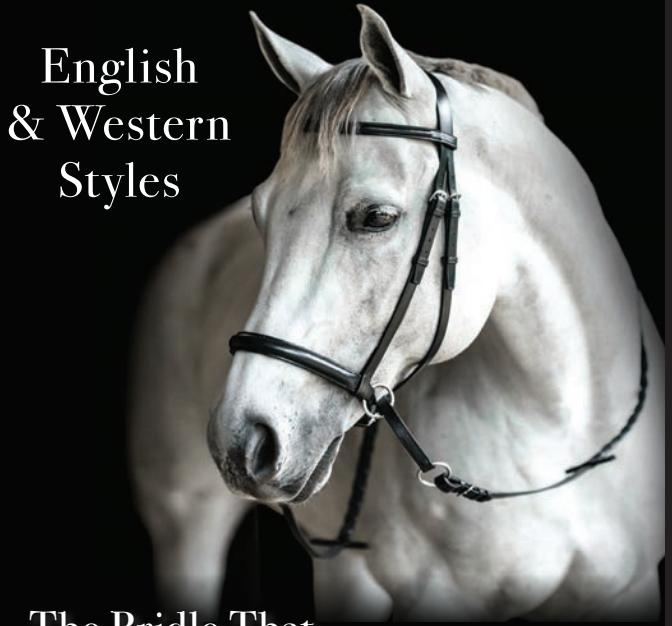
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The Riddle Half (of Rood and Riddle)

a book excerpt

by Tom Riddle, DVM

(co-founder of Rood and Riddle
Equine Hospital)

CHAPTER 1

The Rood and Riddle Story

The partnership which led to the formation of Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital began in 1982, when I left my resident veterinarian position at Leslie Comb's world-renowned Spendthrift Farm to join Bill Rood's thriving solo equine ambulatory practice in Lexington, Kentucky. Dr. Rood, a University of California at Davis veterinary graduate, moved to Lexington in 1972 to practice veterinary medicine. He subsequently also graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1975. I was a 1974 graduate of Wake Forest University and graduated from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in 1978. After graduation I moved to Kentucky to do

an internship with Dr. Don Witherspoon at Spendthrift Farm; after my internship year I continued working there as one of the resident veterinarians until joining Dr. Rood in January, 1982.

Early in the formation of Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, the partners' goal was to be the "Mayo Clinic for horses." This vision of excellence has guided our plans since its inception, both in our facilities and technology and in our selection of the veterinary and lay staff. This commitment to premier service, care and communication has resulted in the establishment of an outstanding international reputation for our equine veterinary practice.

CHAPTER 5

Partnering with Dr. Bill Rood

After three and a half years at Spendthrift, it was time for me to "spread my wings." I was in a very comfortable "rut" there, and I realized I needed to do something else. In 1981, I started looking around for other opportunities and ended up calling Dr. Bill Rood, who had an excellent solo practice in the Lexington area. We got together for drinks a couple of times and ended up deciding that we would give practicing together a try. This was a great decision for me. Bill was very interested in the business end of veterinary medicine, and I was more interested in the actual "hands on" of practice. Next to my marriage and my decision to go to vet school, deciding to work with Dr. Rood was my "number

Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital Lexington, Kentucky

three" best decision.

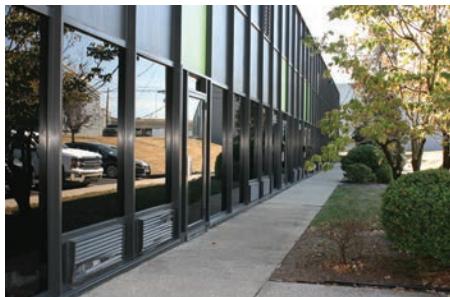
Bill had two philosophies that served us well over the years of practicing together. He always emphasized surrounding ourselves with quality people, and we have been very fortunate with that philosophy. Another principle that he stressed is "always taking the high road." By this he meant that even in difficult circumstances, we would be better off making decisions that would consistently reflect well on our practice and ourselves; we should never appear to be vindictive.

In January of 1982 Rood and I began practicing together, working out of Bill's garage.

By the second year, we moved to a combination warehouse/garage/ office at the Melbourne Distribution Center and were very pleased with our accomplishment. We had an "open house party" at that first office and felt that we had really arrived! At that point, Bill and I had hired our first associate and really started to think of Rood and Riddle as a practice.



First home (garage) of
Rood & Riddle 1982



Second home of Rood & Riddle 1984

From our early days of talking about practicing together, Bill had talked about wanting to build an intensive care unit to care for sick neonates. He had a guy in mind, Dr. Tim Cudd, to hire to run our ICU, and Tim did a great job with our foals. I knew that if we had sick neonates, some of them would end up needing surgery, so we decided to look into hiring a surgeon. If we had a surgeon, we would need more than just foals for him/her to work on, and thus Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital as a complete equine veterinary service began. We were absolutely blessed that Dr. Rolf Embertson eventually agreed to join us as our first surgeon.

Bill and I started looking around for a place to build our hospital, and we ended up buying 24 acres on Georgetown Road. This land was part of a 206-acre tract that had been for sale for a while. Fortunately, the sellers agreed to carve off a smaller tract for us, which made it possible for us to afford it. The property had been part of the farm where Man o' War was foaled and raised, which is an historical fact we have had some fun with. It turns out the balance of the 206 acres is now extremely valuable and would have been a great investment for us. However, we were absolutely financially stretched to buy what we did, so I really don't have any regrets about not buying the whole parcel.

We broke ground for Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in July of 1985. Six months later, in February of 1986, we moved into our new facility. Having gone through many construction projects



Tom Riddle & Bill Rood 1985

since then, I am amazed that we were in our new buildings just six months after we broke ground. (We knew that we needed to open as soon as possible primarily for financial reasons, so we related this to our contractor. We had a clause in our building contract: if we were not operational in six months, the contractor would be penalized.) With this financial motivation in place, he came through.

Breaking Ground

Dr. Rolf Embertson started with us on March 1, 1986, and, the rest, as they say, is history. We have added veterinarians and expanded our facilities in Kentucky almost every year since then, and we have started satellite hospitals in Saratoga Springs, New York, and Wellington, Florida.

One of the first veterinarians to join Rood and Riddle was Dr. Scott Pierce. Boy, were we lucky he did! From the

beginning, Dr. Pierce was excellent at almost every aspect of equine practice; from broodmares to sales yearlings, he has done it all and done it well. In recent years, he has concentrated his practice on the sales, and he is a trusted advisor to many of the best in the Thoroughbred business.

All profits from the sale of The Riddle Half (of Rood and Riddle) go to The Foundation for the Horse, the American Association of Equine Practitioners' (AAEP's) charitable arm that supports horses and horse people throughout the world, and the Theriogenology Foundation, the global non-profit of the organization of veterinarians dedicated to animal reproduction. ♦

The book may be purchased by contacting Rood & Riddle Veterinary Pharmacy at 859-246-0112 or online at RRVP.com. For a signed copy, \$5.00 will be added to the purchase price.

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Developing a Healthy Topline?



by **Tania Cubitt, PhD**

Performance Horse Nutrition

How to get your horse that perfect topline?

Well, first we must understand what the topline is. The shape of horses' backs can vary greatly from horse to horse. The topline of the horse includes the withers, back loin (or coupling), and croup. Strength of topline and loin muscles also influences soundness and athletic ability. Horses with toplines that are sunken in over their withers, concave along the back and loin, or dished in around their hip bones and hindquarters, will have diminished strength in those areas.

Several factors can contribute to a poor topline, including:

- Age
- Workload
- Pregnancy or lactation
- Lack of or incorrect exercise
- Poor saddle fit
- Diet

It has been a common practice for many years to feed additional calories from fat supplements or grains to try

and improve a horses' topline condition. This is not very successful as these calories are either used for energy and exercise, or they are stored as fat. Typical fat storage areas in horses are behind the shoulders, over the ribs and neck, and around the tail head - but not necessarily over the topline. A horse would have to be fed quite a lot of additional calories for fat to be laid down over the back. One of the biggest misconceptions regarding a horses' topline is that the topline is made up of fat; it is actually made mostly of muscle. Since the muscles along the withers, back, loin, and croup make up the horses' topline, losses in this area are actually *atrophy* of these muscles.

So what can we feed that will help build the perfect topline?

What can we feed to develop more muscle in the horse? Since muscle is made up of over 70% protein, building and maintaining muscle in the body requires the correct amount of dietary protein. Unfortunately,

protein is mistakenly seen in a negative light nutritionally and often avoided. When a horse has a poor topline it is due to diminished muscle mass and potentially due to insufficient, good quality protein in the diet. Proteins are made up of building blocks called amino acids, and are an essential part of a horses' diet. Some of these amino acids include: lysine, methionine, tryptophan, and threonine. These, and other essential amino acids, are linked together in the body to form muscle. Not all protein, however, is created equal and just feeding a higher crude protein feed or hay, may have limited results. The *quality* of that crude protein or the *amount* of essential amino acids is what determines the effectiveness of that protein. Diets containing adequate levels of all the essential amino acids can drastically improve an imperfect topline.

Feeding a concentrate containing high-quality protein sources such as legumes, including soybean and alfalfa, along with additional individual amino acids,

will promote muscle tone and a strong topline. These high quality protein sources provide essential amino acids in reasonable feeding levels to allow for proper muscle development.

Exercise is also important when trying to develop or improve a horses' topline. Exercise will condition and train existing muscles, and will help build a topline, only if the nutritional building blocks of muscle are available in the diet. Very often, horses in low to moderate work, who are also easy keepers (i.e., lower level dressage horses or horses in semi-retirement) are fed a diet that is protein/amino acid deficient. These horses have plenty of rib cover, and may even be overweight, but they have a poorly developed topline, especially over the loin, due to protein deficiency.

If your horse is eating an adequate amount of quality protein, the next nutritional deficiency that may cause poor topline is vitamin E. An insufficient amount of natural vitamin E can hinder muscle development - especially over the horses' topline.

For more information: feeddac.com ♦





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Sylvia Zerbini at Equine Affaire

Sylvia Zerbini: Living Every Horse-Crazy Girl's Dream

You would be hard-pressed to find a horse woman who, at some point in her life, didn't dream of running away with the circus.

by Sarah E. Coleman

With movies like *The Greatest Showman*, *Dumbo*, and *Water for Elephants*, entertainment lovers can get their fill of circus life on the big screen, if not under the Big Top. Though Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey have shuttered their doors, the circus isn't something of the past—it has simply shifted platforms.

Equine-Focused Entertainment

For horse lovers, this deviation can be great news—now, instead of the horses being just one piece of a larger show, they ARE the show! If you're a horse lover who hasn't heard of Cavalia (Cavalia.com), it's

worth a quick search to see videos and images of one of the most amazing equestrian displays in the world. Similar to Cirque du Soleil, Cavalia has a variety of shows with one main goal: to highlight the bond between horse and human.

One of the equine entertainment world's preeminent stars is Sylvia Zerbini. Born in Sarasota, Florida, Sylvia was literally born for this role: She's the ninth generation of a circus family. Sylvia's mom was an aerialist and her dad trained both wild animals and horses—setting Sylvia up for success at a very young age. Growing up, she took ballet and gymnastics, as well as studied aerial trapeze work. "Animals have always been

an important part of our family," Sylvia explains. "We were always taught to listen to the language of each animal—that was our job." If you've ever seen Sylvia perform, it's clear that she does more than just listen to her horses—she converses with them.

"When I was young, puppies and horses were always my thing," she says. "But I began performing at 5 or 6 with an elephant." Though her empathy and understanding of animals made her a success with any act in which she tried her hand, interacting with the horses is where she truly shined.

Learning the Language of Horses

"When I was little and wanted to go play, I would go into the pastures with the horses," Sylvia explained. "I would stick horses out



Photo courtesy of Sylvia Zerbini

together in different groups to see how they would interact with each other." While not an opportunity most horse-crazy kids have, that's where Sylvia learned the language of the horse. Sylvia took what she observed and applied it to her own interactions with horses. "For example, I learned that there are always three warnings before a horse attacks another," she explains, "and that horses can recognize one another

by how they walk—which is always in a straight line.”

Sylvia was able to connect with horses outside the United States as well. Her grandparents lived in France, and she was able to stay with them on their farm. “There I really witnessed how the horses communicated with one another,” she said. “It’s amazing how sensitive [the horses] are.” To this day, Sylvia trains her horses in French.

Traveling

Sylvia’s parents owned their own show, but when she turned 16, Sylvia began traveling with other circuses, including Ringling Bros., with whom she toured for 10 years. With them, Sylvia showcased her unique combination of aerial art and equestrianism, “before that, it was always one act or the other,” she explains. A pioneer in this new art form, Sylvia would do her trapeze work and then one of her horses would bring her a cape, and together they would do an aerial equine ballet. This type of equine work differed incredibly from traditional circus horse work, which typically featured multiple horses in patent leather harnesses wearing plumes on their heads, traveling around the perimeter of the ring.

Sylvia was able to accomplish this feat, and many others, because she learned the language of the horse. “This allowed me to create my own art and made my training so much easier,” she explained. But don’t be fooled—Sylvia didn’t get the “easy” horses, or ones that were exactly tractable. “I am known for working with the horses that are stubborn or hot-headed,” she explains. She works well with them because she listens to what they’re trying to tell her: “I find that many people just don’t listen to what the horse is saying,” she says.



Photo courtesy of Sylvia Zerbini

A Change of Direction

No matter if Sylvia is working with the circus, Cavalia, or a clinic, the work she does looks like magic. During her time with Cavalia, she would have up to 14 horses performing with her at once. Her breed of choice for liberty work is the Arabian. “They are just so intelligent and playful,” she says, “and they’re a bit smaller, which is helpful in the confines of the ring.” For her part of the show, Sylvia would bring in a live herd of 10 to 12 horses and work with them all at once. People called it “equine ballet.”

Sylvia had planned to go with Cavalia to Las Vegas, where the show was set to perform in 2020 and beyond. However, the COVID-19 pandemic changed everything. With no immediate plans to resurrect Cavalia, Sylvia had her husband, Richie, bring the horses home from Canada to her Grande Liberté Farm in Williston, Florida, with his transport company, Grande

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Sylvia Zerbini

Continued from page 73

Liberté Farm SZ Equine Transportation.

Though completely blindsided by the pandemic, Sylvia isn't one to dwell on the negative; similar to her horses, she's focused on today. Sylvia travels around the country teaching clinics, and now offers private liberty lessons and trapeze aerial training at her farm.

"I teach people how to move the horses without whips," she explains. "People will find me to help with their horses (they are having issues with)," she says. "It is honest work. Horses are honest - they're not testing you; if something is going wrong, we have to correct ourselves and look at it from a different angle. The horse isn't intentionally being bad."

Sylvia is admittedly a very private person. Though this can seem at odds with her larger-than-life profession, this



Photo by Helen Peppe, Courtesy of Equine Affaire

introspection and quietness is what has allowed her such success in her work with horses—success that will continue no matter where the horses lead her. For now, this equine ballerina will continue

to live every horse girl's dream, helping hundreds of horses, and their owners, in the process.

Learn more about Sylvia at her Facebook page: [Facebook.com/SylviaZerbini](https://www.facebook.com/SylviaZerbini) ♦

Based in Lexington, Kentucky, Sarah Coleman has a soft spot for chestnuts with chrome, including her off-the-track Thoroughbred, Chisholm, whom she adopted from New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program.



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Visit Horse Country

by Anne Hardy

For horse lovers anywhere, bucolic Lexington, KY should be at the top of the must-visit list. Rolling hills and farmland abound, populated by generations of horsemen and women and horses of all breeds. In the inner Bluegrass region alone, there is said to be over 450 horse farms; there is a reason it is known as the Horse Capital of the World.

Thirty of these farms and equine organizations are united under the umbrella of Horse Country, a not-for-profit membership organization offering experiences to guests that allow for deep connection and interaction with equine life. Founded in 2014 and launching tour experiences in 2015, Horse Country has hit its stride as a premier attraction for visitors to the area. Access to the local Thoroughbred farms and the opportunity to meet some of the famous faces of horse racing (humans and animals!) has long been a top request at the local visitor centers. Horse Country offers all that - and more. And it's not just great for the visitors and fans. Offering authentic

and transparent experiences and owning the narrative of horse care is transforming the way the farms and equine businesses relate to fans.

"What we have found is that guests are looking for a 'horse experience', and when they find Horse Country, they get that, but also an up-close look at the day-to-day life of the many people who make this industry go," shares Stephanie Arnold of Horse Country. "It's meaningful because it's about original stories and it's about education and it's about an appreciation for the utter dedication to the care of these beloved animals. When guests leave a tour, typically their satisfaction increases, and they have a greater understanding of the sport in ways they may not have expected to."

Founded with the mission of fan development, Horse

Country has evolved from basic, one-hour tours to offering a variety of experiences for fans at every level: maintaining entry-level tours but also offering private, VIP, specially curated, and elevated tours. Some guests have even purchased shares of racehorses as a result of Horse Country tours. The tourism crisis of COVID-19 recently offered the opportunity for the farms to share virtual tours when in-person wasn't possible, exposing the organization, locations, and Kentucky to millions of viewers who otherwise would not have been captured. "Silver linings as they say," Arnold reflects. "But in all seriousness, the organic reach that sprung out of a very difficult time is indeed a bright spot. We've heard from many virtual tour participants that now they'll be visiting the

Bluegrass - and these farms - because of the exposure through these live-streamed experiences."

Typical peak tour season runs March through October in Kentucky, when upwards of 30 locations - stud farms, nurseries, clinics, a feed mill, a sport horse farm, aftercare organizations, and training/track locations - offer varied experiences seven days a week. All experiences are booked in advance on the organization's website: VisitHorseCountry.com. Guests looking for assistance can connect with the Horse Country concierge with any questions and for assistance planning an itinerary.

"Our ultimate goal is fan development, so that we can share a part of the industry that promotes the sport and the care of the horses," Arnold says. "Anything that we can do to share our knowledge and assist with planning a wonderful trip, we are going to do that. We're locals, and we work for Horse Country, but we're fans first, and we love sharing the best of the sport and the state."

For more information: visithorsecountry.com ♦





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by **Gina Fortunato, AVP**

Veterinary Services, Crum & Forster Pet Insurance Group, providers of ASPCA Pet Health Insurance

ASPCA® Pet Health Insurance plans for horses are stand-alone, health-insurance-only plans, meaning the purchase of mortality insurance is not required to enroll, and the amount paid for a horse is not a determinant in their eligibility to be insured, making the plans fitting for any companion horse.

Pet health insurance helps pet parents say “yes” to their veterinarian’s recommendations. ASPCA Pet Health Insurance for horses is designed to lessen concern about the costs of veterinary care so that horse owners can focus on getting their horse the care they need.

Horse owners have the opportunity to select one of two plan options to best fit their individual horses’ needs. One of the plans, Colic + Accidents, includes coverage for the exam fees, diagnostics and treatment of colic episodes, and injuries and emergencies related to accidents, such as trailer-accident injuries, hoof abscesses, and toxic ingestions.

The second option horse owners can choose is Colic + Accidents + Illnesses. It covers the costs of exam fees, diagnostics and treatment of colic episodes, accidents, and illnesses – from minor illnesses like the common cold to major illnesses like cancer. Hereditary and congenital conditions are also included in the plan’s illness coverage.

When enrolling in an ASPCA Pet Health Insurance plan, horse owners can choose from a range

of deductible, coverage limit, and reimbursement percentage options. The ability to customize plans makes it even easier to find a plan that fits every horse owner’s budget.

- Deductible options of \$100, \$250, and \$500 are available. ASPCA Pet Health Insurance plan deductibles are annual, so a customer only has to meet it once in a 12-month policy period.
- Horse owners can also select an annual coverage limit of \$3,000, \$5,000, or \$7,000. The coverage limits for ASPCA Pet Health Insurance plans reset every year.
- The reimbursement percentage choices are 90 percent, 80 percent, and 70 percent of eligible veterinary costs.

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horse owners can add one of two preventive care coverage options – Routine Preventive Care and Platinum Preventive Care. Reimbursements for covered preventive services are based on scheduled amounts. Covered preventive services include dental floating, annual wellness exams, a rabies or tetanus vaccination, and other things that help protect horses from getting sick.

Caring for a horse can take a lot of time. With ASPCA Pet Health Insurance, quoting, enrolling, and submitting claims is quick and easy. And when you spend less time keeping your horse its healthiest, you and your horse can spend more time together doing what you both love! If interested in getting a free quote or enrolling your horse in an ASPCA Pet Health Insurance plan, visit: protectyourhorse.com. ♦

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Retired Racehorse Project Advances Equine Welfare

by Lisa Lopez Snyder

Every October, hundreds of off-track Thoroughbreds, each with 10 months or less of retraining, compete in 10 different disciplines during three days of the Thoroughbred Makeover & National Symposium in Lexington, Kentucky. The event has grown exponentially in the last 10 years, with trainers and owners vying for a share of over \$100,000 in prize money.

Sponsored by the nonprofit, Retired Racehorse Project, the symposium's Makeover has several goals: to showcase the trainability and talent of off-track Thoroughbreds, to inspire good trainers to learn how to transition these horses to second careers, and to educate owners and others in the care and training of these horses.

Dr. Shannon Reed, associate professor at the Ohio State University's Galbreath Equine Center, makes the 155-mile drive from Columbus, Ohio to Lexington, Kentucky to serve as consulting horse veterinarian for the Makeover. As such, she coordinates examinations of every horse participating in the event. It's a chance to use her expertise to help trainers and owners improve equine health and welfare.



Dr. Shannon Reed with client.

Photo: DeAnn Long Sloan

"I love the heart of the Thoroughbred racehorse and strongly feel that we need to do better to find them a place to go after the racing is done," she says. "It's personally fulfilling to have something I

can do to make it better."

Dr. Reed's involvement began when she groomed for a friend who was participating. "I was a trainer participant for two years," she says. "That first-hand experience gave

me some ideas about how they could incorporate more veterinarians and veterinary care into the process."

According to Dr. Reed, initial requirements were in place for participating horse health, but there was no formalized process to confirm that. That changed in 2019 with a new equine welfare initiative. "Last year, for the first time, every horse that arrived was required to have had an examination with a veterinarian," she adds. "They were examined to make sure they had a registered microchip in place, that they had achieved an appropriate body conditions score, and that they were sound at the walk."

After the success of the

New Thoroughbred Makeover Initiatives

Arrival Exam

Proof of the following:

- Current vaccinations
- Vitals within a normal range
- Microchip registration from The Jockey Club
- Pass a walking soundness exam
- 4 or higher score on the Henneke Body Condition Scale

Finale Jog for Makeover Finale qualifiers:

- Top five finishers of each of the 10 disciplines present before a ground jury of at least two veterinarians and a chief steward

Sponsor: Keeneland

Source: The Thoroughbred Makeover & National Symposium

2019 introduction of the veterinary examination, a new element was added for future Makeovers—a Finale Jog for all Thoroughbred Makeover Finale qualifiers, in which the top five finishers of each of the ten disciplines will present before a ground jury of at least two veterinarians and a chief steward. Keeneland Race Course, in Lexington, Kentucky, will sponsor the Arrival Exam and the Finale Jog.

Last year about 500 horses competed. The work entails 18-hour days for the first three days of the full week's events, a culmination of the educational efforts Dr. Reed conducts throughout the year. In 2019, 12 veterinary students assisted in the exams. Per Dr. Reed, "they were super excited to see what Thoroughbreds can do off the track, so this is also a wonderful way to educate our future veterinarians."

While the in-person events were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, several virtual offerings took place, including the ASPCA Makeover Marketplace, the TERF Makeover Master Class, webinars, a virtual Vendor Fair, and the Silent Auction.

Also, according to Dr. Reed, the 2021 competition will be a "double makeover," with an anticipated 700 participants.

Understanding retired racehorse health

Dr. Reed's latest research project studied 1400 retired Thoroughbred racehorses compared with non-Thoroughbred racehorses to understand any health problems they had in their first non-racing year and whether or not people were happy they had them.

The study found that while Thoroughbred racehorses were as successful as the non-Thoroughbred racehorses, it reported lameness, gastric ulcers, and weight gain or weight loss as issues of concern in the first year post-



Photo: DeAnn Long Sloan

retirement. Dr. Reed created webinars to help trainers identify these issues and find resources, and also created wellness check-ins with the trainers.

"The biggest thing is the nutritional support—to figure out how to feed them to get them healthy and help them find veterinarians if they need

them," she says.

"The Retired Racehorse Project's new welfare initiatives have had a significant impact. When I look at the Makeover when it started and where it's at now, and how good those horses looked last year when they came there, and the education that was provided, I feel like

I've done something that's really made a difference. These horses give a lot to us in racing. They deserve a good life afterward."

For more information: vet.osu.edu/about-us/people/shannon-reed retiredracehorseproject.org tbmakeover.org/about-rrp-thoroughbred-makeover ♦

The Thoroughbred Makeover & National Symposium

- **WHAT:** The largest Thoroughbred retraining competition in the world for recently-retired ex-racehorses, now entering its sixth year in its current format and location
- **WHEN:** October 12-17, 2021
- **WHERE:** Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington
- **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE:** Accepted trainers (professionals, amateurs, juniors, and teams) who applied between December 1, 2019 - January 15, 2020 for the 2020 competition. Horses are recently-retired Jockey Club-registered Thoroughbreds, who marked a workout or race after July 1, 2018 and have not had more than 15 retraining rides prior to December 1, 2019. Information about 2021 trainers and horses will be published soon; horse eligibility is not expected to change other than adding a year.
- **HOW HORSES ARE ACQUIRED FOR COMPETITION:** Trainers are responsible for acquiring their own eligible horses, whether through an aftercare organization, directly from track connections, or through a reselling agent. Trainers may opt to list their horse for sale via the Makeover Marketplace, but there is no requirement to sell the horse after competition.

Source: The Thoroughbred Makeover & National Symposium



2001 IEA National Champion Team
Stoneleigh-Burnham



2019 IEA National Champion Team
HRA/Foxtail

PAVING THE ROAD FOR YOUTH RIDERS

From Humble Beginnings to the Largest Youth Equestrian Association in the Country IEA Prepares to Celebrate 20 Years of Equestrian Competition and Education

Written by Susan Wentzel, IEA National Steward and Kimber Whanger, IEA Communications Coordinator

Prior to becoming an official association in 2002, the seedling **Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA)** was the Interscholastic Invitational Horse Show hosted by The Andrews School in Willoughby, Ohio. Only a handful of people can claim first-hand knowledge of how truly special that inaugural competition was.

It's doubtful many, if any, of those attendees imagined that event would grow into the largest youth equestrian association in the United States, with over 14,000 members and growing! When organizing the Interscholastic Invitational, Roxane Durant, then Director of Riding at The Andrews School and now IEA Executive Director, dreamt of making riding a legitimate high school sport with a national championship serving as a stepping stone for those looking to ride in college. Hoping to promote the same horsemanship, team spirit, and excellence that were hallmarks of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA), she enlisted the support of Robert Cacchione, founder of the IHSA. He helped pitch the idea to The Andrews School Board of Trustees, members of the riding team, and the school faculty.

Using the IHSA draw-based competition format, Roxane opened the inaugural event to middle and high schools that recognized riding as a club or varsity sport. Of the 150 schools invited, eight answered the call. A total of forty-nine Hunt Seat riders competed from Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, and Washington, DC. Enthusiasm surrounding the event was high, and Roxane's talk of future plans inspiring. Gratified participants departed, eager for more competitions of this type.

Buoyed by that successful first attempt, Roxane set about gathering the founding members, three other horse enthusiasts from the Cleveland and Columbus areas, each with unique talents to contribute. As professional trainers, Roxane and Wayne Ackerer provided working knowledge of the equine industry. Timothy J. Boone served as legal counsel while Myron Leff covered the business and marketing angles.

Plans for the future were under way. The second Interscholastic Invitational held the following year doubled in size, with the schedule expanding across two days. Over 130 riders from sixteen different teams competed. Victor Hugo-Vidal served as judge, nine colleges from across the country were represented, and an Alumni division was added to the prize list. It was another stupendous event! In a coaches' meeting at the conclusion of competition, teams were asked to take the Interscholastic format home and host competitions. Those planning to participate in the spring 2002 Interscholastic Invitational were asked to qualify by attending an interscholastic competition held in their area of the country.

The Interscholastic Equestrian Association was officially formed for the 2002-03 competition season, and individuals and teams applied to become IEA members. Regular season shows were held in assigned Zones and points were tracked by the National Office. Individuals and teams had to qualify to compete in the first IEA National Finals competition held once again at The Andrews School. With the start of the 2021-2022 competition season, IEA is preparing to mark its 20th anniversary as an official non-profit association, serving aspiring equestrians from across the United States and the Bahamas.

Along with competitions in hunt seat, western, and dressage disciplines, members also have access to financial assistance through numerous scholarships and the IEA Benevolent Fund, leadership opportunities within individual teams and on the National Youth Board, online horsemanship testing, sportsmanship awards, educational webinars, virtual horse shows and the offerings continue to expand!

Exciting new initiatives for the 20th Anniversary year include the expansion of online virtual competitions for members and non-members, new class opportunities, and expanded options for our youngest riders in 4th and 5th grades. IEA's future appears to be rocketing along the same spirited trajectory it has followed since 2000! To learn more, visit www.rideiea.org.

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Photo courtesy of Midway University

Education With Horsepower

The ability to combine your equine enthusiasm with your profession isn't an elusive goal: Let one of the Kentucky colleges, universities, or trade schools show you how!

by Sarah E. Coleman

If you've ever thought the only professions that allow you to work with horses include horse trainer, veterinarian, or farrier, think again! Opportunities abound to work within the equine industry—and not all of them are hands-on.

There are hundreds of universities and colleges across the United States that offer equine major and minor options, as well as other levels of equine involvement,

including riding teams and horse-related clubs. In addition, niche-industry programs also exist, including those that teach students the ins-and-outs of being a jockey or a farrier. Students in any of these programs need not be fresh out of high school—non-traditional student enrollment is up across the board.

While every institution offers something specific, those located in Kentucky have an added incentive for students: they're located in

the heart of horse country. The state isn't dubbed the "horse capital of the world" for nothing; the 2012 Kentucky Equine Survey (equine.ca.uky.edu) reported that there are 242,400 horses in the state and over 35,000 equine operations. There truly is no better place to learn about all things equine than the Bluegrass State.

Schools Offering Four-year Degrees

Asbury University

Located in Wilmore, Ky., the Asbury University Equine Program offers students degrees in Equine Science, Equine-Related Business, Equine Assisted Activities, and Pre-Veterinary Medicine. The school focuses on academic excellence and spiritual vitality; it has an Equine Center that spans 343 acres that include trails, round pens, three barns, one indoor arena, and two outdoor arenas. Asbury is the only university in America

that offers a Police Horse Training Program (Service Mounts Program) conducted by students. asbury.edu

Midway University

Midway University is a private, Christian liberal arts university just minutes from Lexington. In addition to both hunt seat and western intercollegiate competition teams, the school offers both undergraduate and graduate equine degrees. The undergrad program offers Bachelor of Science degrees in Equine Studies, with concentrations in Equine Management, Equine Rehabilitation, or Science; also offered is a Minor in Equine Studies. The equine-oriented advanced degree is a Master of Business Administration with an Equine Management Concentration. The University itself sits on a picturesque, 200-acre horse farm, allowing students to truly walk out the door and straight to the barn. midway.edu

While every institution offers something specific, those located in Kentucky have an added incentive for students: they're located in the heart of horse country.

Morehead State University

A Bachelor of Science in Equine Science from Morehead State University in Morehead is an area of concentration in agricultural sciences. Ag core courses comprise the basis for the degree, with additional classes offered in horsemanship, equitation teaching, equine management, breeding and reproduction, among others. A Horsemanship minor is also an option for students wishing to learn about horsemanship in greater depth. Hands-on opportunities take place at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex, the school's 325-acre working farm. Many equine students also ride on Morehead's Hunt Seat and Western IHSA teams. moreheadstate.edu

Murray State University

Murray State University offers students a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with the option to focus on Equine Management or Equine Science. The program offers a hands-on, real-world based education designed to accommodate student interests in everything from research, management and

nutrition, to teaching. With facilities that include indoor and outdoor arenas, a rodeo practice area, dressage facility, and expo center, there's somewhere for each of the school's equestrian teams to feel at home. A Pre-Vet Club, Dressage Club, Rodeo

Club, and Intercollegiate Rodeo Team, along with other equine-oriented clubs are offered to give students even more outlets for their equestrian passions. murraystate.edu

University of Kentucky
The University of

Photo courtesy of Midway University

Kentucky's Ag Equine Program offers students a four-year, customizable Bachelor's degree specializing in science, business, communications, or leadership. UK's equine degree is one of only three

Continued on page 86



KEMI Fall 2020 intern,
Emily Csenar



Asbury University, Service Mount

Education

Continued from page 85

stand-alone, four-year equine undergraduate programs connected to a land-grant university in the United States. Students can also choose to participate in nearly a dozen equine-oriented clubs and teams, including dressage, eventing, rodeo, saddle seat, hunt seat and western competition teams, and a horse racing and professional horseman's club. louisville.edu

University of Louisville

The University of Louisville College of Business offers multiple equine education options, including a Post Baccalaureate (one-year) Certificate in Equine

Business, a Minor in Equine Business and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Equine Business (the only equine program in the world located in an Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International-accredited college of business.) Classroom experience is supplemented with internships, field experience, and prominent industry contacts. In addition, U of L has both Hunt Seat and Western IHSA teams. louisville.edu

Western Kentucky University

Western Kentucky University offers a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with concentrations in Animal Science, Horse Science, and Pre-Veterinary medicine,

among others. The Horse Science concentration includes classes in horse production, basic equitation, horse training, and multiple electives. Western Kentucky has a Western IHSA team. wku.edu

Trade Schools

Kentucky Horseshoeing School

The Kentucky Horseshoeing School combines the art and science of horse shoeing to provide comprehensive farrier education. The school sits on 40 acres in Richmond, and has 23,000 square feet of classrooms, shops, instructional areas, and dormitories. Founded in 1978, the school focuses on balanced shoeing by combining traditional practices with the newest research. Per the 2018-2019

catalog, the school offers a 12-week Farrier Survey Course, a 24-week Intermediate Farrier Program, and a 36-week Career Track Program option, as well as a National Farrier Training Program, and apprenticeship placement. The school also focuses heavily on Business Education. kentuckyhorseshoingschool.com

Equine Studies/North American Racing Academy

Part of the Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC), the Equine Studies/North American Racing Academy (NARA) program prepares students for entrance into the equine workforce with a focus on the Thoroughbred racing, breeding, and sales industry. The program provides a foundation

of education and training geared toward the expectation of employers in the equine/Thoroughbred industries.

The Equine Studies/North American Racing Academy (NARA) program at BCTC offers students the opportunity for numerous certificates that can be completed in as little as four months as well as an Associate in Applied Science in Equine Studies that offers an extensive internship program after only one semester of lab classes. bluegrass.kctcs.edu

Schools Offering Other Equine Options

Eastern Kentucky University

Eastern Kentucky University offers a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, as well as a minor in Horses, Humans and Health in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. This minor allows students the ability to explore the horse-human-health connection. Also offered is a Livestock Management Certificate and a Companion Animal

Continued on page 88



Photo courtesy of Leslie Janeka





Education

Continued from page 873

Management Certificate, which offers courses in everything from nutrition, genetics, reproduction and behavior, to welfare and anatomy. eku.edu

Georgetown College

Just one exit up from the Kentucky Horse Park, Georgetown College is a private Christian college with a unique equine experience: the Equine Scholars Program. A professional development program, the extracurricular

organization allows students to pursue any major at Georgetown they choose, and shows them how to combine that degree within the equine industry. Lectures, internships, and volunteering are key components of the program. Georgetown College also has a Hunt Seat IHSA team. georgetowncollege.edu

The Kentucky Equine Management Internship (KEMI) program

Kentucky Equine Management Internship is designed specifically for those students wishing to

work in the Thoroughbred industry. Throughout the 22-24-week program, students are employed full-time by Thoroughbred farms where they become familiar with the day-to-day management of horses on commercial farms. Students also attend lectures and labs designed to deepen their understanding of the industry. The Spring KEMI session focuses on the care and management of pregnant and foaling mares; the Fall session focuses on prepping Thoroughbreds for the state's commercial auctions. kemi.org

Northern Kentucky University

Northern Kentucky University has both Hunt Seat and Western IHSA teams; both teams are formed, developed, governed, and administered by the student membership, who work with University staff. nku.edu ♦

Based in Lexington, Kentucky, Sarah Coleman has a soft spot for chestnuts with chrome, including her off-the-track Thoroughbred, Chisholm, whom she adopted from New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program.



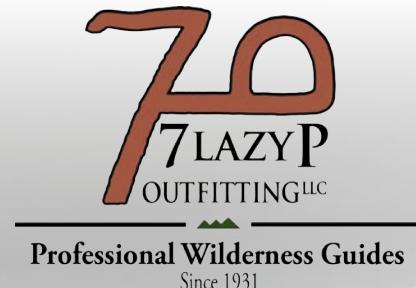
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