

= Beholder (horse) =

Beholder (foaled May 9 , 2010) is an American Thoroughbred racehorse . She was purchased as a yearling by B. Wayne Hughes of Spendthrift Farm . With an early reputation for being difficult to handle , trainer Richard Mandella worked extensively with the fractious young horse , gradually developing her from a temperamental front @-@ runner into a seasoned veteran who could be placed in a strategic position to best beat her competition .

As a two @-@ year @-@ old in 2012 , she won three of her five races including the Breeders ' Cup Juvenile Fillies and was voted American Champion Two @-@ Year @-@ Old Filly . In the following season she won five of her seven races , including the Breeders ' Cup Distaff . With the Breeders ' Cup win , she became the first horse to win both the Breeders ' Cup Juvenile Fillies and the Distaff in consecutive years , and concluded her three @-@ year old season by being named American Champion Three @-@ Year @-@ Old Filly . After a four @-@ year @-@ old season plagued by injuries and illness , with a single graded stakes win in three attempts , she returned to form as a five @-@ year @-@ old , with multiple stakes wins and becoming the first filly or mare to win the Pacific Classic and was voted American Champion Older Dirt Female Horse . In doing so , she became the first horse since 1976 , male or female , to win Grade 1 stakes races at age 2 , 3 , 4 and 5 . In 2016 , she extended this achievement by winning the Grade 1 Vanity Stakes .

= = Background = =

Beholder is a bay mare with no white markings , bred by the Clarkland Farm in Lexington , Kentucky . She was sired by Henny Hughes , a sprinter whose biggest wins came in the King 's Bishop Stakes and Vosburgh Stakes in 2006 . Beholder 's dam , Leslie 's Lady , was a descendant of the broodmare Last Bird , making her a distant relative of the Kentucky Derby winner I 'll Have Another . Leslie 's Lady won five races out of 28 starts , including the listed Hoosier Debutante Stakes in 1998 . Beholder 's older half @-@ brother , Into Mischief (sired by Harlan 's Holiday) , won the 2007 CashCall Futurity and the 2008 Damascus Stakes .

As a yearling , Beholder was consigned by the Clarkland Farm to the sale at Keeneland in September 2011 , where she was bought for \$ 180 @,@ 000 by B. Wayne Hughes ' Spendthrift Farm . At age two , the filly was sent into training with the California @-@ based trainer Richard Mandella .

Beholder initially developed a reputation as a " temperamental diva . " As a young filly , she was prone to rearing when she got upset , but later turned to bucking . But the people who worked with her every day viewed her differently ; her exercise rider in 2013 , David Nuesch , described her as " straightforward " , explaining , " she kind of likes it to be her idea and doesn 't want to be told too much what to do . " Her groom , Ruben Mercado , said she was a " little angel " in the stables , but " all business " on the track . Mandella used earplugs and a hood with ear coverings (colloquially called " earmuffs ") to help keep her focused . At one point , he even tried giving her ear buds , but the sound upset her even more . Mandella was described as the " perfect " trainer for her , as he was willing to try different training techniques to keep her from getting in her own way , took the time to figure out her quirks , and learned to anticipate her behavior . The bond and depth of communication between trainer and horse was noted in the press . Mandella 's son Gary described Beholder as having an " Alpha Male perspective , " explaining " She ? s actually dominant , bullyish and head strong . She ? s not quirky because she ? s worried that something is lurking around the corner . The things that she does that are hard to manage are because she ? s tougher than you . ?

As she aged , her behavior improved and she began to behave like a seasoned veteran . Mandella himself gave credit to the horse : " I ? d say she brought me along . I haven ? t brought her along . I ? ve just been along for the ride . " By her six @-@ year @-@ old season , following her 17th career win , which was also her sixth consecutive victory , Mandella said of Beholder , " ? Good horses come along , and there are a few great ones , but to be great and stay great , it really is special . ?

= = Racing career = =

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

Beholder was ridden in all her two @-@ year @-@ old races by Garrett Gomez . She began her racing career by finishing fourth behind Executiveprivilege in a maiden race on the Cushion Track at Hollywood Park Racetrack on June 28 . A month later she recorded her first win in a maiden race at Del Mar racetrack , beating Fanticola by 3 1 ? 4 lengths . On September 2 she was moved up to Grade I class for the Del Mar Debutante Stakes over seven furlongs . Starting at odds of 8 @.@ 1 ? 1 she hit the starting gate but took an early lead , leading by 2 1 ? 2 lengths in homestretch but was caught by Executiveprivilege at the finish line and was beaten a nose . Beholder moved to Santa Anita Park in October . Because she remained keyed up after the previous race and upset by the stress from shipping , Mandella chose to put her in an easier race than a Grade I to see if she would settle down enough to contest the Breeders ' Cup later in the year . She was entered into a six furlong allowance race and won by eleven lengths despite being eased in the closing stages . On November 2 at Santa Anita , Beholder was one of eight fillies to contest the Breeders ' Cup Juvenile Fillies over one mile . She was the 9 ? 2 joint second choice in the betting behind Executiveprivilege , who was made the 13 ? 8 favourite . Beholder took the lead from the start and broke clear of the field to open up a three length advantage on the final turn . She held off the late challenge of Executiveprivilege to win by a length .

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

Beholder began her three @-@ year @-@ old season in the Grade II Santa Ynez Stakes over seven furlongs at Santa Anita on January 21 . She started the 1 ? 5 favorite but was beaten three @-@ quarters of a length by Renee 's Titan . An explanation for her poor performance emerged a week later when an examination revealed an ulcer in the filly 's throat . At the same course on March 2 , Beholder started 4 ? 5 favorite for the Grade I Las Virgenes Stakes over one mile . She led from the start and was never seriously challenged , winning by 3 3 ? 4 lengths from Fiftyshadesofhay . Beholder 's next race was the Grade I Santa Anita Oaks on April 6 , for which she started the 3 ? 10 favorite . Despite an unfavorable draw , she quickly went into the lead and went clear of the field in the straight to win by 2 3 ? 4 lengths from lotapa . Mandella described the winner as having " the heart of a warrior " . Throughout her spring campaign , she continued to be ridden by Gomez .

In the Kentucky Oaks on May 3 at Churchill Downs , Beholder started at odds of 9 ? 1 in a field of ten fillies , with the Gulfstream Oaks winner Dreaming of Julia being made the 6 ? 4 favorite . It was the first time she had been shipped outside of California . Beholder tracked the leader Midnight Lucky before moving into the lead in the homestretch but was overtaken in the closing stages by the 39 ? 1 outsider Princess of Sylmar and finished second , beaten by half a length . Her loss was attributed in part to her behavior in the post parade . Without her training earmuffs , she was anxious and upset by the crowd noise , fought to get away from the track pony that was leading her to the gate , and partially fell down , forcing Gomez to jump off . Sportswriters described her as " angry " and adrenaline @-@ filled , while Mandella described her as " rattled . " After the race , Gomez speculated that if Princess of Sylmar had been closer as she passed , instead of well to the outside , Beholder 's fighting instincts still might have been enough to have held out for the victory . However , he also commented at the time that she relied on speed to win , and if she was slowed down , she had difficulty regaining momentum .

After a break of almost four months , Beholder returned in the Torrey Pines Stakes over one mile at Del Mar on September 1 , where she was ridden for the first time by Gary Stevens . She started the 1 ? 10 favorite and led all the way , winning easily from second @-@ place finisher Wittgenstein . Four weeks later , Beholder was matched against older fillies and mares in the Grade I Zenyatta Stakes over eight and a half furlongs at Santa Anita . She led from the start and won easily , with the six @-@ year @-@ old veteran Authenticity in second . Mandella called the winner " a filly that really likes the fight " while Stevens said that " I haven 't gotten close to the bottom of her yet " . On

November 1 , Beholder contested the Breeders ' Cup Distaff over nine furlongs at Santa Anita . The field was a very strong one , including Royal Delta who had won the race for the last two years , Princess of Sylmar , Authenticity and Close Hatches . Although Beholder showed some anxiety in the starting gate , she had a clean start . Mandella had been training Beholder so that instead of always being a front @-@ runner , she could be rated behind other horses and conserve energy . His strategy was a success as Beholder tracked the leaders before moving up into second place half a mile from the finish . She took the lead two furlongs out and went clear of the field to win easily by 4 1 ? 4 lengths over Close Hatches , with Royal Delta fourth and Princess of Sylmar last of the six runners . After the race Mandella said " I ? ve been lucky enough to have many good mares in my years of training , but this mare might have to be the best of all " . With her Distaff win , she became the first horse to win both the Breeders ' Cup Juvenile Fillies and the Distaff in consecutive years .

= = = 2014 : four @-@ year @-@ old season = = =

Beholder ran only three races in 2014 . She began her third season in the Santa Lucia Stakes at Santa Anita on April 21 . Conceding six pounds to her opponents , she started at odds of 1 ? 10 and won by more than five lengths over Legacy . The filly returned to Grade I competition at the Ogden Phipps Stakes at Belmont on June 7 . It was only the second time she had been shipped to race outside California , the only prior trip having been the Kentucky Oaks . Beholder went off as the favorite ahead of Princess of Sylmar and Close Hatches . She raced on the outside and moved up to third on the final turn but could make no further progress and finished fourth behind winner , Close Hatches . | She had sustained an injury during that race , and after returning to training , split the wound site open again during a workout , requiring stitches and missing additional training time . Nonetheless , on September 27 , with Mike Smith riding her for the first time , she won the Zenyatta Stakes for a second time , winning by 3 ? 4 of a length over Tiz Midnight and Lotapa . She was viewed as not at her peak fitness , but progressing well in spite of the delays in training linked to her injury .

Beholder was prepared to defend her Breeders ' Cup Distaff title , and was also consigned to be sold at the 2014 Fasig @-@ Tipton fall sale immediately after . Plans changed when she was found to be running a 104 ° F fever after exercising on October 19 . She was scratched from both the race and the sale , and owner Hughes decided that after she recovered from her illness , she would not be sold , but instead would stay in training and return to racing in 2015 .

= = = 2015 : five @-@ year @-@ old season = = =

For the second year in a row , Beholder took the Santa Lucia Stakes , run at a distance of 1 1 ? 16 miles (1 @,@ 700 m) on April 10 , 2015 . With Stevens returning as her rider , she tracked Uzziel until pulling easily away for a 3 3 ? 4 length win . " The game was pretty much over going into the first turn and it was sort of a glorified workout , which is something you hope for in a race like this , " Stevens said . " She 's the best filly I 've ever sat on and I 'm not sure she 's not the best horse I 've ever ridden . "

After missing the Grade 1 Vanity Stakes and an anticipated match @-@ up with improving Warren 's Veneda in May due to a fever similar to that which prevented her from competing in the 2014 Breeders ' Cup Distaff , Beholder was given time off . She returned in the Grade III Adoration Stakes on June 13 , where she defeated Warren 's Veneda by a comfortable 1 1 ? 4 lengths in 1 : 41 @.@ 67 . Beholder followed up with an easy win in the Grade I Clement L. Hirsch Stakes , winning by 7 lengths , without being touched with the whip . Her behavior had markedly improved as she matured , with Stevens commenting , " she went from being a cantankerous kid to a laid @-@ back grandma . " With that victory , she became the first horse since 1976 , male or female , to win Grade I stakes races at ages 2 , 3 , 4 and 5 . While other horses had won Grade I stakes four years in a row , she was notable for being the only horse to have done so beginning at age two .

On August 22 , 2015 , Beholder became the first filly or mare to win the Grade I Pacific Classic against males . She won by 8 1 ? 4 lengths with a final time of 1 : 59 @.@ 77 , against an otherwise

all @-@ male field of nine other horses , including 2014 Breeders ' Cup Classic winner Bayern . She won in the third @-@ fastest winning time in the history of the race , and with the second @-@ largest margin of victory , behind the 2013 win of Game On Dude . Hughes said : ? She ? s the first horse who has made me feel lucky to be her owner . ? Mandella quipped , " We didn ? t think she would do it quite like that . We thought it was the girls she was picking on . ? and added later , " I think the boys pissed her off . I think they were telling sexist jokes on the backside . " After the race , her connections announced that she would train with the goal of running in the Breeders ' Cup Classic . They also suggested that she might race again in 2016 and that upon retirement , Hughes would be likely to keep her at his Spendthrift Farm and not offer her for sale .

In her last race of 2015 , she won the Zenyatta Stakes for the third time , stalking the pace until taking the lead in the homestretch , easily winning in a field of eight by 3 1 ? 2 lengths . As she prepared for her next race , the 2015 Breeders ' Cup Classic , the biggest challenge was anticipated to be her reaction to travel ; she had only raced twice outside of California , losing both times , and was known to be a poor shipper . With the 2015 Breeders ' Cup races held at Keeneland , and weather causing difficulties for shipping horses by air , Mandella nonetheless declared , " We plan to run in the big one . ? She shipped to Keeneland on October 19 and developed a slight fever shortly after arrival , thought due to shipping stress , but the fever dropped following treatment and she continued to prep for the race . But on the morning of 29 October , Beholder was sent out for a gallop at the Keeneland training track , and examination after the race revealed that she had bled . She was scratched from the Classic . Mandella explained , " there 's obviously some irritated lung tissue there . She will be fine , but if I put her under the pressure of a race situation , it could cause some real damage . This was obviously due to the fever she had when she arrived " .

= = = 2016 : six @-@ year @-@ old season = = =

In her 2016 debut , Stevens was once again in the saddle , and Beholder won the Adoration Stakes for the second time in succession at Santa Anita Park on May 8th , the day after the 2016 Kentucky Derby . This was her seventh straight victory in 16 wins overall ; 14 of her wins have been stakes wins . On 4 June Beholder appeared to be facing a much sterner task when she took on the 2015 American Champion three @-@ year @-@ old filly Stellar Wind in the Grade I Vanity Mile at Santa Anita . In a slowly @-@ run race Stevens tracked the early leader Lost Bus before taking the lead on the turn and winning " effortlessly " by one and a half lengths from Stellar Wind .

= = Assessment and honors = =

Beholder was named American Champion Two @-@ Year @-@ Old Filly at the Eclipse awards for 2012 , gaining 225 of the available 254 votes . She repeated the following year , winning American Champion Three @-@ Year @-@ Old Filly with 207 votes against 42 for runner @-@ up Princess of Sylmar . In the awards for 2014 , in spite of her abbreviated season , she still received five votes for American Champion Older Female , though the award that year went to Close Hatches by a wide margin . Beholder won her third Eclipse Award in January 2016 when she was named American Champion Older Dirt Female Horse , taking 256 of the 261 votes .

In the 2013 World 's Best Racehorse Rankings , Beholder was rated the second @-@ best three @-@ year @-@ old filly in the world behind the French @-@ trained Treve , and the thirty @-@ eighth best horse in the world of any age or either sex . In September 2015 , following her Pacific Classic win , she was ranked eighteenth , the sixth @-@ highest rated American horse and again second only to Treve as the highest @-@ rated filly or mare .

= = Statistics = =

= = Pedigree = =

