



DUBLIN

THE HORSE

Though winless since capturing the Grade I Hopeful Stakes last year at Saratoga, Dublin, nevertheless, is a contender on this year's Triple Crown trail if for no other reason that Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas is a master at getting a horse ready for his best effort on Kentucky Derby day.

Four Derby victories for the outspoken conditioner are evidence of his ability to get a 3-year-old race-ready for the Run for the Roses. Overall, the trainer has 13 Triple Crown race victories. His four Derby victories leave him tied for second on the all-time list with H.J. "Dick" Thompson and two shy of the leader, Ben A. Jones.



Dublin has a second and a third in his two outings as a 3-year-old, falling to rival Hall of Famer Bob Baffert trainees Lookin At Lucky and Conveyance.

CO-OWNERS

Robert C. Baker and William L. Mack

Robert C. Baker and his wife, Christina, live in Greenwich, Conn., and **William L. Mack** and his wife, Phyllis, live in the Greater New York area.

The Bakers have been involved in racing for about 30 years and have raced several stakes winners in partnership, including some with well-known New York owner-breeder Howard Kaskel. With Kaskel, the Bakers had stakes winners Sir Harry Lewis, who won the 1987 Irish Derby, and the New York graded stakes winner Champagneforashley.

Baker, who deals in real estate, and his wife attended the 1996 September yearling sale and met trainer D. Wayne Lukas, who picked out eight colts for them to inspect. Mrs. Baker, who is an accomplished rider, especially liked Grand Slam. The Bakers, the Macks and David Cornstein, whose tournament-bridge player wife named the colt Grand Slam, were partners in the colt. In 1997, the partners entered into an agreement to sell Coolmore Stud an option to buy half of the colt, and Coolmore exercised the option for \$5 million.

Mack also deals in real estate and has raced horses for several years, with a number of stakes winners to his credit.

Mack earned a bachelor's degree from New York University and attended the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, where he has served on the Board of Overseers and vice chairman of the Board of Trustees. In 1999, the William and Phyllis Mack Center for Technical Innovation was named to honor the couple's contributions.

Baker and Mack were partners with Cornstein in Proud Citizen, trained by Lukas, who finished second in the 2002 Kentucky Derby. In 2009, Baker and Mack were partners in Flying Private, who finished 19th in the Derby before being fourth in the Preakness Stakes and sixth in the Belmont.

Baker and Mack have been steady clients of Hall of Famer Lukas for many years.

THE CO-BREEDERS

Peter Blum and Jerry Dilger

Peter Blum is a native of Far Rockaway, Long Island, who now lives in Atlanta, Ga. He has a son, Josh.

He grew up in the same neighborhood as the late Hall of Fame trainer Robert Frankel. He and Frankel would get together in the business years later.

Blum is a graduate of the University of North Carolina where he majored in the classics. His principal business in Atlanta is real estate.

He began his career in racing as a hotwalker at Belmont Park and Aqueduct at age 17. He bought his first horse while a student at North Carolina, borrowing money and working summers to pay for the New York claimer. Blum says he's always loved the sport, even though no one in his family has been involved.

He made his first big noise on the racing scene when Life Cycle, a horse he bought for \$1,400, defeated the great Cougar II in the 1973 Hollywood Invitational. The horse was trained by Frankel and turned out to be one of Frankel's first major winners on the Southern California circuit.

In 1974, Blum moved to upgrade his fledgling breeding operation by buying Mono, whose maternal family traced to Man o' War. Mono became the foundation mare for his operation, producing Rare Performer and Mine Only. Over the years, Blum has bred and sold such horses as Ashland Stakes winner Well Chosen and multiple Grade I winner Devil His Due, who earned \$4 million.

He is an avid Atlanta Braves fan and is friends with Braves general manager John Schuerholz. This has led to Blum naming some horses after his friend, including G.M. John and Schuerholz.

At present, Blum's broodmare band numbers about a dozen and he has a few horses in training. He's a longtime client of Claiborne Farm and that's where he met Jerry Dilger, his co-breeder of Dublin, and has since boarded his mares in Kentucky with Dilger at Dromoland Farm.

Jerry Dilger is master of Dromoland Farm, known for its boutique-type consignments of top-quality broodmares and yearlings at major North American sales.

Among the farm's best horses bred, raced or sold, individually or in partnership: By the Light, Classic Cat, Dublin, Fruits of Love, Griffinite, Multiple Choice, Ninth Inning, Proposal, Red Giant, Saoirse Abu, Tomahawk, Well Chosen and Wilko.

Dilger stands Eurosilver as his only stallion at Dromoland.

Dromoland, founded in 1994 and located in Lexington, Ky., shares its name with a famed castle in the picturesque Shannon region of Dilger's native Ireland.