

Our *Neighborhood* *July 2015*
MAGAZINE

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For the love of Horses...
Mike Rose and his younger son, Dayton

Happy Fourth of July!



Love to run! Photo by Mike Rose



Close up of Sassy, Photo by Mike Rose

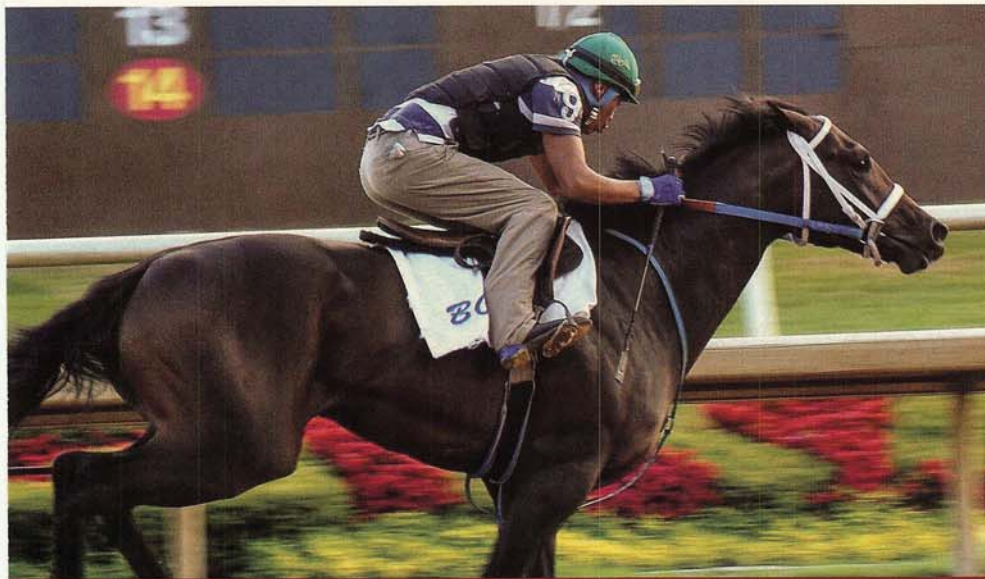


Photo Essay



Off To The Races!

By David Stana
Photos by Silver Star Pictures,
David J. Stana, Cr. Photog., CPP



Above: Like father, like son Below: To Race is to Dream!



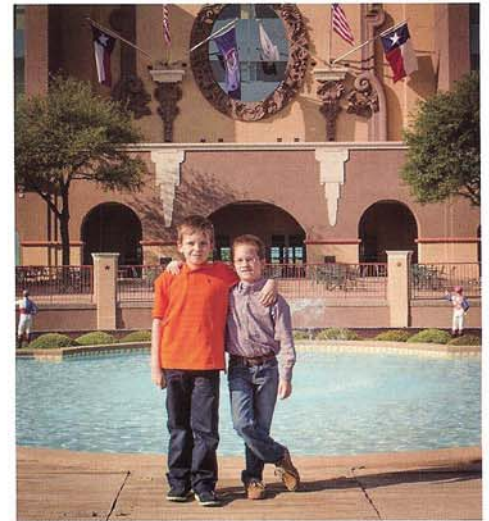
Elegance and tradition



continued...



The Rose Family (back l to r) Summer, Mike, (front l to r) Dayton and Hudson Rose



The tradition continues!

Mike Rose grew up in Ohio. His grandparents enjoyed thoroughbred racing in the 1930s and 1940s when it was the largest spectator sport in the United States. They used to take Mike down to the race tracks in Kentucky. His grandmother would bet \$2.00 to show (meaning the horse had to come in third or better) every race and would

usually win back about \$2.40. She would bet on almost every grey filly and always bet on the 5th horse in the 5th race. At the end of the day, she would leave up \$3.80 or so and think that it had been a great day. Mike was fascinated by the pageantry...the bright colors of the racing silks, the confidence of the jockeys, the bugler's call to the post before every race, and the amazing physicality of the thoroughbred.

Mike always wanted to own one or a piece of a racehorse, but never knew how to get involved. He even told his future wife, Summer, that it was on his bucket list during their third date, as they were sitting on a grassy hill at Lone Star Park watching the races. By chance in 2007, his wife's brother-in-law stated, "My fraternity brother from Texas Tech is a horse trainer." His name is Bret Calhoun, born in Grand Prairie, and he is arguably the best trainer in the southwest and consistently top 20 in the country. Mike had a three hour lunch with him that spring and they bought their first two horses in the fall of 2008 as yearlings at the Keeneland sale in Kentucky (2 of 4,400 sold that year in that single sale).

The rest is history. Mike and Summer established Royal Colors Racing and setup a partnership to enable others passionate about the sport to participate. They enjoy pretty good winning statistics, but the thrill of this sport is the most rewarding aspect. Mike will tell you, "If you want to see a forty to fifty-year-old man become a kindergartner, just give him ownership in a racehorse and watch him jump up and down and scream encouragement until he has lost his voice as the horse runs through the last 200 yards to victory.

Sound like fun? It is.

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6950 Lebanon Dr, Ste 101
Frisco, Texas 75034
(214) 494-4151

www.captivatingadditions.com
info@captivatingAdditions.com