

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 Stakes (G1) hopeful Cool Coal Man. In 2006, LaPenta's Whitehorse Stables purchased both colts at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale, spending \$180,000 on War Pass and \$200,000 on Cool Coal Man. 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 Stakes 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.