

Delaware Park, Monmouth Park and Aqueduct in 2020.

Allowed to settle off the early pace by Gerald Almodovar, V.I.P. Ticket moved in unison with North Atlantic going into the far turn, momentarily stalled, then re-broke inside the final eighth-mile to draw clear by 4 lengths. Millionaire Runnin' toluvya was installed as the post time 3-2 favorite, but didn't exhibit the customary flair that's carried him to multiple stakes wins. Awesome Faith, winner of the West Virginia Breeders Classics (37-1), again garnered little respect at the windows (12-1) but closed late to finish third.

After punching his black-type in the A Huevo, the hard-knocking bay returned to his homebase of Laurel Park in the Native Dancer Stakes in late December, but only managed a general admission fifth-place response.

Ho-Ho-Ho

Veteran journeyman Wesley Ho ended 2020 by finishing eighth in the jockey standings, while his mounts earned in excess of \$1 million. For many of his contemporaries it been a fatiguing year, with interruptions attributable to the coronavirus, yet Ho persevered with substantial assistance from horsemen John McKee and Anthony Rideout II.

Born and raised within the sanctuary of the grandstand lights, Wesley and his brother Chris have a bond that was inspired by horses and preserved through their mother, Theresa Brice Ho. Wesley and Chris's father Gene was a successful rider on the local circuit and obviously imparted to his boys a work ethic and kindred spirit.

One week before Christmas, Wesley was able to share a special moment with his mother, when a horse she owns and bred dominated a West Virginia maiden special weight race for 2-year-olds. Ministry of Magic, a son of

Limehouse out of Broad But Nice (by Seeking Daylight) was making his fifth career start. After being narrowly defeated in his previous effort, nothing was left to chance as he drew away to a 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ -length margin.

Following a nondescript seventh place finish in his debut in September, the attractive dark bay had shown a steady pattern of progression, culminating in his first win and a career high Beyer number of 74. Trainer Anthony (A.J.) Rideout II maintains a modest string of five to eight horses in Barn 21, but never underestimate the quality of care or attention to detail his runners individually receive. In 2020, with all the distractions credited to Covid-19, his barn remained a consistent 55 percent in the money.

The dam of Ministry of Magic has been an incantation of joy for the Ho family. Broad But Nice was a hard-knocking mare on the racetrack, winning 12 of her 31 starts with six seconds and three thirds and was multiple stakes-placed. Nice n' Broad, a half-sister to Ministry of Magic, successfully campaigned for the team of Ho and Rideout making just over \$100,000.

Chris recently accepted a job independent from the racetrack. A once budding career as a jockey was cut short due to a combination of injuries, however he is never too far away to cheer on his brother and mother. The configuration of the Ho triad confirms the importance in their world of family, horses and ultimately the winner's circle.

NOTES TO MEMBERS

- ◆ **The 10-10-10 program** is now called the **Supplemental Purse Award Claim**, for which there are new forms. All claims must be submitted to the WV Racing Commission within 15 days from the date the purse is awarded. Claim forms are available on the WV Racing Commission website, racing.wv.gov.
- ◆ If you are selling or planning to sell your accredited WV-bred and/or sired horse, please contact the WVTBA. The WVTBA has started supplying sellers of **accredited WV-bred and/or sired horses with hip stickers and stall-card stickers** to make it easier for buyers to identify these horses. Contact the WVTBA office at (304) 728-6868 or by e-mail at wvbreeders@gmail.com.
- ◆ **WV Certificates** will be issued seven to 10 days after the WVTBA receives the original registration form application, all required paperwork and payment.
- ◆ The WVTBA office is located at 110 South George Street, Suite 4, Charles Town, WV 25414.
Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.
More information may be found at www.wvtba.net.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Mailing address: P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: (304) 728-6868 • Fax: (304) 724-7870 • Web site: www.wvtba.net

Office location: 202 East Liberty St., Charles Town, WV 25414. Hours: 10-2 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

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Chasing

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Steeplechase Foundation



“Prava” - A steeplechase story for all ages

By Betsy Burke Parker

Co-champion jockey in 2019, Michael Mitchell is a most unexpected 21st century Dr. Seuss.

Woodville Award winner in 2019 and seven-time sheriff’s deputy of the year, Chris “Reggie” Williams is an unlikely collaborator.

But the two of them have turned a 37-second interaction in the saddling enclosure at Saratoga into what they hope will become a beloved children’s book series.

After a fast start on the Amazon best-seller list, that might be where “Prava’s Steeplechase Adventure” is headed.

The book, which debuted at number 4 on Amazon’s competitive “new children’s release” list, features a simple, easy-to-follow storyline tracing the adventure of a race-horse on the National Steeplechase circuit. Illustrated by children around the world, the story is based on the universal themes of friendship, inclusiveness and self-confidence.

Early reviewers call it a welcome relief in this year of distancing and fear, a perfect antidote to everything that was wrong with 2020. “A phenomenal book for kids,” writes

Amazon reviewer Mrs. P. “This book is catered to kids through their eyes. The illustrations are the cutest which kids can relate to, because they drew them. A great gift for the holidays. Love it!”

It’s not just verified purchasers on

Amazon that are raving about “Prava.” National Steeplechase Association leaders are on track with the project.

“When Reggie told me about their idea for the children’s book, it rang so many bells for me,” said NSA president Al Griffin. “Those two represent the heart and soul of steeplechasing.

“Their message is multi-layered and not contrived. We needed this kind of ‘feel good’ in this most difficult season.

“Anyone who hears this story will be uplifted.”



Reggie Williams
©Betsy Burke Parker

MEET THE CREATOR – CHRIS ‘REGGIE’ WILLIAMS:

Thomas Christopher Williams was born and raised in rural northern Virginia. He earned the nickname Reggie – Reggie Jackson, when he played league baseball.

Now 52, Williams is a career sheriff’s deputy in Prince William County west of Washington, D.C. Two years ago, he established T.C. Williams Youth Sports Camps, an international nonprofit run for underprivileged children “to discover the inner and out strength you can get from playing sports.”