



December 2024  
pabred.com

## 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

## VISIT PABRED.COM

- Racing and breeding news
- PA-Bred entries/results
- Rules, regulations, forms

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## Runnymede Farm Raises to Race for the Advantage

By Nikki Sherman



The late afternoon sun spread golden light across the pristine rolling hills of Runnymede Farm in Coatesville, Pa. Gathering at the "Training Barn" were owners Greg and his wife Caroline Bentley, as well as Farm Manager Joe Cassidy. Breeding Manager Jim Bergen would join the group later in a light and airy broodmare barn at the precipice of one of the hills.

The barn was fairly empty, save for stakes-placed Loose Ends, who had recently returned home for the winter. The 5-year-old son of Divining Rod was still in racing shape and stood proudly on the side of a lush slope after Cassidy requested that he be led out for photographs.

"We think he has the ability to make the transition into steeplechasing well," Cassidy noted, before adding, "He's the first one back home but

the others are coming soon. We like to bring them home, and the great thing is that they can stay in shape. When they go back to the racetrack, they're pretty much ready for four-furlong breezes and our trainers love that."

Runnymede Farm is not just a breeding facility; it also houses a fully-accredited 6-furlong Tape-ta training track, an outdoor swimming pond and a Hitchcock pen. Not only does the home team use the facilities, but some of the top horsemen from a variety of disciplines schedule usage, including the United States Equestrian Team, Eventing Team, and steeplechase trainers. Cassidy said that they mixed the length and width of swimming docks from two of the nation's top eventers to create their own "Best of the Best" pond. Every single horse on the grounds of Runnymede Farm has swum in the

pond.

Cassidy said that their team believes that this is crucial to the development of their horses. "It teaches them that 'No' is not an answer. We've found that it helps them in so many ways, the most obvious of which is in the starting gate. We also send every horse through our Hitchcock pen. It's great because all the people on the farm line up to watch on those days!"

A Hitchcock pen is a circular wooden chute that includes hedge-shaped jumps. The horses are then "free lunged" around the course. Cassidy admitted that not every horse has shown ability at jumping (or swimming), but that they still learn an immense willingness to try.

Runnymede Farm was purchased by the Bentleys from Diane Wister, whose brother is George Strawbridge Jr., a member of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame's Board of Trustees. Strawbridge races under Augustin Stables and his Derry Meeting Farm—birthplace of Storm Cat—is adjacent to the 440 acres that encompass the Bentley's portion of Runnymede Farm. The original Runnymede Farm was over 2,500 acres. Those two properties, as well as several others, include 1,700 acres of neighboring green space for Pennsylvania's Chester County.

Greg and his four brothers founded an infrastructure engineering software provider called Bentley Systems in 1984. In the 40 years since its inception, the company has become internationally successful, yet continues to hold its headquarters right in Exton, Pa. That success has allowed Greg and Caroline to pursue their love for horses and horse racing. Since there is a well-known Runnymede Farm in Kentucky, the Bentleys decided to race most of their horses under the moniker Runnymoore Racing, LLC.

Over the years, the couple has been blessed with several nationally-recognized racehorses. The three most well known now share a pensioners' paddock at Runnymede Farm. The Bentleys acquired Postulation, who gave them a thrilling victory in the \$250,000 American St. Leger-G3 at Arlington Park in 2017. Alwaysmining gave them the thrill of competing in a Triple Crown race after he earned a spot in the 2019 Preakness Stakes following six straight victories, including an eye-opening 11½-length score in the local prep, the \$125,000 Federico Tesio Stakes. While Alwaysmining was unsuccessful in the Preakness, he ultimately earned \$618,549, including three more wins, of which two were stakes. And perhaps their most exciting win was with Hardest Core, who captured the 2014 Arlington Million-G1 over some of the

best turf horses of his generation, including the prior year's Breeders' Cup Turf winner Magician (Ire), defending champion Real Solution, 2013 Canadian Horse of the Year Up With the Birds, and multimillionaire Side Glance (GB).

"After Hardest Core, we thought it was easy," Caroline laughed.

When Hardest Core was sent to the farm between racing seasons, he "babysat" a young filly named Giant Shadow. The daughter of Giant's Causeway had captured three races in a row, including a maiden special weight and allowance at Parx Racing, before a dull stakes debut necessitated a break for the winter. Coming full circle, Giant Shadow is now the dam of Loose Ends. And what was also so special about Loose Ends' stakes-placing in the 2022 Crowd Pleaser Stakes? Well, the winner was also their own homebred, Undercover Kitty. They were officially in the breeding game.

"We came to realize that, even with everyone meaning well, you're never going to know as much about a horse you're buying as the seller does," Greg noted. "But if you breed and raise the horse then you have the advantage. It made sense that breeding to race is really our intended final state here."

Caroline added, "We bought fillies with an eye for breeding but we were very new at it

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## A few words from the Executive Secretary

Congratulations to the Blackstone-bred Roses for Debra who sold for \$2.4 Million at the Keeneland November sale, the highest price of the sale. PA-Bred Foxy Junior, a homebred for Dianne Stern, ran her record to 6 wins in 7 starts this year by winning her third straight stakes race in the Thirty Eight Go Go Stakes at Laurel. The Boy's Warrior, bred by Warrior's Reward LLC, made it two stakes in a row by winning the Mark McDermott at Presque Isle Downs. The 2yo is a perfect 3-for-3 with earnings of \$142,200, breeder awards of \$56,880 and \$14,220 in stallion awards. That's a total of \$213,300. Wow!

The next races in the PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series are scheduled for Dec. 30 at PARX. The second leg in the series will carry

\$100,000 in purses for 2yos and 2yo fillies and a \$50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series: \$25,000 for first, \$15,000 for second and \$10,000 for third. This bonus will be paid after the 3yo races in 2025.

Our newest stallion addition to Pennsylvania is the Tapit sired Tyson. The Canadian champion older male of 2023 is out of the winning Smart Strike mare Honouring, putting him in a deep family that includes champions Rags to Riches and Arcangelo, also Belmont Stakes winner Jazil. He will be standing at Darryl and Jill Myers' Stone Jug Ranch.

Domicile forms are mandatory and should be filled out by December 1st or when you mare comes into the state if breeding back to

a PA stallion or within 14 days of a public sale.

If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We will be transitioning to paperless the beginning of 2025. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have. Wishing you a fantastic finish to 2024, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race! Over \$30 million paid out in 2023 to PA-Bred owners and breeders in Breeder Awards, Owner Bonuses and Restricted Races. Go PA!!



# RUN YOUR PA-BRED 2YO IN THE KEYSTONE STATE!

↪ **TWO \$100,000 STAKES** ↪  
LEFT FOR 2YOS IN THE LAST MONTH OF 2024!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30TH AT PARX

## 2YO PA-SIRED PA-BREDS STAKES

**\$100,000 WAIT FOR IT STAKES**

2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs

**\$100,000 MISS BEHAVIOUR STAKES**

2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs

*Nominations close December 16th*

**AOIFE'S MAGIC**  
2023 IMPLY STAKES WINNER  
**WITH OVER \$100,000**  
**IN BREEDERS AWARDS**



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so we weren't sure what our goals really were, other than to race a horse that we really bred."

A major addition to their team was Bergen, who came with an impressive resume. Bergen had experience in every facet of the Thoroughbred industry: from working for three Hall of Fame trainers, to managing a training center outside Toronto where he also advised some of the top breeding farms in Canada, and assisting trainer Jonathan Sheppard for 17 years. Bergen was even recruited for several years to work at Cambridge Stud in New Zealand based on his strong knowledge of American pedigrees.

When Bergen came to Runnymede Farm, he joined forces with Calvin Smith, who had done all of the foaling since 1980 for Derry Meeting Farm. Bergen said, "We worked so well together. I used to say that Calvin had his hands on more Grade 1 legs than any trainer in the neighborhood. He was there when Storm Cat

was foaled and was learning how to foal when Danzig was foaled. He was a mammoth of a man but gentle as a lamb, yet strong as a bull."

Sadly, Smith passed away in June 2023. He left a huge hole in the hearts and operation of Runnymede Farm and this year's foaling season was a difficult one for the employees. Bergen credits their close location to New Bolton Center, as well as one of the hospital's interns who had a strong interest in foaling, as the way the farm was able to successfully process the season.

Meanwhile on the racetrack, Runnymoore Racing was taking flight, with multiple homebred Pennsylvania stakes winners including Stern Chaser, Late Frost, Treverso, and the exciting juvenile filly Caprice (by Golden Lad).

Since purchasing Runnymede Farm, the Bentleys have strived for success in local programs. With the advent of the PA-Bred, PA-

Sired program, their team is even more focused on supporting Pennsylvania breeding. Bergen noted that they have a weanling half-brother to Caprice by now-pensioned Pennsylvania sire Warrior's Reward.

The Runnymede team is excited moving into the future. Their new mares include stakes-winning PA-Bred Cinnabunny (in foal to Munnings), multiple stakes-placed homebred in a Spin (by Hard Spun), PA-Bred stakes winner Tappin Josie, and a daughter of Triple Crown winner Justify.

"We would like to take full advantage and be participating in all of the Pennsylvania races and where we're not, we want to fill in the gaps," Greg said. "We want to show what kind of agricultural operation you can have when you have good people with good experience."

## PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through September 30, 2024

### LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Warriors Reward	439,786	116,649	556,436	Pewter Stable	102,656	31,356	134,012
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	329,351	152,033	481,384	Sylmar Farm Inc.	130,542	0	130,542
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	214,376	73,789	288,165	Joseph Imbesi	123,125	0	123,125
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	271,340	271,340	Barbara A. Rickline	80,167	13,367	93,534
Blackstone Farm LLC	218,701	0	218,701	William J. Solomon VMD	50,370	40,693	91,063

### LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	352	152,033	Winchill	Pewter Stable	91	31,356
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	293	116,649	Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	88	29,647
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	215	103,691	Talent Search	Glenn E Brok LLC	48	28,149
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	207	102,728	Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	46	21,828
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	247	97,182	Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	57	20,738

### LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments. \*Denotes PA-sired

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Morning Matcha	Central Banker - Home Ice	Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC	2	114,000	22,800	0	0	136,800
Traders Luck *	Weigelia - Deanies Dancer	Sylmar Farm Inc.	7	20,000	51,176	12,794	30,840	114,810
Fierce and Strong *	Hoppertunity - Doubleclickdamouse	Ultra Championship Racing LLC	4	62,220	35,060	8,765	6,250	112,295
Twilight Dancer	Tapiture - Moonlight Basin	Warriors Reward	7	58,200	27,160	0	13,900	99,260
Irish Cork	Flat Out - Circustown Rose	Two-Turn Farm LLC	5	58,800	20,776	0	12,880	92,456
Gordian Knot *	Social Inclusion - Mia	Joseph Imbesi	2	61,620	23,520	5,880	0	91,020
Smooth B *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	3	60,000	24,000	6,000	0	90,000
Dontlookbackatall *	Peace and Justice - Celtic Arch	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	1	55,200	22,080	5,520	0	82,800
Capo *	Peace and Justice - Seven Dreams	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	7	38,000	27,923	6,981	9,088	81,992
Rosie's Alibi	Justify - Essential Rose	Blackstone Farm LLC	3	57,000	19,890	0	4,650	81,540

\*Denotes PA-sired