



ESKENDEREYA

THE HORSE

With his super performance in Aqueduct's Wood Memorial, Eskendereya went right to the front in favoritism for the 2010 Kentucky Derby and gives trainer Todd Pletcher perhaps his best chance yet to win the Churchill Downs classic.

Eskendereya's only poor performance in a six-race career came on Santa Anita's synthetic surface in last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile, finishing ninth in his third career start.

The son of Giant's Causeway was bought for \$250,000 by Ahmed Zayat's Zayat Stables at the 2008 Keeneland September yearling sale.



THE BREEDER

Sanford R. Robertson is a principal partner in Francisco Partners, the world's largest technology-focused equity fund. Francisco Partners is a pioneer in the private equity category of technology buyouts.

Prior to establishing Francisco Partners, Robertson was founder and chairman of Robertson, Stephens & Co., a leading technology investment bank formed in 1978, and subsequently sold to Bank Boston in 1998.

Robertson's involvement in the Thoroughbred industry dates to 1985 when he acquired his first few broodmares in partnership with Kathryn Nikkel. His first winner was a filly named Quimper, acquired from Allen Paulson. She won at Santa Anita and was the producer of several stakes winners. Robertson's broodmares are boarded at Woods Edge Farm in Lexington, Ky., and Brookstown Farm in Versailles, Ky., and at Ballyphilip Stud in Ireland.

On the racing front, Robertson has horses in training with Jeremy Nosedo at Newmarket, England, Neil Drysdale in Southern California and Duane Offield in Northern California.

Stakes winners both bred and raced by Robertson include the Nosedo-trained Balmont, who won the Group I Middle Park Stakes and set a course record in winning the Group II Gimcrack Stakes; Blazonry, winner of the Grade II Laz

Barrera Stakes at Hollywood Park, as well as Abbey Bridge, Ristra, St. Francis Wood, Requite and Hippocrates.

Horses bred by Robertson and sold at auction include Eskendereya, Acting Lady, Fifth Overture, Assert Oneself and Gold From the West.

Robertson owns 14 broodmares, with five others in partnership, along with seven horses in training, including a 2-year-old half-sister to Eskendereya and Balmont by Henny Hughes named Wear Red.

Aside from his racing, breeding and business interests, Robertson serves on several boards of directors, including Pain Therapeutics, salesforce.com, Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving and the President's Board of the University of Michigan.

Robertson and his wife, Jeanne, live in San Francisco.

THE OWNER

Zayat Stables is owned by Ahmed Zayat, born Aug. 31, 1962 in Cairo, Egypt. He has residences in Egypt, New Jersey, New York and London. His family includes his wife, Joanne, and children Ashley, Emma, Justin and Benjamin.

He holds master's degrees from Boston University and Harvard.

In business, he is best known for privatizing Al Ahram Beverages Company and turning it into the largest beverage manufacturer and distributor in the Middle East before selling it to Heineken International. He is involved in several other industries, most notably as the largest shareholder in Misr Glass Manufacturing, the largest manufacturer of glass containers in Egypt.

Zayat was introduced to horses in his teens as a competitor in national show-jumping events in his native Egypt. In 2005, he founded Zayat Stables and almost immediately became a major force in racing and in the sales arena. Among the stable's top runners have been Grade I winners Pioneer of the Nile, who finished second in the 2009 Kentucky Derby, Point Ashley and Down the dusty road, as well as other stakes winners Massive Drama, High Again, Got the Last Laugh, Marcavelly, Belgravia, Forefathers, E Z Warrior, J Be K and Baroness Thatcher. Eskendereya is Zayat's Derby hopeful this year.

He entered the Kentucky Derby arena in 2008 with Z Fortune and Z Humor. The former finished 10th and the latter 14th.

In 2006, Zayat Stables campaigned horses at Del Mar for the first time under the training of Bob Baffert and finished third on the owners' earnings list for the meet. In 2007, however, the owner's displeasure with the new Polytrack surface there led him to pull his horses from Southern California and move them to Saratoga where they helped him win the owner's title with 18 winners in 47 starts.

Zayat has since returned to the Southern California circuit, with Baffert once again in charge of training.

While Baffert handles his horses on the West Coast, Zayat's Eskendereya is trained in the East by Todd Pletcher.

On the breeding side, Zayat Stables keeps about 20 broodmares in Kentucky and has plans to eventually enter the stallion business.

Zayat Stables, which led the nation's owners in 2008, ended 2009 as the nation's third leading owner by earnings with a total of \$6,323,286. The stable posted 113 victories on the year.