



# West Virginia

## THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

July 2021

### ***Bourne to Ride***

**J**ack of all trades is a figure of speech often used to describe individuals that can perform multiple tasks in an efficient manner and it's generally considered a compliment of their expansive knowledge.

Lori Bourne is currently the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races senior outrider and unofficial social media information source, while acknowledging life history roles as owner, trainer, breeder, jockey and full-time mom.

She is recovering from recent knee replacement surgery, but maintains her active schedule at the track and on her farm in Avon Bend.

Sturdiness comes easy to this racing family, as Lori's stepmother Lynn Segal tried her hand as a jockey and has always felt comfortable on the back of a horse, while father Eddie has spent more time underneath a horse than he cares to recall.

A career blacksmith, the muscular veteran of many turf wars just celebrated his 80th birthday and scoffs at retirement.

Competing predominantly at a track that witnessed legendary female pioneers of the sport like Sylvia Bishop and Barbara Jo Rubin, Lori Bourne's best year as a rider was 1995 when she won a staggering 131 races, yet her career is more a story of adversity than success.

During 13 years in the tack, Lori suffered a broken back, knee, multiple crushed vertebrae in her neck, fractured pelvis and elbow, while twice breaking her jaw, but as soon as she could walk and talk she was ready to compete.



"I get this resiliency from my father," she says. "As a youngster, I was his shadow. He would gallop 10-15 horses a morning at the racetrack, break babies (for Ray Mikkonen) in the afternoon and finish by shoeing horses until dusk. Growing up I remember dad had every conceivable animal on the farm. I'm sure it has led to my irresistible impulse to do the same. My 13-year-old daughter Madelyn has our unequalled love of animals and presently we possess chickens, rabbits, ducks, sheep, cats, dogs, a goat and, of course, horses."

Graduating high school in May 1985, by November Lori rode her first race at Laurel Park (and got her first win in her second).

"I'm not sure I set out to be a jockey, but desired to be around

horses in some capacity. Originally my weight appeared to be a concern, but hard work corrected that issue," she recalls. "My mentor was Odie Clelland and I galloped for him for over a year." Both Greg and Chris McCarron (Hall of Fame jockey) also got their start with Clelland.

Eventually Lori made the transition to West Virginia, where she heard female riders were given a fair chance to exhibit their talents, and found the small town atmosphere a suitable place to raise her son Willie.

"During my time in the Charles Town jock's room there were always four or five other girl riders, with Mitch Kuykendall leading the pack," she says. "Henry Mercer, Bob Rawlings and Vincent Moscarelli were trainers instrumental in my career, and I must thank agents Mike Rose and Wayne Rix for all their help. I rode my last race in August of 1998. I think injuries just finally caught up to me."

It seemed a natural progression for Lori to begin training horses, and in 2000 she embarked on the next chapter of Safari so Good.

Lori wanted a chance to enjoy life, be injury free and continue to provide for her family, so she hung out her trainer's shingle and took up the job as a part-time outrider.

"It was never a goal of mine to be the best at everything I tried, but to try my best at everything I did."

John and Ellen Kill-Kelley have been faithful owners of Lori's since day one. Smokin' Greida, Swampoodle and Flashin' Greida are all winners trained by Bourne for the owners.

All horses in Lori's care are special to her, but Rockstar Princess, a daughter of Fiber Sonde and the Citislipper mare Unlimited Diamond, may top her personal list. She owns, trained and bred this filly.

Unlimited Diamond was a gutsy racehorse and Lori fancied her pedigree, so when Louis Close opted to retire from the business, she eagerly accepted his generous offer to take her. Rockstar Princess was the first foal bred by Bourne out of the mare and was a two-time winner.

"I bred Rockstar Princess to Bullsbay (this year) and am excited to see the results," she reports.

Old timers may recall that Unlimited Diamond is a winning half-sister to regional star Donald's Pride (three-time Frank Gall Memorial Stakes winner and \$531,764 earner).

In my capacity as track handicapper and announcer, in what seems eons ago, I would occasionally comment on the youthful demeanor and handsome deportment of Lori's trusty evening mount. One night I leaned over the paddock wall and hailed Lori down to ask, "Who is that?"

She smiled responding, "You might know him, it's Notice He's Atenor."

A veteran claimer that Lori campaigned from 2000-2001, once retired from the rigors of racing the battle-tested competitor became her favored pony.

He was also a horse that during my vagabond backstretch period I had the privilege of working with.

A quarter of a century had gone by. Notice He's Atenor was a 2-year-old that exhibited strong promise for conditioner John Lenzini, winning a maiden special weight contest in his third career effort.

Unfortunately, injuries thwarted him from reaching his full potential, yet his heart and desire earned my never-ending respect.

During the interview Lori revealed she has the 27-year-old at her farm.



"Even at his advanced age this horse still bucks and kicks with the best of them," says Lori. "He was such a handful the other day I had to put a shank on him to lead him from the paddock."

The circle of life in racing continues to represent birth, survival and rebirth, where the fortunate

are blessed to overcome life's challenges.

Without any fanfare, Notice He's Atenor enjoys a permanent home and will go down as a touchdown on Lori's scoreboard of humanity, while hard work, optimism and the will to survive is the framework of Bourne's identity.

Eddie, once the ultimate parental caretaker, now resides with Lori, son Willie, a graduate of local Jefferson High School who just completed his first year there as a teacher, and daughter Madelyn, attached to her mother's hip during farm chores or any horse related activity recently adopted mom's latest passion. . . barrel racing.

Lori is philosophical: "A pensioned pony and these two kids are examples I made some right choices in my life."

## Benefits of Owning a WV-Bred and/or -Sired racehorse

### **Some of the best incentives in the nation:**

- A minimum of three accredited races are written every day at Charles Town exclusively for registered WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- West Virginia has the only program in the country that permits horses to win state-bred races that do not count against the horse's lifetime open conditions.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes almost \$5 million to breeders, owners, and stallion owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses based the horse's annual earnings at Charles Town and Mountaineer Park racetracks.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost \$1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- \$800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

### **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](http://www.wvtba.net)

Office location: 202 East Liberty St., Charles Town, WV 25414. Hours: 9-1 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

John Funkhouser, *President*  
Dennis Bybee, *Secretary*

Javier Contreras, *Vice-President*  
Clissy Funkhouser, *Treasurer*

*Directors:* Nancy Camp, Leslie Cromer, Dennis Finger, Karen Freer,  
Judy Grams, Diana McClure, Sandra Witherow