



MISSION IMPAZIBLE

THE HORSE

Here's another of the Todd Pletcher platoon of Kentucky Derby prospects, having won the Louisiana Derby in his first stakes effort. Mission Impazible, by Unbridled's Song out of the prolific producer La Paz, was bought for \$200,000 at the 2008 Keeneland September yearling sale.



As much as anything, the owner, Twin Creeks Racing Stables, was fascinated by the dam, who Twin Creeks partner Randy Gullatt calls "one of my all-time favorites." Eight of La Paz' 13 foals have sold for six figures, including graded stakes winners Spanish Empire and Forest Camp. Her last reported foal is a yearling Pleasantly Perfect colt named Pazitively Perfect.

THE OWNER

Twin Creeks Racing Stables is owned by Steve Davison, an attorney from Ruston, La., and principle owner in Genesis Energy LP, a publicly traded energy and transportation company. Also, he is co-developer of Squire Creek Country Club, the top-ranked golf course and residential development in Louisiana.

Randy Gullatt oversees every aspect of the farm. His extensive knowledge and experience in all facets of the Thoroughbred industry are given credit for being the basis of the development of Twin Creeks Farm. He also has the responsibility of selecting the horses to run for Twin Creeks Racing Stables.

Gullatt came to the business through his father, who owned horses. The younger Gullatt began by galloping horses and later opened his own stable in 1984. Davison began his appreciation for the sport in his youth, also, and approached Gullatt about training for him. They teamed up in 1990 and achieved success quickly with a small string. That success inspired them to move the stable to Northern California where they won at a 30 percent clip.

In 1992, Davison and Gullatt began to transition into the breeding side of the industry. They kept a few of their stakes-winning mares, including La Paz, with a goal of breeding top-class mares to the best stallions and the offspring at auction. Among those were Grade I winner Forest Camp and Grade III winner Spanish Empire, both out of their stakes-winning mare La Paz, also the dam of Mission Impazible.

Gullatt is listed as the team's manager, while Davison carries the title of director. Also listed as a director is Tom Clark, a long-time part of the racing industry beginning with his family racing ties for generations. He owns one of Southern California's major breeding farms, Rancho San Miguel.

THE BREEDER

Summer Wind Farm in Georgetown, Ky., is owned by Jane and Frank Lyon Jr., who have homes in Little Rock, Ark., and at the farm. They have two daughters: Karen Bailey and Ashley Jackson.

Frank Lyon Jr.'s late father was a prominent businessman who at one time held the Whirlpool and RCA distributorships for 90 percent of Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Louisiana and Texas. In the early 1970s, he negotiated a contract with Sam Walton to distribute every RCA television Walton's Wal-Mart sold nationally until 1989. The Lyon's other business interests included banking, the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Arkansas and the 13,000-acre Wingmead Farms.

Because of Frank Lyon Sr.'s deep involvement as chairman of Arkansas College in Batesville from 1976 to 1988, the institution was renamed Lyon College. In the 1990s, the family was listed in Forbes magazine's 400 wealthiest Americans. Frank Lyon Sr. died in 1998.

Frank Jr. is involved in multiple businesses, including farming and a John Deere distributorship.

Lyon bought Summer Wind farm in 1995 and it has been a particular focal point for Mrs. Lyon, who spends approximately six months a year in the Bluegrass and particularly loves the foaling season. The farm covers approximately 850 acres and is home to 27 broodmares. Mark Maloney is the farm's manager and the Lyons' daughter, Karen Bailey, who has a master's degree in business from Vanderbilt University, is the broodmare manager. Bailey is not new to the horse industry, having shown hunter-jumpers at age 11.

Among some cagey broodmare purchases over the years: Ingot Way in 1996 for \$310,000 while she was carrying a full brother to Skip Away, winner of the 1997 Breeders' Cup Classic; Evil Elaine privately in 1997 the night before her son, Favorite Trick, won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile en route to becoming Horse of the Year as an undefeated 2-year-old, and Carols Folly was bought privately in the fall of 2000 and the next year her daughter, Unbridled Elaine, won the Breeders' Cup Distaff, now the Ladies' Classic. Also part of the broodmare band is Omega, dam of multiple Grade I winner Aragorn, now a stallion at Lane's End Farm near Versailles, Ky., as well as champion Fleet Indian, bought privately in 2007 and delivered a Storm Cat colt in 2008.