

### SOUTHEAST

#### **In This Section**

LEADING 2010 FLORIDA SIRES By Earnings

LEADING 2010 FLORIDA SIRES By 2-year-old winners

#### Advertisers' Index

148 WEBB CARROLL TRAINING CENTER WWW.WEBBCARROLL.COM

191 WARD RANCH
EMAIL: BRINGTHEHEAT@HOTMAIL.CA

193 QUILLIN LEATHER & TACK

# Diamond 'Dude'

### Donald Dizney and his Double Diamond Farm are moving the industry forward in Florida

BY DEIRDRE B. BILES

he Thoroughbred business is a family affair for Donald Dizney, who has been involved in breeding and racing for more than 20 years. Go to the website for his Florida-based Double Diamond Farm and you'll see a big photograph of Dizney and his wife, Irene. There also are pictures of his son, David, who is Double Diamond's president, and Roger Brand, who is Dizney's son-in-law and the 550-acre farm's vice president and general manager.

"Winning is a lot of fun, but I think it's the people and being able to have your family involved in it that I enjoy the most," said Dizney, who has three children and eight grand-children. "It's good to have things in common and things you can talk about with your kids—like genealogy and trying to build the perfect athlete—as they get older."

One of the family's greatest pleasures recently was following the 2010 campaign of Dizney's homebred First Dude, who was a standout on the Triple Crown Trail. A winning

son of Stephen Got Even, the bay colt finished second in the Preakness (gr. I) and third in the Belmont Stakes (gr. I) while being trained by Dale Romans.

In addition, First Dude was second in the Pennsylvania Derby (gr. II) and third in the IZOD Haskell Invitational (gr. I), Travers (gr. I), and Toyota Blue Grass (gr. I) stakes.

"He took us places we had never been before," Dizney said.
"Every time we saddled him up, I thought the big guy could win. I've never had a horse that I've gone into a race with that

(continued on page 193)



Donald Dizney at the Kentucky Derby in 2006; First Dude (above) works out at Pimlico before the 2010 Preakness



## BRING THE HEAT

15%

2YO Stakes Winners from Starters

19%

2YO Stakes Horses from Starters



11%

Stakes Winners from Starters

16%

Stakes
Performers
from Starters

## Watch the Winner's Circle For His Next Juvenile Crop

### Top Six Active North American Sire

By 2010 Juvenile Sire
Production Index,
Ranked ahead of
GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, A.P. INDY,
DISTORTED HUMOR, CONGRATS,
TAPIT, SUCCESSFUL APPEAL, etc.

### **BRING THE HEAT**

(In Excess-One Hot Mama, by Incinderator)

2011 Fee: \$2,000 LF

Breeders' Cup & FL Stallion S. nominated

Also Standing

LIFESTYLE (Indian Charlie—Inlaw)
HE'S CRAFTY (Crafty Prospector—Antoinetta)

### WARD RANCH

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### **2010 Leading Sires in Florida**

State sire lists updated daily online. Go to http://www.bloodhorse.com/horseracing/thoroughbred-breeding/sire-lists

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Florida (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2010.

As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include atll N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. \*Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

녿		2011	Rnrs/	Stakes Wnrs/	Rstrct SW/		2010		Stks	ılative *A-E	*Comp
Rank	Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing	Stud Fee	Wnrs	Wns	BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Earnings	Foals	Wnrs		
1	WILDCAT HEIR (00, Forest Wildcat), Journeyman Stud	\$10,000	134/89	8/9	2/8	(Derwin's Star, \$357,840)	\$4,584,404	*208	9	1.75	1.48
2	MONTBROOK (90, Buckaroo), Ocala Stud Farm		115/56	5/13	0/5	(Big Drama, \$1,420,810)	\$3,929,597	*703	47	1.64	1.59
3	GRAEME HALL (97, Dehere), Winding Oaks Farm	\$5,000		5/9	1/5	(Duke of Mischief, \$657,621)	\$3,871,737	*265	16	1.58	1.39
4	PUT IT BACK (98, Honour and Glory), Bridlewood Farm	\$5,000		5/11	1/5	(Jessica Is Back, \$395,380)	\$3,017,441	*412		1.56	1.35
5	D'WILDCAT (98, Forest Wildcat), Vinery Florida	\$8,500		5/8	1/5	(D' Funnybone, \$380,000)	\$2,913,271	175	6_	1.73	1.42
6 7	CHAPEL ROYAL (01, Montbrook), Signature Stallions	\$10,000		2/2	1/2	(Gold Dust Lady, \$113,718)	\$2,784,291	*352		1.02	1.22
8	FULL MANDATE (99, A.P. Indy), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds CONCERTO (94, Chief's Crown), Ocala Stud Farm	\$5,000 \$3,500	104/62	2/2 5/7	1/2 0/5	(Amazon Holly, \$110,640) (Rigoletta, \$180,820)	\$2,440,662 \$2,304,864	*291 *357	3 23	0.87	1.07
9	CONSOLIDATOR (02, Storm Cat), Journeyman Stud		117/56	4/5	2/4	(Bank Merger, \$231,200)	\$2,088,447	*216	5	0.91	1.29
10	CONCORDE'S TUNE (89, Concorde Bound), Ocala Stud Farm	\$2,500		2/2	0/2	(Musical Romance, \$154,751)	\$1,942,908	422	25	1.24	1.15
11	STRONG HOPE (00, Grand Slam), Winding Oaks Farm	\$5,000		0/0	0/0	(R Shining Hope, \$108,605)	\$1,906,449	229	1	0.88	1.90
12	THREE WONDERS (97, Storm Cat)	Died, 2008		1/1	0/1	(Trelawny, \$146,894)	\$1,842,975	273	5	1.05	1.15
13	WEST ACRE (95, Forty Niner), Stonehedge Farm South	\$2,500	58/33	4/8	0/4	(Speak Easy Gal, \$266,500)	\$1,835,410	270	9	1.41	1.22
14	VALUE PLUS (01, Unbridled's Song), Stonewall Farm Ocala	\$5,000	96/52	0/0	0/0	(All Due Respect, \$204,600)	\$1,834,434	154	0	1.10	1.34
15	HALO'S IMAGE (91, Halo), Bridlewood Farm	Died, 2010		1/1	1/1	(Reprized Halo, \$256,106)	\$1,749,290	*500		1.32	1.35
16	AWESOME OF COURSE (00, Awesome Again), Journeyman Stud	\$5,000	12/7	1/5	0/1	(Awesome Feather, \$1,495,746)	\$1,592,435	29	2	3.17	1.35
17	CITY PLACE (00, Storm Cat), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$5,000		4/5	2/4	(Central City, \$300,045)	\$1,575,746	108		1.63	1.09
18	BWANA CHARLIE (01, Indian Charlie), Journeyman Stud	\$2,500		1/3	0/1	(Comma to the Top, \$551,600)	\$1,558,205	81	1	1.51	1.11
19	ROAR OF THE TIGER (99, Storm Cat), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	Died, 2010 Died, 2009		1/1	0/1	(Tazz, \$88,856)	\$1,479,318	*213	2	0.83	1.25
20 21	BLACK MAMBO (99, Kingmambo), Bridlewood Farm  LEROIDESANIMAUX (BRZ) (00, Candy Stripes), Stonewall Farm Ocala	\$7,500	85/45 55/29	1/1 2/2	0/1	(Mambo Galliano, \$102,950) (Always a Princess, \$185,448)	\$1,404,012 \$1,355,798	*147	2	1.91	1.35
22	B L'S APPEAL (97, Valid Appeal), Randolph Thoroughbreds	\$2,500		0/0	0/2	(Little Miss Kisses, \$76,250)	\$1,355,796	163		1.07	1.25
23	DONERAILE COURT (96, Seattle Slew), Stonewall Farm Ocala	\$3,000		0/0	0/0	(All Bets Off, \$111,620)	\$1,164,757	*570	21	1.14	1.37
24	MARQUETRY (87, Conquistador Cielo), Stonewall Farm Ocala		114/52	0/0	0/0	(Miss Twenty One, \$58,794)	\$1,136,218	*862	34	1.16	1.45
25	STRAIGHT MAN (96, Saint Ballado), Signature Stallions	\$6,000	66/33	1/1	0/1	(Z'bullseye, \$88,730)	\$1,115,028	311	11	1.10	1.18
26	GIMMEAWINK (00, Elusive Quality), Bridlewood Farm	N/A	68/40	0/0	0/0	(Gotmymojoworkin, \$59,910)	\$1,077,159	*124	1	0.89	1.18
27	PROUD ACCOLADE (02, Yes It's True)	Died, 2009	50/25	1/1	1/1	(Enumerate, \$94,366)	\$1,070,191	*74	3	1.60	1.31
28	UNTUTTABLE (96, Unbridled), Stonehedge Farm South	\$2,500	60/31	2/4	1/2	(Facil Catana, \$132,144)	\$993,842	171	9	1.13	1.36
29	INDIAN OCEAN (02, Stormy Atlantic), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,500	73/34	0/0	0/0	(Indian Gracey, \$79,400)	\$979,215	129	1	0.82	1.36
30	BURNING ROMA (98, Rubiano), Rising Hill Farm	\$5,000		2/2	0/2	(Little Drama, \$98,490)	\$908,373	103	2	0.75	1.39
31	ADCAT (95, Storm Cat)	N/A	43/23	1/3	0/1	(Briecat, \$206,040)	\$885,529	*184	4	0.97	0.88
32	ACT OF DUTY (00, Mr. Prospector), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000		1/1	0/1	(Movie Duty, \$73,320)	\$876,119	*91	1	0.80	1.28
33	WERBLIN (99, Unbridled's Song), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$5,000		0/0	0/0	(Philly Bound, \$117,816)	\$843,166	*129	1	0.82	1.07
34	¶ WITH DISTINCTION (01, Storm Cat), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$7,500		0/0	0/0	(Decisive Moment, \$276,330)	\$794,889	106	0	0.99	1.25
35	GIBSON COUNTY (97, In Excess)	Died, 2008	50/22	1/1	0/1	(Ayoumilove, \$126,867)	\$748,886	105		0.88	0.94
36 37	TEXAS GLITTER (96, Glitterman) UNBRIDLED TIME (98, Unbridled's Song), Signature Stallions	Died, 2008 \$3,500	56/25 61/28	1/1 0/0	0/1 0/0	(Ifitwasntfor Texas, \$83,690) (Unbridled Heat, \$106,680)	\$729,801 \$707,091	168 183	2	0.80	0.99
38	SARAVA (99, Wild Again), Bridlewood Farm	\$1,500		0/0	0/0	(Belo Sorte, \$79,090)	\$696,236	112	0	0.63	1.30
39	¶ POMEROY (01, Boundary), Vinery Florida	\$5,000		1/1	0/1	(Positive Response, \$79,681)	\$681,351	85	1	1.00	1.56
40	<b>WAGON LIMIT</b> (94, Conquistador Cielo), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000		0/0	0/0	(Arcata, \$64,020)	\$649,382	153		1.53	1.21
41	GULF STORM (97, Storm Cat), Lou-Roe Farm	\$3,500	48/20	2/7	0/2	(Category Seven, \$185,150)	\$643,305	178	7	0.67	0.97
42	HEAR NO EVIL (00, Carson City), Journeyman Stud	\$3,500	14/9	0/0	0/0	(Jackson Bend, \$351,130)	\$623,639	20		3.81	1.05
43	BRING THE HEAT (98, In Excess), Ward Ranch	\$2,000	24/10	1/2	0/1	(Madman Diaries, \$307,822)	\$617,456	52	4	1.37	0.85
44	CIMARRON SECRET (91, Tejano)	Died, 2008	34/15	1/1	0/1	(Dade Babe, \$130,356)	\$569,504	125	4	1.04	0.90
45	¶ MASS MEDIA (01, Touch Gold), Journeyman Stud	\$2,000	21/13	2/3	1/2	(Manicero, \$144,008)	\$568,429	45	2	1.64	1.24
46	WEKIVA SPRINGS (91, Runaway Groom), Double Diamond Farm	\$1,000	38/20	0/0	0/0	(Nina Springs, \$61,856)	\$526,400	389	15	0.89	1.25
47	<b>SCORPION</b> (98, Seattle Slew), Pinecrest Stables (Home of Santa Cruz Ranch)		34/17	0/0	0/0	(Scorper, \$62,876)	\$443,442	*88	1	0.79	1.15
48	UNFORGETTABLE MAX (00, Northern Afleet), Stonewall Farm Ocala	\$1,500		0/0	0/0	(Remittance, \$50,250)	\$424,948	52	0	0.65	1.10
49	WISED UP (95, Dixieland Band), Rising Hill Farm	\$1,500		0/0	0/0	(Wise Trick, \$81,658)	\$421,492	131	4	1.05	0.86
50	MARCIANO (98, Two Punch), Rising Hill Farm	\$1,500		0/0	0/0	(Graziano, \$52,979)	\$390,312	49	12	1.17	1.18
51	COLONY LIGHT (89, Pleasant Colony), Rising Hill Farm FRENCH ENVOY (96, Deputy Minister)	N/A		0/0	0/0	(Working Man Blues, \$29,828)	\$370,489	392	13	1.02	1.10
52   53	WEEKEND CRUISE (97, A.P. Indy), Ups and Down Farms		30/17	0/0	0/0	(Hank's Hill, \$56,068) (Lisselan Castle, \$25,163)	\$369,031 \$362,530	102	3	0.78	1.00
วง 54	EXPRESS TOUR (98, Tour d'Or)	\$2,000 N/A	47/20 25/10	0/0 0/0	0/0 0/0	(Peaches My Dear, \$69,120)	\$362,539 \$336,377	136 52	0	0.59 0.73	0.80 1.25
55 55	TOUR D'OR (82, Medaille d'Or)	Died, 2005		0/0	0/0	(Glotona, \$53,296)	\$330,377	503	27	1.30	1.19
56	GOLD MARKET (96, Seeking the Gold)	N/A	32/16	1/2	1/1	(Indian Ink, \$81,760)	\$288,578	76	4	0.65	0.72
57	GREAT PYRAMID (IRE) (00, Danehill)	N/A	15/9	0/0	0/0	(Beat the Blues, \$106,285)	\$286,449	26	0	1.01	0.90
58	WESTERN PRIDE (98, Way West), Signature Stallions	\$2,500	35/12	1/3	0/1	(Corcho, \$61,367)	\$256,935	56	1	0.49	1.07
59	FORBIDDEN APPLE (95, Pleasant Colony), Bridlewood Farm	N/A	26/8	0/0	0/0	(Forbidden Bear, \$98,568)	\$225,659	79	1	0.57	1.08
30	SKIP TRIAL (82, Bailjumper), Bridlewood Farm	N/A	23/8	0/0	0/0	(Otomai, \$38,280)	\$222,802	*452	28	1.98	1.60
31	¶ DA STOOPS (03, Distorted Humor), Stonewall Farm Ocala	\$3,500	18/7	0/0	0/0	(Limbo Dancer, \$49,215)	\$222,078	*37	0	0.91	1.08
62	¶ IMPERIALISM (01, Langfuhr), Get Away Farm	\$5,000	15/9	0/0	0/0	(Imperial Czar, \$53,626)	\$218,882	45	0	0.97	0.9
63	UNBRIDLED'S IMAGE (00, Unbridled), Bridlewood Farm	N/A	32/7	0/0	0/0	(Elissa'sroyalimage, \$39,285)	\$215,342	78	1	0.48	0.79
64	DOWN THE AISLE (93, Runaway Groom), Ben-D Farm South	\$2,500		0/0	0/0	(E. Blue, \$26,652)	\$211,887	139	0	0.52	0.83
35	<b>DILIGENCE</b> (93, Miswaki), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	23/10	0/0	0/0	(Fresh Ice, \$37,400)	\$195,809	194	7	0.97	1.19
66	THE NAME'S JIMMY (89, Encino)	N/A	5/3	1/1	0/1	(Suzzona, \$175,010)	\$184,734	182	6	0.85	0.94
67	NORTHERN TREND (88, Sunny North)	Died, 2006	18/11	0/0	0/0	(Gallant Lover, \$45,561)	\$180,695	*142	1	0.90	0.73
86	¶ A. P. WARRIOR (03, A.P. Indy), Stonewall Farm Ocala	\$6,000	13/5	1/1	0/1	(Faisca, \$63,320)	\$172,759	27	1	1.01	1.47
69	SKIP TO THE STONE (98, Skip Trial), Lou-Roe Farm	\$1,500	25/7	0/0	0/0	(Kimbo, \$59,435)	\$169,899	74	1	0.59	0.98
70	CUTLASS FAX (90, Cutlass), El Batey Farm	N/A	8/7	0/0	0/0	(Dazzlin Dr Cologne, \$40,720)	\$164,770	51	3	1.33	1.23

\*A-E and COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. The Comparable Index indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.

(continued from page 190)

much confidence. He never won a stakes, but he was second and third a bunch of times, and I always thought he was going to win the next one. I was proud of the fact he was kind of an 'iron horse.' We thought we were going to have to rest him, but he would pop right back up and be fine."

First Dude, who raced 10 times in 2010 and earned \$844,640, kicked off his 3-year-old campaign in January by breaking his maiden at Gulfstream Park and ended it with an eighth-place finish in the Nov. 6 Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) at Churchill Downs.

"We've got pictures of my granddaughter Grace with First Dude (when he was foaled)," Dizney said. "She's actually reaching up and thinking that she's delivering him. That's a great memory for me, and those are great pictures."

Dizney was born in Pensacola, Fla., but his roots are in Kentucky.

"My grandparents on both sides were Eastern Kentuckians, and one of my granddads was killed in a coal mine," he said. "My dad moved back to the Bluegrass State when I was just a kid, and I was raised in the coalfields."

Dizney was a lineman and a captain of his high school football team, playing for a squad in the small Harlan County town of Lynch that won a state championship. He later was a member of Eastern Kentucky University's football team.

"When you go to Eastern Kentucky, you look for places to go when it starts getting warm," Dizney said. "A bunch of guys and I would always go to Keeneland and watch the horses. We would wear our brightest greens and our brightest yellows, and we didn't wear any socks. We thought we were cool."

Dizney fell in love with racing during those trips to Keeneland. But his interest didn't progress beyond the fan stage for many years even though "I really kind of hoped my buddies and I would buy a horse," he remembered.

After graduating from college, Dizney pursued a career in health care.

"I worked at Humana before it was known as Humana, and I was the senior vice president of operations when I left," he said.

Dizney's next major venture involved the founding of the United Medical Corporation in 1974. Today, he is the chairman of that Florida-based company, which oversees acute-care hospitals, skilled nursing centers, medical equipment rentals, and other health care-related businesses.

"God blessed me with a pretty good job and a pretty good income," Dizney said, so he decided to pursue his interest in Thoroughbreds more seriously in 1983, and he made a big commitment by purchasing a farm. The nursery, located near Ocala, already was known as Double Diamond then, and Dizney kept the name because its initials were the same as those of his first and last names

"When I want to be involved in something, I usually jump right in; it's just my personality," Dizney said.

Among Double Diamond's first equine residents was the winning Tri Jet mare Jetting Angel, who was a \$12,000 Double Diamond purchase at the 1983 Ocala Breeders' Sales Co. fall mixed sale. Consigned by the late Fred Hooper, one of Florida's most successful horsemen, Jetting Angel was in foal to Lord Rebeau. The resulting foal, Hello Lord, was a winner.

Jetting Angel went on to become a top producer for Double Diamond. Her offspring included Diamond Sunjet, who captured the 1989 Minaret Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs; Thinkernot, who finished second in a division of the 1991 Hoist the Flag Stakes (gr. IIIT), and Indomable, who was third in the 1994 Criterium Stakes at Calder Race Course.

But Jetting Angel's most successful runner was Wekiva Springs, a full brother to Thinkernot by former Double Diamond stallion Runaway Groom, who was 1982's champion 3-year-old male in Canada. Raced by Dizney in partnership with James English, Wekiva Springs earned \$1,512,575 and won six added-money events, including the 1996 editions of the Suburban (gr. I) and

Gulfstream Park (gr. I) handicaps.

Wekiva Springs, one of three current stallions at Double Diamond, has sired such stakes winners for Dizney and others as Panamanian champion Uremic, Apalachian Thunder, Silversider, Pyrite Springs, and Rodeo Springs.

"He probably is my favorite horse," said Dizney of Wekiva Springs.

In 1994 Dizney bought Omi, a daughter of Wild Again, for \$75,000 from Three Chimneys Farm, agent, at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select yearling auction. The dark bay or brown filly won the 1997 Arlington Matron Handicap (gr. III) and two other added-money events.

As a broodmare, Omi produced Brushed Bayou (by Broad Brush), who triumphed in the 2007 Caress Stakes at Belmont Park. Omi's progeny also include the winner Distinction (by Seattle Slew), who brought the sale-topping price of \$4.2 million at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select yearling auction in 2000, a sale record for a Florida-bred yearling.

"We knew we had a nice horse, but you don't really know how much one is worth until they walk them over there (to the sale ring)." Dizney said.

Other horses bred and/or raced by Dizney include 1997 Del Mar Derby (gr. IIT) winner Anet, 2005 Oak Leaf Stakes (gr. II) winner Diamond Omi, 1999 Baldwin Stakes (gr. IIIT) winner and Double Diamond stallion American Spirit, and Semoran, who captured the Kentucky Cup Classic (gr. III) and Prairie Meadows Cornhusker (gr. III) handicaps in 1997.

"When you've been at this a long time, you realize that the horse gods kind of rule," Dizney said. "You see people do things in this sport all the time that you just shake your head and don't understand, but they work. I just try to read everything that I can and try to breed to some of the better stallions."

Dizney has a broodmare band of about 30 mares, many of





Donald Dizney with wife, Irene, at Gulfstream Park

2010 Flor By 2-Year-l	rida Sire Dld Winn	ers	
Sires	2yos	2yo Rnrs	2yo Wnrs
Pomeroy			
Wildcat Heir	96	48	21
Chapel Royal	96	46	20
With Distinction	106	52	19
Consolidator	92	44	14
Gibson County			
Mass Media	45	21	13
Indian Ocean	66	32	13
Put It Back	48	23	13
Halo's Image	44	22	11
Concerto			
Strong Hope	59	22	9
Value Plus	66	33	9
Imperialism	45	15	9
Roar of the Tiger			
Werblin	43	16	8
Da Stoops	37	18	7
West Acre			
Burning Roma	33	21	7
D'wildcat	31	19	7
Act of Duty	38	14	6
Bwana Charlie	38	17	6
Sarava	36	15	6
Black Mambo			
Leroidesanimaux (BRZ)	58	19	6
City Place			
A. P. Warrior			
Strong Contender			
Graeme Hall	44	17	5
Gimmeawink	21	6	4
Proud Accolade			
Montbrook			
French Envoy	10	6	4
Three Wonders			
Marciano	14	4	4
Leading the Parade			
Concorde's Tune			
Full Mandate	38	17	3

which are covered by Kentucky-based stallions and returned to Florida to foal. While the primary goal of his operation is to breed to race, some young horses are sold at public auction because "it helps cash flow," Dizney said. The rest are broken at Double Diamond, which has a fivefurlong dirt training track and a half-mile turf gallop. Double Diamond's staff also prepares young horses to race for other Thoroughbred owners and breeders.

"Don is fully committed to and heavily involved in the Thoroughbred business, and he runs a first-class farm," said G. Watts Humphrey Jr., who owns Shawnee Farm in Kentucky. "Double Diamond breaks 10 or 12 of our horses every year and does a wonderful job."

Humphrey's homebred grade III winner Rey de Cafe is a Double Diamond stallion.

Dizney, like Humphrey, is a member and former steward of The Jockey Club. The Sunshine State farm owner also is a trustee and former officer of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association and has been a Breeders' Cup board member and trustee.

"To play the game, you need to be involved; it's really that simple," Dizney said.

A member of the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' board of directors, Dizney has served multiple terms as the organization's president since the mid-1980s. According to the FTBOA's executive vice president, Richard Hancock, Dizney's hard work has been key to the passage of important Florida legislation that allowed intertrack wagering, slots at tracks, and minors to attend the races.

"He's very quiet and very deliberate," Hancock said. "He's usually pretty laidback, but when a decision is made about what our board wants or there is a direction he feels we should go in, he is very firm. He's really helped our industry grow."

Brand, Double Diamond's general manager, said Dizney's role as one of the movers and shakers in the Thoroughbred industry has helped improve Double Diamond's efforts in breeding and racing.

"It is advantageous for us because he is able to talk to all those important people and hear what they have to say," Brand explained. "He keeps his finger on the industry's pulse, and that's probably why we've made some of the changes we have such as breeding some mares in California. His exposure to a lot of things outside the day-to-day life on the farm helps him decide if something is advantageous for us or if it isn't."

Dizney's sports interests outside of horse racing include following and supporting the University of Florida's athletic programs. He was the president of the Gator Boosters in 2006-07 when the school won national championships in football and basketball. In addition, Dizney has been involved in the ownership of several United States Football League and Arena Football League teams in Florida.

But Double Diamond has never been far from Dizney's mind since its establishment because of the constant challenges required to keep a Thoroughbred breeding and racing operation running smoothly.

"When you get into the Thoroughbred business, you realize you can't really call it a business," Dizney said. "It's a game, and it's a tough game. People go about it in a lot of different ways, and I haven't seen anybody completely figure it out.

"I'm a corporation guy," he continued, "and people like me want to write a business plan. In any business plan your first column is revenues, but it's hard to project revenues in the Thoroughbred game when you don't know what the horses you breed are going to look like or what they are going to sell for. It takes several years to find out if you made the right breeding decision. So what we do is make a budget on what we're going to pay for stud fees, try to hold our mares down to a certain number, and keep rolling right on. Because there are limits, you don't see me at the sales buying many expensive horses."

An American recession and global financial crisis have caused many Thoroughbred owners and breeders, including Dizney, to make adjustments in recent years. But he hasn't lost his enthusiasm for winning races.

"I still love the game, and we enjoy it as a family," Dizney said. "Whenever we look at our 2-year-olds, we dream about the Kentucky Derby (gr. I). It's something I know we'll do until I die. And then, hopefully, someone in the family will want to do it after that."