



Heiligbrodt Racing Stable

Owners: Bill and Corinne Heiligbrodt

Residence: Houston, Texas

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- During their 30 years in Thoroughbred racing, Texas natives Bill and Corinne Heiligbrodt have yet to win a Breeders' Cup race, but this year have a formidable contender in brilliant sprinter/miler Mitole, who could carry their white and orange colors in the \$1 million Big Ass Fans Dirt Mile (G1) or \$2 million Sprint (G1).
 - Gained automatic berth into the Dirt Mile by winning the Runhappy Metropolitan Handicap (G1), a Breeders' Cup Challenge "Win & You're In" race in June at Belmont Park. That victory, by three-quarters of a length over favorite and top older runner McKinzie with two-time Dubai World Cup (G1) winner Thunder Snow (IRE) another neck back in third, was Mitole's second of three at the highest level in 2019.
 - Mitole gave a stakes record-setting performance at Saratoga Race Course in the seven-furlong Forego Stakes Presented by Encore Boston Harbor (G1) Aug. 24 after rebounding from a disappointing third in the six-furlong Alfred G. Vanderbilt (G1) in July.
 - The seven-furlong Churchill Downs Stakes presented by Twinspires.com (G1) in May on Kentucky Derby Day marked Mitole's first Grade 1 win and provided the Heiligbrodts a Grade 1 double that day when Mia Mischief, campaigned with partners the Heider Family Stable and Sol Kumin's Madaket Stables, won the Humana Distaff (G1).
 - The Forego win improved Mitole's career record to 9-2-2 from 13 starts and \$2,004,910 in purse earnings.
 - Bill Heiligbrodt purchased Mitole in the name of his East Hickman Bloodstock for \$140,000 at the 2017 Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s Spring Sale of 2-year-olds in training after the colt worked an eighth of a mile in :10 in the under-tack preview show.

- The 4-year-old Eskendereya colt is trained by Steve Asmussen, who has saddled six previous Breeders' Cup winners.
- Mitole is set to enter stud in 2020 after Spendthrift Farm owner B. Wayne Hughes acquired his breeding rights.
- Texas natives and sweethearts through high school and college, the couple began racing Thoroughbreds through various partnerships and joined the nation's ranks of leading owners of 2-year-olds racing mainly in Louisiana, Texas, Kentucky and Arkansas.
- Bought their first Thoroughbred in 1989, Appealing Breeze, who also was their first Breeders' Cup starter, finishing 10th in the Juvenile (G1) for the couple and partners Raymond "Ted" Keefer and Walter "Buddy" New. During the race, he was hit in the eye by rock debris and sidelined for almost a year.
- Many of the Heiligbrodts' best horses in the early and mid-1990s were trained by Keefer's brother James Keefer.
- Previous Breeders' Cup runners, either alone or in other partnerships, include Posse and Bwana Charlie, each fourth in their respective editions of the Sprint in 2003 and 2004, and Appealing Zophie, fourth in the 2006 Juvenile Fillies (G1).
- Alone or in partnership have campaigned prominent runners such as millionaire and multiple Grade I winner Lady Tak.
- In 2011, announced they would take a "hiatus" from the Thoroughbred business to spend more time with family and tend to other business interests and consigned about 80 horses of all ages to public auction. At the time, had ranked among top 10 leading owners every year from 2007-2010 and since 2005 had won more than 650 races and \$21.5 million in purses.
- Have owned all or part of more than 100 stakes winners and more than 40 graded winners.
- Bill Heiligbrodt's background includes farming, banking, and the funeral industry. He graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in finance.
- Got their start with horses with Texas Quarter Horses in cutting competitions. Their Meradas Little Sue, a three-time world champion, retired as the all-time leading money-earning mare with more than \$750,000.
- In 2005, earned an award from the Texas Thoroughbred Association as the leading earner of accredited Texas-bred money. In 2003, they were honored with the Western Region Owner of the Year Award from the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders' Association. Inducted into the Lone Star Park Hall of Fame in 2008.
- Own Palacios Farm in Texas, where the majority their yearlings and 2-year-olds are raised.