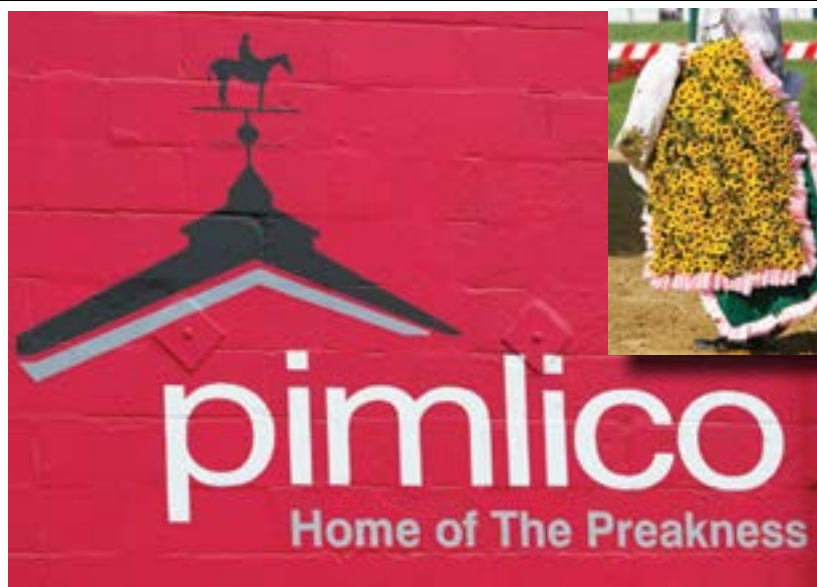




PREAKNESS

138

STORY & PHOTOS BY: STEVE HEUERTZ



138TH PREAKNESS Stakes

Known as "The Run for the Black-Eyed Susan's," the Preakness is the second jewel of the Triple Crown, annually run the third Saturday in May and exactly two weeks after the Kentucky Derby.



Left to right from top: Welcome to the Preakness!; The Black-Eyed Susan garland is laced in pink for the ladies; Shug McGaughey overlooks his Derby champion, Orb, outside the Preakness Barn; The Preakness Barn; Itsmyluckyday didn't like the Churchill mud and is looking forward to a chance at redeeming his disappointing Derby finish; Shug McGaughey leads Orb to his morning workout with exercise rider Jennifer Patterson up; Orb works at Pimlico on Friday before the Preakness.

After the magic in the mud that was Orb's decisive victory in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (Gr. 1), the racing world turned its collective attention to the 138th running of the Preakness Stakes (Gr. 1). Here, racing's newest star would attempt to follow his smashing Derby effort with an encore performance that would further validate his legacy and take him one step closer toward racing immortality.

On October 25, 1870, Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Maryland held its inaugural race meet. Affectionately known as "Old Hilltop," due to a previous small rise in the infield where many would congregate, Pimlico is the second oldest racetrack in America behind only Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, New York. While Pimlico

has hosted many historical moments including the epic match race between Seabiscuit and War Admiral, the inaugural meet was showcased by its first stakes race, the Dinner Party Stakes. Three years later that initial stakes winner would be honored by the Maryland Jockey Club when they named their newest stakes at Pimlico after him, the Preakness Stakes.

Today, the Preakness is a \$1,000,000, Grade 1 Thoroughbred horse race restricted to three-year-olds and contested over 1 3/16 miles on dirt. Known as the "The Run for the Black-Eyed Susan's," the Preakness is the second jewel of the Triple Crown, annually run the third Saturday in May and exactly two weeks after the Kentucky Derby.

Oxbow



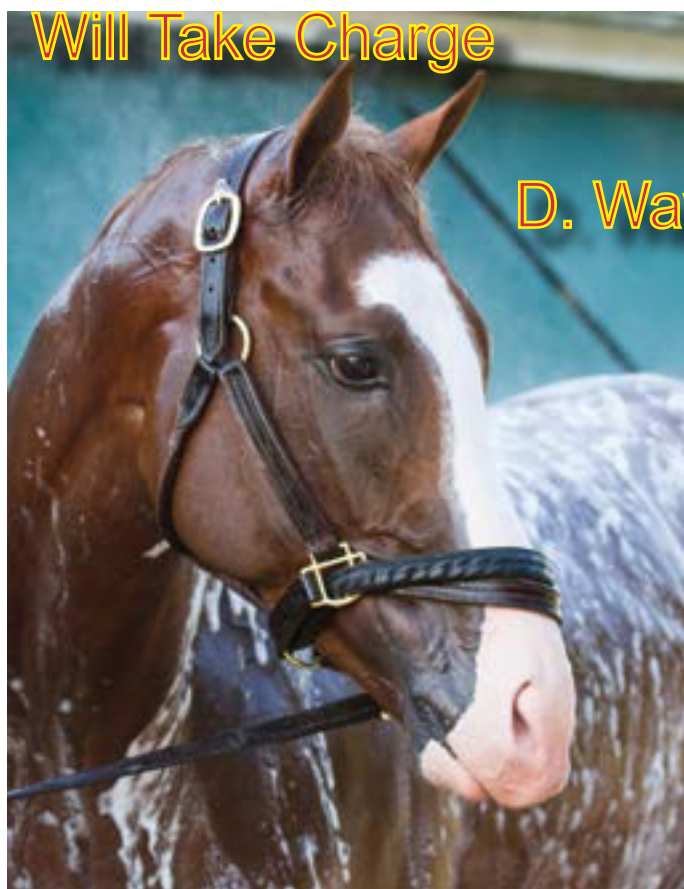
Left to right from top: Oxbow bounces around the track in preparation for the big day; Shug McGaughey and Jennifer Patterson tend to the Derby champ after his workout; Oxbow basks in the Baltimore sun; Shug McGaughey talks with the media mob that surrounds Orb at all times; Orb has a truly special bond with his exercise rider, Jennifer Patterson; Orb is focused on the Black-Eyed Susan's

Orb - The Derby Champ

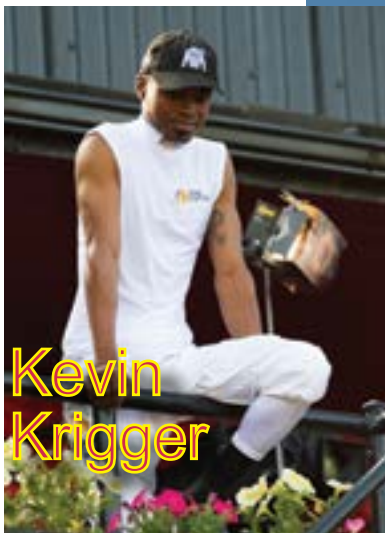
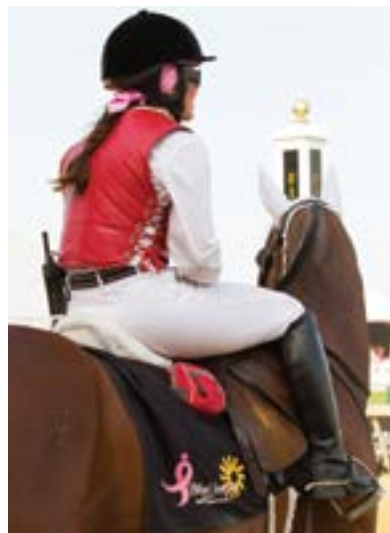


Upon passing the Preakness test, the triumphant horse is escorted to a special winner's circle that is a replica of the old Pimlico clubhouse cupola. There, the Preakness winner is decorated in a garland of daisies altered to represent the Black-Eyed Susan's that won't actually bloom in Maryland until June. Meanwhile, atop the cupola, a weather vane in the shape of horse and jockey are painted in the colors of the winning silks. The paint job will remain for one year, honoring the Preakness victor until a new horse takes its place. Finally, the winning owner is presented the coveted Woodlawn Vase. Crafted in 1860, the trophy is the most valuable in all of sports with an appraisal totaling over \$4,000,000. Although the original trophy is present in the winner's circle each year, it is not actually given to the winner as they instead receive a smaller replica to signify their accomplishment.





Left to right: Will Take Charge strikes a pose and gets a bath after a morning gallop; D. Wayne Lukas talks about the chances of the three horses he will enter into the Preakness starting gate (Tittletown Five, Oxbow and Will Take Charge); Hats in the traditional black and yellow Preakness colors; A little arial entertainment; Surveying the Pimlico scene on Black-Eyed Susan day; Jockey Kevin Krigger looks out at the Pimlico crowd;



One of the most defining charms of the Preakness is the optimism and hope it offers legions of racing fans each year. As the race always draws the Kentucky Derby winner, the Preakness affords an opportunity to the only remaining horse that can win the Triple Crown. In fact, the Preakness has a special stall reserved for the Derby winner. Arguably the most famous stall in all of racing, stall 40 in the Preakness Barn has been home to such legendary horses as Secretariat, Seattle Slew and Affirmed as they each took one step closer to racing's most exclusive club.

This year, stall 40 was home to Orb. The Stuart Janney III and Ogden Mills "Dinny" Phipps owned colt arrived at Pimlico with trainer Shug McGaughey amidst the speculation and hope that he might be the one to replace Affirmed's name as the most recent Triple Crown winner. Rebounding extremely well out of the Derby, Orb appeared to actually

be improving with every passing day. Upon leaving Churchill Downs, Orb returned briefly to his home at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York, where he turned in a scintillating four furlong work in 47 seconds flat. McGaughey was thrilled.

Although Orb drew the unfavorable rail in the nine horse Preakness field, he was installed as the even-money favorite. Joining Orb in the Preakness starting gate were five other Derby contenders: Mylute (5th in the Derby), Oxbow (6th), Will Take Charge (8th), Itsmyluckyday (15th) and Golden-cents (17th). While many of the other Derby horses skipped the Preakness and rested for a potential bid in the Belmont Stakes, these five would take a second crack at Orb. Despite the six Derby entrants, three other "new shooters" entered the Preakness: Illinois Derby winner, Departing, appeared the strongest of this contingent, while Governor Charlie and Tittletown Five aimed their sights on the Black-Eyed Susan's as well.

Nonetheless, all eyes remained on Orb as the Preakness field was called to the post and the United States Naval Academy Glee Club sang "Maryland, My Maryland." The public became increasingly confident in the colt's chances and bet him down to 3-5 as the race time favorite. The gates opened and the field was off in the Preakness.

Black-Eyed Susan Stakes Fiftyshadesofhay



Left to right: Fiftyshadesofhay, with Joel Rosario up, wins the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes on Friday before the Preakness! The Black-Eyed Susan is the sister race to the Preakness and restricted to three-year-old fillies; Black-Eyed Susan's are found everywhere on Preakness day; Last Gunfighter, with Javier Castellano up, wins the Pimlico Special on Black-Eyed Susan Day. In 1938, the Pimlico Special served as the famous match race between Seabiscuit and War Admiral.



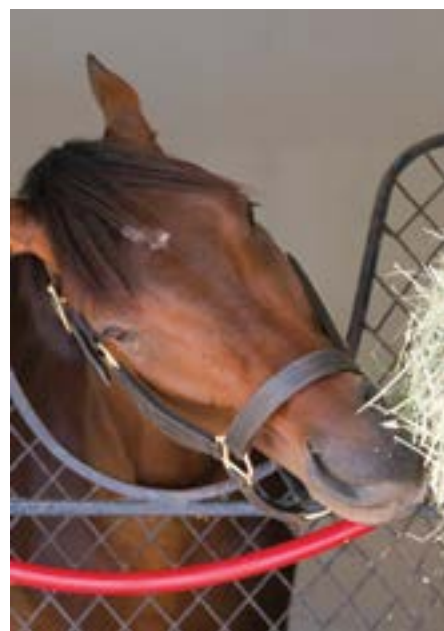
Pimlico Special Last Gunfighter

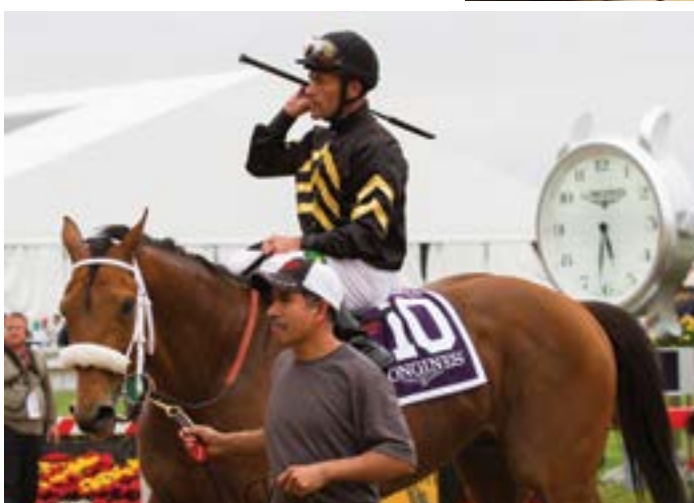
Orb (1) broke well and free of trouble from the rail, but settled back and off the pace as Goldencents (2) made a push for the lead. Titledown Five (3) raced up behind Goldencents but Oxbow (6) moved in from the outside and established himself as the early pacesetter. Oxbow ran into the clubhouse turn on an easy lead and set a first 1/4 mile time of 23.94 seconds. Oxbow extended his lead to two lengths in front of

Goldencents while Titledown Five dropped to third and Itsmyluckyday (9) sat outside of him in fourth. Next was Orb in fifth continuing on the rail with Departing (4) flanking to his outside. However, recognizing the pace was slower than expected as Oxbow moved through 1/2 mile in 48.60 seconds, jockey Joel Rosario moved Orb off the rail, around Titledown Five and into third position. Surprisingly though, the Derby

Pieces of the Preakness Experience

Left to right: Historic stall 40 in the Preakness Barn might be the most famous stall in all of racing and is the home of Orb leading up to his bid for the second jewel of the Triple Crown; Orb eats his dinner before it's off to bed on the eve of the Preakness; The pony-parade awaiting another large Pimlico field; Thoroughbreds aren't the only horses having fun at the Preakness as a team of Clydesdales also get in on the actio; Preakness hats come in all sorts of styles; The "Black-Eyed Susan" is the drink of choice at the Preakness; Awaiting the start of the next concert in the Pimlico infield; Playing for the Preakness patrons; Awaiting the call to the post; It's always a party in the Preakness infield; Pimlico holds concerts throughout the day to entertain the infield fans.





Left to right: The crowd begins to swell at "Old Hilltop."; A look down the historic Pimlico stretch; The field is set for the 138th running of the Preakness Stakes! Orb draws the rail and is installed as the even-money favorite; A Preakness pony gets in on the festivities; D. Wayne Lukas watches as his horse Skyring pushes for the lead in the Dixie Stakes (Gr. 2); A sign of things to come. Calumet Farm, D. Wayne Lukas and Gary Stevens make it a Preakness-day-double when they win the Dixie Stakes (Gr. 2) with Skyring the race before they saddle Oxbow; Oxbow makes the walk-over to the Pimlico paddock.

winner immediately lost his position and fell back into seventh as the field moved into the final turn. Meanwhile, Oxbow continued his comfortable lead and moved through 3/4 miles in 1:13.26, a remarkable three seconds slower than the Derby pace. Mylute (5) began moving along the outside and Orb attempted to fight back from the inside, but Oxbow's lead had been too easy and he headed the Preakness field into the stretch. Goldencents and Departing began to fade and Itsmyluckday moved into second. Mylute continued to close outside of him but neither would catch Oxbow. With Gary Stevens aboard, Oxbow stole the Preakness. The final time of 1:57.54 was the slowest in the race since 1961.

Although he would move up to grab fourth, Orb's bid was too little, too late and the Triple Crown would remain vacant for the 35th consecutive year. Despite the immediate shock and disappointment of this reality, it was quickly realized that Oxbow's victory, much like Orb's in the Derby, was remarkable in its own right and another throwback to days of racing past.



Post Parade



L to R: Gary Stevens takes a few last steps toward history; Itsmyluckyday heads to the turf course at Pimlico and awaits the call for "Rider's Up."; Orb walks in the special Preakness paddock established every year on the turf course while awaiting the arrival of his partner; jockey Joel Rosario; Role reversal. While Oxbow led the post parade in the Derby, Orb will do so in the Preakness; Orb and Joel Rosario walk toward their bid for another jewel of the Triple Crown; Oxbow and Gary Stevens are focused and ready for the Preakness; The field chases Oxbow in the Preakness Stakes.



The son of Awesome Again and out of the Cee's Tizzy mare, Tizamazing, Oxbow entered the Preakness off an impressive 6th place finish in the Kentucky Derby. Although he was well beaten by the top five finishers, Oxbow was the only horse near the hot Derby pace that was able to maintain relatively close near the finish. Every other one of the early pacesetters finished 12th or further back, with many finishing in the bottom third of the race. However, heading into the Preakness, it was unknown if that effort had spent Oxbow and if he would have anything left in the tank a mere two weeks later. As a result, the betting public sent Oxbow off at 14-1, the second longest shot in the nine horse Preakness field. This would be a mistake as the public had clearly forgotten where Oxbow came from.

Owned by Calumet Farm, Oxbow represents the greatest of racing dynasties. From 1941 to 1968, Calumet horses won an astonishing eight Kentucky Derby's and seven Preakness Stakes. Two of their horses, Whirlaway in 1941 and Citation in 1948, added the Belmont Stakes to their Derby and Preakness victories and captured the Triple Crown. However, the farm fell on harder times and had not won a single Triple Crown race since Forward Pass' 1968 Preakness. That is, until 45 years later when Oxbow would cross the same wire and rejuvenate the Calumet legacy.

And It's..... Oxbow!

Left: Oxbow sets an easy pace all around Pimlico; Below and Inset: Shocked that nobody pressed the pace, an ecstatic Gary Stevens yells out aboard Oxbow as they skip away and win racing's second jewel of the Triple Crown, the 138th running of the Preakness Stakes!



However, Calumet wasn't the only connection that felt the thrilling return to the winner's circle in an American Classic. Trainer, D. Wayne Lukas dominated racing in the 1980's and 90's. In his illustrious career, Lukas won five Kentucky Derby's, five Preakness Stakes, and four Belmont Stakes. However, much like Calumet farm, Lukas had not tasted victory in a Triple Crown race in years, with his last win coming with Commendable in the 2000 Belmont Stakes. Still, he sat tied with "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons at 13 total Triple Crown race victories until Oxbow added the record-setting 14th. Although the public had been paying little attention to Oxbow leading up to the Preakness, Lukas knew he had something up his sleeve.

There Can Only Be One

Two days before the race, Lukas sat outside his familiar Preakness barn and answered questions about the three horses he would enter in the Preakness: Oxbow, Will Take Charge and Tittletown Five. When asked about how the horses worked that morning, Lukas said, "The truth of the matter is I really felt good when I watched, especially Oxbow. That's the most relaxed and comfortable I've seen him out there and I know Gary Stevens is getting acquainted a little bit more all the time with these works, so, I like what I saw this morning." Lukas was right, Stevens was getting very acquainted with Oxbow.

On November 27, 2005, feeling battered and bruised after a lengthy riding career, Hall of Fame jockey, Gary Stevens, hung up his saddle and retired from racing. He quickly moved to the broadcast booth as the lead analyst for NBC's coverage of the Triple Crown races and developed his acting career that saw a previous role in the 2003 film "Seabiscuit" and a more recent role in the 2012 HBO Series, "Luck." However, after seven years of rest Stevens began to feel the racing itch again, and in January, he scratched that itch and returned to riding. Now at 50 years old, and with eight Triple Crown race victories to his name, Stevens received a leg up on Oxbow and with a Hall of Fame ride, guided the colt to Preakness victory. The win made Stevens the oldest jockey to win the Preakness and gave him an even three wins in all three jewels of the Triple Crown. His masterful ride, where he slowed the pace to help his front-running colt, even seemed to surprise Stevens as he yelled out in excitement while approaching the finish line, almost in shock that no other horse attempted to grab the lead early in the race or press the easy pace thereafter.



L to R: Orb will not make an appearance in the winner's circle for the first time in six races; Departing departs the Preakness in the legendary colors of Claiborne Farm; Mylute cannot believe Oxbow stole the Preakness in 1:57.54; Itsmyluckday cools off after a strong second place effort; Gary Stevens' return to riding receives the ultimate validation; The celebration in the winner's circle cupola while Calumet Farm's silks are already being painted upon the historic weather vane; Racing's newest star exits the Preakness winner's circle.

Next Stop...Belmont Park



Oxbow's victory in the Preakness may have spoiled a possible Triple Crown bid, but it still hit the racing "trifecta." With Calumet, Lukas and Stevens, Oxbow transported the racing world back in time and rewarded its past heroes with newfound glory. After returning from the testing barn later the evening of the Preakness, Oxbow bounced around the grassy areas behind the stakes barn. He appeared as if it was just another day and the most important thing occurring here was that next possible bite of delicious grass he could grab. However, three weeks from the day, the Triple Crown would move on to its third and final jewel, the 1 1/2 mile Belmont Stakes. While the possibility looms that both Orb and Oxbow could challenge "The Test of the Champion," the Belmont Stakes will remain as compelling as ever with the realization that a dual classic winner isn't so bad either.



L to R: Next stop...Belmont Park; The Woodlawn Vase is escorted back to safe-keeping where it will hibernate in waiting for a new Preakness champion one year from now; Although returning to his barn as the beaten favorite, Orb's connections and fans thank him for his wonderful effort and remind him that even in defeat, he is still loved by many; The jockey outside the Preakness barn gets a fresh paint job to commemorate Oxbow's victory; Sam the Bugler calls the horses to the post for a race on Preakness day; Oxbow's victory is celebrated outside the Preakness barn; After the Preakness, Oxbow looked full of energy and as if he was already looking forward to "The Test of the Champion"

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, an 18-year-old, Red Dun Quarter Horse

