



# ROYAL COLORS RACING

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## May 2012 Newsletter

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## Personal Reflections on the Triple Crown Pursuit



1998 - Victory Gallop defeats Real Quiet by a nose to deny Triple Crown and \$5,000,000 bonus.

There is a reason the track at Belmont Park is nicknamed "The Big Sandy." It is the longest dirt race course in America with a deep, sandy surface of 1 1/2 miles. It can be, and often is, a giant killer among

Triple Crown hopefuls. Since Affirmed last won the Triple Crown in 1978, eleven others have entered the Belmont Stakes with two classic wins under their belts only to be stymied by the third challenge.

Personally, I can remember where I was for each attempt in the past 15 years...

In 1997, several of us upset my Aunt as we broke away from my cousin's wedding reception in upstate New York to watch Silver Charm seem to have the race in hand until Touch Gold came running, center track and out of sight, to win by 3/4 length at the end in 1997.

1998 marks the most memorable moment that I have in a racing event, as I attended my first Belmont Stakes to cheer on Real Quiet in his attempt. Real Quiet did not belong here, he was not meant to be champion, his conformation was challenged and he sold for less than \$20,000 as a yearling...but the horse had a very big heart. Seeing him at the lead coming down the stretch was thrilling. Myself and nearly 85,000 others in attendance cheered to the point that we could scream no more, trying to will the horse over the finish line before the fast-charging Victory Gallop could catch him. It was the loudest roar I have ever heard at a racing venue. We all waited for several minutes for the stewards to post the photo showing Victory Gallop had won by what appeared to be only one-inch and thus taken away the Championship and a \$5,000,000 bonus offered by Visa at the time as part of the Triple Crown Challenge. I am certain Mike Pegram would have returned the cash in exchange for the victory.

In 1999, I returned in hopes of seeing Charismatic win. While the horse came in third, the most memorable moment of the day was seeing jockey Chris Antley jump from the horse's back just as they crossed the finish line and caringly cradle Charismatic's fractured left front leg while he waited for assistance. The horse had run his last race, but recovered and retired as a stallion.

In 2002, I watched from Dallas but could almost hear the crowd of 85,000 groan in concert as War Emblem nearly fell to his knees after the gates broke open.

In 2003, several of us gathered around a TV screen in the Silks Dining Room at Lone Star Park only to watch the muddy track spoil Funny Cide's chances.

In 2004, I was surrounded by a surreal group of buff and bronzed 20-somethings at the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas as we cheered for "The People's Horse," Smarty Jones, in what seemed to be a sure win as he led by more than four lengths entering the stretch, only to see Birdstone track him down.

2008 was going to be the year. Big Brown was bred for the distance and clearly the horse to beat. Within an hour of him winning the Preakness, we had booked flights and a hotel in New York. We rode the Long Island Railroad out to Belmont and assembled with the masses to see history...and then Big Brown pulled up in the turn and the challenge of the Triple Crown was once again preserved.

This year we plan, like millions, to be amongst friends watching the broadcast of the race together. We will hopefully have a reason to be screaming encouragement from hundreds of miles away for I'll Have Another. For anyone passionate about horse racing, a tingle runs along the spine when a chance for immortality in the sport exists. I am hopeful for I'll Have Another, and if he can pull it off he deserves every accolade he and his connections will most certainly receive.

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## Quest For Candy to Race Friday Night

Quest For Candy gets her first start at Charles Town on Friday Night in Race #8 at 9:37 CST. We

were looking for a softer spot and had hoped we could get her in a straight three-year-old race, but sitting on 55 days since her last race it was time to find her a start. She is in a field of nine competing in an Allowance race for non-winners of one race other than maiden or claiming or optional claiming \$12,500. Seven of the horses are multiple winners, with earnings ranging from \$30,000 to \$430,000. This spot will not be an easy one, but the purse is \$30,000 so one would expect competition. Candy has been training well and recorded a sharp three-furlong breeze in 35 4/5ths seconds a week ago. She will be the youngest in this field and the most lightly raced with only four starts.

Her race will most likely hinge on her start. No other horse in this field has posted a first quarter that has matched the sub 21 3/5ths starts she has posted twice. Early speed has been the winning bias for the 4.5 furlong races at Charles Town. So, we will see. We agreed with trainer Jeff Runco, that regardless of the outcome, we at the very least introduce her to the 4.5 furlong course at Charles Town and give her an idea of what it might take to compete.

If you would like to watch her race on Friday night, Charles Town hosts a live video feed. Just [click here](#) prior to 9:30 CST to see her race live, or the same site will give you the chance to pull up a replay of race #8.



*Quest for Candy, ready to race*

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## **Forty Winks Finishes Fourth After Tough Start**



Forty Winks raced on May 27th at Lone Star Park over the six furlong dirt course. The pre-race entries looked to have some well-intentioned horses in the line-up principally the two inside of his number three post. It was going to be a tough race for him, but when the gates opened up and he jumped in the air his hopes of contending were shot. The winner went in 1:10.88, a fast six-furlong race for Lone Star this meet and Forty Winks finished in fourth place.

After discussions with several of Forty Winks' partners, we have decided to move him up to Charles Town. He can join his stable mate Quest for Candy and hopefully take advantage of some of the slots-supplemented purses available. Many of their published races are at 6.5 furlongs which should be right in his cross-hairs. We will miss having him close by, but this move makes the most economical sense for the partnership.

## Two-Year-Old Updates

### Effour Back in Full Training

Effour will return to two-minute-licking this week and should quickly work back up to the breezing



schedule he was on before we gave him the three-week break from speed work. Everyone who has seen this horse recently continues to comment on how much he has grown up and how good he looks. If size and strength win races, we have a winner in Effour. To take a look at him breezing earlier in the month, [follow this link. Effour is the front-runner on the outside.](#)



### **Sassy Kiss Prepares for "The Show"**

Sassy Kiss breezed another 3/8ths this weekend and continues to look ready to race. She should be ready in about three weeks and we will be sending her on to Bret Calhoun. We will continue to monitor her next few works and then make a determination as to where she best fits, most likely his stable at Churchill Downs or Monmouth.

To see her breezing early in the month, [click here. Sassy is the black filly on the inside of the track.](#)

### **Valentine Eddie Continues Training at Lone Star Park**

Valentine Eddie has been galloping for more than a week and should return to recording works in the not-so-distant future. He is looking great and has grown into a very sturdy frame. His chest is massive and looks to be filled with lungs capable of taking in substantial amounts of oxygen. He certainly remains a colt and is quick to give you a little bite if you don't watch him closely when visiting him at his stall.



We recently increased the earnings potential of Forty Winks by nominating him to the South Mississippi Owner's Stakes, typically run by three-year-olds at the Fair Grounds in early February. One of his owners is a Southern Mississippi resident and brought Eddie's eligibility to our attention. This \$40 - \$50,000 stakes races is just another attractive benefit to owning a share in Valentine Eddie. Limited

shares remain available, [click here for details](#).

## Royal Colors Racing Friends & Family - May 2012







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