

BELLADONNA RACING LLC

NO. 7 – VOL. 4
JULY 2024

CHURCHILL *Thrill!*

Vahva Remains Unbeaten at Churchill Downs!

Fresh off her stellar Grade 1 victory on Churchill Downs' Derby Day undercard, VAHVA returned victorious in the \$249,500 Chicago S. (G3) over the same track and trip on June 22 by a very impressive 1 ¼ lengths. It marked her fourth win in as many starts at the Louisville track.

VAHVA and Irad Ortiz, Jr. broke fastest of the five horses out of the gate, but Irad and VAHVA allowed

the confirmed front-runner, G1-winner SOCIETY, to take her customary place on the front end. Staying close to the front-runner yet on a loose rein, VAHVA and Irad bided their time and in the turn, came after the leader. The race became interesting as SOCIETY and her jockey, Tyler Gaffalione, initiated some bumping. VAHVA wasn't intimidated and powered on by easily, leaving SOCIETY and the eventual second-place finisher, POSITANO SUNSET, behind her.

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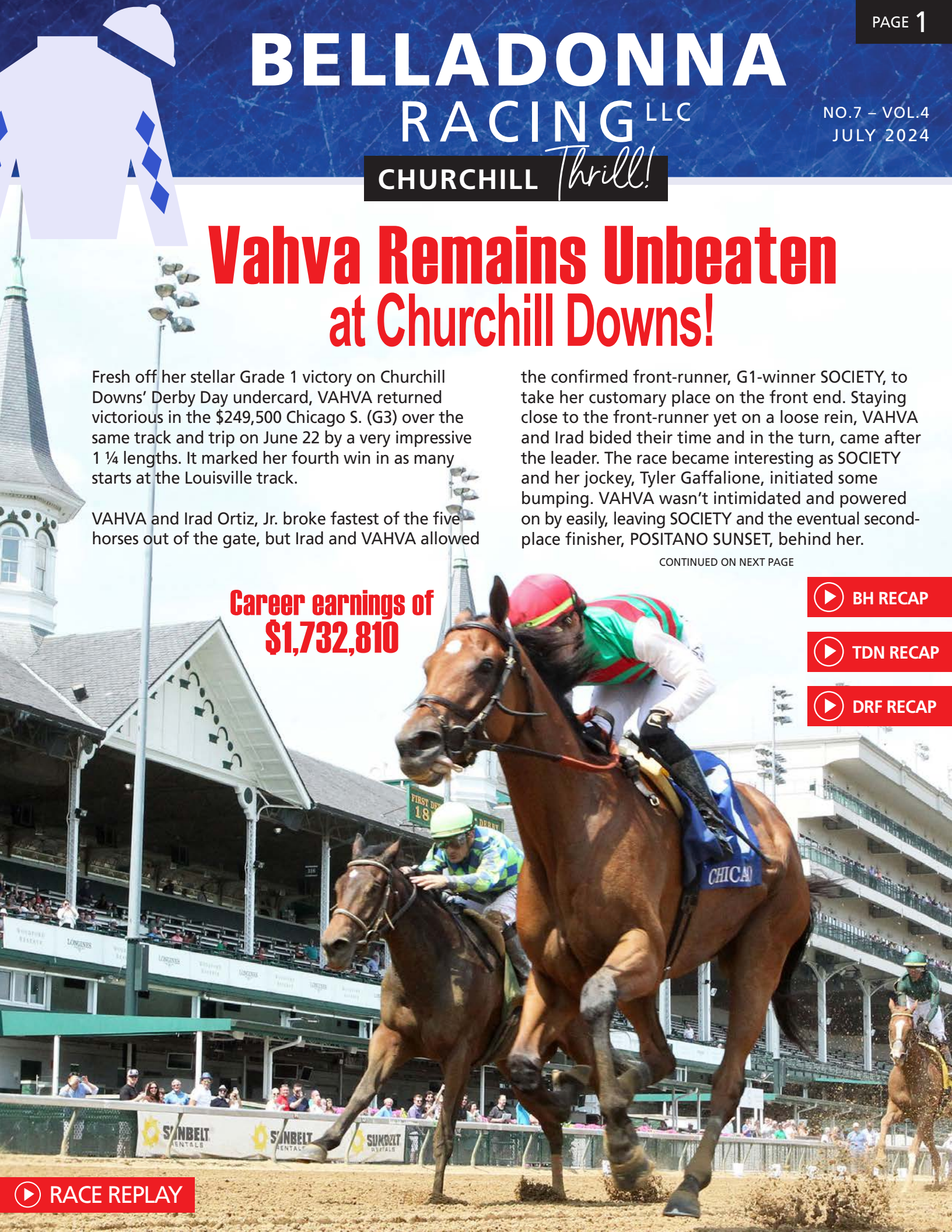
Career earnings of
\$1,732,810

[▶ BH RECAP](#)

[▶ TDN RECAP](#)

[▶ DRF RECAP](#)

[▶ RACE REPLAY](#)



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CHURCHILL *Thrill!*

Vahva
Multiple Graded
Stakes Winner

**Shown winning the
63 Chicago Stakes**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“ I have so much confidence in VAHVA. If she stays like she is, it will take a big performance to beat her. I had so much horse all the way; we were never getting beat in the race. Thank you for letting me ride her! – Ortiz ”

Cherie commented, “I was nervous for this race for two reasons: first, the filly was training so well, I just wanted her to run to that training (which she did.) Second, with a small field, this effectively was a match race, and these small fields can end up as the toughest to win. None of those situations in the race mattered to VAHVA, and Irad gave her a great ride, having all the confidence in the world with her. This was a great result, and we will use it as a stepping-stone to the

Ballerina S. (G1) at Saratoga on August 24th. The year-end goal is the Breeders' Cup and an Eclipse Award as Champion Female Sprinter. Right now, all signs are pointing our way. VAHVA looked great so far. I will likely give her 10 days' / two weeks' of turn-out at Becky Maker's, as I customarily do with her after a tough race. That will give us plenty of time to get ready for the race at Saratoga.”

RACE RECORD: 13-6-3-2 AND \$1,732,810

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CHURCHILL *Thrill!*

ZVEREV TAKES TURF ALLOWANCE AT CHURCHILL

Two starts after breaking his maiden over Turfway Park's synthetic surface, ZVEREV was a commanding winner over the turf course at Churchill Downs, taking a \$127,000 allowance by a widening 2 ½ lengths over the front-running heavy favorite.

With this second career win, he took another step forward in his development.

ZVEREV and Jose Ortiz broke well, and Ortiz put ZVEREV into the race early. Relaxing well off the pacesetter, ZVEREV stayed lapped onto the leader and kicked on when asked, putting that horse away and drawing clear while never really challenged for a very nice win.

Cherie commented, "ZVEREV keeps improving and moving forward. Jose knows the horse now and after

the last race knows to put him into position early to use his natural high cruising speed to his advantage. I was a little mad at the horse at the gate, as he is tough and kicked one of the gate crew. Once he got in the gate, this was his most professional race. We will look at a stakes race for him at Saratoga, likely the Hall of Fame S. (G2) on August 2nd. There is a longer stake at the end of the meet, and I think that distance will not be a problem."

Ortiz added, "I put the horse in the race early this time and used his tactical speed. He did everything right out on the track and he's improving in each start. We should keep having fun with him as the summer goes on."

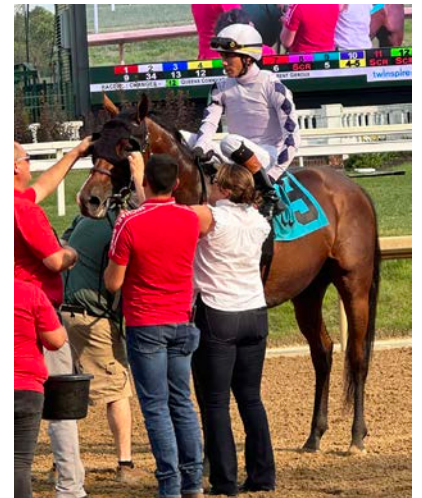
RACE RECORD: 7-2-0-1 \$130,030



▶ RACE REPLAY

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STYLING UNDER THE *Spires!*



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SUMMER AT THE *Spra!*

Fun Facts about Saratoga Springs & Saratoga Race Course

Summertime is exciting for many reasons such as the anticipated warm weather, relaxing beach days, family vacations, and school vacations, to name a few. But for Thoroughbred race lovers it's extra special because it is also the time that the best Thoroughbred racing takes place for eight weeks beginning on Thursday, July 11th at the historic Saratoga Race Course in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York.

The Belladonna Team hopes that you will be able to join us for at least part of the meet. We will kick off our inspections and evaluations for our Belladonna Racing VII group with the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearling Sale, a two-night event starting on Monday, August 5th.

In preparation for this year's Saratoga meet, we thought we would share some fun facts about Saratoga Springs and the racetrack that opened on August 3, 1863. Enjoy.

**FLIP TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR
MORE SARATOGA INFO!**



SARATOGA[®]



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SARATOGA *Fun Facts!* CONT.

◆ **Morning Breakfast at the Track.** Breakfast at the track is typically held every racing day (except Travers Day and Labor Day). Admission is free and is open to the public. You can enjoy your breakfast while watching the equine athletes go through their morning routine.

◆ **What is Saratoga, NY famous for?** Saratoga Springs is known as “the Queen of the Spas.” It has a rich heritage as a health resort and gambling center for much of the 19th and 20th centuries.

◆ **What is the nickname for Saratoga Springs, NY?** The city’s slogan is “Health, History, and Horses.” Its nickname is The Spa City.

◆ **Why is it called Saratoga?** Saratoga is a corruption of a Mohawk word. It was the name of Indian hunting grounds located along both sides of the Hudson River. According to the town’s history, it derives from se-rach-ta-gue, meaning “the hillside country of the quiet river.”

◆ **How old is Saratoga Springs, NY?**

The Town of Saratoga Springs was set apart from the Town of Saratoga in 1819. In 1826, it was incorporated as a village.

◆ **Where is a fun spot to go after the races?**

There are tons of restaurants and bars in downtown Saratoga. Caroline Street is a hot-spot with the best Saratoga nightlife. The bars line both sides of the street, so it’s never boring. If you are looking for a place to go next to the track, two spots to check out are Siro’s, <https://sirossaratoga.com/> and The Horseshoe, <https://www.horseshoesaratoga.com/>, which have live music and a party each night.

◆ **Fun Fact.** Whitney Houston’s music video for “Didn’t We Almost Have It All” was filmed at SPAC, <https://spac.org> in Saratoga in 1987.

◆ **Discover Saratoga visit:** <https://www.saratogacetrack.com/about/history-saratoga-race-course/>





BELLADONNA RACING LLC

RECENT NEWS & NOTABLE DATES



Q: Is Saratoga the oldest Thoroughbred racetrack in the USA?

ANSWER PAGE 10



HISA Reports Strong First Quarter for Equine Safety

Edited Press Release HISA

On the heels of a successful Triple Crown season that concluded without any equine fatalities—numbers that will be included in the second quarter report—the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority released June 12 its 2024 First Quarter Metrics Report that saw a 38% decrease in racing-related fatalities compared with the first three months of 2023.

◆ [CLICK FOR FULL STORY](#)



Blissful June 23rd

Belladonna Racing LLC
112 subscribers

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

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UPCOMING SALES DATES

FT July Selected Horses of All Ages Sale
KY • July 8

Fasig-Tipton July Sale of Selected Yearlings
KY • July 9

Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale of Selected Yearlings
NY • Aug. 5-6

Fasig-Tipton NY-Bred Yearling Sale
NY • Aug. 11-12

BELLADONNA RACING LLC

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ENRIQUE MIRANDA

Years in the Horse Business:
15 years

Years with the DeVaux Racing TEAM:
I'm in my 1st year with the DeVaux Racing team.

Position in the Barn:
Assistant Trainer

List other horse related jobs you have had prior to joining DeVaux Racing:

I've held a number of barn positions including hotwalker, groom, exercise rider, barn foreman, and assistant trainer. I have also been a camera operator and graphic editor for the broadcast dept.

How did your involvement in Thoroughbred Racing start?:

I grew up in the industry as my father was/is a Thoroughbred trainer in Northern California. I spent a lot of time at the barn with my dad, Efrain Miranda, and my uncle Victor Miranda, who was a jockey.

What do you enjoy most about your current job?:

I truly love working with horses. Riding them and watching them grow is incredibly rewarding, and there's nothing quite like the thrill of seeing them win races.

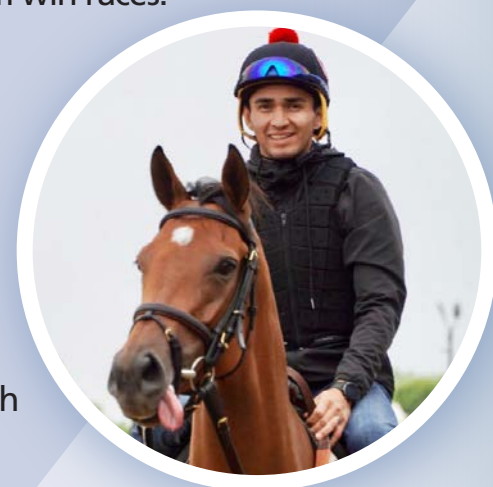
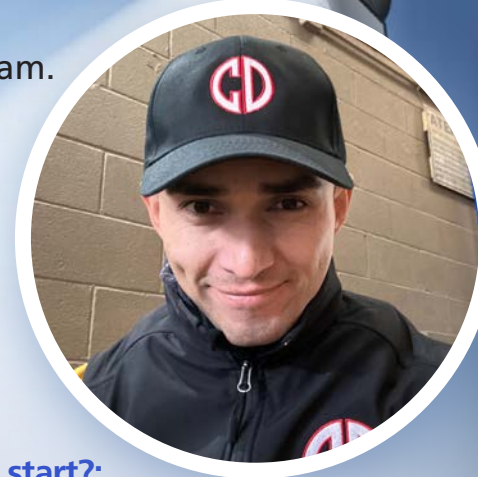
What is your favorite Race Track?:
Del Mar

Do you have a favorite Belladonna owned Horse?:
Vahva

What activities or hobbies do you enjoy outside of horse racing?:
Climbing mountains. I love to go hiking with my fiancée Erika. I enjoy exploring the the national parks and being outdoors.

Do you have a favorite memory in racing?:
Flightline's Pacific Classic win at Del Mar was my favorite memory. I was blown away. When he entered the paddock that day, the crowd literally went silent for a moment.

Who is your all time favorite race horse?:
It's a tie, Flightline and Vahva.



BELLADONNA RACING LLC

Around THE TRACK



States' Rights and Zverev



Blissful



Zivo and Vahva



BELLADONNA RACING LLC

Around THE TRACK



Panache

Will to Prepare



The Process



Vahva



Cromwell



Windtalker



Varvatos



Zverev



A: It is the third-oldest major racetrack, after Fair Grounds Race Course (1852) and Pleasanton Fairgrounds Racetrack (1858). Saratoga opened in 1863.