

## White Rock Lake Weekly

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



#### Lakewood couple share passion for thoroughbreds

By Lucy Higginbotham

Churchill Downs. Sleek thoroughbreds. Standing in the winner's circle. They seem to be the sort of exotic things that Other People do, not something close to home, perhaps even right next door. And yet, for Lakewood residents Mike and Summer Rose, these are just part of normal life. The horses racing down the track at Lone Star Park are as familiar to them as the car racing up their driveway on Tokalon.

As founders of Royal Colors Racing, LLC, this young couple provides anyone with the opportunity to actually own part of a racehorse. "Is it risky? Sure, like a lot of investments, but it's a lot more fun to watch YOUR horse race than to watch the stock market," Mike said. With his experience in other limited partnerships, Rose saw firsthand how managing thoroughbred partnerships was done. Then he decided he could do it better. Through RCR, individuals can invest in a racehorse in the same way they might buy shares of stock in a company. The biggest difference is that, with RCR, you can pet your stock. "I think there are some things that people always dream of doing or having. Someday they want to drive a real race car or own one, or a boat. I've always wanted to own a racehorse," he said. Not that he plans to quit his job selling business jets for Gulfstream. "I have a great job that I love," he said. "I just wanted to become more intimately involved in the sport, to combine my passion with the ability to bring others on board in a way they could really participate."



Lakewood residents Mike, Hudson, Dayton and Summer Rose (not pictured – Jackson, their 13-year-old pug).



Like a new colt full of energy, RCR is building its investor base. But already the horses are winning. Just a few weeks ago, one of their fillies, Speedy Spice, won in a dramatic come-from-behind finish at Lone Star Park.

"If you want to see a 40-year-old man act like a five year old, this is it!" he laughed as he recalled the euphoric celebration in the box where he, Summer and the owners all cheered and screamed.

Rose grew up in Dayton, Ohio, going to the nearby race tracks with his grandparents and developed a passion for the sport. "It was great! It was free entertainment!" he laughed. Summer was born and raised in Lubbock and comes from a family of farmers and ranchers.

After Summer met Mike through one of his business associates, they dated for three years and got hitched in 2006.

Hudson Rose with Speedy Spice. The Roses could have bought a house near the race track, but they call Lakewood home because they couldn't imagine why anyone would want to live in any other part of Dallas. They love being a part of the community. The Lakewood PTA, Kindermusik at St Thomas Aquinas or feeding the ducks by the lake are just some of the places you might run into them. The eclectic feel of the area also scratches Summer's itch as she is the creative, "artsy" one of the pair. Trained in the hospitality field and an interior designer, Summer has put her artistic career on hold while she devotes herself to her current full-time career – mothering her boys Hudson (3) and Dayton (16 months.)

"I love what I'm doing right now. I help Mike with the marketing for Royal Colors and take care of the kids. So the design stuff can wait. I have no regrets," she said.

Getting RCR on track is definitely a family affair, because even though the boys are "all about cars and trucks," Dayton's room is decorated in a jockey theme and Hudson has firmly decided his favorite horse is Speedy Spice. Summer says both boys are "fearless" around the animals.

Anyone interested in the prospect of becoming part owner of a racehorse can read the extensive FAQs on the Royal Colors Racing website. Or you might just see them at the Arboretum and could ask Mike in person. Summer praised her husband's knowledge and diligence.

"Mike researches everything to the nth degree and the horse racing business is no different. He's very passionate about it," she said. But no matter what distance the horses may travel to race, a run for the Roses is never far from their front door.

"We thrive on the uniqueness of the neighborhood, the artsy shops and storefronts, and the diversification of the people," Mike said. Summer agreed. "We love to walk... this is a great walking community. This has become home."

