



# BELLADONNA RACING LLC

NO.7 – VOL.5  
JULY 2025SUMMER AT THE *Spra!**It is That Time of Year Again!*

# SARATOGA 2025!

*Come and join us!*

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 is extra special because it is also the time that some of the best Thoroughbred racing in the world takes place in Saratoga. The 2025 Saratoga race meet begins on Thursday, July 10th in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York. This year due to the renovation work still underway at Belmont Park, Saratoga will also be hosting a short 4th of July Racing Festival from July 3rd through July 6th.

# BELLADONNA RACING LLC

SUMMER AT THE *Spa!* (CONT.)

## *Seeing Saratoga!*

The Belladonna Team hopes that you will be able to join us for the meet or at least some of it. We will kick off our inspections and evaluations for our Belladonna Racing VIII group with the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearling Sale. The sale is a two-night event starting on Monday, August 4th.

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, just one month after the battle at Gettysburg. Enjoy.



- 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."
- 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 is 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.
- Discover Saratoga visit, <https://www.saratogaracetrack.com/about/history-saratoga-race-course/>

## *Big Race Dates!*

**WHITNEY STAKES - AUG 2**  
**ALABAMA STAKES - AUG 16**  
**TRIVERS STAKES - AUG 23**  
**SPINAWAY STAKES - AUG 30**  
**HOPEFUL STAKES - SEPT 1**



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THE CHURCHILL CHAMP IS *Back!*

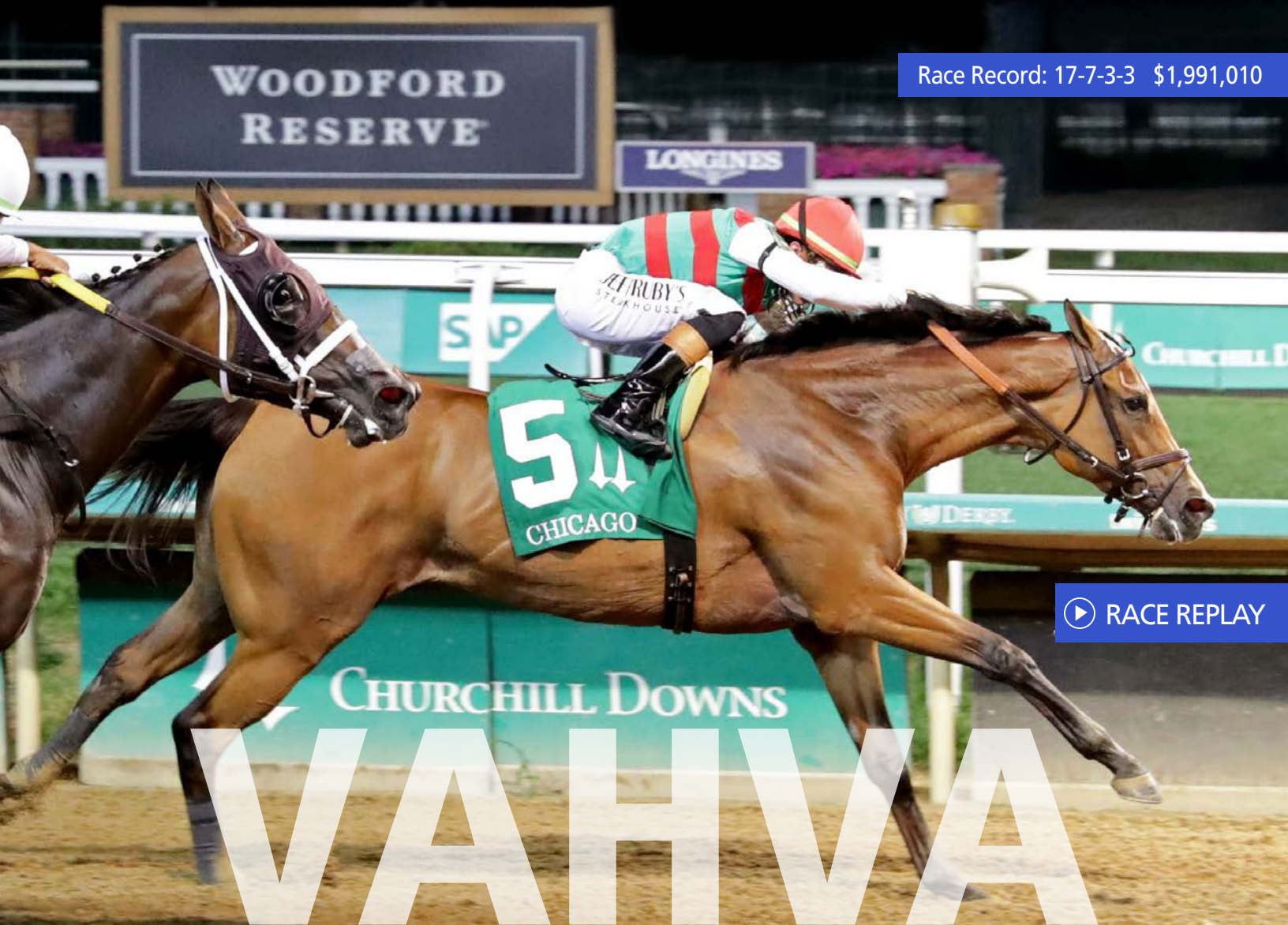
VAHVA defended her title in the \$300,000 Chicago S. (G2) at Churchill Downs on June 21st with an impressive return to form. It was her fifth win over the Louisville track from six starts.

Breaking sharply from post 5, VAHVA tucked behind a long-shot leader and settled into her stride. Through snappy fractions, she pressed going into the turn and then was roused by Irad Ortiz, Jr. to finish full of run, winning by  $\frac{3}{4}$ -length.

Cherie commented, "Wow, that was awesome for VAHVA! I'm so proud of her with that effort and I'm glad to see her back into form. VAHVA had been training well out of the race Derby Day, but I wanted to see her show that competitive fire, which she did. I think it's safe to say VAHVA is back to her old form and we can now plan a campaign for the rest of the year."

VAHVA has won more graded stakes races, five, than any other son or daughter of Gun Runner except for champion Echo Zulu (eight graded stakes).

Race Record: 17-7-3-3 \$1,991,010



[▶ RACE REPLAY](#)

# VAHVA

# BELLADONNA RACING LLC

What's GOING ON



SOURCE: TDN

## Fun Fact: Derby Deja Vu

How often would you have guessed that in the roughly century and a half history of the Triple Crown races, the Belmont Stakes yielded the same 1-2-3 finishers as the Kentucky Derby?

It's actually happened only once before, in 1977. Triple Crown champ Seattle Slew beat Run Dusty Run and Sanhedrin in the Derby 48 years ago, then polished them off again in that order of finish in the Belmont Stakes.

**Ron Flatter** @ronflatter · 17h

This year marked the 4th time there was a repeat trifecta in the [#TripleCrown](#) series.

### 2025

#### Kentucky Derby

1. Sovereignty
2. Journalism
3. Baeza

#### Belmont

1. Sovereignty
2. Journalism
3. Baeza

### 1978

#### Kentucky Derby

1. Affirmed
2. Alydar
3. Believe It

#### Preakness

1. Affirmed
2. Alydar
3. Believe It

### 1973

#### Kentucky Derby

1. Secretariat
2. Sham
3. Our Native

#### Preakness

1. Secretariat
2. Sham
3. Our Native

### 1953

#### Preakness

1. Native Dancer
2. Jamie K.
3. Royal Bay Gem
4. Ram o' War

#### Belmont

1. Native Dancer
2. Jamie K.
3. Royal Bay Gem
4. Ram o' War

**SOVEREIGNTY**



**Cherie Ingordo-DeVaux**

3h ·

Today I stepped into a barn that holds more history than I can possibly put into words—D. Wayne Lukas's Saratoga shedrow. We did not know a few short weeks ago when we were told this was our new summer location what that responsibility would ultimately be.

With his recent retirement from training due to health, we've been entrusted with taking over this space for the summer. But it doesn't feel like just taking over a barn. It feels like entering a cathedral of greatness.

As I walked the shedrow this morning, I kept thinking about the horses that stood in these very stalls—champions whose names helped shape the sport. And then I sat in the office he left behind, at his desk, and stared at the empty chair. I wondered what he thought about in those quiet early hours. How many dreams began right there with a legal pad and a coffee?

Wayne didn't just train horses. He set a standard. He built a legacy that inspired generations, myself included. And while the tack room may bear a new name this summer, his spirit lingers in every inch of this place.

Honored doesn't begin to cover it. Grateful. Humbled. Inspired. We'll do our best to honor what he built here—one horse, one morning, one moment at a time.



# BELLADONNA RACING LLC

*What's* GOING ON

## Industry Pays Tribute to D. Wayne Lukas

Sunday, June 29, 2025 at 4:08 pm | [Back to: Top News](#)  
Updated: June 29, 2025 at 5:17 pm

*Following the news of his passing, tributes to legendary trainer D. Wayne Lukas poured in from across the industry Sunday.*

“A four-time winner of the Kentucky Derby, today we lost one of the great champions of Churchill Downs and one of the most significant figures in Thoroughbred racing over the last 50 years. We will miss his humor, his wisdom and his unmatched capacity to thrill the fans with the performances of his horses on our sport's biggest days.”

**Bill Carstanjen, CEO of Churchill Downs Incorporated**



Churchill Downs holds moment of silence in honor of D. Wayne Lukas |  
Coady Media



[CLICK HERE FOR FULL TDN STORY](#)

## UPCOMING SALES

**JULY 8**

**Fasig-Tipton July Selected Horses of Racing Age Sale**  
Lexington, KY

**JULY 8**

**Fasig-Tipton July Sale of Selected Yearlings**  
Lexington, KY

**AUGUST 4-5**

**Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Yearling Sale**  
Saratoga Springs, NY

**AUGUST 10-11**

**Fasig-Tipton New York Bred Yearling Sale**  
Saratoga Springs, NY

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE [BELLADONNATB.COM](https://belladonnatb.com)

It is an all-source site for entries, results, updates, stats, current news, archived newsletters, and photos.

We encourage feedback so that we can provide the information you desire, so please let us know what you think of the overall content.



[CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR SITE](#)



# BELLADONNA RACING<sup>LLC</sup>

## PARTNER *Spotlight*

### NICK D'AMORE

**Full Name:** Nicholas D'Amore

#### What attracted you to the sport of Thoroughbred Racing?

I have been lucky enough to grow up being a fan. When I was four my grandfather purchased a few horses who ran at Laurel and then he ended up buying a farm in Kentucky when I was seven and things really took off from there.

I have been involved in racing ever since, having several jobs in the industry.

#### How were you introduced to the Belladonna Racing Partnership?

I was introduced to the partnership by Paul Manganaro who I am fortunately or unfortunately related to, depends who you ask, as he is my mom's cousin.

#### What Belladonna Racing Partnerships are you involved in?

I am involved in the 2-year-old colts of this year. It looks like a nice group of 10 exciting prospects!

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

Bayerness is probably my favorite horse to wear the purple as I was at her stakes wins in Saratoga and CD. She was also the first part of the success pyramid Paul loves.

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

I love it all. I think what is so great about racing is that there are so many different factors that go into it. The science behind breeding, the sales where everyone is trying to find that needle in the haystack, and then of course the thrill of watching them run.

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

Belladonna is great because it is not just an avenue to own horses, it is about getting to enjoy and learn what it means to get these horses to compete at the highest levels. The access provided along with the desire to teach and educate everyone is exactly what it takes makes this group great. I mean, I remember one of my first zooms and getting to listen to Cherie talk about bone bruising and the physical and mechanical signs of it and how it is treated. Stuff like that makes this group great.

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

I currently live in Boston, MA but grew up in Annapolis, Maryland. I attended the University of Kentucky for undergrad as well as spent a good amount of time growing up visiting the farm in Paris KY. My grandfather founded Siena Farm and was the real key to me being involved with horses. I am the only one in my family who got really into racing or even horses in general outside of my grandfather.

#### What is your daytime job?

My daytime job I like to think is horses, but I am going into my third and final year of law school this fall at Suffolk University in Boston.

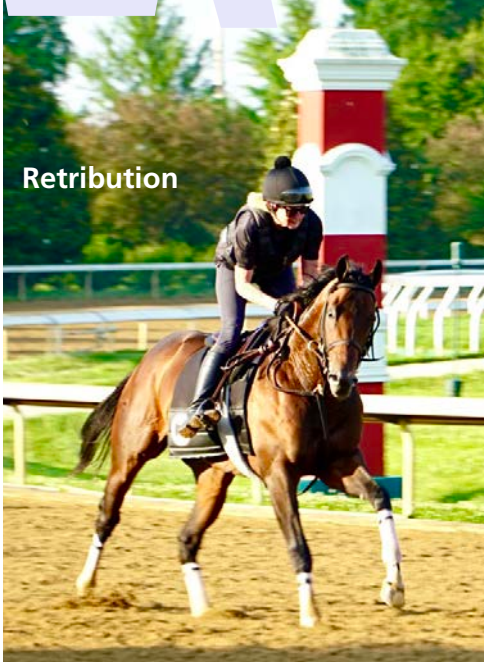
#### What hobbies or other activities do you enjoy when you have the time?

Outside of school and racing, my day is spent hanging out with my dog and fiancée here in the city.



# BELLADONNA RACING LLC

## *Around* THE TRACK



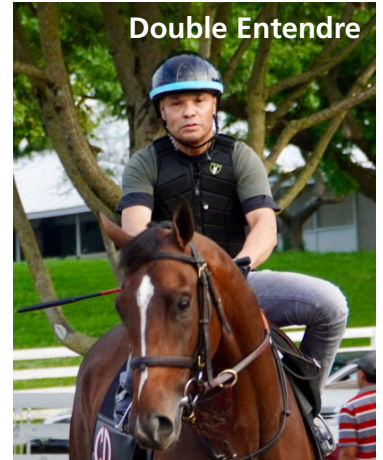
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Vespertine



Mount Vernon



Double Entendre



'23 Tiffany's Gal

# BELLADONNA RACING LLC

## *Around* THE TRACK



# BELLADONNA RACING LLC

## *Around* THE TRACK



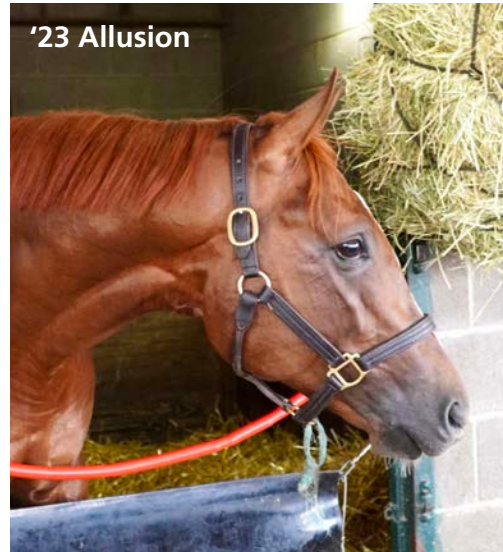
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Panache



'23 Allusion



'23 Tiffany's Gal, outside of Atropa



Atropa

