



# Phalaris male line dominates majority of Derby entrants' pedigrees

By Rommy Faversham

This year's roster of Kentucky Derby (G1) starters yields another interesting cross section of America's prominent Thoroughbred bloodlines.

As indicated in the accompanying chart, 16 of the 20 expected Derby starters descend in tail-male line to the great stallion Phalaris (1913), who appears in their pedigrees within seven to ten generations.

The contemporary dominant male line of Mr. Prospector, which has captured seven of the last 12 Derbys, is represented by seven runners in this year's classic.

Interestingly, two of this year's starters, Zanjero and Storm in May, share the same grandam, the stakes-winning Mr. Prospector mare Shawnee Creek.

Last year, I thought the best-bred Kentucky Derby starter was 24.20-to-1 longshot Jazil, by Seeking the Gold out of Grade 2 winner Blush With Pride. He finished in a dead-heat for fourth.

This year surprisingly, only one Derby starter, Circular Quay, is out of a graded stakes-winning mare.



Lou Hodges photo

## HARD SPUN

My choice for best-bred entrant in Saturday's main event, however, is Hard Spun, a Pennsylvania-bred Danzig colt out of a stakes-winning, graded stakes-placed dam from the family of dual classic winners Little Current and Chateaugay.

Pensioned in the summer of 2004, the breed-shaping Northern Dancer stallion Danzig was euthanized due to the infirmities of old age (29) in early January 2006.

He is the sire of 1986 Belmont Stakes (G1) winner Danzig Connection

and 1992 Preakness Stakes (G1) winner Pine Bluff.

Two members of Danzig's first crop, Stephan's Odyssey and Chief's Crown, finished second and third, respectively, to Spend a Buck in the 1985 Kentucky Derby.

My incredibly biased choice for the most cleverly bred Derby starter is Elizabeth Valando's homebred Nobiz Like Shobiz, whose unique mating was recommended by my late mentor and popular racing and breeding columnist Leon Rasmussen.



Bill Denver/Equi-Base

## NOBIZ LIKE SHOBIZ

By dispatching the Storm Cat mare Nightstorm to the moderately priced sire Albert the Great, Valando and Rasmussen were able to create auspicious inbreeding patterns, not only to the tail-female line but the families of Northern Dancer, Secretariat, and Prince John as well.

Good stuff.

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### How to interpret Ragozin figures

Len Ragozin is the modern-day father of speed figures. Decades before the term "speed figure" came into common parlance in racing, Ragozin had developed a system of measuring how fast every horse has run when taking into account such factors as track condition, surface, depth of track, distance raced off the rail, and wind speed and direction.

Ragozin's figures are based on a system in which a lower number represents a stronger effort. A figure of 0 is akin to a perfect race, though horses can run slightly lower figures (less than 0) than that due to factors such as wind, distance raced off the rail, etc., that upgrade their performance. The best figures are usually run in such races as the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), with the winner normally earning between a -1 and 1; slower speed figures can run as high as 40 or more in a slow maiden claiming race.

## 2007 KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDERS

Horse	Sire	2007 stud fee	Racing class of dam	Auction price
ANY GIVEN SATURDAY	DISTORTED HUMOR +	\$225,000	winner	\$1,100,000
BWANA BULL	HOLY BULL #	15,000	unplaced	140,000
CIRCULAR QUAY	Thunder Gulch +	30,000	G1 winner	homebred
COWTOWN CAT	DISTORTED HUMOR +	225,000	winner	1,500,000
CURLIN	Smart Strike +	75,000	unraced	57,000
DOMINICAN	El Corredor +	30,000	winner/SP	150,000
GREAT HUNTER	Aptitude	20,000	SW / GSP	30,000
HARD SPUN	Danzig	(200,000)	SW / GSP	485,000 RNA
IMAWILDANDCRAZYGUY	Wild Event	7,500	unraced	27,000 RNA
LIQUIDITY	Tiznow #	25,000	unplaced	240,000
NOBIZ LIKE SHOBIZ	Albert the Great #	7,500	winner	homebred
SAM P.	Cat Thief	7,500	winner	200,000
SCAT DADDY	Johannesburg	65,000	unraced	250,000
SEDFIELD	Smart Strike +	75,000	unraced	300,000
STORMELLO	Stormy Atlantic	30,000	placed	homebred
STORM IN MAY	Tiger Ridge	11,390	unraced	16,000
STREET SENSE	Street Cry (Ire)+	50,000	winner	homebred
TEUFLESBERG	Johannesburg	65,000	placed	9,000
TIAGO	Pleasant Tap #	15,000	SW	homebred
ZANJERO	Cherokee Run	40,000	unraced	700,000

# non-Phalaris male line + Mr. Prospector male line

RNA = reserve not attained

Sires in CAPITAL LETTERS already have sired a Derby winner

Sire's stud fee in parenthesis indicates stallion is deceased - last fee given