

# Bedard

ard	100	B. g. 3 (May) KEESEP22 \$300,000		Life	6 N	1 3		\$58,868	67	D.Fst	0	0	Q	0	\$0	-
-Men Racing III LLC Madaket Stables	Caller	Sire: Nyquist (Uncle Mo) \$85,000 Dam: Reason (Quiet American)		2024	2 1	1 2		\$35,040	67	Wet(397) Synth(307)		0	0	0	\$0 \$0	7
	0	Br: Anderson Farms Ont. Inc. (Ont-C) Tr: Attard Kevin(164 28 28 30 .16) 2024:(165 2	15	2023	4 N	1 1	0	\$23,828	64	Turf(284)		0	0	0 \$5	,768	53
		In: Antare Kern(Inv 26 26 30 .16) 2626(165		Wo	4 1	0 3		\$53,100	67	Dst(218)	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
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- He hasn't scored yet, but the horse named after 19-year-old NHL star Connor Bedard has reeled off three straight seconds as he steps into the stakes spotlight for the first time in his career.
- A bay son of Nyquist-Reason, Bedard's first three starts produced a fourth, eighth, and seventh. But the gelding started to turn the corner in the final start of his 2-year-old campaign when he posted a runner-up finish at 1 1/16 miles over the Woodbine all-weather course.
- "Obviously, things didn't go as expected in those first few races," started Attard. "But his race last October was encouraging. I thought his first race this year was good, as was his next race. This is a huge step up, but we know he has the capability to come up with a good one. Hopefully, the stars align, and he runs the type of race we know he can."
- "We've liked the way he has been working in the leadup to the race. The goal now is to carry that momentum from the mornings into the early evening on Saturday. He certainly looks the part, and we have always liked him. He has had to deal with a few issues here and there, which hasn't helped him come along as easily as we would have liked."
- Bedard was a \$300,000 purchase at the 2022 Keeneland Association Yearling Sale.

# Owner – X-Men Racing III, LLC, Madaket Stables LLC, SF Racing LLC

X-Men Racing is a syndicate of Canadian racing friends that was put together by bloodstock agent Donato Lanni. The successful ownership venture includes a 2022 King's Plate win with Moira. Madaket Stables LLC is the stable of American businessman and philanthropist Sol Kumin. Madaket Stables owned a stake in Justify when he won the Triple Crown in 2018, and a stake in Authentic, the 2020 Kentucky Derby and 2020 Breeders' Cup Classic winner. Other top horses the stable has been involved with include: Monomoy Girl, Lady Eli, Exaggerator, Mind Your Biscuits, and British Idiom. SF Racing LLC is headed by Tom Ryan, who also serves as the bloodstock agent at SF Bloodstock. SF Racing was a partner with Madaket Stables in standouts Authentic and Justify. Other notable horses include G1 winners Pinehurst, Eight Rings, Improbable, and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint champion Bulletin.

# Trainer – Kevin Attard (see Jokestar bio)

# Jockey – Pietro Moran

Pietro Moran, son of jockeys David and Maria Moran, grew up in Ireland but moved to Canada with his family when he was six. For as long as he can remember, he wanted to take after his parents and become a rider. "My brothers and I used to do races on the street all the time and we had our own silks. I used to be the organizer of the races, and we got old silks from Woodbine. The ones I had are orange with a blue circle, with an orange "P" in the middle, with orange and blue sleeves." Moran's first race at Woodbine was September 10, 2023, and his first win came that October with Trizzel Trazzel. On July 1, 2024, he won his first stakes race, the Grade 3 Belle Mahone, with Kevin Attard trainee Fashionably Fab. Aside from his riding career at Woodbine, Moran is taking Kinesiology at the University of Guelph-Humber.

# Groom – Peter Lopez

#### Breeder – Anderson Farms Ont. Inc.



# Caitlinhergrtness

Caitlinhergrtness Own: Siena Farm LLC and WinStar Farm LLC	Ch. f. J. (Apr) 085APR235375,000 Sint Omaha Beach (War Fred) 240,000 Dam: Belatris (Glant's Countrway) Br: Jesse Korona (Ont-C) Tr: Attart Kevin(14 Xi 28 30 .16) 2624 (115 26 .16)		2	923	6 3 3 1 3 1	1 0	1	\$227,860 \$156,760 \$71,100 \$100,000	80 73	Wet(342) Synth(265 Turf(288)	0	1	0	0	\$74,700 \$0 \$0 \$53,160 \$0	-
25Jiy24-9W0 fst Tir⊕ € 4741:12 1:3791:51 5Jiy24-6W0 fm 73[1]] 24 -4771:1941:29 1 Previously trained by Pletcher Todd A 2023		W L121 W L120	*135 115	86-17 57-03	Kins Cait	Conc	rgrta	nk Caitlini nessal She	Mai	tness¶ Hu kes aPoint™	rrica Ve	neCl	laire 4 Jy	* 3-4x *3/16,bi	led 1/4 d 1/8,ck	,drift sared
14feb24-7GP fst 6jf \$ 22 ,4521;1021;17 9ke23-8Aqu fst 1 C 23 ,4521;1021;17 285ep23-18AQ fst 1 232 ,4721;1021;372 35ep23-6Sar fst 7i 222 ,4521;1021;24	COC75k/whx-M     C13/5     4     44     57     44     Velazquez     1     67     661     68     69     67	120 119 119	*1,70 *1,10 4,30	74-12 88-06 15-15	Shin Caiti Alpir	inher inhe re P	ingAl rgrts rince	llure <sup>3</sup> Vinc ress] Back rss <sup>hi</sup> Nikit	stret	amond <sup>1</sup> ge <sup>3</sup> ] Prfctly ich Rose <sup>1</sup> ] Caldlinhergrö I WO & St f	Wic Niki Miki	* 0	2w Sw	1/4p, li ritch o ed 5-2i	o closiny rd, wrak ut3/4,lea x, fough	ened d7/16

- With four top three finishes two of them wins to her name from six starts, Caitlinhergrtness, named after WNBA basketball star Caitlin Clark, is a model of consistency.
- The daughter of Omaha Beach shored up her resume with a splendid second-place finish in the Woodbine Oaks on July 20. "It was a great effort," praised Attard. "Her last two races (a win on July 6, also at Woodbine) have been excellent. She has continued to mature and to raise the bar and show just how talented she is and how talented she can be. I think she has a bright future."
- Caitlinhergrtness launched her career in the U.S., where she made four starts. After a third at Saratoga in her debut, she broke her maiden next time out at Belmont. She closed out her 2-year-old campaign with a fourth in the Tempted Stakes at Aqueduct and opened her 3-year-old season with a fourth at Gulfstream before bringing her talents north to Woodbine.
- "We have seen how successful fillies can be in the Plate," said Attard, who campaigned the filly Moira to King's Plate glory in 2022. "She definitely belongs in here, and the hope is that she can continue to elevate her game."
- "Winning a King's Plate is the greatest feeling in the world. Winning two would be twice as nice, I'm sure."

# Owner - Siena Farm LLC and WinStar Farm LLC

Two of the sport's most successful breeding operations have also combined to become a major ownership force. A multiple graded stakes winning partnership established in 2021, Siena and WinStar's top horses include Grade 1 winner Timberlake, Grade 2 winners Emmanuel, World Record, and Millikin, as well as Grade 3 winner Major General. Siena and WinStar, who ranked 32nd in North America in purse earnings last year, are having another strong campaign, including a Grade 2 win in July with World Record in the Amsterdam Stakes.

# Trainer – Kevin Attard (see Jokestar bio)

# Jockey – Rafael Hernandez

Rafael Hernandez was born in Puerto Rico and began his riding career at Tampa Bay Downs in 2004. He's competed at a number of racetracks throughout the United States, but firmly established himself at Fairmount Park in Collinsville, Illinois, where he was the leading rider nine times, winning four straight riding titles between 2005 and 2008, and five straight riding titles between 2010 and 2014. During the 2015 campaign, he bounced around to several different tracks, including Churchill Downs, Saratoga and Gulfstream Park, before moving to Woodbine full-time during the summer of the 2016 season. He found immediate success winning 99 races at Woodbine in an abbreviated 2016 campaign. Since then, he has been a fixture at the top of the standings. In 2020, he was first with 129 wins. Hernandez won the 2015 King's Plate with Shaman Ghost, the 2022 Plate (and Woodbine Oaks) with Moira, and has won the Breeders' Stakes, the third jewel of the Canadian Triple Crown, on three occasions. Closing in on 3,150 wins, he has 153 career stakes scores.

Groom – Troy Garnett

Breeder – Jesse Korona



# **Essex Serpent**

Essex Serpent	B. g. 3 (Apr)	Life 3 2 1 0 \$185,560 89 D.Fst 0 0 0 0 \$0 -
Own: Conrad Manfred and Penny	Sire: Honor Code (A.P. Indy) \$20,000 Bame Elleen's Girl (Medaglia d'Oro)	2024 3 2 1 0 \$185,560 89 Wet(392) 0 0 0 0 \$0 - Synth(320) \$0
	Br: Conrad Farms (Ont-C) Tr: Casse Mark E(241 57 37 32 24) 2024:(715 138 .19)	2023 0 M 0 0 \$0 - Turf(306) 0 0 0 0 \$0 -
		Wo 3 2 1 0 \$185,560 89 Dst(243) 0 0 0 0 \$0 -
	3+ Md Sp Wt 90k 77 4/6 3 21 21 21 13 Civaci S	L118 5.65 88-10 EssexSerpent <sup>1</sup> CmoPrformnc <sup>1</sup> MidnightMscot <sup>4</sup> Brsh st,move9/16,held L118 5.90 89-09 MyBoyPrince <sup>4</sup> EssxSrpnt <sup>hd</sup> NoMorOptions <sup>2</sup> Awkward brk,nod place L119 1.70 92-09 Essex Serpent <sup>3</sup> 2 Happy Quad <sup>1</sup> 3 Lucky Romance <sup>hd</sup> Asked1/8,drew off > 4f fst:48 <sup>2</sup> B 15/88 Jun22 WO ◆ 4f fst:50 B 87/127 ●May29 WO ◆ 5f fst 1:00 <sup>4</sup> B 1/10

- Although lightly raced heading into the King's Plate (2-1-0 in 3 career starts), Essex Serpent shouldn't be taken lightly by the competition. The bay gelding nearly led gate-to-wire to capture the Marine Stakes (G3) last time out on Jun. 29 at Woodbine.
- "Essex Serpent came out of his race in good order," said dual Hall of Fame trainer Mark Casse. "He's trained great since the Plate Trial. He's a big, strong, homebred horse."
- The son of multiple graded stakes winner Honor Code made his professional debut in 2024 after sitting out the 2023 meet.
- "We had some issues with him as a 2-year-old and that's why he never ran as a two-year-old. We sent him to our training center in Ocala and gave him some time off.
- "He trained really well this winter. So, when we sent him up to Woodbine in the spring, we were expecting big things from them."
- Despite a small sample size, Essex Serpent has lived up to his high billing. After the Marine, Casse envisions the Conrad Farms product elevating his ceiling even higher.
- "He showed that he could run long, we figured he could, and he ran a good number. You would think that he'll even get better. That race should move him forward."
- The horse Casse describes as "bigger," "stronger," "tougher," and "more of a rogue" than fellow pupil My Boy Prince, aims to unlock his full potential under the handling of 2023 King's Plate-winning rider Patrick Husbands.

# Trainer – Mark Casse

Mark Casse has won a record 16 Sovereign Awards as Canada's outstanding trainer: 2006-2008 and 2011-2022. The Indianapolis, IN native has two U.S. Triple Crown wins: 2019 Preakness (G1) with War of Will and 2019 Belmont (G1) with Sir Winston. He also has six Breeders' Cup wins. Casse trained Eclipse Award winner Tepin who he sent to win the 2016 Queen Anne (G1) during the prestigious Royal Ascot meet in England. He was inducted into the U.S. Racing Hall of Fame in 2020 and the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2016. His North American career purse earnings exceed \$240 million, and he is closing in on 3,800 wins.

# Owner – Manfred and Penny Conrad

Commercial real estate is the primary concern of Penny and Manfred Conrad, operating as Conrad Farms in the Waterloo, Ontario region. But breeding and racing have become more and more a focus, particularly over the last 10 years. Since signing on with trainer Mark Casse, they have enjoyed success through multiple graded stakes winner and 2018 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint victress Shamrock Rose, and multiple graded stakes placed/multiple stakes winner Theogony. Beyond racing, the Conrads have prioritized giving back to the community they call home through The Manfred and Penny Conrad Family Foundation. Created in 2008, the foundation's wide-ranging philanthropic efforts include support for education, health, the arts, and disaster relief through nearly two dozen related organizations. In 2010, Wilfrid Laurier University unveiled the Manfred and Penny Conrad Institute for Music Therapy Research. In that same year, the University of Waterloo introduced the Conrad Centre for Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology.

# Jockey - Patrick Husbands

Patrick Husbands has been a force at Woodbine since 1994. Born in Barbados where he started his career, the Bridgetown native quickly rose to prominence. In 1990, at age 16, Husbands became the youngest rider to win the Cockspur Cup. He also won the Bajan riding title in 1993. Top horses he guided to victory during Canadian Horses of the Year campaigns include Lexie Lou (2014), Sealy Hill (2007), and Triple Crown champ Wando (2003). Husbands has a record eight Sovereign Awards as Outstanding Jockey, the most recent coming in 2014 in which he won his seventh Woodbine riding title. A three-time Queen's Plate winner (Wando in 2003, Lexie Lou in 2014, Paramount Prince in 2023), Husbands, named the 2014 recipient of the Avelino Gomez Memorial Award, has over 3,650 career victories and earnings of more than \$180 million (U.S.). In April 2024, Husbands was named as an inductee into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Groom – Wayne Grant Breeder – Conrad Farms



# **Friendly Ghost**

Friendly Ghost		k.borb. g. 3				133					Life	3	1	1	1	\$86,620	83	D.Fst		0	-		\$0	
Own: Leslie Sue		ire: Outwork ( am: Kin's Ghos									2024	2	1	0	1	\$69,060	83	Wet(390) Synth(389		0	0	0	\$0 \$0	-
		r: Phoenix R	sing Fa	rms (O	nt-C)						2023	1	м	1	0	\$17,560	60	Turf(325)		0	0	0	\$0	-
		r: Chartrand	HOCK E	vette()	5114	.12) 1	S240(8 1 .12)				Wo	3	1	1	1	\$86,620	83	Dst(312*)	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
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WORKS: Aug10 WO		8 42/83 Jly13	WO &	> 5f fst	1:004 B	8/47	Jly7 WO 🕸	Sf fst 1:	:01 B 13)	/51 Ju	29 WO	•	5f fs	t 1:0	0 B 3	/42 Jun2	WO ·	Sf fst 1:03	3 B .	48/4	9			

- The son of Outwork, whose barn name is "Casper," in a nod to the beloved cartoon character, continues to work out well for owner Sue Leslie and trainer Evette Chartrand-Hoek.
- Three lifetime starts have yielded a win, a second, and a third for the dark bay gelding who was foaled on Valentine's Day 2021. "He has been fun. We're trying not to get too carried away, but he has been pointing us in this direction," said Chartrand-Hoek. "I won my first Woodbine race for Sue, so to do this with her is special. We have a friendship, so this is a lot of fun."
- After a second to launch his career in the only start of his 2-year-old campaign, Friendly Ghost struck gold the next time out in a six-furlong main track race on June 9. "He has continued to get better and better with each race."
- In his final start before the Plate, the gelding, sent off at 15-1, dug down deep to finish third in the Plate Trial. "It was a huge ask of him, going to a mile and an eighth, but he came up with a big effort. We didn't expect to be on the front end, but he still ran huge."
- Taking on a talented field hasn't dampened the spirits of Chartrand-Hoek, who believes her lightly raced Ontario-bred will be up for the challenge in the biggest race of his career. "Last year, as a 2-year-old, we knew he was pretty nice, just the way he trained, and how professional he was. It was always in the back of my mind, 'Is he this special?' But he is."
- "Like his name says, he is very friendly," said Chartrand-Hoek of the \$46,000 (CDN) purchase at the 2022 CTHS (Ont. Division) Canadian-Bred Yearling Sale. "And his personality is not changing. He is just staying Casper."

# Owner – Sue Leslie

**Sue Leslie** has dedicated the better part of her life to the sport of horse racing – breeding, owning and training Thoroughbred horses in Ontario. Positions she has held, both past and current, include President/Chair of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protection Society of Ontario, President/Chair of Ontario Horse Racing Industry Alliance, Director on the Avelino Gomez Memorial Foundation, Director of LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society, as well as being a member of the Jockey Club of Canada and Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society. She was also involved in establishing Ontario Racing. In 2011, Leslie was honoured with a special Sovereign Award and in 2020, she was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

# Trainer - Evette Chartrand-Hoek

Born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Chartrand-Hoek launched her training career in 2019. Her first Woodbine win came on August 15, 2020, when she saddled Choose Hope (owned by Sue Leslie) to victory in the second race on the card. Last year, she set career-best marks in starts (31), wins (4), top-three finishes (12) and purse earnings (\$128,209). The King's Plate will represent Chartrand-Hoek's fifth stakes appearance.

# Jockey – Justin Stein

Stein began his riding career in his native British Columbia in 2004, recording his first career win on August 28 at Hastings Park, and by the next year was the track's leading rider with 148 wins. Stein moved to Woodbine full-time in 2006 and finished his first season in Ontario with 109 wins, good for fourth in the jockey standings. In 2012, Stein won The King's Plate with Strait of Dover. Three years later, he won the Woodbine Oaks with 66–1 Academic, who went on to defeat males with Stein aboard in the Grade 3 Canadian Derby at Northlands and the Grade 3 B.C. Derby at Hastings. Stein retired in 2016 but returned to race-riding at Woodbine in 2019. He won his first Grade 1 with Starship Jubilee in the 2020 Woodbine Mile while finishing atop the Woodbine standings in earnings and second in races won. Stein has over 1,400 career wins and \$63.5 million in purse earnings.

# Groom – Evette Chartrand-Hoek

#### Breeder – Phoenix Rising Farms



		Jokes	tar													
Jokestar	as :	g. 3 (May) re: Practical Joke (Ista Mischief) \$65,000		Life	8	1 1	2	\$101,070	81						50	
Own: Utwelling Al and Bill		am: Stavmaline (Star Guitar)		2024	3	0 0	1		81	Synth(331)			0	0	50 50	
	1	<ul> <li>Al Ulwelling &amp; Bill Ulwelling (Ont-C)</li> <li>Altand Kevin(164 26 28 30 .16) 2024:(165 26 .16)</li> </ul>		2023 Wo	5	!!	1	\$85,666 \$100,570	78	1 million b		1			\$500 62	33
201/24-5800 frt 1% - 452 1:1311.3811.51 23.8024-8800 frt 1% - 214 4571.1121.46 23.8024-8800 frt 1% - 214 4571.121.46 170e23-5800 frt 1% - 214 4571.121.43 170e23-5800 frt 1% - 214 4571.121.44 80c23-5800 frt 1% - 214 4571.121.44 136e2318000 frt 1% - 214 4571.121.44 136e2318000 frt 1% - 214 4571.131.44 136e2318000 frt 1% - 214 4571.141.25 136000000000000000000000000000000000000	Mid So W185k Mid So W177k Mid So W177k Mid So W185k Mid So W185k gJ W0 I Sffst 1sM	81 3/7 4/1 4/1 4/5 32 5/1 Kimura K 76 8/11 74 62/34 11 9/4 Kimura K 66 5/8 3/1 2/1 2/3 31 4/1 Kimura K 62 3/8 3/1 32 4/1 30 3/4 Kimura K 78 1/6 31 4/1 5/1 2/2 2/2 Kimura K 33 5/10 10/ 10/1 10/1 10/2 10/42 Kimura K	L125 20.9 L118 4.D L118 4.D L118 4.13 1186 3.2 1186 3.9 118 7.4 118 7.4 118 7.1 Siftet 1421 B 25.9	0 71-20 0 84-10 0 87-20 0 84-10 0 87-20 0 84-10 0 87-20 0 84-10 0 87-20 0 87-20 0 0 87-20 0 0 87-20 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Jun Gra Jok Dre Pig Gra	ipero indsor isden irling irling irling io Wit	Servi Mar Mar Row Point Facto th Ga	alų Pierret laaiwaų Cla vondAdvers 9. Vitality 124 Bedard r <sup>2</sup> Jokesta ustalų Aras	s Jo site in a s	Ma Tawn <sup>1</sup> ] AmricnDci knimus Magi kestar7] hefrontiersn Why Em Sea	ision icj nan/ a Aj	en pa	Bid Asi Mit	Came out 4w btw k 3/8.5w rve 4-5w ressed or Inside to sside to s Hestitate gr	14 kep 14 kep clear, k str, e str, e str, 2nd	pt or pt or lasted be str evenly best

- Jokestar has had an up-and-down career over his eight starts, but his connections, including trainer Kevin Attard, hope Saturday delivers a pleasing punchline from the bay son of Practical Joke. "The ability is there. He came out of his last race (fifth in the Plate Trial) in good shape, and he has trained well heading up to the Plate. Hopefully, he comes up with his best race on Saturday."
- It was anything but a Hollywood ending in Jokestar's first start. After hesitating at the start, the gelding was last of 10 early on and ended up staying in that position throughout the one-mile trek on the Woodbine inner turf. "Definitely not what we were expecting," recalled Attard. "We knew that wasn't him and we were confident his next race would be much better. And it was. He finished second and put in a very good effort."
- Jokestar's breakthrough win came in his fifth start, the final race of his 2-year-old campaign last December. After striking front in upper stretch in the 1 1/16-mile main track race, Jokestar was able to fend off a 76-1 foe for the milestone score. "He showed a lot of character in that win. It was a nice way to end up off his rookie year."
- "The road to get to the Plate is never an easy one for a horse. That he made it to this moment speaks to his ability to overcome those ups and downs. He worked hard to get to this point and hopefully, he can produce his best race."

# Owner - Al and Bill Ulwelling (see Pierre bio)

# Trainer – Kevin Attard

Kevin Attard is one of Woodbine's top trainers, and in 2023 he was a Sovereign finalist for the sixth consecutive year. The son of accomplished local trainer Tino Attard and nephew of prominent Woodbine conditioners Sid Attard and the late Joe Attard and former jockey and trainer Larry Attard, won his first career race on July 12, 2001 at Woodbine and has won 83 stakes headed by Starship Jubilee (Grade 1 E.P. Taylor, 2019 and Grade 1 Woodbine Mile, 2020), Canada's Horse of the Year in the former season. In 2022, it was Moira, winner of the Woodbine Oaks, who gave Attard his first victory in The King's Plate, en route to Canadian Horse of the Year honours. Other stars include Munnyfor Ro, the 2021 Woodbine Oaks heroine; Alezzandro, Fort Erie's Prince of Wales, in 2007; and multiple graded stakes winners Amalfi Coast, Calgary Cat, and Melmich.

# Jockey – Emma-Jayne Wilson

Multiple Grade 1 winning champion jockey Emma-Jayne Wilson started her career in 2004 and turned heads immediately. She became Woodbine's leading rider in 2005 as an apprentice. Wilson won both the Sovereign and Eclipse as Outstanding Apprentice Jockey in 2005 and captured both the Woodbine title and a second Sovereign as outstanding apprentice in 2006. In 2007, became the first female rider to win The King's Plate (then The Queen's Plate) aboard Mike Fox. Wilson has taken her talents across the world, including Hong Kong in 2008 and captaining the Girls' Team to victory in the Shergar Cup at Ascot in 2015. Wilson surpassed Hall of Fame jockey Julie Krone for all-time purse earnings by a female jockey on July 11 at Woodbine. A respected ambassador for the sport, Wilson received the Avelino Gomez Memorial Award in 2018, which honours significant contributions to the sport by a jockey. Wilson has over 1,900 career wins, including 129 stakes victories.

# Groom - Peter Singh

Breeder – Al and Bill Ulwelling



# **Midnight Mascot**

Midnight Mascot		(Mar) REESEPT	2 \$296,000			L	ife :	8 2	2	3	\$236,498	85	D.Fst	0	8.0		\$0	-
Own: Conrad Manfred and Penny	Beiter Dame R	Army Mule (Friesan Hidnight Endrace () Fronne Schwabe The Casse Mark E(241 S)	Hidnight Lute) roughbreds (Ont-C)			20	23	3 1	2	1		81					***	
23.4x24-500 fst 14.0 € 232 47 1:10/143 158x24-500 fst 7 ⊕ 341 474.10/143 258x24-500 fst 8 ⊕ 5 231 487 5571.10/ 20x23-500 fst 8 ⊕ 6 222 461 5771.10/ 40x23-500 fst 8 ⊕ 6 222 461 5771.10/ 150x23-500 fst 8 0 ⊕ 22 441.69 1:54 21/x3-500 fst 8 ⊕ 23 482 5771.10/ 40x23-500 fst 8 ⊕ 21 482 5771.10/ 40x23-500 fst 8 ⊕ 21 482 5771.10/ 40x23-500 fst 8 ⊕ 21 482 5771.10/ 40x23-500 fst 8 ⊕ 5761.018 soz J/32		81 3/7 7 65 6/8 25 73 3/9 4 64 4/10 3 56 7/8 1 90 Jly21W0 ⊕		Civaci S Husbands P Husbands P Civaci S Civaci S Carroll D Carroll D Jly14 WO - I	L 118 L 122 L 118 L 121 L 118 L 118 L 118 L 118 L 118 L 118	19 46 19 19	8-09/ 94-19/ 94-19/ 93-06/ 93-06/ 19-06/ 10-06/ 19-06/ 100	Midn Frac Two Midn Bucy Triple	ight Gho ghtN k1 A t Tri	Mas cerna sts1 Iscot Midei ea%	cot] Adies Midnight Piper's F M Compt ght Masco Bucykrk N	ieil2j Nov Attor actor tyTou (2] 8 Midni	Midnight I *1 Naptown tot4 Gun ( ** Jayhawi toh** Desda 88ee Me <sup>1</sup> ght Mascot	Nasc Cour Rowi M	tek Pi Ri Pi	ame Insd romp ail ru 2-3w; resse	woop5W31%, Mildy up fo out str,kept to str,raily t btwn,weak un,won nod ask \$/16,2nd d 2-3w,fough	busy (miss kened wire best

- Fresh off an impressive third in the Marine Stakes (G3) presented by HPI Bet, Midnight Mascot turned some heads, including that of his own trainer Mark Casse.
- "Midnight Mascot is interesting," said Casse, who also has My Boy Prince and Essex Serpent running in the Plate. "I think we learned a lot last time out. He sat back, instead of showing speed, and made a nice run. I was very happy with his race."
- Casse continued his praise for the bay colt with a nose for the money (8: 2-2-3), adding, "he shows up every time and plays hard."
- The son of graded stakes winner Army Mule (Grade 1 Carter Handicap) was hand-picked by Casse for owner's Manfred and Penny Conrad.
- "He was beautiful. I bought him for the Conrads as a yearling and he was a magnificent looking yearling. He's still a beautiful horse. He's definitely grown up and become more talented as he's gotten older."
- The horse his dual Hall of Fame trainer describes as "smart" and "easy to handle" looks to make a major leap with multiple graded stakes winning rider Kazushi Kimura at the helm on Saturday.
- "We saw a big step up from his previous race to his last race," shared Casse. "If he were to step up half as much as he did from his last race, he's going to be a force to be reckoned with."

# Trainer – Mark Casse (see Essex Serpent bio)

# Owner - Manfred and Penny Conrad (see Essex Serpent bio)

# Jockey – Kazushi Kimura

Born in Hokkaido, Japan, Kazushi Kimura joined the Woodbine jockey colony in 2018. He was the Sovereign winner as outstanding apprentice that year and repeated in 2019 when he also earned an Eclipse in the category. Kimura's career took a quantum leap in 2021 as he ran away from the pack with 139 winners and earned the Sovereign as outstanding jockey. He repeated as the Sovereign winner in 2022 and completed the three-peat in 2023. His numerous stakes winners include G1 winners Rougir (FR), Gretzky The Great, and Gold Phoenix. Kimura recently moved his tack to California but will return to Woodbine in pursuit of his first King's Plate crown.

# Groom – Gareth Daniels

# Breeder – Yvonne Schwabe Thoroughbreds



# **My Boy Prince**

My Boy Prince	GAL BUILD & J (Mar) CANSEP22 SITJON	Life	10 6	2 1	\$785,740	97	D.Fst 0	8	0.0	N -
Own: Barber Gary	Sire: Caire Prince (Pienceruf the Nile) 515,000 Dam: Hugging Net Hoping (Silicet Xame*3pa) Br: Maray Graham Smith (Del5) Tr: Cause Mark E(241 57 37 32 34) 2024;(711 138 .19)	2023		8 0 2 1 1 0	\$550,240	54	interdential a	1	1.1	\$0 - \$0 \$362,500 \$3 \$0 -
State W0 for 7 ⊕ ⊕ 21 44 1.001.214 18024-300 for 7 ⊕ ⊕ 31 474.1041.21 18024-300 for 7 ⊕ ⊕ 31 474.1041.21 18024-300 for 76 ⊕ 21 442 551.04 10022-800 for 76 ⊕ 21 46 1.041.01 18062-800 for 76 ⊕ 21 46 1.041.01 18062-800 for 61 ⊕ 22 46 1.041.01 181623-800 for 61 ⊕ 21 46 51 218623-800 for 61 ⊕ 21 46 51	BEP late TriB 158k         87         5 / 7         92         37         37         34         14 <th14< th="">         14         14         14<td>L1265 *25 54-05 L1265 *55 58-05 L1265 *55 58-05 L1265 *55 58-05 L1265 *55 58-05 L1265 *57 58-11 L1265 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1000 *10000 *10000 *1000 *1000 *1000 *10000 *10000 *1000 *10000 *100</td><td>My Bo MyBoy My Bo Fandoi Unque My Bo Carson MyBoy</td><td>y Prince y Prince mrik Mo stionab y Prince y Prince</td><td>te<sup>4</sup>) Rafar Essersi rill Rol Sci insa Musa le<sup>4</sup>) Mour re<sup>4</sup>) Arash H My Boy H YchtBo</td><td>oo1 F erpeit sielit il Re finBe Kin v1 S</td><td>riendly Ghost3j <sup>™</sup> NeMorOptio Midnight Masc fuel<sup>™</sup> MyBoyPrin ing Rosso2j ce<sup>1</sup> GoWithGust ammerCommod</td><td>est set</td><td>Rear Bitule Brk Jubitu, Bid2u Mild u Shoe Ask ut</td><td>brk.3-4wack §1% dikept task safe out, brew off str gupr.no factor 7%K jedjock 2 and rging, much best repar, no match per str./brew off d2%comfortably Willingly to wire</td></th14<>	L1265 *25 54-05 L1265 *55 58-05 L1265 *55 58-05 L1265 *55 58-05 L1265 *55 58-05 L1265 *57 58-11 L1265 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1100 *128 58-1000 *10000 *10000 *1000 *1000 *1000 *10000 *10000 *1000 *10000 *100	My Bo MyBoy My Bo Fandoi Unque My Bo Carson MyBoy	y Prince y Prince mrik Mo stionab y Prince y Prince	te <sup>4</sup> ) Rafar Essersi rill Rol Sci insa Musa le <sup>4</sup> ) Mour re <sup>4</sup> ) Arash H My Boy H YchtBo	oo1 F erpeit sielit il Re finBe Kin v1 S	riendly Ghost3j <sup>™</sup> NeMorOptio Midnight Masc fuel <sup>™</sup> MyBoyPrin ing Rosso2j ce <sup>1</sup> GoWithGust ammerCommod	est set	Rear Bitule Brk Jubitu, Bid2u Mild u Shoe Ask ut	brk.3-4wack §1% dikept task safe out, brew off str gupr.no factor 7%K jedjock 2 and rging, much best repar, no match per str./brew off d2%comfortably Willingly to wire

- My Boy Prince, son of multiple graded stakes winner, Cairo Prince, heads into the 165<sup>th</sup> King's Plate in fine fettle after taking the 2024 Plate Trial Stakes in 1:51.12.
- "He came out of it well," said trainer Mark Casse. "I was proud of him, he showed he could overcome a lot of adversity. All systems are a go."
- Expectations have long been high for the ultra-consistent colt, who demonstrated an advanced skillset as a youngster.
- "He didn't change a whole lot from two to three," said Casse. "I thought he'd grow up a little bit more as he was maturing he's not a very big horse but as far as his progression, he was so good at two that he didn't need to progress a whole lot at three, but I think he's matured a little bit. He's learned to settle a little better."
- Casse recalled a potentially disastrous moment from his protégé's rookie season that My Boy Prince handled with the poise of a seasoned veteran.
- "Right before the summer he pulled a shoe off. Not a lot of two-year-olds would allow you to put a shoe back on the way he handled it. That just showed a little bit about his demeanor."
- Victorious in three of four starts to begin his sophomore campaign, My Boy Prince rides into the Plate with his priorities straight.
- "He just doesn't give a hoot about much. You sure wouldn't look at him and think that he's some superstar. He saves it all for on the track."
- "He showed he was a little on the special side before we even sent him to Toronto as a two-year-old. He worked very well at our farm. In all honesty, you can't tell that they're going to be as good as he is. I just felt that he was better than average. The special ones just train faster and do things easier than others."

# Trainer – Mark Casse (see Essex Serpent bio)

# Owner – Gary Barber

Former MGM executive Gary Barber is the co-founder of Spyglass Entertainment and CEO of Spyglass Media. Spyglass Entertainment produced such motion pictures as Seabiscuit, which was nominated for seven Academy Awards. Barber has executive-produced more than 50 films. The South African native has owned horses alone and in partnership with his brother Cecil and others. Tourist won the Breeders' Cup Mile in 2016 for a partnership that included Barber. Barber won two Canadian classic races in 2018 with Wonder Gadot and in 2019 won the Preakness with War of Will. Barber added another Breeders' Cup crown when Belvoir Bay won the 2019 Turf Sprint. The 2023 campaign was one to remember for Barber, who captured his first ever Sovereign Award for Outstanding Owner after he recorded 22 wins, including six stakes tallies, for over \$1.8 million in purse earnings across 96 starts on the Canadian Thoroughbred circuit.

# Jockey – Sahin Civaci

Multiple graded stakes-winning rider Sahin Civaci was born in Vancouver, and moved back to his native Ankara, Turkey with his family when he was 10. In his early teenage years, he enrolled in a course sponsored by the Turkish Jockey Club and quickly realized he wanted to ride thoroughbreds for a living. He made the move to Woodbine, and his first win at the Toronto oval came on June 5, 2019, aboard Phil's Glory. In 2019, he won 39 races in 363 starts. He had 92 wins in 2022 before ascending to new heights in 2023, where he set career-highs in starts (624), wins (141), and earnings (\$6.5 million). "The key for me is to always do better than the year before. That's what pushes me every time I go into the gate. Win or lose, I always give my best."

#### Groom – Ivan Forde

#### Breeder – Murray Graham Smith



# **No More Options**

No More Options	Dk. b or b. c. 3 (Mar) KEEN0V2155,000	Life		3	1 4	\$190,625	82	D.Fst	0	0	0 0		-
Own: Self Mary T	Sire: Frac Daddy (Scat Daddy) \$4,000 Dam: Stoney Miss (Birdstane)	2024	4	1	1 1	\$48,386	82	Wet(325) Synth(31)	0	0	0 0	50 50	-
	Br: Laurel A. Byrne (Det-C) Tr: Kromar Zeljka(28 4 5 5 .14) 2024-(28 4 .14)	2923	1.21	2.1	1 3		$\pi$	Turf(251)	1 3			\$81,250	82
		Wa		1	1 3	2100,175	76	Dst(323*)		۰.		50	•
20.1/24-600 fst 11/40-6021 44 1.1291.381.51 BPPateTr 3.1604-800 fst 71 de (€ 221 44 1.6821.214 30) assess 1986;24-500 fst 11/40 64 221 44 1.6821.214 30 60 640,10 586;24-500 fst 11/40 42 440 1.1011.381.52 BFC 440,10 286;223-600 fst 11/40 224 4451.1011.381 52 BFC 440,10 286;223-600 fst 64 de 224 4451.1011.381 52 BFC 440,00 156;623-600 fst 64 de 224 4451.1011.381 52 BFC 440,00 156;623-600 fst 54 de 224 4451.1011.391 BFK 44000 156;623-600 fst 54 de 224 4451.5111.49 BFK 44000 156;623-600 fst 54 de 224 451.5111.49 BFK 4500 156;623-600 fst 54 de 224 451.5111.51 156;523-600 fst 54 de 224 451.5111.51 156;523-600 fst 54 de 224 551 156;534 de 224 551 156;545 de 224 551 156;555 de 224 551 156;555 de 224 551 156;555 de 225 555 156;555 de 225 555 156;5555	i6125k         78 6  8         2'         64         644         643         34         Kimura K         L122b         2'           N         62 3 5 1         3' 3' 2''         3''1         Kimura K         L18b         1           N         71 5  8         5 4         4''         5''4         4''         Hernandkez R M         L18b         1           8         71 5  8         5 4         3''         3''5         Mejica O         L122b         1           8         71 3 15         5 4 4''3         3''5         Mejica O         L122b         1           8100k         77 3 15         5 4 4''3         4''13''1         3''1         Kimura K         L10b         1           65 6 15         3''2         5''1         1''1         3''1         Kimura K         L10b         1           68k         62 1 111         4 4''4         3''1         3''1         Kimura K         L10b         1           98k         62 1 111         4''4         4''1         3''1         Kimura K         L118b         1	120 H-0 130 H-1 135 H-1 135 H-1 135 H-1	19 My 10 Noi 17 Cru 17 Bab 12 Noi 15 No	BayP Mare mlin bo <sup>2</sup> Mare <i>Ma</i> re	Optic Lad Pip Optic Pipic	celij Rafaro 4 EiserSrj 2054] Osel 1 Forest Bu er's Factorj 2054] Siest 2004] Siest 2004] Natucket 4 Natural Si	netid zz11 No Becht st. St.	NoMorOg entime 'G' S Win d'Oro More Opti JuniorHo rikerte I'm	ation ation atisti Shall Fre	s2 F	orced aj 1d Neede Stron Insi	to S/16.swung out brk,5-8w kal trip,drew d more in stre Inside, kept o finish deep o finish deep inside, kept energy up for	eide eff eich t on str str iear

- The dark bay's pre-race life featured several appearances in sale rings before he was purchased privately in 2023 by Mary Self, who then handed the reins over to her father, trainer Zeljko Krcmar.
- "Dad is excited," said Self. "It was his 82nd birthday on August 3rd, so I told him I would give him his birthday present on August 17 [Plate Day]."
- No More Options delivered Self a treasured first stakes score when the Ontario-bred son of Frac Daddy won last year's Frost King Stakes.
- A model of consistency, the colt's journey from maiden breaker to stakes winner, to a spot in The King's Plate starting gate has been a thrill for Self and her father. "This horse is a gift," said Self. "He is like a little pony, the sweetest horse ever. We have had many offers to sell him, but I have held out because I want to see my dad there on the big day. For us, it is a once-in-a-lifetime moment. We are so excited."
- No More Options earned a pair of thirds in his first two starts before his milestone victory on October 28, 2023, one race before his Frost King coronation.
- "My dad and I speak every day and he would get more and more excited about this horse when we talked. The longer this horse goes, the happier he is."
- An unexpected sixth in the Plate Trial on July 20 caught the horse's connections off guard. "We had a terrible equipment mishap," said Self. "We wanted to make sure he was okay, so we had him tested and scoped, and he is 100 per cent. We're ready."
- The colt's dam Stoney Miss, by Birdstone, was unraced. Her dam, Gold Strike, won the Woodbine Oaks and is the dam of 2022 Kentucky Derby winner Rich Strike.

#### Owner – Mary Self

Mary Self, daughter of trainer Zeljko Krcmar, is heavily involved and invested in horse racing, including as a Thoroughbred owner. In 2020, Self started the season with six horses. By the end of the Woodbine campaign, she had four – one was claimed, another became a show jumper. "I buy at the sale or privately. I'm not a big-time buyer, owner or breeder. I do it the best I can." Make No Mistake, a Kentucky-bred daughter of Raison d'Etat, has won 13 races and recorded nearly \$220,000 in purse earnings for Self.

#### Trainer – Zeljko Krcmar

When Zeljko Krcmar arrived in Ontario in 1968, he carried two dollars in his pocket, hope of a better life, and a dream of rekindling his association with horses. "I came here to work as a chemist, that was my trade," he recalled. "But because my love and my passion was horses, I knew I had to do something for my career that was built around them. I was in show horses most of my life. When I was in Yugoslavia, I was a show jumper." Seven years after he came to Canada, he found his way to Woodbine Racetrack. After earning his trainer's license, he saddled his first horse in 1975. Now, nearly 50 years after sending his first Thoroughbred postward, Krcmar is still enjoying the racetrack life. "I'm happy if I have a horse in a stakes race, the same way I'm happy if I have a horse in a \$15,000 claimer. It's the same feeling. I just love my horses."

#### Jockey – Daisuke Fukumoto

Starting from the age of 13, Daisuke Fukumoto rode in 200 amateur races in his native country where he earned 50 wins. After attending the Japan Racing Academy, he arrived in North America last year to pursue a career as a jockey and began working for trainer Reade Baker as a groom. He then went to work for conditioners Roger Attfield, Denyse McClachrie, Paul Buttigieg and Mike De Paulo, galloping horses at Woodbine. He debuted at Woodbine on July 26, 2017, and hit the board seven times in his first 44 starts before scoring his maiden-breaking victory. His major triumphs include the 2020 King's Plate with Mighty Heart and the 2021 Woodbine Mile with Town Cruise.

#### Groom – Henry Miller

#### Breeder – Laurel Byrne



Pierre

Pierre	B. c. 3 (Mar) CANSEP22 \$80,196	Life 4	1 1	1 2	\$89,684	79 D	Fst	0 1	0 0	0	\$0 -
Own: Ulwelling Al and Bill	Sire: Tapiture (Tapit) \$7,500 Dam: Archerette (Arch)	2024 3	1 1	1 1	\$80,026		Vet(412)	0 1	0 0	0	\$0 - \$0
-0-	Br: Tall Oaks Farm (Ont-C)	2023 1	M	1	\$9,658		ynth(342) urf(283)	1.1	0 0	1	50 \$9,746 79
	Tr: Attard Kevin(164 26 28 30 .15) 2024:(165 25 .16)	Wo 3	1 1	1 1	\$79,938	79 D	st(312)	0 1	0 0	0	\$0 -
19JIy24-7W0 fm 14cT 231 :47 1:1131:424 3+ 0C 50k/v2L-1 23Jun24-8W0 fst 14cΦ 234 :4611:1121:46 3+ 0C 50k/v2L-1 4Mag24-5W0 fst 6f Φ 244 :49 1:0031:12 Md Sp Wt 66 100ec23-6W0 fst 6jfΦ 223 :46 1:11 1:174 Md Sp Wt 77 WORKS: Aug10 W0 Φ 5f fst 1:014 B 43/75 • Aug1 W0 Φ 5f ft TRAINER: Routes(289:13 \$1.30) Stakes(121:14 \$1.27)	79 8/9 713 618 610 311 213 Hernandez R M L118b 3 64 7/7 4 313 1nd 1nd 1nd Hernandez R M L118b *	6.95 89-10 S 3.35 71-26 J 1.00 78-19 P 2.10 82-14 V 84 Jun <b>2 WO</b> 4	unipero ierrehd lagner	Serra Gilt • Am	15 Pierrené Edge45 Hig erican Deci	Joke hland sion}	starhd Blueno Pierre		Bm B	ps br Loc lother	nove1/4,outfinish rk,3-4w.gain 7wd om3W114,held on ed st,flying 10w

- Trainer Kevin Attard is not conservative in his praise of the colt who has reached the podium in all four of his starts. "He is a horse who keeps on improving and whose talent level comes out more and more each week. He hasn't contested a stakes race yet and this is a massive step up, but he has shown that he can rise to whatever challenge, mornings or afternoons, that comes his way."
- "This horse is very versatile, in terms of his ability to adapt to different surfaces and different distances. He has always shown that willingness to take on what we have asked of him, which is what you love to see as a trainer."
- "When he broke his maiden in his 3-year-old debut this May, I was impressed at the way he dug in and showed such grit and determination. He could have thrown in the towel, but he didn't. It showed the fight he has in him."
- Attard, who captured the 2022 Plate with standout filly Moira, would love to deliver a win to owners Al and Bill Ulwelling. "They have been strong supporters of me and our team, as well as racing at Woodbine. They love the sport, they love their horses, and to see them win a Plate would be absolutely amazing."

# Owner – Al Ulwelling and Bill Ulwelling

Bill and his son, Al, owners of A&B Welding and Construction of Elk River, Minnesota, were introduced to the racing game at their home state's Canterbury Park and got into the ownership realm there in 2005 through a long-time friend and customer, the late Bill Wiczek. The Ulwellings have become major supporters of Ontario racing, having horses here with Kevin Attard since 2017. Their top performers include Canterbury-based Stachys, winner of the Manitoba Derby in 2010, and Woodbine stakes winners Stephen, Merveilleux, Pumpkin Rumble, Haddassah, Velocitor, and Shakopee Town. The Ulwellings, closing in on 500 career wins, were finalists for the 2022 Sovereign Award as top owner.

# Trainer – Kevin Attard (see Jokestar bio)

# Jockey – David Cohen

Multiple graded stakes winning rider David Cohen began his pro career in 2004 and thrived during the early 2010s on the Mid-Atlantic circuit, winning jockey titles at Parx Racing and Delaware Park and earning national notice with a win in the 2012 Travers Stakes (part of a dead heat) before being sidelined for a lengthy period after a 2014 leg fracture. He was named JockeyTalk360.com's Comeback Jockey of the Year in 2018 after finishing with 114 victories. He had been away from racing for three years after the leg injury and the deaths of his father and sister. Cohen returned to the irons in late 2017 and rode six races. In 2018, he finished third in the standings at Oaklawn Park and continued his success at the Arkansas track in 2019, finishing as the meet's wins leader with 75. Cohen, who enjoyed success in 2020 and 2021 riding graded stakes winner and Kentucky Derby and Preakness starter Keepmeinmind, is closing in on 1,700 career wins.

# Groom – Lawrence Williams

# Breeder – Tall Oaks Farm



Rafaroo

Rafaroo	Dk. b or b. c. 3 (Feb)		Life	2	м	2	0 \$52,260	85	D.Fst	-	0		-	\$0	-
Own: Stronach Stables	Sire: Hard Spun (Danzig) \$35,000 Dam: Light Green (Pleasantly Perfect)		2024	2	м	2	0 \$52,260	85	Wet(382) Synth(353)		0	0	0	\$0	-
	Br: Adena Springs (Ont-C)		2023	0	м	0	0 \$0	-			0	0	0	\$0 \$0	-
	Tr: Ladouceur Harold(34 4 5 3 .12) 2024:(41 4 .10)		Wo	2	0	2	0 \$52,260	85	Dst(371)	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
20Jly24-6W0 fst 11/4 ⊕ 492 1:1311:3811:51 15Jun24-9W0 fst 7f ⊕ 224 :4631:1111:234 WORKS: Aug10 W0 ⊕ 5f fst 1:003 H 16/75 Aug TRAINER: Routes(38.08 \$0.66) Stakes(16.06 \$3	Md Sp Wt 90k 73 1/6 6 65¼ 64¼ 44 22¼ Munger R 4W0 ♦ 5f fst 1:02 B 28/38 Jly14W0 ♦ 4f fst :501 B 20/88 Jly6W0 ♦ 5f fst 1:	118 10.55	5 82-1	5 Ha	wkes	sbur	21 Rafaroo	At	Friendly Gho nerican Decis WO � 4ffs	ion2	4		Advance 5v Trail,closed 7/88		

- Everything's going according to plan for Rafaroo following a formidable showing in the Plate Trial Stakes. The dark bay colt rallied for a splendid second behind 1–5 choice My Boy Prince.
- "He [Rafaroo] came out of it relatively well," said trainer Harold Ladouceur, who gallops many of his horses. "I was happy with his eating, and we went right back training, so everything's pretty normal."
- Sticking to a proper routine has been a point of emphasis for Ladouceur, who saw tremendous potential in the son of multiple graded stakes winner Hard Spun as a youngster.
- "When he was two last year, we knew he was a nice horse. He just did everything so well and the class he has is unbelievable. That tells you a lot."
- While lighter on racing experience, Rafaroo (2: 0-2-0) has for the most part proven wise beyond his years.
- "I love the way he can just settle in," told Ladouceur. "He's really laid back. We have to put a shank on to give him a bath. He is a colt, and he likes to bite but other than that, he's really good. He's good to look after in the stall and he's just got a lot of class."
- A steady presence on and off the track has his trainer bullish leading up to the big day. "He just looks so good right now. He seems to be maturing and coming around at the right time. It feels like we could be pointing at the stars."

#### Trainer – Harold Ladouceur

Raised in between Northern Alberta and the Kikino Metis settlement and Saulteux and Moosmin Reserves in Saskatchewan, trainer Harold Ladouceur is a natural-born horseman. His calling became clear right out of the gate, as Ladouceur wasted no time breaking into the industry as a teenager. Learning the tools of the trade as an exercise rider and groom under his grandfather Alec Poitras, who trained Thoroughbreds in Western Canada, Ladouceur's horse racing journey later involved stops in Winnipeg and Florida. The graded stakes winning trainer (2014 Grade 3 Selene), who began his conditioning career in 2004, has put together a strong career alongside his wife and assistant trainer Jessie Ladouceur. Some of the top horses to compete under Ladouceur include Paladin Bay (Selene winner), Jurojin, Wake Up Maggie, Splendid Glory, and Primo Touch. Earlier this year, Ladouceur was inducted into the North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame in March at a ceremony in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Founded in 2022, the NAIAHF recognizes outstanding leadership and achievement in individual and team athletics.

#### Jockey – Ryan Munger

Born in Durban, South Africa, and raised in Johannesburg, Munger, who also holds Canadian citizenship, started his career by attending the South African Jockey Academy from 2011 to 2015 in Johannesburg. His first mount came aboard Vladimir (SAF) on October 23, 2012, at Scottsville in South Africa, and just over two months later, he guided Nordic Lass (SAF) to victory at Clairwood, also in his homeland. In the decade following, he developed into one of the continent's leading jockeys, winning titles in Zimbabwe in 2017 and 2018, and was a fixture in the top-10 standings in South Africa and Singapore. He has made an immediate impact since launching his career at Woodbine, winning 48 races in 2023. Munger, who piloted Simply in Front to a second in the Natalma (G1) last September, won three stakes last year, including the Glorious Song with A Little Frisky, and the Shady Well with Harold Ladouceur trainee Shamans Girl.

#### **Owner – Stronach Stables**

The stable's individual honours include an Eclipse Award of Merit; six Eclipse Awards as outstanding breeder and four in the owner category; and 13 Sovereign Awards as outstanding breeder and nine as owner. Frank Stronach was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2002. It was announced in the summer of 2020 that his daughter, Belinda, would head the Stronach family's racing and gaming operations while Frank and his wife, Elfriede, who passed away in March, retained control of the stallion and breeding business.

#### Groom – Jessie Ladouceur

#### Breeder – Adena Springs



# **Roar of the Crowd**

Roar of the Crowd	Ch. g. 3 (Mar) CANSEP22\$21,385	Life	4	1	0	1	\$35,294	69	D.Fst	0		0	0	\$0	-
Own: Polsinelli Dominic	Sire: Reload (Hard Spun) \$5,000 Dam: Uproar (Hail the Ruckus)	2024	3	1	0	1	\$34,794	69	Wet(413)		0	0	0	\$0	7
	Br: Paradox Farm, Inc. (Ont-C)	2023	1	M	0	0	\$500	45	Synth(337) Turf(301)			0	0	50	1
	Tr: Polsinelli Daminic J(19 2 3 3 .11) 2024:(19 2 .11)	Wo	4	1	0	1	\$35,294	69	Dst(373*)			-	-	\$0	-
14ug24-7W0 fst 64f ↔ 231 :4621:1031:1723+0C 40k/k2 16Jun24-9W0 fst 64f ↔ 224 :4611:1041:1723+0C 40k/c- 25Maj24-1W0 fst 64f ↔ 9234 :4641:11 1:1733+Moc c-(25	39 8/8 1 31 52 817 817 Alderson JI L119f 25)c 69 5/6 3 1 13 13 17 17 Hernandez R M L119	10.20 68- *1.45 84-	13 Ya 12 Ro	acht orof	t Bo ithe	crow	El Cohete d71 SoCII	19 G	Roar of the ( old Magica ion® TruSh		. 1	Pro	mpt3Wb	ack aw	av1/4
	McLaughlin, Dan and Alber, Alan for \$25,000, Tharrenos William Train														
17Dec23-5W0 fst 6f d 23 :462 :59 1:113 Moc 40000	45 1/11 11 1081 1012 1082 8101 Wilson E L118b	12,85 70-	18 Fa	airw	ay t	to He	aven] Lak	efiel	Idnk Indy On	4		Sh	w st,pass	weary	ones
WADKS. 11-24 WA to 124 64 -223 B 2/2 10-12 WA to 144 ed -	34 D an Let 1 WA + + 2 4+ .201 D 1/2 Ha 12 WA /5. 54 6+ 1.41 Be 12/77				- C		0.000		9940-00 <b>5</b> 4-00					903 C - 670	

WORKS: Jly24WO tr.1.3f fst:383 B 2/2 Jly13 WO tr.1.4f gd :514 B 9/9 Jun12 WO tr.1.3f fst:383 B 3/3 Nay18 WO ↔ 5f fst 1:01 | TRAINER: 20145-180(5.00 \$0.00) Sprint/Route(3.00 \$0.00) Routes(4.00 \$0.00)

- A win or big showing in the Plate would be twice as nice for Dominic Polsinelli, who owns and trains the son of Reload-Uproar.
- "Our dream has finally come true," said Polsinelli. "We have an opportunity to be in The King's Plate.
- On May 26, Polsinelli claimed the chestnut gelding for \$25,000 ahead of his second race, which would turn out to be a 7 ¼-length score at 6 ½ furlongs over the Woodbine main track.
- "I claimed him because of his grandfather, Hail the Ruckus," he said, of the graded stakes winning son of Bold Ruckus he both trained and owned. "Roar of the Crowd also has a three-quarter brother, Pender Harbour, who finished third in the 2011 Plate and had a great career. I did a lot of research on this horse, and he was the perfect fit for us."
- "I knew the Plate was coming up and we were looking for a horse for the race. This one came up, unexpectedly, and we decided this was our horse."
- Roar of the Crowd finished eighth in his debut last December but came back to break his maiden in the May 26 race.
- He was eighth in his third start and first under the tutelage of Polsinelli but rebounded with a third in his final start before the Plate, recovering from a tardy start to net the bronze.
- Now, Roar of the Crowd will step into the stakes arena in Canada's iconic \$1 million race. And while the odds might be against them, Polsinelli is dreaming big.
- "There are tough horses in this race. I think the race will be run close to the pace there are a lot of tactical speed horses. The question mark is if he can carry his speed. His bloodline tells me he can go a mile and a quarter. He doesn't train like a horse who is a sprinter. He's not bulky, but he's streamlined. He has a nice front end, and he's put together nicely."
- Roar of the Crowd has been a welcome addition to the Polsinelli barn. "He does nothing wrong. He does everything you tell him, very easy going."
- His groom, Keethon Roy Howard, is also a fan. "He is a beautiful horse. I like how he trains and how hard he tries in his races. He can also go a distance."

# Owner / Trainer – Dominic Polsinelli

A graded stakes winning trainer, Polsinelli, who has been in racing since 1982, launched his training career in 1994. His first win came courtesy of Snappy Verse at Gulfstream Park on February 9, 1995. His first Woodbine win was extra special when Gomtuu, a horse he also owned, won the 1995 edition of the Victoria Stakes. Gomtuu also won the Grade 3 Grey Stakes. Other stars for Polsinelli over the years include Classical Ruckus, Clearly in Charge, Coltrane, Thrilla in Manilla, and Thunder Regent. Polsinelli won a career-best 12 races in both 1996 and 1997. He is off to a strong start in 2024, including two wins with Society's Thunder.

#### Jockey – Fraser Aebly

Fraser Aebly, 20, hails from Grande Prairie, Alberta, a city of around 75,000 residents that lies 460 kilometres (265 miles) northwest of Edmonton. Aebly went to Vancouver to gallop horses for trainer Steve Henson before beginning his riding career at Hastings Park in 2022. His first win came that September with Quagmire, a dark bay son of Storm Victory-Yodeling Ann, who sprung an 11-1 upset over 6 ½ furlongs on the Hastings dirt. Aebly, who also rode at Assiniboia Downs and Century Mile, arrived at Woodbine in October 2023. His first win at the Toronto oval came on October 13th when he teamed with Lulu's Lullaby, a daughter of Wicked Tune-Lulu's Blues, trained and owned by Krista Cole, for the milestone score. "My parents [Derek and Dale] had driven, in my car, all the way from Vancouver to Toronto, and were at the races that night," said Aebly, who won 68 races in 2023. His agent is former rider Gerry Olguin, who also started at Hastings before moving his tack east to Woodbine, where he had a successful career before announcing his retirement in 2017 after winning his 2,000th race.

#### Groom – Keethon Roy Howard

Breeder – Paradox Farm, Inc.



# Image: Second State Second

Thor's Cause

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- The bay gelding from the barn of Krista Cole will no doubt be a longshot when the gates open on Saturday's running of The King's Plate, but the Ontario-bred with the "big heart" will take his best shot at defying the odds.
- A bay son of Brody's Cause-Expressly Yours, Thor's Cause has a trio of thirds from eight starts to date, two of those bronzes coming in four races this year.
- "He is a small horse with a big, big heart," said Cole. "He is a horse you know will go out and give his best effort every time. You always appreciate those ones, the horses who dig down deep and show up every time the gate opens."
- Saddled with post 12 in his start prior to the Plate, a 1 1/16-mile main track race, Thor's Cause hammered out a strong rally to secure fourth. The effort prompted his connections to take a chance at contesting Canada's most famous horse race, run over 1 ½ miles on the main track.
- "He can go the distance," praised Cole. "There are some tough horses, but you never know. There have been upsets in the Plate before, and hopefully, we can add our names to that list."
- Said Cole, "I ride a lot of the horses myself in the mornings. I like to get a feel for them. I have to know in my mind how they are going and how they are traveling."

# Owners – Joe Pignatelli, Spirit's Path Management, Inc. and Alan J. McMullen

"Joe bought the horse and sold half to Alan and his partner, Vickie, from Spirit's Path," said Cole. "She does body work on the horse, massage, and more in-depth work. She checks on him all the time. They are all such nice people. It is nice to have owners who are happy and who love their horses. They are over the moon about being in the King's Plate."

# Trainer – Krista Cole

Born in Mayfield, Prince Edward Island, Cole, who holds a science degree from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, developed an affinity for horses early in life. Cole took out her Quarter Horse jockey license in 2003 and won her first start. After the arrival of her daughter in 2008, Cole stopped riding but worked at various stables on the Woodbine backstretch. She took out her trainer's license in 2012 and won her first race in 2013 with Remember to Dream, a horse she also owned. One of her biggest success stories is Candy Overload. Cole, who developed the Ontario-bred into a top sprinter, also owned the gelding with breeders Denny Andrews and Sherry McLean's Northern Dawn Stable. In 2022, the trio sold Candy Overload to the partnership of Gary Barber, Wachtel Stable and Leonard Schleiffer. Last year, Cole set career-best marks across the board, including wins, top-three finishes and purse earnings.

# Jockey – Jeffrey Alderson

Alderson grew up in the sport. His father, Anthony, is a trainer based out of Fort Erie. His mother, Kristin, works in Fort Erie's race office. His uncle Ian was a jockey and now trains. His cousin Bryce also rode. His first stakes success came in the 2016 Shady Well with Hopping Not Hoping and the 2016 Ontario Lassie with Ellan Vannin. Those two mounts contributed to a season in which Alderson earned more than \$1 million in purses and finished 13th in Woodbine's competitive jockey rankings. In 2018, he won the Lady Angela Stakes with Fairy Hill, and in 2022, he won the Elgin Stakes and Lake Ontario Stakes with Full Screen.

# Groom – Ershell Lewin

# Breeder – James Everatt, Janeane Everatt & Arika Everatt-Meeuse



# Vitality

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- Heading into what was his seventh career start on July 19 at Woodbine, there was a certain swagger about Vitality that his trainer Harold Ladouceur had long been hoping to unlock. The son of Street Boss breezed across 1 1/16-miles for a 3 %-length clearance.
- "Vitality proved he was ready to win that day," said Ladouceur. "When he went to the front, it seemed like the doors opened and he just took off. He's not an easy horse to get going, either. It seems like it takes a while to get him going but once he does there's lots of horse there."
- Ladouceur and Co. held high hopes for the chestnut gelding as a 2-year-old, including one day competing in the Plate. While various ailments slowed his rookie campaign, Ladouceur is confident that a healthy Vitality will rise to the occasion.
- "He's beginning to shine at the right time," said Ladouceur. "He's out of an Awesome Again mare, so he clearly has the pedigree to go a route. I don't think a mile and a quarter will be hard for him at all."
- A tad rebellious as a youngster, Vitality has since harnessed his energy into more productive means.
- "He was a handful a few times in the stall but he's coming along better. Now that he's a gelding, all that's gone away and he's more focused, and he's got his eye on the prize."
- "He's got a keen eye and I like it."

# Trainer - Harold Ladouceur (see Rafaroo bio)

# Jockey – Jose Campos

One of Mexico's top riders, Jose Campos has also seen success in Canada, specifically, at Woodbine. In his first season at the Toronto oval, in 2022, he won 16 races and posted over \$740,000 in earnings. Campos made his first visit to Woodbine's winner's circle on October 20 of that year, when he teamed with Ima Daredevil to win a 6 ½-furlong Tapeta race. Campos flew past those totals in 2023, collecting new benchmarks in starts (429), wins (38), and earnings (\$1.6 million). His first Woodbine stakes victory came with Souper Sinclair in the 2023 Algoma.

# Owner - Stronach Stables (see Rafaroo bio)

# Groom – Teon Walker

# Breeder – Adena Springs