



LINE OF DAVID

THE HORSE

If a horse can win one Kentucky Derby prep, the \$1-million Arkansas Derby would be the one – and that’s exactly what Line of David did. In his first start in stakes company, the son of Lion Heart stunned onlookers with a gate-to-wire victory at Oaklawn Park, putting himself squarely in the Kentucky Derby picture.



Although he didn’t break his maiden until February, the colt has strung together three straight victories now for trainer John Sadler. The win in the Arkansas Derby gave Sadler a second Derby prospect to go along with multiple graded stakes winner Sidney’s Candy.

THE OWNERS

Ike and **Dawn** Thrash have been major clients of trainer John Sadler for several years, beginning when the Fair Grounds closed down following Hurricane Katrina.

Ike was born March 17, 1953 in Meridian, Miss., and Dawn was born Aug. 14, 1954 in New Orleans. The Thrashes live in Hattiesburg, Miss., and have four children and eight grandchildren. They met when Ike attended Tulane University in New Orleans while Dawn was a high school senior there. They both are graduates of the University of Southern Mississippi, Ike in finance and Dawn in business.

They operate Dawn Properties Inc. in Hattiesburg. The company primarily builds, buys and sells apartment complexes, but also has interests in some hotels and condominiums. Of the company’s far-flung business interests, Ike Thrash says: “With technology, you can work from anywhere. Anymore, I don’t even meet half of the people I do business with.”

The couple got their first horses as payment on a business deal with a Florida farm about 25 years ago. They were able to choose five horses, and three of them became winners. “It was the most expensive lesson ever,” says Ike Thrash. “I should have just taken the money.”

Even so, the Thrashes have embraced the Thoroughbred business to the degree they even lived on a farm outside Versailles, Ky., for several years. "We loved it, but it was a lot of work," Ike said. "It was something we always wanted to do, but now it's out of our system."

Though the pair bred a few mares while living in Kentucky, their focus now is on buying yearlings and 2-year-olds in training. "My attention span isn't long enough to be in the training business," Ike says. "With the in-training sales, it's straight to the racetrack. You know pretty quickly what you've got."

They usually have 18-20 horses in training with Sadler. The Thrashes often journey to California to see their horses run and sometimes bring family members, most of whom have had horses named for them. The naming for family members began with Dawn After Dawn, Dawn Before Dawn and Third Dawn, all of whom became stakes winners. Emmy Darling, who was fifth in the 2008 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, is named for a granddaughter and Dave in Dixie, the family's top Triple Crown prospect, bears the name of a son-in-law.

THE BREEDER

Sabine Stable is owned by Joseph B. Greeley, who was born May 7, 1941, in Queens, N.Y., just four days after Whirlaway won the Kentucky Derby. He lives in Oyster Bay Cove, N.Y., and has a 180-acre farm named Sabine Stable near Micanopy, Fla. Greeley races as well as breeds under the name Sabine Stable.

He usually spends about two months each year at the farm, where he keeps a broodmare band and the mares' offspring.

His family includes his wife, Winifred, and their four children: sons Joseph Jr. and Sean and daughters Jean and Tara.

Greeley is a graduate in accounting of Pace University.

His entry into racing came while traveling on a train one day with an acquaintance who was extolling the joys of horse racing. Even though he had yet to set foot on a racetrack, Greeley suggested he would be a partner if the man ever decided to buy a 2-year-old to race. Such a purchase came about 20 years ago and the resulting excitement that goes with owning a horse got him hooked.

Greeley generally races about a dozen horses, mostly in New York.

His best horse to race has been Rob 'n Gin, a multiple stakes winner. Other stakes winners include Mining Burrah, Southern Sandra, Spicy Award, Criminal Suit and Win Crafty Lady.

In breeding, Greeley counts Graeme Hall, Lion Heart and now Line of David among his best. Graeme Hall was 19th in the 2000 Kentucky Derby and Lion Heart was second in the 2004 Run for the Roses.

Perhaps the third time might be the charm for Greeley.