



**TOYOTA**

# Blue Grass Stakes 2008

Sponsored by Toyota

84th running • \$750,000 • Grade 1 • Three-Year-Olds • 1 1/8 Miles  
to be run Saturday, April 12, 2008

Biographies of owners, trainers, jockeys  
and horses in this year's race.

Biographies written by Amy Owens

KEENELAND 



# Toyota Blue Grass Stakes

The \$750,000 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G1) on April 12 is Keeneland's richest and most famous race and an important stop on the road to the \$2 million Kentucky Derby presented by Yum! Brands (G1). Run three weeks before the Kentucky Derby, the Toyota Blue Grass is a 1 1/8-mile test for three-year-old Thoroughbreds with proven ability and those with emerging talents.

Named for the famous Bluegrass region of Central Kentucky, the Blue Grass first was held in 1911 at the old Kentucky Association track near downtown Lexington. The race quickly proved to be an important contest for three-year-olds as Blue Grass second-place finishers Meridian (1911), Donerail (1913) and Behave Yourself (1921) went on to win the Kentucky Derby. In 1926, the final year the race was held at the Kentucky Association track, Bubbling Over became the first horse to win both the Blue Grass and the Kentucky Derby.

In April 1937, Keeneland held its inaugural spring meeting and ran the Blue Grass for the first time. On April 29, Maxwell Howard's Fencing defeated five rivals to win the \$5,000-added event. Since then, a total of nine winners of the Blue Grass have won the Kentucky Derby and another nine horses who ran in the race have won the Run for the Roses. Among the Blue Grass-Kentucky Derby winners are some of the most famous Thoroughbreds in history, including Racing Hall of Fame members Northern Dancer, Riva Ridge and Spectacular Bid.

In the summer of 2006, Keeneland underwent a massive renovation that included reconfiguring the racetrack and installing the revolutionary Polytrack racing surface. Keeneland's new racetrack, which drew attention from inside and outside the Thoroughbred industry, debuted for the fall meeting of 2006.

The first Blue Grass to be run on Polytrack took place on April 14, 2007. The race produced one of the most exciting finishes of the entire year in Thoroughbred racing as less than a neck separated the first four horses at the wire. The winner was Silverton Hill LLC's Dominican, who nosed out champion and eventual

Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense, while Zanjero was another head back in third and a head in front of pacesetter Teuflesberg, who finished fourth.

This year, the Toyota Blue Grass is among 18 stakes worth a record \$4.4 million that Keeneland will hold during its 16-day spring meeting from April 4-25. For more information, visit [www.keeneland.com](http://www.keeneland.com).

## Toyota's sponsorship of the Blue Grass Stakes

In 1957, the year Round Table won the Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland, Toyota established a presence in the United States by setting up shop in a former Rambler dealership in Hollywood, California. Sales began in 1958 and totaled 288 vehicles: 287 Toyopet Crown sedans and one Land Cruiser.

Over the next several years, Toyota vehicles became so popular in this country that the Japanese automaker began to build manufacturing plants across the U.S. In the 1980s, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky built a plant in nearby Georgetown and in 1988 began producing the popular Camry. In 1996, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, five area Toyota dealerships and Toyota Motor Sales in Cincinnati teamed up to sponsor the Blue Grass Stakes, marking Toyota's first sponsorship of a horse race. As part of the sponsorship agreement, Keeneland replaces vehicles in its fleet with Toyotas and holds a day at the track for Toyota employees during the fall race meeting.

Today, Toyota's \$4 billion automotive complex in Georgetown employs some 7,000 people and is Toyota's largest production facility outside of Japan. In 2007, the plant produced 514,590 vehicles, including the Camry, Avalon, Camry Hybrid and Solara. This fall, the Georgetown plant will begin assembly of the new Toyota Venza crossover sedan.

You can read more about Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky at [www.toyotageorgetown.com](http://www.toyotageorgetown.com). To learn about all Toyota vehicles and for further company information, visit [www.Toyota.com](http://www.Toyota.com).



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# The Toyota Blue Grass Stakes

Grade I • \$750,000 • 84th Running  
Sponsored by Toyota



Win	Place	Show	No.

**Stakes. For three year olds.** By subscription of \$200 each, which should accompany the nomination or by Supplementary Nomination of \$37,500 at time of entry (includes entry and starting fees). \$3,750 to enter and an additional \$3,750 to start, with \$750,000 guaranteed, of which \$465,000 to the owner of the winner, \$150,000 to second, \$75,000 to third, \$37,500 to fourth and \$22,500 to fifth. Weight: 123 lbs. Starters to be named through the entry box by the usual time of closing. A gold julep cup will be presented to the owner of the winner. A silver julep cup will be presented to the winning trainer and jockey. Closed Wednesday, February 20, 2008 with 165 nominations. **Nine furlongs.**

**Track Record:** Go Between (4), 121 lbs. 1:47.97, October 27, 2007, Fast

Pgm. #/ Morning Line	Horse/Breeding	Med. Wgt.	Silks/Jockey	Pgm. #/ Morning Line	Horse/Breeding	Med. Wgt.	Silks/Jockey
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<b>1</b> 	<b>Cool Coal Man</b> (LA) 123	
	B. c. 3 Mineshaft-Coral Sea by Rubiano <b>Owner:</b> Robert V. LaPenta <b>Silks:</b> Burgundy, gold epaulets, burgundy cap <b>Trainer:</b> Nicholas P. Zito	
4-1	Bred in Kentucky by W.S. Farish, E.J. Hudson, Jr., Irrevocable Trust et al	<b>Kent Desormeaux</b>

<b>7</b>	<b>Pyro</b> (LA) 123	
	Dk. b./br. c. by Pulpit-Wild Vision by Wild Again <b>Owner:</b> Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC (Ronald Winchell) <b>Silks:</b> Maroon, white circled 'W', white bars on sleeves, white cap <b>Trainer:</b> Steven M. Asmussen	
Even	Bred in Kentucky by Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC	<b>Shaun Bridgmohan</b>

<b>2</b> 	<b>Kentucky Bear</b> (LA) 123	
	Ch. c. 3 Mr. Greeley-Tate by Afleet <b>Owner:</b> Bear Stables Ltd. (Dany Dion) <b>Silks:</b> Orange, black 'Bear Stables' and emblem, black chevrons on sleeves, orange cap <b>Trainer:</b> Reade Baker	
50-1	Bred in Kentucky by Alexander Valley Breeders	<b>Jamie Theriot</b>

<b>8</b>	<b>Stone Bird</b> (L) 123	
	B. c. 3 Grindstone-Bird Cage by Kris S. <b>Owner:</b> Marylou Whitney Stables (Marylou Whitney) <b>Silks:</b> Eton blue, brown belt, brown cap <b>Trainer:</b> D. Wayne Lukas	
50-1	Bred in Kentucky by Marylou Whitney Stables	<b>Corey J. Lanerie</b>

<b>3</b>	<b>Cowboy Cal</b> (LA) 123	
	Dk.b./br. c. 3 Giant's Causeway-Texas Tammy by Seeking the Gold <b>Owner:</b> Stonerside Stable (Janice and Robert McNair) <b>Silks:</b> White, green inverted chevron, white cap <b>Trainer:</b> Todd A. Pletcher	
15-1	Bred in Kentucky by Stonerside Stable	<b>John Velazquez</b>

<b>9</b> 	<b>Medjool</b> (LA) 123	
	Ch. c. 3 Monarchos-Perfect Story by Tale of the Cat <b>Owner:</b> Equine Prep Management (John O'Hara) <b>Silks:</b> Blue, white and black belt, white and black band on sleeves, blue cap <b>Trainer:</b> David E. Hofmans	
30-1	Bred in Kentucky by John C. Oxley	<b>Michael C. Baze</b>

<b>4</b> 	<b>Stevil</b> (LA) 123	
	Gr./ro. c. 3 Maria's Mon-Company Storm by Storm Creek <b>Owner:</b> Robert V. LaPenta <b>Silks:</b> Burgundy, gold epaulets, burgundy cap <b>Trainer:</b> Nicholas P. Zito	
30-1	Bred in Kentucky by John E. Piehl II	<b>Rafael Bejarano</b>

<b>10</b> 	<b>Miner's Claim</b> (LA) 123	
	Dk. b./br. c. 3 Mineshaft-Sapphire n' Silk by Pleasant Tap <b>Owner:</b> Briarwood Stable (W.S. Farish) <b>Silks:</b> Green, gold chevrons, gold chevrons on sleeves, green cap <b>Trainer:</b> Mark E. Casse	
20-1	Bred in Kentucky by William A. Carl	<b>Patrick Husbands</b>

<b>5</b>	<b>Monba</b> (LA) 123	
	Gr./ro. c. 3 Maria's Mon-Hamba by Easy Goer <b>Owner:</b> Starlight Stable LLC (Jack and Laurie Wolf), Donald J. Lucarelli and Paul H. Saylor <b>Silks:</b> Royal blue, yellow circled 'JL', yellow diamonds on sleeves, royal blue cap <b>Trainer:</b> Todd A. Pletcher	
15-1	Bred in Kentucky by Mill Ridge Farm Ltd. and Jamm Ltd.	<b>Edgar Prado</b>

<b>11</b>	<b>Halo Najib</b> (LA) 123	
	Ch. c. by Halo's Image-Najibe's Wish by Sword Dance (IRE) <b>Owner:</b> Zayat Stables LLC (Ahmed Zayat) <b>Silks:</b> Turquoise, gold ball sash, gold 'Z', turquoise dots on gold sleeves, turquoise cap <b>Trainer:</b> Dale Romans	
15-1	Bred in Florida by John S. Scott	<b>Garrett Gomez</b>

<b>6</b>	<b>Big Truck</b> (LA) 123	
	B. c. 3 by Hook and Ladder-Just a Ginny by Go for Gin <b>Owner:</b> Eric Fein <b>Silks:</b> Royal blue, red 'F' on white ball, red bars on white sleeves, red cap <b>Trainer:</b> Barclay Tagg	
6-1	Bred in New York by A. Lakin and Sons	<b>Eibar Coa</b>

<b>12</b>	<b>Visionaire</b> (LA) 123	
	Ch. c. by Grand Slam-Scarlet Tango by French Deputy <b>Owner:</b> Team Valor International (Barry Irwin) and Vision Racing, LLC (Brandon Perry) <b>Silks:</b> Forest green, red inverted chevron, red cap <b>Trainer:</b> Michael R. Matz	
6-1	Bred in Kentucky by Reiley McDonald	<b>Jose Lezcano</b>

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KEENELAND

The 84th Running of The Toyota Blue Grass (Grade I) \$750,000

Win Place Show No. table with empty cells

Stakes

For three year olds. By subscription of \$200 each, which should accompany the nomination or by Supplementary Nomination of \$37,500 at time of entry (includes entry and starting fees). \$3,750 to enter and an additional \$3,750 to start, with \$750,000 guaranteed, of which \$465,000 to the owner of the winner, \$150,000 to second, \$75,000 to third, \$37,500 to fourth and \$22,500 to fifth. Weight: 123 lbs.earnings. Starters to be named through the entry box by the usual time of closing. A gold julep cup will be presented to the owner of the winner. A silver julep cup will be presented to the winning trainer and jockey. Closed Wednesday, February 20, 2008 with 167 nominations. Nine Furlongs

Track Record: Go Between (4), 121 lbs; 1:47.97 (10-27-07)

Program # 1 Odds 4-1 Owner: Robert V. LaPenta Silks: Burgundy, gold epaulets, burgundy cap Trainer: Nicholas P. Zito (0-0-0-0) 0.00% Cool Coal Man (L) 123 Kent Desormeaux (22-5-2-3) 45.45% 96.59 2008: 2 2 0 0 \$235,800 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0 2007: 5 2 1 0 \$71,731 AllWeather: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Life: 7 4 1 0 \$307,531 Distance: 2 2 0 0 \$235,800 Kee: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0 B.c.3 Mineshaft - Coral Sea by Rubiano - Bred in Kentucky by W. S. Farish, E.J. Hudson, Jr. Irrevocable Trust, et al (May 24, 2005) 24Feb08 9GP ft 1% :4762 1:1152 1:5007 3 FntnOYthG2 -350k 84 102 1 42 1/2 44 42 1 1/2 1/2 Desormeaux K J 118 L 7.30 Cool Coal Man118Elysiun Fields11653Court Vision1222 3wd,clear, lasted 12 26Jan08 6GP ft 1% :4638 1:1077 1:5102 3 Alw 43000nw2/x 123 100 1 31 3 1/2 32 1hd 11 Velazquez JR 118 L \*1.50 Cool Coal Man118Golden Spikes11843Legacy Thief1184 fully extended 6 24Nov07 11 CD ft 1% :4694 1:1156 1:4316 2 KyJCG2 -250k 106 87 5 2hd 2 1/2 3 1/2 77 1/2 78 1/2 Bejarano R 122 cl 2.60 Ank Nk1223Blkberry Rod122hdRaccar Rhapsody1221 1/2 bit rank,between,tire 7 03Nov07 7 CD ft 1% :4853 1:1292 1:4336 2 Alw 50000nw1/x 81 108 4 2hd 2 1/2 2hd 12 12 1/2 Bejarano R 122 cl 2.00 Cool Coal Man1223Recapturetheglor11843Tend1181 1/2 when asked,drv 7 10Oct07 5 Del wf 170 :4763 1:13 1:4207 2 Msw 86 101 1 2hd 1 1/2 1 1/2 16 110 1/2 Rose J 120 L \*4.00 Cool Coal Man12013Roman Emperor12013Bald Desperado12013 ridden out 6 08Sep07 2 Bel ft 1m :4543 1:1077 1:3563 2 Msw 95 85 7 1 1/2 1 1/2 1hd 2 1/2 23 Castellano J 119 cl \*1.30e Anakim1193Cool Coal Man1193Aquarian1197 1/2 pace, second best 7

Program # 2 Odds 50-1 Owner: Bear Stables, Ltd. (Danny Dion) Silks: Orange, black 'BEAR STABLES' and emblem, black chevrons on sleeves, orange cap Trainer: Reade Baker (0-0-0-0) 0.00% Kentucky Bear (LA) 123 Jamie Theriot (17-4-1-1) 35.29% 90 2008: 2 1 0 0 \$25,200 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0 2007: 0 0 0 0 \$0 AllWeather: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Life: 2 1 0 0 \$25,200 Distance: 1 0 0 0 \$0 Kee: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Ch.c.3 Mr. Greeley - Tate by Afileet - Bred in Kentucky by Alexander Valley Breeders (Apr 10, 2005) 24Feb08 9GP ft 1% :4762 1:1152 1:5007 3 FntnOYthG2 -350k 79 82 4 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 710 713 1/2 Bravo J 116 L 4.10 Cool Col Mn118Elysiun Fields11653Court Vision1222 4wd into lane,weakened 12 21Jan08 6GP ft 1m :4680 1:1143 1:3687 3 Msw 73 98 4 6 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2 1 1/2 16 1/2 Trujillo E 122 L 10.70 Kentucky Bear1223Jimmy Simms122nk Samba Rooster1222 1/2 drew off 10

Program # 3 Odds 15-1 Owner: Stonerside Stable, LLC (Janice and Robert McNair) Silks: White, forest green inverted chevron, white cap Trainer: Todd A. Pletcher (7-1-2-1) 57.14% Cowboy Cal (LA) 123 John Velazquez (12-2-2-3) 58.33% 94.6 2008: 2 1 1 0 \$72,660 Turf: 4 3 1 0 \$164,460 2007: 3 2 0 0 \$92,048 AllWeather: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Life: 5 3 1 0 \$164,708 Distance: 1 1 0 0 \$57,660 Kee: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Dk B/ Br.c.3 Giant's Causeway - Texas Tammy by Seeking the Gold - Bred in Kentucky by Stonerside Stable (Feb 01, 2005) 16Feb08 8GP fm 1% :4612 1:0966 1:4020 3 HIndlBch -100k 134 99 1 1hd 1 1hd 2hd 2 1/2 Velazquez JR 122 L \*.50 Why Tonto1201 1/2Cowboy Cal1221 1/2Canonball1221 1/2 yielded late 9 01Jan08 7Crc fm 1% :4715 1:1070 1:4695 3 TPDerbyG3 -100k 114 102 5 2hd 3nk 2hd 12 12 1/2 Velazquez JR 119 L \*.70 Cowboy Cal1192Why Tonto1173Canonball119nk drew clear, driving 12 24Nov07 9LrI fm 1% :4859 1:1315 1:4280 2 LrIFutury -100k 89 98 11 43 31 2 1/2 1 1/2 Prado ES 122 LA \*1.40 Cowboy Cal1223Casanova Jack1223Titan of Industry122ns circled, driving 13 26Sep07 2 Bel fm 1m :4638 1:1102 1:3418 2 Msw 96 91 8 1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2 15 1/2 14 1/2 Velazquez JR 119 L 2.65 Cowboy C1194 1/2Tn of Industry1193Mntowsh Wtrs119soon clear, drew away 8 25Aug07 2 Sar ft 6f :2237 :4559 1:1095 2 Msw 83 58 10 4 6 1/2 5 3/2 710 711 1/2 Velazquez JR 119 L 5.00 Mythical Pegasus119nk Grand Minstrel119Eagle Strike119 chased 4 wide, tired 10

Program # 4 Odds 30-1 Owner: Robert V. LaPenta Silks: Burgundy, gold epaulets, burgundy cap Trainer: Nicholas P. Zito (0-0-0-0) 0.00% Stevil (L) 123 Rafael Bejarano (0-0-0-0) 0.00% 89.6 2008: 3 0 1 1 \$24,665 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0 2007: 2 1 0 0 \$33,700 AllWeather: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Life: 5 1 1 1 \$58,365 Distance: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Kee: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Gr/r.c.3 Maria's Mon - Company Storm by Storm Creek - Bred in Kentucky by John E. Piehl II (Feb 28, 2005) 08Mar08 9FG ft 1% :4807 1:1386 1:4444 3 LaDerbyG2 -600k 69 97 1 55 6 1/2 6 1/2 75 55 1/2 Castro E 122 bl 95.30 Pyro1223My Pal Charlie1223Yankee Bravo1221 inside trip,ill impact 9 30Jan08 8GP ft 1m :4669 1:1024 1:3533 3 Alw 41500nw1/x 60 84 3 6 3/2 6 2 1/2 44 46 1/2 39 Velasquez CH 118 L \*1.10e Face the Cat1184Wistle's Crutch1185Stevil1181 steadied backstretch 6 04Jan08 6GP ft 1m :4592 1:1081 1:3698 3 Alw 40500nw1/x 76 88 6 42 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 63 1/2 25 1/2 Velasquez CH 118 L 3.70 Visionaire1223Stevil1181Mythical Pegasus1181 1/2 no match, up for 2nd 10 10Nov07 8 CD ft 7f :2283 :4606 1:2347 2 Alw 50000nw1/x 80 94 2 8 7 3/2 8 3/2 44 42 Bejarano R 122 clA 3.90 Eaton's Gift1223Refereer118nkUnbridled Vicar118ns 6w, fail to sustain bid 9 13Oct07 2 Bel ft 6f :2350 :4711 1:1635 2 Msw 38 85 7 2 4 2 1/2 1hd 1 1/2 Lezcano J 119 L \*.90e Stevil1193Honour Above Self11933Truth Rules119hd lost whip stretch 7

Program # 5 Odds 15-1 Owner: Starlight Stable, LLC (Jack Wolf), Donald J. Lucarelli and Paul H. Saylor Silks: Royal blue, yellow circled 'JL', yellow diamonds on sleeves, royal blue cap Trainer: Todd A. Pletcher (7-1-2-1) 57.14% Monba (LA) 123 Edgar Prado (6-0-2-2) 66.67% 84.25 2008: 1 0 0 0 \$0 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0 2007: 3 2 0 0 \$112,534 AllWeather: 2 1 0 0 \$81,270 Life: 4 2 0 0 \$112,534 Distance: 1 0 0 0 \$0 Kee: 1 1 0 0 \$31,270 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Gr/r.c.3 Maria's Mon - Hamba by Easy Goer - Bred in Kentucky by Mill Ridge Farm Ltd. & Jamm, Ltd. (Mar 16, 2005) 24Feb08 9GP ft 1% :4762 1:1152 1:5007 3 FntnOYthG2 -350k 79 43 7 6 3/2 6 5 1/2 108 1/2 1239 3Prado ES 116 bl \*.80 Cool Col Man118Elysiun Fields11653Court Vision1222 squeezed into 1st turn 12 22Dec07 9HoI ft 1% :4645 1:1044 1:4082 2 CshCIFutG1 -750k 57 106 9 109 1/2 1010 109 1/2 7 1/2 42 1/2 Gomez G K 121 bl 6.40 Into Mischief121 1/2ColoneL Jahl121Massive Drama121 1/2 came out str,late bid 12 24Nov07 10 CD ft 1m :4630 1:1108 1:3550 2 Alw 50000nw1/x 78 98 11 32 3 1/2 3 1/2 1 1/2 1nk Douglas RR 116 blA 4.20 Monba116nkMacho Again11833Your Round118hd 4-5w,clear,drv, lasted 12 17Oct07 6 Kee ft \*7f :2312 :4698 1:2677 2 Msw 99 98 7 9 5 1/2 6 1/2 1hd 14 1/2 Douglas RR 118 bl 9.90 Monba1184Go Swiftly1182Stungbythestorm1185 going away,mild urging 12

Program # 6 Odds 6-1 Owner: Eric Fein Silks: Royal blue, red 'F' on white ball, red bars on white sleeves, red cap Trainer: Barclay Tagg (2-0-0-0) 0.00% Big Truck (LA) 123 Eibar Coa (0-0-0-0) 0.00% 94.16 2008: 3 1 1 0 \$219,500 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0 2007: 4 2 0 1 \$117,380 AllWeather: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Life: 7 3 1 1 \$336,880 Distance: 1 0 0 0 \$10,000 Kee: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0 B.c.3 Hook and Ladder - Just a Ginny by Go for Gin - Bred in New York by A. Lakin & Sons (Feb 12, 2005) 15Mar08 12 Tam ft 1% :4744 1:1150 1:4425 3 TampaDbyG3 -300k 84 102 6 5 1/2 5 1/2 6 1/2 2 1/2 1nk Coa E 116 L 7.20 Big Truck116nkAtoned11643Dynamic Wayne1162 1/2 ran down leader 7 16Feb08 10 Tam ft 1% :4818 1:1297 1:4413 3 SamFDavis -200k 70 106 5 78 6 3/2 6 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2 Coa E 117 L 9.70 Fierce Wind116 1/2Big Truck1173Smooth Air1183 mid m 4w,gaining 8 05Jan08 9GP sy 7f :2204 :4453 1:2321 3 HutchesnG2 -150k 81 80 5 4 8 5 1/2 78 6 1/2 5 1 1/2 3 Castellano J 118 L 4.60 Smooth Air116Silver Edition1173Halo NaJibi11733 no factor 8 24Nov07 7 Aqu ft 1% :4915 1:1449 1:5248 2 RemsenG2 -200k 73 78 3 44 4 2 1/2 5 1/2 6 5 1/2 4 1/2 Garcia A 116 L 2.65 Court Vision122nkAtoned1204 1/2Trust N Dustan116 1/2 in trouble throughout 6 20Oct07 3 Bel gd 1m :4679 1:1179 1:3846 2 SleepyHilo -100k 91 85 7 3 1/2 2hd 2hd 2 3nk Dominguez RA 122 cl \*.30 Giant Moon116nkCoastal Drive115nkBig Truck12219 outfitted 7 23Sep07 3 Bel ft 7f :2303 :4604 1:2364 2 BFBongard -100k 96 97 5 3 2 1/2 2hd 2hd 12 Dominguez RA 117 L \*.20 Big Truck1172Sprky Fischbein1174Dazzling Derek1171 1/2 drew clear when roused 5

RACE 9 CONTINUED

**7 1-1** Owner: Winchell Thoroughbreds, LLC (Ronald Winchell) **105.05** 2008: 2 2 0 0 \$540,000 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Silks: Maroon, white circled 'W', white bars on sleeves, white cap 2007: 4 1 2 1 \$516,718 AllWeather: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Trainer: Steven M. Assmusen (5-1-0-0) 20.00% Life: 6 3 2 1 \$1,056,718 Distance: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
**Pyro (LA)** **123** Shaun Bridgmohan (8-1-0-1) 25.00% Kee: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Dk B/ Br.c.3 Pulpit - Wild Vision by Wild Again - Bred in Kentucky by Winchell Thoroughbreds, LLC (Feb 19, 2005)  
 08Mar08 9FG ft 1% :4807 1:1386 1:4444 3 LaDerbyG2 -600k 74 105 3 44 44 1/2 2 1/2 13 Bridgmohan S 122 L \*8.00 Pyro1223My Pal Charlie122 1/2 Yankee Bravo122 1/2 awtd m, splt, cirly bst 9  
 09Feb08 9FG ft 1% :4950 1:1462 1:4468 3 RisenStrG3 -300k 40 102 7 105 1/2 115 1/2 118 1/2 84 1/2 12 Bridgmohan S 116 L \*9.00 Pyro162Z Fortune122 1/2 Visionaire118 1/2 steered out, going away 11  
 27Oct07 5Mth sy 1% :4556 1:0965 1:4276 2 BCJuvnlG1 -2000k 100 115 6 86 1/2 81 1/2 78 1/2 27 24 1/2 Bridgmohan S 122 L 4.10 War Pass122 1/2 Pyro122 1/2 Kodak Kowboy122 1/2 fractious, bumped brk 11  
 06Oct07 7Bel ft 1m :4572 1:1024 1:3612 2 ChampagnG1 -400k 87 104 5 88 1/2 87 1/2 77 1/2 37 21 1/2 Bridgmohan S 122 L 32.00 War Pass122 1/2 Pyro122 1/2 Z Humor122 1/2 game finish outside 8  
 26Aug07 3Sar gd 6f :2228 :4591 1:1061 2 Aoc 6700nwl/x 58 83 5 6 57 47 39 36 1/2 Bridgmohan S 120 L 2.70 War Pass120 1/2 Fidelity120 1/2 Pyro120 1/2 lunged start, stumbled 6  
 07Jul07 2CD ft 6f :2142 :4473 1:0960 2 Msw 69 90 8 10 65 66 1/2 22 1/2 1ns Bridgmohan S 120 L 2.60 Pyro120nsluvandgo120 1/2 On the Rocks120 1/2 off rail, closed fast 12  
 Workout(s): 7 Apr 08 Kee 4F ft :50.60b 25/28 31 Mar 08 Kee 6F ft 1:14.60b 2/3 24 Mar 08 Kee 5F ft 1:02.40b 16/19 17 Mar 08 FG 4F ft :53.20b 34/38

**8 50-1** Owner: Marylou Whitney Stable (Marylou Whitney) **79.85** 2008: 3 2 0 0 \$40,200 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Silks: Eton blue, brown belt, brown cap 2007: 4 0 0 0 \$4,460 AllWeather: 1 0 0 0 \$0  
 Trainer: D. Wayne Lukas (1-0-0-0) 0.00% Life: 7 2 0 0 \$44,660 Distance: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
**Stone Bird (L)** **123** Corey J. Lanerie (12-0-1-1) 16.67% Kee: 1 0 0 0 \$0 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 B.c.3 Grindstone - Bird Cage by Kris S. - Bred in Kentucky by Marylou Whitney Stables (Apr 27, 2005)  
 15Mar08 10OP ft 1% :4658 1:1161 1:4388 3 RebelG2 -300k 105 85 3 35 44 1/2 64 913 817 Johnson J M 117 L 20.20 Sierra Sunset1193King's Silver Son115 1/2 Isabull115 1/2 steady fade 9  
 09Feb08 8OP ft 1m :4761 1:1286 1:3931 3 Aoc 3400nwl/x 86 93 4 1hd 2hd 1 1/2 14 15 1/2 Johnson J M 122 L 7.80 Stone Bird122 1/2 Star Defender118n Celina Stew115 1/2 vied, ridden out 10  
 21Jan08 6OP ft 1m :4780 1:1333 1:3976 3 Msw 66 79 3 44 62 1/2 41 1/2 2hd 1nk Frazier R 122 L 18.40 Stone Bird22n Zipped122 Makutus122 1/2 bid between, best 12  
 10Nov07 10CD ft 1m :4634 1:1230 1:3771 2 Msw 70 -- 5 41 1/2 117 1/2 114 -- -- -- Lanerie C J 120 L 42.20 Mambo in Seattle120n Matty's Trail120n Kabob120 1/2 took up, near spill 12  
 17Oct07 6Kee ft 6f :2312 :4698 1:2677 2 Msw 103 54 6 8 31 2hd 911 1122 1/2 Mena M 118 L 10.70 Manba118 1/2 Go Swifly118 1/2 Stungbythestorm118 1/2 vied, between, tired 12  
 15Sep07 2Bel ft 6f :23 :4599 1:0950 2 Msw 66 66 7 3 51 1/2 58 1/2 512 410 Bejarano R 119 L 38.00 Dvrux1193Commdeered119n Hedgefund Investor119 1/2 chased 3 wide, no bid 8  
 Workout(s): 7 Apr 08 OP 4F ft :49b 6/30 1 Apr 08 OP 6F ft 1:16b 1/3 24 Mar 08 OP 5F ft 1:02.60b 4/12 6 Mar 08 OP 6F ft 1:14.20b 1/5

**9 30-1** Owner: Equine Prep Management (John O'Hara) **95.2** 2008: 3 1 0 1 \$77,500 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Silks: Blue, black and white belt, black and white band on sleeves, blue cap 2007: 4 0 3 1 \$32,960 AllWeather: 7 1 3 2 \$110,460  
 Trainer: David E. Hofmans (0-0-0-0) 0.00% Life: 7 1 3 2 \$110,460 Distance: 1 0 0 1 \$47,500  
**Medjool (LA)** **123** Michael C. Baze (0-0-0-0) 0.00% Kee: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Ch.c.3 Monarchos - Perfect Story by Tale of the Cat - Bred in Kentucky by John C. Oxley (Apr 05, 2005)  
 22Mar08 12TP ft 1% :4718 1:1257 1:5020 3 LanesEndG2 -500k 100 87 11 87 1/2 84 1/2 51 1/2 53 1/2 33 1/2 Baze M C 121 LA 7.40 Adriano121 1/2 Halo Najib121 1/2 Medjool121 1/2 6 wide trip 11  
 18Feb08 9SA ft 1% :4820 1:1310 1:4406 3 Msw 100 106 3 54 53 52 1/2 21 14 1/2 Baze M C 121 BL \*3.10 Medjool121 1/2 Screen to Screen121 1/2 Street Royale121ns 4wd into lane, rallied 12  
 27Jan08 8GG ft 1% :4932 1:1407 1:4457 3 CalDerby -150k 65 91 4 62 1/2 62 1/2 72 1/2 74 1/2 64 Baze M C 121 BL 7.90 Yankee Bravo121 1/2 Cafe Tortoni121n Victory Pete121 1/2 steadied rail 1/4p 12  
 29Dec07 1SA ft 1m :4758 1:1120 1:3566 2 Msw 68 96 4 55 1/2 62 1/2 53 1/2 43 22 1/2 Baze M C 120 BL 1.70 Coast Guard120 1/2 Medjool120 1/2 No Jeparoy120 1/2 3wd into str, 2nd best 5  
 23Nov07 4HoI ft 1% :4723 1:1152 1:4254 2 Msw 73 98 6 42 43 42 1/2 21 1/2 2 1/2 Baze M C 120 BL 3.40 Tres Borrachos120 1/2 Medjool120 1/2 Dreamed Day120 1/2 3wd into lane, rallied 9  
 02Nov07 5Osa ft 1m :4638 1:1062 1:3613 2 Msw 83 93 6 85 1/2 75 1/2 76 42 1/2 2 1/2 Baze M C 120 BL 3.40 Limestone Edge120 1/2 Medjool120ns Tres Borrachos120 1/2 steadied past 3/4 8  
 Workout(s): 7 Apr 08 SA 5F ft 1:02.20h 35/55 17 Mar 08 SA 5F ft 1:01.80h 41/50 11 Mar 08 SA 6F ft 1:13.60h 4/12 5 Mar 08 SA 5F ft 1:01.80h 23/30

**10 20-1** Owner: Briarwood Stable (W. S. Farish) **95** 2008: 1 0 1 0 \$19,200 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Silks: Green, gold chevrons, gold chevrons on sleeves, green cap 2007: 2 2 0 0 \$92,430 AllWeather: 3 2 1 0 \$111,630  
 Trainer: Mark E. Casse (3-1-0-0) 33.33% Life: 3 2 1 0 \$111,630 Distance: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
**Miner's Claim (LA)** **123** Patrick Husbands (0-0-0-0) 0.00% Kee: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Dk B/ Br.c.3 Mineshaft - Sapphire n' Silk by Pleasant Tap - Bred in Kentucky by William A Carl (Apr 24, 2005)  
 22Mar08 11TP ft 1% :4912 1:1368 1:4455 3 Rushaway -100k 68 95 4 1 1/2 1hd 1hd 2hd 2nk Husbands P 117 LA \*1.90 Big Glen121n Miner's Claim117 1/2 Icabad Crane117 1/2 comfortable pace, game 9  
 02Nov07 4WO ft 1% :4719 1:1220 1:4179 2 Alw 87900 85 92 7 3 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2 11 1/2 13 Husbands P 118 L \*7.00 Miner's Claim118 1/2 East End Tap118 1/2 Mighty Yow118 1/2 bid top str, drove clr 7  
 14Oct07 4WO ft 6f :2223 :4525 1:0995 2 Msw 84 98 4 9 51 1/2 41 1/2 21 1 1/2 Husbands P 120 L \*1.65 Miner's Claim120 1/2 Hey Now120 1/2 Kahanamoku120 1/2 rail to 3w, drvg 12  
 Workout(s): 5 Apr 08 Kee 5F ft 1:01.20b 18/42 14 Mar 08 Otc 4F ft :48.20b 1/2 6 Mar 08 Otc 5F ft 1:01b 2/8 20 Feb 08 Otc 5F ft 1:01b 1/6

**11 15-1** Owner: Zayat Stables, LLC (Ahmed Zayat) **92.89** 2008: 4 1 1 1 \$207,000 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Silks: Turquoise, gold ball sash, gold 'Z', turquoise dots on gold sleeves, turquoise cap 2007: 3 1 1 0 \$66,416 AllWeather: 3 2 1 0 \$210,420  
 Trainer: Dale L. Romans (5-0-0-2) 40.00% Life: 7 2 2 1 \$273,416 Distance: 2 0 1 0 \$102,000  
**Halo Najib (LA)** **123** Garrett Gomez (10-1-3-1) 50.00% Kee: 1 1 0 0 \$25,420 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Ch.c.3 Halo's Image - Najibe's Wish by Sword Dance (IRE) - Bred in Florida by John S. Scott (Feb 05, 2005)  
 22Mar08 12TP ft 1% :4718 1:1257 1:5020 3 LanesEndG2 -500k 103 88 7 76 1/2 73 1/2 61 1/2 22 22 1/2 Desormeaux K J 121 LA \*3.10 Adriano121 1/2 Halo Najib121 1/2 Medjool121 1/2 in close early 11  
 24Feb08 9GP ft 1% :4762 1:1152 1:5007 3 FntnOYthG2 -350k 68 88 10 107 108 1/2 87 1/2 46 1/2 69 1/2 Douglas R R 120 L 30.90 Cool Coal Man118 1/2 Elysium Fields116 1/2 Court Vision122 1/2 even finish inside 12  
 11Feb08 5Otc ft 1% :49 1:1440 1:4640 3 OBSCChamp -150k 91 99 6 31 32 41 1/2 41 1/2 12 1/2 Desormeaux K J 122 L Hlo Njib122 1/2 Hlo From Hven122 1/2 Ghostly Thunder122ns boxed, ran pst leaders 8  
 05Jan08 9GP sy 7f :2204 :4453 1:2321 3 HutchesnG2 -150k 81 94 2 7 75 1/2 64 1/2 32 1/2 34 Desormeaux K J 117 L \*2.40 Smooth Air116 1/2 Silver Edition117 1/2 Halo Najib117 1/2 couldn't sustain bid 8  
 24Nov07 11CD ft 1% :4694 1:1156 1:4316 2 KyJCG2 -250k 108 95 3 1hd 1 1/2 2hd 1 1/2 52 1/2 Desormeaux K J 122 LA \*1.40 Anak Naka122 1/2 Blackberry Road122n Racecar Rhapsody122 1/2 duel, weakened 7  
 28Oct07 9CD ft 1m :4580 1:1123 1:3726 2 IroquoisG3 -150k 108 100 7 53 1/2 62 1/2 31 2 1/2 2 1/2 Guidry M 117 LA 3.20 Court Vision117 1/2 Halo Najib117 1/2 St. Joe117 1/2 bmp start, led, outgamed 9  
 Workout(s): 16 Mar 08 TP 5F ft :58.80b 1/14 9 Mar 08 GP 5F ft 1:01.40b 9/33 4 Feb 08 GP 4F ft :48.20b 2/22 25 Jan 08 GP 6F ft 1:14.60b 3/5

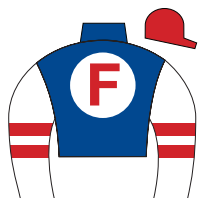
**12 6-1** Owner: Team Valor International (Barry Irwin) and Vision Racing, LLC (Brandon Perry) **97.2** 2008: 3 2 0 1 \$204,300 Turf: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Silks: Forest green, red inverted chevron, red cap 2007: 2 1 1 0 \$23,960 AllWeather: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Trainer: Michael R. Matz (8-0-1-1) 25.00% Life: 5 3 1 1 \$228,260 Distance: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
**Visionaire (LA)** **123** Jose Lezcano (13-0-2-2) 30.77% Kee: 0 0 0 0 \$0 Course: 0 0 0 0 \$0  
 Ch.c.3 Grand Slam - Scarlet Tango by French Deputy - Bred in Kentucky by Reiley McDonald (Feb 16, 2005)  
 08Mar08 9Aqu sy 1% :4637 1:1140 1:4460 3 GothamG3 -250k -- 106 9 -- -- -- 1ns Lezcano J 116 FL 4.50 Visionaire116ns Texas Wildcatter116 1/2 Larrys Revenge116 1/2 strong finish, fog 9  
 09Feb08 9FG ft 1% :4950 1:1462 1:4468 3 RisenStrG3 -300k 54 97 2 31 1/2 31 1/2 42 1/2 32 32 1/2 Lezcano J 118 L 5.30 Pyro162Z Fortune122 1/2 Visionaire118 1/2 inside, lacked late kck 11  
 04Jan08 6GP ft 1m :4592 1:1081 1:3698 3 Alw 4050nwl/x 65 97 8 74 1/2 81 1/2 66 1/2 11 1/2 15 1/2 Lezcano J 122 L 4.00 Visionaire122 1/2 Stevil118 1/2 Mythical Pegasus118 1/2 bumped hard start 10  
 23Nov07 7LrI ft 1m :4804 1:1501 1:4066 2 Msw 73 95 6 65 1/2 77 1/2 54 1 1/2 12 1/2 Marquez, Jr. C H 122 LA 6.40 Visionaire122 1/2 Elysium Fields122 1/2 Two Dragons122 1/2 5wd 1/4, driving 9  
 07Oct07 2Del ft 6f :2232 :4624 1:1113 2 Msw 30 77 1 6 69 56 1/2 33 1/2 25 1/2 Marquez, Jr. C H 120 LA 6.90 Red Reef120 1/2 Visionaire120 1/2 Ikan120 2/2 finished willingly 7  
 Workout(s): 5 Apr 08 Kee 5F ft 1:00.40h 7/42 28 Mar 08 Pmm 4F ft :49.60b 11/17 21 Mar 08 Pmm 4F ft :50b 14/28 1 Mar 08 Pmm 5F ft 1:00.60h 3/33

L-Lasix; A-Adjunct; K - Kentucky Bred; K - most recent sale price at Keeneland  
 \* - Denotes Triple Crown Nominee.

MUTUEL RATINGS 7-1-6-12



# Big Truck



Bay colt  
**Sire:** Hook and Ladder  
**Dam:** Just a Ginny, by Go for Gin  
**Breeder:** A. Lakin and Sons (N.Y.)  
**Owner:** Eric Fein  
**Trainer:** Barclay Tagg  
**Jockey:** Eibar Coa

**Record:** 7 starts, 3 wins, 1 second, 1 third, \$336,880  
**Stakes performance:** Won Tampa Bay Derby (G3), Bertram F. Bongard; 2nd Sam F. Davis; 3rd Sleepy Hollow

## Owner: Eric Fein

When New York-bred Big Truck won the Tampa Bay Derby (G3) on March 15 over a field that included champion War Pass, owner Eric Fein began to act like many other owners with a talented three-year-old Thoroughbred in the spring of the year. He began thinking about the Kentucky Derby (G1).

“I have the dream—I hope the horse does and the trainer does,” Fein told *The Blood-Horse* after the Tampa Bay Derby. “It’s absolutely amazing. It’s like a dream.”

Big Truck’s road to the Kentucky Derby has made a stop at Keeneland, where the colt arrived prior to the start of the Spring Meet to begin training for the Toyota Blue Grass (G1). With a victory in the Toyota Blue Grass, Big Truck will become the first stakes winner at Keeneland for Fein, who has been involved in Thoroughbred racing since 2003.

## Trainer: Barclay Tagg

One of the most enjoyable chapters in Thoroughbred racing in recent years revolved around Funny Cide, who was trained by Barclay Tagg. Owned by a group of high school friends who formed Sackatoga Stable, Funny Cide grabbed the public’s attention when he won the 2003 Kentucky Derby (G1) and Preakness (G1). The New York-bred gelding finished third behind Empire Maker in the Belmont (G1), and he earned the Eclipse Award as the year’s champion three-year-old male.

Funny Cide continued to race through mid-2007 and was retired with 11 wins in 38 starts and earnings of

\$3,421,928. Today, Funny Cide and Tagg remain a team at the racetrack. The gelding is a stable pony for the trainer.

A lifelong horseman who has been training racehorses since 1971, Tagg has won two stakes at Keeneland, the 2006 Coolmore Lexington (G2) with Showing Up and the 2007 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1) with Bit of Whimsy.

He has a hot hand heading into this year’s Kentucky Derby with three talented three-year-olds. In addition to Big Truck, Tagg also conditions Tale of Ekati, who won the Wood Memorial (G1) at Aqueduct on April 5, and Elysium Fields, runner-up to Cool Coal Man in the Fountain of Youth (G2).

**Website:** [www.barclaytaggracing.com](http://www.barclaytaggracing.com)

## Jockey: Eibar Coa

Eibar Coa’s appearance at Keeneland during the 2008 spring meet marks the first time he has ridden at the track since 2003. In his career, he has made one previous appearance in the Toyota Blue Grass (G1), finishing fifth aboard Bare Outline in 2000. This year, Coa rides Big Truck for trainer Barclay Tagg, for whom he rode Tale of Ekati to win the Futurity (G2) last year.

Coa, who is from Venezuela, is a five-time judo champion in his native country. After attending jockey school, he began riding in Venezuela and moved permanently to the United States in 1996. He won his first stakes at Calder in 1993. Since then, he has been the leading rider at Calder, Tropical-at-Calder, Gulfstream, Aqueduct, Belmont Park (in a tie) and Monmouth Park. In 2004, Coa was inducted into Calder’s Hall of Fame.

In his career, Coa has more than 3,500 wins and earnings of more than \$105 million around the world. In 2007, he ranked seventh among all North American jockeys by earnings.

### Coa’s previous mount in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2000	Bare Outline	5th



# Cool Coal Man



Bay colt

**Sire:** Mineshaft

**Dam:** Coral Sea, by Rubiano

**Breeders:** W.S. Farish, E.J. Hudson  
Jr. Irrevocable Trust, et al (Ky.)

**Owner:** Robert V. LaPenta

**Trainer:** Nick Zito

**Jockey:** Kent Desormeaux

**Career record:** 7 starts, 4 wins, 1 second, \$307,531

**Stakes performance:** Won Fountain of Youth (G2)

**Keeneland sales history:** \$200,000 purchase at the 2006 Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Consignor: Lane's End, agent. Buyer: Robert LaPenta's Whitehorse Stables.

## Owner: Robert V. LaPenta

Robert V. LaPenta is in an enviable position this time of year as the owner of not one, but several talented three-year-olds led by champion War Pass and Toyota Blue Grass (G1) hopefuls Cool Coal Man and Stevil. In 2006, LaPenta's Whitehorse Stables purchased the colts at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale, spending \$180,000 on War Pass, \$200,000 on Cool Coal Man and \$110,000 on Stevil. Nick Zito, a member of the Racing Hall of Fame, trains the horses.

LaPenta, who lives in Westport, Connecticut, is chairman, president and CEO of L-1 Identity Solutions, a provider of solutions and services that protect and secure personal identities and assets. His mother introduced him to racing, and he first became a Thoroughbred owner in 1998 as a partner with University of Louisville men's basketball coach Rick Pitino. That same year, Pitino's Celtic Pride Stable won the Toyota Blue Grass with Halory Hunter, another runner trained by Zito.

Since LaPenta started his own stable in 2001, he has been successful as both a buyer and seller of future racing stars. At the 2002 Keeneland September sale, Whitehorse paid \$200,000 for a son of Gulch whom LaPenta named The Cliff's Edge in honor of Cliff Guilliams, a sportswriter for the *Courier & Press* of Evansville, Indiana, who is an Equibase chart caller at Keeneland. Zito trained The Cliff's Edge to win the 2004 Toyota Blue Grass and earn more than \$1.25 million. In 2006, LaPenta returned to the Toyota Blue Grass with another runner trained by Zito, Little Cliff, who finished eighth.

## LaPenta's previous starters in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2006	Little Cliff	8th
2004	The Cliff's Edge	Won

## Trainer: Nicholas P. Zito

With three victories in the Toyota Blue Grass (G1), Racing Hall of Fame member Nick Zito has had more success in the race than any other trainer with a starter this year. Zito's contenders are Cool Coal Man and Stevil, both owned by Robert V. LaPenta. For LaPenta, Zito also trains champion War Pass.

Zito's first Blue Grass starter was Strike the Gold, who not only won the race in 1991 to become his trainer's first stakes winner at Keeneland but also went on to capture the Kentucky Derby (G1). (Zito's other Derby winner is Go for Gin, who took the race in 1994.) Zito's second win in the Blue Grass, then sponsored by Toyota, came in 1998 with Halory Hunter, who was followed in 2004 by LaPenta's The Cliff's Edge.

Three triumphs in Keeneland's most famous race are among Zito's accomplishments at the track. He has been the track's leading trainer four times: spring 1997, and fall 2003, 2004 (in a tie) and 2005. His 16 stakes wins at Keeneland heading into the 2008 spring meeting rank him ninth all time among trainers at the track. He has won a total of 126 races at the track.

Zito grew up near Aqueduct and was a teenager when he received his first job in racing as a hot walker. After working as an assistant to trainer Johnny Campo and Hall of Fame trainer LeRoy Jolley, Zito went out on his own in 1972 at the age of 24. He had two horses at the time.

Now Zito is continuing one of the most successful careers of any trainer in Thoroughbred racing. He has won every Triple Crown race. He has trained three champions: Bird Town, Storm Song and War Pass. He had his most lucrative year in 2005, when he saddled the earners of nearly \$8.2 million. His runners that year included Belmont (G1) winner Birdstone, as well as LaPenta's stakes winners Andromeda's Hero and Superfly. That same year, Zito was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

# Cool Coal Man

## Zito's previous starters in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2006	Little Cliff	8th
2005	Sun King	4th
2004	The Cliff's Edge	Won
2002	Straight Gin	4th
2001	A P Valentine	5th
2000	Bare Outline	5th
1999	Wondertross	5th
1998	Halory Hunter	Won
1997	Acceptable	2nd
1996	Louis Quatorze	2nd
1996	Diligence	5th
1995	Suave Prospect	2nd
1991	Strike the Gold	Won

## Jockey: Kent Desormeaux

Louisiana native Kent Desormeaux continues to add to a career that in 2004 earned him induction into the Racing Hall of Fame. Desormeaux has earned three Eclipse Awards, the first coming for 1987 when he was named outstanding apprentice jockey. He received the Eclipse as outstanding journeyman jockey in 1989 and 1992, joining Steve Cauthen and Chris McCarron as Eclipse winners in both the apprentice and overall jockey categories. Desormeaux has won the Kentucky Derby (G1) with Real Quiet and Fusaichi Pegasus. He

has wins in the Breeders' Cup World Championships aboard eventual Horse of the Year Kotashaan, as well as Desert Stormer and Corinthian. He has been a leading jockey in Japan.

In his career, Desormeaux has won more than 5,000 races and has ridden the earners of more than \$227 million around the world. However, he has had only one previous appearance in Keeneland's most famous race. In 2003, he rode Crowned Dancer to finish fourth in the Toyota Blue Grass (G1).

At Keeneland, Desormeaux has won 36 races, including nine stakes, prior to 2008. His first Keeneland stakes victory came in 1996 when he rode Afternoon Deelites to win the Commonwealth Breeders' Cup (G1). He has Grade 1 wins aboard Keeper Hill in the 1999 Three Chimneys Spinster and on Ticker Tape (GB) in the 2004 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup. During the 2007 spring season, he rode Jade's Revenge to win the Ben Ali (G3).

## Desormeaux's previous mount in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2003	Crowned Dancer	4th

# Cowboy Cal



Dark bay or brown colt

**Sire:** Giant's Causeway

**Dam:** Texas Tammy, by Seeking the Gold

**Breeder:** Stonerside Stable (Ky.)

**Owner:** Stonerside Stable

**Trainer:** Todd Pletcher

**Jockey:** John Velazquez

**Career record:** 5 starts, 3 wins, 1 second, \$164,708

**Stakes performance:** Won Tropical Park Derby (G3), Laurel Futurity; 2nd Hallandale Beach

## Breeder and Owner: Stonerside Stable

For the 2008 spring meeting, Keeneland has honored Robert and Janice McNair's Stonerside Stable by incorporating the stable's green and white silks in its Keeneland Club buttons and medallions. The designation, which recognizes horsemen for their prominent role in the growth of the Keeneland Association, dates from 1968 when the first honoree was track co-founder Hal Price Headley. Since 2000, Stonerside has sponsored the Beaumont Stakes (G2), a key race for three-year-old fillies that is run during the track's spring meeting. Stonerside also has participated in Keeneland sales as a buyer and consignor.

The McNairs, whose primary residence is in Houston, Texas, are among Thoroughbred racing's most prominent owners and breeders and also participate in the industry in Texas and in South America. In 1994, the McNairs began to develop their Stonerside farm near Paris, Kentucky, and today the operation covers nearly 2,000 acres. They also own a training facility in Aiken, South Carolina. John Adger serves as Stonerside's business and racing manager.

In 1999, Stonerside scored its first Keeneland stakes victory when the farm raced Fayette Breeders' Cup (G3) winner Social Charter in partnership with Robert E. Sangster. In 2000, Stonerside captured four Keeneland stakes, including the Stonerside Beaumont with Sahara Gold during the first year of the farm's sponsorship of the race. In 2005, Stonerside belonged to the partnership that raced Ashland (G1) winner Sis City. During the 2007 fall meeting, Stonerside raced homebred Country Star to win the Darley Alcibiades (G1). The Empire Maker filly won the Hollywood Starlet (G1) in her next start. Country Star is out of Rings a Chime, who won the Ashland in 2000.

The McNairs' success as owners include racing

champion Chilukki and Petit Club, a champion in his native Argentina, as well as several Texas-bred champions. Among Stonerside's other standouts is homebred Grade 1 winner Congaree, a son of Arazi who earned more than \$3.2 million and now stands at Adena Springs Kentucky near Paris. In partnership with Arthur B. Hancock III, Stonerside bred 2000 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Fusaichi Pegasus.

A successful businessman, Robert McNair owns the Houston Texans of the NFL. The McNairs also are noted philanthropists.

**Website:** [www.stonerside.com](http://www.stonerside.com)

**Toyota Blue Grass note:** Cowboy Cal is Stonerside's first starter in the Toyota Blue Grass. However, the farm already has experienced success in the race as the breeder of 2004 winner The Cliff's Edge.

## Trainer: Todd Pletcher

Todd Pletcher, who has earned four consecutive Eclipse Awards as North America's outstanding trainer (2004-2007), has maintained a large presence at Keeneland during the spring meeting with a stable featuring a talented group of three-year-olds. In 2007, Pletcher's Keeneland stable included eventual champion three-year-old filly Rags to Riches, who trained over the Polytrack racing surface before resuming her campaign, which included her historic victory over eventual Horse of the Year Curlin in the Belmont (G1).

Prior to Keeneland's 2008 spring meeting, Pletcher had won 93 races, including 21 stakes, at the track. His first Keeneland stakes win came with Turkappeal in the 1996 Valley View during his first full year as a trainer. In 2005, Pletcher saddled Bandini to win the Toyota Blue Grass (G1), and he scored another Grade 1 victory that year with Host (CHI) in the Shadwell Turf Mile. For the 2005 spring meeting, Pletcher set the track record for the most victories by a trainer during the spring season when he sent out 16 winners.

Pletcher was seven when he began working with racehorses trained by his father, Jake Pletcher, and he spent his summer vacations at the racetrack. After graduating from the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program in May 1989, he began working for D. Wayne Lukas, who was inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame in 1999. Their successful association continued until the

# Cowboy Cal

end of 1995 when Pletcher took out his trainer's license. Pletcher saddled his first winner two months later.

As of April 1, Pletcher had sent out more than 2,000 winners and trained the earners of more than \$148 million. His roster of champions includes 2007 Eclipse Award winners English Channel and Lawyer Ron in addition to Rags to Riches. The trio joins his earlier champions: Ashado, Fleet Indian, Left Bank, Speightstown and Wait a While.

**Website:** [www.toddpletcherracing.com](http://www.toddpletcherracing.com)

## **Pletcher's previous starters in the Toyota Blue Grass:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Finish</b>
2006	Bluegrass Cat	4th
2005	Bandini	Won
2004	Limehouse	3rd
2003	Lion Tamer	6th
2001	Invisible Ink	4th
2000	More Than Ready	2nd
1998	Ian's Thunder	4th

## **Jockey: John Velazquez**

John Velazquez won the Eclipse Award as North America's outstanding jockey in 2004 and 2005. Riding horses conditioned by multiple Eclipse Award-winning trainer Todd Pletcher, Velazquez has scored many of his most important victories, including the 2007 Belmont (G1) aboard the filly Rags to Riches.

At Keeneland, Velazquez has won 67 races, including 15 stakes, prior to this year's spring meeting. His first stakes victory at the track came in 1994, when he rode Claudius to win the Hopemont. His first Grade 1 win at the track came aboard Perfect Arc in the 1995 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup. For Pletcher, Velazquez rode Bandini to win the 2005 Toyota Blue Grass (G1). That victory helped Velazquez earn the title of leading rider during Keeneland's 2005 spring season with 21 victories.

Born in Puerto Rico, Velazquez began riding in the United States in March 1990 under the guidance of his agent, Racing Hall of Fame jockey Angel Cordero Jr. As of April 1, he had ridden nearly 3,900 winners and the earners of more than \$205 million around the world.

Today, Velazquez also serves as president of the Jockeys' Guild.

## **Velazquez's previous mounts in the Toyota Blue Grass:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Finish</b>
2006	Bluegrass Cat	4th
2005	Bandini	Won
2001	Invisible Ink	4th
2000	More Than Ready	2nd
1999	Lemon Drop Kid	5th

# Halo Najib



Chestnut colt

**Sire:** Halo's Image

**Dam:** Najibe's Wish, by Sword Dance (IRE)

**Breeder:** John S. Scott (Fl.)

**Owner:** Zayat Stables LLC

**Trainer:** Dale Romans

**Jockey:** Garrett Gomez

**Record:** 7 starts, 2 wins, 2 seconds, 1 third, \$273,416

**Stakes performance:** Won Darley Ocala Breeders' Sale Championship; 2nd Lane's End (G2), Iroquois (G3); 3rd Hutcheson Stakes (G2)

## Owner: Zayat Stables LLC

Prominent Egyptian businessman Ahmed Zayat started Zayat Stables LLC in 2005 and soon became a major force in racing and sales. So far, he has won Grade 1 stakes with Point Ashley and Downthedustyroad. Last year, he was the leading owner at Saratoga Race Course, where his horses won 18 races. For the entire year, Zayat Stables ranked second among North American owners by earnings with more than \$6.1 million.

Zayat is chairman and chief executive officer of Al Ahram Beverages (ABC). In 2002, Heineken International acquired ABC for \$287 million in the largest private-sector transaction in Egypt. ABC's beverage portfolio includes beer, wine, spirits, non-alcoholic malts, and soft drinks, which it exports to more than 19 countries.

Zayat has been an active participant at Keeneland sales. He purchased Point Ashley for \$725,000 at the 2006 Keeneland April Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale and sold her for \$1.8 million at the 2007 Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale. Zayat paid \$4.6 million for Maimonides at the 2006 Keeneland September Yearling Sale.

Zayat has some 200 horses in training and keeps about 20 broodmares in Kentucky.

## Trainer: Dale Romans

Dale Romans is a two-time leading trainer at Keeneland, earning titles for the 2001 and 2002 fall meets. Based at Churchill Downs, he also has been the leading trainer at the Louisville track, as well as at Turfway Park.

Romans' father, Jerry Romans, who died in 2000, was a successful trainer on the Kentucky circuit. The younger Romans grew up working for his father and took out his first trainer's license when he was 19. In 1993, he won his first stakes at Keeneland when Little Shocker captured the Indian Summer. Among his other career highlights are training champion Kitten's Joy and winning the Dubai World Cup (UAE-G1) with Roses in May.

At Keeneland prior to the start of racing this year, Romans had won four stakes. In 2005, he captured one of the fall meet's premiere races, the Lane's End Breeders' Futurity (G1) for two-year-olds, with Dawn of War.

**Website:** [www.daleromansracing.com](http://www.daleromansracing.com)

### Romans' previous starter in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2003	Acceptable Venture	5th

## Jockey: Garrett Gomez

Winning the 2007 Eclipse Award as outstanding jockey is just one of Garrett Gomez's many career accomplishments. Last year, his record 75 stakes wins included two victories in the Breeders' Cup World Championships and the Kentucky Oaks (G1) aboard eventual champion Rags to Riches.

At Keeneland, Gomez has won 43 races, including 14 stakes, in his career prior to the start of the 2008 Spring Meet. He scored his first stakes victory at the track in 1994 when he rode Southern Rhythm to win the Lexington (G2). Since then, he has Grade 1 wins at Keeneland in 2000 aboard Plenty of Light in the Three Chimney's Spinster; in 2006 on Sinister Minister in the Toyota Blue Grass and on Aussie Rules in the Shadwell Turf Mile; and in 2007 with Panty Raid in the Juddmonte Spinster. He won a total of six stakes at Keeneland in 2006.

### Gomez's previous mounts in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2007	Zanjero	3rd
2006	Sinister Minister	Won



# Kentucky Bear



Chestnut colt

**Sire:** Mr. Greeley

**Dam:** Tate, by Afleet

**Breeders:** Alexander Valley Breeders (Ky.)

**Owner:** Bear Stables Ltd.

**Trainer:** Reade Baker

**Jockey:** Jamie Theriot

**Career record:** 2 starts, 1 win, \$25,200

**Stakes performance:** 7th Fountain of Youth (G2)

**Keeneland sales history:** \$42,000 purchase at the 2006 Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Consignor: Dromoland Farm, agent. Buyer: Bear Stables.

## Owner: Bear Stables Ltd.

The bear behind Bear Stables is Dany "Bear" Dion of Bonnyville, Alberta, Canada. Dion is president and owner of Bear Slashing Ltd., an oil exploration and mulching business in Western Canada that he founded in 1988. The company logo has a bear wielding two chainsaws.

Several years ago, Dion founded Bear Stables while he and a friend were enjoying enough libations at a local bar that Dion bought his friend's racehorse. That runner, In Pursuit, managed one win and earned almost \$5,000 in 1999 and 2000 in Western Canada, and Dion was hooked on the sport so much that he began to form a plan to buy yearlings with the goal of winning the Kentucky Derby (G1).

To date, Dion's most successful racehorse is Bear Now, a daughter of Tiznow who has earned \$812,414. Last year, Bear Now won the Fitz Dixon Cotillion (G2) at Philadelphia Park before running eighth in the Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) at Monmouth Park. Bear Stables purchased Bear Now for \$65,000 at the 2005 Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Bear Stables also has campaigned Woodbine stakes winners Bear Character, Bear Holiday and Bear's Kid. In 2006, Bear Character ran third in the Coolmore Lexington (G2) at Keeneland.

Bear Stables races at Woodbine with Reade Baker, who trains Kentucky Bear, and in Western Canada with Dale Greenwood. Dion and Baker began their association several years ago after Dion e-mailed Baker and asked him to train some horses for him.

## Trainer: Reade Baker

Reade Baker scored his first stakes victory at Keeneland during the 2007 fall meet when he sent the filly Wind in My Wings from his base at Woodbine to capture the JP Morgan Chase Jessamine. Kentucky Bear will be the first starter in the Toyota Blue Grass (G1) for Baker, who has sent out only 10 starters at Keeneland since 1990.

That year, Baker opened a public stable after working in a variety of racing-related positions and building a career in Thoroughbred racing that has taken him around the world. He was a groom, an exercise rider and a successful jockey's agent before becoming racing manager for Rick Kennedy, whose runners included Canadian Horse of the Year Afleet, Canadian champion One From Heaven and Keeneland stakes winner Storm On the Loose.

A member of the Jockey Club of Canada, Baker earned the 2005 Sovereign Award as Canada's outstanding trainer. That year, he conditioned Canadian champion Judiths Wild Rush.

**Website:** [www.readebaker.com](http://www.readebaker.com)

## Jockey: Jamie Theriot

Jamie Theriot, who is making his debut in the Toyota Blue Grass, won four stakes at Keeneland last year. His triumphs included the Shadwell Turf Mile (G1), which he won while riding Purim. The victory marked the first Grade 1 win of Theriot's career.

Theriot is among the many talented jockeys from Cajun country of Louisiana, which has a rich tradition of horse racing. Like many aspiring jockeys in the region, he rode racehorses at bush tracks as a youngster. Theriot made his official debut at Evangeline Downs when he was 16 in 1995. He scored his first stakes win two years later when he rode Horse Fly to win the Delta Downs Handicap.

Since then, Theriot has been the leading rider at Evangeline (2001), at Oaklawn Park (2003) and most recently at Fair Grounds, where he won 94 races during the 2007-2008 season. In 2006, Theriot decided to ride in Kentucky for the first time. During Keeneland's fall meet last year, Theriot was the fourth-leading jockey with 12 wins. As of early April, Theriot had won nearly 1,700 races and ridden the earners of more than \$27 million.



# Medjool



Chestnut colt

**Sire:** Monarchos

**Dam:** Perfect Story, by Tale of the Cat

**Breeder:** John C. Oxley

**Owner:** Equine Prep Management

**Trainer:** David Hofmans

**Jockey:** Michael Baze

**Record:** 7 starts, 1 win, 3 seconds, 2 thirds, \$110,460

**Stakes performance:** 3rd Lane's End (G2)

**Keeneland sales history:** \$115,000 purchase at the 2006 Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Consignor: Gainesway, agent. Buyer: Premier Bloodstock.

## Owner: Equine Prep Management

Formed in 1995, Equine Prep Management is a successful sales agency that does the majority of its business in the two-year-old sales sector. Among the horses Equine Prep purchased for clients were future Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Alphabet Soup and future Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) winner Adoration.

The founder and director of operations for Equine Prep is John O'Hara, who has spent some 30 years in the Thoroughbred industry. His resume includes serving as an assistant to Racing Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg when he oversaw the careers of such racehorses as Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Alysheba. Members of Equine Prep's advisory board are lawyer Michael C. Siboni, veterinarian Gary Priest and trainer David Hofmans.

Equine Prep's Toyota Blue Grass (G1) starter, Medjool, has been offered for sale on its website. "We believe he will get any distance," the site says.

Medjool is the first foal out of Perfect Story, a half sister to Horse of the Year Point Given. In 2000, John C. Oxley bought Perfect Story for \$975,000 at the Keeneland November Mixed Sale. He raced her to win three of nine starts and earn \$95,895. Perfect Story made her career debut at Keeneland and also raced in the Stonerside Belmont (G2). Oxley bred Perfect Story to Monarchos, whom he raced to win the 2001 Kentucky Derby (G1).

**Website:** [www.equineprep.com](http://www.equineprep.com)

## Trainer: David Hofmans

Southern California-based trainer David Hofmans has done well during his few appearances at Keeneland. In 1997, he won the Lexington (G2) with Touch Gold, who went on to win the Belmont (G1) and spoil Silver Charm's Triple Crown Bid. Hofmans won the Toyota Blue Grass (G1) in 2001 with Millennium Wind in his first attempt at the race. During the fall meet that year, Hofmans sent out Siphonic to win the Lane's End Breeders' Futurity (G2).

Hofmans trained his first winner in 1974 at Santa Anita. He recorded the richest victory of his career in 1996 when he sent out Alphabet Soup to win the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1). In 2003, he won the Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) with Adoration. His current stable includes Grade 1 winner Greg's Gold, who was away from the races for 18 months after he underwent a revolutionary treatment to repair a bowed tendon. The procedure involved harvesting stem cells from his fat and using them to repair his tendon.

Hofmans' son, Grant, served as an assistant to his father before going out on his own and moving to Kentucky.

### Hofmans' previous starter in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2001	Millennium Wind	Won

## Jockey: Michael Baze

Michael Baze, who never has ridden at Keeneland until this year's spring meet, is making his debut in the Toyota Blue Grass. Baze is based in Southern California, where in March he rode Georgie Boy to win the San Felipe (G2) and Salute the Sarge to win the San Miguel. Both stakes were at Santa Anita.

Baze is coming off his most successful year as a jockey. He won 218 races and rode the earners of nearly \$9.4 million. His earnings ranked him 19th among all jockeys in North America.

Baze, who turns 21 two days after this year's Toyota Blue Grass, took out his license when he turned 16. Becoming a jockey would seem natural for Baze, who belongs to a family of successful horsemen. His father, Mike, is a former jockey who rode mostly in the Northwest. His first cousin is Tyler Baze, who earned the 2000 Eclipse Award as outstanding apprentice jockey. His second cousin is Russell Baze, North America's all-time leading Thoroughbred jockey by wins. One of his uncles is Gary Baze, the all-time leading rider at now-defunct Longacres.



# Miner's Claim



Dark bay or brown colt

**Sire:** Mineshaft

**Dam:** Sapphire n' Silk, by Pleasant Tap

**Breeder:** William A. Carl

**Owner:** Briarwood Stable

**Trainer:** Mark Casse

**Jockey:** Patrick Husbands

**Record:** 3 starts, 2 wins, 1 second, \$111,630

**Stakes performance:** 2nd Rushaway

**Keeneland sales history:** \$175,000 purchase at the 2006 Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Consignor: Greenfield Farm, agent. Buyer: Lane's End Farm.

## Owner: Briarwood Stable (W.S. Farish)

William S. Farish and partners are members of Briarwood Stable. Among the Briarwood horses is Highest Class, who has three third-place finishes in stakes this year. In her last race, Highest Class ran third in the Bonnie Miss (G2) at Gulfstream on March 29.

Farish, a Keeneland trustee, is one of Thoroughbred racing's most successful breeders and owners. He owns Lane's End near Versailles, Kentucky, where Miner's Claim's sire, Mineshaft, stands. According to *Thoroughbred Times*, the stallions standing at Lane's End ([www.lanesend.com](http://www.lanesend.com)) in 2007 sired the earners of more than \$84.6 million to lead all North American stud farms in that category. Lane's End also ranked first among stallions by progeny wins, stakes winners and graded stakes winners. Among the Lane's End stallions is A.P. Indy, who stands for a \$300,000 stud fee.

On April 30, Farish will be inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

## Trainer: Mark Casse

Lifelong horseman Mark Casse scored his first victory as a trainer Keeneland in 1979 when he was only 18 years old. In 2006, Casse made his first appearance in the track's most famous race, the Toyota Blue Grass (G1), when he sent out Seaside Retreat to finish sixth. Seaside Retreat went on to compete in the Kentucky Derby (G1) and return to Casse's base at Woodbine to win the Charley Barley Stakes.

Casse, who is based at Fair Grounds from December through March, is in the Toyota Blue Grass this year with Miner's Claim. The Kentucky-bred son of Horse of the Year Mineshaft began his career at Woodbine in 2007 with

two consecutive victories by three lengths or more. Those two wins were among the 84 victories that Casse scored at Woodbine last year to reign as the track's leading trainer.

Casse is a two-time winner of the Sovereign Award, the highest honor awarded in Canadian racing, as outstanding trainer. He earned one of those titles last year, when he conditioned Canadian Yorse of the Year Sealy Hill, who became the first filly to win the Canadian Triple Tiara since the series was inaugurated in 1999. Casse also trained earlier Sovereign winners Exciting Story, Added Edge and Kimchi.

Prior to the start of Keeneland's spring meet, Casse had saddled nearly 1,000 winners and trained the earners of nearly \$37 million. Last year, he ranked 14th among North American trainers by earnings with more than \$6.3 million.

**Website:** [www.casseracing.com](http://www.casseracing.com)

## Casse's previous starter in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2006	Seaside Retreat	6th

## Jockey: Patrick Husbands

A multiple leading rider at Woodbine, Patrick Husbands has won five Sovereign Awards as Canada's outstanding jockey (1999-2002 and 2007). For trainer Mark Casse last year, he rode Sealy Hill to win the Canadian Triple Tiara en route to being named Canada's Horse of the Year. Together, Casse and Husbands teamed up to win 76 races during the year.

From Barbados, Husbands began riding horses as a youngster. He moved to Canada to begin his riding career, first at Fort Erie, and he won his first stakes at Woodbine in 1998. Husbands made his first appearance in the Kentucky Derby (G1) in the 2006, finishing 10th aboard Seaside Retreat, also trained by Mark Casse. Prior to the Derby, Seaside Retreat finished sixth in the Toyota Blue Grass.

## Husbands' previous mount in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2006	Seaside Retreat	6th



# Monba



Gray or roan colt  
**Sire:** Maria's Mon  
**Dam:** Hamba, by Easy Goer  
**Breeders:** Mill Ridge Farm Ltd. and Jamm Ltd. (Ky.)  
Owners: Starlight, Lucarelli and Saylor

**Trainer:** Todd Pletcher

**Jockey:** Edgar Prado

**Career record:** 4 starts, 2 wins, \$112,534

## Owners: Starlight Stables (Jack and Laurie Wolf), Donald and Barbara Lucarelli and Paul Saylor

Jack and Laurie Wolf founded Starlight Stables in 2000 when they purchased six yearlings, including eventual Toyota Blue Grass (G1) winner Harlan's Holiday. In 2002, Harlan's Holiday won Keeneland's most famous race for Starlight and trainer Ken McPeck en route to capturing nine races in 22 starts and earning more than \$3.6 million during his career. Today, Harlan's Holiday stands at former Kentucky Governor Brereton Jones' Airdrie Farm near Midway.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Jack Wolf earned a master's degree in economics from Murray State University and went on to teach and become a hedge fund manager with Columbus Partners in Atlanta before retiring to concentrate on racing. Laurie Wolf, who was born in DeRidder, Louisiana, graduated from McNeese State University with a degree in communications and theater. The Wolfs reside in Louisville and Saratoga Springs, New York.

Harlan's Holiday joins an impressive list of horses campaigned by Starlight. In partnership with Johns Martin and Paul Saylor, Starlight raced multiple champion Ashado, who won seven Grade 1 races and earned more than \$3.9 million. In 2005, the partners sold Ashado at the Keeneland November Breeding Stock sale for \$9 million—then a sale record for a broodmare or broodmare prospect. John Ferguson purchased Ashado on behalf of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum.

With Donald Lucarelli, Starlight also raced Grade 1 winners Octave. Starlight, Martin and Saylor also campaigned Grade 1 winner Purge.

Lucarelli and his wife, Barbara, live in Duanesberg, New York. The Lucarellis spent part of every summer for three decades at Saratoga Race Course, envisioning the day when they might have their own racehorses. When Donald Lucarelli's family business, Bellevue Builders Supply, was sold in 2004, the couple decided to invest in some runners. They turned to the Wolfs, whom they had met at a party the year before, and immediately scored with Grade 2 winner Keyed Entry. Saylor also was a partner in the ownership of Keyed Entry.

In the summer of 2007, the Wolfs and the Lucarellis formed a new entity, Starlight Racing, with the goal of investing in higher quality yearlings by joining a select few new partners who also want to compete at the top levels of the sport. Barry Berkelhammer serves as Starlight's bloodstock advisor.

In addition to his partnership success with Ashado, Purge and Keyed Entry, all of whom were trained by Todd Pletcher, Paul Saylor was the sole owner of champion Fleet Indian. Pletcher conditioned Fleet Indian, who won eight consecutive races in her career. Saylor's business interests include a real estate banking and investment management firms with offices in Atlanta and New York.

**Website:** [www.starlightracing.com](http://www.starlightracing.com)

**Toyota Blue Grass note:** Starlight won the 2002 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes with Harlan's Holiday.

## Trainer: Todd Pletcher

Todd Pletcher, who has earned four consecutive Eclipse Awards as North America's outstanding trainer (2004-2007), has maintained a large presence at Keeneland during the spring meeting with a stable featuring a talented group of three-year-olds. In 2007, Pletcher's Keeneland stable included eventual champion three-year-old filly Rags to Riches, who trained over the Polytrack racing surface before resuming her campaign, which included her historic victory over eventual Horse of the Year Curlin in the Belmont (G1).

Prior to Keeneland's 2008 spring meeting, Pletcher had won 93 races, including 21 stakes, at the track. His first Keeneland stakes win came with Turkappeal in the 1996 Valley View during his first full year as a trainer. In 2005, Pletcher saddled Bandini to win the Toyota Blue

# Monba

Grass (G1), and he scored another Grade 1 victory that year with Host (CHI) in the Shadwell Turf Mile. For the 2005 spring meeting, Pletcher set the track record for the most victories by a trainer during the spring season when he sent out 16 winners.

Pletcher was seven when he began working with racehorses trained by his father, Jake Pletcher, and he spent his summer vacations at the racetrack. After graduating from the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program in May 1989, he began working for D. Wayne Lukas, who was inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame in 1999. Their successful association continued until the end of 1995 when Pletcher took out his trainer's license. Pletcher saddled his first winner two months later.

As of April 1, Pletcher had sent out more than 2,000 winners and trained the earners of more than \$148 million. His roster of champions includes 2007 Eclipse Award winners English Channel and Lawyer Ron in addition to Rags to Riches. The trio joins his earlier champions: Ashado, Fleet Indian, Left Bank, Speightstown and Wait a While.

**Website:** [www.toddpletcherracing.com](http://www.toddpletcherracing.com)

## Pletcher's previous starters in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2006	Bluegrass Cat	4th
2005	Bandini	Won
2004	Limehouse	3rd
2003	Lion Tamer	6th
2001	Invisible Ink	4th
2000	More Than Ready	2nd
1998	Ian's Thunder	4th

## Jockey: Edgar Prado

Edgar Prado has two victories in the Toyota Blue Grass (G1), riding Harlan's Holiday in 2002 and Peace Rules in 2003. Those triumphs are among the many career accomplishments for Prado, who has won more than 6,000 races and ridden the earners of more than

\$204 million around the world. Prado earned the Eclipse Award as outstanding jockey in 2006, the year he won the Kentucky Derby (G1) aboard unbeaten Barbaro.

At Keeneland, Prado had won 84 races, including 30 stakes, prior to the start of racing in 2008. He ranks seventh among the track's all-time leading riders by stakes victories.

Two of Prado's Grade 1 wins at Keeneland came aboard Take Charge Lady, whom he rode to win the Overbrook Spinster (G1) in 2002 and 2003. In 2003, Prado's Spinster win on Take Charge Lady and his Toyota Blue Grass victory on Peace Rules gave him two of his four Grade 1 wins at the track that year, joining the Shadwell Turf Mile on Landseer (GB) and the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup on Film Maker. His other Grade 1 wins at Keeneland have come aboard Perfect Soul (IRE) in the 2003 Shadwell Turf Mile and on Sis City in the 2005 Ashland.

Prado's success in Keeneland stakes continued during the 2007 spring season when he won the Central Bank Transylvania (G3) with Marcavelly, the Vinery Madison (G2) with Mary Delaney, the Stonerside Beaumont (G2) with Street Sounds and the Maker's Mark Mile (G2) with Kip Deville.

Born in Peru, Prado was a successful jockey in his home country. He moved to the United States and began riding in Florida in 1986. Prado was a leading rider in Maryland before moving his tack to New York and beginning to appear in the biggest races in the sport.

## Prado's previous mounts in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2007	Teufflesberg	4th
2006	Strong Contender	3rd
2005	Sun King	4th
2003	Peace Rules	Won
2002	Harlan's Holiday	Won
2001	Songandaprayer	2nd

# Pyro



Dark bay or brown colt

**Sire:** Pulpit

**Dam:** Wild Vision, by Wild Again

**Breeder:** Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC (Ky.)

**Owner:** Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC

**Trainer:** Steve Asmussen

**Jockey:** Shaun Bridgmohan

**Career record:** 6 starts, 3 wins, 2 seconds, 1 third, \$1,056,718

**Stakes performance:** Won Louisiana Derby (G2), Risen Star (G3); 2nd Bessemer Trust Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), Champagne (G1)

## Breeder and Owner: Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC

In the name of Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC, Joan Winchell and her son, Ron Winchell, are continuing the racing operation started by the late Verne H. Winchell, Joan's husband and Ron's father. Verne Winchell, who died at the age of 87 in 2002, was a successful businessman and Thoroughbred breeder and owner who raced champions Mira Femme and Tight Spot (the latter in partnership). In 1994, Verne Winchell raced homebred Valiant Nature to finish second behind Holy Bull in the Blue Grass (G2). In 2001, Winchell won Keeneland's Ashland (G1) with homebred Fleet Renee.

Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC raced its first starter in the Toyota Blue Grass (G1) last year, when Zanjero finished third in the race. Trained by Steve Asmussen, who also conditions Pyro, the Cherokee Run colt went on to win the West Virginia Derby (G3) and Indiana Derby (G2).

Joan and Ron Winchell own Corinthia Farm near Lexington; the farm formerly was known as Oakwind Farm, which Verne Winchell purchased in 1978. The Winchells bred Pyro from the Wild Again mare Wild Vision, who won her lone start by five lengths. Wild Vision, another homebred for Verne Winchell, was trained by Asmussen, who also conditioned Grade 1 winner Summerly and Cuvee (the latter owned in partnership with Spendthrift Farm) for Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC.

Pyro is by Pulpit, a son of A.P. Indy who won the 1997 Toyota Blue Grass. Shortly after the colt won the Louisiana Derby (G2) at Fair Grounds on March 8, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum's Darley in

Lexington announced it would stand Pyro upon the conclusion of his racing career.

## Winchell Thoroughbreds' previous starter in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2007	Zanjero	3rd

## Trainer: Steven M. Asmussen

Steve Asmussen handles a racing operation that numbers about 200 horses in training, including arguably the best horse in the world. On March 29, at Nad al Sheba racecourse in Dubai, Asmussen sent out reigning Horse of the Year Curlin to win the world's richest horse race, the \$6 million Dubai World Cup (UAE-G1).

Last year, Curlin earned the title of Horse of the Year with wins in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) and Preakness (G1) and earnings of more than \$5.1 million. Prior to his Triple Crown campaign in the spring and then prior to his start in the Breeders' Cup in the fall, Curlin trained at Keeneland over the Polytrack racing surface. The colt returned to Keeneland after his Dubai triumph.

Curlin's bankroll in 2007 helped to push Asmussen's overall stable earnings for the year to nearly \$23.9 million. Meanwhile, Asmussen's horses won 488 races to rank him first among all trainers by victories for the year. His horses won 79 stakes at 34 different tracks. They included Kodiak Kowboy, a Canadian champion; Golden Hare, the winningest horse of the year with 14 victories; and two Texas-bred champions.

At Keeneland, Asmussen has won 81 races, including five stakes prior to the 2008 spring season. He was the leading trainer of the 2004 spring and fall meetings (tying with Nick Zito in the fall). He has won two runnings of the Lafayette (G3) with Posse (2003) and Bwana Charlie (2004). In 2004, he also won the Coolmore Lexington (G2) with Quintons Gold Rush and the Valley View (G3) with the Sister Swank. Last year, he scored his first Keeneland stakes win in three years when he won the Bryan Station with Inca King.

Asmussen, who has won more than 4,000 races as a trainer, is a member of a well-known racing family who own and operate El Primero Training Center in Laredo,

# Pyro

Texas. His father, Keith, is a former jockey, and his mother, Marilyn, is a former trainer. His brother, Cash, is an Eclipse Award-winning jockey who became a champion rider in Europe. During his career, Cash made one start in the Blue Grass, riding Shahnameh to an eighth-place finish in 1981. Cash's wife, Cheryl, also is a trainer.

## **Asmussen's previous starters in the Toyota Blue Grass:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Finish</b>
2007	Zanjero	3rd
2006	Storm Treasure	2nd

## **Jockey: Shaun Bridgmohan**

Shaun Bridgmohan is making his debut in the Toyota Blue Grass (G1), but he is no stranger to Keeneland. He has won 54 races, including four stakes, at the track prior to the start of the 2008 spring meeting. Bridgmohan first competed at Keeneland in 2003 and scored his first stakes victory at the track in 2005 when he rode For All We Know to win the Lexus Raven Run (G2). In 2006, Bridgmohan won the Central Bank Transylvania

(G3) on Chin High and the Fifth Third Elkhorn (G3) on Pelligrino (BRZ). Last year, he rode Inca King to win the Bryan Station.

Born in Jamaica, Bridgmohan moved with his family to Florida when he was young. His father, Gerald, was an avid racing fan who took his son to the track. At 16, Bridgmohan began his racing career as a groom and hot walker and later became an exercise rider.

After high school graduation, Bridgmohan launched his riding career and won his first race in September 1997 at Calder Race Course. That fast start was indicative of Bridgmohan's early success as he went on to earn the 1998 Eclipse Award as outstanding apprentice jockey. (His younger brother, Jermaine, also is a jockey.)

As of April 1, Bridgmohan had ridden nearly 1,700 winners and the earners of nearly \$69 million. Riding for Steve Asmussen, Bridgmohan has scored nearly 200 victories. In addition to his wins on Pyro, Bridgmohan also won the Lecomte (G3) at Fair Grounds for the Asmussen runner Z Fortune.

# Stevil



Gray or roan colt

Sire: Maria's Mon

**Dam:** Company Storm, by Storm Creek

**Breeder:** John E. Piehl II (Ky.)

**Owner:** Robert V. LaPenta

**Trainer:** Nick Zito

**Jockey:** Rafael Bejarano

**Record:** 5 starts, 1 win, 1 second, 1 third, \$58,365

**Stakes performance:** 5th Louisiana Derby (G2)

**Keeneland sales history:** \$110,000 purchase at the 2006 Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Consignor: Forbush Farm, agent. Buyer: Whitehorse Stables

## Owner: Robert V. LaPenta

Robert V. LaPenta is in an enviable position this time of year as the owner of not one, but several talented three-year-olds led by champion War Pass and Toyota Blue Grass (G1) hopefuls Cool Coal Man and Stevil. In 2006, LaPenta's Whitehorse Stables purchased all three colts at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale, spending \$200,000 on Cool Coal Man, \$180,000 on War Pass and \$110,000 on Stevil. Nick Zito, a member of the Racing Hall of Fame, trains the horses.

LaPenta, who lives in Westport, Connecticut, is chairman, president and CEO of L-1 Identity Solutions, a provider of solutions and services that protect and secure personal identities and assets. His mother introduced him to racing, and he first became a Thoroughbred owner in 1998 as a partner with University of Louisville men's basketball coach Rick Pitino. That same year, Pitino's Celtic Pride Stable won the Toyota Blue Grass with Halory Hunter, another runner trained by Zito.

Since LaPenta started his own stable in 2001, he has been successful as both a buyer and seller of future racing stars. At the 2002 Keeneland September sale, Whitehorse paid \$200,000 for a son of Gulch whom LaPenta named The Cliff's Edge in honor of Cliff Guillems, a sportswriter for the *Courier & Press* of Evansville, Indiana, who is an Equibase chart caller at Keeneland. Zito trained The Cliff's Edge to win the 2004 Toyota Blue Grass and earn more than \$1.25 million. In 2006, LaPenta returned to the Toyota Blue Grass with another runner trained by Zito, Little Cliff, who finished eighth.

## LaPenta's previous starters in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2006	Little Cliff	8th
2004	The Cliff's Edge	Won

## Trainer: Nick Zito

With three victories in the Toyota Blue Grass (G1), Racing Hall of Fame member Nick Zito has had more success in the race than any other trainer with a starter this year. Zito's contenders are Cool Coal Man and Stevil, both owned by Robert V. LaPenta. For LaPenta, Zito also trains champion War Pass.

Zito's first Blue Grass starter was Strike the Gold, who not only won the race in 1991 to become his trainer's first-ever stakes winner at Keeneland but also went on to capture the Kentucky Derby (G1). (Zito's other Derby winner is Go for Gin, who took the race in 1994.) Zito's second win in the Blue Grass, then sponsored by Toyota, came in 1998 with Halory Hunter, who was followed in 2004 by LaPenta's The Cliff's Edge.

Three triumphs in Keeneland's most famous race are among Zito's accomplishments at the track. He has been the track's leading trainer four times: spring 1997, and fall 2003, 2004 (in a tie) and 2005. His 16 stakes wins at Keeneland heading into the 2008 spring meeting began rank him ninth all time among trainers at the track. He has won a total of 126 races at the track.

Zito grew up near Aqueduct and was a teenager when he received his first job in racing as a hot walker. After working as an assistant to trainer Johnny Campo and Hall of Fame trainer LeRoy Jolley, Zito went out on his own in 1972 at the age of 24. He had two horses at the time.

Now Zito is continuing one of the most successful careers of any trainer in Thoroughbred racing. He has won every Triple Crown race. He has trained three champions: Bird Town, Storm Song and War Pass. He had his most lucrative year in 2005, when he saddled the earners of nearly \$8.2 million. His runners that year included Belmont (G1) winner Birdstone, as well as LaPenta's stakes winners Andromeda's Hero and Superfly. That same year, Zito was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

# Stevil

## Zito's previous starters in the Toyota Blue Grass:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Finish</b>
2006	Little Cliff	8th
2005	Sun King	4th
2004	The Cliff's Edge	Won
2002	Straight Gin	4th
2001	A P Valentine	5th
2000	Bare Outline	5th
1999	Wondertross	5th
1998	Halory Hunter	Won
1997	Acceptable	2nd
1996	Louis Quatorze	2nd
1996	Diligence	5th
1995	Suave Prospect	2nd
1991	Strike the Gold	Won

## Jockey: Rafael Bejarano

Keeneland has been an important component in the career of Rafael Bejarano. He has won four riding titles at the track: Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Spring 2006 (tie) and Fall 2007. In October 2005, he scored the 1,000th victory of his career when he rode Northern Vacation to a win at Keeneland. Last year, he rode Dominican to win the Toyota Blue Grass (G1) for his first victory in Keeneland's most famous race.

Bejarano had won 168 races, including 15 stakes, at Keeneland prior to the start of racing in 2008. His first stakes win at the track came in 2004 when he won six stakes races, including the Lane's End Breeders' Futurity (G1) with Consolidator. Bejarano's subsequent Grade 1 wins at the track came in 2005 with the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup with Sweet Talker and the Shadwell Turf Mile with Host (CHI) and in 2007 with Dominican in the Toyota Blue Grass and Country Star in the Darley Alicibiades.

In his career, Bejarano has won a number of important races en route to winning more than 1,600 races and riding the earners of nearly \$65 million. His victories include this year's \$1 million Santa Anita Handicap (G1) with Heatseeker (IRE). Last year, he rode Ginger Punch to win the \$2 million Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1). In 2005, he rode Intercontinental (GB) to win the \$1 million Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1).

## Bejarano's previous mounts in the Toyota Blue Grass:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Finish</b>
2007	Dominican	Won
2006	First Samurai	5th
2005	Consolidator	5th

# Stone Bird



Bay colt  
**Sire:** Grindstone  
**Dam:** Bird Cage, by Kris S.  
**Breeder:** Marylou Whitney Stables (Ky.)  
**Owner:** Marylou Whitney Stables  
**Trainer:** D. Wayne Lukas

**Jockey:** Corey Lanerie  
**Record:** 7 starts, 2 wins, \$44,660  
**Stakes performance:** 8th Rebel (G2)

## Breeder and owner: Marylou Whitney Stables

Marylou Whitney Stables represents one of the most famous names in Thoroughbred racing. In 2005, Whitney's homebred Birdstone upset Smarty Jones' bid to win the Triple Crown when he captured the Belmont (G1). Bird Cage, dam of Whitney's Toyota Blue Grass (G1) hopeful, Stone Bird, is a half sister to the dam of Birdstone and champion Bird Town. Birdstone and Stone Bird both are sons of Grindstone, who won the Kentucky Derby (G1) in 1996 by a nose over Cavonnier. D. Wayne Lukas, who trains Stone Bird, conditioned Grindstone.

Whitney, who owns an 88-acre farm near Lexington, lives in Saratoga Springs, New York, and maintains residences in Kentucky, Florida and Alaska. She is a noted sportswoman and philanthropist who has received many honors and been active in many charitable organizations and boards.

Her late husband C.V. Whitney, whom she married in 1958, was one of the most successful breeders and owners of Thoroughbreds during the 20th century. Whitney, who died in 1992, won the Blue Grass three times, with Mr. Trouble (1950), Mameluke (1951, 1st division) and Tompion (1960). As of the start of Keeneland's 2008 Spring Meet, C.V. Whitney was seventh on the list of the track's all-time leading owners by victories (118) and was tied for seventh by number of stakes victories

### Marylou Whitney's previous starter in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2002	Straight Gin	4th

## Trainer: D. Wayne Lukas

D. Wayne Lukas entered Thoroughbred racing in the late 1970s and began to transform the sport with his uncommon eye for selecting racing prospects at major yearling sales and his unique approach on the race-track. Among his accomplishments is training a record 24 champions, along with four winners of the Kentucky Derby (G1), five winners of the Preakness (G1) and four winners of the Belmont (G1). He has won a record 18 races during the Breeders' Cup World Championships. He has won four Eclipse Awards as outstanding trainer. Meanwhile, a number of his former assistants are having their own successful careers, namely Todd Pletcher and Kieran McLaughlin.

At Keeneland, Lukas is the all-time leading trainer by wins (270) and by stakes wins (50). He has two wins in the track's most famous race, the Toyota Blue Grass (G1), with War in 1987 and High Yield in 2000. He earned his first stakes victory at the track in 1982 when he sent out Blush With Pride to win the Ashland (G2).

Lukas began his career in American Quarter Horse racing and was a leading trainer of the sprinters before switching to Thoroughbreds. In 1999, he received Thoroughbred racing's highest honor when he was inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame. In 2007, he was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame, making him the only person ever to be recognized for the high-level success with both breeds of horses.

**Website:** [www.dwlukas.com](http://www.dwlukas.com)

### Lukas' previous starters in the Toyota Blue Grass:

Year	Horse	Finish
2005	Consolidator	5th
2003	Ten Cents a Shine	8th
2000	High Yield	Won
1999	Cat Thief	2nd
1998	Cape Town	3rd
1997	Wrightswood	6th
1996	Editor's Note	3rd
1995	Thunder Gulch	4th
1994	Chimes Band	5th
1992	Dance Floor	4th
1990	Land Rush	2nd
1988	Cougarized	4th
1987	War	Won
1986	Big Play	9th
1983	Marfa	4th

# Stone Bird

## **Jockey: Corey Lanerie**

Corey Lanerie is a third-generation horseman from Louisiana who began riding professionally in 1991. He earned his first victory that year at Evangeline Downs. In 1992, he scored his first stakes victory when he rode Fighting K to win the Black Gold Handicap at Fair Grounds.

Lanerie made his Keeneland debut in 1999 and has won 38 races at the track to date. He scored his first Keeneland stakes victory in 2003 when he rode Posse to win the Lafayette (G3).

In his career, Lanerie has won more than 2,500 races and ridden the earners of nearly \$54 million. A victory in the Toyota Blue Grass (G1) would give Lanerie the first Grade 1 win of his career.

# Visionaire



Chestnut colt  
**Sire:** Grand Slam  
**Dam:** Scarlet Tango, by French Deputy  
**Breeder:** Reiley McDonald (Ky.)  
**Owners:** Team Valor International and Vision Racing LLC

**Trainer:** Michael Matz

**Jockey:** Jose Lezcano

**Record:** 5 starts, 3 wins, 1 second, 1 third, \$228,260

**Stakes performance:** Won Gotham (G3), 3rd Risen Star (G3)

## Owner: Team Valor International and Vision Racing LLC

Under the leadership of Barry Irwin, Team Valor forms partnerships with racing enthusiasts and members of the industry to race Thoroughbreds at major events in the United States and internationally. To date, roughly 30 percent of 900 partners who have participated in Team Valor have owned a horse that won a Grade 1 or Group 1 race. Standouts include Captain Bodgit and The Deputy (IRE), both of whom raced in the Kentucky Derby (G1), as well as Arlington Million (G1) winner Star of Cozzene and Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) winner Prized. (The stable was known as Clover Racing Stables when it raced Prized. Clover Racing evolved into Team Valor in 1992).

Team Valor partnerships annually donate one percent of their racetrack earnings worldwide, and Team Valor itself matches that figure for The Race for Education, a charity offering college scholarships to students with a parent who works on a horse farm or on the backstretch of a racetrack.

Visionaire began his career racing for Vision Racing, another venture that offers partnerships in racehorses. Vision's principals are Brandon Perry and his wife, Dianah, and John Stephens and his wife, Jill. The Perrys own Paragon Farms, a commercial breeding operation in Lexington. In 2006, the Perrys received notice when a two-year-old named The Green Monkey sold for a world-record \$16 million because they owned the colt's dam, Magical Masquerade, whom they had purchased privately after she did not meet her reserve at the 2005 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale. The Stephenses own Stephens Thoroughbreds in Morriston,

Florida, where they broke and trained eventual 2006 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Barbaro.

Vision purchased Visionaire as a yearling in 2006. In January, Vision sold a 51-percent interest in Visionaire to Team Valor after the colt won a one-mile allowance race at Gulfstream Park by 5 ½ lengths.

**Websites:** Team Valor – [www.teamvalor.com](http://www.teamvalor.com)

Vision Racing – [www.visionsalesllc.com](http://www.visionsalesllc.com)

## Trainer: Michael Matz

Visionaire is on schedule to become the first starter in the Toyota Blue Grass (G1) for trainer Michael Matz, who is best known as the trainer of 2006 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Barbaro.

Matz is a highly accomplished equestrian who competed in three editions of the Olympic Games. He saddled his first racehorse in 1996 and scored his first Grade 1 victory with Kicken Kris in the 2003 Secretariat (G1) at Arlington Park. Kicken Kris returned the following year to win the Arlington Million (G1). Matz also won the 2006 Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) with Round Pond.

Based at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland, Matz first raced at Keeneland in 2000. During the 2007 fall meeting, he recorded his first stakes victory at the track when Street Sounds captured the Stonerside Beaumont (G2). In his career, Matz has won more than 300 races and saddled the earners of more than \$17.5 million.

Matz's wife, Dorothy, is a member of a noted racing family. Her grandfather Richard Kleberg owned King Ranch in Texas and raced 1946 Triple Crown winner Assault and 1950 Kentucky Derby winner Middleground. Her mother, Helen K. Groves, has achieved success as a breeder of Thoroughbreds and also is well known for the cutting horses she has bred, raised and ridden. One of Dorothy Matz's sisters is Helen Alexander, a successful Thoroughbred breeder who owns Middlebrook Farm in Lexington. Alexander is a Keeneland director.

Dorothy Matz bred Offlee Wild, who finished third in the 2003 Toyota Blue Grass and later won the Suburban (G1) and Massachusetts (G2) Handicaps. Offlee Wild earned nearly \$1 million.

# Visionaire

## Jockey: Jose Lezcano

Prior to Keeneland's 2008 spring meeting, Jose Lezcano had ridden in only two races at the track—both appearances coming in 2005. As a result, Lezcano might be unfamiliar to many racing fans here, but the young jockey has been building a successful career, riding mostly in Florida and at tracks along the East Coast. He most recently was among the leading riders by wins at Gulfstream Park.

Lezcano, who celebrates his 23rd birthday this month, was born in Panama and was 16 when he began riding in his home country. He first rode in the United States in 2004 at Gulfstream, where he scored his first win in March of that year. Lezcano recorded his first stakes victory in March 2005 at Tampa Bay Downs when he rode Joyful Ballad to win the Wayward Lass Stakes. He won his first graded stakes four months later when he rode R Lady Joy in the Delaware Oaks (G2).

In 2006, Lezcano was the leading rider at Tampa Bay Downs, where he rode five winners on a single card. That same year, he competed in the Kentucky Derby (G1) for the first time, piloting Tampa Bay Derby (G3) winner Deputy Glitters to an eighth-place finish behind Barbaro. Lezcano also was the leading jockey at The Meadowlands that season.

Lezcano's richest victory to date came in 2007, when he rode Summer Doldrums to win the \$750,000 Colonial Turf Cup (G3) at Colonial Downs in Virginia. In January, Lezcano first rode Visionaire in the colt's 2008 debut, and the two captured a one-mile allowance race at Gulfstream by 5 ½ lengths. A month later, Lezcano recorded his first Grade 1 win when he rode Einstein (BRZ) in the Gulfstream Park Turf.