

TDN Q&A



Everett Dobson

Monday, Three Chimneys announced that Everett Dobson, an owner of the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder, was investing as a minority partner in their stallions. The TDN's Sue Finley sat down with Dobson and Three Chimneys' Case Clay to discuss the partnership.



Case Clay

TDN: You race horses under the Cheyenne Stables banner; how and why did you decide to get involved in the stallion side of the business?

ED: My investment strategy is very long-term investments and iconic brands. The stallion business has its ups and downs, but it'll be back and with Three Chimneys management, it was the perfect way for me to expand my involvement in the thoroughbred world.

TDN: You own your own farm in Central Kentucky, so why not stand your own stallions there? Why Three Chimneys?

ED: My primary focus is building up my commercial broodmare band. This partnership allows me to do just that. I love my nursery, but it's not necessarily suitable to have stallions there. As for why Three Chimneys? Three Chimneys is a world-class brand with some promising stallion prospects - and the Clays are great folks to be partners with.

TDN: How did this partnership come about? Why did you take a minority partner in your stallions?

CC: The Thunder made the Western Conference Finals this year and I figured it would be the best way for me to get invited to sit in Everett's floor seats! No really, the world of stallion recruitment has become very competitive and increased financial strength positions us to compete for the best.

TDN: Does this investment include all of the stallions?

CC: Yes, except for Dynaformer, who is 26. We felt that in order to have a real partnership, our goals needed to be perfectly aligned, so we included Everett in what we have built to date. I can't really imagine sitting here next year if Big Brown becomes champion 2-year-old sire and saying, 'Sorry about your luck, Everett.' Similarly, if we had left Point Given out, Everett would have not enjoyed the Haskell [Sunday] as much as we did!

TDN (to both): What are your short-term goals for the partnership?

CC: To recruit one or two top stallion prospects this year.

ED: Ditto

TDN: And in the longer-term?

CC: We have 14 stallion stalls with 11 stallions. We have no plans to have more than 14 stallions, so we want each new stallion to really count. From year to year, a balance of top veterans, top young stallions and promising stallion-prospects is the goal.

ED: Continue the quality and boutique approach that has served Three Chimneys so well over many years.

TDN: Do you have an eye on someone right now you'd like to tell us about?

CC: You're awfully cheeky, Sue! We're watching all the major races!

TDN: Can other people still invest in your stallions?

CC: Since the stallion barn was built, we have had shareholders in our stallions, from Seattle Slew to Dynaformer. Many of the world's leading breeders are in our stallion syndicates now and we will continue to welcome them in the future.



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