

= Oxbow (horse) =

Oxbow (foaled March 26 , 2010) , an American Thoroughbred racehorse , is best known for winning the second jewel in the United States Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing , the 2013 Preakness Stakes . A bay colt , sired by a winner of the Breeders ' Cup Classic and out of a full sister to another Breeders ' Cup Classic winner , Oxbow was sold as a yearling at Keeneland for \$ 250 @, @ 000 and is owned by Brad Kelley of Calumet Farm . He was trained by D. Wayne Lukas and was ridden in his Triple Crown races by Gary Stevens .

Oxbow had a reputation as a front @-@ runner who was difficult to rate during his races . Plagued with frequent turnover in jockeys prior to the Triple Crown series , and often running from poor starting gate post positions , he had only two wins prior to his victory in the Preakness . That success was Calumet Farm 's first win in a Triple Crown race in 45 years and breeder Richard Santulli 's first win in a Triple Crown classic race . It also was Stevens ' first Triple Crown win since 2001 , following his return to riding in early 2013 after a seven @-@ year retirement , and Lukas ' first Triple Crown win since 2000 .

Oxbow 's second @-@ place finish in the Belmont Stakes in June made him the third horse that year to reach \$ 1 million in purse wins . Following the Belmont , he was ranked the top three @-@ year @-@ old racehorse in the United States by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) . He was pulled up shortly after finishing fourth in the Haskell Invitational , and was found to have suffered a soft tissue injury , was taken out of competition for the remainder of his three @-@ year @-@ old season , and retired in October 2013 . He stands at stud for the 2015 breeding season at Calumet Farms .

= = Background = =

Oxbow is a bay horse , marked with an irregularly shaped white star on his forehead and white on his lower lip . He is 16 hands (64 inches , 163 cm) tall . Oxbow was bred by Richard Santulli 's New Jersey @-@ based Colts Neck Stables , and foaled in Kentucky at Burleson Farms . His sire is 1998 Breeders ' Cup Classic winner Awesome Again , and his dam is Tizamazing , an unraced full sister to the two @-@ time Breeders ' Cup Classic winner Tiznow . Oxbow 's win in the Preakness Stakes was the first win in a Triple Crown classic race for Santulli 's breeding program .

As a yearling , Oxbow was sent to the Keeneland sales , where he was purchased for \$ 250 @, @ 000 by bloodstock agent Eddie Kane , acting on behalf of Brad M. Kelley 's Bluegrass Hall . In 2012 , the Calumet Investment Group bought Calumet Farm and leased it to Kelley , who moved his Bluegrass Hall racing operation and 200 horses from his Hurricane Hill farm to the historic Calumet property in early 2013 . Prior to 2013 , Calumet Farm had not had a winning horse in a Triple Crown race since 1968 .

Although officially registered with The Jockey Club as a bay , Oxbow has white hairs scattered throughout his coat , therefore his trainer , D. Wayne Lukas , describes him as a roan . Oxbow was listed as " gray / roan " when he was sold as a yearling at Keeneland .

= = Early racing career = =

= = = 2012 : Two @-@ year @-@ old season = = =

Oxbow 's racing career began on August 3 , 2012 , at Saratoga Race Course in an \$ 80 @, @ 000 maiden race at 5 @.@ 5 furlongs (0 @.@ 7 mi ; 1 @.@ 1 km) under jockey Junior Alvarado . Listed at odds of 22 ? 1 , he was slow out of the gate and in sixth early on . He took an awkward step going into the turn , and as a result , his jockey pulled him up and he was taken off the track in a horse ambulance . In October , Oxbow was given another chance in a \$ 50 @, @ 000 maiden race at 7 furlongs (0 @.@ 9 mi ; 1 @.@ 4 km) at Keeneland Race Course . At 11 ? 1 under jockey Jon Court , he broke sharply and led the field at the quarter @-@ mile post . At the top of the

homestretch he was caught by Winning Cause , and ultimately finished fourth with a speed figure of 73 . On October 31 , he ran in another \$ 50 @, @ 000 maiden race at seven furlongs at Lukas ' home track , Churchill Downs . At 17 ? 1 under jockey Terry Thompson , Oxbow came out of the gate ninth , but as in his previous race , had the lead by the quarter @-@ mile post . He ultimately placed third , with an improved speed figure of 85 .

Oxbow 's first win was a month later on the undercard of the Clark Handicap , in another \$ 50 @, @ 000 maiden race at Churchill Downs . He went off as the 2 ? 1 favorite in a race of 7 furlongs (0 @. @ 9 mi ; 1 @. @ 4 km) with jockey Joe Rocco . He started from the far outside at the tenth post position and broke from the gate in seventh but jumped out to the lead within a few strides and led going into the turn by a half length . Oxbow increased his lead throughout the race and won by almost five lengths , earning a 90 speed figure .

After Oxbow 's maiden win , he was flown to Hollywood Park in California to run in the Grade I CashCall Futurity at a mile and one @-@ sixteenth (1 @, @ 700 m) on a synthetic surface . He was the longest shot in the field at 61 ? 1 , and drew the far outside post at number eleven . Ridden by Corey Nakatani , his fifth jockey in five races , Oxbow broke well coming out the gate . He ran close to the front throughout the race , despite losing ground by being four horses wide around the first turn and three wide around the final turn . Oxbow finished fourth , nine lengths back , but earned his first Road to the Kentucky Derby point , and a speed figure of 87 .

== = 2013 : Three @-@ year @-@ old season == =

Oxbow was moved with the rest of Lukas ' horses to winter headquarters at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs , Arkansas . He started his Triple Crown prep season on January 19 , 2013 , with a win at the Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans in the mile and 70 @-@ yard (1 @, @ 672 m) Grade III Lecomte Stakes . Ridden for the second time by Jon Court , he went off as the fourth choice at 5 ? 1 and had a favorable number four post position . He came out of the gate quickly and was the front @-@ runner throughout the race . At the top of the homestretch , he was only a half length in front of the field , but then he drew away and won by more than eleven and a half lengths . Horses he beat that day included Golden Soul , who later placed second in the Kentucky Derby , and I 've Struck a Nerve , who Oxbow faced again later in the Risen Star Stakes . He earned a speed figure of 94 and an additional ten points towards qualification for the Derby . That month , Lukas also contacted veteran Hall of Fame jockey Gary Stevens , who had just returned to racing after a seven @-@ year retirement , and discussed having Stevens ride Oxbow in future races .

Five weeks later , Oxbow was entered in the Grade II mile and one @-@ sixteenth (1 @, @ 700 m) Risen Star Stakes . Ridden for the third time by Jon Court , Oxbow was assigned the far outside post at number ten , and was the second favorite at 4 ? 1 . He broke fifth from the gate , moved to third passing the stands , but lost ground by being five horses wide around the first turn . In the stretch , Oxbow took the lead but could not hold it and finished fourth , although he and the three top @-@ placed horses all ended the race within a length and a half of each other in a blanket finish . The winner was I 've Struck a Nerve , at odds of 135 ? 1 . Oxbow again progressed in performance , earning a speed figure of 98 and five more points toward Derby qualification .

Three weeks later , Lukas entered Oxbow in Oaklawn Park 's key preparatory race for the Arkansas Derby , the Grade II Rebel Stakes . For the fourth time in five races , Oxbow started on the far outside at post ten . He went off as the favorite for the second time in his career , at 4 ? 1 . Lukas switched Jon Court to ride stablemate Will Take Charge , and Oxbow was given yet another jockey , Mike Smith . Oxbow was third out of the gate . He took the lead down the backstretch and stayed in front until the end of the race where he was narrowly defeated by Will Take Charge . Oxbow lost by half a head , but earned his first triple @-@ digit speed figure at 101 , along with 20 Derby qualification points . After the Rebel Stakes , Oxbow was ranked as one of the top ten horses in some Triple Crown pre @-@ race polls , and secured eligibility to run in the Derby with 36 points .

Four weeks after the Rebel , Oxbow entered his last preparatory race before the Triple Crown campaign , the Grade I Arkansas Derby , held on April 13 . This race marked the first time Oxbow was ridden by 50 @-@ year @-@ old Stevens , who was Oxbow 's seventh jockey in nine races .

The horse was the favorite at 3 ? 1 , but once again drew an unfavorable , far @-@ outside post at ten . Oxbow came out ninth at the break and was almost seven lengths behind the leader at the start . He had developed a reputation for running in front and wearing out his exercise riders , so Stevens unsuccessfully attempted to rate Oxbow and make him run off the pace , behind other horses . Oxbow , described by observers as " very rank " , and by Stevens as " pissed off ... [and] upset with me that he didn 't get the running style he wanted " , was tossing his head and fighting Stevens into the clubhouse turn . After running last at one point in the race , Oxbow improved his position and finished fifth , less than a length behind second @-@ place Frac Daddy . Oxbow earned a speed figure of 90 , the same as in his maiden win . Stevens viewed his attempt to make Oxbow run off the pace as a mistake . " It just turned out to be a nightmare trip and I take full (responsibility) for that " , he said . Lukas agreed , stating , " That will not be in [Stevens '] grandchildren 's highlight film " .

= = Triple Crown Series = =

= = = Kentucky Derby = = =

Oxbow ran in the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs as a 25 ? 1 long shot , ridden by Stevens , who had been on Oxbow in workouts since the Arkansas Derby , and as Lukas said , had " gotten to know the horse a little better throughout the last two weeks " . Following the scratch of Black Onyx in post position one , Oxbow had the inside number two post in the field of 19 starters and was closest to the rail . His position was further complicated by being next to Revolutionary with jockey Calvin Borel at number three . Between the size of the field and Borel 's well @-@ known preference for riding the rail , Oxbow had to use his speed early to get out front and avoid being pushed into the rail or being hemmed in behind traffic . He broke fifth and was soon close to leader Palace Malice , who ran the second fastest initial quarter- and half @-@ miles in Derby history , a pace described as " suicidal " . Oxbow maintained his position near the front , and at the top of the homestretch passed the tired @-@ out speed horses to lead the race for a sixteenth of a mile . He then faded and finished in sixth place , six lengths behind winner Orb , though his performance was still viewed as " respectable " and " promising " . Oxbow earned a speed figure of 101 , the same as he had in the Rebel , and observers noted that he was the only horse that ran near the front of the pack in the opening half @-@ mile to also finish in the top six ; none of the other horses out front early finished better than twelfth .

= = = Preakness Stakes = = =

Oxbow next went to Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore to run in the 2013 Preakness Stakes . In the week prior to the race , he had another workout with Stevens , who stated that it was the " first time [Oxbow] had listened to me " , later amending his comments to say , " maybe it 's the first time I 've listened to him . "

Oxbow drew a favorable spot in the gate at post position six , his first good draw since his win in the Lecomte , and kept the same rider for three straight races for the first time in his career . At the start of the race , Will Take Charge veered in and brushed Oxbow , who broke third but took the lead within a few strides and soon led by one and a half lengths . Once in front , Stevens got Oxbow to relax , and they ran the first quarter @-@ mile in 0 : 23 @.@ 94 , the half mile in 0 : 48 @.@ 60 , and three @-@ quarters at 1 : 13 : 26 . Despite the modest pace , what one sportswriter called " lullaby fractions " , described by Stevens as " just walking the dog " , the colt was one and a half lengths in front at the three @-@ quarter @-@ mile mark .

Although Steven said the horse " rated himself " , sportswriters speculated that once in front , the experienced Stevens had slowed the pace , leaving Oxbow with enough reserves for the final push . Turning for home , Oxbow " exploded off the turn " and led by three lengths . Never seriously challenged , he recorded a 15 ? 1 upset victory by one and three quarter lengths in front of runner

@-@ up Itsmyluckyday . Mylute finished third and Derby champion Orb was fourth . Oxbow earned a career @-@ high speed figure of 112 , which was higher than Orb 's had been in the Derby . In post @-@ race interviews , Stevens said , " His mind was right " , " when I hit the half @-@ mile pole ... The race was over at that point " , and " [t] hey gave me a free three @-@ quarters of a mile today . " Stevens later tweeted that Oxbow was the " most intelligent horse I have ever ridden " . He noted the horse was not particularly tired after the race and described him as a " happy horse " in the winner 's circle . Lukas said , " He never even broke a sweat . " The victory was 77 @-@ year @-@ old Lukas ' sixth career Preakness win and his 14th Triple Crown win , surpassing the record of " Sunny Jim " Fitzsimmons . It was Lukas ' first win in any Triple Crown race since Commendable won the Belmont Stakes in 2000 . Oxbow 's success was Stevens ' third career Preakness win and his ninth Triple Crown win , but the first since winning the Preakness and Belmont on Point Given in 2001 .

= = = Belmont Stakes = = =

Fourteen horses started at the 2013 Belmont Stakes . Oxbow drew the number seven post position , with rival Orb at post five . There were concerns about Stevens ' fitness as he had missed races after being thrown from a horse the previous week , but medical tests showed no sign of injury . Oxbow was the third favorite at 5 ? 1 on the morning line , but by race time his odds were at 10 ? 1 .

In the race Oxbow broke third out of the gate and settled behind pacesetters Frac Daddy and Freedom Child , completing a quarter mile in 23 seconds . As usual , Oxbow wanted to run close to the front , Stevens knew better than to fight with him , and so , as in the Derby , horse and rider once again chased the speed horses at fractions described as " suicidal " . At the half @-@ mile pole Oxbow was a neck off the leader , who clocked at 0 : 46 @-@ 66 , and on the backstretch , Oxbow went to the front , reaching the three @-@ quarter mile mark at 1 : 10 @-@ 95 , running the second fastest half- and three @-@ quarter mile fractions at that point in the race since Secretariat 's 1973 record @-@ setting performance . Oxbow was still in front by a half length at the mile post . At the top of the homestretch , Palace Malice and Oxbow were nose and nose but Oxbow tired , and finished second by three lengths to Palace Malice with Kentucky Derby winner Orb third , 1 3 ? 4 lengths behind Oxbow . His speed figure for the Belmont was 98 , the same as in the Risen Star Stakes .

The second @-@ place finish in the Belmont earned Oxbow \$ 200 @-@ 000 and pushed him over the \$ 1 million mark in career earnings , making him the third horse in 2013 to reach \$ 1 million in purse wins , behind Orb and a fellow Awesome Again son , the six @-@ year @-@ old gelding Game On Dude . Although the \$ 1 million bonus for the horse winning the highest combined Triple Crown points has long been discontinued , Oxbow would have won it over Orb owing to his win in the Preakness and second in the Belmont . Further , his placing in the Belmont put him at number one in the post @-@ Belmont June 10 NTRA poll of top three @-@ year @-@ olds , and in the top ten for race horses of all ages .

= = Remainder of season = =

Oxbow came out of the Belmont feeling good , or as Lukas put it , " full of himself . " He returned to Churchill Downs , and resumed scheduled workouts sooner than usual . Lukas then shipped Oxbow to Saratoga to prepare him to run in the Grade I , \$ 1 million Haskell Invitational on July 28 , 2013 , with sportswriters hoping to see him meet up again with Orb and Palace Malice in the Travers Stakes later in the summer . In an attempt to get Oxbow past what had been described as his " one @-@ dimensional " front @-@ running style , Lukas turned to a training regimen at Saratoga where the horse had no clocked workouts , but instead was conditioned by jogging and galloping clockwise (the " wrong way ") on the training track for long one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half to two @-@ mile trips each time out .

Oxbow drew post position five for the Haskell , carried the highest weight at 122 pounds , and was

the second favorite in the race behind Verrazano . Leading for the early part of the race , Oxbow was challenged for the lead by Verrazano at the three @-@ quarter @-@ mile marker , then weakened and finished fourth , earning another \$ 60 @,@ 000 . Stevens felt something was wrong with Oxbow at the half @-@ mile pole , later saying the horse " didn ? t feel like he did in any of the Triple Crown races " , and Lukas stated the jockey " kind of held " Oxbow from that point on . Oxbow was pulled up soon after crossing the finish line , then his rider jumped off and removed the saddle when Oxbow failed to jog sound on the track . The horse walked back to the barn without obvious sign of injury , and radiographs of his right front ankle revealed no fracture , but he did have a soft tissue injury to the area , described as a " sprain " . Of Oxbow 's overall health , Lukas commented , " he had a pretty set of X @-@ rays . It 's amazing . For a horse with that many [starts] , they were really clean . " Nonetheless , as a result of the soft tissue injury , Oxbow was taken out of races for the duration of the summer , and after three weeks of hand @-@ walking at Saratoga was shipped home to Calumet in mid @-@ August , with an announcement that he was not anticipated to run again in 2013 . Lukas said : " He 's been a warrior and a hell of a nice horse for us and I don 't want to do anything to jeopardize his future down the line . " On October 25 , 2013 , Calumet Farm announced the decision to retire Oxbow . Combined with his winnings in his two @-@ year @-@ old season , his lifetime race earnings were \$ 1 @,@ 243 @,@ 500 . He stood at stud for the 2014 breeding season at Taylor Made Stallions in Lexington , Kentucky , for an introductory stud fee of \$ 20 @,@ 000 . He closed out the year ranked 17th in earnings with \$ 1 @,@ 146 @,@ 000 won in 2013 . For the 2015 season he moves to Calumet Farms , where he joins seven other stallions , including English Channel , who sired 2014 Travers Stakes winner V.E. Day .

= = Racing statistics = =

= = Pedigree = =

Oxbow was sired by the Canadian @-@ bred Awesome Again , winner of the 1998 Breeders ' Cup Classic . At stud , Awesome Again has sired many stakes winners , including Paynter , who placed second in the 2012 Belmont Stakes and won the 2012 Haskell Invitational ; Ghostzapper , who was 2004 American Horse of the Year and a 2004 Breeders ' Cup winner ; and Game On Dude , two @-@ time winner of the Santa Anita Handicap . Oxbow is almost a full brother to Paynter ; the two horses are out of full sisters . Oxbow 's older full brother , Awesome Patriot , won the 2011 Alydar Stakes . Oxbow 's younger full brother , Expect a Lot , is in race training . Oxbow 's dam Tizamazing was bred back to Awesome Again in 2013 , and in June 2013 was confirmed to be in foal .

Tizamazing is a full sister to Tiznow , who was 2000 American Horse of the Year and won the Breeders ' Cup Classic twice . Tizamazing sold for \$ 1 million at Keeneland as a yearling , but owing to a training injury she never raced . Tizamazing 's dam , Cee 's Song , is credited with raising the respect breeders have for her female breeding line , Thoroughbred family 26 , as one of the top distaff lines in America . Five full siblings out of Cee 's Song were either race winners or the dams of race winners : Tiznow , Tizbud and Tizdubai are all stakes winners , Oxbow 's dam Tizamazing and Paynter 's dam Tizso both produced stakes winners . Another offspring of Cee 's Song , the gelding Budroyale , was second in the 1999 Breeders ' Cup Classic . Oxbow 's pedigree is outcrossed for four generations , with very little inbreeding . Oxbow is only inbred 4x5x5 to Northern Dancer , meaning that this horse appears once in the fourth and twice in the fifth generation of Oxbow 's pedigree .