SOUTHEAST

ALABAMA FLORIDA GEORGIA MISSISSIPPI NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA TENNESSEE



A Gem in Florida's Horse Country

DOUBLE DIAMOND FARM'S FOUR DECADES OF SUCCESS

By CYNTHIA MCFARLAND

A LIFELONG BELIEVER THAT THE land itself is a significant factor in raising great horses, Florida native Donald R. Dizney has successfully proved that theory over the past 40 years.

When it comes to Ocala's horse country, it's a challenge to find a more scenic setting than Dizney's iconic Double Diamond Farm.

Majestic oaks veiled with Spanish moss and gently rolling fertile pastures create the backdrop for this long-standing operation which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2023.

The land that has been a working horse farm for nearly six decades was one of the earliest Thoroughbred farms in Marion

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH DEC. 4

Advertisers' Index

Double Diamond Farm12 doublediamondfarm.com	26
Honor Hill Farmshonorhillfarms.com	
Ocala Stud Farm11 ocalastud.com	1

Pleasant Acres119, 121, 123, 125, 127 pleasantacresstallions.com/stallions

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Liam's Map—Amazement, by Bernardini 2023 FEE: \$6,500 S&N



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				ВТ	Rstrct				Cumu	lative	
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2023 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	SWnrs/ Wns	SW/	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2023 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
	Mosquito (08, Yes It's True)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Foolish Steve, \$35,720)	\$35,720	3	0	1.04	0.27
- 1	2 Indy (01, A.P. Indy)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Red Raider Xpress, \$9,800)	\$9,800	22	0	0.53	1.55

^{*} includes Southern Hemisphere foals



Spanish moss provides an alluring backdrop at the majestic farm in Ocala, Fla.

County. Robert (Bob) Marks developed it as Robin's Nest Farm in the early 1960s and built the training track, several of the original barns, and the house.

Notable stallions that once stood at the farm include Noholme II, Ridan, Bold Reason, Honest Pleasure, Northern Afleet, and Runaway Groom.

Although the farm was right at 300 acres when Dizney purchased it in 1983, additional land purchases have increased the operation to its current 560 acres.

RACING GAME

Since establishing Double Diamond, Dizney has become a fixture in the industry. Raised in a military family, his patriotism is visible around the farm and his red-white-and-blue racing silks are among the most recognizable in the country. He is proud to have bred and raced more than 780 winners and more than 60 stakes winners.

Dizney's first major homebred success story was Wekiva Springs, a multiple grade 1 winner of \$1,512,575. The big gray became a successful Florida sire and stood at the farm throughout his career. He remained a beloved pensioner and one of Dizney's personal favorites until his death in 2014.

Dizney bought and campaigned Florida-bred graded stakes winner Anet to millionaire status.

Among many other standout racehorses bred and/or raced by Dizney/ Double Diamond are Collusion Illusion, Skye Diamonds, Mybride Barbara, Regal Groom, Pappas Swing, Cutter Sam, Dixie High, I'mbackinaction, Diamond Omi, Joint Effort, Semoran, Dude Fantasy, Princess Bettina, Napa Candy, Alex the Groom, and Honest Princess (these last two both being champions in Puerto Rico).

"Racing is Mr. Dizney's passion. That is why all this happened," said Roger Brand, Double Diamond president/COO and Dizney's son-in-law.

Although Dizney has made a name for himself breeding to race, he's also had success in breeding to sell.

He is the breeder of Distinction, the aptly named Seattle Slew colt out of Dizney's graded stakes-winning mare Omi. The colt became the highestpriced Florida-bred yearling to sell at



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				ВТ	Rstrct		Cur			Cumulative		
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2023 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	SWnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2023 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index	
1	Khozan (12, Distorted Humor), Journeyman Stallions	\$6,500	185/99	5/8	2/5	(Foggy Night, \$378,800)	\$5,749,187	*344	14	1.24	1.18	
2	Jess's Dream (12, Curlin), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	102/52	4/7	2/4	(Intrepid Daydream, \$247,850)	\$3,023,731	*197	7	0.93	1.37	
3	Brethren (08, Distorted Humor), Arindel Farm	\$4,000	106/52	3/4	1/3	(Clapton, \$530,560)	\$2,713,082	280	12	1.16	1.38	
4	First Dude (07, Stephen Got Even), Double Diamond Farm	\$7,500	89/41	3/3	0/3	(Maryquitecontrary, \$277,300)	\$2,654,837	492	16	1.09	1.11	
5	Adios Charlie (08, Indian Charlie), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	92/38	2/2	2/2	(Bouncer, \$171,675)	\$1,988,773	370	12	1.20	1.12	
6	Social Inclusion (11, Pioneerof the Nile), Briardale Farm	Private	57/30	2/3	0/2	(Gordian Knot, \$178,160)	\$1,764,922	109	4	1.04	0.99	
7	Cajun Breeze (08, Congrats), Stonehedge Farm South	\$5,000	64/33	2/4	0/2	(Dean Delivers, \$237,560)	\$1,717,656	115	7	1.17	1.19	
8	Valiant Minister (13, Candy Ride), Bridlewood Farm	\$5,000	41/22	1/3	0/1	(Bentornato, \$311,830)	\$1,344,967	79	2	1.02	0.96	
9	Neolithic (13, Harlan's Holiday), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$5,000	56/31	1/1	0/1	(Poiema, \$93,583)	\$1,265,096	98	3	0.95	0.89	
10	Gone Astray (06, Dixie Union), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$2,500	61/26	0/0	0/0	(Richiesonaroll, \$122,900)	\$999,237	*347	10	0.90	1.03	
11	Greenpointcrusader (13, Bernardini), Ocala Stud	\$3,500	33/24	1/1	1/1	(Mia's Crusade, \$162,750)	\$966,838	61	1	0.78	1.08	
12	Noble Bird (11, Birdstone), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	49/22	0/0	0/0	(Classic Car Wash, \$178,225)	\$868,223	80	2	0.70	1.17	
13	Awesome Slew (13, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	42/24	0/0	0/0	(Awesome Pic, \$84,285)	\$805,287	73	1	0.98	1.42	
14	Big Drama (06, Montbrook)	Died, 2021	36/12	1/1	1/1	(Drama Chorus, \$112,020)	\$751,181	299	5	0.87	1.15	
15	Awesome of Course (00, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$2,000	30/18	0/0	0/0	(Little Demon, \$131,196)	\$748,498	*283	12	1.22	1.22	

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

auction when he brought \$4.2 million at the 2000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Yearling sale.

STALLION ROSTER

Double Diamond currently stands two stallions: First Dude and Bahamian Squall. Both are Dizney homebreds who were broken and trained at the farm and became graded stakes winners.

First Dude (Stephen Got Even—Run Sarah Run, by Smart Strike), is a multiple graded stakes winner of \$1,442,140. His most dominating victories came at age 4 when he defeated stellar fields in the Hollywood Gold Cup Handicap (G1) and Alysheba Stakes (G3). First Dude also placed in multiple grade 1 races, including the Preakness Stakes, Belmont Stakes, Travers Stakes, Haskell Invitational Stakes, and Blue Grass Stakes.

First Dude has sired five graded winners and 16 black-type winners. He is the sire of Shamrock Rose, the 2018 Eclipse Award champion female sprinter and winner of the 2018 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (G1). She earned \$968,962 during her career.

In 2023, First Dude ranked fourth among Florida sires with \$2,599,090 in progeny earnings through Nov. 20. His top earner in 2022-23 was Maryquite-contrary, a graded stakes winner. He is also Florida's leading active lifetime sire with progeny earnings of \$25,741,561, as of Nov. 20.

Bahamian Squall (Gone West—Midway Squall, by Storm Bird) is a graded stakes winner of \$582,920 who won



Florida native and owner of Double Diamond Farm, Donald R. Dizney was raised in a military family and the farm reflects his patriotism

the Smile Sprint Handicap (G2) and is multiple graded stakes-placed.

Bahamian Squall has sired two blacktype winners and has progeny earnings of \$3,416,861 through Nov. 20. His top performer is stakes winner Running Memories.

FOCUS ON TRAINING

There's no dispute that Florida has secured its niche as a haven for breaking and training. Double Diamond has been making the most of those natural advantages.

"You do not miss days training because of bad weather, snow, and ice. We get a spring forward. Being able to have more natural grazing and time outside, horses can flourish earlier," observed Brand.

A majority of the farm—about twothirds of the land—is dedicated to the training division.

The focus has expanded in recent years and the training operation went public in 2019. Farm trainer Garrett Smith came on board the same year the training division opened to outside clients.

Double Diamond boasts a five-furlong irrigated dirt track with a four-horse starting gate and half-mile Europeanstyle turf gallop with rails.

"As active as Mr. Dizney is in business,



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2023 LEADING SIRES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

				ВТ	Rstrct			Cumu			
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2023 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	SWnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2023 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
	1 Done Talking (09, Broken Vow), Elloree Training Center	\$1,500	23/13	0/0	0/0	(Haint Blue, \$75,580)	\$459,263	50	0	1.03	0.95
	2 Straight Talking (06, Dixieland Band)	N/A	4/2	1/1	0/1	(Swayin to and Fro, \$170,000)	\$256,450	30	1	1.03	0.90
;	3 Wicked Rich (06, Yes It's True)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Canoochee, \$34,678)	\$90,031	22	0	0.82	1.21

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals



Dizney homebred and grade 1 winner First Dude entered stud at Double Diamond in 2012

he is equally active in the farm," said Smith. "The Dizneys come to watch the horses train several times a week. They watch every horse run; they love the game and the Thoroughbred business."

The well-maintained dirt track is GPSgraded twice a year for consistency. The gallop features a graduated incline, which helps improve stamina and provides a different workout than training on a flat surface.

"Our turf course is more European style, so it has big hills. The horses must use different parts of their bodies going

More than 780 winners, including 60 stakes winners, have been bred and raised on Dizney's farm

up and down hills. You can see they are having fun. They have their ears pointed forward and are looking around. Especially when we are rehabbing horses, you can see their whole disposition changes on that," Smith said.

"The track handles the rain and drains well, but if we get monsoon rains, we don't have to miss any time training because we still have the grass gallop and the woods," he noted.

The "woods" refers to the manicured 35 acres of wooded trails used during the training and lay-up process. Miles of carefully maintained trails wind through this shady tranquil area situated far enough away from the racetrack that horses cannot even see it.

"You have to develop both sides of the horse-brain and body-and riding here is really good for their brains," said Smith. "We can let them drop their heads, be a horse and just walk. It changes their whole attitude."

Smith finds that exercise on the quiet wooded trails is especially good for nervous, high-strung fillies.

"Those fillies who fret and come out of the feed tub, this gets them happy and eating well," he said.

"After we leave the round pen when we are starting babies, we jog and ride in these woods for two to three weeks before ever going to the track. Most of the babies ride in groups or pairs," said Smith, who is usually on a pony horse if needed.

He found that older horses sent to the farm for a break from racing also benefit from riding the trails. "We just ride them. They do not have to see a racetrack and it really helps them decompress," said Smith.

Double Diamond's training tracks are private and not shared with any other operation, so they are as meticulously



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"You do not miss days training because of bad weather, snow, and ice," said Roger Brand, Double Diamond president/COO and Dizney's son-in-law

maintained as the rest of the farm.

"We totally cater to our horses. We get done training when we get done," said Smith. "We're not on any timetable when the racetrack is going to close."

Even though the farm has abundant acreage dedicated to the training division, numbers are still capped at 75 horses. Brand explains that this is done to ensure all horses receive the attention they deserve—whether they are at the farm for breaking and training, rehab, or lay-up.

"We're really fortunate to have the facilities to be able to individualize a program for our clients' horses," said Smith.

As of mid-November 2023, there were 45 yearlings at the farm for breaking.

Older horses and lay-ups typically come for the winter. The training division consists of about two-thirds yearlings and one-third older horses.

"We get a combination of lay-up and rehab horses and regularly have postsurgery horses in for rehab," said Brand.

The three 26-stall training barns are laid out to provide convenient access for turnout. Approximately 100 acres are dedicated to paddocks where horses can relax and graze. Every training horse enjoys time outside in individual grass—not dirt—paddocks.

That time outside on good grass and in a calm atmosphere is also hugely beneficial for lay-up and rehab horses.

"You'd be hard pressed to find anyone

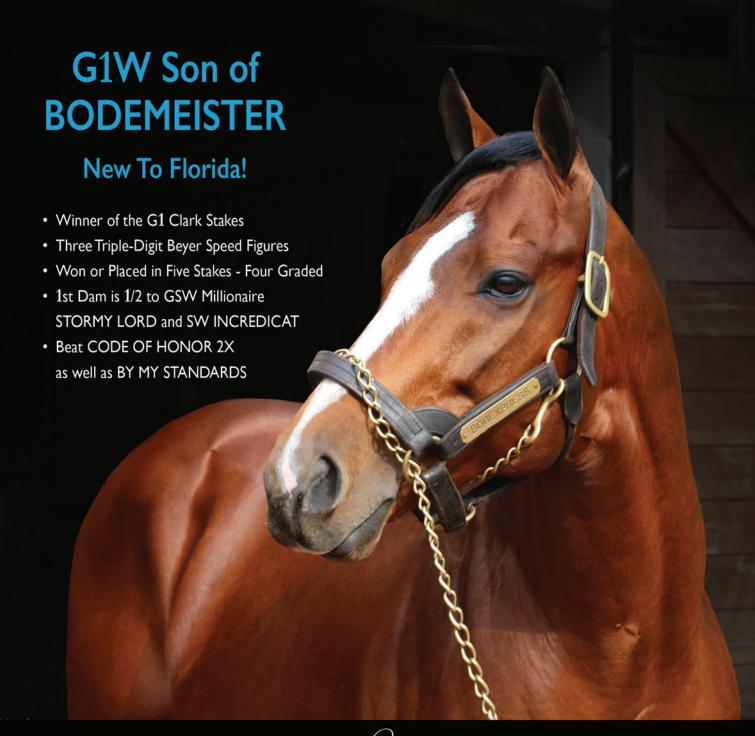
in Marion County that can compete with our turnout space," said Brand.

Recent Double Diamond training and lay-up grads include multiple graded stakes winners Endorsed; Anarchist; and Millie Girl; multiple graded stakesplaced winner Pride of the Nile; and stakes-placed winner Tahoma (the first United States winner by Triple Crown winner Justify), to mention only a few.

LOOKING AHEAD

In addition to bringing in more outside horses for breaking and training at Double Diamond, plans call for increasing the number of client yearlings there for sales prep.

"We want to grow the weanling-to-



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SOUTHEAST

yearling division because we have such beautiful acreage and facilities. We can withstand having more horses. We have the space to grow the weanling and yearling division and never run out of grass," said Brand.

The Dizney family continues to breed and race. They maintain a band of 12 to 14 broodmares, which includes both retired homebred fillies they raced and mares bought specifically to join the broodmare band.

"We are actively involved in breeding and racing our own. We do buy some yearlings. We do not limit ourselves to just racing horses by our own stallions," said Brand.

"We have updated our broodmare band and try to put 10 to 12 yearlings into the racing stable each year," added Brand, noting that Dizney uses multiple trainers and races in Florida, Kentucky, New York, and California.

"We are active in all realms. We sell mares, weanlings, yearlings, and we buy bloodstock at all ages," he said. "We try to stay diverse. We want the farm to pay its own way. Mr. Dizney loves this and is here on the farm 75% of the time. He is actively involved in all aspects of the farm."

Dizney's career was dedicated to significant contributions to the medical profession, with a particular focus on his lifelong commitment to developing hospitals and healthcare facilities offering specialized care. He is also known for his firm commitment to investing in research, education, advocacy, health, and human services.

Throughout the years, Dizney has maintained an active hand in the Thoroughbred industry. He has been a member of The Jockey Club, while serving eight years as a steward. He served on the board of trustees of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, and as a board member and past president of the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association. He was past president of the Florida Horse Council and a past board member of the Breeders' Cup executive committee. He is currently serving on the board of directors of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation.

Hands-on is how Dizney has made an impact in Thoroughbred racing through the decades, and it is exactly how he plans to stay in the game.



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Standing: First Dude & Bahamian Squall
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MAGIC ON TAP

Tapit / Aubby K, by Street Sense

NEOLITHIC

Harlan's Holiday / Swingit, by Victory Gallop

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