

TDN **Q&A**

Dr. Mark Dedomenico and prominent Canadian owner Glen Todd have joined forces for the second straight year to host the Pegasus Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale in Redmond, Washington, Feb. 7. *TDN's* Steve Sherack caught up with the influential cardiovascular surgeon and researcher to discuss the upcoming auction, the wild ride of campaigning champion **Blind Luck** (Pollard's Vision), his findings from a recent case study which included top runners Secret Gypsy (Sea of Secrets) and Victor's Cry (Street Cry {Ire}), and his new role as Chairman of the Thoroughbred Owners of California's Medication and Integrity Committee.



Dr. Mark Dedomenico
Benoit Photo

The Pegasus Two-Year-Old Sale isn't your typical auction with yourself and Mr. Todd partnering to buy yearlings for re-sale in an effort to help promote the sport in your part of the country and introduce new owners into the game. Can you further discuss why you've decided to create this sale?

Our whole mission here is to get some new owners into the business. Last year, we set up two syndicates with 20 people in each one, and that worked out really well. We also had some other buyers come out here and step up too, and that was nice.

If we don't keep getting new people into this sport to attend these sales, we're going to end up in a tough spot. We've got to do this right. All of our efforts are really just going toward that.

Did last year's inaugural sale meet your expectations?

In addition to the two partnerships that we set up, three groups up in Canada bought horses, too. There were some guys who came from out east that bought horses that I think the local partnerships would've liked to buy as well.

Last year you really made it well-known how much you stood behind each of the offerings by announcing that you were willing to pair up with any interested parties if they needed or wanted partners. Does the same offer stand for this year?

Absolutely--that's what this game is about.

You increased the catalogue from 22 to 30 for Tuesday's sale. Can you discuss the expansion?

Well, we sent [Pegasus Trainer/Director of Horse Operations] Mike Puhich and Glen Todd off to Kentucky [to shop the yearling sales] and that's what they came back with! [laughs]. What was I going to do? [laughs]. So there we are... All of them look great though and are doing *really* well.

Should we expect the Pegasus sale to continue to grow each year?

Well, if we can sell 30, next year I guess we'll do 35. The sales in Washington and Western Canada are down in terms of the number of horses that they are trying to sell. If this will help augment that and also help get people into this business, that's what we've got to do.

Last year's sale produced three stakes horses, including \$75,000 Ascot Graduation S. hero With Council (Lawyer Ron). What kind of feedback have you been getting so far?

Everybody in attendance seemed to have a good time and will all be coming back. If we can put a good product out there and get people to return, that's the name of the game.

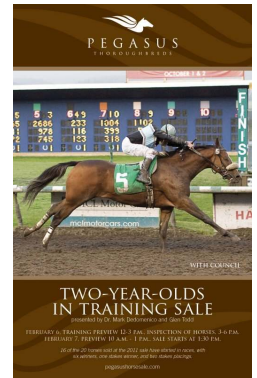
Blind Luck provided a lifetime of memories during her three seasons on the racetrack, including six Grade I victories and a pair of strong efforts in the Breeders' Cup. Is there a specific moment or race that sticks out?

Probably the Kentucky Oaks--I didn't think that she won it ([video](#)). To come from dead last around everybody and to catch it on the wire--it was just *amazing*. We were standing behind the finish line, so from our angle, it looked like she had lost.

Was there any chance that Blind Luck was going to return to the races after you bought out your partners at last year's Keeneland November Sale?

Her ankles were getting a little rough. When we brought her home after the sale [to the Pegasus Training and Equine Rehabilitation Center], we had her in the hyperbaric chamber and also swam her, and she's over that now. It's time for her to go off to the breeding shed. She's done everything that she could do.

You gave the fans a chance to meet Blind Luck at the Pegasus Center before shipping her to Kentucky for her date with Bernardini. How did the event go?



Blind Luck Adam Coglianesse

It went really great. She can be a little bit cantankerous and on the muscle at times, but she was very good that day. Everybody came out and got their pictures taken with her; it really was a fun day. We didn't realize that we had that many fans.

Pegasus is currently the site of four major equine research projects, including studies on knee injuries and osteoarthritis. Secret Gypsy and Victor's Cry were part of a case study group and both returned to perform at a very high level after undergoing surgery and the rehabilitation process at your facility. Any updates on your findings with Dr. Wayne McIlwraith?

There's no doubt that swimming, then aqua-treading them helps a lot. Because they're buoyed up in the water, what happens is that instead of favoring that joint, they're reaching out the full length of the leg and getting full extension. When they come out of there, they're not short-stepping or anything.

We don't seem to be having the problems that we did before when we were just leaving them in the stall and walking them. Some of the horses that were in the study where we put them in the pool and aqua-tred went back to win races right off the bat. We'll have something written up on that in hopefully the next six months. The results look very good so far.

You were selected as chairman of the Thoroughbred Owners of California's Medication and Integrity Committee last May. What have you been working on so far and what are some of your goals?

I just released a video advocating the use of Lasix that went out to 7,000 people. I'm all for it until we can find another answer.

You often race horses in partnership and are also very active setting up syndicates. What is your motivation to do so?

Once you get people into the business, some of them turn around and start buying horses on their own. They just have to learn how to get into this thing and be a part of it. If I'm in there with them, they feel more comfortable. If that's what it takes, that's what I'll do.

For more on Dr. Mark Dedomenico and the Pegasus Training and Equine Rehabilitation Center, click [here](#) for a TDN feature. For catalogues and breeze videos for the Pegasus Two-Year-Old Sale, visit www.pegasushorsesale.com.