

BELMONT

STAKES 145

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The “Rule of Three” tells us the greatest of things come in the smallest of numbers required to create a set and establish a pattern. From children’s stories to movie trilogies and catchphrases to religion, the rule is adopted in many forms that recognize the perfection of three. Horse racing is no exception. The Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes and the Belmont Stakes comprise Thoroughbred Racing’s Triple Crown. Contested within five weeks each spring, the Triple Crown begins with the Derby on the first Saturday in May, moves to the Preakness two weeks later and concludes with the Belmont three weeks after that. This year, different winners emerged in the Derby and Preakness. While this meant for the 35th consecutive year no horse would capture all three races and win the Triple Crown, the Belmont offered the next best thing as Derby winner, Orb, and Preakness winner, Oxbow, both entered the final leg and bid for a second classic win.



Left to right from top: The eleven horses that captured racing’s elusive crown are celebrated in the Belmont infield; A statue of Secretariat honors the legendary horse at the site of his greatest accomplishment; Exercise rider, Jen Patterson, gives Orb a pat after another solid morning workout; Peter Pan Stakes (Gr. 2) winner, Freedom Child, walks off the track the morning before the Belmont. The Peter Pan is the local prep for the Belmont Stakes; Trainer, D. Wayne Lukas, leads his Preakness winner, Oxbow, around the wet track on the eve of the race; Just as he did in the Derby, Orb skips through the mud in preparation for his bid at a second jewel of the Triple Crown; Orb’s co-owner, Stuart Janney III, and trainer, Shug McGaughey, discuss strategy for their Derby winner in the Belmont



Opening in 1905, Belmont Park sits just outside New York City in Elmont, New York. The track is the largest in America with a massive main oval nicknamed “Big Sandy” due to its 1 1/2 mile circumference and sandy composition. Although the Belmont meet is filled with tremendous racing and multiple graded stakes, the Belmont Stakes is the track’s premier event.

Like the Derby and Preakness, the Belmont Stakes is a Grade 1 Thoroughbred horse race restricted to three-year-olds. Initiated in 1867, the race is the oldest of the Triple Crown series and was previously run at two other tracks before making it’s permanent home at Belmont Park in 1905. Today, the Belmont has a purse of \$1,000,000 and it’s 1 1/2 mile distance on dirt is a full 1/4 mile longer than the Kentucky Derby and 5/16 miles longer than the Preakness, typically making it the



Left to right from top: The legendary Phipps Stable is home to Orb; The beautiful backside of the Belmont Park grandstand; "Big Sandy" was more muddy than sandy on a rainy Friday before the big day; A horse statue near the Belmont paddock; A field of horses round the final turn and enter the stretch during a race on the Belmont undercard; Handicapping the Belmont Stakes; Who do you like today? ; Trainer, Kenny McPeck, talks with ESPN radio about Frac Daddy's chance in the Belmont



longest distance any of its entrants will ever run. Given it's great distance and in conjunction with the finality of the intensely packed five-week Triple Crown, the Belmont is referred to as "The Test of the Champion" as it pushes its contestants to dig deep into their Thoroughbred heritage and find that magical staying power required to pass this final exam.

"The Test of the Champion" moniker concurrently eludes to the reality that the Belmont is both judge and jury to the Triple Crown verdict. While eleven horses have worn racing's crown, none have done so since Affirmed last accomplished the feat in 1978. Since then, twelve horses have taken both the Derby and Preakness and entered Belmont Park with hope of joining the grandest of clubs. From Spectacular Bid to Sunday Silence and Silver Charm to Smarty Jones, all twelve took the "Test" only to find defeat awaiting 1 1/2 miles away. However, while Birdstone may have only surged past Smarty Jones a few strides before the finish in 2004, more recent history suggests the "Test" is increasingly difficult as Big Brown's bid



Belmont Park



Left to right from top: A view across the giant Belmont oval where Secretariat was "moving like a tremendous machine" in 1973; Checking out the Belmont scene; A bird's-eye-view of the Belmont Stakes; Welcome to Belmont Park! ; Studying the current odds for a race at Belmont; Jockey Ron Turcotte talks with a reporter about the 40th anniversary of his legendary run aboard Secretariat in 1973; Musical entertainment for the Belmont patrons; There is more than just racing fun at Belmont!

for the crown prematurely ended when he was eased in the stretch in 2008, while I'll Have Another never even entered the Belmont starting gate as he was scratched the day before his shot in 2012.

The current extended gap since the last Triple Crown winner is similar to another lengthy stretch that began after Citation completed the sweep in 1948. 25 years would pass until 1973 when Secretariat ignited the racing world and was crowned as successor to Citation. While two horses followed Secretariat (Seattle Slew in 1977 and Affirmed in 1978), his Triple Crown

The Easy Goer



The RTN True North



Left to right from top: Power Broker and Rosie Napravnik power to an easy win in the Easy Goer; Fast Bullet flies to victory in The RTN True North (Gr. 2) with Joel Rosario up; The NYRA and Belmont Stakes flags fly high above to commemorate the day; Joel Rosario is interviewed after his victory aboard Fast Bullet; Ponies wait to lead another field to the starting gate; I'm betting on...that one! ; Stephanie's Kitten (2) and John Velazquez out duel Better Lucky (7) and Joel Rosario to win The Longines Just A Game (Gr. 1)

remains arguably the most memorable of all. After setting still unbeaten records in both the Derby and Preakness, Secretariat turned in possibly the most dominating performance in racing history when he won the Belmont Stakes by an astonishing 31 lengths in a world record time of 2:24, a mark that continues to stand today.

While there would be no Secretariat in the 145th running of the Belmont Stakes, Orb and Oxbow were worthy headliners aiming for another piece of racing history. Although only they envisioned a second jewel, twelve others entered the Belmont and dreamed of a single slice of the Triple Crown pie. In total, ten starters from the Kentucky Derby would contest the Belmont. Orb, Oxbow and Will Take Charge were the only horses to also run in the Preakness, meaning they were facing seven fresher competitors who skipped the second leg, plus four new entrants making their first Triple Crown race start. Still, respect was paid

The Longines Just A Game





The Woody Stephens

to the Derby and Preakness winners as Orb was installed as the 3-1 morning line favorite and Oxbow the 5-1 third choice, with only Derby third place finisher, Revolutionary, in between at 9-2.

Much further down the morning line, a 15-1 shot was preparing to run with blinkers off.

The field broke well and began their single circuit around the giant Belmont Park oval with Frac Daddy (1) and Freedom Child (2) making for the lead while Oxbow (7) sat third and just to their outside. As they ran into and around the sweeping clubhouse turn, the leading trio maintained their positions through a fast opening 1/4 mile in 23.11 seconds while Palace Malice (12) comfortably sat in fourth and just off the pace. Three lengths behind, Incognito (6) led a pack of eight horses including Revolutionary (9) and the lone filly in the race, Unlimited Budget (13), and her "filly" rider, Rosie Napravnik.



Left to right from top: Forty Tales charges late to win the Woody Stephens (Gr. 2) with Joel Rosario aboard; Point of Entry and John Velazquez enter the track prior to the start of the Woodford Reserve Manhattan (Gr. 1); The large Belmont crowd eagerly watches Point of Entry lead the post parade for the Woodford Reserve Manhattan (Gr. 1); Point of Entry romps to victory with John Velazquez in the Woodford Reserve Manhattan (Gr. 1) (inset)



Woodford Reserve Manhattan





Left to right from top: Security was heightened at Belmont Park to ensure the safety of all in attendance; Belmont's finest survey the scene; Awaiting the start of the Belmont Stakes; The August Belmont Trophy awaits it's new owner; Call to the post for the Belmont Stakes; Loading into the starting gate...the calm before the storm; And they're off in the Belmont Stakes!

Further back of that pack Orb (5) was running second to last and Derby second place finisher, Golden Soul (14), was last of all. Frac Daddy began to slow and Oxbow made for the lead as the pace remained strong with the first 1/2 mile in 46.66 seconds. Freedom Child continued to duel with Oxbow through 3/4 miles in 1:10.95 and Palace Malice moved into third continuing slightly behind the pace. Revolutionary ran in fourth well behind the leading trio while Orb began to pass horses along the outside. Freedom Child tired and Oxbow continued the field through 1 mile in 1:36.47. Palace Malice challenged the game Preakness winner. Orb rolled into fourth with only Revolutionary between he and the leaders. However, Palace

Malice continued to battle Oxbow before eventually taking the lead at the top of the stretch. Orb passed Revolutionary into third behind Oxbow, but neither the Derby or Preakness winner could catch Palace Malice. Palace Malice passed "The Test of the Champion" in a final time of 2:30.70 with Oxbow in second and Orb in third.

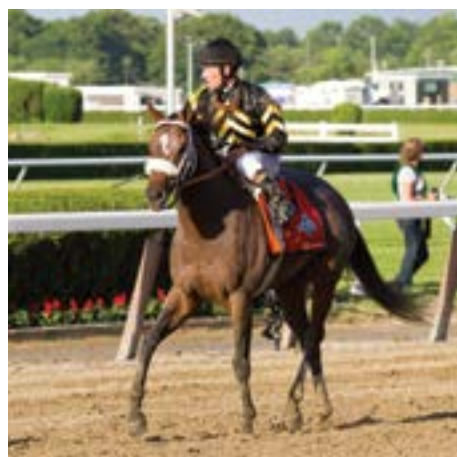
From the first crop of two-time Horse of the Year, Curlin, Palace Malice conquered the race his father finished a head short when he was second in 2007 to the





Left to right from top: Fighting for the early lead in the 1 1/2 mile classic; Putting the Derby and Preakness winner's away, Palace Malice and Mike Smith pass "The Test of the Champion" and win the 145th running of the Belmont Stakes! (and inset) ; Mike Smith celebrates his second win in the Belmont Stakes; Derby winner Orb and Joel Rosario return after a valiant 3rd place finish; After being passed by Palace Malice, Preakness winner Oxbow and Gary Stevens were game enough to hold on for 2nd place

Palace Malice!



remarkable filly, Rags to Riches. Five weeks before the Belmont, Palace Malice was one of the defining stories of the Kentucky Derby. As the surprising Derby pacesetter, Palace Malice's grueling fractions were some of the fastest in Derby history and the fastest ever for a Derby run on a sloppy track. Prior to the race, his connections equipped him with blinkers in an attempt to focus his attention throughout the Derby. However, Palace Malice became too focused and jockey Mike Smith was unable to restrain and slow the torrid move. Undoubtedly, the fast fractions assisted the late runners

Belmont Champion



Left to right from top: Looking to the skies, Mike Smith is thankful for his ride aboard Palace Malice; Mike Smith and Todd Pletcher congratulate one another on their mutual victory; Palace Malice enters the Belmont winner's circle

and the top three finishers came from well off the pace. Considering the fractions he set, it would be expected for any horse to fade in the 1 1/4 mile Derby, and Palace Malice did just that. Despite this, he was surprisingly able to hold on for a respectable 12th place finish. Feeling it was an indication of potential used too quickly, Palace Malice and his team regrouped, skipped the Preakness and aimed for the Belmont...with blinkers off. That move, along with the relatively slower pace of the Belmont and the five week break since the Derby, made the race increasingly seem like an ideal fit for the talented colt.

At least that is what owner W. Cothran "Cot" Campbell was hoping. As the pioneer of race horse group ownerships, the 85-year-old Campbell and his Dogwood Stable served as yet another throwback in the 2013

Triple Crown. In 1969, Campbell started Dogwood with the goal of creating partnerships that increased the opportunity and availability for individuals to experience the thrill of owning Thoroughbred racehorses. Since its inception, Dogwood has run 76 stakes winners, 15 of which won Grade 1 races, including the 1990 Preakness Stakes with Summer Squall and the 1996 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies with Storm Song. Palace Malice's victory in the Belmont provided the second Triple Crown race win for Campbell and Dogwood while

proving that after 44 years, the partnership approach continues to payoff and those that invest in nurturing the sport, will forever be rewarded.

Trainer Todd Pletcher received his own reward with his third victory in a Triple Crown race to accompany his 2007 Belmont with the aforementioned filly Rags to Riches and 2010 Kentucky Derby with Super Saver. As one of racing's top trainers, Pletcher often finds an abundance of talent occupying his barn. He has saddled many Triple Crown starters throughout his illustrious career including an astonishing five horses in the Derby just five weeks earlier. However, despite more than a quarter of the field, the best finish the group could find was Revolutionary's third



Time to Celebrate



Left to right from top: Palace Malice is draped in a garland of white carnations after his Belmont Stakes triumph; Palace Malice departs as a Belmont Stakes winner; Todd Pletcher hoists the August Belmont Trophy and celebrates with Mike Smith and Cot Campbell; Cot Campbell embraces the moment

place. After the Derby, Pletcher decided to skip the Preakness altogether and refocus on the Belmont. Again, he entered a talented group of five in the Belmont, each with their own hopes and remarkable potential. This time, Palace Malice asserted himself as the unquestioned best of the quintet. Pletcher wasn't surprised. He had always regarded Palace Malice as one of the top horses in his barn and quietly, he knew, it was only a matter of time before the son of Curlin began to follow in his father's footsteps.

Jockey Mike Smith shared Pletcher's confidence and belief in Palace Malice. Despite his trouble controlling the Derby pacesetter, Smith retained the mount for the Belmont and was able to settle Palace Malice with a patient ride around the giant track. After a 2012 in which Smith finished a heartbreaking second in all three Triple Crown races (Derby and Preakness with Bodemeister and Belmont with Paynter), Smith found his way back to the winner's circle as he had previously done in the 1993 Preakness with Prairie Bayou, 2005 Derby with Giacomo and 2010 Belmont with Drosselmeyer. The win further validated Smith's already Hall of Fame career and vindicated the disappointment he experienced in the Triple Crown just one year earlier.

Although Affirmed will continue his wait to pass the crown to racing's next monarch, the "Rule of Three" still applied to the 2013 Triple Crown with Palace Malice completing the trilogy as the third different winner of one of racing's coveted jewels. While many may have enjoyed the prospect of Orb or Oxbow asserting themselves to the clear top of the 3-year-old division, Palace Malice crashed the party and wrote his own chapter in a compelling Triple Crown that saw three separate victories serving as a reward and thank you to some of the true pioneers and stalwarts of racing. In the meantime, the summer becomes even more compelling as Orb, Oxbow and Palace Malice set their sights on races such as the Haskell and Travers to continue the magic they have already displayed, while making a push toward end of the year honors. Until then, it remains anyone's race.

Steve Heuertz Bio

It started with a horse named Cowboy. Disregarded and discounted, this nine-year-old Red Dun Quarter Horse left his life as a ranch horse in South Dakota and ventured a new path into the life of Steve Heuertz in 2004. Shortly thereafter, a bond was formed that fully catapulted Steve into the world of the horse where he became fascinated with the wonderful capabilities of this majestic animal.

Of particular interest were the speed, endurance and competitive spirit demonstrated by the equine heroes within the sport of Thoroughbred Racing. Although initially satisfied with observing from afar, Steve became increasingly captivated by the sport and turned toward capturing the splendor of racing via his other passion, photography. The result was a recipe where he could combine his great love for horses, racing and photography into one harmonious blend that was greater than the sum of its parts.

Since then, racing has taken Steve across the country to such wonderful places as Saratoga Race Course, Churchill Downs, Santa Anita Park, Pimlico Race Course, Belmont Park, Keeneland and Hooiser Park. During these travels, Steve has been fortunate to witness and photograph equally wonderful races such as the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes (racing's famed Triple Crown) as well as the Travers Stakes, Santa Anita Derby, Indiana Derby, Stephen Foster Handicap and Breeders' Cup, among others. However, residing in the Chicago suburb of St. Charles, IL, Steve regularly frequents Arlington Park and Hawthorne Race Course where he has enjoyed capturing magnificent races like the Arlington Million and Hawthorne Gold Cup.

Today, Steve's passion for horses, racing and photography is like a fire that continues to be stoked. While either behind the lens capturing the thrill of a Grade 1 race or in the saddle loping around a field with Cowboy, Steve has learned to operate under the simple truth that the more he is able to involve the horse in his life, the happier his days become.

Steve Heuertz; Steve's horse and loyal friend, Cowboy, a 18-year-old, Red Dun Quarter Horse

