

MID-ATLANTIC

DELAWARE MARYLAND NEW JERSEY PENNSYLVANIA
VIRGINIA WEST VIRGINIA



Bright View Farm sits on 275 acres in Chesterfield, N.J., and is where grade 1 winner Book'em Danno was born

Book'em Danno: Bright Light for Garden State

**GRADE 1 WINNER REWARDS BREEDERS AND ELEVATES
SIRE BUCCHERO'S PROFILE**

By TOM PEDULLA

CHRISTINE CONNELLY, OWNER of Bright View Farm in Chesterfield, N.J., fondly recalls gazing into one of her large pastures and admiring Adorabella, who would become the dam of grade 1 winner Book'em Danno.

Although the Ghostzapper mare had gone unraced, Connelly and Gregory Kilka, acting on advice from Chris Gracie of Gracie Bloodstock in Middleburg, Va., had purchased her for

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2024 LEADING SIRES IN NEW JERSEY

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2024 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Sea Wizard (13, Uncle Mo), Pegasus Stud	\$5,000	23/13	3/4	0/3	(Sea Streak, \$218,190)	\$1,099,568	34	4	1.55	1.41
2	Il Postino (06, Distorted Humor)	N/A	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Jasper's Pride, \$166,641)	\$317,015	26	1	1.51	0.94
3	Hey Chub (00, Carson City)	N/A	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Grouch, \$71,061)	\$162,044	66	4	1.68	1.32
4	King Puma (06, Forest Wildcat)	N/A	3/0	0/0	0/0	(T V Man, \$7,912)	\$15,125	35	0	0.95	1.45

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

all of \$14,000 at the 2020 Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale.

The acquisition was made specifically to send Adorabella to Bucchero, a multiple graded stakes-winning Indiana-bred. Their aim was to add to the long list of accomplished New Jersey-breds born and raised at full-service Bright View since the 275-acre farm opened in 1975.

Connelly had no idea what quality of foal Adorabella might produce. She felt sure she looked far more valuable than the rather modest sum they paid for her.

“She presented a very balanced and classic profile. Many times, I was standing back and looking at her and thinking what a beautiful eyeful she was,” she said. “She had elegance and substance at the same time. She had beautiful conformation, wonderfully balanced. You’d stand back and look and the full package was right there.”

Kilka, co-breeder with Connelly of Book'em Danno, had been part of Ironhorse Racing Stable, which campaigned Bucchero from 2014-18. The son of Kantharos, out of the General Meeting mare Meetmeontime, had been a turf standout. He closed his career with a mark of 11-6-3 through 31 starts, the majority of which coming under trainer Tim Glyshaw's care, and fell just short of millionaire status with \$947,936 in earnings. His career was highlighted by consecutive triumphs in the Woodford Stakes (G2T), an always-salty sprint race on the grass at Keeneland, in the fall of 2017 and 2018.

Kilka, who owns shares in Bucchero as a stallion, teamed with Gracie in pursuing a good mate for him.

“We worked a couple of sales. We didn't really find the right mare. We tried on a couple and didn't want to overpay for them,” re-

called Gracie, a former steeplechase jockey. “When Adorabella popped up, it was perfect. She was a perfect cross for the stallion. It just kind of aligned. Fortunately for us, she slipped through the cracks a little bit.”

Kilka, 49, recalls spending countless hours at the side of his father, Joe, a serious handicapper. He has been involved in the breeding end of the industry for only five years and balances that with his position as a sales executive. Connelly quickly recognized his expertise in pedigrees when they became partners. Just as quickly, he spotted opportunity with Adorabella, bred by racing veteran Tracy Farmer.

“We liked the idea of having a Ghostzapper mare. We thought that worked well with Bucchero's pedigree,” Kilka said. “We thought they matched up to make a nice miler and potentially a little longer than that.”

The wait for the result of that pair-



Book'em Danno at 2 months old at Bright View Farm in 2021; and winning the 2024 Woody Stephens Stakes over 10 rivals at Saratoga Race Course in his grade 1 debut

LEFT: COURTESY OF GREG KILKA; RIGHT: COGLIANESE PHOTOS

2024 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA

 For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2024 Earnings	Foals	BT SWS	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Cloud Computing (14, Maclean's Music), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$3,500	155/80	1/1	0/1	(I'm Very Busy, \$377,000)	\$4,151,992	*315	5	0.92	1.04
2	Enticed (15, Medaglia d'Oro), Mountain Springs Farm	\$5,000	101/49	3/3	1/3	(Under the Palms, \$231,245)	\$3,219,744	149	3	1.02	1.06
3	Warrior's Reward (06, Medaglia d'Oro)	Pnsd	121/65	3/4	2/3	(The Boy's Warrior, \$162,200)	\$3,108,833	*817	23	0.92	1.20
4	Uptowncharlybrown (07, Limehouse), Mountain Springs Farm	\$3,000	86/38	0/0	0/0	(Confirmed Star, \$245,580)	\$2,770,052	211	5	1.20	1.04
5	Weigelia (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	Private	66/35	2/3	0/2	(Smooth B, \$226,830)	\$2,612,862	*237	12	1.35	1.04
6	Brody's Cause (13, Giant's Causeway), Equistar Training and Breeding	\$3,500	115/43	2/2	1/2	(Holly Dolly, \$175,890)	\$2,281,714	285	6	0.77	1.07
7	Wicked Strong (11, Hard Spun)	Pnsd	113/51	2/2	1/2	(Wicked Django, \$186,484)	\$1,988,524	*391	8	0.79	1.27
8	Winchill (08, Tapit), Timber Ridge Farm	\$3,000	31/15	1/2	1/1	(Honorable Win, \$131,600)	\$829,536	87	3	0.94	1.23
9	Flashback (10, Tapit)	N/A	43/16	0/0	0/0	(All West, \$63,903)	\$629,691	298	6	0.86	1.36
10	Well Spelled (09, Spellbinder), Mountain Springs Farm	\$1,500	20/13	0/0	0/0	(Summer's Gift, \$66,600)	\$468,518	88	2	0.79	1.05
11	Red Vine (10, Candy Ride)	N/A	15/7	0/0	0/0	(Wild Vine, \$93,180)	\$454,663	32	0	0.88	1.09
12	Normandy Invasion (10, Tapit)	Pnsd	18/9	0/0	0/0	(Ron Don Scorese, \$145,160)	\$445,687	128	0	0.62	1.08

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

ing ended on April 27, 2021, when a foal that would ultimately be given the whimsical name Book'em Danno—a signature line from the crime-fighting television show Hawaii Five-O—rose unsteadily to his feet.

No matter how long she has done it, Connelly never ceases to marvel at each birth. She is always filled with gratitude when everything goes well.

“The first impressions are that he’s on the ground, he’s healthy, he’s standing, and all of the limbs are going in the right direction,” she said.

She never imagined the foal would go on to become an elite sprinter and grade 1 winner by the end of his 3-year-old season in 2024, one that included a scintillating half-length triumph against the surging Prince of Monaco in the Woody Stephens Stakes (G1) last June at Saratoga Race Course. That followed a valiant runner-up effort in the Saudi Derby (G3) at King Abdulaziz Racecourse in February.

Book'em Danno enters his 4-year-old campaign with a 6-3-1 record through 11 starts for earnings of \$1,038,125. He never looked back after breaking his maiden at first asking by 9½ lengths against state-breds at Monmouth Park in August of 2023. He has competed at stakes level in every start since then.

The Thoroughbred Owners and



For Christine Connelly, Book'em Danno's co-breeder, Bright View has been part of her life since her father established the farm in 1975

Breeders Association honored Connelly and Kilka as Breeders of the Year for New Jersey in 2023 when Book'em Danno flashed his breathtaking speed by sweeping three of four starts as a juvenile. Connelly and Bright View Farm previously received that recognition in 1986, 2014, and 2022.

The success of any runner depends on its connections. Countless horses with vast potential have missed the mark due to human error. Book'em

Danno was so fortunate to be born and raised at Bright View, to continue his development at Gracie Bloodstock, to be sold privately to New Jersey-based Atlantic Six Racing, to be broken at Rentz Farm Training Center in Ehrhardt, S.C., and, finally, to be in the capable hands of Derek Ryan, a trainer for more than 25 years.

Kilka has visited many breeding farms as part of his education. He praised Bright View as “a little slice of Lexington in the Garden State.”

Kilka added, “Christine and her team are top notch. They do a fantastic job. It stacks up with anything I’ve seen in the mid-Atlantic.”

Connelly came to her love of horses by making regular visits with her parents, Josephine and John, to New Jersey race-tracks. Once John, a manufacturer and businessman, began to own horses, the day expand-

ed to include watching horses train from the clocker’s stand, barn visits, and breakfast in the track kitchen.

“I now think it was his idea of spending quality time with his daughter,” said Connelly, a Philadelphia native.

Her father established Bright View Farm in 1975. His daughter has cherished every minute there since she became involved a year later.

“What I thought would be an exciting venture was, and is, an exciting

COURTESY OF CHRISTINE CONNELLY

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2024 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2024 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Street Magician (04, Street Cry)	N/A	28/15	1/1	1/1	(Whenigettoheaven, \$112,285)	\$814,768	195	8	1.09	1.26
2	Hello Broadway (06, Broken Vow), Wind N' Springs Farm	Private	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Cryptonym, \$19,330)	\$93,947	50	1	0.94	0.78
3	Ali (15, Pioneerof the Nile), TNA Stables	\$500	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Rumaway, \$36,110)	\$75,271	6	0	0.41	0.62
4	Gone Clubbing (07, Gone West)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Spritzer, \$18,242)	\$35,454	11	0	0.47	0.22
5	Friend Or Foe (07, Friends Lake), Smallwood Farm	\$1,000	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Salty Starkey, \$14,594)	\$34,020	50	1	1.66	1.22
6	Big Picture (02, Pioneering), Virginia Equine Services, P.C.	\$5,000	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Goodluckchuck, \$28,455)	\$28,455	8	0	1.04	1.23
7	Mr. Sidney (04, Storm Cat)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Trust Fund Robber, \$14,434)	\$19,165	*143	1	0.99	1.47
8	Fierce Wind (05, Dixie Union)	N/A	3/0	0/0	0/0	(Tolaga Bay, \$7,000)	\$13,635	33	0	0.55	0.33
9	Snapy Halo (ARG) (04, Southern Halo)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Wilmas Irish Rover, \$9,360)	\$9,360	*54	2	0.63	1.04

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; † Indicates a first-crop sire

venture,” she said. “I particularly like farming. I particularly like raising horses. That’s really my calling and, I would say, my skill set.” Twenty acres of Bright View are dedicated to growing hay and straw.

Her attention to detail, her extraordinary level of care, has been rewarded. According to Connelly, of 17 foals raised at Bright View in 2020, 16 were winners and three were stakes winners. New Jersey-bred Girl Trouble, sired by Fast Anna, was the first foal produced by Adorabella on behalf of Bright View and Kilka and was a multiple stakes winner. Book’em Danno was among 18 foals raised by the farm in 2021. Connelly said 90% went on to be winners.

Connelly makes sure to have a quality team behind her. “You’re as good as the people you’re associated with,” she said. “I feel that very strongly.”

Farm manager Lupe Tapia, broodmare manager Juan Carlos Jacuinde, Luis Rodriguez, Jonathan Iniestra, and office manager Ann Fox are integral members of the seamless operation.

Tapia, 48, provides an example of the loyalty Connelly fosters. The Mexico native has been at Bright View since he was 17, learning from the ground up. His workplace soon felt like home.

“She’s the best person I know to work with,” Tapia said of Connelly. “She supports you. She’s always (there) for you. She treats you like family. She respects you like family. She makes you feel important. Basically, these are human needs, right?”

Right. And happy employees tend to make for happy horses. “We try to do



Gregory Kilka, Book’em Danno’s co-breeder, speaking at the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association luncheon last September, honoring him and Connelly as New Jersey’s Breeders of the Year for the gelding’s 2-year-old campaign

our best with every single horse here,” Tapia said. “She takes care of those animals as if she owned them. She does everything for them.”

Tapia said Bright View prides itself on providing “extra care.” He explained, “We spend more time than any farm I know checking horses every day. We don’t miss anything.”

Connelly and Tapia could see that Book’em Danno set himself apart from the crowd. “He had some verve and I like that word because he had a little attitude in the run-in sheds,” she said. “You did put spe-

cial attention on him because he was a young horse responsive to attention. He was a pretty cool horse as a youngster. He was in the cool group.”

Tapia also was impressed. “He was a really quality baby. You could see that,” he said. “He had to be in front of the pack. He wasn’t the first one when they started to run, but he was the first one when they finished.”

Gracie also was impressed when he oversaw him as a yearling. “He just looked fast and he always maintained that shape,” he said. “Sometimes with these young horses, you see glimpses of it and then it disappears. He just always progressed the way you want to see them progress through their yearling year.

“Did I think he would be a grade 1 winner? I’d love to say, ‘Yes,’ but I didn’t think so.”

Book’em Danno’s emergence helped to elevate Buccheri, New York’s second-leading sire of 2024. He entered stud in 2019 at Pleasant Acres Stallions in Florida for \$5,000. He relocated to McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds in New York for a fee of \$7,500, for 2024. This year he stands for \$10,000 at Ironhorse Stallions in New York.

Kilka said of Buccheri’s progeny, “They are winning on synthetic at a high clip. They are winning on turf. I think a lot of people thought he would just be a turf or synthetic thrower of runners, but Book’em Danno proved he can throw dirt runners as well. The partners are excited for his prospects in New York, especially with Belmont Park installing that synthetic surface.”

As for Adorabella, she sold to

MARK MAHAN

2024 LEADING SIRES IN WEST VIRGINIA

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									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Fiber Sonde (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Cedar Runs Fiber, \$16,428)	\$22,835	365	23	1.26	0.81
2	Barbados (12, Speightstown), Pellinor Lane	\$1,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Curb, \$10,356)	\$18,486	45	1	1.02	0.87
3	Golden Years (12, Not For Love), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Best Virginia, \$7,644)	\$12,290	89	1	0.90	0.83
4	Juba (11, Tapit), Casey's Legacy	\$1,500	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Our Brightest Star, \$10,272)	\$11,165	146	9	1.00	1.09
5	Gattopardo (05, Johannesburg)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Doctor Pardo, \$6,528)	\$6,934	63	1	0.70	0.78
6	Redirect (16, Speightstown), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Direct the Show, \$6,528)	\$6,528	26	2	1.40	0.78
7	Three Chopt Road (06, Rock Slide)	N/A	3/0	0/0	0/0	(Funny Road, \$2,452)	\$3,514	39	0	0.46	0.61
8	Limehouse (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,500	9/0	0/0	0/0	(Kaala, \$1,226)	\$3,460	*524	24	1.05	1.08
9	Sweetontheladies (14, Twirling Candy), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	3/0	0/0	0/0	(Song So Sweet, \$2,520)	\$3,090	10	0	0.14	0.50
10	Bullsbay (04, Tiznow), Pellinor Lane	\$1,500	3/0	0/0	0/0	(Hardly Ever Better, \$1,088)	\$1,368	165	4	0.93	1.15
11	Aaron's Way (08, Yes It's True)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(True Indy, \$1,016)	\$1,016	9	0	0.35	0.72
12	Mr. Monomoy (17, Palace Malice), Pellinor Lane	\$1,500	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Monomoy's Partner, \$630)	\$800	14	0	0.05	0.73
13	Talent Search (03, Catienus)	Pnsd	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Search for Silver, \$510)	\$700	*219	5	1.03	1.09
14	Despite the Odds (06, Speightstown)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Odds On Mischief, \$326)	\$466	87	0	1.03	1.14
15	Denis of Cork (05, Harlan's Holiday), Casey's Legacy	\$750	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Playing for Two, \$395)	\$395	*174	6	0.71	0.99
16	Aldrin (12, Malibu Moon), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,000	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Pedal to the Moon, \$140)	\$280	74	0	0.43	0.87
17	Monster Mash (09, Ghostzapper)	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Shiney Ghost, \$226)	\$226	6	0	0.24	0.95
18	Capo Bastone (10, Street Boss), O'Sullivan Farms	\$1,500	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Cappy Hour, \$198)	\$198	85	0	0.82	1.03

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

LC Racing for \$550,000 at Fasig-Tipton's Kentucky Fall Mixed Sale in 2023 at the urging of Kilka and despite some reluctance from Connelly. "He's bold in some of his thinking and I'm more of a traditionalist," she said. "It was a

struggle for me, but I got over it."

Another key decision was to geld Book'em Danno before the start of his racing career. Jay Briscione, managing partner for Atlantic Six Racing, said the group does not wonder about his

value if he was intact. "Those kinds of decisions we never look back on," he said. "Even to this day, Derek (Ryan) has said if this horse was a stud, he'd be very difficult."

That matter is definitely closed. **BH**

#TeamTOBA

I concur with Nobel Prize winner John Galsworthy who said, "I am still under the impression that there is nothing alive quite so beautiful as a Thoroughbred horse." I'm blessed to be part of this community and associated with some of the finest people one could ever hope to meet and thankful for TOBA as they continue to advance our sport around the world.

LEONARD MIRANDA

Managing Partner, INTEGRITY THOROUGHBRED RACING, LLC

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