

PA THOROUGHBRED REPORT

January 2022 / Issue No. 94

Weigelia

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PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

With 2021 in the books, it's time to turn the page and move on to what we hope will be a diminishing year for Covid and a great year for Pennsylvania breeding and racing. We'd like to thank you for your dedication to the PA program and hanging in during the governor's attempted raids on the Fund. The Race Horse Development Trust Fund held up again and you were rewarded with the best program in the country!

Our 12th Annual Stallion Auction on thoroughlybred.com will begin on Jan. 15 and end on Jan. 22. You'll be able to bid on seasons from PA Stallions and also many other states. [Go to our website](#) to view the available seasons and check back daily as new seasons continue to be added.

Remember, if you purchase a mare in foal at a public auction after Dec. 1, 2021, she must be brought into the state within 14 days of purchase through foaling (60 days if purchased at an overseas sale). During the foaling year the foal or its dam must spend at least 90 days in the state in order for that foal to be eligible to become a registered PA-Bred. You can also bring in your mare anytime, stay 60 consecutive days through foaling and breed back to a PA-Sire. You can find that PA-Sire in our new 2022 Stallion and Boarding Farm Directory. It has been mailed out to all breeders and you can view it now at pabred.com.

Here's to a fantastic 2022 and a Happy and Healthy New Year! Go Pa!!

Brian Sanfratello
Executive Secretary



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THROUGH
JANUARY 22

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WEIGELIA: DURABILITY IN A WELL-PROVEN STALLION

He ticks all the boxes, passing the qualities down to his progeny.

BY EMILY SHIELDS

If you look up “durable” in the dictionary, you might find a photo of Weigelia.

The son of Safely’s Mark – Turning North, by Obligato was a study in longevity and class, and is passing these desirable traits down to his offspring. With 74% winners from starters and progeny earnings just short of \$12 million, Weigelia has been a reliable member of the Pennsylvania stallion roster.

“If you look at his numbers, they speak for themselves,” said Barbara Wheeler of WynOaks Farm in Delta. “But he’s our best kept secret.”

Weigelia was no secret on the racetrack, breaking his maiden by 9 ¼ lengths at Calder in October, 2003. He ran for a \$40,000 tag that day, and although he was not claimed, breeder Shelley Huber sold him to Joseph Balsamo after the win. In the care of trainer Manuel Azpurua, Weigelia became a consistent face on the Florida circuit, winning a Calder allowance race at 36-1 that December, then trying graded company at Gulfstream Park.

Six months after his debut win, Weigelia picked up his first stakes victory in the \$83,300 Padua Stables Sophomore Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs. He added the \$40,000 Western Borders Stakes a month later, and two months after that scored in the Grade 3, \$300,000 Carry Back Stakes.

Weigelia was good enough to hit the road, and he proved he belonged with the best sophomore

sprinters when third in the \$150,000 Amsterdam Stakes (G2) and second, beaten a length and a half, in the \$250,000 King’s Bishop (G1) at Saratoga. He was consistent but frustrating, missing in stakes company at Keeneland before winning at Calder on November 13. That was his last win until June 2005, when new trainer Michael Trombetta got him back into the winner’s circle at Monmouth Park.

Gutty and hard knocking, Weigelia won the 2005 Jack Dudley Sprint, ran third in the Grade 2 Smile Sprint in 2006, and added both the Hockessin Stakes at Delaware Park and the Grade 3 Kenny Noe Jr. Handicap at Calder. His final win came in the 2007 Ponche Handicap, but he also placed in that year’s Grade 3 Jaipur at Belmont Park. Weigelia continued to race through 2008, winning 13 of 48 starts with nine seconds and 11 third place efforts. He earned \$1,007,708.

Around the time Weigelia was done racing, Wheeler was looking for a stallion. “Ed Price was keeping an eye out for us,” Wheeler recalled. “He came across Weigelia, who was an eight-year-old coming off the track. We made an appointment to go look at him, and much to our surprise given his age, he was up on his hind feet with a big guy handling him. But he’s always been like that, an in-your-face kind of horse; not mean or vicious but he wants to make sure you see him.”

Wheeler and husband Chip were able to negotiate with Balsamo, who they already knew personally. “He was a client at our Maryland farm for years,” Wheeler said, “and I think Joe wanted him to go to a good home.”

Weigelia doesn’t sell himself on looks – according to Wheeler, he is “seemingly average to look at. He’s just 16 hands and doesn’t have that presence of a really big stallion.”

But Weigelia is a true professional. “He still manages to settle most of his mares on the first cover,” Wheeler said. “He’s so lickety-split in the breeding shed that he will basically walk himself up to the barn, do his job, and walk himself back to his stall.”

Although sire Safely’s Mark is not a household name, the son of Danzig and the Breeders’ Cup

winning mare Safely Kept won three of 10 starts in allowance company in New York. Weigelia's dam Turning North was a stakes winner with 19 top three efforts in 29 tries. Both of her foals to race were winners.

Armed with his back-class pedigree and his honesty on the track, Weigelia entered stud in Pennsylvania in 2009. The results have been absolute: with 178 horses of racing age (minus the new crop of juveniles), 140 have raced and 103 have won. They earn an average of \$4,121 per start and \$85,160 per starter.

The big name under Weigelia is Storm Advisory, an Oaklawn Park stakes winner who was also graded stakes placed at Gulfstream Park. Bred in partnership by Wyn Oaks Farm, Otto Draper, and Epona Equine LLC, Storm Advisory debuted in 2014 and is still in training, having run 84 times with 16 wins and 40 top three efforts. Talk about durable!

Stakes winner Smooth B, out of Katarica Disco, has run 39 times and has earned \$528,288. Another remarkably consistent sort, he has 19 top three finishes in his career, and has run well all over the Mid Atlantic circuit, as well as New York. Stakes winners Disco Ebo and Fat Kat are his full sisters. Beren, out of Silmaril, is a five-time stakes winner at three different tracks with earnings just short of half a million. Brenda's Way, Chippewawwhitechief, and Barracuda Wayne are all Weigelia stakes winners.

"The best part about him is that if people are looking to breed to race, you can count the checks coming in the door," Wheeler said. "The Weigelias seem to do it over any distance, any surface, and any kind of weather. He has proven himself over and over again at different tracks and surfaces. If you take a horse that ran short one time, then turn around and go two turns, they'll still show up!"

The Wheelers will send some 20 to 25 of their own mares to Weigelia this spring, and will also be supporting new stallion Command Post, a stakes-placed son of Harlan's Holiday.

"We are testing the waters with him," Wheeler said of Command Post. "We like his babies and want to see how they are on the track."

Unlike Weigelia, who is beyond proven at this point. "We've taken back a couple of the Weigelias off the track simply because they are so durable," Wheeler said. "We made Pink Princess and Isabella Swift broodmares, and Chippewawwhitechief retired sound and became one of our teasers."

With Weigelia, breeders know what they are getting. "He stamps all of his foals the same," Wheeler said. "They aren't huge when they come out, which means they look like classic racehorses."

There's no more coveted prize than a true, durable racehorse. ■





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Wicked Strong
Susi Raisher Photo

MILLIONAIRE ROW:

MOR SPIRIT

BY AVERIE LEVANTI

When acclaimed attorney Stuart Grant purchased his first racehorse in 2002, he would quickly rise above the ranks as a top owner and breeder under his moniker The Elkstone Group. Only two years after his exploits in horse racing began, Grant purchased the successful Camden Training Center in Aiken, South Carolina. As a Delaware local, he bases the majority of his breeding operation at C-Dog Farm in Chesapeake City, Maryland, but ironically the best horse he's bred to date was foaled next door in Pennsylvania.

While attending the 2010 Keeneland November Sale, Grant snagged Im a Dixie Girl, a two-time stakes winning daughter by Dixie Union, for a bargain \$75,000. In foal to Curlin, the colt she was carrying would bring \$150,000 as yearling. After delivering her first foal, Grant bred Im a Dixie Girl to Wood Memorial winner Eskendereya and sent her north to Pennsylvania. With the colt selling for \$125,000 as a yearling, Grant sent the mare back to Eskendereya the following year, and on April 1, 2013, she delivered her seventh foal and her second for Grant in Pennsylvania.

Similar to his previous siblings, Stuart Grant opted to sell the dark bay colt as a yearling, and he was picked up by Redwings for \$85,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Fall Yearling Sale. The colt developed beautifully over the next few months, and he was accepted to the Fasig-Tipton Florida Select Two-Year-Old Sale the following March. Only five months after selling for a mere \$85,000, Im a Dixie Girl's colt hammered for \$650,000 to Bernard Shiappa and Michael Petersen.

Michael Lund Petersen, co-owner of Pandora Jewelry, had taken the jump into owning racehorses the previous year, and he currently had a stable of four horses with Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert. After purchasing the colt for \$650,000, Petersen named him Mor Spirit and sent him west to join Baffert's California barn.

After finishing second on debut at Santa Anita, Mor Spirit returned on October 23, 2015 to post an eye-opening 4 ¼ length score under a hand ride. He quickly became one of Baffert's most talked about two-year-olds of the season,

and he was pointed straight to stakes company for his next race. Stepping up to the Grade 2 Kentucky Jockey Club at Churchill Downs, Mor Spirit went off the 2-1 favorite in the field of thirteen. Tracking the early pace over the sloppy track, the colt took command but could not hold off the late charge from Airoforce, finishing second by 1 ¾ lengths.

Returning to his home base of California, Mor Spirit came out of the Kentucky Jockey Club so well that he was entered in the Grade 1 Los Alamitos Futurity only three weeks later. Installed the heavy favorite off his previous runs, Mor Spirit hung towards the back of the pack before sweeping around the field and confronting the fellow Baffert-trained Toews on Ice by the top of the stretch. As the two stablemates cleared away from the rest of the field, Mor Spirit skipped past Toews on Ice under a hand ride to cross the wire 1 ¼ lengths in front, notching the first graded stakes win for both himself and Michael Petersen.

Already a Grade 1 winner as a two-year-old, Mor Spirit had lofty expectations heading into his three-year-old season and the Kentucky Derby trail. He returned in Santa Anita's February Derby prep race, the G3 Robert B. Lewis Stakes. Sitting in third early, Mor Spirit swept up past front-runners Uncle Lino and I Will Score for a workmanlike 1 ½ length victory.

With the G2 San Felipe next on the agenda, Mor Spirit went off the 8-5 favorite in the field of six. While taking up his customary midpack position in the early going, the colt encountered some traffic trouble and checked off of a rival's heels heading around the first turn. Meanwhile, Danzing Candy was carving out quick fractions on a lone lead. Mor Spirit managed to improve position after his first turn mishap and moved up to third approaching the top of the stretch, but he was still 3 ½ lengths back. Although able to run down eventual Preakness Stakes winner Exaggerator, Mor Spirit couldn't catch frontrunning Danzing Candy, who had enough in the tank to hold on by two lengths.

Santa Anita Derby Day turned up with a sloppy track, and rain showered down on the racetrack throughout the entire day. Facing off against Danzing Candy and Exaggerator again in his final prep for the Kentucky Derby, Mor Spirit was still installed a slight 7-5 favorite. As Danzing Candy jetted away to more lightning quick fractions, Mor Spirit settled into midpack while Exaggerator fell as far back as 16 ½ lengths. Heading into the far turn, Gary Stevens and Mor Spirit started to launch their bid on the tiring front-runners, but suddenly Exaggerator, notorious for his sloppy track ability, was catapulting past the entire field to take the lead turning for home. He was long gone, but Mor Spirit still

managed to rally past the others to finish second, beaten 6 ¼ lengths.

While he made the 2016 Kentucky Derby, Mor Spirit offered little impression in the rough and tumble Run for the Roses, checking in tenth of twenty. Sent away for a freshening following the race, Mor Spirit reemerged in the final days of 2016, closing from last to finish fourth in the Grade 1 Malibu Stakes.

With a long freshening and his return race already under his belt, Mor Spirit entered his four-year-old season a new horse, and he made his first start of 2017 in the G2 San Antonio Stakes. Sent off the slight favorite, Mor Spirit sat just off a hot early pace. By the time he finally gained an advantage on stubborn frontrunner El Huerfano, Baffert-trained stablemate Hoppertunity was charging from last place and swept past to take the spoils by a length.

Opting for a change of scenery, Mor Spirit was sent to Oaklawn Park in Arkansas for his next start. Contesting the Essex Handicap, the colt was a heavy 1-2 favorite and did not disappoint. Utilizing more of his speed early on, Mor Spirit pressured the early pace before taking control and scoring his first victory in over a year by an easy 2 ½ lengths.

With the G1 Metropolitan Handicap his main goal, Mor Spirit prepared for the historic one mile race in the G3 Steve Sexton Mile at Lone Star Park. The 2-5 favorite, Mor Spirit went straight to the lead for the first time in his career, leading throughout before pulling away to a dominant 5 ¾ length score.

With a field of twelve lining up for the Met Mile on the Belmont Stakes undercard, Mor Spirit was made a slight 5-2 favorite over Sharp Azteca. With Sharp Azteca going for the lead straight out of the gate, Mor Spirit glued himself

to the outside of his rival. The two favorites set down quick fractions of 23.10, 46.05, and 1:10.10 before approaching the top of the stretch. Mor Spirit slowly whittled away at Sharp Azteca's advantage and eventually poked his head in front as they turned for home. It was game over from there as Mor Spirit shook clear of his foe and continued on powerfully to put himself 6 ¼ lengths in front at the wire. A Grade 1 winner at two and a Grade 1 winner at four, Mor Spirit became the first horse in twenty-five years to be a G1 winning juvenile who went on to win the historic Met Mile.

After such a taxing effort, Mor Spirit was given a lengthy layoff, although it ended up being a bit lengthier than originally expected. Not returning again until the Breeders' Cup five months after his Met Mile score, Mor Spirit still went off the 5-2 favorite in the Dirt Mile. On November 3, 2017, he broke from the gate for the final time, but the long layoff proved too much to overcome and he checked in eighth of ten.

Although Mor Spirit intended to race at age five, the plans never came to fruition. He was officially retired the following September to enter stud duty at Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky. He stood his first year for \$10,000 and had his first foals born in 2020.

From three years on the racetrack, Mor Spirit started fourteen times with six wins and five seconds for earnings of \$1,668,400. He recorded five total stakes wins, four of which were graded, and placed in four others. He was a two-time Grade 1 winner with scores in the Los Alamitos Futurity and Metropolitan Handicap. Mor Spirit finished first or second in eleven of fourteen starts, with his only off-the-board efforts coming in the Kentucky Derby and off of lengthy layoffs. ■



MOR SPIRIT
2017 MET MILE, BELMONT PARK

PC: DAVID ALCOSSER

KEENELAND JANUARY SALE

A total of 21 PA-Breds have been catalogued at the Keeneland January Sale to be held January 10-13 in Lexington, Ky. The following chart includes breeder and consignor.

Hip	DOB	Color	Sex	Horse Name	Sire	Dam	Broodmare Sire	Sold As	BC	Covering Sire	Breeder	Consignor
117	2010-04-30	ch	m	Even Prettier	Stephen Got Even	Kabili Star	House-buster	Broodmare	N	Spun to Run	Heart Hill Farms LLC	Buckland Sales (Zach Madden), Agent XXVIII
142	2021-05-15	b	f		Mendelssohn	Guise	Exchange Rate	Yearling	Y		Barlar, LLC	Ballysax Bloodstock, Agent X
199	2017-02-07	dkb	m	Lookout Rags	Union Rags	Lookout Lady	Smart Strike	Broodmare	N	Mitole	Chadds Ford Stable LLC	Royal Oak Farm (Damian & Braxton Lynch), Agent
370	2021-04-14	b	c		Street Sense	Tapital Gains	Tapit	Yearling	Y		Forgotten Land Investment Inc	Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent XXXI
385	2013-03-23	b	m	True Egyptian	Pioneer of the Nile	Western Pleaser	Crowd Pleaser	Broodmare	N		William L Pape	Royal Oak Farm (Damian & Braxton Lynch), Agent
421	2018-04-13	b	f	Marion Francis	Constitution	Sophie's Destiny	Two Punch	Racing or Broodmare Prospect	Y		Blackstone Farm LLC	ELITE, Agent
448	2009-04-21	b	m	Appealing Cat	Successful Appeal	Dynamic Cat	Dynaformer	Broodmare	N	Mitole	George Strawbridge Jr	Four Star Sales, Agent for Spendthrift Farm LLC
450	2021-04-26	ch	f		Flameaway	A. P. Reality	Pulpit	Yearling	Y		Roberta L. Schneider MD	Fort Christopher's Thoroughbreds LLC, Agent III
651	2018-03-20	b	f	Miss Construe	Distorted Humor	Construe	Hard Spun	Broodmare Prospect	N		Caroline Bentley	Paramount Sales, Agent III
666	2012-02-02	b	m	Moonlit Bay	Malibu Moon	Hidden Expression	Yonaguska	Broodmare	N	Liam's Map	Deborah G Thorington	Trackside Farm (Tom Evans), Agent VI



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KEENELAND JANUARY SALE CONT...

699	2017-02-19	dkb	m	Poker Queen	Quality Road	A Lady With an Ace	First Samurai	Broodmare	N	Game Winner	Blackstone Farm LLC	Hidden Brook, Agent VII
780	2006-04-23	b	m	Stylish Ways	Empire Maker	Sighting	Danzig	Broodmare	N	Vekoma	George Strawbridge Jr	Paramount Sales, Agent XXXII
781	2014-03-11	ch	m	Surfer's Paradise	Congrats	Starlight Tiara	More Than Ready	Broodmare	N	Maximum Security	Gunpowder Farms LLC	Kinga Farm, LLC, Agent II
813	2014-04-21	b	m	Tulsa Queen	Cactus Ridge	Hot Touch	Touch Gold	Broodmare	N	Tiz the Law	Anne L. Walsh	Brookdale Sales, Agent for Spartan Team Investment
984	2015-02-01	b	m	Jakarta	Bustin Stones	T J's Stormy Wit	Stormello	Racing or Broodmare Prospect	N		Arrowwood Farm Inc	Bluewater Sales LLC, Agent I
1088	2021-02-22	gr/m	f		Leofric	Rise to the Top	Pioneer of the Nile	Yearling	N		Mark Randal Menscer	Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent XLIX
1227	2009-03-01	b	m	Zippity Goomba	City Zip	Goomada Byda Sea	Sea Hero	Broodmare	N	Clearly Now	Navesink Thoroughbreds LLC	Considine Farm, Agent
1330	2005-04-05	ch	m	Ferdie's Gal	Fast Ferdie	Wabash Gal	Jungle Express	Broodmare	N	Jack Milton	Guy Marcus Trolinger	Hurstland Farm (Alfred H. Nuckols, Jr.), Agent
1371	2018-03-10	b	f	Is That a Thing	Will Take Charge	Mahkama	Bernardini	Broodmare Prospect	N		Blackstone Farm LLC	Brookdale Sales, Agent
1419	2015-03-04	dkb	m	Marlee's Magic	Flashy Bull	Outrageous Sadie	Outflanker	Broodmare	N	Higher Power	Michael W Jester	Fort Christopher's Thoroughbreds LLC, Agent II
1509	2018-04-07	b	f	Standup Or Shut Up	Constitution	Icy Tea	Storm Cat	Racing or Broodmare Prospect	Y		Smart Angle LLP	Vinery Sales, Agent XXXII

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2021 PA-BRED STAKES SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 27 PARX RACING	\$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP 3 & up, 7 furlongs 1st - Wait for It, 2nd - Chilly in Charge, 3rd - Breezy Gust	\$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 furlongs 1st - Chub Wagon, 2nd - Promised Storm, 3rd - Ujjayi
FRIDAY, MAY 28 PENN NATIONAL	\$100,000 LYPHARD STAKES 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles, off turf 1st - Trolley Ride, 2nd - Midnight Obsession, 3rd - Discreetly Tough	\$100,000 WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles, off turf 1st - Ravens Delight, 2nd - Chilly in Charge, 3rd - Saratoga Jack
TUESDAY, JUNE 22 PARX RACING	\$100,000 CROWD PLEASER STAKES 3YO, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles, off turf 1st - Beren, 2nd - Like a Saltshaker, 3rd - Fire's Finale	\$100,000 POWER BY FAR STAKES 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 furlongs, off turf 1st - Hey Mamaluke, 2nd - Precious, 3rd - Tara's Talent
MONDAY, JULY 19 PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	\$100,000 MALVERN ROSE STAKES 3YO fillies, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs 1st - Just One Time, 2nd - Maldives Model, 3rd - Tactical Pajamas	
MONDAY, JULY 26 PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	\$100,000 PRINCESS OF SYLMAR STAKES 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mile 70 yards 1st - Darcy Mae, 2nd - Redeem My Heart, 3rd - Wildcat Cartridge	
TUESDAY, JULY 27 PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	\$100,000 HARD SPUN STAKES 3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards 1st - Wait For It, 2nd - Viski Jones, 3rd - Ravens Delight	
PENNSYLVANIA'S DAY AT THE RACES MONDAY, AUGUST 23 PARX RACING	\$100,000 BANJO PICKER SPRINT STAKES 3 & up, 6 furlongs 1st - Fortheluvofbourbon, 2nd - Golden Candy, 3rd - Prince of Rain	\$100,000 MARSHALL JENNEY HANDICAP 3 & up, 5 furlongs, off turf 1st - Admiral Abe, 2nd - Smooth B, 3rd - Screen Saver
	\$100,000 MRS. PENNY STAKES 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles, off turf 1st - Precious, 2nd - Vault, 3rd - Trolley Ride	\$100,000 STORM CAT STAKES 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles 1st - I Am Redeemed, 2nd - Lord Winsalot, 3rd - Irish Cork
	\$100,000 DR. TERESA GAROFALO MEMORIAL STAKES 3 & up, fillies & mares, 6 furlongs 1st - Don't Call Me Mary, 2nd - Chub Wagon, 3rd - Cinnabunny	
MONDAY, SEPT. 13 PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS	\$100,000 FINEST CITY STAKES 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs 1st - You Look Cold, 2nd - Morning Matcha, 3rd - Advocate Harbor	\$100,000 MARK MCDERMOTT STAKES 2YO, 6 furlongs 1st - Champion by Design, 2nd - Dr. Steve, 3rd - Center Mid Maddie
SATURDAY, SEPT. 25 PARX RACING	\$200,000 ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles, turf 1st - You Must Chill, 2nd - Wait for It, 3rd - Someday Jones	\$200,000 PLUM PRETTY STAKES 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles 1st - Chub Wagon, 2nd - Vault, 3rd - Marion Francis
FRIDAY, OCT. 22 PENN NATIONAL	\$100,000 DANZIG STAKES 3YO, 6 furlongs 1st - Beren, 2nd - Marvalous Mike, 3rd - Don't Lose my money	\$100,000 NEW START STAKES 3YO fillies, 6 furlongs 1st - Just One Time, 2nd - Oxana, 3rd - Secret Banker
FRIDAY, NOV. 26 PENN NATIONAL	\$200,000 SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs 1st - Disco Ebo, 2nd - Burano, 3rd - Isthatyourharley	
TUESDAY, DEC. 7 PARX RACING	\$200,000 PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES 2YO, 7 furlongs 1st - Witty, 2nd - Uncle Buddy, 3rd - Vine Jet	



Photo by Janet Garaugso/Adam Coglianese

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PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY S.

Parx Racing, Tuesday, December 07, 2021, Race 9
7 furlongs \$200,000 2 yo

WON - WITTY

Great Notion - Zeezee Zoomzoom
Trainer: McLane Hendriks
Jockey: Carol Cedenio
Owner: Elizabeth M. Merryman
Breeder: Elizabeth M. Merryman

2nd - Uncle Buddy

Uncle Lino - Ruby Monday (\$4,500 '20 FTMSEPT)
Trainer: Timothy C. Kreiser
Jockey: Jorge L. Vargas
Owner: Joseph E. Besecker
Breeder: William E. Riddle Jr.

3rd - Vine Jet

Red Vine - Our Girl Friday
Trainer: John J. Dunn
Jockey: Abner Adorno
Owner: Felissa Dunn
Breeder: E. Marie Morrison

The final PA-bred stakes of the year was claimed by the half-brother to the 2020 PA-bred Horse of the Year. Witty, the third foal out of Elizabeth Merryman's broodmare Zeezee Zoomzoom, was an ultra-impressive winner of the \$200,000 Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes, besting nine fellow Pennsylvania-bred juveniles by 5 ½ lengths. A half-brother to G3 winner Caravel, the Merryman bred and owned Witty made it two wins and a second in three starts with his first stakes victory, bringing his 2021 earnings to \$144,000.

Sent off the 2-1 favorite in the field of ten, Witty and jockey Carol Cedenio were steadied out of the gate and ended up away last of ten before settling into mid pack in the early stages of the seven-furlong race. Unfurling an eye-catching



PC: EQUI-PHOTO

move around the turn, the gray gelding moved up along the rail around the bend before switching to the outside at the top of the stretch. Third and widest while turning for home, Witty didn't show any sign of stopping when spurring clear by three lengths in early stretch and continued widening under confident handling approaching the wire. He passed by the finish line 5 ½ lengths ahead of second place finisher Uncle Buddy, bred by William Riddle Jr., who was another three lengths clear of third-place Vine Jet, bred by E. Marie Morrison. The final time was 1:26.44.

Witty debuted for Merryman at Laurel Park in September, posting a runner-up effort despite 27-1 odds. He returned one month later at Parx Racing and graduated by 4 ¾ lengths in a Pennsylvania-bred maiden special weight. Shortly after, Witty was transferred into the care of Merryman's son, McLane Hendricks. A stakes-winning steeplechase jockey, Hendricks started his own training string this past November. Witty's Pennsylvania Nursery run was only Hendricks' fourth flat starter, and the \$200,000 race doubled as his first career training victory. ■

stakes recaps continued next page

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

WILLA ON THE MOVE S.

Laurel Park, Sunday, December 26, 2021, Race 5
6 furlongs \$100,000 Fillies and Mares 3 yo's & up

WON - KAYLASAURUS

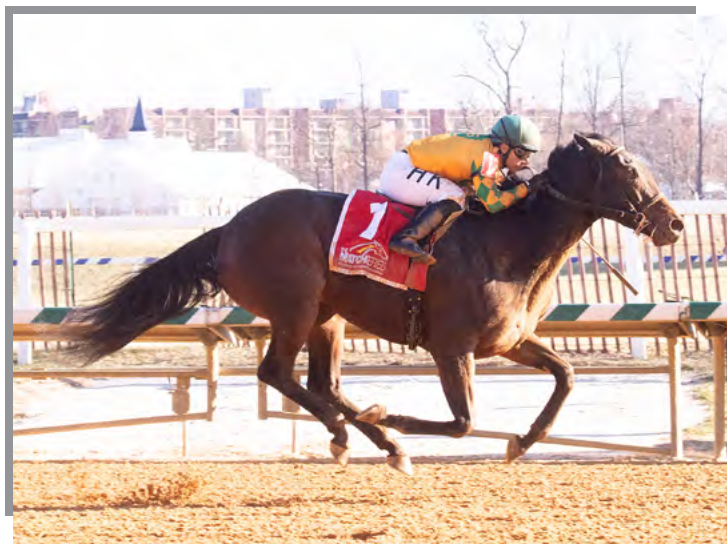
Munnings - Five Diamonds

Trainer: Timothy C. Kreiser

Jockey: Horacio Karamanos

Owner: Bush Racing Stable and Liberty House Racing

Breeder: Arrowwood Farm



PC: JIM MCCUE

First time off the claim proved no problem for Kaylasaurus, bagging her first career stakes victory in her nineteenth start. The five-year-old daughter of Munnings capped her 2021 season with her fifth victory of the year, bringing her career earnings to nearly \$216,000.

Out of the Flatter mare Five Diamonds, Kaylasaurus was bred by Tom Coulter's Arrowwood Farm. The mare completed the first eighteen races of her career with Coulter as owner, only recording two victories in seven starts from 2018-2020 until her twelve-race campaign in 2021. Kaylasaurus posted a 3 ¼ length allowance optional claiming victory at Penn National on November 30th and was claimed by trainer Timothy Kreiser on behalf of owners Bush Racing Stable and Liberty House Racing for \$25,000. Prior to that score, she had posted three other victories in Penn National allowance ranks in 2021 and finished fourth in the Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial Stakes on Pennsylvania's Day at the Races.

In her first start for her new connections, Kaylasaurus attempted the \$100,000 Willa On the Move Stakes at Laurel Park. The 5-1 second longest shot in the field of five, Kaylasaurus and rider

Horacio Karamano dropped far behind the pack in last early on. Last out stakes winner Princess Kokachin was setting a contested pace over the heavily favored multiple stakes winner Hello Beautiful as Kaylasaurus still trailed by nine lengths approaching the quarter pole. With Hello Beautiful giving way, Princess Kokachin looked to be home clear when opening a 3 ½ length lead on the field in the stretch. Kaylasaurus, still 7 ½ lengths behind approaching the 1/8th pole, began to uncork a massive turn of foot down the center of the track and blew by Princess Kokachin only forty yards from the finish to post a 2 ¼ length victory in 1:11.74 for six furlongs.

Claimed for only \$25,000 one start before, PA-bred Kaylasaurus rewarded her connections with a \$60,000 winner's purse and stakes victory first time out. ■

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PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

MRS. CLAUS S.

Parx Racing, Tuesday, December 28, 2021, Race 7
7 furlongs \$100,000 Fillies and Mares 3 yo's & up

WON - JAKARTA

Bustin Stones - T J's Stormy Wit (\$35,000 '19FTMDEC)

Trainer: Michael J. Trombetta

Jockey: Carlos Eduardo Lopez

Owner: Three Diamonds Farm

Breeder: Arrowwood Farm

3rd - Don't Call Me Mary

El Padrino - Monette (\$150,000 '21KEEAPR)

Trainer: Todd A. Pletcher

Jockey: Kendrick Carmouche

Owner: The Elkstone Group, LLC (Stuart Grant)

Breeder: Richard Simoff

Making a return to dirt for the first time in a year-and-a-half, six-year-old Jakarta posted her first victory of 2021. It was the third stakes victory for the mare and owners Three Diamonds Farm since they purchased her out of the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed Sale.

Bred by Tom Coulter's Arrowwood Farm, who purchased Jakarta's dam T J's Stormy Wit for a mere \$2,500 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed Sale while in foal with the future stakes winner, Jakarta did not debut until the age of four and campaigned the first four races of her career for her breeder. A first time out winner at Penn National, Jakarta was claimed by trainer Brandon Kulp and owner Joseph Besecker for \$16,000 in late August 2019. She won three of four starts for her new connections before entering that December's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Mixed Sale. She was purchased for \$35,000 by Three Diamonds Farm and was transferred to the barn of trainer Mike Maker.



PC: EQUI-PHOTO

Jakarta won her first two starts at Gulfstream Park for Three Diamonds and Maker, including her first career stakes victory in the Powder Break Stakes. She went on to win a starter allowance in addition to stakes placings in the Caress Stakes at Saratoga and G3 Franklin County at Keeneland before recording a second stakes score in the Claiming Crown Distaff Dash.

Mostly campaigning in stakes in 2021, Jakarta's best finish in eight starts was a third-place effort in the Giant's Causeway Stakes before she was transferred to trainer Mike Trombetta at Fair Hill in December. Returning her to the main track for her first start for Trombetta, Jakarta immediately set out to the lead of the Mrs. Claus Stakes and never looked back. Pressured early by fellow PA-breds Hey Mamaluke and Don't Call Me Mary, Jakarta set an opening quarter of 22.97 before shaking away to a daylight lead through the half in 45.53. Pulling away to a three-length advantage under Mychel Sanchez approaching the stretch, the bay mare maintained the advantage to post the 18-1 upset in a final time of 1:23.40 for seven furlongs. Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial winner Don't Call Me Mary held on for third. ■

stakes recaps continued next page

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

BLITZEN S.

Parx Racing, Tuesday, December 28, 2021, Race 9
6 furlongs \$100,000 3 yo's & up

WON - DREAMS UNTOLD

Smarty Jones - Shootforthestars

Trainer: John C. Servis

Jockey: Frankie Pennington

Owner: Someday Farm

Breeder: Patricia L. Chapman

3rd - Fortheluvofbourbon

Bourbon Courage - Nosubstituteforluv

Trainer: Michael V. Pino

Jockey: Mychel J. Sanchez

Owner: Smart Angle LLP

Breeder: Hidden Acres 4-D Farm



Parx racing debuted two new stakes cards in the days after Christmas, and Pennsylvania-breds showed out. Recording the first stakes victory of his career was four-year-old Dreams Untold, a Smarty Jones son bred and owned by Patricia Chapman. Dreams Untold is the thirteenth of fourteen foals out of the Seattle Slew mare Shootforthestars, who Pat Chapman purchased for \$450,000 out of the 2006 Keeneland November Sale. A half-brother to three stakes placed runners and full brother to Pennsylvania Nursery winner Nasa and G1 Triple Bend winner Centralintelligence, Dreams Untold picked up his first stakes score in his sixteenth start.

Campaigned by John Servis and Someday Farm throughout his career, Dreams Untold broke his maiden on second asking at Parx and recorded three additional allowance victories in 2020 before opening his 2021 season with a 6 ¾ length Parx allowance score. While mostly keeping to allowance ranks throughout 2021, Dreams Untold took another crack at stakes ranks in the open Blitzen Stakes.

The 5-1 third choice in a wide-open field of fourteen, Dreams Untold and jockey Frankie Pennington sat just behind the fast early pace set by the duo of Word On a Wing and Borracho. After a 21.93 quarter, Dreams Untold approached the pair around the turn and took command by the quarter pole. With most of the field strung out behind the quick early pace, Dreams Untold kicked away to a 2 ½ length advantage down the stretch while his foes chased in his wake. The chestnut gelding crossed the wire an ever widening 3 ¾ lengths over favored Repo Rocks and PA-bred and Banjo Picker Sprint winner Fortheluvofbourbon. The final time was 1:10.46 for six furlongs.

The victory was the sixth in sixteen starts for Dreams Untold, whose career earnings now stand at over \$258,000. ■

stakes recaps continued next page

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

PARX JUVENILE S.

Parx Racing, Wednesday, December 29, 2021, Race 9
7 furlongs \$100,000 2 yo

WON - DANCE CODE

Honor Code - Dancinginthestreet (\$13,000 '20
KEESEPT, \$50,000 '21 OBSMAR)

Trainer: Juan C. Vazquez

Jockey: Nik Juarez

Owner: Richie's World Stables LLC

Breeder: Blackstone Farm LLC



Returning off a three-week layoff for the Parx Juvenile, Dance Code went to the lead as the 3-1 fourth choice in the field of eight. With favored Speaking keeping pressure on him early on, the pair set opening fractions of 22.77 and 45.53 before turning for home. Dance Code shook clear from his foe late and eventually pulled away to a 1 ½ length score for a final time of 1:26.32 for seven furlongs. The first stakes victory was the third win in six starts for Dance Code, whose earnings now stand over \$157,000. ■

Wrapping up Pennsylvania-bred stakes action in 2021 was Dance Code, who recorded the first stakes victory of his career in the Parx Juvenile. Bred by Blackstone Farm LLC, who purchased dam Dancinginthestreet for \$40,000 at the 2015 Keeneland November Sale, Dance Code is the fourth foal from the Street Boss mare. Blackstone Farm sold the Honor Code colt for \$13,000 at the 2020 Keeneland September Sale, where he was pinhooked by Bella Racing and entered back in the following year's OBS March Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale. Dance Code was purchased for \$50,000 by current owners Richie's World Stables.

After breaking his maiden first time out at Parx as the 13-1 longest shot on the board, Dance Code traveled to Saratoga and finished third in the G3 Sanford Stakes at 29-1. After a poor showing in the Saratoga Special, Dance Code took a short break and returned to allowance ranks at Parx in November. He went to the lead and never looked back to score by 1 ¾ lengths. Making a return to stakes ranks in the Pennsylvania Nursery, Dance Code was the 3-1 second choice, but he could only

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PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

SHE'S ALL IN S.

Remington Park, Friday, December 17, 2021, Race 10
1 mile 70 Yards \$100,000 Fillies and Mares 3 yo's & up

2nd - Marion Francis

Constitution - Sophie's Destiny (\$150,000 '20OBSAPR,
\$50,000 '19 FTKOCT, \$75,000 '19FTKJUL)

Trainer: Brad H. Cox

Jockey: Martin Garcia

Owner: Madaket Stables LLC, Wonder Stables and 4K2
Stables LLC

Breeder: Blackstone Farm LLC

NEW YORK STALLION SERIES S.

Aqueduct, Saturday, December 18, 2021, Race 8
7 furlongs \$500,000 Fillies 2 yo

3rd - Morning Matcha

Central Banker - Home Ice (\$18,000 '20FTMSEP)

Trainer: Robert E. Reid, Jr.

Jockey: Kendrick Carmouche

Owner: LC Racing, Cash is King LLC and Barber, Gary

Breeder: Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC

KRIS KRINGLE S.

Parx Racing, Tuesday, December 28, 2021, Race 8
1 mile 70 Yards \$100,000 3 yo's & up

3rd - I Am Redeemed

Redeemed - One Smart Philly

Trainer: Penny Pearce

Jockey: Abner Adorno

Owner: Larry Rebbecchi

Breeder: Dr. Lawrence Anthony Rebbecchi Jr.



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A Thoroughbred foal born in the state of Pennsylvania and registered as such with the Jockey Club is eligible for Pennsylvania-Bred registration with the PHBA if one of the following conditions is met:

A) For foals of 2019 and thereafter, the dam of the foal resided continuously in Pennsylvania since December 1 of the year of conception through foaling. Mares not being bred back also fall under this category. Domicile form required by December 1.

B) The dam of the foal was purchased at a public sale after December 1 of the year of conception and brought into Pennsylvania within 14 days of the date of purchase (60 days if outside the US) and remained continuously through foaling. During the year of foaling, the foal or its dam spent at least ninety (90) days in the state. (Note: Must be a public sale – not a private transaction.)

C) The dam of the foal was bred back to a stallion standing in Pennsylvania which was registered with the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association as a Pennsylvania stallion during the breeding season of the year of foaling, and said dam of the foal resided in the state for at least sixty (60) consecutive days during which foaling occurred.



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