

Annual
**CHAMPION
KENTUCKY-BRED**
Awards Dinner

Presented by 

Wednesday, April 9th, 2025

The Apiary
Lexington, Kentucky

*Kentucky-Bred Champion Bronzes
by Emma MacDermott*

KTDF Bronzes by Steve Johnson



Broodmares of the Year

1946	Bloodroot	1962	Track Medal	1978	Primonetta	1994	Fall Aspen	2010	Liable
1947	Potheon	1963	Misty Morn	1979	Smartaire	1995	Northern Sunset (ire)	2011	Oatsee
1948	Our Page	1964	Maid of Flight	1980	Key Bridge	1996	Personal Ensign	2012	Lisa Danielle
1949	Easy Lass	1965	Pocahontas	1981	Natashka	1997	Slightly Dangerous	2013	Take Charge Lady
1950	Hildene	1966	Juliets Nurse	1982	Best in Show	1998	In Neon	2014	Fun House
1951	Alpenstock III	1967	Kerala	1983	Courtly Dee	1999	Anne Campbell	2015	Littleprincessemma
1952	Ace Card	1968	Delta	1984	Hasty Queen	2000	Primal Force	2016	Leslie's Lady
1953	Gaga	1969	All Beautiful	1985	Dunce Cap II	2001	Turko's Turn	2017	Lemons Forever
1954	Traffic Court	1970	Levee	1986	Too Bald	2002	Toussaud	2018	Stage Magic
1955	Iron Reward	1971	Iberia	1987	Banja Luka	2003	Prospectors Delite	2019	Beyond the Waves
1956	Swoon	1972	*Moment of Truth II	1988	Grecian Banner	2004	Dear Birdie	2020	Drumette
1957	Belle Jeep	1973	Somethingroyal	1989	Relaxing	2005	Baby Zip	2021	Indian Miss
1958	Miss Disco	1974	Cosmah	1990	Kamar	2006	Cara Rafaela	2022	Dreaming of Julia
1959	Knight's Daughter	1975	Shenanigans	1991	Toll Booth	2007	Better Than Honour	2023	Dance Card
1960	Siama	1976	*Gazala II	1992	Weekend Surprise	2008	Vertigineux	2024	Puca
1961	Striking	1977	Sweet Tooth	1993	Glowing Tribute	2009	Sweet Life		

**Imported*

Horses of the Year

1971	Ack Ack	1982	Lemhi Gold	1993	Lure	2004	Ghostzapper	2015	American Pharoah
1972	Typecast	1983	Slew 'o Gold	1994	Tabasco Cat	2005	Saint Liam	2016	Arrogate
1973	Dahlia	1984	John Henry	1995	Serena's Song	2006	Barbaro	2017	Gun Runner
1974	Forego	1985	Spend A Buck	1996	Serena's Song	2007	Curlin	2018	Justify
1975	Forego	1986	Manila	1997	Favorite Trick	2008	Curlin	2019	Bricks and Mortar
1976	Forego	1987	Ferdinand	1998	Real Quiet	2009	Rachel Alexandra	2020	Authentic
1977	Seattle Slew	1988	Alysheba	1999	Charismatic	2010	Zenyatta	2021	Essential Quality
1978	Seattle Slew	1989	Sunday Silence	2000	Fusaichi Pegasus	2011	Havre de Grace	2022	Flightline
1979	Spectacular Bid	1990	Criminal Type	2001	Monarchos	2012	Wise Dan	2023	Cody's Wish
1980	Spectacular Bid	1991	Suave Dancer	2002	War Emblem	2013	Wise Dan	2024	Thorpedo Anna
1981	John Henry	1992	A.P. Indy	2003	Mineshaft	2014	Untapable		

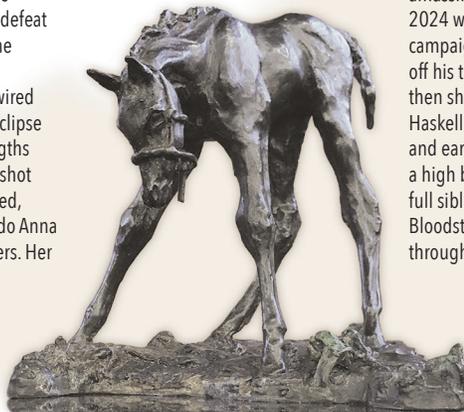
Horse of the Year/3-Year-Old Filly

THORPEDO ANNA

Fast Anna-Sataves, by Uncle Mo

Breeder: Judy Hicks

In a stunning 2024 season, Thorpedo Anna etched her name into racing history, achieving a feat only one other three-year-old filly managed before: being honored as the Eclipse Award Horse of the Year. In earning the prestigious title, Thorpedo Anna joins Rachel Alexandra (2009) as the only three-year-old fillies to conquer males for racing's top honor. Adding to her accolades, Thorpedo Anna also claimed the Eclipse Award for Champion 3-Year-Old Filly. Her stellar season featured five Grade 1 victories, a testament to her talent and the expert guidance of trainer Kenny McPeck. Owned by Brookdale Racing, Inc., Mark Edwards, Judy Hicks, and Magdalena Racing, Thorpedo Anna won the Kentucky Oaks (G1), the Acorn Stakes (G1), the Coaching Club American Oaks (G1), the Cotillion (G1), the Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1), and the Fantasy S. (G2). Her lone defeat in 2024 came against the boys in the Travers S. (G1) when she finished second by a diminishing head to Fierceness. Dubbed a "grizzly bear" by her conditioner, Thorpedo Anna wired her foes in the Oaks, pulling away from the previous year's Eclipse Award Champion 2-Year-Old Filly Just FYI to win by $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths over a sloppy track. In the \$2 million Distaff, Thorpedo Anna shot straight to the front and never looked back. Utilizing her speed, Thorpedo Anna cruised home to win by $2\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. Thorpedo Anna won 6-of-7 starts last season, adding \$3,653,050 to her coffers. Her dominance captivated racing fans from coast to coast and solidified her place among racing's elite.



Broodmare of the Year

PUCA

Big Brown-Boat's Ghost, by Silver Ghost

Owner: Resolute Bloodstock LLC

Puca finds herself in rare air. The stakes-winning, graded stakes-placed mare, who had a successful racing career, is the dam of not one, but two Classic-winning colts: Dornoch and Mage, both sired by Good Magic. Given her relatively young age, Puca's future looks incredibly promising, with likely many years of production ahead of her. Mage burst onto the scene in 2023, delivering a thrilling victory in the Kentucky Derby (G1) after a strong second-place finish in the Florida Derby (G1). His impressive form continued in the Triple Crown, finishing third in the Preakness S. (G1). He further demonstrated his class with a runner-up finish in the Haskell S. (G1). In a short, but impactful racing career, the talented chestnut colt won or placed in 5-of-7 races, amassing earnings of \$2,507,450. Dornoch continued the winning ways in 2024 with a series of impressive victories. After an accomplished two-year-old campaign that included a win in the Remsen S. (G2), the handsome bay kicked off his three-year-old season with a victory in the Fountain of Youth S. (G2). He then showcased his stamina by winning the Belmont S. (G1) and the Haskell S. (G1) in succession. Dornoch finished first or second in 7-of-10 starts and earned \$2,427,275. Puca passed through the auction ring unsold with a high bid of \$2.8 million at the 2023 Keeneland November Sale carrying a full sibling (by Good Magic) to her Classic winners. John Stewart of Resolute Bloodstock bought her privately for \$2.9 million shortly after her sojourn through the ring.

Two-Year-Old Male

CITIZEN BULL

*Into Mischief-No Joke, by Distorted Humor
Breeders: Robert Low and Lawana Low*

Citizen Bull was named Eclipse Champion 2-Year-Old Male following a campaign that saw him register victories in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) and American Pharoah S. (G1). The precocious son of Into Mischief became the ninth Eclipse Award winner for his perennial leading sire. Following a third-place finish in the Del Mar Futurity (G1) in his second career start, Citizen Bull recorded a facile two-length win in the American Pharoah S. (G1) at Santa Anita. The impressive front-running victory in his two-turn debut for trainer Bob Baffert earned Citizen Bull a guaranteed berth in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1). His performance in the American Pharoah proved to be a preview of what was to come from the strapping colt. Facing the top two-year-olds in the country, Citizen Bull once again implemented his front-running tactics in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) on Future Stars Friday at Del Mar. Scampering clear of his rivals early, Citizen Bull set all the pace in the 1 1/16-mile fixture. He never relinquished the lead, defeating stablemate Gaming by 1 1/2 lengths. Citizen Bull banked \$1,301,000 in his championship season, winning three of four starts. Campaigned by SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stakes LLC, Stonestreet Stables LLC, Dianne Bashor, Determined Stables, Robert Masterson, Tom Ryan, Waves Edge Capital LLC and Catherine Donovan, Citizen Bull was a \$675,000 graduate of the 2023 Keeneland September Yearling Sale.

Two-Year-Old Filly

IMMERSIVE

*Nyquist-Gap Year, by Bernardini
Breeder: Godolphin*

Undefeated Godolphin homebred Immersive enjoyed a flawless 4-for-4 campaign in 2024 that included three Grade 1 victories. She was named Eclipse Champion 2-Year-Old Filly after culminating her sparkling season with a decisive victory in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) at Del Mar last November. Immersive began her racing career with a debut win at Saratoga over the summer, securing a workman-like victory in a six-furlong maiden special weight for trainer Brad Cox. She then stepped up in distance to seven furlongs for the Spinaway S. (G1). Despite a muddy track, Immersive rallied six-wide around the far turn and won by 1 1/4 lengths, marking a successful stakes bow. Continuing her impressive form, she won the 1 1/16-mile Alcibiades S. (G1) at Keeneland in her third career start and her first attempt at two turns. In acing the distance test, the Alcibiades served as an ideal Breeders' Cup prep. Capping off her remarkable year, Immersive towered above her foes in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1). In the 1 1/16-mile fixture, Immersive settled between rivals early. With her sights set on the pacesetters, she launched her bid midway around the far turn. With an impressive turn of foot, she struck the front nearing the furlong marker and drew away with authority to win by a commanding 4 1/2 lengths. The Breeders' Cup tally maintained her unblemished record and concluded her year with total earnings of \$1,622,700.

Three-Year-Old Male

SIERRA LEONE

Gun Runner-Heavenly Love, by Malibu Moon
Breeder: Debby M. Oxley

The extremely consistent Sierra Leone won three of his seven starts in 2024 for trainer Chad Brown. Racing for Peter Brant, Susan Magnier, Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith, Westerberg, and Brook Smith, Sierra Leone won the Blue Grass S. (G1), the Risen Star S. (G2), and capped off a sensational three-year-old season defeating older horses in the \$7 million Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) at Del Mar. On the strength of his 1 ½-length triumph in the Classic, Sierra Leone was honored as last year's Eclipse Award Champion 3-Year-Old Male. The highest-priced yearling at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Yearling Sale in 2022 where he was acquired for \$2.3 million, Sierra Leone has more than justified his lofty purchase price. He nearly won the Kentucky Derby (G1) with a furious closing charge that fell just a nose shy of winning the roses in a memorable second-place finish to Mystik Dan. Second in the Jim Dandy S. (G1), and third in the Belmont Stakes (G1) and Travers S. (G1), Sierra Leone captured his biggest prize of the year in the Classic, a race won by his sire Gun Runner in 2017. In a showdown with Travers winner Fierceness in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), Sierra Leone avenged his earlier defeat at Saratoga. Rallying from 11th, Sierra Leone ran down Fierceness in the stretch and drew clear in the final eighth of a mile for a convincing win over a star-studded international field, boosting his seasonal earnings to \$5,911,250.



Older Dirt Male

NATIONAL TREASURE

Quality Road-Treasure, by Medaglia d'Oro
Breeder: Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC

A Classic winner at three, National Treasure captured a pair of Grade 1 wins in a five-race four-year-old campaign in 2024. The 2023 Preakness S. (G1) winner made his wins count last year, annexing the Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes (G1) and the Metropolitan H. (G1). On the strength of his main track victories, National Treasure was named Eclipse Champion Older Dirt Male. Owned by the partnership SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables LLC, Robert Masterson, Stonestreet Stables LLC, Jay A. Schoenfarber, Waves Edge Capital LLC, and Catherine Donovan and trained by Bob Baffert, National Treasure began his championship season on the road, traveling to Florida from his Southern California base. In a hard-fought race, National Treasure utilized his speed and grittiness to narrowly defeat Senor Buscador by a neck in the \$3 million event. Following a fourth-place finish in the Saudi Cup (G1), National Treasure won the Metropolitan H. (G1) in impressive fashion during the inaugural Belmont Stakes Day at Saratoga. Ridden by Flavien Prat, National Treasure led the one-mile race throughout, winning decisively by a dominating 6 ¼ lengths in the fast time of 1:35.12. He brought the curtain down on his racing career with a close second-place finish in the \$1 million California Crown (G1) at Santa Anita, losing by just a head. Purchased by his owners for \$500,000 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale, National Treasure retired as a three-time Grade 1 winner, having amassed earnings of \$5,578,000.

Older Dirt Female

IDIOMATIC

Curlin-Lockdown, by First Defence
Breeder: Juddmonte Farms Inc.

Propelled by victories in the La Troienne S. (G1), the Spinster S. (G1), and the Molly Pitcher S. (G3) and near-misses in a pair of additional Grade 1 races in 2024, Juddmonte homebred Idiomatic was named Eclipse Champion Older Dirt Female for the second straight year. She earned her latest championship despite suffering an ill-timed setback and missing last year's Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1), a race she won in 2023. Idiomatic won the \$1 million La Troienne S. (G1) at Churchill Downs in her first race of the year. Holding a narrow lead at the top of the stretch, she surged in the stretch, pulling away late to win by 3 ¾ lengths over a compact field of five on a sloppy track at Churchill Downs. The victory marked her fourth consecutive Grade 1 win, a streak that began in 2023. Idiomatic concluded her exceptional racing career by successfully defending her title in the Spinster S. (G1) at Keeneland. She led from start to finish, was never challenged, and won easily by 6 ½ lengths with little to no urging from jockey Florent Geroux. A model of consistency, Idiomatic finished first or second in all five starts last year before joining Juddmonte's broodmare ranks. Idiomatic is produced from the stakes-winning and Grade 1-place mare Lockdown, who is a full sister to Close Hatches. The latter earned Eclipse Champion Older Mare honors in 2014.

Female Sprinter

SOUL OF AN ANGEL

Atrides-Factor One, by The Factor
Breeder: Westbrook Stables, LLC

Soul of an Angel clinched the Eclipse Champion Female Sprinter title of 2024 with an impressive victory in last fall's Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint (G1) at Del Mar. Earlier in the season, the well-traveled five-year-old mare also won the Ruffian S. (G2) during the Belmont at the Big A meet in May and the Princess Rooney Invitational S. (G3) in September at Gulfstream Park for owners C2 Racing Stable LLC, Agave Racing Stable, and Ken Reimer. Trained by Saffie Joseph Jr., Soul of an Angel made just two starts at seven furlongs in her 2024 campaign. She won them both. In the seven-furlong Princess Rooney Invitational S. (G3), Soul of an Angel angled out to the seven path on the far turn to commence her rally. Despite the wide trip, Soul of an Angel kicked clear of her foes in the stretch and won going away by 3 ¾ lengths. The win in the Breeders' Cup Challenge race earned her a guaranteed berth in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint (G1). Soul of an Angel maintained her sharp form in the Breeders' Cup. Trailing the field early, Soul of an Angel stormed home from the clouds under Drayden Van Dyke, picking off rivals while looping the field around the far turn. In a relentless drive, she collared the pacesetters in deep stretch to win the Filly and Mare Sprint (G1) by a half-length, stopping the clock in 1:21.59. She recorded a 4-2-2 record from 11 starts in 2024, earning \$1,002,600.

Male Turf Horse/Male Sprinter

COGBURN

Not This Time-In A Jif, by Sainthly Look
Breeder: Bellary Bay Bloodstock

North American track record-setter Cogburn dazzled in 2024, winning three of his four starts in a brilliant campaign. The highest-ranked sprinter on the Longines World's Best Horse Rankings with a 120 rating, Cogburn was among the three finalists for an Eclipse Award in the male sprinter category at season's end. The fleet-footed son of Not This Time was an electrifying winner of the Jaipur S. (G1) during the Belmont Racing Festival at Saratoga over the summer. In the Jaipur, Cogburn set a North American record for 5 ½ furlongs on the turf, covering the distance in an eye-popping final time of :59.80. The clocking eclipsed the previous record of 1:00.21 set in 2019. Following the Jaipur, Cogburn proved an authoritative winner of the \$2 million Turf Sprint S. (G2) at Kentucky Downs where he completed six furlongs on turf in a scorching 1:07.68, just missing another course record. Cogburn opened his season with a win in the Turf Sprint S. (G2) over 5 ½ furlongs on the lawn at Churchill Downs in May. All told, Cogburn went 3-for-4 in 2024, earning \$1,802,000. For his outstanding career, he finished first or second in 11-of-16 lifetime starts and banked \$2,422,630 racing for Clark Brewster, William and Corinne Heiligbrodt and trainer Steve Asmussen. The sprinting superstar was bought by Brewster for \$150,000 at the 2021 OBS Spring Sale of Two-Year-Olds in Training and was retired to stud for the 2025 breeding season.



Female Turf Horse

SHE FEELS PRETTY

Karakontie (JPN)-Summer Sweet, by More Than Ready
Breeder: Payson Stud Inc.

An Eclipse Award finalist for Outstanding Three-Year-Old Filly of 2024, She Feels Pretty recorded a pair of decisive Grade 1 wins last year, solidifying her reputation as the country's top three-year-old turf filly. In an exclusively turf campaign for Roy and Gretchen Jackson's Lael Stables, She Feels Pretty won back-to-back Grade 1 races late in the year. She won the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup S. (G1) at Keeneland in October and the American Oaks (G1) at Santa Anita in December. Trained by Cherie DeVaux, She Feels Pretty began her season with a win in the Old Hilltop S. at Pimlico in May. She crushed the opposition, winning by more than five lengths in her first start in more than six months. After finishing third in the Belmont Oaks (G1) and second in the Lake Placid S. (G2), DeVaux added blinkers to She Feels Pretty for her final two starts of the year. Responding to the equipment change, She Feels Pretty overpowered her rivals in both races. With an explosive late kick, she won the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1) by six lengths. Capping her season with an exclamation point, she asserted her superiority once again, scoring by 2 ½ lengths in the American Oaks (G1). The Jacksons acquired She Feels Pretty for \$240,000 as a yearling at the 2022 Keeneland September Sale. She won three races in 2024, placed in two other graded events, banking \$775,938.

Steeplechase Horse

SNAP DECISION

Hard Spun-Salute, by Unbridled

Breeder: Phipps Stable

Snap Decision, initially a Grade 3-placed racehorse on the flat under Hall of Fame trainer Shug McGaughey, excelled after transitioning to steeplechase racing. Sold to Bruton Street-US and moved to Hall of Fame trainer Jack Fisher in 2019, Snap Decision developed into a dominant force over jumps. In 2024, Snap Decision reached a pair of new milestones, exceeding \$1 million in career earnings and winning the Eclipse Award for North America's top Steeplechase Horse. He had been an Eclipse Award finalist in the same category for the previous four years. During his 10-year-old season, Snap Decision captured three races, two of them Grade 1 stakes. He won the \$250,000 American Grand National (G1) at Fair Hills in New Jersey by a hard-fought neck; the Calvin Houghland Iroquois S. (G1) in Nashville, Tenn.; and the Temple Gwathmey Hurdle H. (G2) at Glenwood Park Middleburg, VA. His victory in the 2 ⁵/₈-mile Grand National was his first in four tries. The \$150,000 winner's share of the purse from that win vaulted him past Lonesome Glory and Good Night Shirt, lifting his steeplechase earnings to \$1,116,900, second only to McDynamo for U.S. steeplechasers. In winning the Iroquois, Snap Decision became just the second horse in history to win the race for a third time. With regular rider Graham Watters in the irons, Snap Decision completed the three-mile event—the longest on the U.S. Steeplechase circuit—in a course record 5:32.40.

Racing Abroad

CITY OF TROY

Justify-Forever Together (IRE), by Galileo (IRE)

Breeders: Orpendale/Chelston/Wynatt

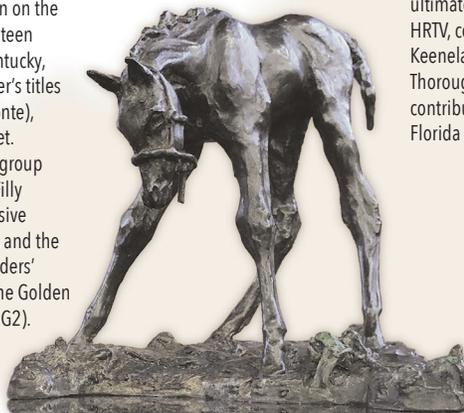
Recognized as the co-2024 Longines World's Best Racehorse, City of Troy was awarded the highest rating of 128 for his exploits on the racetrack in a banner sophomore season that saw him win three Group 1 events in Europe's top middle-distance races. In a spectacular season, City of Troy cemented his place as the world's premier turf horse. He didn't just win races; he dominated them. At York, he blazed to victory in the Juddmonte International S. (G1), setting a new course record for the 2,050-meter (roughly 1 ¹/₄-mile) distance with a breathtaking front-running display. Then, at Epsom, he delivered an emphatic win in the historic Betfred Derby (G1). City of Troy was not finished. He followed his Derby triumph with another masterful performance in the prestigious Coral-Eclipse S. (G1) at Sandown Park. The rare Derby-Eclipse double catapulted him into illustrious company, joining only five other horses in the last half-century—including legends like Mill Reef (USA) and Nashwan (USA)—to achieve the feat. Trained in Ireland by Aidan O'Brien, City of Troy won 3-of-5 starts in 2024, banking \$2,647,262 for the Coolmore connections Susan Magnier, Derrick Smith, and Michael Tabor. The string of impressive victories—a testament to his extraordinary talent—earned City of Troy the crown of 2024 Cartier Horse of the Year and Champion 3-Year-Old Colt. The son of Triple Crown winner Justify was retired to Coolmore following last year's Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) at Del Mar after winning 7-of-9 career starts and earning \$3,098,555.

KTDF Owner of the Year and Breeder of the Year/P.A.B. Widener Trophy

GODOLPHIN

Godolphin, the racing and breeding powerhouse of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, swept the Eclipse Awards once again, earning the titles of Outstanding Owner and Outstanding Breeder for 2024. This achievement marks the operation's fifth consecutive year and eighth overall as Outstanding Owner (including under the Darley banner in 2006), and the fourth time in a row that Godolphin was honored as Outstanding Breeder. The unparalleled run sets a new standard and solidifies Godolphin's place in racing history. No other individual or entity has achieved as many consecutive dual titles (4) since the inception of the Eclipse Awards in 1971.

Godolphin-owned runners won 104 races from 460 starts and earned \$20,234,455 on the year. Horses carrying the Godolphin blue visited the winner's circle 32 times in graded races, including 10 at the Grade 1 level. Horses bred by Godolphin earned \$23.2 million on the racetrack last year, accounting for 23 black-type winners. Nineteen of the 23 stakes winners captured a graded stakes race. In Kentucky, alone, Godolphin notched 45 victories in 2024, winning owner's titles based on wins at Keeneland's Spring Meet (tied with Juddmonte), Ellis Park, Keeneland Fall Meet, and Churchill Downs' Fall Meet. Among Godolphin's standout runners last year were a strong group of precocious juveniles: Eclipse Award Champion 2-Year-Old Filly Immersive, East Avenue, Good Cheer, and First Resort. Immersive rattled off wins in the Spinaway S. (G1), the Alcibiades S. (G1), and the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1). East Avenue won the Breeders' Futurity (G1) at Keeneland, while Good Cheer accounted for the Golden Rod S. (G2) and First Resort won the Kentucky Jockey Club S. (G2).



Charles W. Engelhard Award

CATON BREDAR

First given in 1970, this award honors Charles W. Engelhard, who in 1962 became renowned as a buyer and owner of championship Thoroughbreds. The award is presented to a member of the media for outstanding coverage of the Thoroughbred industry and is voted upon by the KTA/KTOB Board of Directors.

Caton Bredar, a celebrated broadcaster and award-winning journalist, is this year's deserving winner of the Charles W. Engelhard Award. The award echoes the legacy of its namesake, who in 1962 became renowned as a buyer and owner of championship Thoroughbreds. The award is presented to a member of the media for outstanding coverage of the Thoroughbred industry and is voted upon by the KTA/KTOB Board of Directors. Granddaughter of Hall of Fame jockey Ted Atkinson, Bredar, who grew up in the shadow of Arlington Park Racetrack in Illinois, began her broadcast career in Chicago, before moving on to Florida, New Jersey, and California, ultimately settling in Louisville, Kentucky. She has worked for TVG and HRTV, covering major events across the nation, contributing coverage from Keeneland, Saratoga, and Gulfstream Park. Additionally, she has covered Thoroughbred racing on ABC, ESPN, CBS, and Fox. Bredar is also a contributor to publications, including Horseplayer, Trainer Magazine, The Florida Horse, and the Chicago Sun-Times.

Hardboot Breeders' Award

ALEX AND SARAH RANKIN

The Hardboot Breeders' Award, which honors breeders who are well-established but not typically acknowledged through other awards and pays tribute to distinctive but overlooked or unsung breeders that help make up the backbone of the industry, is given this year to honor the contributions of Alex and Sarah Rankin. The Rankins founded Upson Downs Farm in Goshen, Ky., in 1982.

Alex is Chairman of the Board for Churchill Downs Inc. He is also a member of The Jockey Club and has held positions with the Breeders' Cup and KTA. He grew up in Louisville and graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He joined Sterling Thompson Company, an insurance firm in Louisville, in 1982 and currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Additionally, he is the former Chairman and current Trustee of the James Graham Brown Foundation, and he previously served as President of The Kentucky Derby Museum, and the KTA/KTOB. Among the top horses bred and raced by Rankin is multiple graded stakes winner Tar Heel Mom. The Grade 2-winning daughter of Flatter out of Sunny's Halo mare Perpetual Light won 11-of-31 career starts, placed in 13 others, and amassed earnings of \$832,892. Trained by Stanley Hough, Tar Heel Mom won the 2011 Honorable Miss H. (G2) at Saratoga. She also notched graded stakes victories in the 2010 Distaff H. (G2) at Aqueduct and the 2011 Sugar Swirl S. (G3) at Gulfstream Park. Tar Heel Mom was also Grade 1-placed, having finished second in the 2011 Ballerina S. (G1) at Saratoga.

William T. Young Humanitarian Award

STABLE RECOVERY

The William T. Young Humanitarian Award, established in 2003 by the KTOB, replaced the Coman Humanitarian Awards and was presented in its first year to Mr. Young's family. The award honors a person or organization that touches many people not only in the Thoroughbred industry but also through this community and state. The award does not represent a person or organization's achievement in the Thoroughbred business. Instead, it recognizes a person or organization associated with our industry that promotes the human endeavor.

Frank Taylor, along with CEO Christian Countzler, are the driving forces behind Stable Recovery, a program for recovering addicts that provides a safe and stable living environment, along with a 12-step program for men in early recovery to regain control of their lives. Stable Recovery works with recovering addicts to give them ongoing support and helps them find meaningful employment in the Thoroughbred racing industry. Taylor and the Stable Recovery program were honored with a Special Eclipse Award earlier this year. The peer-driven therapeutic community allows men to live, work, and recover together, while helping each other grow mentally, physically, and spiritually. While participating in the Stable Recovery program, residents attend the School of Horsemanship at Taylor Made Farm. They receive training and on-the-job experience in several different facets of the Thoroughbred industry. Stable Recovery then provides employment opportunities with participating partners in the Thoroughbred industry. Having received an outpouring of support from the community and across the U.S. and the world, Stable Recovery is expanding its curriculum to help individuals with other interests. Funded approximately 80 percent by private donations and 20 percent by state and federal grants, Stable Recovery boasts more than 100 graduates of the program.

2024 Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund Leaders

Sire of the Year

TWIRLING CANDY

(Lane's End Farm)

Like father, like son: Twirling Candy is blazing a trail reminiscent of his legendary sire, Candy Ride (ARG). Lane's End Farm's prolific stallion has showcased his ability to consistently sire top-tier talent, having sired 21 graded stakes winners, including nine Grade 1 winners and seven millionaires. His 2024 statistics speak volumes. He was No. 6 on the General Sire list with \$15,156,000 in progeny earnings. He sired 152 winners, 30 black-type horses, 13 stakes winners, and five graded stakes winners. His KTDF earnings at Kentucky tracks was \$2,469,824. Twirling Candy's leading earner in 2024 was Walkathon, who won the \$1.5 million Kentucky Downs Ladies Turf S. (G3) at Kentucky Downs, the Endeavour S. (G3) at Tampa Bay Downs, the \$250,000 Kentucky Downs Preview Ladies Mile at Ellis Park, and the Anchorage S. at Churchill Downs en route to seasonal earnings of \$1,298,601. Twirling Candy was also represented by new Grade 1 winner Iscreamuscream, winner of the Del Mar Oaks (G1) and the San Clemente H. (G2) at Del Mar; and graded stakes winners Ag Bullet, winner of the \$1.5 million Ladies Turf Sprint S. (G2) at Kentucky Downs and third in both the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1) and the Matriarch S. (G1) at Del Mar; Two Sharp, winner of the Chilukki S. (G3) at Churchill Downs; and Where's My Ring, victorious in the Gazelle S. (G3) at Aqueduct.

Earner of the Year

GOLIAD

(Owners: Perry R. Bass II and Ramona S. Bass)

The connections of Southern California-based Goliad found Kentucky Downs to be a goldmine. Just six days after capturing a \$500,000 Overnight Handicap over the Kentucky Downs course last September, Goliad returned on short rest to wire his foes in the lucrative \$2 million Mint Millions S. (G3), a race which was bolstered by \$1 million from the Kentucky Development Fund. A 6-year-old homebred son of War Front for Perry R. Bass II and Ramona S. Bass, Goliad led from start to finish in the Mint Millions. He set a fast pace, rattling off fractions of :23.14, :44.92, 1:08.00, and 1:20.37 before finishing strongly to defeat Cash Equity (FR) by one length. In winning his second race within a week, Goliad stopped the clock in a rapid 1:33.38 for Hall of Fame trainer Richard Mandella. As a Kentucky-bred, Goliad's first-place purse money in the Mint Millions amounted to \$1,182,800. Combined with the \$300,000 from his previous win at Kentucky Downs, Goliad topped all KTDF earners in 2024, amassing earnings of \$1,605,200.



Trainer of the Year

STEVEN M. ASMUSSEN

The storied career of Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen added another exceptional chapter in 2024. The veteran conditioner ranked first in wins in 2024 with a staggering 407 (18 percent win percentage), second in money won with \$29,340,099, and his runners finished in the top three 46 percent of the time. All told, his 610 starters made 2,288 starts last year. Asmussen's success was particularly pronounced in Kentucky, where he achieved nearly 24 percent of his overall wins. He captured meet titles at Churchill Downs (Spring and Fall), Ellis Park (tied with Brendan Walsh), and Kentucky Downs (tied with Walsh and Joe Sharp). His Kentucky record included 670 starts, demonstrating his commitment and prowess in the heart of the Bluegrass. Asmussen's barn in 2024 included a pair of Eclipse Award finalists in Cogburn and Society, as well as Grade 1 winner Gun Pilot. Cogburn's speed was on full display in the Jaipur S. (G1) at Saratoga where he shattered the North American record for 5 ½ furlongs on the turf. His jaw-dropping time of :59.80 lowered the previous record of 1:00.21. He continued his dominance with a victory in the \$2 million Turf Sprint S. (G2) at Kentucky Downs, stopping the clock in a swift 1:07.68 for six furlongs. Society, despite just three starts, won the Ballerina S. (G1) at Saratoga and then narrowly missed in the \$1 million Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint (G1), finishing second. Gun Pilot captured the Churchill Downs S. (G1) and was runner-up in the Ferego S. (G1).



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