



## PLEASANT PRINCE

### THE HORSE

After failing to up his graded stakes money enough to insure a spot in the Kentucky Derby gate in Keeneland's Toyota Blue Grass Stakes, Pleasant Prince will be sent into the Grade III, \$200,000 Derby Trial on Churchill Downs' opening day as a last chance to make the field by winning.

If the chestnut son of Indy King makes the Run for the Roses it will give co-owners Kenneth and Sarah Ramsey two chances to capture the coveted Derby trophy.

The Ramseys will have trainer Wesley Ward saddle Pleasant Prince and Mike Maker tighten the girth on Dean's Kitten. Maker also has a second potential starter in Blue Grass winner Stately Victor for a different owner.



### THE OWNERS

#### **Kenneth L. Ramsey and Sarah K. Ramsey**

The husband-and-wife team of Kenneth and Sarah Ramsey has been a high-profile owner/breeder duo for several years in Kentucky. They both are natives of Artemus, Ky., and they live on Ramsey Farm, near Nicholasville, Ky., about 10 miles south of Lexington.

Kenneth Ramsey is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and struck it rich by accumulating a string of cellular telephone franchises, mostly along Interstate 75 in northeastern Georgia and southeastern Kentucky. Prior to that, he had found success in executive positions with a number of trucking firms and in real estate. He sold his cellular business, then valued at approximately \$39 million, in 1994 and became a major player in racing, first in owning horses and then in owning and breeding.

Ramsey got his first look at Churchill Downs' famed twin spires from the back gate of the racetrack while on a Christmas shopping trip to Louisville with his family. During his real estate heyday, he developed a passion for horse racing by attending Keeneland, Churchill Downs and River Downs (in Cincinnati). His first taste of ownership came in 1969 when he claimed a horse named Red Redeemer for \$1,500 at the now-defunct Miles Park in Louisville. The horse was blind in one eye and never won a race for Ramsey.

He gave up racing for a short time to concentrate on business matters.

Since getting into racing in a big way in the 1990s, the Ramseys have had 17 runners in the Breeders' Cup championships, six in 2009, including their first winner, Furthest Land, in the Dirt Mile. Prior to that victory, the Ramseys' biggest day came in 2004 when Kitten's Joy was second to Better Talk Now in the Turf and Roses in May was second to eventual Horse of the Year Ghostzapper in the Classic.

The Ramseys were voted the 2004 Eclipse Award as the nation's outstanding owners while racing Kitten's Joy and Roses in May. The latter came back in 2005 to win the Dubai World Cup, helping the couple become the nation's leading owners by earnings. They have won the Kentucky Thoroughbred Media award for the owner with the most Kentucky victories in a calendar year for nine straight years.

They have won 29 leading owner titles at Kentucky racetracks, seven at Keeneland, seven at Turfway Park, one at Ellis Park and a record 14 at Churchill Downs. Also, they have been leading owner at Gulfstream Park and Saratoga.

In 1994, the Ramseys bought the former Almahurst Farm, the birthplace of 1918 Kentucky Derby winner Exterminator and Standardbred legend Greyhound, and renamed it Ramsey Farm. The farm now covers 1,200 acres and is home to more than 150 broodmares and stallions Kitten's Joy and Catienus, previously a leading sire in New York. Both are homebreds. Roses in May was sold for stud duty in Japan.

The Ramseys have about 100 horses in training with Mike Maker, Wesley Ward, Bryan Lynch and Chad Brown. The stable's horses earned \$4.1 million in 2009, putting the Ramseys at eighth on the national list.

### **THE BREEDER**

Adena Springs is owned by the Frank Stronach family. The main farm is located in Paris, Ky. Adena Springs also has farms in Ontario, Canada, and Florida.

Stallions standing in Kentucky: 2004 and 1998 Breeders' Cup Classic winners Ghostzapper and Awesome Again, respectively, Einstein, 2006 Kentucky Derby champion Giacomo, 2000 Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Macho Uno, North Light, 2000 Preakness winner Red Bullet, Showing Up, Singing Saint, Tiago, 1997 Belmont winner Touch Gold and 2004 Breeders' Cup Juvenile champ Wilko. Standing at the Canadian site are 1996 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Alphabet Soup, Giant Gizmo, Milwaukee Brew, Olmodavor, Silent Name and Sligo Bay.

Adena Springs won the Eclipse Award as America's leading breeder five years in a row, 2004-2008, and Stronach won in his name in 2000. Along with breeding honors, Stronach Racing Stables captured the Eclipse Award for top owner in 2007 and 2008, while Stronach, in his name, won for leading owner in 1998, '99

and 2000. In 2005 and '06, Adena Springs made history by not only winning the breeder Eclipse but also Canada's Sovereign Award as top breeder both years.

Stronach Stables and Adena Springs have bred and/or raced more than 200 stakes winners. The list is topped by Ghostzapper, Macho Uno, Perfect Sting and Phantom Light, and includes Red Bullet, Ginger Punch, Sugar Shake, Citronnade, Spun Sugar, Milwaukee Brew, Golden Missile and Collect the Cash.

Stronach was born Sept. 6, 1932 in Austria and makes his main home in Switzerland. He also has homes in Ontario, Canada, Florida, Colorado and Kentucky. His family includes his wife, Freda, son Andy and daughter Brenda.

Stronach's principal business is Magna International Inc., which specializes in electronic technology and the manufacture of auto parts. In addition, he owns several racetracks, including Gulfstream Park, Santa Anita Park and the Maryland Jockey Club's Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course.