

Trainer: Michael Matz

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

Matz, 57, 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 Stakes (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 Stakes (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.

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