



## AMERICAN LION

### THE HORSE

It took him a while to meet early expectations, but he did accomplish that in the Illinois Derby as he rolled to a 2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-length victory. He's part of a potential four-horse presence by WinStar Farm in the Kentucky Derby.

Eoin Harty is the trainer of the son of Tiznow, while Todd Pletcher figures to tighten the girth on Super Saver and Rule and Shannon Ritter saddles Endorsement.

The WinStar homebred gave his connections something to get excited about in his third start as a 2-year-old when he won Hollywood Park's Prevue Stakes. After a couple of disappointing starts as a 3-year-old, American Lion finally got his roar back in the Illinois Derby.



### THE OWNER

WinStar Farm is the racing and breeding operation owned by Kenny Troutt and William (Bill) Casner. The farm is located on 1,450 acres near Versailles, Ky., that was the former Prestonwood Farm of the Texas-based Preston brothers, longtime racing and breeding enthusiasts.

Troutt and Casner got involved with the Prestons as part of the group that owned and raced 1998 Belmont Stakes winner Victory Gallop, who was trained by W. Elliott Walden. Victory Gallop finished second in that year's Kentucky Derby. Troutt and Casner bought the former Prestonwood property from Art, Jack and J.R. Preston in early 2000.

WinStar registered another runner-up finish with Bluegrass Cat in the 2006 Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes. The colt won the Haskell Invitational and finished second in the Travers Stakes, and now stands as a stallion at WinStar.

Troutt and his wife, Lisa, have three children and live in Dallas, Texas. Casner and his wife, Susan, have a daughter Kayce. Their other daughter, Karri, was killed in the 2002 terrorist bombing of a nightclub in Bali. The Casners live in Flower Mound, Texas.

Troutt and Casner both were born in 1948, Troutt in Mount Vernon, Ill., and Casner in El Paso, Texas. Troutt formerly owned a Thoroughbred operation in Nebraska called Landview Farm. Casner began galloping horses at New Mexico's Sunland Park, near El Paso, at the age of 15 in 1963. He put himself through Tarleton State University by galloping Thoroughbreds at a variety of racetracks and later trained Thoroughbreds.

Troutt and Casner met in the late 1970s when they attempted to claim the same horse at old Ak-Sar-Ben racetrack in Omaha, Neb., and later raced a claiming stable together for a short while. Both withdrew from active participation in racing during the 1980s and '90s while pursuing other business interests: Troutt founded Excel Communications, a long-distance telephone service and communications company, and Casner developed B & R Equipment, a heavy equipment company.

After a 16-year hiatus from racing, they joined the Prestons in racing Victory Gallop. WinStar has a band of approximately 100 broodmares and the farm is home to seven stallions: two-time Breeders' Cup Classic winner and 2000 Horse of the Year Tiznow; 2004 champion sprinter and Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Speightstown; Distorted Humor, who ranks among the nation's top sires; 1999 champion older horse Victory Gallop, Bluegrass Cat, Sharp Humor and Colonel John, sixth in the 2008 Kentucky Derby and winner of the Santa Anita Derby and Travers Stakes that year.

Individually or in partnership, WinStar has approximately 35 horses in training with Bill Mott, Todd Pletcher, Eoin Harty, Dale Romans, Dallas Stewart and Roger Attfield. The farm's former private trainer, W. Elliott Walden, now serves as vice president of WinStar's racing and bloodstock services, taking the post in July 2005.

In the breeding business, WinStar is best known as the breeder of 2003 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Funny Cide. Other WinStar-breds (singly and in partnerships) include Colonel John, Bluegrass Cat, One Cool Cat (Europe's champion 2-year-old of 2003), Grade 1 winner Sharp Lisa, English Group winner Lucky Story and Miller Genuine Draft Cradle Stakes winner Tiger Hunt.

## **THE CO-BREEDERS**

### **WinStar Farm and Dr. William Lockridge.**

**Dr William Lockridge** is a Central Kentucky farm developer, breeder, bloodstock adviser and retired veterinarian. He bought Storm Tide, the dam of American Lion, for \$200,000 at the 2005 Keeneland mixed sale in foal to Cape Town.

That foal, a filly, died.

American Lion, by Tiznow, is the dam's third foal and the only one to race. She foaled a full brother to American Lion in 2008. Storm Tide was sold later that year while carrying another full sibling to American Lion. That foal, a filly, is now a yearling and was bred in Ontario, Canada, by David Anderson's Anderson Farm.