

BELLADONNA RACING LLC

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KENTUCKY DERBY **150**

Derby Favorite Fierceness Draws in 17, Sierra Leone Gets Post 2

TDN
THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

APRIL 27, 2024

BY CHRISTINA BOSSINAKIS

Featuring \$200-million worth of improvements in its new paddock area, Churchill Downs hosted the draw ceremony for next weekend's GI Kentucky Derby and GI Kentucky Oaks during its opening night card Saturday.

As usual, the proceedings drew some cheers, and jeers, from the crowd. Possibly numbered among the latter, the connections of the 5-2 morning line favorite 'TDN Rising Star' Fierceness (City of Light) couldn't have been overly thrilled with drawing post 17 for Saturday's Run for the Roses. Campaigned by his breeder Mike Repole, the reigning juvenile champ comes into the race off a scintillating victory in last month's GI Curlin Florida Derby. Already developing a bit of a reputation for his propensity for being a one on, one off type of character, the colt's trainer was pragmatic about the post position moments after the draw.

"We just need to break cleanly like he did in the Florida Derby, and I think he has enough talent to put himself in the right spot," Todd Pletcher said.

The colt will be accompanied by Hall of Famer John Velazquez, who was also aboard for the colt's latest three victories, including last fall's GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Santa Anita.

His antipodal counterpart in the gate, Peter Brant, Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith, Westerberg and Brook Smith's 'TDN Rising Star' Sierra Leone (Gun Runner) drew post 2, and was installed the 3-1 second choice on the morning line. Trained by Chad Brown, who is looking for his first Derby win, the \$2.3 million Fasig-Tipton Saratoga graduate is undefeated this season, having won the GII Risen Star S. and GI Toyota Blue Grass S. Perfect under Tyler Gaffalione, the 11-time leading rider at Churchill Downs has the mount.

Brown also saddles Klaravich Stables' Domestic Product (Practical Joke), who will exit post 15. Installed

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KENTUCKY DERBY 150 (CONT.)

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a 30-1 chance on the morning line, the GIII Tampa Derby winner will be ridden by Irad Ortiz Jr.

"Not that bad," said Brown when asked how he thought his horses drew. "Sierra Leone, he's in just a touch farther in than I wanted but he didn't get the 1 hole, so I'm OK with that. With this particular horse, what I didn't want was the 19 or 20. In fact, it would have been hard for him to drop over without losing ground, significant ground around the first turn."

He continued, "With Domestic Product, I thought it was a very good draw for him. He has a lot of natural speed, he should be in the second flight, and I think that Irad [Ortiz Jr.] will have plenty of options from the 15 for that long run down the stretch the first time to sort of position himself hopefully, behind the half dozen speed horses."

The only other horse under 10-1 on the morning line is GII Louisiana Derby scorer Catching Freedom (Constitution), who was penciled in at 8-1 while exiting post 4. Carrying the flag for Albaugh Family Stables, the Brad Cox trainee is reunited with Flavien Prat, who was also aboard for his latest victory. A pair of sophomores were given 10-1 chance-Qatar Racing, Resolute Racing and Marc Detampel's Just a Touch (Justify), runner up in the Blue Grass and Japanese invader Forever Young (Jpn) (Reel Steel {Jpn}). The former, who breaks from post 8, will be accompanied by Florent

Geroux, while the latter, who won both the G3 Saudi Derby and G2 UAE Derby, will get the services of Ryusei Sakai and will exit the 11 hole.

The trainer with the most prior Derby wins with four, Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas, saddles B C Stables' Just Steel (Justify), who drew favorably in post 6. The colt will be ridden by Keith Asmussen, who will be competing in his first Kentucky Derby Saturday. A \$500,000 Keeneland September purchase by Lukas, the colt was given a 20-1 chance on the morning line.

"It's fine," said Lukas. "I just didn't want inside. I don't care for the inside, but anything from probably the 5 out is comfortable."

The remaining Derby horses are listed as follows: 1) Dornoch (Luis Saez, 20-1); 3) Mystik Dan (Brian Hernandez, 20-1); 5) Catalytic (Jose Ortiz, 30-1); 7) Honor Marie (Ben Curtis, 20-1); 9) Encino (Axel Conception, 20-1); 10) T O Password (Jpn) (Kazuski Kimura, 30-1); 12) Track Phantom (Joel Rosario, 20-1); 13) West Saratoga (Jesus Castanon, 50-1); 14) Endlessly (Umberto Rispoli, 30-1); 16) Grand Mo The First (Emisael Jaramillio, 50-1); 18) Stronghold (Antonion Fresu, 20-1); 19) Resilience (Junior Alvarado, 20-1); 20) Society Man (Frankie Dettori, 50-1). AE 21) Epic Ride (Adam Beschizza, 50-1); AE 22) Mugatu (Joe Talamo, 50-1).

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KENTUCKY OAKS 2024

Tarifa Set as Oaks ML Favorite

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Highlighting a 14-horse Oaks field, Godolphin's 'TDN Rising Star' Tarifa (Bernardini) drew post 8 and was established the 7-2 morning-line favorite for Friday's Classic for the fillies. Flavien Prat has the mount on the the GII Rachel Alexandra S. and GII Fair Grounds Oaks winner. The homebred filly is trained by Brad Cox.

"I think post positions are a little overrated," said Cox. "If you have the right horse, you can really win from anywhere. I think both horses [Tarifa and stable-mate Gin Gin breaking from post 2] had a solid work the other morning so that's most important at this stage to me."

The second choice on the morning line at 4-1, Whisper Hill Farm's 'TDN Rising Star' Leslie's Rose (Into Mischief), drew on the far outside in post 14 for trainer Todd Pletcher. A \$1.15 million Keeneland September purchase, the winner of the GI Ashland S. will be reunited with Irad Ortiz Jr., who has been aboard all four of her lifetime starts.

Last season's juvenile champion filly Just F Y I (Justify) draws lucky number 13 in the Oaks gate for George Krikorian and trainer Bill Mott. Victorious in last season's GI Frizette S. and GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, the homebred will be ridden by her regular partner, Junior Alvarado. She was installed

the 9-2 third choice on the morning line.

"She won the Breeders' Cup from the 12," said Mott. "Hopefully, she'll have a good clean trip and have a chance to get over. If she's on her game, she'll break pretty good and hope it works out as well as it did in the Breeders' Cup."

A pair of fillies were weighted at 5-1 on the morning line-GII Fantasy S. scorer 'TDN Rising Stars' Thorpedo Anna (Fast Anna), who drew post 5 and Ways and Means (Practical Joke), who will exit post 11. The former is campaigned by Brookdale Racing, Mark Edwards, Judy Hicks and Magdalena Racing and trained by Ken McPeck. The latter, a Grade I placed filly conditioned by Chad Brown, is a homebred for Klaravich Stables. Thorpedo Anna will be ridden by Brian Hernandez Jr. while the latter will be accompanied by Tyler Gaffalione.

The remaining horses in the field are: Tap Jena-lie (Manny Esquivel, 30-1); Where's the Ring (Jose Lezcano, 15-1); Regulatory Risk (Jose Ortiz, 20-1); Lemon Muffin (Keith Asmussen, 30-1); Fiona's Magic (Luis Saez, 30-1); Everland (Abel Cedillo, 30-1); Into Champagne (Julien Leparoux, 30-1); Power Squeeze (Daniel Centano, 12-1). AE 15) Our Pretty Woman (Joel Rosario, 15-1); 16) Candied (Luis Saez, 20-1)



BELLADONNA RACING^{LLC}

A LIFETIME OF TRAINING *Racehorses*



DAVID CARROLL ADDS TREMENDOUS EXPERIENCE TO DEVAUX TEAM

AN INFORMATIVE Q&A
CHAT WITH DAVID

Full Name: David Martin Carroll
Position: Assistant Trainer

■ **Start Date with the DeVaux Team:**
I started with the DeVaux Team on April 1, 2024

■ **Birthplace:** I was born in Dublin, Ireland

■ **Current Hometown:** Midway, Kentucky

Q: Welcome aboard Mr. Carroll. Your experience and success in the sport of Thoroughbred racing is very impressive. Please tell us about the positions and experiences you have had prior to joining the DeVaux Team.

A: In Ireland, I worked for Mr. John Oxx for six years and then completed the course in the Irish National Stud before coming to America. I worked for a year and a half at Taylor Made Farm prepping yearlings

for the sales. I then worked six years with Shug McGaughey as an exercise rider before going out on my own as a trainer for 26 years. I then joined Mark Casse as an assistant trainer for seven years.

Q: Please tell us a little about some of the very talented horses you have had the pleasure of working with during your career.

A: Working for Shug McGaughey, I galloped Easy Goer, Rhythm, Seeking the Gold, and Personal Flag, as well as other very accomplished horses. Training on my own, I trained Marshua's River, American Chance, Fire Slam, Dennis of Cork, and Acoma. Working for Mark Casse, I was around Catch a Glimpse, War of Will, Shamrock Rose, Get Stormy, Wonder Wheel...I've been very privileged to be around such nice horses.

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A LIFETIME OF TRAINING *Racehorses* (CONT.)

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WITH FRANKEL



WITH SON DECLAN

Q: In your opinion, what does it take to operate a successful training operation in the United States?

A: To operate a successful training operation in the United States, you need the backing of good owners, good horses, and very good staff. And of course the main ingredient, Luck!

Q: What factors played a major role for you in deciding to join the DeVaux Team?

A: The major role for me was to be able to work in a very successful operation that has grown by the year and also that combines the racing and bloodstock Cherie has accomplished a lot in a short period of time. And David's record in the bloodstock world speaks for itself. I am very happy and excited to join the team.

Q: When did you realize that you wanted to become a Thoroughbred trainer?

A: I always wanted to be a jockey as I come from a family of jockeys, but when I lost the battle with the weighing scales, my mind turned to training.

Q: What is your most memorable experience during your career?

A: I've had so many great experiences throughout my career that there would be too many to mention, but two do stand out: 1.) Walking over with Dennis of Cork with my son and daughter for the Kentucky Derby in 2008, and finishing 3rd was one of the proudest moments of my life. 2.) October 10, 2010 winning the Grade 1 Spinster with Acoma for Helen Alexander was truly special, as I trained for Helen for over 16 years.

CAGLIOSTRO — THE BRIDGE TO ALL BELLADONNA COLTS

Cagliostro was a very impressive winner in his 4-year-old season debut for Cherie DeVaux at Keeneland on April 19th. This son of Upstart is a two-time winner and multiple graded stakes-placed earner of just over \$223,000.

Cagliostro was purchased at the 2022 OBS Two-Year-Old Sale on the advice of David Ingordo for a small group of Belladonna Racing partners who desired to race a colt at a time when Belladonna Racing was only focusing on fillies. He is considered the catapult that inspired the Belladonna Racing Team to diversify our offerings, starting with Belladonna Racing V, to include a blend of well-bred colts and fillies.

We will forever be grateful to the partners that actively pushed for buying a colt, and we consider Cagliostro an "honorary" member of the Belladonna Racing Family.



CAGLIOSTRO

COADY PHOTO

BELLADONNA RACING LLC

HITTING THE BOARD AT *Keeneland!*

We were well represented at the Keeneland Spring meet, as two of our three starters finished second against serious competition.

VAHVA opened up her 4-year-old campaign with a brilliant fast-closing runner-up finish in the \$600,000 Madison S.-G1 on opening weekend. She ran out of real estate as she tried to reel in the front-runner, G2-winner Alva Starr, a filly she defeated over the same track last October in the Grade 2 Raven Run Stakes. Vahva has been entered in the \$1-million Derby City Distaff-G1 on Derby Day, May 4th. **RACE RECORD: 11-4-3-2 \$989,310**



BLISSFUL was making her fourth start of the year after a win and a pair of thirds against Fair Grounds allowance company. She went off as a 13-1 outsider when she faced a tough group of allowance horses at Keeneland on April 21. Blissful shot for the lead and showed the way until deep stretch before giving way to the winner. Her second-place finish here pushed her record to **12-3-1-3, \$183,080.**



SHOUT-OUT TO CHERIE & HER STELLAR TEAM FOR A GREAT SHOWING AT KEENELAND, FINISHING IN A TIE FOR 5TH LEADING TRAINER OF THE SPRING MEET.

**WELL
DONE!**



BELLADONNA RACING LLC

RECENT NEWS & NOTABLE DATES



River Maid '22

Belladonna Racing LLC
100 subscribers



◆ [CLICK FOR VIDEOS](#)

We encourage you to visit our Belladonna YouTube channel frequently, as we regularly post workout and training videos of the Belladonna runners.

WHAT GRADE 1, GRADE 2, GRADE 3 and LISTED RACES MEAN ..

(In UK and Europe, they call them Group 1, 2 and 3, but it's the same thing)

The Chart below indicated the level of ability of horses in the population that win Graded Stakes races. Gr.1 are Champions, only 1 in 1000 horses win at this level. Gr.2 are lead up races to Championships. Gr.3 are important stakes races, often trials and preps before Gr.1 races. Listed races are the stepping stone races as horses work their way up the scale to the top.

Only 3% of horses win Graded and listed races and therefore are better than 97% of the population. Every major owner wants to win Graded and listed races because these are the important races with the highest purses. As a result they qualify to be show in **BOLD BLACK TYPE** in the pedigrees. The more the bold black type, the better the quality of the pedigree.

To succeed at top level, we always aim for Gr.1, Gr.2 and Gr.3 class.

Chart showing the population of all horses by Quality classified into Graded Races



RACING MEETS DATES

Charles Town	Jan. 3 - Dec. 14
Evangeline Downs	Apr. 5 - Aug. 24
FanDuel Sportsbook and Horse Racing	Apr. 16 - Nov. 16
Fonner Park	Feb. 17 - May 4
Golden Gate Fields	Ends June 9
Gulfstream Park	Apr. 4 - Nov. 24
Hawthorne Race Course	Mar. 23 - Oct. 13
Horseshoe Indianapolis Racing & Casino	Apr. 8 - Nov. 14
Laurel Park	Apr. 5 - May 5
Lone Star Park	Apr. 18 - Jul. 14
Mountaineer Casino Resort	Apr. 21 - Dec. 11
Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort	Ends May 5
Parx Racing	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31
Santa Anita Park	Ends June 16
SunRay Park	Apr. 12 - May 19
Tampa Bay Downs	Ends May 4
ThistleDown Racino	Apr. 22 - Oct. 10
Turf Paradise	Jan. 29 - May. 4
Will Rogers Downs	Mar. 4 - May 15



Trivia Question

ANSWER PAGE 8

Has a stallion sired both the Oaks winner and Derby winner in the same year?

(Note, Into Mischief, Justify & Practical Joke each have runners entered in both races this year.)

UPCOMING SALES DATES

FT Midlantic May
2YOs in Training
May 20-21

OBS June 2YOs & Horses
of Racing Age Sale
June 12-14

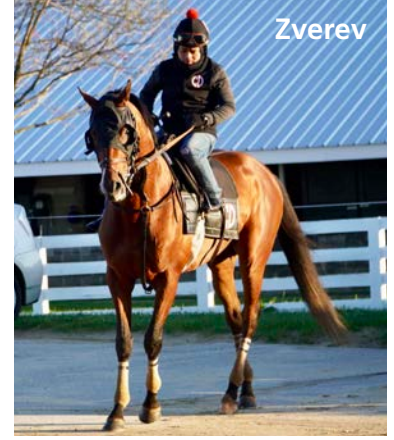
FT Midlantic June
2YOs in Training
June 26

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Around THE TRACK



Vahva



Zverev



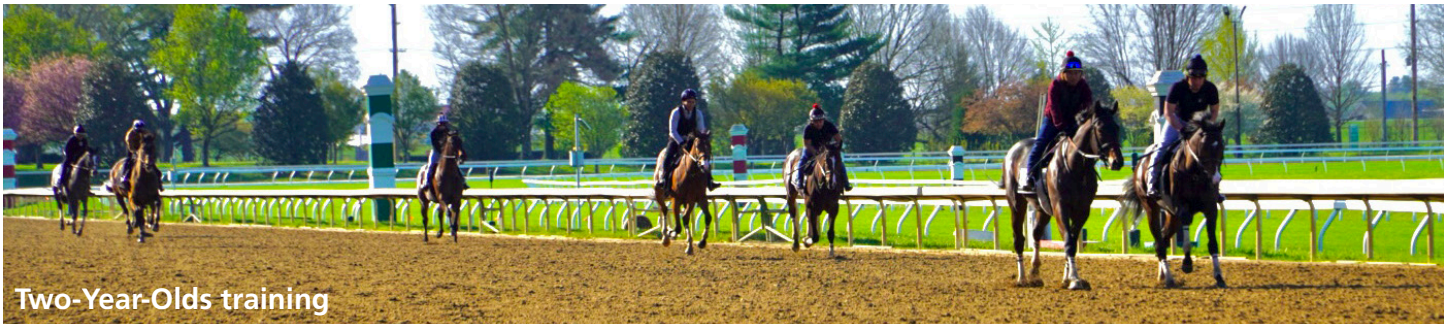
Blissful



As You Wish



Windtalker



Two-Year-Olds training

A: Yes, four sires have completed the Oaks/Derby double, with Native Dancer being the last one in 1966.

BELLADONNA RACING LLC

Around THE TRACK



'22 Mojo Mama



Will to Prepare



Vahva



Profound



'22 Grace and Dignity and Windtalker



Ahavah



Will to Prepare and States' Rights



Zverev (behind) and Varvatos

