

# Derby winner stands in Lone Star State

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By ANNE LANG

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Horse of the Year and champion 3-year-old male Spend a Buck has joined the Lone Star State's stallion ranks. Recently purchased from the Spend a Buck Syndicate by Houston attorney Weldon Granger, the grandson of Buckpasser now resides at McDermott Ranch, located in the rural Houston community of Waller. He joins fellow champion Smile in the ranch's stallion barn.

In eight starts at 2, Spend a Buck earned a paycheck every time with five victories that included the Grade 1 Arlington-Washington Futurity and the \$125,000 Cradle Stakes. He was runner-up in the Grade 1 Young America Stakes and Criterium Stakes, and pulled off a show finish in the inaugural Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (won by Chief's Crown). Spend a Buck wrapped up the season with earnings of nearly \$668,000.

In March of his sophomore year, Spend a Buck finished third in the Grade 2 Bay Shore Stakes (won by Pancho Villa, who now also stands in Texas). On April 6, he rebounded to win the \$250,000 Cherry Hill Mile in track-record time of 1:35 2/5. Two weeks later, he captured the \$300,000 Garden State Stakes, setting another track record - 1:45 4/5 for nine furlongs. And in the Triple Crown's first jewel, he beat Stephan's Odyssey, Chief's Crown and 10 others in 2:00 1/5, giving him the third-fastest Kentucky Derby time in history (after Secretariat and Northern Dancer).

But owner Dennis Diaz made a controversial decision to bypass the 1985 Preakness and Belmont Stakes, instead choosing a more lucrative gamble. That year, Garden State Park was offering a \$2 million bonus to the horse who could win the Cherry Hill Mile, Garden State Stakes, Kentucky Derby and Grade 3 Jersey Derby. Spend a Buck bested Creme Fraiche and El Basco in the mile and an eighth Jersey Derby on May 27, entitling his connections to \$2.6 million.

Later that summer, Spend a Buck



SPEND A BUCK: Takes up residence at McDermott Ranch near Houston.

visited the winner's circle in the Grade 1 Monmouth Handicap, in which he set a track record of 1:46 4/5 for nine furlongs. The colt was second to Skip Trial in the Grade 1 Haskell Invitational, and in 1986 - having amassed career earnings of more than \$4.2 million - he entered stud at Texan Will Farish's Lane's End Farm in Kentucky.

From six crops of racing age, Spend a Buck has sired 56 percent winners from foals, with average earnings of \$32,792 per starter. His progeny, which include five graded stakes winners and 12 black-type winners, have collected nearly \$6 million in the U.S. and abroad. Spend a Buck's chief earner remains 1991 Grade 3 Buckram Oak Handicap winner Cheerful Spree (out of Satan's Cheer, by Crimson Satan), who ran second in the Grade 3 Bewitch Stakes and won four additional added-money races for earnings of nearly \$300,000. She retired last year at 6.

Spend a Buck was bred by Dallas-area businessman Rowe Harper, who foaled and raised the colt at Harper's Irish Hill Farm in western

Kentucky. Harper sold Spend a Buck to Diaz in 1983 for \$12,500. He also sold the colt's dam, Belle de Jour (then in foal to Far Out East), to Diaz for \$62,500.

Spend a Buck's 1995 stud fee has been set at \$4,000.

□ Another recent addition to the Texas stallion roster is Grade 3 Aqueduct Handicap winner Fight Over, who moved from Florida's Hidden Point Farm to Heritage Ranch near Houston. The 13-year-old Fight Over, who also won the Roamer Handicap and Juvenile Stakes, ran third in the 1984 Preakness Stakes and Louisiana Derby. The son of Grey Dawn II earned a career total of \$257,778.

From six crops of racing age, Fight Over has sired 55 percent winners from foals, with average earnings of \$27,806 per starter. His runners have earned more than \$4.2 million and include chief earner Prize Fight, winner of this year's Grade 2 Razorback Handicap and Governor's Handicap.