

Thoroughbred Stakes Histories



12th Running – Sunday, July 27, 2008 (Closing Day)

\$75,000 Middleground Stakes

2-Year-Old Colts & Geldings at Six Furlongs on Dirt

Stakes Record – 1:09.03, Picture I.D. (2004)

Top Beyer Speed Figure – 97, Gold Coyote (2007)

Average Winning Beyer Speed Figure – 81.9

NAME ORIGIN: Middleground, for which the race is named, nearly provided Robert J. Klegberg's King Ranch with its second Triple Crown winner. The homebred colt won the 1950 Kentucky Derby, finished second to eventual 1950 Horse of the Year Hill Prince in the Preakness, then took the Belmont Stakes. Middleground is one of two Texas-breds to have won the Derby, the other being King Ranch's Assault in 1946. King Ranch's two Derby wins are exceeded only by Calumet Farm (eight), Col. E.R. Bradley (four) and Belair Stud (three). Middleground was ridden and trained by Texans – both members of Racing's Hall of Fame. The rider was Bill Boland, an apprentice at the time of the Derby and Belmont. Max Hirsch was the trainer. Hirsch began in racing as a jockey, riding in races at the age of 10 down Main Street in his hometown, Fredericksburg, Texas. Middleground died Feb. 16, 1972, at age 25.

Year (Race No.) Dis. (Starters)	Winner (Age/Sex) Owner(s)	Jockey (Weight) Trainer	Second Third	Time (Cond.-Beyer) Odds (Margin)	Sire Bred (Color)	Gross Purse Winner's Share
2007-July 29 (10th) 6 Furlongs (8)	thc-Gold Coyote (2g)* Clarence Scharbauer Jr.	Ramsey Zimmerman (121) Bret Calhoun	South Branch Storm Possetothemax	1:10.38 (sloppy-97) 0.70-1 (5 3/4 lengths)	Gold Legend Texas (B.)	\$55,000 \$27,000
2006-July 23 (9th) 6 Furlongs (9)	Dream of Angels (2c) Kevin Halter	Richard Eramia (121) John Locke	Spoonerism Axel Pegasus	1:11.15 (fast-75) 18.50-1 (neck)	Trippi Florida (Ch.)	\$60,000 \$39,000
2005-July 16 (10th) 6 Furlongs (6)	c-Premier Dance (2c) Charlie Fletcher	Cliff Berry (121) Cody Autrey	Don't Tell Mommy Out Our Way	1:10.96 (muddy-81) 1.80-1 (1 length)	Premiership Florida (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$73,500 \$45,000
2004-Oct. 3 (7th) 1 Mile (8)	tx-Leaving On My Mind (2g) George Wolff	Roman Chapa (121) Danny Pish	Ready Ruler Rubialedo	1:39.12 (fast-75) 4.60-1 (1 1/4 lengths)	Valid Expectations Texas (B.)	\$97,250 \$60,000
2003-July 13 (9th) 6 Furlongs (5)	c-Korbyn Gold (2c) Heiligbrodt Racing Stable	Jeremy Beasley (121) Kari Craddock	Afternoon Charlie Beau's County*	1:09.56 (fast-90) 3.30-1 (2 lengths)	Gold Case Kentucky (Gr./Ro.)	\$70,000 \$45,000
2002-July 13 (9th) 6 Furlongs (8)	c-Action Tonight (2g)* George Wolff	Roman Chapa (121) Danny Pish	Worker Man Flag Dancer	1:10.62 (fast-80) 1.20-1 (1/2-length)	Hadif Texas (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$71,850 \$38,460
2001-July 14 (10th) 5 1/2 Furlongs (8)	Explosive Truth (2c) Drs. K.K. & Vilasini Jayaraman	Anthony Lovato (121) Cole Norman	tc-Nuclear Assembly* Angela's stoughwater	1:03.38 (fast-85) 5.40-1 (1 3/4 lengths)	Proudest Romero Florida (Ch.)	\$101,000 \$60,600
2000-July 22 (9th) 6 Furlongs (8)	tc-Superpave (2g)* Peter Wilson	Curt Bourque (121) Keith Desormeaux	Firststatedeposit Marlukin	1:10.10 (fast-85) 1.10-1 (1 length)	Spend a Buck Texas (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$168,700 \$101,220
1999-July 24 (8th) 6 Furlongs (6)	c-Picture I.D. (2g)* Michael Francis	Ronald Ardoin (121) Jim Gaston	Overdone Binlucky	1:09.03 (fast-83) 0.60-1 (2 1/4 lengths)	Caller I.D. Florida (B.)	\$175,000 \$105,000
1998-July 19 (9th) 6 Furlongs (11)	tc-Wings of Jones (2g) Connie Scherr & Keith Asmussen	Casey Lambert (121) Steve Asmussen	Brassy Wells Lou's Candi*	1:11.35 (fast-70) 11.40-1 (1 length)	Seneca Jones Texas (Ch.)	\$153,000 \$93,000
1997-July 27 (9th) 5 1/2 Furlongs (7)	Smiling Time (2g) Fred Fry & Ray Niedecken	Eric Perner (116) Clifford Lambert Sr.	Smithquick* Houston Slue	1:05.43 (fast-80) 5.70-1 (4 1/4 lengths)	Smile Texas (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$30,900 \$18,840

* Favorite . . . h-Earned Lone Star Park Horse of the Meeting honors . . . c-Earned Lone Star Park championship honors that season . . . tx-Named Texas-bred Horse of the Year that season . . . t-Earned Champion Texas-bred honors that year . . . Run at one mile in 2004 to serve as a prep for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile . . . Run as the Middleground Breeders' Cup Stakes, 2001-06 (although the race still receives Breeders' Cup money) . . . Answer Lively finished fifth in the 1998 Middleground as the 7-2 second choice. He sprinted to the front, setting fractions of :21.27 and :44.45, but tired in the stretch. He went on to win that year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile and 2-year-old championship for owner John Franks and trainer Bobby Barnett . . . The 2003 winner Korbyn Gold was transferred to trainer Kari Craddock for the Middleground while regular trainer Steve Asmussen served a suspension.

Most Wins, Jockey:	2, Roman Chapa
Most Wins, Trainer:	2, Danny Pish (note: two Steve Asmussen-trained horses have won the race, but one was with another trainer while he served a suspension)
Most Wins, Owner:	2, George Wolff
High \$2 Win:	\$39.00, Dream of Angels (2006)
High \$2 Place:	\$19.40, Spoonerism (2006)
High \$2 Show:	\$11.20, Axel Pegasus (2006)
High \$2 Exacta:	\$487.60, Dream of Angels-Spoonerism (2006)
High \$2 Quinella:	\$249.20, Dream of Angels-Spoonerism (2006)
High \$2 Trifecta:	\$6,020.20, Dream of Angels-Spoonerism-Axel Pegasus (2006)
High \$2 Superfecta:	\$39,864.20, Dream of Angels-Spoonerism-Axel Pegasus-Real Quiet Man (2006)
Low \$2 Win:	\$3.20, Picture I.D. (1999)
Low \$2 Place:	\$2.10, Picture I.D. (1999)
Low \$2 Show:	\$2.10, Picture I.D. (1999), Afternoon Charlie (2003), Beau's County (2003) and Gold Coyote (2007)
Low \$2 Exacta:	\$5.20, Picture I.D.-Overdone (1999)
Low \$2 Quinella:	\$8.80, Action Tonight-Worker Man (2002)
Low \$2 Trifecta:	\$61.40, Premier Dance-Don't Tell Mommy-Out Our Way (2005)
Low \$2 Superfecta:	\$174.40, Gold Coyote-South Branch Storm-Possetothemax-Spark Plug (2007)
Largest Win Margin:	5 3/4 lengths, Gold Coyote (2007)
Smallest Win Margin:	neck, Dream of Angels (2006)
Largest Field Size:	11 (1998)
Smallest Field Size:	5 (2003)
Favorites Record:	11-4-2-2 (36.4% and 72.7%)
Favorites who finished off-the-board:	Forrest G. (4 th in 2005 at \$1.30-1) and Mary's Gray Boy (9 th and last in 2006 at \$2.00-1)
Longest shot to finish 1-2-3:	Axel Pegasus (3 rd in 2006 at \$70.40-1)
Fastest Splits – 1/4-mile:	:21.27, Answer Lively (1998)
Fastest Splits – 1/2-mile:	:43.97, Nuclear Assembly (2001)
Disqualifications:	none
Off-Tracks:	Muddy (2005) and Sloppy (2007)