

**INSIDE** ▶ Adam Lazarus enjoying the ride with Musical Romance

DECEMBER 2011 • \$3.50

# FLORIDA HORSE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

## Still Perfect

Florida-bred  
Awesome Feather  
Gallops in Gazelle Stakes

[www.ftboa.com](http://www.ftboa.com)





# All for

FILLY & MARE SPRINT

sentient  
jet



***Adam Lazarus  
(third standing to the left of the  
horse) of Pinnacle Racing  
Stable is enjoying the success of  
Florida-bred Musical Romance***

By JO ANN GUIDRY

Adam Lazarus, the founding and managing partner of South Florida-based Pinnacle Racing Stable, never gave up on romance. More specifically, Florida-bred Musical Romance.

When the Concorde's Tune filly, purchased for \$22,000 at the 2009 Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's April juvenile sale, cracked a pastern on but her second day of training, Lazarus didn't walk away from the equine relationship. But he did allow the other partners on the filly to opt out and sell back their shares to him. Meanwhile, he paid for the surgery and subsequent four-month rehab time. Then when she successfully returned to training, Lazarus once again sold ownership shares in 50 percent of the filly; trainer Bill Kaplan retained his



# Romance



50-percent ownership. The Pinnacle Racing Stable ownership share of Musical Romance includes nine partners.

It was a bet on romance that paid off for Lazarus. In 2010, Musical Romance became Pinnacle Racing Stable's first stakes winner when she captured the Sweettrickydancer Stakes. On the season, she would also post two other wins and was stakes-placed five times on her way to banking \$154,751.

And then like all good relationships, the romance moved on to the next level in 2011. Musical Romance racked up four stakes wins, including the Presque Isle Downs Masters Stakes (G2). In addition, she also notched impressive seconds in both the Princess Rooney Handicap (G1) and Thoroughbred Club of America Stakes (G2). Her earnings

neared the \$700,000 mark. When Kaplan suggested running in the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (G1), Lazarus' romantic nature was tested again. Not Breeders' Cup nominated as a foal, Musical Romance would have to be supplemented. The cost? An eyebrow-raising \$130,000. Together, Lazarus and Kaplan came up with the money just in time to make the supplement deadline.

Chalk up another one for storybook-romance endings. On Nov. 5 at Churchill Downs, the supplemented Musical Romance won the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint and collected the \$540,000 winner's share of the \$909,000 purse. With the win, Musical Romance became a Breeders' Cup champion, a Grade 1 winner and a millionaire all at once.



## All for Romance

The 4-year-old filly, bred by Ocala Stud and out of the Slew Gin Fizz mare Candlelightdinner, has career earnings to date of \$1,217,850.

"It was a huge risk and a big bet," said Lazarus, 44, a New York native who moved to the Miami area in 1990. "But the Thoroughbred sport is about risks and dreams. And it doesn't get any bigger than the Breeders' Cup and the risk paid off big time."

For Lazarus, who attended Appalachian State University on a baseball scholarship, the attraction to Thoroughbred racing was love at first sight. Or rather initially to the statistical side of the sport. After graduating with a communications degree and moving to South Florida, Lazarus ended up at Calder Race Course out of curiosity on a free afternoon.

"I'm a sports fanatic and participate in fantasy sports leagues where statistics are everything," said Lazarus.

"I was intrigued by all the numbers in racing, everything from speed figures to percentages and pedigree analysis. I immediately thought this was an interesting sport that I wanted to be involved with in some way."

While Lazarus began attending the races on a regular basis, as fate would have it, his father Wayne had a golf buddy who just happened to be a Thoroughbred trainer. In fact, Bill Kaplan was a well-known and highly successful trainer. Kaplan's list of outstanding racehorses includes Seacliff, Dream On Dream On, Fortune Pending, Mr. Livingston, Castlebrook, Goldarama, Storm in May and I'mawildandcrazyguy.

"I was already a fan of Bill when my dad introduced us and suggested I get into racehorse ownership," said Lazarus, who is a sales manager with the Aventura-based branch of ZENO Office Solutions. "The first horse I owned a piece of was with Bill in 2001. That horse never broke its maiden and then had a career-ending injury. But

*"I also buy strictly Florida-breds because we are based in Miami and want to take advantage of the state-bred programs. I like to buy two year olds because the partners can get involved almost immediately in the racing game."*

—Adam Lazarus





I still wanted to be in the Thoroughbred business.”

Deciding that partnerships were the best way to be in the sport and bring others in as well, Lazarus formed Pinnacle Racing Stable in 2002. He attracted partnership interest by “taking out a small ad in the Daily Racing Form and putting fliers on car windshields in the parking lot at Calder and Gulfstream Park.”

Today, Pinnacle Racing Stable includes 30 partners who have various percentages in its horses. Lazarus, who relies on Kaplan’s expertise in selecting and developing young horses, attends the juvenile sales with the goal of buying one or two horses. Once Lazarus makes a purchase, only then does he offer the horse as part of a Pinnacle Racing Stable partnership. Each horse is set up as a limited liability corporation and all investors share in the monthly expenses.

“I focus on fillies with a price range of \$35,000 and below,” said Lazarus. “I also buy strictly Florida-breds because we are based in Miami and want to take advantage

of the state-bred programs. I like to buy two year olds because the partners can get involved almost immediately in the racing game.”

In addition to Musical Romance, Pinnacle Racing Stable currently has five other horses in training with Kaplan. The group includes stakes-placed Another Romance, who while similarly named is no relation to Musical Romance. By Saint Anddan out of the Friendly Lover mare Love To, Another Romance was purchased for \$23,000 at the 2011 OBS June juvenile sale. She was second in the Cassidy Stakes on Oct. 1 at Calder and has to date earned \$46,165.

“I love bringing people into the Thoroughbred business,” said Lazarus. “And partnerships are a great way for a lot of people who wouldn’t otherwise be able to get into the sport to do it. Yes, there are risks. And, yes, there are highs and lows. But that’s true with most investments and it’s hard to beat the excitement of Thoroughbred racing.”

And, of course, a little romance doesn’t hurt either. ■

Musical Romance winning the Breeders’ Cup Filly and Mare Sprint.

