

BREAKING AND TRAINING 2019-20

BUYING A YEARLING IS THE EASIEST PART of acquiring a racing prospect. Next for the young Thoroughbred lies many lessons to learn, 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 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 TRAINING CENTER

Situated on 100 acres in North Texas, Benchmark Training Center is about 40 miles east of Dallas, making it centrally located for horsemen racing not only at Lone Star Park but at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas, Remington Park in Oklahoma, and Harrah's Louisiana Downs near the Texas border in Bossier City, La. New to the Benchmark program is an expansion into the sales arena in both the Florida and California markets.

Benchmark Training Center is well known for producing top-line runners. The training center developed the 2017 sale-topper at the Texas Thoroughbred Association's sale of 2-year-olds in training at Lone Star Park with a Tale of the Cat colt selling to Louisiana-based Whispering Oaks Farm for \$120,000. Named Morethanfishin, the dark bay gelding broke his maiden impressively last May at Evangeline Downs.

Recent stakes winners that underwent their schooling at Benchmark, located near Quinlan, Texas, and operated by Gerwyn "Taffy" Jones and his wife, Jane, are One Liz and Ruby Sioux, who annexed the Jack Bishop Stakes at Prairie Meadows.

Texas Chrome, another Benchmark

grad, was a consistent stakes star from 2015-17, earning more than \$1 million, including the purses from scores in the grade 3 Super Derby and Oklahoma Derby.

Among the amenities offered by Benchmark is a five-eighths-mile training track. The recent addition of 16 new stalls makes room for 72 head. The facility also has a multi-stall starting gate, a Eurociser, and multiple turn-out paddocks, ranging from one to five acres, that are ideally suited for layups.

"Our track is a wide racetrack with a dirt surface," Jones said. "It is a very kind surface and has been very kind to the horses."

After working on the East Coast, Jones, who began honing his horsemanship more than 35 years ago in his native Wales, has been developing Benchmark over the last 20 years.

Jones estimates that some 80%-90% of the horses that receive early training at Benchmark win at least once after making the move to the racetrack.

Jones attributes the success of Benchmark's trainees to his patient training style, which contrasts to the hurried pace employed by many other facilities.

"I am bringing a little bit of a Euro-

pean technique to the method of training," Jones said. "I am not as aggressive as some Americans get with their young horses. We let the horses grow into themselves and mature to be the athletes they can be."

WEBB CARROLL TRAINING CENTER

Webb Carroll Training Center continues to turn out phenomenal graduates year-after-year, and the 2019 season is no exception so far. Country House, elevated to first in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1), spent seven months at the 50-acre-plus training center just outside St. Matthews, S.C. His half sister, the grade 3-winning English Channel filly Mitchell Road, also went through her early paces there.

The training center features state-of-the-art racing surfaces and facilities, including a seven-furlong irrigated dirt oval, a six-furlong irrigated turf course, a starting gate with an experienced crew, small and large turn-out paddocks, a swim facility, and an eight-horse Eurociser. Travis Durr, a lifelong horseman, took over as owner of the training center from Webb Carroll after working under the master for a decade.

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The center's philosophy has always been to condition youngsters in as much of a "racetrack atmosphere" as possible.

"We send them out in sets of 16 during the winter when we're full and do a lot of gate work. They get to see horses coming and going, which helps them acclimate to the racetrack a whole lot easier," said Durr. "We send out a sound, educated horse that trainers can move forward with."

Ninety-five percent of the focus at Webb Carroll is on breaking and training, but Durr also uses his sharp eye for a horse in assisting with buying yearlings. He bought My Italian Rabbi with trainer Jeremiah Englehart and watched the 2-year-old daughter of Competitive Edge win the Stillwater Stakes at Saratoga in her second start.

Webb Carroll's commitment to producing race-ready horses has produced a

slew of 2019 stakes winners that include Heavenhasmynikki, who took the May 11 Vagrancy Handicap (G3) at Belmont Park; Firenze Fire, who won Belmont's May 11 Runhappy Stakes; Pat on the Back, winner of the May 27 Commentator Stakes and the April 26 Affirmed Success Stakes at Belmont; and Dirty, who won the April 20 King T. Leatherbury Stakes at Laurel Park. Others include Irish Strait, winner of the Henry S. Clark Stakes at Laurel; Timeless Curls, winner of the Nellie Morse Stakes at Laurel; Harlan Punch, who won the Louisiana Stakes at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots; Hembree, winner of the El Prado Stakes at Gulfstream Park; a pair of Suffolk Downs scorers—Rise Jim Stakes winner Dr. Blarney and Last Dance Stakes winner Saint Alfred—and Armistice Day, winner of the July 20 Toronto Cup Stakes at Woodbine.

The future continues to look bright from the early talent shown by 2-year-olds Sweet Kisses, a Carpe Diem filly who won a six-furlong maiden special weight at Saratoga July 19; and Bricktop, a Perfect Soul gelding who aced his June 7 debut going five furlongs at Laurel Park.

CLEAR CREEK STUD

A wealth of experience, full-service facilities, and an unwavering commitment to horsemanship make Clear Creek Stud one of the leading breaking and training outfits in the South. The 300-acre farm near Folsom, La., is an hour's drive from New Orleans and the state's premier racetrack, Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots, but the graduates from its training program will find success at tracks throughout the country.

"We don't do anything fancy here; we just take the time," said Val Murrell,



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owner and general manager of Clear Creek Stud, who has been with the farm founded by Jack Lohman since 1977. “For the first 30 days you wouldn’t be able to tell our horses from Western Pleasure horses. We want broke horses.”

Through a progression of longeing, driving, round pen work, paddock work, and loping and jogging on the farm’s five-furlong track, racing prospects at Clear Creek Stud will be ready for anything when they’re sent to a trainer.

“The only thing I don’t have is the traffic for them to get used to, but they still learn to work in company and some bumping stirrups and learn to be comfortable whether between horses, a horse and rail, whatever,” Murrell said. “When they go to the big city and see 100 horses, it might make them pick up their head for a minute or two, but that is about it. Our horses leave here comfortable in their own skin. We go out of our way to make sure they don’t overreact and fall apart.”

Top horses to come out of Clear Creek’s training program include Sunbean, who won 15 black-type stakes and earned more than \$1.17 million, and grade 1-placed stakes winner Givemeaminit, who is by the farm’s stallion and four-time Louisiana horse of the year Star Guitar.

In addition to breaking and training, Clear Creek Stud offers lay-up and convalescence services, boards mares and handles foaling, offers sales prep, and has a roster of six stallions.

The farm typically breaks and trains about 75 horses each year, with about 60% shipping in from auctions around the country.

“We have a great bunch of clients that have been with us for a lot of years,” Murrell said. “We’ll often go to a sale with a horse owned by one client and bring that horse back to the farm with a different owner.”

The facilities at Clear Creek include six barns with more than 100 stalls, a Euro-ciser, standard walking machines, and swimming facilities. The farm has 33 employees on staff and two veterinarians, one on-site and one who makes rounds every day.

“I tell my clients all the time that there is nothing like visiting the farm,” Murrell said. “You can come day or night, and you will not be dissatisfied with anything you see. They tell you a picture is worth a thousand words. Well, a visit is priceless.”

DOUBLE DIAMOND FARM

Consistency is a key benchmark when it comes to raising, racing, and succeeding in the Thoroughbred business. Donald Dizney purchased what is now his Double Diamond Farm in central Florida in 1983, and the numbers of top-level runners that have come off the property are a testament to the quality and consistency of the land, world-class facilities, and the caring staff.

Double Diamond has been a private entity for some time, but the 2019-20 breaking and training season marks the first year the gates will be open to welcome new clientele.

In April, Double Diamond announced the hire of Garrett Smith as the farm’s new trainer.

Smith joins Double Diamond following a four-year stint at GoldMark Farm, which is also near Ocala. Prior to that, he managed a training center in South Carolina where he worked with such stakes stars as Congrats, Flatter, First Samurai, and Madcap Escapade, and he also served as

farm and racing manager at Stonecrest Farm, where he worked with multiple graded stakes-winning multi-millionaire Perfect Drift.

“The sky is the limit. It’s a beautiful farm. We can train on dirt and turf, and we have lush, spacious paddocks that make it beneficial for lay-ups and rehabilitation as well,” Smith said. “I am very excited about the opportunity to work with this first-class operation that Mr. Dizney and general manager Roger Brand have assembled.”

Double Diamond encompasses 550 acres and devotes 60-70% of the property to the breaking and training division.

“We have every bit of 100 acres of grass turnout for the training division,” Brand noted. “We have only 60 stalls, so that’s a nice number.”

The centerpiece is the five-eighths-mile dirt training track that is safe, well-maintained, and has excellent drainage. Double Diamond also has a turf gallop with a slight incline.

Beyond the top-level facilities is Double Diamond’s philosophy.

“We’re able to set our own schedule. We have our own track, our own barns, and we don’t have to work on anybody’s schedule except our own,” Smith said. “We’re personalized. Each horse is different—we



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"The goal is to give young horses some confidence so they'll be more successful when they go to the races. We don't rush them, and we want each horse to have a good foundation."

Another hallmark of the Double Diamond experience is "Honesty, integrity, and communication," according to Brand. "We treat our clients the way we'd like to be treated."

GRASSROOTS TRAINING AND SALES

David McKathan and Jody Mihalic's Grassroots Training and Sales focuses on building strength, consistency, and soundness in the horses that pass through their central Florida operation. The latest sensation to display that foundation is William and Corrine Heiligbrodt's Mitole, winner of this year's Runhappy Metropolitan Mile (G1) and Churchill Downs Stakes Presented by TwinSpires.com (G1).

Grassroots broke and trained an Eskendereya colt purchased for \$20,000 from the 2016 Keeneland September yearling sale, and the following year at the Ocala Breeders' Sales' April sale of 2-year-olds in training, the Heiligbrodts' East Hickman Bloodstock signed

the ticket for \$140,000.

"I think the greatest thing for those kinds of horses with us is we don't do real high-end pinhooks and there's good horses at any price," Mihalic said.

Along with scoring in seven consecutive races, Mitole has racked up more than \$1.6 million in earnings.

"It's so fun to watch those everyday little horses pop up and be potential champions," Mihalic added.


Grassroots specializes in pinhooking yearlings to 2-year-olds and offers breaking, training, and lay-up services. The property includes a five-eighths-mile dirt track shared in The Gallops Training Center. "One of the great things about our farm is that our barn is one-eighth-mile long, giving us a quarter mile indoor track, which gives us the ability to train even during Florida's weather challenges and hurricane season. This year we also renovated the barn and added an equine swimming pool."

When taking a 2-year-old to the sales, Mihalic says Grassroots aims to sell a sound horse with stamina, substance, and strength. "Each individual horse's training program is tailored to their mental fitness as we believe a horse's psychological soundness is just as important as its physical soundness."

Call Paul, winner of last year's Saratoga Special Stakes Presented by Miller Lite (G2) and this year's Swale Stakes (G3), is another current Grassroots success story. Grassroots purchased the Friesan Fire colt for \$20,000 at the 2017 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale. When they brought him back to the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-olds in training sale, Call Paul was purchased for \$210,000 by Michael Dubb and has earned \$476,020 for Dubb, David Simon, Bethlehem Stables, and Bruce Irom.

Grassroots also had success at this spring's 2-year-old sales with Fiftyfive Strong and Lemon Kick. They purchased the former, a Wicked Strong colt, for \$27,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale and sold him for \$240,000 to Manganaro Bloodstock at the Midlantic juvenile sale. The latter, a Lemon Drop Kid colt purchased for \$95,000 at the Keeneland September yearling sale, sold for \$290,000 to Dennis O'Neill at the OBS April auction.

"They got a huge bottom on them. Horses love to win, and our goal is to put our clients in the winner's circle when they leave our program," Mihalic said. "Selling a sound horse with the capability to win is our number one goal."



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HIDDEN BROOK FLORIDA

A proven track record is essential to the success of any business, especially when that track record refers to an actual race-track. When Hidden Brook partners Mark Roberts, Dan Hall, Sergio de Sousa, Jack Brothers, and Kevin Latta purchased the former Scanlon Training Center near Wiliston, Fla., just outside of Ocala, three years ago, they were buying a facility with a history of success at the highest levels of racing. Scanlon alumni that received their early breaking and training lessons over the storied racetrack include classic winners Rags to Riches, Afleet Alex, Bernardini, and Sarava; grade 1 winners Unbridled's Song, Stevie Wonderboy, Lion Heart, War Pass, and Stay Thirsty. Now under the banner of Hidden Brook Florida, the facility remains a proving ground for world-class runners. Jaywalk, champion 2-year-old filly of 2018 on the strength of her dominance over freshman rivals in the Frizette Stakes (G1) and Tito's Handmade Vodka Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1), served notice to her division rivals with a nine-length romp July 6 in the Delaware Oaks (G3). With that victory, the gray daughter of Cross Traffic now boasts a résumé with five wins from nine starts and earnings of \$1,623,500.

Other recent graduates of the Hidden Brook Florida breaking and training program include Bourbon Resolution, winner of the Ben Ali Stakes (G3) at Keeneland in April; Xpressbet Fountain of Youth Stakes (G1) runner-up and Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes (both G1) contender Bourbon War; and Mother Goose Stakes (G2) winner Unchained Melody, who are among the first crop to graduate from the program.

"I'm convinced we are fortunate to own and operate one of the finest facilities in Florida," noted Hidden Brook Florida partner and trainer Roberts. "Both historically, going back to the early years, and now with our recent string of successes, the results are a testament to our program and facility, both of which we are very proud of and look to continue to build on."

Hidden Brook Florida has aggressively pursued new construction and improvements at the training center to accommodate its growing clientele. After adding a new 32-stall barn in 2018, construction was completed this spring on an additional 12-stall barn, bringing the number of stalls to 102. The team at Hidden Brook is also exploring the possibility of adding a turf course in the not-too-distant future.


Past, present, and future, Hidden Brook

Florida is indeed a proving ground for developing young equine athletes and is open to outside clients seeking to capture some of the magic that the facility regularly produces.

MARGAUX FARM

A full-service operation on 640 acres of rolling land near Lexington, Margaux boasts three separate training tracks, including a five-furlong all weather European-style gallop that undulates over hills; a straight 1¼-mile all-weather track; and a 1¼-mile turf course that has an uphill finish. The farm is ideally located just a short drive from the Keeneland and Fasig-Tipton auction grounds and is close to some of the best veterinary clinics in the country. With a resident broodmare band also on the farm, Margaux has the unique ability to raise horses that then transition to its training division, return back to the farm for lay-ups, and eventually to broodmare careers for fillies that are retained by their owners.

The farm also continually upgrades its facilities, having added last fall a new 26-stall rehab barn that features an Aquatred, a cold saltwater spa, a salt therapy room, and two Theraplate stalls. But perhaps the biggest addition came in March



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when Richard Budge took over the reins as general manager of Margaux Farm.

Only a few months into his new job, Budge is raising the bar at the Central Kentucky farm already renowned for its high-quality facilities, customer service, and string of stakes-winning graduates.

A native of England and former head trainer at WinStar Farm for 17 years, Budge oversaw the development of multiple grade 1 winners as well as Triple Crown champion Justify.

“Richard’s experience and reputation speak for themselves. He’s a great asset to the farm,” said Amanda Motz, who is head of client relations and marketing for the farm owned by Jim and Susan Hill. The farm’s most recent stakes-winning graduates include Allied Racing Stable’s Mr. Money, who has reeled off three consecutive graded stakes wins since Kentucky Derby Day—the May 4 Pat Day Mile Stakes presented by LG&E and KU (G3), the Matt Winn Stakes (G3), and Indiana Derby (G3). The colt is being considered for the Aug. 24 Runhappy Travers Stakes (G1) or Sept. 21 Pennsylvania Derby (G1).

Other top runners of 2019 include undefeated juvenile Mr. Hustle, who became a stakes winner in his second lifetime start by $\frac{1}{4}$ lengths in the listed Victoria Stakes at Woodbine. The gelded son of Declaration of War is owned by William Werner and trained by Roger Attfield.

Both colts started their careers under the watchful eye of farm trainer Dermot Littlefield, who is known for his patient style of training, allowing young horses to develop physically, as well as mentally, at their own pace, with the end goal being happy, willing horses that enjoy their job and are ready to handle the rigors of the racetrack once they leave the farm.

“We’re very fortunate to have the team of people in place that we do, from management to assistants to grooms,” Motz said. “Good people make all the difference.”

“We have a nice group of 2-year-olds this year that we’re hoping have a strong summer and fall before going on to successful 3-year-old campaigns.”

MIACOMET FARM

Bill Harrigan’s Miacomet Farm sits on 176 acres just north of Lexington.

His breaking and training operation is different from most others, in that Harrigan’s operation takes young horses further along toward their career on the racetrack. Having given the yearlings their early lessons, Harrigan sends them to Payson Park in Florida where he continues his hands-on training program until they are ready to enter the trainers’ barns as 2-year-olds.

“You have to get to know each horse and develop their personality,” said Harrigan, whose program includes fundamentals such as barn manners and training in company.

The goal for Miacomet Farm is to create positive experiences that the horses enjoy at a young age. With graduates of the breaking and training program at Miacomet Farm sitting at 28 grade 1 winners and counting, and a résumé that includes U.S. Horses of the Year A.P. Indy and Mineshaft, Eclipse champion 2-year-old filly Storm Flag Flying, and the more than \$3.6 million-earning classic winner Tonalist, Harrigan believes that the scenic land on which the farm sits is a major factor in the foundation of the program and the experience that the horses in his care receive.

SIX K’S

Scott Kintz has seen virtually everything in his career as a horseman, from training on the racetrack to caring for premium stock on Thoroughbred farms, and that experience will serve him well as he cuts the ribbon on his Six K’s Training and Sales operation, based in the Ocala area.

Kintz, 50, most recently worked for Mandy Pope’s Whisper Hill Farm, where he will continue as a consultant going forward. But it’s been his dream for many years to run his own operation, and he is finally realizing it with Six K’s, which is named in honor of his family—wife Kim and their four children.

Both Kintz’ father and grandfather were racetrack trainers in the Midwest, and Kintz cut his teeth learning from his family before becoming an assistant trainer for Bill Helmbrecht, winning training titles at Turfway Park.

“I was running my own division for Bill when I was 19,” noted Kintz. “Then I went to a sale, bought a couple of cheap yearlings, and went out on my own.”

WILLIAM B. HARRIGAN

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After winning races at Churchill Downs, Keeneland, and River Downs, Kintz got married, and knew the nomadic life of a trainer didn't sync with starting a family. So he became farm manager for Elisabeth Alexander in Ohio, took a position with Taylor Made Farm, where he stayed for a decade, and then went on to Woodford Thoroughbreds and then Whisper Hill Farm.

Now, with all but one of his children grown and off the reservation, Kintz knows the time is right to start Six K's. He is leasing Brylynn Farm near Reddick, where young horses will be broken over the 100 acres there. When they are going well in the field, the horses will head to Ocala Jockey Club, which has a five-eighths-mile training track and plenty of turnout space.

"They have great barns there, open and airy," Kintz said. "There's a starting gate and everything you need in a training center. We are up and running and accepting horses. We hope to get some coming out of the Saratoga sale, and then, of course, out of Keeneland September."

Kintz can draw on his wealth of experience to impart lessons to yearlings and 2-year-olds.

"Young horses have always been my passion," he said. "I've always felt good with them because I have the patience to put them through their paces and have them do everything right before they're sent off

to the next level. I have done a lot of other things to make a living, but I've always loved training young horses, figuring out how to make them happy and sound, and get them to win for you."

WHITE PINE THOROUGHBREDS

Youth and enthusiasm can carry a business a long way, especially when a new outfit strikes early. Justin Wojczynski's White Pine Thoroughbreds near Lexington is a fresh face in the breaking and training and juvenile sales consignment business, and he's off and running. His initial consignment to the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale in 2018 featured a filly by Twirling Candy—Solerina, by Powerscourt, purchased for \$20,000 as a yearling. The filly, Concrete Rose, graced the cover of the July 13 *BloodHorse* after winning the \$750,000 Belmont Oaks Invitational Stakes (G1T).

"When we bought her, she was just a really pretty, easy-going filly," Wojczynski said. "She got on with her job without any fuss. In her early training she was green, but after she'd get going an eighth of a mile, she would level off, get down, and really roll. She's been very special for us."

Wojczynski wasn't raised in the Thoroughbred industry but worked for several outfits, including Pin Oak Stud, Lane's End, Rusty Arnold, and Cary Frommer. He sought to learn as many different aspects

as he could in the game and found his favorite part of the business was breaking and training.

"It fit me best," he said. "Part of the joy for me is seeing these babies develop into athletes. It's a good time in the horse's life to be a part of. Whether I'm preparing for the racetrack or the sales, my focus is producing a horse that has a good foundation that can go straight on."

The breaking process at White Pine Thoroughbreds is pretty simple with the goal of keeping the horses outside and in turnout as much as possible. Once the horses are broken and jogging well, they are transitioned to The Thoroughbred Center near Lexington where they receive their more important lessons.

"Being at The Thoroughbred Center, the babies are with older horses, younger horses, all sorts of horses," Wojczynski said. "We teach them to back up, gallop with horses to their inside, to be the horse on the inside...being located there is a big advantage for them because once they get to the races or the sales, they've already seen a lot of things. The facility is owned and managed by Keeneland. There is turnout, and the track itself has an excellent surface year-round."

White Pine Thoroughbreds has already proved it can develop and sell grade 1 horses...and it wears that badge proudly.

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WOODFORD THOROUGHBREDS

When a pair of grade 1 winners comes out of a particular Thoroughbred program, it's as good a sales tool as there is. So, last year was a pretty good one for Woodford Thoroughbreds, as they bred, raised, and sold both Midnight Bisou and Discreet Lover.

Midnight Bisou won the Mother Goose and Cotillion stakes (both G1) last year and also ran third in the Longines Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1). Discreet Lover finished an excellent 2018 campaign with a victory in the Jockey Club Gold Cup Stakes (G1) and participated in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1). In addition, training graduate Somelikeithotbrown finished 3rd in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1T).

So, what's for an encore? Easy. Midnight Bisou has already racked up five stakes wins in 2019, including scores in the grade 1 Apple Blossom Handicap and Ogden Phipps Stakes, a Breeders' Cup Win and You're In, and, most recently, the July 20 Molly Pitcher Stakes (G3) at Monmouth. As well, there are already six 2-year-olds of 2019 that have found the winner's circle after coming out of the Woodford Thoroughbred program. The training center has produced winners Bull of Bayern (June 26, Belmont Park) and Time Limit

Don't miss our next Breaking & Training Section in the August 24 issue.

Deadline: August 15

Bonus distribution at the Florida, Iowa, Texas August, and Canadian yearling sales

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(Belmont, June 23). Juvenile sale grads so far are Scoring (by Justin Phillip, June 16 at Santa Anita), Long Weekend (by Majesticperfection, Churchill Downs, June 23), Goldentill (by Goldencents, Prairie Meadows, May 17), and A Girl Like Me (by Honor Code, Prairie Meadows, July 12).

"They're coming out running," said Shannon Castagnola, Woodford Thoroughbreds' director of marketing. "It's exceptional when horses can go straight from our training program to the winner's circle."

The program is headed by John Gleason. Gleason, who has been with Woodford

for more than six years, has a wealth of experience, having previously worked for Bryan and Holly Rice's Woodside Ranch where he had his hands on horses for such major owners as Robert and Beverly Lewis, W.T. Young's Overbrook Farm, and JMS Stable. His knowledge and horsemanship are irreplaceable. Gleason's team includes assistant Quincey Hoppel, a fifth-generation horseman.

Spanning more than 1,000 acres near Ocala, Fla., Woodford Thoroughbreds prides itself on the amount of turnout paddocks it offers, the on-premises swim facility, and access daily to quality professionals, i.e. vet, farrier, acupuncturist. It boasts one of North America's only 1½-mile and half-mile turf gallops, which are carved into the surrounding woods.

The Woodford team isn't resting on their laurels. A big key to the success of Woodford graduates is the five-furlong training track. Always considered a very safe surface, Castagnola reports that, "We took the dirt track down to its base, had it laser-leveled and a new irrigation system installed, and then we put the cushion back on. It had always been a very safe surface, but continuing maintenance keeps it that way. Now it's top notch. It's really important to us to reinvest in the facility." **BH**



Concrete Rose: G1 winner, White Pine Grad

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