
MAUK'S
TRAINING
PHILOSOPHY
PAYS OFF

Transy grad makes name
for himself at Turfway Park



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Fletcher Mauk might be the only trainer at The Thoroughbred Center who can talk about intellectuals like **Georg Hegel** and **Friedrich Nietzsche** — all while watching his horses train.

It goes with the territory. Mauk, 26, graduated from Transylvania University with a degree in philosophy, so he's familiar with these deep thinkers.

He's also a pretty good horse trainer. During December, he had a three-race win streak that broke before the month was out yet was great while it lasted.

And this was only Mauk's first year.

From his seven-horse stable he had two winners on the same program at Turfway Park Dec. 3: **Mauk Me** and **Kitty Carson**. The latter won again in December and now is under consideration for the \$50,000 Wishing Well Stakes at Turfway Jan. 10.

When the win streak broke, Mauk tried to take it — well, philosophically.

"It was exciting, that's for sure," he said. "It makes the eight losses before it seem not so bad."

That's the way of the race-track: up today; down tomorrow. Mauk had no idea he'd be training horses for a living when he sat in the classroom at Transylvania.

"When I graduated, I didn't know what I wanted to do," he said. He went to work for his father, **Bill Mauk**, whose business called Mauk Equine Brokerage is buying and selling horses. The job was a life-changing experience.

Mauk had often gone to the races on Saturdays with his father but working with him in the horse business was entirely different.

Now instead of just watching races he was studying pedigrees and learning how to "look at," or judge, the quality of yearlings.

"I fell in love with it," Mauk said.

First off, he sold his 1984 truck in 1999 to buy a yearling for \$5,000, hoping to pinhook (re-sell) the young horse at a profit.

"I ended up losing on him," Mauk said. Still, he persevered as any horseman will.

Mauk's father tells how his son later went to California to work for **Bruce Headley** at the racetrack, learning that phase of the business. Last January, he opened his own stable at the Thoroughbred Center on Paris Pike.

All but one of the horses Fletcher Mauk currently is training are owned by the family's Mauk One Stable. Kitty Carson is the exception. She's raced by Mauk's mother and stepfather, **Linda** and **Dr. Ben Roach** of Midway.

The 4-year-old filly is a daughter of **Carson City**, out of a **Storm Cat** mare, and was a gift to Ben Roach from **Marylou Whitney**, according to Mauk. Whitney presented her gift before the filly had raced.

"He's her friend and her physician," Fletcher Mauk said, "so I guess it was a thank-you gift for a lot of good years."

All other horses in the stable are for sale, which is the practice of the Mauk father-and-son pinhooking business. As a marketing tool, they name all their horses to include the word "Mauk."

There's **Mauk Place** and **Mauk One Eye** (a one-eyed filly), **Mauk Town**, **Deputy Mauk** and **Mauk Hawk**.

The two also have a colt with **Dale Romans**, called **Tap**

Dancing Mauk, who might race in the Holy Bull Stakes at Gulfstream Park Jan. 17.

Fletcher Mauk has a brother, **Travis Mauk**, 27, who also graduated from Transy and with a degree in biology, who's now an aspiring actor in California. He's had roles in *General Hospital* and the movie, *Phone Booth*.

It's tough to say which brother is in the more difficult business. The movie business and horse business both are tough places to become a success.

Fletcher, however, might be on his way.

"I hope to get back on that winning streak soon," he said.