

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**
Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:**
Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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From Rough Start to Stakes Winner

by Linda Dougherty

To say that Arrowwood Farm's Pennsylvania-bred Jakarta had a rough start in life is probably something of an understatement.

At age 5, she had the best campaign of her career in 2020, in which she won two added-money events at Gulfstream Park including the Claiming Crown Distaff Dash. She overcame long odds to become the talented campaigner she is today.

It all began when Tom Coulter, who owns 250-acre Arrowwood Farm in York Springs, Pa., with his wife, Susan, bought the Stormello mare T J's Stormy Wit in foal to Bustin Stones at the 2014 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December sale for \$2,500.

"I liked Bustin Stones, and I thought the mare would work well with our local Pennsylvania stallions," said Coulter.

But when T J's Stormy Wit went into labor the night of Feb. 1, 2015, what started as a routine foaling soon turned out to be an emergency situation for Coulter and his staff.

They watched as T J's Stormy Wit immediately rejected the newly born Jakarta.

"The mare savaged the foal—she tried to kill her," recalled Coulter. "It was a very difficult situation."

Layne Shaffer, Arrowwood's farm manager, agreed.

"The minute the mare got up, she violently rejected the foal," she said. "For a couple of days, working with veterinarians, we tried different things to get the mare to accept her, but nothing worked. Eventually we were able to get an Appaloosa nurse mare."

To make matters worse, the pasterns in the



filly's hind legs were so lax that her toes were pointed up, which made walking and nursing problematic.

"It was almost to the point that she was walking on her ankles," said Coulter.

Thanks to corrective surgery and shoeing, Jakarta progressed nicely over the next few months and soon became a farm favorite.

"Everybody loved her," said Shaffer. "She was the first foal born that year, and we all became attached to her."

Shaffer said that Jakarta didn't especially stand out among others in her crop, calling her "very unassuming and quiet." Little nagging problems here and there delayed her first start until June of her 4-year-old year; she then had to deal with a habit of breaking badly from the starting gate.

The filly was, however, able to overcome a troubled start in her career debut at Penn National on June 9, 2019, to win by 10 lengths. The chart footnote read, "Jakarta was reluctant to load, broke in the air, moved clear before going a quarter ... and widened under a hand ride."

"I cried when she won," admitted Shaffer.



However, although Jakarta was able to exorcise her gate demons that day, she wasn't so lucky in her next three starts in allowance company, all of which were compromised by tardy beginnings.

Coulter and his trainer, Rodrigo Madrigal Sr., decided to drop the filly in for a claiming tag, and she was haltered for \$16,000 by trainer Brandon L. Kulp and owner Joe Besecker on Aug. 31, 2019, in her sixth start.

For Besecker, Jakarta won three out of four starts, twice in allowance company, at Penn National. Then, as part of a dispersal, Besecker sold her at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale for \$35,000 to Three Diamonds Farm.

Currently under the tutelage of trainer Mike Maker, Jakarta has blossomed into a stakes performer with a new affinity for the turf. Making her first start for Maker in March 2020, she went gate-to-wire in a 5-furlong allowance on the Gulfstream lawn. Still in Florida she made her stakes debut next out and scored by 2¼ lengths in the off-the-turf Powder Break at 1 mile. Shipped to New York, she placed in the Caress Stakes at Saratoga, a 5½ furlong turf dash in which she squared off against horses from top stables in the country and ran her highest-ever Equibase speed figure. She won a starter allowance by 2 lengths at Kentucky Downs, then was beaten

but a length by Grade 1 winner Got Stormy in the Grade 3 Buffalo Trace Franklin County Stakes on the Keeneland turf course.

Jakarta's lifetime record stands at eight wins, three seconds and two thirds from 19 starts, with earnings of \$336,706.

Arrowwood Farm has ranked among the top 10 breeder award recipients from the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association for the last five years. Coulter, an actuary by trade who also owns a consulting company, knew at a young age that he wanted to own a Thoroughbred farm and breed to race.

"Growing up, I was a fan of the sport and started out reading the Daily Racing Form and gambling, but what I really liked to read were stories of all the stables that bred and raced their own horses. That's what I wanted to do," he said.

In 1995, Coulter bought his first broodmare, and eventually, when his broodmare band grew, decided to buy his own farm in Pennsylvania, where the breeding program also had just started growing by leaps and bounds.

"The farm was just corn and soybeans when we bought it," he said. "The first year, we planted grass. The second year, we built the barn, and the third year we put up the fencing. Now we're building a house on the property."

Arrowwood has become a very successful

bred-to-race operation, just as Coulter had dreamed. Currently, 19 broodmares are domiciled at the York Springs nursery; young horses are sent to Rentz Farm in South Carolina for their breaking and early training. From there, they go to the Penn National barn of Coulter's longtime conditioner Madrigal to begin their racing careers.

"I have a master spreadsheet with 88 horses on it, although at one time I had as many as 110," said Coulter. "This way I keep track of where they are, where they are going next, and other information. I update the spreadsheet once a week and usually everything changes."

For Coulter, Madrigal has won more than 250 races. Some of Arrowwood's best horses include Maryland Million Lassie winner Item (\$210,519); stakes-placed Jumpmaster (\$234,264), and multiple allowance winner Early One Morning (\$275,118).

From 2016 to 2020, Coulter's horses earned him the leading money-winning owner crown at Penn National. Despite last year's abbreviated race meet due to Covid-19 cancellations, Coulter again won the title with earnings of \$401,901, just \$56,935 more than runnerup Robert A. Derr. Previously, in 2019, the Coulter stable collected \$879,919.

Each year, Coulter and Shaffer decide which stallions the broodmares will be bred to. Generally, half will be bred to Pennsylvania stallions, and half to those based in Kentucky.

"We don't use 'nicks' at all," said Coulter. "We look at the physicals of both the sire and the mare, and try to make a match. This way, we've had very good results. We also try to go to Kentucky once a year and look at all the stallions we're interested in."

Because Coulter is breeding to race, he likes stallions that have a proven track record, rather than freshman sires. Among those that stood in Pennsylvania that he patronized were Petionville and Jump Start.

All in all, the Coulters have a very busy but rewarding operation at Arrowwood, which is fueled by the earnings of the racing stable as well as by Pennsylvania breeders awards.

"The Pennsylvania program has been good to us for many years," said Coulter. "There's year-round racing, and a good amount of restricted races. It's a program that enables you to make a profit."

A message from the Executive Secretary



Once again, Governor Wolf has proposed cutting \$199 million from the Race Horse Development Trust Fund. Let me begin by saying that this is only a proposal and is very unlikely to gain any traction in the House or the Senate. This same proposal failed to gain any meaningful support last year. This move is illegal and we are confident that the RHDTF will withstand this assault, but we must take every attack on the fund very seriously.

I would like to refer you to the following sections of the Trust language:

S1405.1 Protection of the Fund – Daily assessments collected or received by the department under section 1405 (relating to the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Trust Fund) are not funds of the State.

S1405.1 – The Commonwealth shall not be rightfully entitled to any money described under this section and sections 1405 and 1406.

Our Equine Coalition is made up of Breeder and Horsemen organizations throughout Pennsylvania, both Thoroughbred and Standardbred. We are hard at work with the best lobbying firms in the state to prevent this injustice from happening but we're going to need your help!

If you're involved in our program and are a resident of PA, please contact your Representative and Senator and tell them your specific story, and if possible, ask others that you may know in our business to share their stories.

An additional call or email to the Governor's office would also be extremely helpful. Many of these communications have already been sent. If you are not a PA resident, please contact the Governor by phone or email to explain your involvement and investment in Pennsylvania and displeasure with his proposal.

Our racing industry relies on farms and other businesses to operate on a daily basis. Feed, hay and straw, vets, blacksmiths, tack, equipment and many other services. Our mark reaches to every corner of the state! Please ask them to contact their legislators as they also have a vested interest.

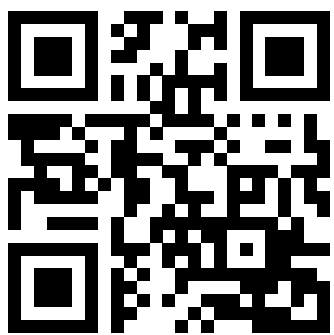
I understand that this action by the Governor has again caused great undue stress as we move into the breeding season. We want you to know that many of the legislators already contacted (both Democrats and Republicans) have given us their unwavering support and have said they will not let this happen. Pennsylvania is one of the leading breeding states in the country and with your help we will keep it that way! Go PA!

Brian Sanfratello
Executive Secretary, PHBA

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