

Buying a yearling is the easiest part of acquiring a racing prospect. Next for the young Thoroughbred lies many lessons to be learned, with patience and experience going a long way toward ensuring these lessons are taught well. Aside from merely accepting a bit, a saddle, and a rider, the developing racehorse needs to become accustomed to the routine of the backside, the tight quarters of a starting gate, and how to relax when racing in company. Equally important, the young athlete must be fit and ready to compete when it moves on to the track. In this special section are insights into some of the country's leading training centers and what makes their programs successful year after year. With research, finding a quality training center can be the second-easiest decision an owner can make.

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BENCHMARK

Texas Chrome is the most recent success story to come out of Benchmark Training Center in North Texas. The son of Grasshopper won the Texas Stallion Stakes at Lone Star Park May 15 and has since finished third in the Matt Winn Stakes (gr. III) at Churchill Downs and second in the Iowa Derby (gr. III) at Prairie Meadows.

Benchmark is owned and operated by Gerwyn "Taffy" Jones. The training center covers 100 acres near Quinlan, Texas, which is about 40 miles east of Dallas. Benchmark is not only close to Lone Star Park but centrally located to the region's other top racetracks, including Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Ark.; Remington Park in Oklahoma City, Okla.; and, Harrah's Louisiana Downs near the Texas border in Bossier City, La.

Jones is a lifelong horseman who began his racing career more than 35 years ago in Wales. He worked extensively on the East Coast of the United States before taking his talents to Texas. Jones has been building the foundation of successful racehorses at Benchmark for 19 years.

Benchmark's facilities, highlighted by its five-furlong training track and multi-stalled starting gate, make it an ideal spot for conditioning young horses.

"Slow education is good education," said Jones. "We like to keep our horses happy, and training on our own track without interference is a huge advantage."



Texas Chrome

CODY PHOTOGRAPHY

The farm recently added a new barn, giving it three modern-style facilities with all the right amenities. Benchmark also features a Eurociser and offers a variety of turn-out paddocks that range from one to five acres, which allow layups to return to the track in top condition.

The Benchmark team is keen on sales prep as well, having already made a name for itself at auctions throughout Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma.

Jones estimates that 80-90% of horses that receive their early lessons at Benchmark win once they get to the track. He believes the training center's stellar results are the reason the facility has clients from all over the country.

"Our percentage rate of winners has been a key to our success," Jones said. "Because of word-of-mouth about the successful way we turn out horses, clients send them to us from all over the country. We get them ready to go to the track, and once they show up, they're close to ready to start running. We have a reputation of doing a good job and producing a good horse."

MARGAUX FARM

Much of what makes Margaux Farm a top-notch breaking and training center is obvious. Immediately apparent while touring the 640 rolling acres in Central Kentucky are the farm's three different training tracks, an arena, spacious paddocks, and Eurociser walkers.

Below the surface, however, is an equally essential reason for the farm's success—a commitment to clear and open communication between owners and the staff, which is as important as the high level of care the facility provides each horse.

"Whenever your horse is here, you'll always know how it is doing," said Michael Hardy, general manager of Margaux Farm, which is owned by Jim and Susan Hill. "Everything is extremely transparent. We have a lot of owners, breeders, and bloodstock agents in the area who are involved with these horses, and we encourage them to come out to the farm and watch their horses train. They should get as much pleasure out of the training as they do racing."

The staff keeps thorough records on each horse's progress and provides clients with weekly notes and regular phone calls.

"Communication is easy, ongoing, and always informative," said client Laurie Berenson with Dunwoody Farm.

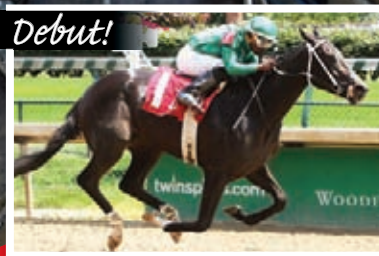
Margaux's three different training tracks are unique among

2YOs STARTING JULY OFF WITH A BANG!

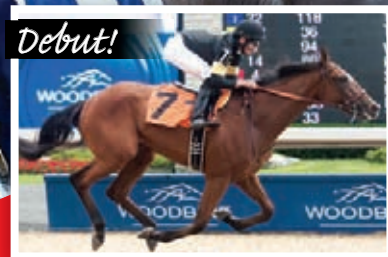
Debut 2YO Winner
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winning the **Lynbrook S.**
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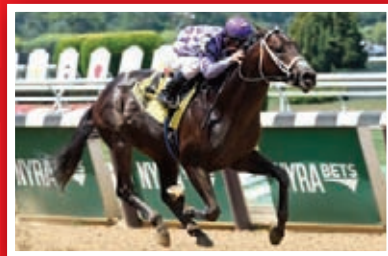
EVER SO CLEVER
MSW winner at Churchill - 7.1.16



DYLAN
Debut 2YO winner at Woodbine - 7.16.16



JERANDSON
MSW winner at Monmouth - 7.10.16



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Travis
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training centers. The farm has a 1¼-mile turf course; a 1⅙-mile Tru-Stride synthetic, and a five-furlong undulating synthetic circuit, where horses do a lot of jogging to build up muscle and stamina. The 1⅙-mile track is a straight strip that allows for speed work prior to sending a horse on to the racetrack. Also available is a five-furlong turf gallop with a three-furlong straight and an uphill bend. In addition to breaking and training, the farm accepts horses for layups, rehabilitation, and freshening.

Some of Margaux's top graduates include graded stakes winner Divisidero, who captured the Woodford Reserve Turf Classic (gr. IT) on Kentucky Derby day this year. Trained by Buff Bradley and owned by Gunpowder Farm, the Kitten's Joy colt also won the American Turf Stakes (gr. IIT) one year earlier at Churchill Downs. Other top runners include the Hills' own grade I winner Grand Arch and graded stakes winners Lightstream, Avanzare, Delightful Joy, and Solid Appeal.

Margaux is equipped to handle mare care and foaling, making it a full-service operation for owners/breeders as well.

"It is a great opportunity for owners to retire their race fillies here and come full circle," Hardy said. "We can be the small owner's big farm and can raise a horse from birth until their departure to the racetrack. They can have the confidence that this is their farm with a team that looks after everything."

NANCY TERHUNE TRAINING CENTER

Training racehorses has been all Nancy Terhune ever wanted to do. After finishing college in Virginia, she headed straight to Kentucky where her first job was with trainer Mark Fredwest.

By 1983 she had her trainer's license and began following her passion on the backsides of racetracks throughout the Midwest. Just as her career was progressing, illness derailed her dream. Several surgeries followed and the demands of the racetrack became difficult to manage.

"I needed an easier way to get back into the business," Terhune said.

A longtime friend and college classmate of Terhune's mother would open the door to her next opportunity. The friend, Sandy Dubose, owned a farm near Camden, S.C., and had her eyes on retirement, but she didn't want just anyone taking over her farm.

Terhune and Dubose met for the first time in 1997 and quickly reached an arrangement that allowed Dubose to live out her



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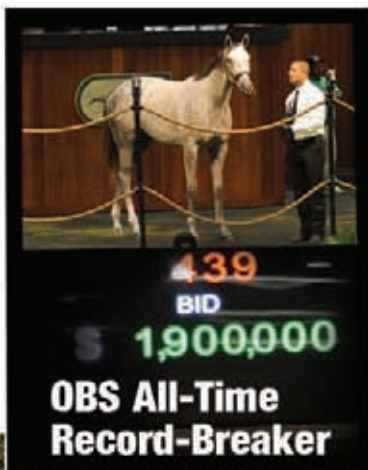
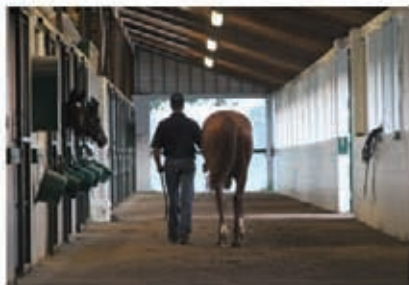


BENCHMARK TRAINING CENTER

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Matt Lyons, General Manager 859.361.1647 / John Gleason, Trainer 352.812.0811



retirement on the 55-acre farm while Terhune assumed ownership of the breaking and training business.

The operation was turn-key with a five-furlong track, three barns, a starting gate, several one-acre paddocks, and pastures between three and seven acres. When horses are ready for longer gallops, Terhune has Springdale Race Course only five minutes away. Home to the Carolina Cup and Colonial Cup steeplechases, Springdale has a one-mile dirt track, a two-mile European-style turf course, and a seven-furlong turf course.

“We do a lot of gate work, pretty much every day, and for a two-minute lick, we can go to Springdale,” Terhune said.

Terhune’s training center is rich in experience, too. Assistant trainer Juan Preciado has worked at the training center for 15 years, and exercise rider Patricio Guarda handles the breaking and works year-round with layups.

Grade III winner Thorny Crown is among the top horses to come out of the training center’s program. Raced by Dubose, he earned more than \$461,000. Other top horses include multiple stakes winners Silver Heart, who earned \$596,824; and Aspen-glow, who won four stakes and earned more than \$465,000. Both raced for Terhune.

“The greatest feature of the training center is its location,” said Terhune. “The weather is perfect here in the winter. It is cold enough where it is natural for the horses, but we don’t have to deal with frozen ground. We might lose up to seven days, but for the most part you can train every day.”

WEBB CARROLL TRAINING CENTER

Short of hanging a banner stating “Brought to you by Webb Carroll Training Center” in the winner’s circle, Belmont Park could not have provided a brighter spotlight the weekend of July 17-18 for the South Carolina operation.

Winners of both New York-bred features—the Rockville Centre Stakes and the Lynbrook Stakes—are graduates of Webb Carroll’s program, which operates near St. Matthews, S.C.

Runaway Lute, a son of Midnight Lute owned by Harold Lerner and Nehoc Stables and trained by Gary Contessa, won the Rockville Centre in his second start. He broke his maiden at first asking May 28 at Belmont Park.

The Lynbrook winner Miss Freeze is a daughter of Frost Giant, bought as a yearling by Carroll and Travis Durr for \$57,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred preferred



Miss Freeze

yearling sale and pinhooked through the Ocala Breeders’ Sales Co.’s April sale for \$150,000. Trained by David Cannizzo and owned by Joseph Bulger, Michael Imperio, and DJC Racing Stables, the Lynbrook was Miss Freeze’s first start.

“When our horses did what these two did recently, that pleases us,” said Carroll, who has been developing young racehorses for 32 years. “This is what the owners want, what the trainers want, and what we want. They run well because of the time we spend on these horses and the bottom they have when they leave us.”

Since 2008, Webb Carroll’s team has educated the winners of 231 stakes and 320 juvenile races and counting, through July 22. Some of the top graduates include Horse of the Year Havre de Grace, Preakness Stakes (gr. I) winner Shackleford, grade II winner Camelot Kitten, and Passion for Action, who beat Canadian sprint champion Stacked Deck in the Vigil Stakes (Can-III) in May.

The 50-plus-acre training center features state-of-the-art racing surfaces and facilities, including a seven-furlong irrigated dirt oval, six-furlong irrigated turf course, starting gate with an experienced crew, small and large turn-out paddocks, a swim facility, and an eight-horse exerciser. Besides breaking and training, the center also provides rehabilitation and

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therapy services under the watchful eyes of Drs. Jamie Carter and Tom Stinner of Southern Equine Services.

Durr, formerly an assistant trainer, is now a full partner and a key reason for the training center's success, according to Carroll.

"Travis and I have blended our knowledge," Carroll said. "We have the facility. We have the ability, and we work all year long to produce the best product possible."

WOODFORD THOROUGHBREDS

Woodford Thoroughbreds' Central Florida facility is a model for success in the field of breaking and training because of a unique approach that combines swimming with under-tack work. The combined regimens produce physically complete horses that are well-rounded in speed and stamina.

The 2015 addition of a dock alongside the pond at the center of Woodford's recently resurfaced five-furlong dirt track has proved to be a wise addition. Regular swimming sessions are easy on young horses' joints and bones, while still building the juveniles' cardiovascular strength.

"It's certainly added to their fitness," said farm general manager Matt Lyons. "After their morning routine on-track, the horses swim several times a week. It's really helped our gallop-out times at the 2-year-old sales as well."

The operation also features a 1½-mile European-style turf course carved into the surrounding woods and recently added three new paddocks and an exercising free walker.

"It is a great place to start out young horses," Lyons noted. "They get to see a little bit of everything when they go out there, including turkey and deer."

Woodford continuously evaluates its program to identify and manage any obstacle on the path to producing horses that are "gate-ready."

Farm trainer John Gleason said: "Early on we do a lot of ground work, line driving, getting them used to passing other horses before they get on the track. We've got a really kind surface, and we put a lot of miles on the horses. We train Christmas Eve and the day after Christmas—there's no four-day weekends

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around here. We have an ample staff with time and energy to pay attention to every horse's smallest detail."

After training season, the multi-functional farm transforms into a yearling prep facility, allowing Woodford's staff to stay together throughout the year.



Stopchargingmaria

The 1,000-acre facility, once home to Cloverleaf Farm, was reopened and rebranded by owner John Sykes in 2009. The seven-year-old operation hasn't wasted any time producing some of racing's elite horses that have found success both in the sales ring and on-track, headlined by Longines Breeders' Cup Distaff (gr. I) winner Stopchargingmaria. Woodford Thoroughbreds also sold a 2-year-old daughter of Tapit for a record \$1.9 million in 2015 at OBS April, and 2016 highlights include Fun (grade III stakes-placed in the Schuylerville Stakes at Saratoga July 22), Let It Ride Mom, R Incredible Life—all three winners in their first starts—and two-for-two stakes winner Cajun Delta Dawn.

MARGAUX FARM

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"It's always a smooth transition to full training when horses come in from Margaux Farm. Their strong fitness level makes it easy to go right on with them at the racetrack."

-Brian Lynch, Trainer

"We have been pleased with the education our yearlings have received at Margaux Farm. When the breaking process is complete they are ready to go straight in to our trainers."

-Pete Cline, Shawnee Farm

