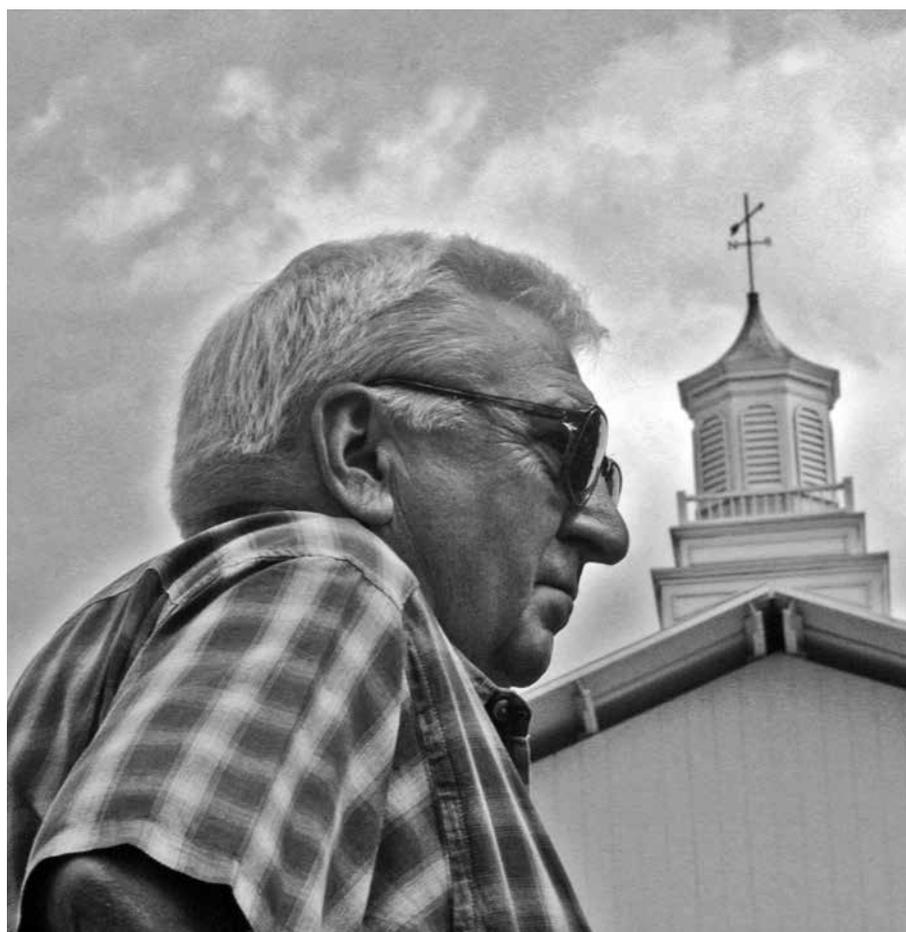


LEGENDARY HORSEMAN AND BASKETBALL STANDOUT JAMES E. MORGAN PASSES AWAY AT 85

Thoroughbred trainer James E. (Jim) Morgan may be the greatest trainer you may have never heard of, with one of the most interesting sports backgrounds. A native of the coal mine region of Eastern Kentucky, the first horse race he ever witnessed was when Dark Star upset the great Native Dancer in the Kentucky Derby when working part-time as an Andy Frain usher. While born in the bluegrass he made a reputation on the hardwood basketball floors of Dayton, Ohio, where the 6-foot-1-all-city guard he led Stivers High School to be ranked #1 in the state in the early 50's.

He chose the University of Louisville over the University of Dayton and went on to become a standout player. Morgan played on some very good Louisville teams, including the 1956 National Invitation Tournament championship over the University of Dayton. During his career there he became the team captain and amassed 1,105 points. He was inducted into their Hall of Fame and his number retired. The Syracuse Nationals of the NBA (eventually the Philadelphia '76ers) made him their #1 draft pick, but he elected to return to Dayton to teach and coach high school basketball at Stebbins High School, as the salaries (believe it or not) were comparable. "Guess I was born a few years early," Morgan laughed while discussing the subject. "It was just a few years after that NBA salaries started to skyrocket."

After nine years, Morgan switched to coaching equine athletes and became one of the Midwest's preeminent Thoroughbred trainers winning over 300 stakes. Based primarily in Kentucky and Ohio, he trained Costly Dream, who defeated champion Susan's Girl in the Berlo Handicap at Aqueduct; Bold Rendezvous, win-



Jim Morgan at River Downs.

ner of Belmont's Imperatrice Stakes and third in the Kentucky Oaks; and his standout Ohio-bred Brent's Prince, who captured Arlington Park's Round Table and the Ohio Derby at Thistledown. Morgan trainees won multiple runnings of the La Troienne, Golden Rod and Kentucky Cardinal Stakes at Churchill Downs and the Lafayette Handicap at Keeneland.

In Ohio he dominated the stakes ranks by developing six Horse of the Year

champions. Brent's Prince, who he trained for Dr. T.F. Classen of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, not only won the Ohio Derby, but went on to be the leading sire in the state eight times. In the later stages of his career, Morgan went on to become the President of the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and served the role as a trustee in the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Health Fund since 1998.

ITSMYLUCKYDAY RELOCATED TO OHIO



The quality of the stallion ranks in the Buckeye State continues to grow and reproduction specialist Robert J. Maro D.V.M. and his partner Gigi Chiandussi are bringing a graded stakes-winning track record-setter to the state. Itsmyluckyday earned more than \$1.7 million at the track and will stand at Maro Veterinary Services in Lowellville for an introductory fee of \$2,000. Eric Mitchell wrote the following story that appeared in The Blood-Horse.

The stallion is a part of equestrian Gigi Chiandussi's growing breeding program.

By Eric Mitchell

Classic-placed Grade 1 winner Itsmyluckyday has been sold and relocated to Ohio to bolster the growing state-bred program there, according to the stallion's new owner, Gigi Chiandussi.

"What the Ohio market needs is, first, conformation, and, second, it needs speed," Chiandussi said. "This stallion has both. He's gorgeous, and he set a track record."

Itsmyluckyday is the first stallion venture for Chiandussi, who was entrenched in international dressage competition on German Warmbloods prior to attending her first Thoroughbred auction six years ago at the 2013 Ocala Breeders' Sales January Winter Mixed Sale.

A resident of Youngstown, Ohio, Chiandussi has since jumped feet first into the commercial Thoroughbred breeding business. Over the past six years, she has steadily built a 26-head broodmare band and had been mulling standing a stallion. While visiting Spendthrift Farm near Lexington, she learned Itsmyluckyday was available and said it took her about a minute to make an offer.

"I want to support the Ohio market and the Ohio-bred program with a good horse," she said. "The market is getting better every day, and there is an opportunity to be a part of that growth curve. I want a horse that can race to the top of the market."

Itsmyluckyday, a 9-year-old son of Lawyer Ron out of the stakes-placed Doneraile Court mare Viva La Slew, was a top-class performer across three seasons of racing and earned more than \$1.7 mil-

lion. Itsmyluckyday hams it up in the mirror with ESPN's Michelle Beadle while training at Churchill Downs.

He was a two-time listed winner at 2, and at 3 made a bid for the Grade 1 Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands by winning the 2013 Holy Bull Stakes-G3 at Gulfstream Park in a track-record 1:41.81 for 8½ furlongs before finishing second in the Besilu Stables Florida Derby-G1. He didn't place in the Kentucky Derby but was runner-up in the Preakness Stakes-G1.

At 4, Itsmyluckyday was at his best. He won or placed in six of his eight starts in 2014, getting victories in the Woodward Stakes-G1, Salvator Mile Stakes-G3 and Majestic Light Stakes. He was runner-up in the Whitney Stakes-G1 and third in the Kelso Handicap-G2.

Itsmyluckyday has sired 45 winners to date. His best runners are multiple stakes winner Itsmyluckycharm and stakes-placed winners Drinkatthecreek and Bebo Lucky Road.

The stallion will stand for \$2,000 next year at Dr. Robert Maro's Maro Veterinary Services, which is off McCartney Road east of Youngstown

DIFFERENT PATHS TAKEN TO THE "BEST OF OHIO"



2017 Ohio Mixed Sale Grad Edge of Night holds off the closers in the Emerald Necklace. Photo: J.J. Zamaicko



Heavenhasmynikki was an easy winner in Diana Stakes on October 5. Photo: J.J. Zamaicko

While the stakes program in the state leading up to "The Best of Ohio" series is concluded, two horses who stand out in their respective divisions elected to take different paths to Mahoning Valley in late October. In the 2-year-old filly division, Charlie Williams owned and trained Moonlit Mission now has added experience up her sleeve. On Sept. 28 at Thistledown she did four things she had never done before: took on male rivals; raced against open company; went around two turns; and won by more than 2 lengths.

"It's hard to find a two-turn race for 2-year-olds," said Williams. "There was one at Belterra that didn't fill, so we entered her here." It was an eventful trip with Moonlit Mission shifting out leaving the first turn, had a bead on undefeated Ohio-bred Wicked Warrior, rallied three wide on the far turn, drifted to the five path entering the stretch, drifted in to the rail when Ricardo Mejias corrected her with a right handed whip and then drew clear. Wicked Warrior was 14½ lengths ahead of Snake Bite.

Williams purchased the chestnut daughter of Shackelford out of Moonlit River, by Maria's Mon, for \$18,000 at the Fasig-Tipton yearling sale in October 2018. "Give the credit to Dennis Stiff, who looks at every last one on our list. He makes sure the walk is good and the repository checks out. We set our ceiling at \$30,000 so now it looks like we got a deal. She's angular, long-framed and her third dam won a Breeders' Cup—plus I love Maria's Mon in the pedigree. They have to have the genetics and with Maria's Mon she should go the distance." Bred by Belvedere Farm, Moonlit Mission broke her

maiden against eventual stakes winner Edge of Night and then went on to capture the Kevin Goemmer Tah Dah Stakes in her next start. She now sports a record of 5-3-0-0 for earnings of \$92,050.

The connections of 2018 Horse of the Year Altissimo were not about to lick their wounds after suffering the upset of the year in Ohio with a second-place finish in the Honey Jay. With no sprint stakes left in the state for males, trainer Richard Zielinski opted for a shot at Grade 3 competition in the \$250,000 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash at Laurel Park Sept. 21.

No one would fault owners Nancy Lavrich and Ronald Zielinski for saying "We was robbed!" after the 6-furlong affair. Regular rider Christian Pilares put Altissimo into the race's early running behind pacesetter Old Time Revival. After allowing the leader a 4-length lead Pilares went after him going three-wide in what looked like the winning move. Suddenly, Old Time Revival ducked out sharply from left-handed urging and impeded the rally of Altissimo. Killibegs Captain went inside, avoiding incident and held on by three-quarters of a length over a re-rallying Altissimo. The Grade 3 second-place earnings of \$50,000 pushed Altissimo's bankroll to \$689,388 and makes the 6-year-old gelding the horse to beat in "The Best of Ohio" Sprint.

OHIO MIXED SALE GRADUATE EDGE OF NIGHT CAPTURES \$75,000 EMERALD NECKLACE

She cost only \$6,500 at the Ohio Mixed Sale as a weanling and now the 2-year-old Edge of Night, who has never finished worse than second, is heading to

"The Best of Ohio" with \$90,000 in earnings from five trips to post. The bay daughter of Added Edge out of Cargo Jet, by Discreet Cat, was bred by Steve DeMaiolo, who earned Breeder of the Year honors last year. On behalf of Mast Thoroughbreds, trainer Robert Gorham put in the final bid at the Majestic Farm sale facility.

In her second start Edge of Night finished second to Valley of Mo'ara in the Miss Ohio Stakes at Thistledown. Her third outing saw her just miss to eventual stakes winner Moonlit Mission. She graduated from the maiden ranks as the odds-on choice at Thistledown Sept. 3. Her fan base showed up at the windows for the Oct. 5 Emerald Necklace, where accredited-breds were dashing 6 furlongs, and made her the 4-to-5 favorite.

She got the job done, but it was a nail-biting finish. After gaining a clear lead in mid-stretch jockey Christian Pilares had to let her know the race wasn't over and urged her to a tight victory in a photo finish. Rallying from mid-pack were longshots Cristalinda (31-1) and Succotash (25-1)—with two necks separating the top finishers. The final time was 1:13.88.

GRADED STAKES WINNER HEAVENHASMNIKKI ROMPS IN DIANA

You may not see her in "The Best of Ohio Distaff" but if you witnessed the \$75,000 Diana Stakes Oct. 5, you may have seen Heavenhasmynikki's final prep for the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita. In her last start back in May, Heavenhasmynikki went wire-to-wire in the 6½-furlong Grade 3 Vagrancy at Belmont Park. Hard to tell if her presence had an effect, but four trainers

scratched their horses out of the Diana, leaving a field of four in the gate.

Jose Bracho was chosen to pilot the prohibitive favorite and he just let the Bob Hess trainee follow the leaders until they hit the turn. After gaining the lead and es-

tablishing a clear distance, Bracho hand rode the striking chestnut filly to a 5¼ lead over Magna Rose at the wire, with Ali Blue back in third. The final time was 1:11.46. Bred by Langsem Farm Inc., Heavenhasmynikki is a daughter of Majes-

tic Warrior out of Floral Park, by Forest Wildcat, and was sold at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale in 2016 for \$150,000. Owned by Ron Paolucci Racing LLC, Heavenhasmynikki has now won eight of her 15 starts for \$423,730.



The last of an era. Chip Chop won first time out on October 14 for Langsem Farm and trainer Doug Cowans.

The Keeneland September Yearling Sale brought a smile to Peter Shepell and his team, and was met with mixed feelings by those connected with Langsem Farm. It's been almost three years since Ohio Thoroughbred owner and breeder Judy Klosterman succumbed to complications from Parkinson's disease. In passing, Klosterman left behind her husband, Ken, three children, and an ever-growing family. While initial plans were made to continue breeding following Klosterman's death in 2016, the family has decided to disperse the remaining stock, close to 30 horses, across the Keeneland September Yearling Sale and Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale.

A native of Fort Mitchell, Ky., who established Langsem in the late 1980s with her husband, Klosterman was named 1992 Ohio Breeder of the Year and 1999 Midwest region Breeder of the Year by the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. She bred and raced individually or in partnership two-time Ohio champion Naughty, along with stakes winners Crusie, Brushy Fork, Enticed, Heavenliness and Conjuress.

Her foundation mare, Haveaheavenly-time, was named the Ohio Broodmare of the Year and is present in many of the pedigrees of Langsem-bred horses. Klosterman also has the distinction of having sold the most expensive Ohio-bred in history, multiple stakes winner Unbridled Time, who was purchased by Bob and Beverly Lewis for \$1.15 million at the 1999 Keeneland September sale.

The Langsem sales topper at Keeneland was a chestnut colt from the first crop of champion sprinter Runhappy out of Floral Park, by Forest Wildcat. He is a half-brother to three stakes winners, most notably Grade 3 winner and multiple graded stakes-placed runner Heavenhasmynikki. He brought a final bid of \$230,000 by Martin Anthony.

The Klostermans have decided to keep a 2-year-old gelding by Twirling Candy out of Floral Park named Chip Chop, who will remain in training and race for the family. "That is the one horse that the kids will hold on to and finish out his career," said Scott. "The kids do enjoy racing, so they'll hold on to that for a little while."

Interestingly, Peter Shepell's top seller has influence from Langsem Farm. The third dam of his Kantharos filly that sold for \$170,000 to M & A Racing is Enticed, a multiple stakes winner trained by Jim Morgan and owned by Judy Klosterman, and a half sister to Heavenliness (\$343,760), Unbridled Time (\$341,889), Conjuress and Hiho Heaven.

The top Ohio yearling through the sale was a chestnut filly by Macho Uno out of Camielee by Ohio Horse of the Year Harlan's Holiday. Consigned by Cross Keys Sales LLC she brought a final bid of \$250,000 from Exclusive Equine Investments. You can filter Ohio-breds at the Keeneland September Sale at www.keeneland.com For full story on Langsem Dispersal written by Meredith Daugherty go to BloodHorse.com.

GALLOPING OUT: Ohio Stallion Indy Wind (A.P. Indy—Zagora, by Kingmambo) is making headlines in Canada through his daughter Starship Jubilee. She recently captured the Grade 1 \$600,000 E.P. Taylor Stakes at Woodbine after winning the Grade 2 Canadian. Canada's two-time champion turf mare, Starship Jubilee now has a bankroll of \$1,138,487. Indy Wind stands at Poplar Creek Horse Center in Bethel for \$2,000...Congratulations to trainer Gary Johnson who recently sent out his 1,500 winner at JACK Thistle-down. The now 61-year-old Johnson started working at the track when he was 16 and in addition to his wins, he has 1,372 seconds and 1,172 thirds from his 9,807 starters for purse earnings of nearly \$14.8 million. Johnson holds 28 training titles.

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