

"Bret's been really good, too, because he doesn't skip any steps. He makes sure he gets a horse the best group of mares possible. Sometimes you've got to hurt a few people's feelings, not letting one in, but he'd only be doing it for the horse. So putting together a nice book of mares, then marketing the foals, he's always done a really good job at that.

"For us I think integrity is a big thing. And Bret is one of the most honest people you'll ever meet. He's straight up, true to his word, and very much like his mother and father. So that's hugely important to all of us, that respect and integrity."

So much for the brand. How about the mission? Henley shook his head.

"There are huge shoes to fill," he stressed. "Brerry and Tim have done such a remarkable job for such a long time, I guess the first thing is not to mess it up. But we really want to continue to grow our stallion business. We have eight horses at the moment, and would love to have a couple of champion sires standing in the barn in the next few years. We obviously love racing, too, so a Derby winner would be great as well--especially one by Cairo Prince or Creative Cause!"

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## Op / ED Feedback

### "Trainers Won't Run Horses, So Why Aren't Owners Outraged?"

*In Thursday's TDN, we ran an op-ed by Bill Finley about the decline of starts per year by American Thoroughbreds. Finley asked for feedback, and we were inundated by the replies. Below is a sampling.*

We are quite certain Lasix plays a part in the lack of horses. How could it not be? All you mentioned, Bill, in your article is true and a piece of the horse racing pie. How could Lasix not affect racing and our breeding of horses? I am sure that horses that can only run on Lasix need to be questionable breeding prospects. Maybe we have in turn weakened the breed? Maybe Lasix opened the door for more use of drugs instead of time and real healing. I know this is the 21st century. The use of drugs is prevalent in our culture, but is it overused? In human beings, we have the opioid crisis. Do we have a parallel crisis in horse racing?

To address your point of owners taking more action in their horses running in more races, I find that hard to do. Trainers train horses, not owners. One hires trainers to do just that. Most trainers given a free hand, enthusiastically supported by the owners, will do a good job for you and your horse.

--Gretchen Jackson **Cont. p11**



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