



PADDY O'PRADO

THE HORSE

A solid second in the Toyota Blue Grass by this son of El Prado put him in the gate for the Kentucky Derby. Winless at 2 years old, Paddy O'Prado finally broke his maiden in his second start as a 3-year-old – in the Grade III Palm Beach Stakes.

To prove that was not fluke, the Dale Romans trainee came right back with a major effort to pick up second money in the Blue Grass, putting him among the top 20 on the graded-earnings list.



THE OWNER

Donegal Racing is a racing partnership created by Iowa attorney Jerry Crawford, with most partners being Iowans.

Inside the Donegal partnership is another partnership made up of eight investors known as the Derby Dreams Partnership I, established in 2008 with the purchase of eight yearlings.

That group's Paddy O'Prado is its second stakes winner, following the victory through disqualification of Vow to Wager in Turfway Park's John Battaglia Memorial Stakes this past spring. Vow to Wager is not nominated to the Triple Crown.

Crawford, born on a farm in Indianola, Iowa, October 26, 1949, is the managing partner for all of the Donegal horses, which are leased back to him after they are bought. The stable name refers to the Irish county of origin of the Crawford family. Family members left the Emerald Isle in the 1700s and came to the United States. The stable's colors reflect the colors of the County Donegal flag.

Crawford's family includes his wife, Linda, daughters Katelyn and Erin and son Connor. They have homes in Des Moines, Iowa, and in Arizona and Colorado. Crawford, a graduate of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., is a practicing attorney. He intends to donate his portion of any purse money earned by Paddy O'Prado to Macalester College.

Donegal Racing has two trainers: Dale Romans in the Midwest and Hall of Famer Bill Mott in the East. The group buys colts to race at public auction, targeting pedigrees that indicate the colts are suited to run at America's classic distances.

THE BREEDER

Winchell Thoroughbreds is operated by Joan and Ron Mitchell, both of whom live in Las Vegas. Ron Mitchell, 38, is involved in sports bars and real estate development in the Las Vegas area.

The mother-son partnership is a continuation of the racing operation begun by Verne H. Winchell, Joan's husband and father of Ron. The elder Mitchell died at age 87 in November 2002. He founded Winchell's Donuts in 1948 and later served as board chairman of Denny's restaurants.

Verne Winchell bred and raced champions Mira Femme and Tight Spot, the latter in partnership. Tight Spot won the 1991 Eclipse Award as the nation's top grass runner. The elder Winchell's other top runners: Donut King, Olympio, Sea Cadet, Fleet Renee and Exetera. Most of Verne Winchell's best horses were trained by Hall of Famer Ron McAnally.

Winchell Thoroughbreds bred and owned Pyro, who finished eighth in the 2008 Kentucky Derby for trainer Steve Asmussen.

Ron and Joan Winchell renamed Oakwind Farm, which was established by Verne Winchell, as Corinthia Farm after a house that was built on the property in 1854. The Winchells keep about 30 broodmares on the 320-acre spread near Lexington, Ky. They also usually have about 20 horses in training.

The biggest winner so far for Winchell Thoroughbreds has been Summerly, who captured the 2005 Kentucky Oaks under Asmussen's training. In partnership with Spendthrift Farm, the Winchells raced Grade I winner Cuvee, who was bred by Verne Winchell. The mother-son duo also raced Tapit, winner of the 2003 Wood Memorial prior to finishing ninth in the Kentucky Derby.