



## LOOKIN AT LUCKY

### THE HORSE

The 2009 champion juvenile comes to the Kentucky Derby from a troubled third-place finish in the Santa Anita Derby, following a victory in the Rebel Stakes in his first outing as a 3-year-old. His Santa Anita effort was compromised by a crowding incident on the backstretch that required jockey Garrett Gomez to jerk him up and nearly stop him to a walk to avoid trouble.

Even so, he came rushing down the rail in the final eighth of a mile to close gamely for the third spot.



Lookin At Lucky will represent Mike Pegram and partners Paul Weitman and Karl Watson, as well as Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert. A Derby victory by Lookin At Lucky, who was bought for \$475,000 at the 2009 Keeneland 2-year-olds-in-training sale, would be the second for Pegram (Real Quiet in 1998) and fourth for Baffert (Silver Charm in 1997, Real Quiet and War Emblem in 2002).

### THE CO-OWNERS

**Michael Pegram and Watson and Weitman Performances LLC.**

**Michael Pegram** has been a major figure at racing's highest levels for nearly 20 years and counts Triple Crown victories in the 1998 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes with Real Quiet, Breeders' Cup wins with Thirty Slews, Silverbulletday and Midnight Lute and the 2001 Dubai World Cup with Captain Steve among his greatest victories. Both Silverbulletday and Captain Steve went into racing's Hall of Fame, along with trainer Bob Baffert in 2009.

Pegram has been a client of trainer Baffert's since the mid-1980s while Baffert was still saddling Quarter Horses, and was mostly responsible for Baffert turning to training Thoroughbreds in 1988. Thirty Slews was Pegram's first purchase at auction as a partner and the \$30,000 buy became a multiple stakes winner, topping off his career with the 1992 Breeders' Cup Sprint victory. Silverbulletday won the 1998 Juvenile Fillies and the Eclipse Award as the nation's outstanding 2-year-old female, and came back in 1999 to win the Eclipse as the top 3-year-old filly.

Pegram, born Feb. 16, 1952 in Fort Knox, Ky., and raised in Princeton, Ind., partnered with Karl Watson and Paul Weitman in two-time B.C. Sprint champion Midnight Lute, and the three are partners in 2009 Eclipse champion 2-year-old male Lookin At Lucky, a multiple Grade I winner and runner-up in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, as he moves along the Triple Crown trail. In winning the 2007 Sprint, Midnight Lute also won the Eclipse as top sprinter. His second Sprint victory came as something of a surprise because he had made only one start prior to his defense of the 2007 title.

The fun-loving owner has always shied away from the usual owner-stuff, always having maintained that he is a fan who happens to own horses. His down-to-earth, loyalty-based outlook was never more evident than when he made sure all of his friends who were attending Real Quiet's Derby victory made it down to the winner's circle before the festivities began. Real Quiet's Preakness win put Pegram on the brink of racing history as the 3-year-old colt headed into the Belmont Stakes with a chance to become the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978. Real Quiet was beaten by a nose by Victory Gallop but still won the Eclipse Award as the year's outstanding 3-year-old male.

Among other major winners for Pegram: Pussycat Doll, Gibson County, Commitisize, High Stakes Player, Icecoldbeeratreds, Danthebluegrassman, Arches of Gold, Hookedonthefeelin, Preachinatthebar, Queen of Money, Woke Up Dreamin and Letthebighossroll. Pussycat Doll has special meaning for Pegram, since she is by Real Quiet out of his Grade I stakes winner Hookedonthefeelin.

On the breeding side, Pegram boards broodmares, including Silverbulletday and Thru n' Thru (in partnership with Watson and Weitman) at Hill 'n' Dale Farm in Lexington, Ky., where the trio stands Midnight Lute, and he still owns shares in Real Quiet, who stands stud at Penn Ridge Farms in Harrisburg, Pa.

Pegram, who is a long-time owner of McDonald's restaurants in the western United States and also owns two casinos in the Carson City area of Nevada, has homes in Paradise Valley, Ariz., and Del Mar, Calif. His family includes his wife, Mary Ellen, and children Amy, Tiffany and Tim, all from a previous marriage.

## **THE BREEDER**

Gulf Coast Farms is owned by Lance Robinson and Jerry Bailey and managed by Bailey and his wife, Leslie. The Baileys live on the Ocala, Fla., farm where they raise and break the partnership's yearlings.

Robinson and his wife, Maria, live on a 100-acre Quarter Horse farm in Spanish Fork, Utah. The Robinsons have a married daughter, Brooke Stephens, and a son, Clint, who is a professional cowboy specializing in calf-roping. The Baileys have two children, Jodie and Jim.

Robinson, born Dec. 16, 1955, is a graduate of Ricks College (now Brigham Young University-Idaho) and Weber State University with a degree in pre-veterinary science. Bailey, born Sept. 16, 1943, has a degree in veterinary medicine from the University of Minnesota.

Robinson grew up on a dairy farm and cattle ranch in Ogden, Utah, and has spent his life working with horses. He was a professional rodeo cowboy for about 15 years and five times qualified for the National Finals Rodeo as a steer wrestler. He got acquainted with Kentucky and Thoroughbred racing while on a Mormon mission in 1977.

Bailey, who also has a rodeo background, was a racetrack veterinarian in Florida for seven years before becoming the attending veterinarian and manager at the Lazy E Ranch in Oklahoma. On returning to Florida, Bailey and fellow Minnesotan Ken Ellenberg formed a successful pinhooking venture as Jerry Bailey Sales Agency. Among successful purchases were dual classic winner Thunder Gulch, whom Bailey raced four times before selling him to Michael Tabor, and juvenile winner Henny Hughes.

Among other successful pinhooks: Grade I winners Deputy Commander, Honour and Glory and Yes It's True.

Robinson, who has known Bailey since the early 1980s, joined Bailey and Ellenberg to form Gulf Coast. Ellenberg no longer is a partner in the venture.

Gulf Coast operates a racing stable, too, with the top 2009 runner being Kensei, in which Gulf Coast kept 25 percent after selling the majority portion to Stonestreet Stable. Kensei won the Dwyer and Jim Dandy stakes before finishing sixth in the Travers. The partners usually have about 10 horses in training.

Robinson and Bailey have been breeding partners for several years. Gulf Coast Bloodstock owns about 120 broodmares, who are boarded at Kentucky's Taylor Made Farm and Viking Stud. The partnership aims at the commercial breeding market and has bred such top runners as Chelokee, Cowtown Cat, Salute the Sarge, Grand Adventure, Conveyance and Lookin At Lucky.