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Team Texas

Red Lane Thoroughbreds' owner Chris Hicks gears up for a resurgent Thoroughbred breeding and racing program in Texas

COURTESY CHRIS HICKS

Chris Hicks' Red Lane Thoroughbreds is plotting a course in the Lone Star State and beyond

BY DENIS BLAKE

FOR AN INDUSTRY to flourish in the future, attracting young and passionate participants is vital. That's been one of Thoroughbred racing's mantras for some time, and while success on that front can be debated, there is no question that 30-somethings Chris Hicks, owner of Red Lane Thoroughbreds, and Frank Alosa, Red Lane's racing and bloodstock

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manager, fall into that elusive category.

When you add in the experience of Texas stalwart trainer Danny Pish, you get an operation that in only a few years of existence has already reached the big stage of the Breeders' Cup, and is aiming to return.

Hicks, a former college athlete who found success in the oil and gas business in West Texas, grew up going to the track with his father, but it wasn't until about five years ago that he decided to get into the ownership game.

Like many others, Hicks got his feet wet in a partnership group to start. Unlike many others, that partnership included National Football League receiver Wes Welker, who played college ball at Texas Tech University, where Hicks was a walk-on quarterback.

Welker and bloodstock agent Gatewood Bell got Hicks and his best friend, John Sellers, in on a horse named Eighty Three (Welker's jersey number for most of his NFL career). After getting a taste of ownership through that partnership, Hicks decided to dive in and bought his first racehorse. Red Lane was born.

PUTTING THE TEAM TOGETHER

While some might claim a runner or buy a 2-year-old in training for quick action,



COURTESY CHRIS HICKS

Chris and wife, Emily, are making Red Lane Thoroughbreds a family affair

Hicks took a more circuitous route.

"I wanted to do it from ground up," he said. "I wanted to get a weanling, watch him become a yearling, get him ready for training, send him to a trainer, and see him race.

"It was November 2014, and I had a connection to Duncan Taylor (of Taylor Made), and I gave him a call to find me a weanling; nothing too expensive," Hicks continued. "He found a Dunkirk colt named Strahan,

so we brought him home to Mason (Texas) and I made a deal with a buddy to keep him at his ranch until he was ready to go into training."

When it came time to find a trainer for the horse named after former NFL player Michael Strahan, Hicks had some criteria in mind.

"I wanted a local trainer," he said. "I've got three young daughters, and I wanted them to be able to see him. And if I need to get away from everyday life, I can just get in my truck and see the horse."

After some online research, Hicks reached out to Pish. Getting a call from a prospective owner is always good for a trainer, but oftentimes grand plans never materialize.

"I remember he called and said, 'You don't know me from Adam, but I have some friends in the game and I've studied it quite a bit,'" Pish recalled. "He started telling me what he wants to do and that he wants me to be his trainer. I've heard stories like this before that never pan out, but I also remember distinctly thinking that he sounded different and genuine about doing this."

That first horse produced modest results, as the \$16,000 purchase won two races and nearly \$30,000.

"I just caught the bug," said Hicks, who

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2019 LEADING SIRES IN TEXAS



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2019 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2019 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	TOO MUCH BLING (03, Rubiano), Valor Farm	\$5,000	73/43	2/2	1/2	(Bubba Bling, \$80,520)	\$1,250,345	269	28	1.05	1.05
2	MY GOLDEN SONG (03, Unbridled's Song), Valor Farm	\$4,000	47/24	2/2	2/2	(Dance to My Song, \$70,934)	\$774,076	175	14	0.93	1.03
3	EARLY FLYER (98, Gilded Time), Valor Farm	\$2,000	32/12	1/1	0/1	(It's My Money, \$88,408)	\$459,832	307	17	0.74	0.90
4	AIKENITE (07, Yes It's True), Leadem Farm	\$3,000	32/10	0/0	0/0	(Aikenetta, \$96,343)	\$451,233	57	0	0.90	1.19
5	MORO TAP (10, Tapit), Double Infinity Ranch	\$3,500	23/13	1/1	1/1	(Moro Said Ready, \$92,849)	\$427,883	*50	1	0.66	0.89
6	CONGAREE (98, Arazi), Valor Farm	\$2,500	30/10	0/0	0/0	(Jersey Joe B, \$96,750)	\$399,522	*402	13	1.19	1.35
7	LUNARPAL (02, Successful Appeal)	N/A	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Grizabella, \$178,489)	\$336,205	116	2	0.83	0.91
8	REVOLVING (09, A.P. Indy), Double S Thoroughbreds	\$1,000	25/7	0/0	0/0	(High Flying Guy, \$54,165)	\$251,465	46	0	0.61	1.41
9	UNCLE ABBIE (97, Kingmambo)	N/A	20/10	0/0	0/0	(Ibaka, \$48,190)	\$222,357	256	7	0.65	0.63
10	STONESIDER (03, Giant's Causeway), Valor Farm	\$1,500	14/6	0/0	0/0	(Caleb's a Survivor, \$44,382)	\$191,750	*210	4	1.02	1.15
11	GRASSHOPPER (04, Dixie Union), Valor Farm	\$3,500	28/9	0/0	0/0	(T C's Image, \$26,094)	\$190,359	129	3	0.71	0.89
12	BEHINDATHEBAR (05, Forest Wildcat), John Tally Racing Stable	\$1,500	15/9	0/0	0/0	(River Bobcat, \$50,665)	\$182,334	104	0	0.53	0.78
13	WIMBLEDON (01, Wild Rush), Key Ranch	\$2,000	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Lucky Thief, \$38,017)	\$177,368	137	4	0.71	0.74
14	MR. BESILU (09, A.P. Indy), Eureka Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Luckenbacher, \$56,700)	\$156,889	22	0	0.76	0.89
15	DON GATO (06, Storm Cat)	N/A	7/5	0/0	0/0	(Gateau St Honore, \$67,460)	\$145,880	22	0	0.53	0.90
16	KEEP UP (07, Unbridled's Song), Eureka Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	19/5	0/0	0/0	(Passport, \$29,303)	\$142,867	35	0	0.61	1.45
17	LITTLEEXPECTATIONS (97, Valid Appeal), Asmussen Horse Center	\$1,500	16/9	0/0	0/0	(Little Avenger, \$22,462)	\$141,381	218	5	0.73	0.96
18	EATON'S GIFT (05, Johannesburg)	N/A	16/6	0/0	0/0	(Eaton's Memory, \$33,450)	\$139,532	58	0	0.37	0.58
19	STREET MOVE (06, Street Cry)	N/A	4/4	0/0	0/0	(Lethal Move, \$58,617)	\$139,044	11	0	0.91	1.35
20	UNBRIDLED'S HEART (05, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2015	10/5	1/1	1/1	(Corluna, \$64,970)	\$128,985	30	1	0.49	0.51
21	FEARLESS EAGLE (04, Invisible Ink), C.M. Stables	\$500	7/5	0/0	0/0	(Fearless Jim, \$33,220)	\$124,468	22	0	0.66	0.26
22	CROSSBOW (08, Bernardini), Valor Farm	\$1,500	12/5	1/1	1/1	(Texas Long Bow, \$45,799)	\$110,953	35	2	0.48	1.06
23	GAFF (02, Maria's Mon)	N/A	13/4	0/0	0/0	(Captain Tyree, \$35,041)	\$110,523	96	0	0.57	0.99
24	INTIMIDATOR (01, Gone West)	N/A	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Stillatune, \$26,350)	\$97,283	210	6	0.54	0.73
25	DRUMS OF THUNDER (04, Concerto)	N/A	12/3	0/0	0/0	(President Witt, \$20,260)	\$95,873	42	2	0.51	0.31

named Red Lane after a road near his home in Mason, population about 2,000. "We are still small. I've got three broodmares, a 3-year-old, five 2-year-olds, and three weanlings."

Shortly after Hicks and Pish formed their team, Alosa entered the picture. A lifelong fan of racing who grew up in New Hampshire going to Saratoga, Rockingham Park, and Suffolk Downs, Alosa was working as a radio news reporter in San Antonio when he went to Pish's barn to interview him about funding issues related to the Texas Racing Commission and the possibility of historical horse racing machines in Texas.

"Frank's story is a pretty cool one about someone kind of stumbling into the game because of his passion for it," Pish said. "After talking to him and doing the interview, I could tell he definitely knew about racing. We got to talking more, and I said if you ever get tired of the media gig, I bet you could make a living in racing."

Not long after, Pish offered Alosa a part-time job at the barn.

"I don't gallop horses and I don't jog horses, so I wasn't sure what use I could be," Alosa said. "But he said with my background with pedigrees, I could be of use in other ways. It started as just a little part-time thing a few hours in the morning



Trainer Danny Pish is an integral cog in Red Lane's wheel of success

before I went to work."

"He was moonlighting," Pish said, "but he was doing it before his regular job instead of after, so it was the moonlight prior to dawn instead of after dusk. Then he ended up meeting Chris and went to work for him, but he still does some part-time work for me, so it's a team effort."

Hicks and Alosa got to know each other while talking about Hicks' single horse at the time. Hicks knew he was ready to take

2019 TEXAS SIRES BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Too Much Bling	73	43
My Golden Song	47	24
Moro Tap	23	13
Early Flyer	32	12
Aikenite	32	10
Congaree	30	10
Uncle Abbie	20	10
Grasshopper	28	9
Littleexpectations	16	9
Behindatthebar	15	9
Revolving	25	7
Wimbledon	16	7
Eaton's Gift	16	6
Stonesider	14	6
Keep Up	19	5
Intimidator	18	5
Crossbow	12	5
Unbridled's Heart	10	5
Don Gato	7	5
Fearless Eagle	7	5

his operation to the next level and figured Alosa could help him.

"I don't really have a big enough operation to have a racing manager, but I really like having someone to put hands on my athletes and keep up with them on a daily basis," Hicks said. "I didn't want to bother Danny every day because I figured he could

2019 LEADING SIRES IN ARKANSAS



For daily updated sire lists
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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2019 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2019 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	JONESBORO (02, Sefapiano), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$500	20/10	1/2	1/1	(Hoonani Road, \$289,488)	\$562,494	86	3	0.79	0.77
2	PORTOBELLO ROAD (04, Storm Cat)	Died	33/21	0/0	0/0	(Souixper Charger, \$50,820)	\$482,308	150	1	0.71	0.89
3	DOUBLE IRISH (11, Tapit), McDowell Farm	\$1,000	13/7	0/0	0/0	(Tapit Star, \$146,040)	\$416,136	27	0	0.99	1.08
4	STORM AND A HALF (97, Storm Cat)	Died	16/9	0/0	0/0	(J. E.'s Handmedown, \$74,973)	\$318,135	455	20	0.76	0.93
5	BRAHMS (97, Danzig), Arkansas State University Equine Center	\$1,000	23/11	0/0	0/0	(Munyak, \$51,266)	\$310,534	*688	13	1.04	1.12
6	PROM SHOES (04, Include), Anderson Farms	\$1,000	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Promising Shoes, \$143,471)	\$256,228	14	0	0.83	0.51
7	EXHI (07, Maria's Mon), Big Oaks Farm	Private	26/8	0/0	0/0	(Lucas n' Lori, \$42,934)	\$250,741	67	1	0.62	1.20
8	HAMAZING DESTINY (06, Salt Lake), Starfish Stallions	\$1,500	15/6	0/0	0/0	(Destinedtoeastar, \$56,660)	\$229,424	37	0	0.51	0.97
9	COMMANDER'S SHOES (03, Deputy Commander), Rafter R Ranch	\$1,500	14/6	0/0	0/0	(Guska Mon Shoes, \$97,050)	\$218,942	84	0	0.61	0.78
10	LAURIE'S ROCKET (09, Bluegrass Cat), McDowell Farm	\$1,000	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Another Rocket, \$86,285)	\$190,161	24	0	1.13	1.22
11	ORDAINED (08, Pulpit), Starfish Stallions	\$1,500	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Ordained Kiss, \$52,009)	\$146,885	48	1	0.53	0.92
12	ZARBYEV (84, Nureyev)	Died, 2017	16/6	0/0	0/0	(Whatdatpay Ray, \$47,540)	\$141,791	*376	13	1.03	0.81
13	CYBER SECRET (09, Broken Vow)	N/A	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Elissas Secret, \$77,000)	\$98,174	24	0	0.77	0.86
14	ICON IKE (09, Yes It's True), Starfish Stallions	\$1,500	6/5	0/0	0/0	(Flamin Icon, \$28,069)	\$95,431	13	0	0.58	0.69
15	JUST A COINCIDENCE (06, Forestry), McDowell Farm	\$750	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Just a Coinkydink, \$39,323)	\$95,140	7	0	1.21	1.14

2019 LEADING SIRES IN ARIZONA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2019 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2019 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ROCKY BAR (98, In Excess), Triple AAA Ranch	Private	33/21	1/1	0/1	(Lil Milo, \$130,421)	\$608,943	184	10	0.79	0.77
2	TOP HIT (98, Twining), Triple AAA Ranch	Private	34/21	0/0	0/0	(Raging Lady, \$46,921)	\$416,670	119	5	0.78	0.82
3	UH OH BANGO (07, Top Hit), Triple AAA Ranch	Private	18/9	0/0	0/0	(Ultimate Bango, \$129,371)	\$383,093	35	0	0.82	0.95
4	EZ EFFORT (09, In Excess), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	Private	24/11	1/1	1/1	(Collusionist, \$78,386)	\$349,490	40	2	0.66	1.00
5	MARGIE'S WILDCAT (01, Storm Cat), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	Private	26/14	0/0	0/0	(Karsavina, \$42,538)	\$240,455	143	1	0.62	0.79
6	EZ DREAMER (05, In Excess), Triple AAA Ranch	Private	23/11	0/0	0/0	(Dreamy Gal, \$43,153)	\$229,968	56	1	0.53	0.83
7	DISTORTED REALITY (04, Distorted Humor), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	Private	19/10	0/0	0/0	(R U Forreal, \$24,020)	\$162,274	123	1	0.41	0.80
8	SUPAH BLITZ (00, Mecke)	Died, 2017	12/4	0/0	0/0	(No Supah for You, \$20,062)	\$79,337	66	0	0.37	0.70

do better on horseback and training than taking up his time talking on the phone.

“So I asked Frank what his passion was, and he said ‘horse racing.’ I told him I’d make him a deal if he wants to quit his job and work for me full time, but there’s a kicker...I operate on the edge, so I’m only going to guarantee one year and then we’ll

evaluate how things are going. That was three or four years ago.”

Not one to hesitate to lay down a wager at the track, Alosa placed a bet on himself.

“I saw it as a challenge to embark on a new career and give up something that I’m good at,” Alosa said. “I’m sure people thought I was an idiot, but I resigned my

job and started working full-time for Chris.

“Without Danny taking a swing on a guy who was a horse-racing nerd but had never worked in the industry, I wouldn’t have met Chris and be doing what I am today,” Alosa added. “I’m lucky I get to do what I love every day.”



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2019 LEADING SIRE IN LOUISIANA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2019 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2019 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	GEMOLOGIST (09, Tiznow), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne	\$4,500	197/110	6/9	3/6	(Horologist, \$329,270)	\$5,233,929	*517	12	1.14	1.30
2	COURT VISION (05, Gulch), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne	\$3,500	114/64	2/2	0/2	(Storm the Court, \$1,172,951)	\$3,692,854	*308	7	1.15	1.40
3	DAAHER (04, Awesome Again), Circle H Farms	\$3,000	76/40	1/2	0/1	(Haikal, \$322,500)	\$2,173,527	157	10	1.28	1.22
4	STAR GUITAR (05, Quiet American), Clear Creek Stud	\$7,500	78/41	4/4	2/4	(Minit to Stardom, \$278,140)	\$1,955,593	129	9	1.17	1.09
5	ASTROLOGY (08, A.P. Indy), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne	\$4,000	122/57	0/0	0/0	(Leah's Dream, \$133,979)	\$1,951,099	*259	4	0.87	1.21
6	COUNTRY DAY (06, Speightstown), Peach Lane Farms	\$2,000	61/42	2/5	0/2	(Break Even, \$474,900)	\$1,606,187	115	3	1.03	1.00
7	CUSTOM FOR CARLOS (06, More Than Ready), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,500	103/50	1/1	1/1	(Monte Man, \$116,166)	\$1,522,870	227	6	0.82	1.03
8	HALF OURS (03, Unbridled's Song), Clear Creek Stud	\$5,000	97/38	2/4	1/2	(Ours to Run, \$226,500)	\$1,465,876	*465	21	0.95	1.12
9	GREELEY'S GALAXY (02, Mr. Greeley)	Died, 2017	58/30	1/2	0/1	(Mariah's Galaxy, \$144,355)	\$1,049,305	190	3	0.97	0.99
10	FLASHPOINT (08, Pomeroy), Le Mesa Stallions	\$1,500	45/27	0/0	0/0	(Big Em C, \$86,320)	\$934,602	83	0	0.66	0.78
11	REDDING COLLIERY (06, Mineshaft)	Died, 2018	48/23	0/0	0/0	(Dixie Flyer, \$86,163)	\$891,243	89	1	0.72	1.28
12	D'WILDCAT (98, Forest Wildcat), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$2,500	71/29	0/0	0/0	(Saratoga Wildcat, \$77,394)	\$877,323	*493	16	1.22	1.19
13	MASS MEDIA (01, Touch Gold)	N/A	52/26	0/0	0/0	(Littlemissbusiness, \$63,630)	\$792,408	*237	5	0.99	1.04
14	CLOSING ARGUMENT (02, Successful Appeal), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$3,000	53/29	0/0	0/0	(Paradise Garden, \$103,441)	\$785,804	*489	19	1.16	1.11
15	MY PAL CHARLIE (05, Indian Charlie), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	62/23	0/0	0/0	(Lovely Charlie, \$127,820)	\$721,799	183	2	0.67	1.01
16	BIND (08, Pulpit), Red River Farms	\$1,500	46/24	0/0	0/0	(That's Bind Babe, \$44,540)	\$693,145	74	1	0.64	1.03
17	RUN PRODUCTION (00, Saint Ballado), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$1,500	38/20	2/2	2/2	(Wonder Run, \$129,550)	\$656,497	241	10	0.97	0.89
18	GUILT TRIP (09, Pulpit), Red River Farms	\$2,000	36/13	2/2	2/2	(Goodprofit, \$78,797)	\$565,073	59	2	0.65	1.33
19	LEWIS MICHAEL (03, Rahy), Circle H Farms	\$2,500	28/13	1/1	0/1	(Frost Or Frippery, \$119,745)	\$559,921	150	4	0.77	1.06
20	LION TAMER (00, Will's Way)	Pnsd	26/14	1/1	1/1	(Win Lion Win, \$112,900)	\$545,001	149	3	0.74	1.01
21	FOREFATHERS (04, Gone West)	N/A	41/11	0/0	0/0	(Whatelse Igot Todo, \$70,540)	\$526,807	188	1	0.57	1.01
22	DUE DATE (05, El Prado), Peach Lane Farms	\$2,000	33/15	1/1	1/1	(Pinch Assault, \$82,470)	\$432,755	90	2	0.56	0.77
23	INTERACTIF (07, Broken Vow), Red River Farms	\$2,000	32/17	0/0	0/0	(Rocketringo, \$45,109)	\$432,249	87	1	0.68	1.01
24	CALIBRACHOA (07, Southern Image), Red River Farms	\$2,000	27/16	0/0	0/0	(Smart Prospector, \$62,900)	\$414,165	43	0	0.62	1.34
25	TIZ THE ONE (07, Tiznow)	N/A	33/16	0/0	0/0	(Tiz the Faith, \$61,060)	\$387,465	84	1	0.59	0.90
26	TENPINS (98, Smart Strike), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	31/11	0/0	0/0	(Tenpins Tempo, \$100,480)	\$377,372	*386	8	0.84	1.00
27	YANKEE GENTLEMAN (99, Storm Cat), Le Mesa Stallions	\$2,500	45/14	0/0	0/0	(Snapper Bite, \$45,155)	\$349,586	*539	21	1.02	1.15
28	APRIORITY (07, Grand Slam), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	25/11	1/1	1/1	(Snowball, \$104,570)	\$332,405	45	2	0.58	0.77
29	TIME BANDIT (96, Time for a Change), Averett Farm	\$1,000	18/7	0/0	0/0	(Wild Bert, \$106,110)	\$307,495	296	4	0.84	0.87
30	LONE STAR SPECIAL (05, Malabar Gold), Horse of Course	\$2,500	13/6	1/1	1/1	(Trevilion, \$144,250)	\$305,982	77	4	1.29	1.02
31	RULER'S COURT (01, Doneraile Court), Holly Hill Farm	\$1,000	16/11	0/0	0/0	(Front Money Morgan, \$55,640)	\$303,327	137	0	0.60	0.70
32	SAINT AFLEET (01, Northern Afleet), Landlock Equine	\$1,500	20/11	0/0	0/0	(Bending Saint, \$92,040)	\$295,671	107	3	0.66	0.86
33	PROUDINSKY (GER) (03, Silvano)	N/A	23/9	0/0	0/0	(King Cookie, \$47,900)	\$262,594	54	0	0.49	0.79
34	SMOOTH AIR (05, Smooth Jazz)	N/A	21/10	0/0	0/0	(I Call, \$33,430)	\$225,927	71	0	0.51	0.71
35	GOLD TRIBUTE (94, Mr. Prospector)	N/A	18/8	0/0	0/0	(My Sister Annette, \$39,730)	\$212,453	*498	14	0.95	1.04
36	SUM OF THE PARTS (09, Speightstown)	N/A	16/9	0/0	0/0	(Aloha Betty, \$34,660)	\$201,036	25	0	0.39	1.20
37	CAMEO APPEARANCE (10, Majestic Warrior), Red River Farms	\$1,500	8/8	0/0	0/0	(Mintappearance, \$35,185)	\$194,865	21	0	0.71	1.08
38	ZONG (05, Unbridled's Song), Indian Creek Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Dale's Lil Sis, \$73,585)	\$192,682	45	0	1.01	1.01
39	SILENT PLEASURE (03, Real Quiet), Scarberry Farm	\$2,500	9/6	0/0	0/0	(Toomuch, \$57,365)	\$186,580	42	0	0.45	0.52
40	IDE (93, Forty Niner)	Pnsd	20/9	0/0	0/0	(Big Cane, \$58,355)	\$184,251	590	15	1.03	1.03



SHELBY O'NEILL

Hicks boards his stock at Eureka Thoroughbred Farm with owner Mike Grossman, right, and farm managers Bill and Joan Tracy

REACHING THE PINNACLE, ALMOST

Red Lane's biggest success story to date is soon-to-be 3-year-old Deviant, an Ontario-bred son of Daredevil who became both his sire's and owner's first stakes winner when he pummeled the field by $\frac{7}{8}$ lengths in the \$75,000 El Joven Stakes in Hicks' home state at Retama Park near San Antonio. From there the \$150,000 Keeneland September yearling purchase went to Louisiana Downs and captured the \$60,000 Sunday Silence Stakes for his second stakes victory on the turf.

Deviant needed a bit of luck to draw into the field for the Nov. 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Presented by Coolmore America (G1T) at Santa Anita, but that luck ran out after the gates opened. Coming around the far turn, Deviant and jockey Drayden Van Dyke clipped heels and crossed the wire last.

Hicks, who is partners with Sellers on the horse, nearly missed seeing the race, but despite the disappointing results, still counts it as a positive experience.



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2019 LEADING SIRES IN OKLAHOMA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2019 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2019 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	FLAT OUT (06, Flatter), Mighty Acres	\$3,000	181/102	4/5	2/4	(Forewarned, \$244,420)	\$4,824,882	300	6	1.05	1.19
2	SUCCESSFUL APPEAL (96, Valid Appeal)	Pnsd	108/58	3/3	2/3	(Peruvian Appeal, \$230,066)	\$2,758,516	*806	56	1.64	1.43
3	LIAISON (09, Indian Charlie), Mighty Acres	\$2,500	141/67	1/3	0/1	(Bronx Beauty, \$189,650)	\$2,130,829	231	3	0.78	1.19
4	WILBURN (08, Bernardini), River Oaks Farms	\$2,500	117/57	1/1	0/1	(Zuzanna, \$143,851)	\$1,727,809	*313	8	0.78	1.08
5	CALEB'S POSSE (08, Posse), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	48/34	0/0	0/0	(Honor Way, \$164,532)	\$1,301,505	*106	2	1.12	1.16
6	EUROEARS (04, Langfuhr), Dunn Ranch	\$1,500	53/28	2/2	1/2	(Three Chords, \$182,909)	\$1,093,444	142	5	0.86	0.90
7	SHAKIN IT UP (10, Midnight Lute), Caines Stallion Station	\$1,000	62/34	0/0	0/0	(Foggy Dreams, \$89,918)	\$1,084,395	*112	1	0.70	1.11
8	ATREIDES (11, Medaglia d'Oro), River Oaks Farms	To Be Announced	53/22	0/0	0/0	(Sueno, \$240,000)	\$1,053,552	94	2	0.90	1.33
9	POLLARD'S VISION (01, Carson City)	Pnsd	51/26	0/0	0/0	(Eye Luv Lulu, \$120,413)	\$906,154	*757	20	1.16	1.16
10	MAGNA GRADUATE (02, Honor Grades), Brewster Ranch	\$2,500	52/27	1/1	0/1	(Magna Man, \$83,240)	\$861,665	*239	8	0.93	0.99
11	LATENT HEAT (03, Maria's Mon), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	51/24	1/1	0/1	(Rocket Heat, \$118,000)	\$758,952	*351	7	0.86	1.08
12	MR. NIGHTLINGER (04, Indian Charlie)	Died	53/23	0/0	0/0	(No Lak of Speed, \$68,799)	\$681,474	187	4	0.60	0.84
13	ORATORY (02, Pulpit)	Died, 2016	35/18	3/5	3/3	(Shes Our Fastest, \$129,760)	\$656,473	*225	7	1.09	1.12
14	CACTUS RIDGE (01, Hennessy)	Pnsd	34/17	0/0	0/0	(Calusa Ridge, \$76,100)	\$558,303	*457	23	1.22	1.02
15	SPECIAL RATE (00, Pulpit), River Oaks Farm	\$2,000	23/8	0/0	0/0	(No Deal, \$108,756)	\$337,182	186	4	0.58	0.63
16	KIPLING (96, Gulch)	Pnsd	43/14	0/0	0/0	(Gospel Abe, \$39,960)	\$336,911	361	9	0.95	0.88
17	CHITZO (05, Forest Wildcat), River Oaks Farms	\$1,500	19/7	1/1	1/1	(D Toz, \$64,337)	\$273,735	58	2	0.78	0.92
18	LIQUOR CABINET (IRE) (01, Hennessy)	N/A	20/10	0/0	0/0	(Air Power, \$50,599)	\$244,659	91	1	0.57	0.83
19	MAIMONIDES (05, Vindication), Silver Star Breeding Center	\$1,500	13/8	0/0	0/0	(Maimo, \$52,785)	\$232,014	*106	1	0.75	1.82
20	DA STOOPS (03, Distorted Humor), Rockin BB Ranch	\$1,000	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Greg Rules Da, \$82,505)	\$195,113	*89	1	1.02	1.05
21	DOCTOR CHIT (09, War Front), Royal Vista Ranches	\$2,500	19/7	0/0	0/0	(Sedaris, \$60,621)	\$182,607	41	0	0.43	0.73
22	FOREIGN POLICY (02, Danzig), River Oaks Farms	\$1,250	18/7	0/0	0/0	(Billie G, \$30,014)	\$152,427	48	1	0.90	0.84
23	SEBASTIAN COUNTY (05, Hennessy)	N/A	15/5	0/0	0/0	(Broadway County, \$59,972)	\$148,868	35	0	0.34	0.71
24	TACTICAL CAT (96, Storm Cat), Raywood Farm	\$1,000	18/6	0/0	0/0	(Spectacular, \$38,605)	\$147,459	634	24	0.97	1.16
25	¶ DRAMEDY (09, Distorted Humor), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	8/3	1/1	1/1	(Southgate, \$77,515)	\$139,189	19	1	0.81	0.93



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Deviant, a 2-year-old son of Daredevil, carries the Red Lane colors to victory in the El Joven Stakes at Retama Park

"I was in Las Vegas before that and had to scramble when another horse scratched and he got in, so I found my way to California and I only had one change of clothes," he said. "I was the only one wearing shorts and a pullover, so I was very underdressed, but I only got there 30 minutes before the race.

"I wish I could have done the complete experience, but it was a blessing just to get into the race," he added. "Without the trouble I think we could have finished in the top half of the field, which would have been respectable. The important thing is we came back with a healthy horse."

Alosa also has fond memories of that day.

"To have the chance to see the Red Lane silks at the Breeders' Cup, it was a surreal moment," he said. "The same 7-year-old

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the states featured in this section (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2015 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through November 24, 2019. As supplied to BloodHorse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American earnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2015 is \$21,782 or 50% of the 2015 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 50% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 57%. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.



ZOE METZ

Deviant prepares for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Santa Anita

kid who stood on the rail at Rockingham was sitting at Santa Anita on one of racing's biggest days watching a horse run that he was part of buying and managing. It was a pinch-yourself moment. We wish it would have gone differently, but it's pushed me to want to get back there and have the chance again."

For Pish it was also a great experience. Though perhaps not well known nationally, the native Texan has won nearly 2,500 races in a career going back to 1995, with the bulk of those coming in his home state and particularly at Retama Park, where he's a perennial leading trainer.

"Chris said he wanted to take me to a higher level of racing than I've been at before, and he's pretty much already done it," said Pish, whose only other Breeders' Cup starter was fifth-place finisher Got Shades in the same race in 2013. "He's spent a good amount of money, but at the same time there's been people who have spent considerably more and needed a lot more time with more horses to reach the Breeders' Cup."

TEXAS TIES

Although he's still relatively new to the industry, Hicks was elected to the board of directors of the Texas Thoroughbred Association last year. It was a fortuitous time to join as recently passed legislation is expected to inject up to \$25 million into purses and breeding incentives

for the Texas racing industry.

"We keep our babies and broodmares at Eureka Thoroughbred Farm (near Fredericksburg) with (farm manager) Bill Tracy, who has been on the board for a long time," Hicks said. "He approached me on it, and I was a bit intimidated because I'm still new to the game, but I thought it would be a good way to contribute and try to be a positive influence."

While Red Lane and Pish are based in, and concentrate on, Texas, they are not averse to striking out into other states. Pish normally races in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, but he sent a string to Churchill Downs this year because he knew Deviant was the caliber of horse who could compete there, along with some others in his barn.

And no matter where the horses run, Pish said he's happy to be teaming up with Hicks and Alosa.

"They are both young guys with a lot of enthusiasm and passion for the game, and they want to see what's best for their horses," he said.

"Danny likes to race in this region, but he'll venture out if he's got the horse to do it," Hicks added. "But now that Texas is making a pretty good push, hopefully we can do a great job of showing the country that Texas can be a really big racing state."

THE FAMILY EXPERIENCE

The inherent risks and rewards of horse racing, along with an appreciation for the

2019 OKLAHOMA SIRE BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Flat Out	181	102
Liaison	141	67
Successful Appeal	108	58
Wilburn	117	57
Shakin It Up	62	34
Caleb's Posse	48	34
Euroears	53	28
Magna Graduate	52	27
Pollard's Vision	51	26
Latent Heat	51	24
Mr. Nightinger	53	23
Atreides	53	22
Oratory	35	18
Cactus Ridge	34	17
Kipling	43	14
Liquor Cabinet (IRE)	20	10
Special Rate	23	8
Maimonides	13	8
Chitoz	19	7
Doctor Chit	19	7
Foreign Policy	18	7
Tactical Cat	18	6
State City	12	6
King of Scat	15	5
Sebastian County	15	5
Silver Haze	12	5
Da Stoops	10	5
Waupaca	7	5
Affirmatif	22	4
Burbank	13	4
Backstabber	7	4
Diamond	4	4

athleticism and competitive nature of the Thoroughbred, are part of what attracted Hicks to become a breeder and an owner. But he also enjoys it for the family aspect.

"My wife, Emily, is starting to come around to it; she doesn't like the unnecessary money that gets spent, but she's seeing how much fun it can be," he said. "My oldest daughter, Georgia, is 8 and she's been falling in love with it, and my 6-year-old, Graham, thinks she's going to be the horse manager. She told Georgia that she could work for her, but her job would be scooping up the poop.

"It's a family affair for us; we watch the races at the house and cheer loud," Hicks added. "My youngest, Hazel, is almost 2, and she was at my in-laws and my mother-in-law said, 'you know, she calls horses 'go gos.' It's because we stand in the front of the TV and yell 'go go!'"

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2019 LEADING SIRES IN NEW MEXICO

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2019 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2019 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	MORNING LINE (07, Tiznow)	Died, 2019	82/41	3/6	0/3	(Stubbins, \$448,951)	\$2,568,481	*150	5	1.11	1.21
2	JUSTIN PHILLIP (08, First Samurai), The Quarter Company	\$5,000	90/53	2/3	0/2	(Lady T N T, \$239,150)	\$2,365,856	164	5	1.02	1.11
3	ATTILA'S STORM (02, Forest Wildcat), A & A Ranch	\$4,000	94/51	4/5	4/4	(Flight Song, \$154,020)	\$2,120,345	283	20	1.06	0.81
4	DIABOLICAL (03, Artax), A & A Ranch	\$4,000	56/32	1/1	1/1	(Gunners One, \$153,615)	\$1,125,650	171	12	0.93	0.92
5	SOUTHWESTERN HEAT (04, Gone West)	Died, 2017	46/28	1/1	1/1	(Sunscreen, \$102,000)	\$836,417	*121	5	0.74	0.95
6	ABSTRACTION (10, Pulpit), Doubletree Farm	\$3,500	39/17	1/1	0/1	(Hustle Up, \$284,000)	\$811,976	60	1	0.97	1.04
7	ROLL HENNESSY ROLL (00, Hennessy), A & A Ranch	\$2,500	34/19	1/1	1/1	(Hennessy Express, \$169,299)	\$799,175	183	12	0.94	0.95
8	QUINTON'S GOLD (97, Carson City), Graham Farms	Private	42/22	0/0	0/0	(Gold of Roses, \$76,403)	\$702,172	157	10	1.13	0.84
9	INDIAN FIREWATER (07, Indian Charlie)	Died, 2017	50/22	1/1	1/1	(Deck Humor, \$89,115)	\$665,916	86	3	0.62	1.07
10	READ THE FOOTNOTES (01, Smoke Glacken), Creekside Farm	\$2,000	34/22	0/0	0/0	(Lil Footnotes, \$48,718)	\$463,164	*348	19	1.25	1.13
11	SONG OF NAVARONE (04, Sultry Song), Lucky Six Farm	Private	19/9	0/0	0/0	(Blazing Navarone, \$199,100)	\$445,506	42	1	0.85	0.76
12	LAUGH TRACK (09, Distorted Humor), Double LL Farm	\$2,500	41/18	1/1	1/1	(Fritzie's Flame, \$64,915)	\$442,404	63	1	0.44	0.82
13	MCKENNA'S JUSTICE (07, Medaglia d'Oro)	Died, 2017	16/10	0/0	0/0	(McWend, \$150,055)	\$384,697	26	0	0.80	0.63
14	SHAME ON CHARLIE (04, Indian Charlie)	N/A	7/6	2/2	2/2	(Shame On Powers, \$158,375)	\$343,777	29	4	1.30	0.66
15	FUSAICHI ZENON (JPN) (97, Sunday Silence), Weatherly Horse Farms	\$2,000	25/12	0/0	0/0	(A Zenon Nite, \$34,430)	\$248,448	123	4	0.64	0.81
16	MR. GOLD MOVER (08, Mr. Greeley), Bar Y Equine	\$1,500	20/8	0/0	0/0	(Golden Canyon, \$46,404)	\$247,825	60	2	0.68	0.88
17	THE WAY HOME (04, Giant's Causeway)	N/A	28/13	0/0	0/0	(Reback Home, \$65,088)	\$243,664	127	5	0.75	0.95
18	MR. TRIESTE (01, Old Trieste), McKenna Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	12/7	0/0	0/0	(Offensive, \$52,320)	\$218,399	53	1	0.62	0.82
19	RIGHT RIGGER (06, Unbridled's Song), Hunter Creek Farms	\$3,500	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Rig Time, \$113,804)	\$201,662	14	4	1.54	0.59
20	DOMINIQUE'S CAT (97, Storm Cat), McKenna Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	10/6	0/0	0/0	(Dom Right, \$65,190)	\$168,226	117	2	0.80	0.61
21	DOME (98, Storm Cat), Double LL Farm	\$2,500	22/8	0/0	0/0	(Thunder Dome, \$53,550)	\$166,270	260	7	0.71	0.79
22	MONTEREY JAZZ (04, Thunderello), Sierra Blanca Equine	\$1,250	14/8	0/0	0/0	(Jazzinia, \$27,138)	\$160,069	33	0	0.42	0.53
23	SLEW'S POT OF GOLD (99, Slew's Royalty)	N/A	3/1	1/1	1/1	(Slewacide Squad, \$129,415)	\$145,615	14	1	0.68	0.74
24	DELHOMME (10, Dixie Union), A & A Ranch	\$1,500	8/5	0/0	0/0	(Delovely Hips, \$62,081)	\$139,280	19	0	0.68	0.97
25	PRO PRADO (01, El Prado)	N/A	20/6	0/0	0/0	(Citizen Geller, \$23,008)	\$132,388	101	2	0.61	0.78
26	STELLAR RAIN (08, Storm Cat), TNL Farm	\$1,200	10/5	0/0	0/0	(S L R Gus McCrae, \$33,182)	\$127,383	28	1	0.75	0.92
27	ROMAN EMPEROR (05, Empire Maker)	N/A	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Sea Emperor, \$42,251)	\$115,937	28	1	0.51	0.75
28	SILVER WAGON (01, Wagon Limit), Hunter Creek Farms	\$2,500	24/5	0/0	0/0	(Silver Daddy, \$16,730)	\$110,451	102	1	0.70	1.13
29	WESTERN GAMBLER (04, Storm Cat), Marr's Breeding Farm	Private	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Hute, \$27,000)	\$103,300	47	1	0.71	1.41
30	TO TERAS (00, Unbridled's Song), New Mexico State University	\$1,500	10/5	0/0	0/0	(La Grange Lady, \$35,700)	\$103,225	84	1	0.77	0.56
31	STORM DANI (05, Storm Cat), Tricar Stables	Private	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Ivan El Grande, \$75,851)	\$102,581	27	0	0.33	0.47
32	SOURCE (98, Montbrook)	N/A	2/2	1/1	1/1	(Shining Source, \$82,200)	\$102,169	51	1	0.71	0.66
33	TAILFROMTHECRYPT (98, Cryptoclearance)	N/A	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Precious Looker, \$71,890)	\$93,103	43	0	0.46	0.73
34	SPANKEY COME HOME (04, Came Home), Tricar Stables	Private	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Dani's Choice, \$31,598)	\$88,172	33	0	0.42	0.38
35	DESERT GOD (91, Fappiano)	Pnsd	5/4	0/0	0/0	(Vic Tories, \$36,370)	\$80,813	259	25	1.44	0.73



RICK SAMUELS

Deviant started well from the outside post in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf but clipped heels in a stretch-turn traffic jam and finished unplaced

Racing also fills a personal need for Hicks.

"I've always been competitive in sports and athletics," he said. "I'm 37 now, so this still allows me to be competitive without having to work out three hours a day and watch game film all day. Now it's fun game film of watching races and race replays, so it's exciting for me.

"Owning horses is something you just can't describe," he added. "It's the highest of the highs and lowest of the lows, but I truly enjoy it. I don't enjoy the lows, obviously, but you get used to them because the highs are so great." **BH**

Denis Blake is the editor of The Horsemen's Journal and editor and publisher of American Racehorse magazines.