



Fast Break

With the Keeneland September yearling sale just around the corner, buyers will be searching for the right facilities to teach their stars of tomorrow the basics of racing. Anyone who has ever had novice students of any kind knows the importance of laying the proper foundation, because everything else builds off those early developed habits and discipline.

Many facilities specialize in services that will provide these youngsters—and perhaps even some non-traditional learners—the proper skills for a prosperous racing career. These facilities are also adept at providing Thoroughbred athletes in need of a little R&R a place to unwind and recuperate.

Many of the topflight breaking and training facilities as well as the people who run them are profiled on the following pages.



ANNE M. EBERHARDT

All other aspects of training Thoroughbreds build on early developed habits

Benchmark Training Center

Gerwyn “Taffy” Jones likes to point out the longevity of Benchmark Training Center, a 110-acre facility about 40 miles east of Dallas near Quinlan, Texas.

“A lot of people with training centers

will tell you it’s tough to survive,” Jones remarked. “We’ve been fortunate with how consistent we’ve been.”

Jones, a lifelong horseman with more than 30 years experience, worked as an exercise rider in Europe before coming

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to the U.S. in his late teens. After a well-rounded tour of training facilities up and down the East Coast, he did stints in Houston and Dallas. That was 20 years ago; he’s been at Benchmark along with wife, Jane, for more than 15 years.

The center’s convenient location in Northeast Texas makes it easy for horsemen to ship to and from tracks and sales pavilions in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. There’s also good access to Kentucky and Chicago, and Jones is frequently found “shipping horses from coast to coast,” as he puts it.

Clients are reassured by the center’s strong relationships with employees and associates. Longtime farm manager Mark Brennan heads up a team of four full-time exercise riders and about 15 other workers; Dr. David Stephens of the esteemed



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Shackleford



ANNE M. EBERHARDT

Becoming familiar with the starting gate is a most important lesson for any youngster

equine veterinary offices of Weems and Stephens in nearby Aubrey, Texas, provides consultation.

Equipped with a five-eighths-mile track complete with starting gate, along with two barns with 70 stalls, several two- to three-acre paddocks, and a few 10- to 15-acre paddocks and a Eurociser for their growing rehabilitation and sales prep programs, Benchmark maintains a streamlined all-around program that also includes breaking and training options. This "one-stop-shop" makes the center popular with horsemen,

and that four Breeders' Cup starters began their education there doesn't hurt.

Success stories include Super Derby (gr. II) winner Going Ballistic, who came to Benchmark when he was a yearling and went on to win six stakes for Kindred Thoroughbreds, placing in another 12 added-money races, including the Secretariat Stakes (gr. IT) and the Hawthorne Gold Cup (gr. II). Among solid runners to emerge from the center last year were Sierra Racing Stable's Halifax Flyer, winner of the \$100,000 Texas Stallion Stakes;

Ed Few's Lil Cherokee, winner of the TTA Sales Futurity; and Nolan Creek Farm's Hearts On Fire, runner-up in the 2011 Iowa Oaks (gr. III).

Derby Daze Farm

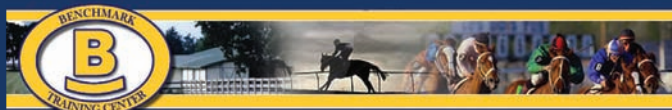
Owned by the estate of the late Gail Gee and managed by her father, E.B. Gee Jr., Derby Daze Farm is conveniently located in the heart of Central Florida horse country just northwest of Ocala. Spread over 77 lush acres, the facility has an outstanding record of preparing young Thoroughbreds for a career on the racetrack and offers a safe and quiet environment for young race prospects or layoffs.

A prime example of the training facility's craft is homebred Hooh Why, winner of the Ashland Stakes (gr. I) and five other stakes. Hooh Why's soundness has allowed her to become a millionaire while remaining in training for five seasons. In 2012 she has won three times (twice in stakes company) from six starts. Other top horses to get their early lessons at Derby Daze include stakes winner and grade I-placed Beautician, grade I-placed Theregoesjojo, and multiple stakes winner Sneaking Uponyou.

Derby Daze Farm's facilities include a half-mile irrigated track with a starting gate; free walkers; and an indoor track. There are four barns with 70 stalls and turnout paddocks that range in size from a half-acre to several acres.

Young Thoroughbreds benefit from Derby Daze Farm's four-step "start-to-finish" program. First, yearlings are introduced to tack in the familiar surroundings

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- 69% 2YO Starters*
- 33% 2YO Winners*

*2011



FACILITIES

- 1 mile All-Weather Gallop (Opening Sept. 2012)
- 1½ mile uphill Turf Gallop
- Generous paddock and pasture turnout
- Starting Gate
- Arena
- Round Pen
- Walkers

For more information on our facility and Training Center, see page 2395



of their stall, in the usual manner. In step two, students graduate to the round pen where they learn the basics from Derby Daze's capable staff, while bitted and saddled. Then, instead of going straight to the

track from the round pen, the young students are introduced to the indoor track, where they are schooled under saddle before going to the track. The Derby Daze team, led by experienced trainer Marcial

Galan, has found this process builds additional confidence in young horses and helps them develop better focus and connect with the rider, while also helping to ensure safety and soundness.

"We go about our business the same way we always have, slow and easy," E.B. Gee Jr. said. "We don't push the young horses. We let them tell us how fast they want to go and how they want to progress. Marcial has a lot of patience."

The farm is located near the Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s facilities where horses can easily ship for further work and evaluation over the one-mile track.

Derby Daze is a start-to-finish Thoroughbred operation, also providing excellent preparation for yearlings and 2-year-olds at sales throughout North America. Derby Daze works closely with international bloodstock agent Tony Goswell.

The farm's experienced staff is well-versed in proper horsemanship. Derby Daze's motto speaks for itself: "We are a working farm—Working for Success...and it shows!"

Diamond D Ranch

Experienced riders and staff offer top-notch care at Diamond D Ranch in all phases of training, sales prep, layups, rehabilitation, boarding, and foaling.

A full-service, year-round training center, the 185-acre farm in Lone Oak, about an hour east of Dallas, focuses primarily on the breaking of 2-year-olds.

Its facility can handle about 180 horses and includes a five-furlong training track—which is watered and groomed daily—licensed by the Texas Racing Commission to record official workouts and gate cards. Diamond D Ranch also features seven pastures, 16 individual paddocks, and three barns with a total of 84 stalls. Each barn is equipped with an indoor walker, two indoor wash racks, and a covered round pen with shredded rubber footing. The barns have rubber paver block hallways and each 12 x 12 stall has rubber mats and automatic waterers.

The training facility was established in 1981 by Ed and Caroline Dodwell. Today the facility serves customers from 14 racing states across the United States. With Ed having retired in 2004, Ed's son, Jimmy "Scooter" Dodwell, became the head trainer/general manager after serving 16 years as his father's assistant. Jon Newbold, the assistant manager, brings 36 years of training experience and oversees the day-to-day operations. Newbold is on the pony horse for every set that goes to the track to assist young horses. A staff of 20 people keeps the operation running smoothly.

The family's Diamond D program has

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...Rachel Alexandra Did

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produced 28 state-bred champions and several multiple graded stakes horses including Rachel Alexandra, Amie's Dini, Livi MacKenzie, Shesakitty, Taptam, Chief of Affairs, Silver City, Baghdaria, Warrior Maid, Gran Lioness, and Rapid Proof. Diamond D Ranch has 147 stakes-winning graduates that have won 308 stakes races combined through July 2012.

Evergreen Training Center

The current video lottery-fueled boom in New York racing is leading horsemen

along the East Coast to rediscover opportunities that were once standard practice among the nation's leading stables but have since fallen out of fashion. One rediscovery is the benefits of breaking and training horses in Camden, S.C.

Camden is home to several top-notch facilities that were built for high-quality racing operations, such as those owned by the du Ponts, Phippses, and Farishes. Among the standouts is Evergreen Training Center. Built on 400 wooded acres, Evergreen offers a wide range of facilities suitable for breaking and training,

layups, or freshening. The training center features a one-mile track designed by Joe King, the legendary New York track superintendent, a two-mile European grass gallop that runs around the outside of the dirt track, and a separate seven-furlong turf course. The original barns, with space for 60 horses, were designed by William S. Farish, the owner of Lane's End Farm in Kentucky.

"People came to Camden because of the climate, the soil, and the facilities long before Ocala was on the map," said Dr. Kurt Jaenicke, a Thoroughbred owner and a

DERBY DAZE
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HOOH WHY
Winner of the Ashland S-G1 / MSW & GSP in 2012 (\$1,083,703)

Other Top Derby Daze Graduates Include:
BEAUTICIAN - Multiple Graded-placed at 2 and 3, 2nd **Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1, Spinaway S-G1**, etc; SW at 4 (\$636,175).
SNEAKING UPONYOU - Stakes winner of 7 races and \$325,813.
RUMBLING CLOUD - SP winner at 2, SW at 3 (\$312,291).

2012: From eight graduates of the Derby Daze Program owned by Harlequin Ranches, seven have won and two finished second in their first starts, including **Good Better Best** - second in the **Steady Growth S.** at Woodbine, June, 17.

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G2

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1st, Molly Pitcher S-G2, July 29

G1

RON THE GREEK



(G1, \$1,262,597)

1st, Stephen Foster H-G1, June 16
1st, Santa Anita Handicap-G1, March 3

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G1

FORT LARNED

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with Whitney victory!**



(G1, \$881,236)

1st, Whitney Invitational H-G1, August 4
1st, Prairie Meadows Cornhuster H-G3, June 30
1st, Skip Away S-G3, March 31

Lambholm Grads in the Spotlight . . .

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native of Camden who owns Evergreen. "Now with the growth of racing in New York, these are even more important. The cost is less than shipping to Florida, and the facilities are second-to-none."

New to the training center is Joe Walsh, a former trainer and steeplechase jockey with 28 years of experience in the business. Born in Dublin, Walsh rode for the late Hall of Fame steeplechase trainer Burrely Cocks, who had runners for top owners such as Paul Mellon, Betty Moran, and Miles and Joy Valentine.

"I've been on both sides of the fence, so to speak," said Walsh. "This is a great place to get older horses freshened up and back running. For the younger horses you've got lots of trails to get them going forwardly, and the wide gallop is a good place to slowly introduce them to the track."

Evergreen was originally built in the 1980s by C.N. "Connie" Ray, the founder of Sea Ray Boats and the owner of Breeders' Cup and grade I winners Lit de Justice (1996, Sprint) and Elmhurst (1997, Sprint). Other good horses to have passed through Evergreen include grade I winner Fastness and graded stakes winner Mister Marti Gras, who finished third in the Arlington Handicap (gr. IIIT) July 14.

Jaenicke bought the training center in 2005 and expanded the stalls from 60 to 90.

"The track that Joe King put in here is fantastic," he said. "You don't even hear the horses going by, the surface is so forgiving. Also, I have assembled a team of people I trust implicitly. We have private operations stabled here, but for those

who want it, we have horsemen available to handle the breaking, get your horses ready, and do it right."

Glenview Farm

What's not to like about Glenview Farm Thoroughbred Training Center in South Carolina? Doris Rabon's 170-acre farm has a forgiving one-mile track, a European gallop designed by her trainer Joe Hanson, trails, a covered Eurociser, and more than 500 "Likes" on the farm's Facebook page.

The track has a "super nice" surface with rails from the old Garden State Park that Rabon bought at auction after the track closed.

"We were blessed with awesome soil," Rabon said. "It's kind of like training on the beach. Rarely do we get bucked shins. Joe Hanson, who has ridden all over the world, raves about it."

Hanson, 64, is heading into his ninth year training horses at Glenview. The British-born rider previously worked with steeplechase legend Sanna Neilson Hendricks and continues to train jumpers.

Hanson is the first one on each of the horses at Glenview, lunge-drives each horse, and breaks each horse. He's also in charge of his team of exercise riders that he trains himself.

"He will not hire a rider unless they can ride the way Joe wants them to ride," Rabon said. "I can't tell you what a good horseman Joe is. He's very good at taking problem horses and fixing them."

Fortunately, few of the horses at Glenview need "fixing." Rabon concentrates on offering quality care instead of worrying about quantity.

One of the recent stars to come off Glenview is Pink Candy, a Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Southern Image bred by Glenview Farm and Indian Mills Stock Farm and raced by Indian Mills. The 3-year-old has won or placed in nine of 10 starts and has earned nearly \$150,000 racing mainly in the Keystone State.

Rabon, who has owned and operated Glenview for 20 years had success right from the start. The first horse she ever owned was Prime Legacy, who found his niche as a steeplechaser, eventually landing four stakes and earning \$200,115.

While her best runner went long, Rabon notes her farm is but a short one-mile drive off Interstate 95.

"All those horse vans going up and down the East Coast go right by my place," she said, noting the time that can be saved by using her facility. And if a horse on one of those vans going north or south has come off of Glenview, then it "has left my farm five-eighths fit and has a gate card," Rabon said.

Lambholm South

Developing a full-service training center was a key part of the plan when Roy Lerman purchased the former Hobbeau Farm property in Marion County, Fla., and relocated his Lambholm South operation.

Improvements to the 1,800-acre farm included a new 112-stall training barn and a complete renovation of the one-mile dirt racetrack. The sweeping turns and long straightaways of the main track expose horses in training to anything they will face at a major venue. The farm's facili-

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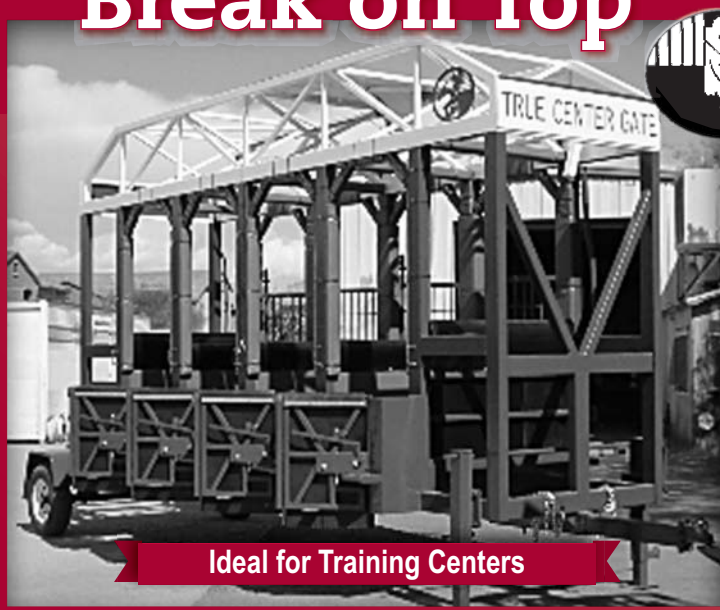
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ties also include an eight-furlong training track with two one-furlong chutes where the horses receive extensive gate work; a 6½-furlong turf course; European-style hotwalkers; and a figure-eight round pen.

"We've got nice big fields for the younger horses," said farm trainer Junior Serna. "They need to be out and have plenty of turn-out time. It makes it easier on the horses and the people."

Serna is another major asset at Lambholm South, having trained for some of the nation's top racing outfits since 1972. He's trained several horses that went on to become champions such as Slew o' Gold, Farda Amiga, Epitome, Speightstown, Escena, Flawlessly, and Saint Liam.

"It is about being there every day to see how the young horses are coming along," Serna said. "Some of these young horses come into the program and after 10 days they start losing weight. They show you when they need a break and need some time. They talk to you, and when you have been around a lot of good horses, there are no real surprises. You'll see something that reminds you of another horse."

Lambholm South's training division includes three other barns with a total capacity of more than 200 stalls with numerous turn-out paddocks. Everything has been designed to provide a safe and healthy environment, with good ventilation, padded stalls, and floor mats. The farm also provides its clients regular progress reports on their horses' breaking and training or rehabilitation along with photos and video, which are all available through a special client-access site on the

farm's website.

"I will not let a horse leave the farm that is not physically fit and able to handle the demands of competition," said Serna. "It isn't a matter of pride. It is about doing what is right by the horse."

Margaux Farm

Margaux Farm's Kentucky-based yearling starting and training program was designed to produce sound racehorses equipped with a solid foundation. After investing significant time and money in the farm's bloodstock every year, the principals felt the early race training of their stock could be vastly improved. The farm needed a more complete, sound 2-year-old. Today the Margaux Farm Training Center produces physically and mentally sound horses in the Bluegrass, and clients come back year after year.

Margaux has been "starting" youngsters for the last five years under the direction of Gene Vosler, and success is possible because of his experienced approach and the farm's one-of-a-kind facilities. Vosler is a perfect match for the program, emphasizing time, patience, and the individual horse. Vosler has worked with horses his whole life, and his experience as an outrider at Keeneland is instrumental in his approach. Trainers will vouch that graduates from the Margaux program are well-prepared and able to focus on getting ready for the races.

For partners Dr. Joseph and Lynn Fowler, Steve and Shelley Johnson, and Jim and Susan Hill, it is a top priority that the training facilities on Margaux's 320 acres stimulate young horses mentally and physi-

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cally. Not confined to the traditional oval track, their gallops adhere to the existing topography—encompassing hills for conditioning and flats for speed work. New for this year is a one-mile all-weather gallop. Currently under construction, the gallop is scheduled to be completed by the end of September. The surface is state-of-the-art polymer sand-based, very similar to a natural dirt course. It provides a consistent surface to train on when the weather conditions do not permit conditioning on the turf course.

The 1½-mile turf gallop features an uphill finish as well as an optional three-eighths-mile flat stretch where youngsters can do speed work. Training on natural terrain is highly effective in the development of bone, ligaments, and tendons prior to training at the track. Facilities at Margaux also include a sand arena, round pens, walkers, and a starting gate where yearlings will become comfortable in all aspects of the starting gate experience. Another important asset is ample turn-out; horses are turned out for up to 15 hours each day, which makes the transition into training much more manageable for their young bodies and minds.

The Margaux method has given clients desired results. Margaux graduates often reach the track earlier because of the foundation they are given and the miles they have under them. Horses condition best at the track; they develop physically and mentally at the farm. The Margaux philosophy is: When you take your time and do things right the first time, you ensure your horse has the best chance at a healthy, successful career.

Palm Beach Downs Training Center

The goal at Palm Beach Downs Training Center is as simple now as it was when it started 15 years ago: provide horsemen a quality base to get the most out of their horses in a healthy environment under ideal weather conditions. Owned by Steve Wolf and Richard Siemens, Palm Beach Downs is located near Delray Beach, Fla., in Palm Beach County on Florida's East Coast. The 85-acre breaking and training

center has a one-mile dirt track, 65 feet wide with a quarter-mile starting chute and a seven-furlong turf course.

One of Palm Beach Downs' attractions is its bucolic setting. "It is in a very secluded area," said general manager Michael Blann. "We don't have any housing developments around us, so it's quiet and tranquil. All of that is good for horses. The barns are spread out instead of being on top of each other, and there are some open areas to ride in so a horse doesn't always have to go to the track."

Palm Beach Downs caters to the needs of individual horsemen. "The way it's set up, we do not break and train the horses," Blann said. "We lease the barns to the trainers, and they're the ones in charge of the breaking and training. We have a dormitory on the grounds to house the trainers' workers. Plus, a horse can get starting gate-certified here."

"We feel because it's a private facility, the tranquility of the place goes a long way, especially for some of the younger horses trying to get a head start. We've also had some horses come for rehab because it's a nice place to stay."

Palm Beach Downs can house 192 horses. Each barn has four offices/tack rooms.

Horses that have spent time at the training center include Kentucky Derby (gr. I) winners Fusaichi Pegasus and Monarchos.

Palm Beach Downs is conveniently located to both Gulfstream Park and Calder Casino & Race Course, being within an hour to each track. Palm Beach Downs is about a three-hour drive to Ocala and 3½ hours to Tampa Bay Downs.

Blann also oversees nearby Sunshine Meadows Equestrian Village and Delray Equestrian Center. Owned by Wolf and Siemens, Sunshine Meadows caters to Standardbreds, pleasure horses, dressage horses, and retired Thoroughbreds. The 170-acre farm has 18 barns and is able to house 678 horses.

Palm Beach Downs and Sunshine Meadows offer special protection from hurricanes as the barns are concrete.

Delray Equestrian, owned by Wolf in partnership with Richard Bowman and

Skip Olmstead, offers such services as training, boarding, and leasing horses. Delray also conducts summer camps and horse shows.

Pike Racing

Al and Salley Pike, who have been married for 30 years, moved their Pike Racing operation to Classic Mile Park near Ocala, Fla., late last year, and they couldn't be happier.

"There is a one-mile track that is big, wide, and beautifully maintained, and it has a great surface," said Al Pike of the 700-acre facility. "There are also beautiful riding trails and a seven-furlong turf course. It's just a great place to train a horse."

In addition, Pike Racing has access to more than 40 stalls and approximately 15 large paddocks.

"We're trying to take our business to the next level," said Salley Pike, who serves as Pike Racing's chief financial officer.

Al Pike, who has been a trainer for more than 30 years, especially enjoys breaking young horses and preparing them for racing.

"That's my primary business, and I take a lot of pride in it," he said. "I like watching them develop from inexperienced babies into racehorses that are ready to run. It's all about patience and repetition, and it's also important to go at a horse's own speed. You need to know your animal."

Pike also runs a yearling-to-juvenile pinhooking operation and gets racehorses ready to run again after layoffs.

"When they go to the racetrack and aren't in our hands anymore, we take pride in watching their careers," Salley Pike said.

Pike Racing graduates include 2012 Sixty Sails Handicap (gr. III) winner She's All In, 2011 Hollywood Prevue Stakes (gr. III) winner So Brilliant, eight-time stakes winner Tin Top Cat, 2012 Ohio Derby (gr. III) third-place finisher Z Rockstar, and Soonerette, who captured the 2012 Northbound Pride Oaks at Canterbury Park and the 2011 Happy Ticket Stakes at Harrah's Louisiana Downs.

Pike Racing purchased So Brilliant as a yearling for \$200,000 and resold him for \$300,000 at the 2011 Fasig-Tipton Florida



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March select sale of 2-year-olds in training. This year Pike Racing resold Ennobled Friend for \$725,000 and Delhomme for \$440,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Florida auction after buying them as yearlings for \$140,000 and \$230,000, respectively.

War Horse Place

War Horse Place, located on 175 of some of the best acres of bluegrass in Kentucky, is a full-service Thoroughbred facility that just so happens to offer excellent sales prep and breaking and training services that key in on the individual needs of each horse.

Owned and operated by Gerry and Dana Aschinger, War Horse is staffed with a team that works diligently to exceed a client's expectations from beginning to end. The sales prep and breaking take place at the Aschingers' farm in Kentucky, but they also have a training facility in Florida that has a seven-eighths mile training track and is located adjacent to the 1,100-acre Sarasota Polo Grounds, which offers miles and miles of trails.

"We take some of our clients' horses down there to condition them, but we don't breeze them there because we don't

believe in breezing them until maybe they get toward the time for the Keeneland April 2-year-old sale," Gerry said.

On the farm, War Horse Place, the stars of tomorrow start with being hand-walked, then graduate to the track-shaped walker before moving on to the round pen. After they've mastered their early lessons, they are introduced to a saddle, first in their stall, and then the yearlings get driven with lunge lines so they learn how to bend, turn, respond to the reins, and stop. Later a rider is introduced, as is the farm's starting gate. Being comfortable around the gate in a horse's home environment is fundamentally important to the Aschingers.

The key to any sales prep or breaking operation is the care the horses are given and the lessons they are taught. Dana said War Horse Place is "as individualized as we can be," and has other techniques because "they don't all fit into the same mold."

"One of the things we are really big on is our individualized feeding program," Dana said. "We weigh our yearlings every month and we measure their height. Another thing we do is cook whole flax seed

every day—that's for the sales prep and the yearlings we're breaking. It's a better source of Omega-3 fatty acid than corn oil, and the horses love it."

Before the horses can be considered "graduates" of War Horse Place, they are ridden over the farm for about two weeks. Dana and her crew will walk the horses through creeks and along the fence lines that parallel the road so they get used to the cars going by. "We want them to be totally broke by the time they leave here," Dana said.

Webb Carroll Training Center

There must be an underlying reason why such prominent horses as United States champions War Emblem and Havre de Grace, and Preakness (gr. I) winner Shackleford are all graduates of Webb Carroll Training Center near St. Matthews, S.C.

Perhaps its success rate stems from the mild South Carolina climate, or maybe it's the farm's philosophy of simulating a racetrack environment for its young horses. Major clients attest the biggest factor contributing to the facility's success, however, is the knowledgeable Webb Carroll himself.

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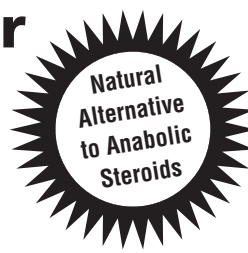
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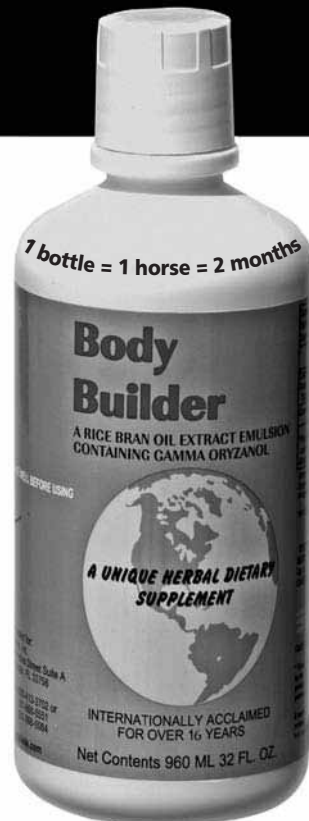


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A third-generation horseman, Carroll, 66, was given an early introduction to the Thoroughbred world working with the broodmares and foals at his father William's farm.

Combining the patient tactics of his early days in the industry with a modernized approach of individually tailored, all-day conditioning, Carroll makes sure the job gets done at his training center, which has been in operation for nearly three decades.

"I don't get on the track at 6 a.m. and get through at 10," said Carroll. "I (train) all day long, and I do it the right way. It's very time-consuming, but it's productive and beneficial for the horses to go through a program such as this."

While the facility offers therapy and rehabilitation for injured horses, Carroll mainly focuses on the breaking and training of 2-year-olds.

Amenities include a seven-eighths-mile irrigated track; three-quarter-mile irrigated turf track course; starting gate with an experienced gate crew; small, shaded turn-out paddocks; a swim facility; and an eight-horse exerciser.

When asked about his training philosophies, Carroll explained, "We go out in large sets and spend a great deal of time with each set working them through the gate and with the pony and creating all sorts of maneuvers and drills for these horses that enhance their opportunities to adapt to the racetrack and run early."

Carroll said one of the other essential ingredients to Webb Carroll's success is assistant trainer Travis Durr. Like Carroll, Durr grew up working on his father's equine operation, and his life has revolved

around horses ever since.

"He's a wonderful horseman...he's on the pony with every set that goes out on the track, and he's got a great rapport with the vet," said Carroll. "I'm hands-on, but I'm not a one-man band. You can't have success that way...you've got to have structure and key people."

Prominent trainer Graham Motion, a longtime client of Webb Carroll, said he sends horses to the training center due to its reputable conditioning approach and plentiful amenities.

"(Carroll) has done a remarkable amount of work to the place in the last 15 years since I've been sending horses there, and it's really become a top-notch training facility," said Motion.

Wes Carter Training and Sales

The breaking and training philosophy at Wes Carter Training and Sales is a little different than most other training centers. Carter notes the youngsters under his care are trained to be the "complete" horse—both mentally and spiritually.

"We break ours well enough to where you can lead them up to a bale of hay and just step up on them by yourself," he said. "You don't have to get legged-up, and the babies don't have to be held to get on and off of them. But we don't break their spirit. We get them to do what we want them to do but let them think it was their idea to do it."

Carter puts an emphasis on his pupils getting more time in turn-out and being hacked around his facility before and after their lessons on the training track. He also

notes his horses spend more time in close contact with humans than at most other training facilities.

"When our horses leave here, they are equipped to go and be racehorses, and they have the education to become other types of horses. We get them fit enough to go five-eighths in a breeze, and we get them educated enough you could put a little kid on them and let them ride around."

That the 100-acre facility's five-eighths-mile training track doesn't have a rail illustrates the effectiveness of the center's complete training regimen.

"We train the horses to go where we guide them," Carter said.

For further conditioning Carter will ship his students to the one-mile Aiken Training Center where 2-year-olds are able to have longer breezes and can earn their gate cards to move on to their careers as racehorses. That experience gives the horses valuable, and positive, vanning experiences and "gives them something else to look at," he said. "It's more like what they are going to experience on the real racetrack."

Wes Carter Training and Sales has 42 stalls, and Carter isn't looking to expand. He prefers the personal, one-on-one interaction that he says makes the horses fit in with the group.

"We go that extra little bit where the horse is happy doing what he has to do for a living," Carter said. "We make them feel competitive and instill confidence to become really good horses. What we'll do will carry over the rest of their lives. It makes for a better performer when it comes time to run for the money." □

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of the Pike Racing breaking and training program:

- Z Rock Star** – 3rd Ohio Derby-G3 – 7/7/12
- She's All In** – 2012 Graded SW of \$640,867; most recent win 8/10/12
- So Brilliant** – Undefeated Gr. SW at 2 (2011)
- Soonerette** – 2011/2012 SW at 2 and 3 – SW on 7/7/12
- Tin Top Cat** – Multiple SW of \$384,774
- Fastation** – Won 5 stakes in a row at 2
- Peach Brew** - Arlington Oaks-G3; SW of \$320,322
- Frisco Bay** – SP at 2 and 3 in Japan (thru 2012)



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