

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 Stakes (G2). In 2001, Winchell won Keeneland's Ashland Stakes (G1) with homebred Fleet Renee.

Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC raced its first starter in the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (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 Stakes. 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 that it would stand Pyro upon the conclusion of his racing career.