

PA Thoroughbred REPORT

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How the Kirwans Got Hooked On the Game



In 1988 after more than 17 years of attending the races every Saturday, Mike Kirwan wanted to buy into a racehorse syndicate. His wife Toni was hesitant to agree, but Mike talked about it so incessantly over the next few weeks that she finally relented, figuring that he just needed to get it out of his system.

PAGE 3

PTHA Awards Honor Pennsylvania's Best



Of the eight divisional awards for horses racing at Parx, seven were won by PA-Breds.

PAGE 6



**THE PA-BRED PREMIUM
EARN MORE!**



Blasts From The Past



1992 KY Derby winner Lil E. Tee

PAGE 8

Champion sire Wiseman's Ferry dies at 16

In March, Dana Point Farm lost Wiseman's Ferry, sire of Horse of the Year Wise Dan



PAGE 9

PHBA Happenings **PAGE 7**

Letter from Executive Secretary Brian Sanfratello



PAGE 5

1st dam
ENCHANTED ROCK, by Giant's Causeway. Unplaced in 1 start
 foals, 3 to race, all winners--
VERRAZANO (c. by More Than Ready). 6 wins in 10 starts at 3
 in N.A./U.S., William Hill Haskell Invitational S. [G1] (MTH,
 Wood Memorial S. [G1] (AQU, \$600,000), Tampa Bay Derby
 \$210,000), Pegasus S. [G1] (AQU, \$110,169),
 (AQU, \$75,000); placed 3 times in 11 starts (Total: \$1,110,169)
 Anne S. [G1], 3rd JLT Locomotion S. [G1] (Total: \$3,377,000)
EL PADRINO (c. by **Pulpit**).
 Won Risen Star S. [G2]. 3rd Remsen S. [G2].
 La Madrina (f. by **Tapit**). 3 wins at 3, 2014, \$136,934 in U.S.
 Sweet Corine (f. by **Pulpit**). 1 win in 2 start to 3, 2015, \$25,800 in
 2013: (c. by **Pulpit**).
 2014: (c. by More Than Ready).

EL PADRINO

Pulpit – Enchanted Rock, by Giant's Causeway \$5,000 LF

Graded SW by Sire of Sires PULPIT

Sire of **Leading Sire TAPIT**

Half-brother to G1 SW VERRAZANO

and **Two Other
TDN Rising Stars**

At Two:

1st Belmont MSW
 by nearly 13 lengths!

Placed Remsen S.-G2
 beaten less than 1 length

At Three:

1st Risen Star S.-G2
 fastest time since 1990

1st 3YO Debut

defeating TAKE CHARGE INDY

4th Florida Derby-G1



Northview PA
 A DIVISION OF NORTHVIEW STALLION STATION



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PHOTO © BARBARA LIVINGSTON

Bullsbay El Padrino Fairbanks Jump Start Medallist Smarty Jones

The Hook Is In: Kirwans' Colorful Stable

by Nikki Sherman



In 1988 after more than 17 years of attending the races every Saturday, Mike Kirwan wanted to buy into a racehorse syndicate. His wife Toni was hesitant to agree, but Mike talked about it so incessantly over the next few weeks that she finally relented, figuring that he just needed to get it out of his system. Little did she know that it would be the start of an important new chapter in their lives.

"That first horse was Tyson's Bambi and she was so cool—you just rattled a bag of carrots and she would jump up in the air and get them out of your pocket," Toni admitted. "It didn't take long at all for the hook to sink in!"

Soon enough Toni was tasked with determining their very own stable name. She remembers the day like it was just yesterday: driving down the highway, her brain whirling with ideas. Suddenly it all came into focus when she thought about her husband's love of beer. If they used the name Kirwan Equine Group, it could be shortened to K.E.G. —perfect!

Next it was time to design their silks and Toni decided to use their pet Harlequin Macaw as inspiration. "I've had him for 27

years now and at the time it was only natural that Rainbow should be our mascot. I got the silks made but then I cut all the fabric out and sewed him on the back of the silks. We like to say that he helps our horses fly!"

In the late 1980s they claimed P. J.'s Blitzen as their first broodmare. The mare only produced two foals but they were both special.

Her first, Sun of a Blitzen, was a tiny horse with a huge heart. He wasn't exactly the nicest of horses, but he more than made up for it in ability. Perhaps he needed to keep his game face on at all times. It certainly worked, as the gelded son of Citidancer competed until the age of 13, earning \$343,640 over 112 career starts. One of the biggest thrills for the

Kirwans occurred when Sun of a Blitzen contested the 1995 Pennsylvania Futurity.

Toni recalled, "He had won the Dover Stakes at Delaware Park and then went into the Pennsylvania Futurity. That was going to be our race! Then Devil's Honor supplemented into the race. He was twice the size of Sun of a Blitzen, who was very small—they used to say that he could run through his legs! We ended up running second behind Devil's Honor."

P. J.'s Blitzen also produced Blitzen's Echo, a daughter of Compelling Sound who would become the Kirwans' foundation mare. Her first foal was a stakes-placed Partner's Hero mare named Blitzensfoxyvixsin who is one of their two current broodmares. She also helped Toni start a new tradition with the naming of their foals.

"Eighteen is my lucky number. The Jockey Club lets you use 18 characters so they all have 18 characters now. I'd love to see [Parx Racing announcer] Keith Jones call a race with all 10 horses having 18 letters!" Toni laughs. "One time I had him all messed up with a horse named Prettyhipphophotty. That name came from our partner Ed Hipps, who we also owned Extrasexyhippzster with. Somebody wrote an article about how awful that name was!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



They just didn't look far enough to see that Ed Hipps was one of the owners."

Extrasexyhippster got some extra attention after winning the Don Rickles Stakes for 2-year-olds at Aqueduct in December, and the Miracle Wood Stakes at Laurel Park in his first start at 3. The back-to-back stakes victories briefly propelled the dark bay son of Stroll onto the Kentucky Derby trail last year and gave the Kirwans a chance to experience the highest level of horse racing when he competed in the Grade 1 Blue Grass Stakes.

The couple has continued their success most recently with the final foal out of Blitzen's Echo. Toni named him Blitzensmajikreign in honor of his dam. Ironically the bay gelding is a massively tall horse; at just 3 years old, he would tower over his "uncle" Sun of a Blitzen. Blitzensmajikreign sent the Kirwans back to the paddock for another attempt at the Pennsylvania Futurity, now called the Pennsylvania Nursery. The race is the same one that eventual Kentucky Derby winner Smarty Jones won 11 years earlier.

"We waited 19 years to run in the race again with Blitzensmajikreign. We ended up

third behind a son of Smarty Jones named Nasa. But just to be in it again was amazing. I like being in the PA races! That was a real thrill," noted Toni.

So how have the Kirwans found such success with their breeding? Rather than spending hours evaluating numbers on a computer screen, Toni pays attention to current racehorses and takes note, "I look for horses that I've seen race and have a connection to. For example I saw Silver Train race and I said to myself, 'Oh my God, if he ever becomes a stallion I want to go to him!'"

On the other hand, Mike prefers crossing his mares with stallions that are by an outstanding sire. That is one of the reasons they ended up with Extrasexyhippster's dam Extra Sexy Psychic. She is by Freud, a son of multiple North American champion stallion Storm Cat. Extra Sexy Psychic would go on to win the Cozy Lace Stakes at Presque Isle Downs and earn her connections over \$300,000.

And yet despite that success, the Kirwans understand everything that goes on behind the scenes. According to Toni, "The bettors have no idea what it takes to get a

horse ready for that minute-long race. All of the people involved, the hours, the care, the training. I mean how many people are involved back there? And now we as horsemen take care of our horses in retirement through programs like Turning for Home. It's amazing how far we've come since we started in 1988."

In the nearly 30 years since officially entering the racing industry, the Kirwans have experienced far more than they would have ever dreamed possible. Over the years they have picked up some wonderful traditions. The next time you see a name like Extrasexyexotkminx, Razzledazzlerazcal or Blitzensbuzzwiserr in the racing program, there's a good chance that you'll find Toni positioned at the finish line with her camera in hand and Mike a few yards behind, perched on a bench with his binoculars held up to his eyes. Both will undoubtedly be wearing pink, and if their horse should be lucky enough to cross the wire first, you just might see a smudge of pink lipstick on that horse's nose. ❁



Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

"We ARE Pennsylvania Racing"

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Establishing health and pension plans for over 4,000 horsemen at Parx Racing

Benevolence Programs

The Racetrack Chaplaincy of America, the LaSalle Nursing Program, and Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund, and more



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Offering quality products including feed, bedding, supplements, tack, and more at discount prices



Racehorse Retirement

Turning for Home has safely retired over 1,000 horses from Parx Racing since May 2008, and is considered a model program for the racing industry

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq. • Michael P. Ballezzi, Esq.
President Executive Director

P.O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020 • 215-638-2013 • www.patha.org

A Few Words From the Executive Secretary

I'm excited to tell you we are developing a new section of our website that will be dedicated to you, the breeder. This section will be called "Vicky's List," named after our boards' website chair Vicky Schowe. You will be able to send pictures of new foals, special events like stakes wins or just anything you would like to share with other breeders. Send your postings to pabreeder@gmail.com and we will get them up as soon as we can. For foal photos, include the foal year, pedigree, breeder name and photo credit. Also, please remember if the picture you are using has a copyright, send the written permission along with the photo.

This years' Iroquois Banquet will again be at Penn National Race Course on May

30 beginning with cocktails at 5 p.m. Come out and help us honor our PA-Bred Stakes and Award Winners. It's a great opportunity to share your ideas with the leading breeders in Pennsylvania, meet our board members or just come out to have an evening of fun.

Penn National will be hosting one of its biggest race nights of the year featuring the \$500,000 Penn Mile for 3-year-olds and three other open stakes. We will also be featuring the \$75,000 Lyphard Stakes for 3 and up on the turf at a mile and a sixteenth. What a night!

Have a great spring and hope to see you on May 30.

/Brian Sanfratello



Recent PA-Bred Stakes Horses

PAGE MCKENNEY

g, 5, Eavesdropper - Winning Grace
Won - HARRISON E. JOHNSON MEMORIAL S, \$100,000,
1 1/8 mi., 3YO/UP, Laurel Park, March 21.

DAME DOROTHY

f, 4, Bernardini - Vole Vole Monamour
2nd - SANTA MARGARITA S-G1, \$400,000, 1 1/8 mi.,
4YO/UP, F/M, Santa Anita, March 14.

KITTEN'S POINT

m, 5, Kitten's Joy - Rendezvous Point
3rd - ORCHID S-G3, \$150,000, 1 1/2 mi., turf, 4YO/UP, F/M,
Gulfstream Park, March 28.

ENERGETICO

h, 5, Mutakddim - Another Moochie
2nd - CAIXA ELETRONICA S, \$90,000, 6 fur., 4YO/UP,
Aqueduct, March 21.

EDGE OF REALITY

h, 5, Lawyer Ron - Our Nancy Lee
2nd - SANTANA MILE S, \$75,000, 1 mi., 4YO/UP,
Santa Anita, March 29.



Click Horse's Name
To View Race Video



PTHA Awards Honor Pennsylvania's Best

The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's annual awards were presented April 1 at Parx, and PJG Stable's Favorite Tale was honored as top Thoroughbred in the state for 2014. The multiple stakes winner captured Parx's top sprint race for 3-year-olds, the Grade 3 Gallant Bob Stakes, in a stellar performance in September. He won all four of his starts at Parx, with additional dominating performances in a maiden special weight in his debut in January, getting six furlongs in 1:07.66, less than a fifth off the track record, and a 14-length score in open allowance company in March. The Guadalupe Preciado-trained gelding won or placed in eight of his 11 starts last year, earning \$380,326.

Of the eight divisional awards for horses racing at Parx, seven were won by PA-Breds.

Top honors for 2-year-old colt or gelding went to PA-bred Nasa, owned by Pat Chapman's Someday Farm and trained by John Servis. The son of Smarty Jones competed in two Parx stakes, winning the Pennsylvania Nursery and finishing third in Christopher Elser Memorial.

William J. Hartwell's Miss Holicong was named top 2-year-old filly. Trained by Ramon Preciado, the daughter of First Samurai won twice by a combined

13¼ lengths during an 11-day span late in the year.

Disco Chick made seven starts at Parx during her 3-year-old season, and was third or better in all but one. Given six months off after a fifth place finish in January (the worst result of her career), the Freedom Acres colorbearer captured four allowances—three in a row from July 8 to Aug. 2—and finished third in the Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial

pler trainee also accounted for the Robellino Stakes at Penn National during a four-race win streak, and his 12-start campaign also saw him win at Pimlico and place in stakes at Mountaineer, Laurel Park and Gulfstream Park. With 11 wins or placings, he earned \$308,860.

Since July 2012, Primo Via has competed exclusively at Parx, making 41 trips to the post. In 16 starts in 2014, the 5-year-old mare hit the board 15 times. Competing primarily in allowance company for owner L.A. Thoroughbreds and trainer Phil Aristone, she kicked off the year with a win in January, added five more, and was second in the Plum Pretty Stakes in October. Named top older female, she banked \$260,010 for the year.

My Sonata was selected as the Outstanding Claim of the Year. In her second start of 2014, the PA-Bred 4-year-old filly dropped into the claiming ranks at Parx in March and was promptly taken for \$16,000 by Ramon Preciado for owner Gregory Gordon. From May 5 through June 7, she won four consecutive races, three at Parx by an average winning margin of four lengths. After the claim she was never worse than third in six starts, all but one at Parx.

For a complete list of the Parx award winners, go to <http://patha.org/horsemens-awards/>. ★



Brian Sanfratello, Judy Arena and Paul Conaway with honors presented for PTHA Horse of the Year Favorite Tale.

Stakes. In her only start away from Parx, she was third in Laurel Park's Willa On the Move Stakes in December. Awarded the title of top 3-year-old filly, the daughter of Jump Start trained by Mario Serey Jr. won or placed in seven of eight starts while earning \$159,270.

Top older male honors went to Page McKenney. Adam Staple and Jalin Stable's runner made six starts at Parx from May through October, winning five, including the First Responder Stakes and Alphabet Soup Handicap. The Mary Ep-

PHBA Happenings

Mark your calendars

PHBA Annual Meeting: May 20

The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association's annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20 at the Kennett Square Golf and Country Club in Kennett Square at 4 p.m.

PHBA Awards Banquet: May 30

The PHBA Awards Banquet, honoring the 2014 PA-bred champions and industry leaders, will be held at Penn National in Grantville on Saturday, May 30 starting at 5 p.m. Cocktails, dinner and awards, plus Penn National's biggest day of racing will make it an event not to be missed! Contact the PHBA office at 610-444-1050 for more info.

NEW ON THE PHBA WEBSITE: PA-Bred Foals of 2015



KIM PRATT

Breeder Shirley A. Lojeski welcomes a Friesian Fire colt out of Majestic Forestry (by Forestry) born April 6 and pictured at four days old at Lojeski Farms in Emmaus.



TIM FAZIO

Bright and alert at 18 hours old is the Tapizar filly out of Canary Diamond, by Alphabet Soup, born at Northview PA in Peach Bottom on April 11. Hank Nothhaft's HnR Nothhaft Horseracing LLC is the breeder/owner.



KIM PRATT

Bursting with energy at Lojeski Farms is Smarty Jones' son bred by Four Bucks Racing. Born on March 18, the colt is the first foal out of Halo Hollie (by Halo's Image), an earner of more than \$250,000 and half-sister to four stakes horses.



KIM PRATT

Flash and style: Filly from first crop of Northview PA stallion El Padrino out of Affirmed's stakes-placed daughter Lady Cheyne, foaled March 23 at Lojeski Farms and bred by Patricia L. Chapman.



Blasts From The Past

LIL E. TEE

1989, *At the Threshold—Eileen's Moment*, by *For The Moment*. Bred by Larry Littman; owned by W. Cal Partee; trained by Lynn S. Whiting.

1992 Kentucky Derby winner

Like catching lightning in a bottle—that is an expression that well describes Lil E. Tee, who in 1992 became the first PA-Bred winner of the Kentucky Derby. The ultimate rags-to-riches hero, “E. Tee” has his own biography: *The Longest Shot*, by John Eisenberg (University Press of Kentucky, 1996). Of course, the once-sickly colt, sold as a yearling by his breeder Larry Littman for \$2,000, would have ranked among the best PA-Breds of all time, even if he hadn’t won the Kentucky Derby. In 13 starts, he won or placed 12 times, also registering victories in the Jim Beam Stakes and Razorback Handicap (both Grade 2). His career earnings were \$1,437,506.

Lil E. Tee retired second on the PA-Bred all-time earners list in 1993, and

continues to rank among the richest PA-Bred runners in history, now sitting in 12th. The bay colt, who upset overwhelming choice Arazi in the 1992 Kentucky Derby, entered stud at Old Frankfort Stud in Versailles, Ky., where he remained until his death at age 20 from complications following abdominal surgery, which was related to a condition he had since he was a yearling. Lil E. Tee sired five stakes winners, including graded winners Mula Gula and Jim’smrtee.

Blasts From the Past will take a look back at Pennsylvania-breds of distinction throughout history. The majority of the biographies were included in the PHBA’s 50th year anniversary commemorative booklet, published in 1998.



For more on Lil E. Tee, including a chart of the Derby, visit the Kentucky Derby website at www.kentuckyderby.com/horses/lil-e-tee.



Pennsylvania News Briefs

Champion Sire Wiseman's Ferry Gone

Dana Point Farm stallion Wiseman's Ferry, the sire of one of the most celebrated runners in the 2000s, two-time Horse of the Year Wise Dan, died March 17 at the farm in Lenhartsville. He was 16.

Wiseman's Ferry stood six seasons in Pennsylvania, covering more than 200 mares, including 53 his first year in the state. Standing for a \$5,000 fee, he was bred to five of 38 mares booked to him for the 2015 breeding season,

reported Dana Point Farm manager Maria Vorhauer.

The son of Hennessy sired 78 percent winners from starters, with progeny earnings of more than \$20 million, led by \$7,552,920-earner Wise Dan, a two-time Breeders' Cup Mile-G1 winner and Eclipse Award-winning turf horse and champion older male in 2012 and 2013. Other stakes winners included Canada's 2012 champion grass horse Riding the River.



33 Million, 545 Reasons To Breed in Pennsylvania



PENNSYLVANIA

HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

\$33 million
paid to PA-Breds
in 2014

545
restricted races for
PA-Breds in 2014

THE PA-BRED PREMIUM
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Stakes Schedule for PA-Breds Offers \$1.75 Million in 2015



The lucrative 2015 PA-Bred stakes schedule will continue to offer 22 stakes worth a total of \$1.75 million to be carded at the three Pennsylvania mile tracks.

"We are very proud of this year's schedule and the continued 25 percent bonus for all PA-Sired horses finishing first, second or third in any of our stakes," said PHBA Executive Secretary Brian Sanfratello.

This year's schedule includes the three stakes that were added last summer—the Robellino at Penn National, Mrs. Henry D. Paxson at Presque Isle Downs and Plum Pretty at Parx. ★

ALL BREEDING FUND STAKES WILL INCLUDE A 25% PA-SIRED BONUS FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD.

Proposed 2015 schedule—dates and conditions for all the PA-Bred Stakes are subject to change. Please contact the Racing Offices for the most current schedules.

Sat., May 2, Parx	\$75,000 Lyman H , 3 & up, 7 fur.
	\$75,000 Foxy J. G. S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 fur.
Sat., May 30, Penn	\$75,000 Lyphard S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Fri., June 12, Penn	\$75,000 Danzig S , 3YO, 6 fur.
	\$75,000 New Start S , 3YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sun., July 12, PID	\$75,000 Leematt S , 3 & up, 1 mi.
	\$75,000 Northern Fling S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mi.
Sat., July 25, Parx	\$75,000 Crowd Pleaser S , 3YO, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
	\$75,000 Power by Far S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 fur., turf
Sun., Aug. 9, PID	\$75,000 Malvern Rose S , 3YO fillies, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
Sat., Aug. 22, Penn	\$75,000 Robellino S , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf

Pennsylvania's Day At the Races

Sat. Sept. 5, Parx	\$75,000 Banjo Picker Sprint S , 3 & up, 6 fur.
	\$75,000 Roanoke S , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
	\$75,000 Marshall Jenney H , 3 & up, 5 fur., turf
	\$75,000 Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial S , 3YO fillies, 7 fur.
	\$100,000 Mrs. Penny S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Sun., Sept. 6, PID	\$75,000 Mark McDermott S , 2YO, 6 fur.
Sat., Sept. 19, Parx	\$100,000 Alphabet Soup H , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Sun., Sept. 20, PID	\$75,000 Mrs. Henry D. Paxson S , 2YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sat., Oct. 10, Parx	\$75,000 Plum Pretty S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
Wed., Nov. 25, Penn	\$75,000 Blue Mountain Juvenile Fillies S , 2YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sat., Dec. 5, Parx	\$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery S , 2YO, 7 fur.

Total: \$1,725,000



Whom To Contact



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<http://www.pabred.com>



PARX Racetrack & Casino

2999 Street Road
Bensalem, PA 19020
Phone: 215-639-9000
<http://www.parxracing.com>
2014 Dates: Jan. 1 to Dec. 31



PA Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

P.O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020
Phone: 215-638-2012
<http://www.patha.org>



Penn National Race Course

777 Hollywood Blvd
Grantville, PA 17028
Phone: 717-469-2211
<http://www.hollywoodpnrc.com>
2014 Dates: Jan. 2 to Dec. 27



Pennsylvania HBPA

P.O. Box 88
Grantville, PA 17028
Phone: (717) 469-2970
<http://pahbpa.com>



Presque Isle Downs

8199 Perry Hwy
Erie, PA 16509
Phone: (866) 374-3386
<http://www.casinoierie.com>
2014 Dates: May 11 to Sept. 25



Pennsylvania Racing Commission is a departmental administrative commission within the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture which supervises all thoroughbred racing at which pari-mutuel wagering is conducted. 2301 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 17110. Phone: (717) 787-4737
Web: <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/>

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