



ENDORSEMENT

THE HORSE

This winner of the Sunland Derby vaulted himself and WinStar Farm into solid Derby contention, Endorsement being one of four WinStar prospects. Prior to the Sunland Derby, the son of Distorted Humor certainly had the endorsement of trainer Shannon Ritter as a major prospect.

The chestnut colt had Ritter's attention as he trained toward his Sunland Park date and he didn't disappoint, soaring to the lead as the field headed into the stretch and drew off to win easily by three lengths over the previously unbeaten Conveyance, trained by Bob Baffert.

A victory by Endorsement could make Ritter the first woman to train a Kentucky Derby winner. Several female trainers have saddled Derby horses, with the highest finish coming in 1992 when Shelley Riley sent out Casual Lies to finish second, beaten only a length by longshot Lil E. Tee.

Though sired by WinStar stallion Distorted Humor, Endorsement is not a homebred. WinStar bought the colt as Maverick Racing for \$400,000 at the 2008 Keeneland September yearling sale.

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 BREEDER

The Kilroy Thoroughbred Partnership represents the widow of William S. Kilroy, a longtime breeding partner of W.S. Farish of Lane's End Farm near Versailles, Ky. Kilroy died in Houston, Texas, in 1999, but his widow has continued the breeding connection for her late husband.

Among other things, Kilroy, Farish and Warner L. Jones partnered in the breeding of Seattle Dancer, who brought a then-world record of \$13.1 million at the 1985 Keeneland July yearling sale. Kilroy and Farish bred more than a dozen stakes winners, including 1992 Horse of the Year A.P. Indy and 1990 Preakness Stakes winner Summer Squall.

Mrs. Kilroy, as Kilroy Thoroughbred Partnership, was the breeding partner with Farish in Court Vision, who finished 13th in the 2008 Kentucky Derby.