

BELLADONNA RACING LLC

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G1 WIN ON *Derby Day*



[▶ RACE REPLAY](#)

FIRST GRADE 1 WIN FOR VAHVA IN DERBY CITY DISTAFF



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BELLADONNA RACING LLC

G1 WIN ON *Derby Day*



**FIRST GRADE 1 WIN
FOR VAHVA IN DERBY CITY DISTAFF**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On racing's biggest stage, Kentucky Derby Day, VAHVA reeled in her rival Alva Starr down the stretch and won the \$1,000,000 Derby City Distaff (G1) going away. It is Belladonna Racing's first Grade 1, and the entire experience is worth reliving:

VAHVA came over to the paddock looking a picture and cool as can be, taking in the new Churchill Downs Paddock like she had been there before. Saddling up very easily and standing like a statue for Cherie, VAHVA never turned a hair as the call for "riders up" came from the paddock judge.

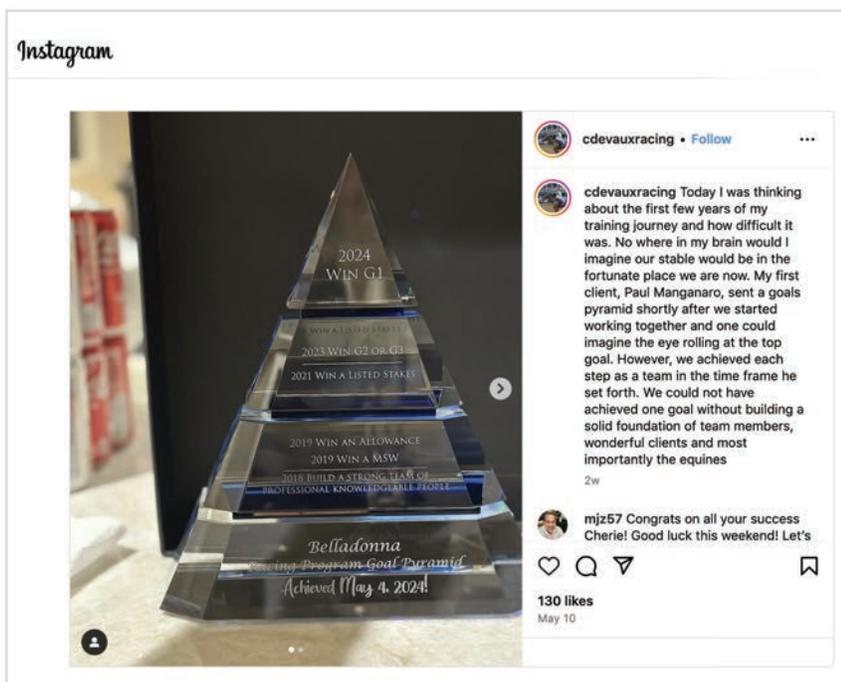
Warming up very well with Irad Ortiz, Jr. back in the saddle, VAHVA loaded last into the gate and, when they sprung the latches, broke on top. From the outside post, VAHVA and Irad settled into a very comfortable stalking trip off the early speed and quick fractions. She began to wind up in the turn and as they straightened out for home, VAHVA turned it on and pounced, going by her nemesis ALVA STARR with ease, kicking away to a comfortable 2 1/2-length win.

Cherie commented, "VAHVA was ready today and did it so easily; Irad gave her a beautiful ride. I'm a bit speechless; this is so special for the filly, Belladonna, our partners, and my Team at the barn. It is going to take a while for this to sink in for me. What a great day and a great filly. This puts VAHVA at the top of her Division with this emphatic win and we will be charting our course to the Breeders' Cup after this performance. We belong."

Irada Ortiz, Jr. added, "I let the filly break, she was sharp, and I then went with the flow of the race. She put herself in a good spot and I know from the last race where I made a mistake, I asked her for her run a bit earlier and she finished so strong. This is a good filly and I am so proud of her. Thank you for the opportunity to ride her."

VAHVA earned \$589,000 for this win and now sports a record of 12-5-3-2 and \$1,578,310 in earnings. She has a Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 3 win, and an additional Grade 1-placing.

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BELLADONNA RACING ^{LLC}

WINNING WELL IN *May*

DEPICTION MAKES IT ③ WINS FROM ⑥ STARTERS IN MAY!

DEPICTION cleared his allowance condition in style on May 31 as a three-year-old against older horses at Churchill Downs. He marked the third winner from six Belladonna starters in May.

Breaking well and then settling back with Irad Ortiz, Jr., DEPICTION rated well in hand going into the first turn. Settled off the pace, DEPICTION and Ortiz began to work their way up from the back of the tightly compacted field, and at the ½-mile pole the pair unleashed a big move, going wide around the turn to come flying down the stretch to collar the leader and then hold off a late charge from a challenger to win by a neck.

Cherie commented, "This was the ride and race I have been looking for with DEPICTION. Irad did a good job of listening to my instructions and getting DEPICTION to not wait so long to make his run. He did have to go

wide much of the race, but DEPICTION showed good turn of foot. This was an impressive race since he did not have the easiest of trips, but overcame the wide trip and then closed so strongly. I'm very happy. This is what we were seeing in his morning works as of late.

"We will get him back out of the race and come up with a plan for him. There is the Hall of Fame S. (G2) at Saratoga on August 2nd going 1 mile that we will look at, but depending on how I think DEPICTION is doing, we might look for something else in between. I cannot tell you how happy I am with the race today and how this horse put it all together for us. Congratulations to everyone, and thank you for the patience!"

Already stakes-placed, DEPICTION earned \$72,960 for his winning effort.

RACE RECORD: SP, 6-2-0-1, \$139,510

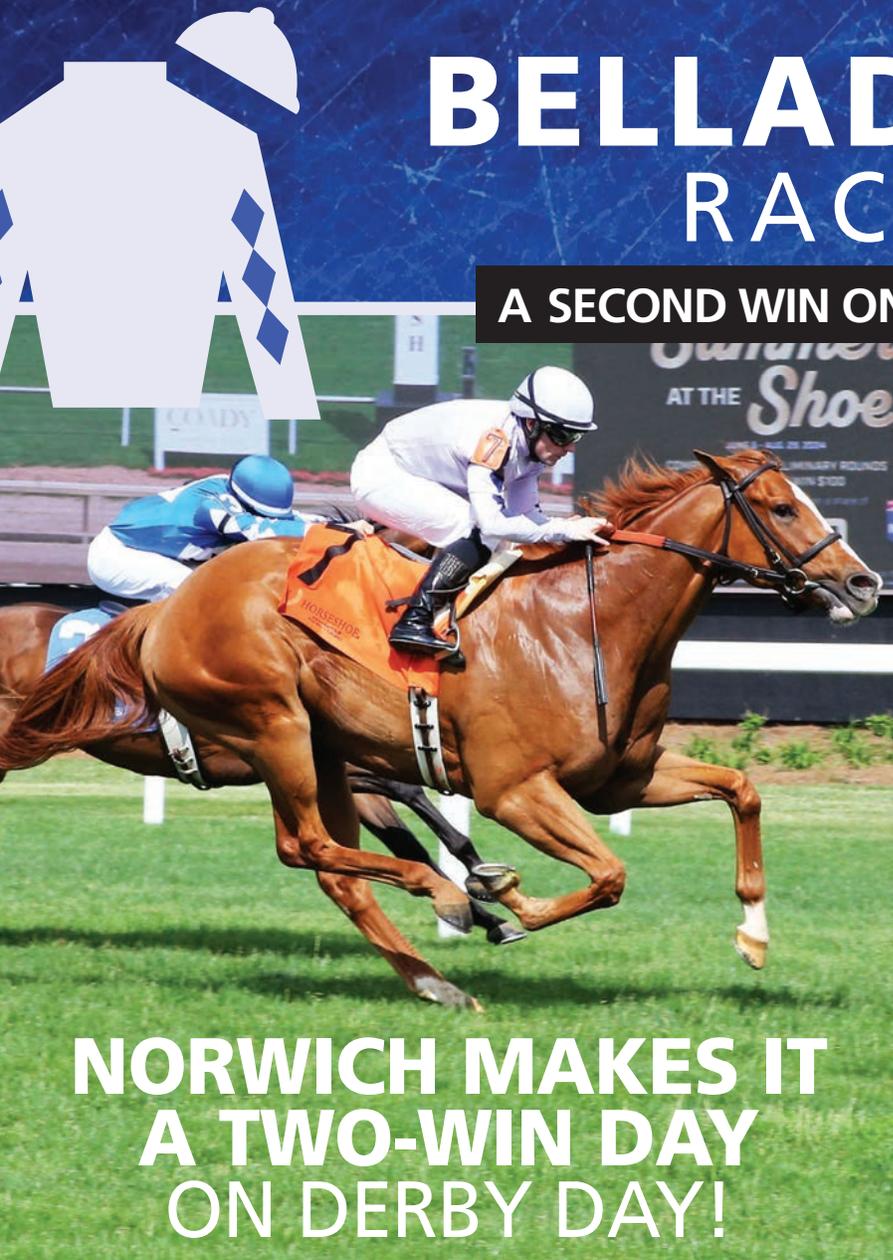
[▶ RACE REPLAY](#)



[▶ JOCKEY CAM](#)

BELLADONNA RACING LLC

A SECOND WIN ON *Derby Day*



**NORWICH MAKES IT
A TWO-WIN DAY
ON DERBY DAY!**

Just a few hours after Vahva's huge win at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby Day, NORWICH broke his maiden in impressive fashion over the Horseshoe Indianapolis turf.

Breaking with jockey Declan Cannon aboard, NORWICH was hit hard at the start and was far back. Patiently handled, NORWICH and Cannon made a sweeping move around the turn and needed the length of the stretch to catch the horse on the lead and won well in the end.

Cherie commented after the win, "NORWICH was training well going into today and his first few runs have been eventful. Even this one was not perfect, but he overcame some adversity today and ran a great race. The gelding has helped and, though not a pretty mover in front, he is sound and been putting in good works."

RACE RECORD: 3-1-0-0, \$22,800

[▶ RACE REPLAY](#)

Four-Day Belmont Festival Coming to Saratoga in June

BY THOMAS DIMOPOULOS | NEWS



SARATOGA SPRINGS — The city long-called The AugustPlace To Be was granted a late springtime addition to that moniker with this week's official announcement naming Saratoga Race Course as the staging ground for June's four-day Belmont Stakes Racing Festival.

"Saratoga now adds to its storied history by hosting the third leg of the Triple Crown," Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Dec. 6, inspiring thoughts of warmer climes on a day when the local community saw the gentle tumble of errant flurries. "It's a win for horseracing and for the Capital Region to have the excitement and the ability to host the four-day Festival in June at America's most historic track."

The four-day Belmont Stakes Racing Festival will be staged Thursday, June 6 through Sunday, June 9. The Belmont Stakes race will run Saturday, June 8. No changes are anticipated regarding Saratoga's 40-day summer meet.

◆ [CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



BELLADONNA RACING LLC

RECENT NEWS & NOTABLE DATES



Cherie DeVaux Joins the TDN Writers' Room

Trainer Cherie DeVaux joins this week's TDN Writers' Room to recap a big weekend at Pimlico and discuss her eye on the future of her operation.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH SHOW](#)

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Zverev May 26th

Belladonna Racing LLC

YouTube

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

[CLICK FOR VIDEOS](#)



Trivia Question

ANSWER PAGE 9

This year's Belmont Stakes will be contested at Saratoga for the first time, and at 1 ¼ miles. When was the last time the Belmont Stakes was run at a distance other than its historical 1 ½-mile distance?

UPCOMING SALES DATES

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

FT Midlantic June 2YOs in Training
June 26

FT July Selected Horses of All Ages
July 8

BELLADONNA RACING^{LLC}

PARTNER *Spotlight*

CRAIG TAYLOR

What attracted you to the sport of Thoroughbred Racing?

I've always loved horses and when I was a kid my dad would take me to Hollywood Park and Santa Anita

How were you introduced to the Belladonna Racing Partnership?

Jason Taylor, my brotha from anotha mutha, and we have a horse by that name "Fromanuthamutha", got me involved.

What Belladonna Racing Partnerships are you involved in?

BDR 2, 3, 4 and 5

Do you have a favorite Belladonna Horse? If so, tell us why?

Vahva, she's been such a pleasure to watch win and her win in the Distaff was one of the most exciting moments of my life.

Do you have a favorite part of the Thoroughbred Racing game? Race Day? Sales? Other?

My favorite thing is going into the paddock just before the race.

What features of the Belladonna Racing Partnerships do you like most?

I like that there are several horses to follow and seeing how that develops from purchase, to racing and then moving on.

Tell us a little about your family and where you call home?

I'm single and call home Houston, but I split the year almost evenly between Houston, Aspen and Los Angeles.

What is your daytime job?

I'm founder and CEO of Iapetus Holding, LLC, which is a portfolio of energy services companies and alternative investments.

What hobbies or other activities do you enjoy when you have the time?

I love snowboarding, training for triathalons, traveling and trying new restaurants. I'm a foodie.



BELLADONNA RACING LLC

Around THE TRACK



Polyrhythmic



Blissful



Panache (outside, Will to Prepare (middle), States' Rights



Vahva with Mickey



Luis Saez on Windtalker

BELLADONNA RACING LLC

Around THE TRACK



Seaport Lane



The Process



Windtalker



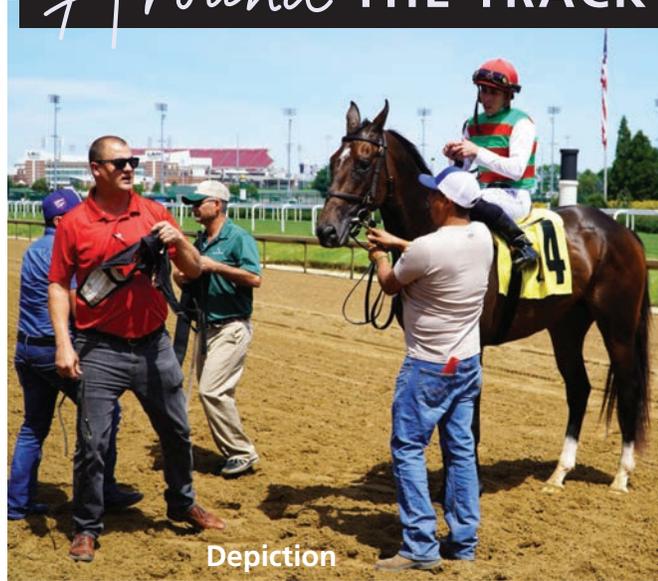
A: The Belmont Stakes was run at 1 1/8 miles in 2020. Due to Covid, the Belmont was the first leg of the Triple Crown in June 2020; the Kentucky Derby was in September, and the Preakness ran in October.

BELLADONNA RACING LLC

Around THE TRACK



Zverev



Depiction



Profound



Vahva



Amendment