



By Claire Novak

When Cot Campbell looked at Hip No. 36 during Keeneland's April 2012 sale of 2-year-olds in training, his notes on the catalog page didn't include "potential Belmont Stakes winner." But a little more than a year after Campbell bought the colt for his Dogwood Stable that's exactly what Palace Malice became.

From the first crop of 2007-08 Horse of the Year Curlin out of the stakes-winning Royal Anthem mare Palace Rumor, Palace Malice was bred in Kentucky by William S. Farish of Lane's End Farm. The colt actually sold twice at Keeneland, first at the 2011 September yearling sale, where Colin Brennan

spent just \$25,000 to take him home. A chip in his hind ankle may have deterred some potential buyers, but Brennan and his brother Niall never had it removed, offering Palace Malice from the Niall Brennan consignment in the spring.

"He was a big, good-looking bay horse," recalled Campbell, who bid \$200,000 for the colt. "He had worked fast, and that was a little surprising because he was clearly a horse that was not going to be ready early — he looked like his best days would be in the fall — but he had gone in 10 and 1 and had done it easily. He looked good, I liked him, and I bought him. I thought he was worth what I paid, and that turned out to be true." 🐾

Palace Malice wins the 2013 Belmont.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

ABOUT PALACE MALICE

IDENTIFICATION, PLEASE: Born May 2, 2010, Palace Malice is a dark bay colt with a small white star. He is 16 hands.

WINNING WAYS: Campbell picked Palace Malice not only for the colt's solid breeze and strong pedigree. Physical characteristics and a personality that seemed suited to racing's rigors also came into play.

"He was a well-balanced, handsome horse with a nice way of going," the owner said. "He had an earnest, likable personality. He looked conscientious. I know that seems like a silly word to use, but he did. There really was nothing not to like about him."

STRAIGHTFORWARD CONSIGNORS: "I also like buying from Niall, who I think does a wonderful job," Campbell said. "He will tell you anything he knows about each horse, so I have great confidence in him."

WHAT'S IN A NAME? "You can't do much with Curlin as far as coming up with something significant and meaningful," Campbell said of playing off the colt's lineage for a name. "We kind of concentrated on the Palace Rumor part of things, and that has a slight feeling of intrigue. We have a contest here with the barn and the office to submit names, and the chairman of the committee — who you're talking to — selected Palace Malice."

PRECOCIOUS YOUNGSTER: Palace Malice broke his maiden at Saratoga on Aug. 4, 2012, at odds of 1-5.

ROAD TO VICTORY: Palace Malice ran third in the Risen Star Stakes, seventh in the Louisiana Derby, and second by just a neck to Java's War in the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland. He set a blazing pace in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands and sat out the Preakness Stakes to re-energize for his Belmont win.

TIME BETWEEN DRINKS: Palace Malice was the second Triple Crown classic winner for Dogwood and its first in 23 years; Dogwood also took the 1990 Preakness with multiple graded stakes winner Summer Squall.

HEY, COACH, PUT ME IN: Palace Malice is known around the barn as a feel-good professional who loves to train. He has thrived on the travel his connections have put him through and bounces back from each race with plenty of energy — a runner with a tough constitution.

THIS ONE'S FOR DAD: After running third in the Kentucky Derby, Curlin won the 2007 Preakness by a head over Street Sense but lost the Belmont by the same margin to the filly Rags to Riches after a thrilling stretch battle.