



AWESOME ACT

THE HORSE

Victory in the Gotham Stakes and a solid third in the Wood Memorial set up the son of Awesome Again for the Run for the Roses at Churchill Downs, the goal set out by British trainer Jeremy Noseda after the colt finished a close fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Santa Anita last November.

Noseda's plan called for the chestnut colt to head for New York to contest races in America rather than have his 3-year-old season begin in England. In 2009, five of his six starts came in England. Awesome Act is one 38 stakes winners for his sire and the first winner for his dam, Houdini's Honey.



Noseda is hopeful the colt won't do a disappearing Act in the Derby, performing instead in an Awesome way.

THE CO-OWNERS

Mrs. Susan Roy and Vinery Stables

Susan Roy and her husband, Paul, live in Ascot in Berkshire, England, and have been involved in Thoroughbred racing since 1997, mostly in England. Paul Roy is an investment banker and also chairman of the British Horseracing Authority.

The Roys have six children.

They usually have about 20 horses in training.

The best horses they have owned are Sarava, the upset winner of the 2002 Belmont Stakes in partnership with Louisville's New Phoenix Stable; Wilko, winner of the 2004 Breeders' Cup Juvenile and sixth-place finisher in the 2005 Kentucky Derby in partnership with J. Paul Reddam; Twilight Blues, winner of the 2002 Duke of York Stakes at York, England, and Awesome Act.

The Roys also own several broodmares.

Vinery Stables is owned by Dr. Tom Simon, a retired corporate attorney who practiced in Frankfurt, Germany. He lives primarily in Mallorca, Spain, and at Vinery near Lexington, Ky.

Vinery was established in 1966 by Ben and Elaine Walden, who sold the majority interest to George and Kay Hofmeister in 1998. They, in turn, sold it to Simon in 1999 and he retained the farm's name. Since that purchase, the farm has been relocated to Spurr Road near Lexington on what formerly was the North Ridge Farm broodmare division.

Vinery covers 440 acres, including a breeding operation and training center. The farm is home to about 60 broodmares and 10 stallions, including 2005 Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Silver Train, Cactus Ridge, 2009 Eclipse Award sprinter Kodiak Kowboy, Limehouse, More Than Ready, Pioneer of the Nile, Pure Prize, Purge, Stormello and Street Hero. Simon also developed Vinery Stud LLC, a 220-acre breeding and training operation in Summerfield, Fla., with four stallions: Congrats, D'wildcat, Maimonides and Pomeroy.

Vinery breeds for sales and racing and supports the operation's stallions by buying their offspring to race.

Simon races horses in the United States, Europe and Australia as Vinery Stables.

THE BREEDER

Flaxman Holdings, a breeding entity of the Stavros Niarchos family, is making its first appearance as a breeder of a Kentucky Derby prospect in Awesome Act.

The racing empire which Niarchos built up in the last 25 years of his life, has been operating in the name of his family since his death April 15, 1996. In North America, it has always been known as Flaxman Holdings Inc.

The Greek shipping tycoon was born July 3, 1909, graduated from the Athens University law school and first worked in flour mills owned by his uncles. He persuaded them to buy their own ships to carry wheat to their mills. By the time of the German invasion of Greece in 1941, Niarchos had built seven ships, including two tankers, which he offered to the Allied powers. Meanwhile, he joined the Greek Navy and served four years on destroyers with the British Royal Navy, escorting convoys in the North Atlantic.

He established one of the world's largest fleets of tankers and bulk carriers by the early 1980s but was forced to cut his tonnage more than in half by the world's oil crisis and the ensuing recession.

He then diversified into property, art and the money markets.

Among the best of horses: Nureyev, who was the top-priced yearling at Keeneland in 1978 and went on to become a champion stallion, and Miesque, winner of 10 Group or Grade I races, including back-to-back Breeders' Cup Miles

in 1987 and '88, and the dam of two Group I winners in Europe, Kingmambo and East of the Moon.

Other top class runners for Niarchos: Baillamont, Common Grounds, Exit to Nowhere, Hernando, Kingmambo, L'Emigrant, Machiavellian, Seattle Song, Chimes of Freedom, Coup de Genie, East of the Moon, Magic of Life, Northern Trick, Pipe of Peace and Dactylographer.

Management of the family's racing and breeding operation has fallen to Niarchos' daughter Maria Niarchos-Gouaze.