

9

Churchill Downs

1 1/8 MILES. (1:48.2) 122nd Running of THE KENTUCKY OAKS. Grade I. Purse \$500,000 guaranteed. Fillies, 3-year-olds. By subscription of \$100 each on or before February 17, 1996 or by supplementary nomination of \$25,000 each by the time of closing Tuesday April 30, 1996. \$2,500 to pass the entry box; \$2,500 additional to start, with \$500,000 guaranteed of which 65% of all monies to the owner of the winner, 20% to second, 10% to third and 5% to fourth. Weight, 121 lbs. The maximum number of starters for the Kentucky Oaks will be limited to fourteen (14). If more than fourteen (14) entries pass the entry box preference will be given to those horses that have accumulated the highest earnings. Any horse excluded from running because of the aforementioned preference shall be refunded the entry fee and supplementary nominations fee if applicable. An also eligible list will not be maintained and in no event will starters be added or allowed to run which are not determined to be starters at the closing. Starters to be named through the entry box Tuesday, April 30, 1996 at the usual time of closing. A silver trophy will be presented to winning owner. Closed with 136 nominations.



1 Escena

Own: Paulson Allen E
DAY P (20 3 4 5 .15)

B. f. 3 (May)
Sire: Strawberry Road*Aus (Whiskey Road)
Dam: Claxton's Slew (Seattle Slew)
Br: Paulson Allen E (Ky)
Tr: Mott William I (6 1 0 2 .17)

Lifetime Record :				6	4	1	1	\$267,200		
1996	3	2	1	0	\$208,000	Turf	0	0	0	0
1995	3	2	0	1	\$59,200	Wet	0	0	0	0
CD	0	0	0	0		Dist	1	0	0	\$22,000

5Apr96-90P fst 1 1/8 :232 :471 1:121 1:434	@Fantasy-G2	93	7	3	31	11	13	17	Day P	117	2.60	88-19	Escena1177 Antespend121 1/2 Ski Trail117hd	7
Stalked 3-wide, ridden out														
13Mar96-10GP fst 1 1/8 :241 :483 1:133 1:453	@Bonnie Miss-G2	97	4	4	42	32	1hd	2 1/2	Day P	114	4.00	78-29	My Flag117 1/2 Escena1147 1/2 La Rosa1175 1/2	5
Threw head up st, away slowly, tired to get out 1st turn, best of rest														
24Feb96-6GP fst 1 1/8 :233 :474 1:122 1:442	@Alw 3000N2X	92	6	4	4 1/2	1hd	14	14 1/2	Bailey J D	117	*1.10	86-11	Escena117 1/2 Bright Time117 1/2 Marfa's Finale1174	Ridden out 10
25Nov95-6Aq fst 1 1/8 :47 1:123 1:383 1:504	@Demoiselle-G2	76	5	6	54	42	24	38 1/2	Bailey J D	112	2.60	78-09	La Rosa1148 Quiet Dance114nk Escena11217	No late bid 7
26Oct95-7Bel fst 6f :222 :46 :582 1:112	@Alw 3200N1X	75	4	6	5 1/2	4 1/2	11	12 1/2	Bailey J D	116	*.45	84-17	Escena1162 1/2 Echo Echo Echo116 1/2 Hello Brian118no	Steadied, block early 7
10Oct95-2Bel fst 6f :222 :463 :584 1:113	@Md Sp Wt	90	6	6	7 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	14 1/2	Perez R B	117	22.30	83-19	Escena1174 1/2 Carly's Crown1179 Adoradancer1174	Five wide, going away 10

WORKOUTS: Apr 30 CD 4f gd :47 H 1/33 Apr 24 CD 7f sty 1:28 B 2/2 Apr 2 GP 4f st :48 1/2 H 5/18 Mar 28 GP 6f st 1:15 1/2 H 1/2 Mar 23 GP 4f st :51 B 2/30 Mar 6 GP 5f st 1:01 B 13/30

2 Birr

Own: Prestonwood Farm Inc
SELLERS S J (16 3 3 3 .19)

Dk. b or br f. 3 (May)
Sire: Farma Way (Marfa)
Dam: Here's Your Tower (Irish Tower)
Br: Duncan Lloyd (Ky)
Tr: Walden W Elliott (1 0 0 0 .00)

Lifetime Record :				7	2	4	0	\$206,525		
1996	1	0	1	0	\$27,225	Turf	0	0	0	0
1995	6	2	3	0	\$179,300	Wet	0	0	0	0
CD	2	1	1	0	\$103,580	Dist	0	0	0	0

5Apr96-8Kee fst *7f :221 :441 1:094 1:26	@Beaumont-G2	91	6	7	7 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Douglas R R	115 b	2.80	96-09	Golden Gale1152 1/2 Birr1153 Bright Time1153	7
Steadied, lacked room 1/4 pole, four wide bid, second best														
25Nov95-8CD fst 1 1/8 :241 :481 1:13 1:452	@Golden Rod-G3	81	10	7	6 1/2	4 1/2	1hd	2 1/2	Douglas R R	L 119 b	*.50	86-08	Gold Sunrise113 1/2 Birr119no Solana113hd	Bid, led, outfinished 11
4Nov95-8CD fst 1 :222 :453 1:11 1:364	@Pocahontas113k	95	8	8	7 1/2	3 1/2	12	16	Day P	112 b	1.90	93-08	Birr1126 Gold Sunrise116hd Classy 'n Bold1145	8
Lugged in 3/16, drew off, urging														
8Oct95-6Kee fst 1 1/8 :224 :463 1:114 1:442	@Alcibiades-G2	87	7	5	5 1/2	3 1/2	2hd	2 1/2	Douglas R R	118 b	9.10	85-16	Cara Rafaela118 1/2 Birr1186 Gold Sunrise118nk	10
Bid, led 1/4 pole, outfinished														
23Sep95-6TP fst 1 :23 :462 1:112 1:374	@Ky Cup Juv Filly 100k	89	3	3	2 1/2	2 1/2	22	2 1/2	Douglas R R	114 b	5.30	79-15	Typically Irish115 1/2 Birr1141 Summer Squeeze114 1/2	Bid, second best 6
28Aug95-8Sar fst 7f :22 :451 1:101 1:234	@Spinaway-G1	76	7	4	5 1/2	5 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Bailey J D	121 b	11.10	79-18	GoldenAttrction121 1/2 Flt Fleet Feet1211 WstrnDrmr1213 1/2	Four wide, tired 8
2Aug95-4Sar fst 6f :221 :454 :581 1:111	@Md 50000	93	6	6	2hd	12	13	19	Smith M E	117 b	4.20	85-19	Birr1179 Celestial Gance1174 Bright Plank1179 1/2	Drifted, ridden out 9

WORKOUTS: Apr 30 CD 4f gd :49 B 8/33 Apr 25 CD 5f st 1:01 B 1/45 Apr 19 Kee 5f st 1:00 H 3/15 Apr 3 Kee 4f st :47 H 1/53 Mar 27 Pay 5f st 1:05 B 1/5 Mar 20 Pay 4f st :51 B 3/12

3 Antespend

Own: Cooke Jack Kent
ANTLEY C W (-)

B. f. 3 (Feb)
Sire: Spend a Buck (Buckaroo)
Dam: Auspicante (Practicante)
Br: Elmendorf Farm (Ky)
Tr: McAnally Ronald (-)

Lifetime Record :				9	7	1	0	\$528,889			
1996	4	3	1	0	\$340,450	Turf	5	4	0	0	\$188,439
1995	5	4	0	0	\$188,439	Wet	0	0	0	0	
CD	0	0	0	0		Dist	0	0	0	0	

5Apr96-90P fst 1 1/8 :232 :471 1:121 1:434	@Fantasy-G2	81	1	1	11	21	23	27	Antley C W	L 121	*.30	81-19	Escena1177 Antespend121 1/2 Ski Trail117hd	7
Stumbled start, 3rd 3/16's, came back for place														
10Mar96-4SA fst 1 1/8 :232 :473 1:112 1:43	@SA Oaks-G1	99	4	1	1 1/2	11	11	12 1/2	Antley C W	LB 117	*.60	80-19	Antespend1172 1/2 Cara Rafaela1173 Hidden Lake1172 1/2	5
Came out near 3/8 & past 1/8														
18Feb96-8SA fst 1 :222 :463 1:104 1:362	@Las Virgenes-G1	98	1	1	11	11	11 1/2	12 1/2	Antley C W	LB 120	2.90	87-18	Antespend120 1/2 Cara Rafaela122 1/2 Hidden Lake116 1/2	Driving 6
24Jan96-7SA fst 1 1/8 :232 :47 1:112 1:434	@Santa Ysabel 104k	85	4	4	21	21	22 1/2	13	Antley C W	LB 120	*1.30	76-24	Antespend120 1/2 Dancing Prism1145 Rumpumpy116no	Late foot 6
24Nov95-6Hol fm 1 :223 :452 1:10 1:341	@Miesque-G3	90	9	2	25	21 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	Antley C W	LB 121	*1.80e	92-08	Antespend121 1/2 Wheatly Special121 1/2 Platinum Blonde121hd	Clearly best 10
26Oct95-8Kee fm 1 1/8 :23 :472 1:13 1:451	@Green River 63k	75	4	1	1 1/2	1hd	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sellers S J	L 118	*1.90	80-16	Antespend118 1/2 Supreme Silver1151 Wistfully112 1/2	10
Bumped start, wide trip, swerved out, brushed 3/16, driving														
11Oct95-4Kee fm 1 :222 :461 1:12 1:363	@Alw 36750N2L	74	6	7	5 1/2	1hd	1hd	11	Sellers S J	L 115	2.20	87-07	Antespend115 1/2 Emeraldforalady115hd Golden Laurel1153	9
Lunged in air start, gamely, driving														
16Sep95-4Due yl *7f :233 :471 1:121 1:363	@Belle Starr 75k	69	6	6	3 1/2	21	3nk	42 1/2	Steiner J J	L 113	*.90e	42-46	Nastassja111 1/2 Emeraldforalady111nk Dynawin1111	Finished good energy 11
13Aug95-5EIP fm 1 :223 :471 1:121 1:363	@Md Sp Wt	69	7	2	3 1/2	21	13	15	Steiner J J	L 117	6.80	83-17	Antespend117 1/2 Other Way1174 Karen S.117 1/2	Ridden out 11

WORKOUTS: Apr 27 CD 7f st 1:28 B 2/3 Apr 20 CD 5f gd 1:02 B 5/28 Mar 30 SA 6f st 1:13 H 6/19 Mar 25 SA 5f st :59 H 6/37 Mar 19 SA 4f st :47 B 2/27 Mar 3 SA 5f st 1:01 B 26/59

A CLOSER LOOK

Kentucky Oaks

Escena

The connections of Paulson and Mott present a filly here who clearly leads the second tier of challengers against My Flag — second tier perhaps only because My Flag is the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies champion; interestingly, however, the B.C. Juv. Fillies race hasn't been a very good predictor of Oaks success, you have to go back to Opening Verse who turned the JF/Oaks double in 1988 and 1989; otherwise, this filly enters this race as a solid second choice on the strength of her mild upset of Antespend in the Fantasy; with Antespend looking for control of the fractions it's likely this miss will lead the first charge to her authority on the front end; the question, then, if she is able to wrestle the lead away from Antespend again, is will she have enough in the stretch to hold off My Flag and Birr?

Birr

With My Flag, Escena and Antespend comprising the top three contenders at the windows, that leaves the relatively unknown Pike Place Dancer, D. Wayne Lukas' Cara Rafaela and Birr as the "minor" players here; trainer Walden continues to be high on this filly's chances after a second place finish in her prep race the G2 Beaumont at Keeneland April 5; Birr encountered traffic problems in the Beaumont before chewing up ground rapidly in the stretch of the seven furlong contest; Sellers gets the call today and all he's done has dominate the top spot in the jockey standings at Keeneland and Churchill over the past two years; plenty to like about this "longshot" who happens to be the only entrant to own a win at Churchill and she very well could be the value play of the race.

Antespend

The Fantasy couldn't have been a real race for this girl; this is the same filly who reeled off back-to-back grade 1 stakes wins at Santa Anita this year beating Cara Rafaela both times; any way you look at it it's a tough ship from California to Oaklawn to Kentucky and it will be interesting to see how this miss responds to the drubbing she received at the hands of Escena last time; hard to believe she will really be third choice today having never finished worse than second in four graded stakes; her best shot is to control the fractions while saving something for the stretch, if left alone on soft fractions she'll be tough to chase down, if pressed a bit by Escena and Cara Rafaela she'll be hard pressed to turn back those two while saving enough to fight off My Flag and Birr; looks like her chances are in the hands of a couple of others here, not the best position to be in.

4 Pike Place Dancer

Own: Hollendorfer Jerry & Todaro George
NAKATANICS (-)

B. f. 3 (Feb)
Sire: Seattle Dancer (Nijinsky II)
Dam: Vana Turns (Wavering Monarch)
Br: Glencrest Farm (Ky)
Tr: Hollendorfer Jerry (-)

Lifetime Record: 6 5 0 0 \$240,950
1996 4 3 0 0 \$215,100 Turf 3 3 0 0 \$209,100
1995 2 2 0 0 \$25,850 Wet 0 0 0 0
CD 0 0 0 0 Dist 0 0 0 0

Table with columns for race date, track, distance, time, and race name. Includes entries for Cal Derby-G3, San Jose 100k, Opening Bid 56k, Santa Ynez-G3, Alw 2500N1x, and Md Sp Wt.

WORKOUTS: Apr 30 CD 4f gd :48.4 B 3/33 Apr 24 GG 4f fm :49.1 H 1/2 Apr 19 GG 5f fst 1:00.4 H 10/49 Apr 7 GG 5f fst 1:01 H 2/48 Mar 31 GG 4f fst :48.3 H 14/46 Mar 20 BM 4f fm :50.2 H (d) 1/3

Pike Place Dancer

She can clearly handle the mile and an eighth as she demonstrated on the lawn in the Cal Derby last time; some will be concerned a bit by her lowish Beyer Figures on the main track, but keep in mind those were earned in sprints while she was bred to get better as the distances get longer; not a stretch to think she can win this and bounce theorists will appreciate the fact she won the Cal Derby without making a forward move off her double 96's earned in two previous starts; eligible to improve and difficult to throw out.

5 My Flag

Own: Phipps Ogden
BAILEY JD (-)



Ch. f. 3 (Mar)
Sire: Easy Goer (Alydar)
Dam: Personal Ensign (Private Account)
Br: Phipps Ogden (Ky)
Tr: McGaughey Claude III (-)

Lifetime Record: 9 4 2 2 \$1,089,879
1996 3 2 1 0 \$475,265 Turf 0 0 0 0
1995 6 2 1 2 \$614,614 Wet 2 1 1 0 \$570,000
CD 0 0 0 0 Dist 0 0 0 0

Table with columns for race date, track, distance, time, and race name. Includes entries for Ashland-G1, Bonnie Miss-G2, Davona Dale-G3, B C Juv Fil-G1, Frizette-G1, Matron-G1, Alw 3200N2L, and Schuyrvill-G2.

WORKOUTS: Apr 28 CD 4f fst :51 B 31/40 Apr 19 Kee 3f fst :35 H 1/25 Apr 14 Kee 5f fst 1:00 H 2/15 Apr 10 Kee 6f fst 1:14.3 B 2/22 Apr 4 Kee 4f fst :47.3 H 3/40 Mar 12 GP 3f slt :37 B 2/8

My Flag

My Flag has made a habit of heading out to the track well before her competitors are finished saddling in an effort to calm her a bit before the race; with one of the largest Oaks crowds ever expected this Friday, one has to wonder how she'll handle the noise and distractions; non-believers before the Ashland, and I was among them, had several reasons to look for a play against her in that race — she was facing a short stretch, on a speed-favoring track, against a short and possibly pacesetter field; she handled that assignment like a B.C. champion and it will be a solid disappointment if she doesn't win this race today; unfortunately for bettors if you really like this filly, the newly created Oaks/Derby double may be the only way to salvage any value from this race; note: she defeated Escena by one and a half lengths in the Bonnie Miss when she got the trip and Escena didn't, and she had to run a career-best Beyer Figure to do it.

6 Cara Rafaela

Own: TNT Stud
STEVENS GL (-)



Gr/ro f. 3 (Mar)
Sire: Quiet American (Fappiano)
Dam: Oil Fable (Spectacular Bid)
Br: Rutherford Michael G (Ky)
Tr: Lukas D Wayne (7 0 2 0 00)

Lifetime Record: 13 3 7 0 \$740,112
1996 4 0 3 0 \$193,150 Turf 0 0 0 0
1995 9 3 4 0 \$546,962 Wet 1 0 1 0 \$200,000
CD 1 0 0 0 \$5,660 Dist 0 0 0 0

Table with columns for race date, track, distance, time, and race name. Includes entries for Ashland-G1, SA Oaks-G1, Las Virgenes-G1, EJCmnoRIDby-G3, Hol Starlet-G1, Pocahontas 113k, B C Juv Fil-G1, Alcibiades-G2, Matron-G1, and Md Sp Wt.

WORKOUTS: Apr 27 CD 5f fst 1:01.1 B 3/36 Apr 15 CD 5f fst 1:00.2 H 2/44 Apr 9 SA 6f fst 1:14 H 4/8 Apr 2 SA 6f fst 1:13.3 H 2/8 Mar 26 SA 5f fst 1:01.3 H 10/24 Mar 19 SA 4f fst :48.2 B 3/27

Cara Rafaela

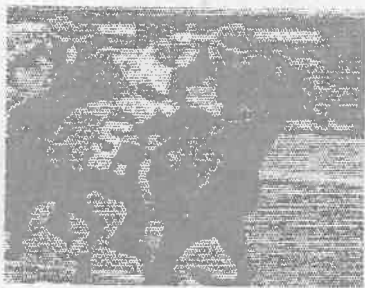
Does she sit back a bit from Antespend as she did in the SA Oaks and risk following that one around the track like she did that day, or does she move up and press a bit more as she did in the Ashland and risk coming up empty for the stretch drive; then again, Stevens and Day, both of whom seem to prefer patience to pressing, could each be left waiting on the other to handle pace-pressure duties; how can it be that this miss is among the fringe players when she owns the best Beyer in the field (104); plenty for Lukas and Stevens to consider here, but in the end it's probably out of their hands anyway.

—Kevin Depew

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