



ICE BOX

THE HORSE

This son of the prolific stakes producer Pulpit iced his spot in the Kentucky Derby gate with a nose victory in the Grade I Florida Derby. It was the first graded win for Ice Box, who will be taking owner Robert LaPenta and trainer Nick Zito back to the Run for the Roses yet another time.

It took the chestnut colt four tries before he broke his maiden as a 2-year-old, but he came back in his 3-year-old debut with a solid allowance win that set him up for a run in the Fountain of Youth Stakes, his first attempt in stakes company.

He was a distant fifth to expected Kentucky Derby favorite Eskendereya in that race, but came back to score a come-from-behind win in the Florida Derby.



The LaPenta-Zito combine produced three Derby runners – The Cliff's Edge in 2004, Andromeda's Hero in 2005 and Cool Coal Man in 2008. The Cliff's Edge posted the best finish at fifth.

The duo also had 2007 Juvenile Eclipse winner War Pass and 2008 Belmont Stakes winner De' Tara. In addition, LaPenta and Zito also have a second prospect this year – Jackson Bend, who sits on the graded-earnings bubble.

THE OWNER

Robert V. LaPenta has been involved with racing since 1998, when he became a partner with University of Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino. He then started his own stable in 2001.

At that time, he bought eight yearlings for a total of \$895,000. The top runner of that group was Zavata, who won the 2002 Saratoga Special while racing for Michael Tabor.

The owner hit the racing heights in 2008 when his 36-1 longshot, Da' Tara, captured the Belmont Stakes and denied Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Big Brown a chance to win the Triple Crown. His Brave Victory and Miner's Escape finished seventh and 10th, respectively, in the 2009 Belmont.

LaPenta was born Aug. 20, 1945 in Yonkers, N.Y. He lives in Westport, Conn., and his family includes son Robert Jr. LaPenta Sr. is a graduate of Iona College with a degree in accounting. He received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the school in 2000. He is a member of Iona's Board of Trustees and donated \$7 million toward the construction of the college's LaPenta Student Union Building.

LaPenta is chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of L-1 Identity Solutions, a provider of technology, products and solutions that protect and secure personal identities and assets. The firm is based in Stamford, Conn.

He is the founder and former president and CEO of L-3 Communications Corporation, a provider of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems. Previously, he had served as a vice president of Lockheed Martin Corporation.

LaPenta took home his first Eclipse Award following War Pass' victory in the 2007 Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Prior to the Breeders' Cup, the colt had won the Champagne Stakes, but he never regained his juvenile form as a 3-year-old, his best finish being a second in the Wood Memorial. After the race, a fractured sesamoid was detected in his left foreleg and he was retired. He earned \$1.5 million during his racing career and stands stud at Lane's End Farm in Versailles, Ky.

During 2008, also, LaPenta posted a big win in the Fountain of Youth with Cool Coal Man.

LaPenta owns approximately 65 horses, with 25 being stabled with Hall of Fame trainer Nick Zito. His The Cliff's Edge won the 2004 Blue Grass Stakes before finishing fifth in the Kentucky Derby. He was second in that year's Travers Stakes before being retired to stud. LaPenta's Pies Prospect won the Pegasus Stakes at The Meadowlands and the Fred Hooper at Calder in 2004.

Another of his high-profile runners – Andromeda's Hero – captured the 2005 Sam F. Davis Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs and finished second in the Belmont Stakes. He was eighth in the Kentucky Derby.

THE BREEDER

Denlea Park is the breeding operation of Kurt Butenhoff, who is from Connecticut. Ice Box was raised at Claiborne Farm in Paris, Ky.

Ice Box's second dam, Crown of Sheba, is a half-sister to 1985 Kentucky Derby winner and that year's Horse of the Year Spend a Buck.