



TDN presents
STAR OF THE WEEK
 Brought to you by Fasig-Tipton

Martin O'Dowd

Accomplishment: Catesby Clay's

Runnymede Farm, of which O'Dowd is vice president and general manager, bred Monday's GI Met Mile hero Divine Park. Runnymede has also bred the likes of Japanese champion Agnes Digital, Grade I winner Marylebone and last year's GI Breeders' Cup Classic third Awesome Gem.



Birthdate: October 4, 1951

Birthplace: Drougheda, County Louth, Ireland

Family: Wife, Sherry; sons Patrick and Daniel; daughter, Clare.

Current residence: Runnymede Farm, Paris, Kentucky

How did you get into horse racing? I was born

with a love and passion for horses. Thus, there were no other options.

How many mares does Runnymede have? We usually keep around 30 mares but that can change if we encounter individuals that meet our criteria. We put great emphasis on broodmare sires and the conformation of the mares we acquire.

Do you still have Divine Park's dam, High in the Park? We sold her in 2007 (for \$3,500 at KEEJAN). At the time, we had four mares by her sire, Ascot Knight, and we always want to replenish our band with a diversity of bloodlines. In that same year, we bought mares by Carson City and other up-and-coming broodmare sires.

What is the mare like physically and in personality? She is about 15.3 hands, very correct and has a lovely shoulder and hip-she is most attractive. She is a very sweet mare, an excellent mother to her foals and a joy to be around.

How did you decide on Chester House? High in the Park has two crosses of Northern Dancer and we wanted to introduce Mr. Prospector. Chester House (by Mr. P.), who raced from two through five, was sound and was a multiple Grade 1 winner of almost \$2 million. He also had the physical attributes that were just right for her.

Personality wise, who's been your favorite horse to be around and why? I have to say Chancey Squaw, the dam of Japanese champion and international Group 1 winner Agnes Digital and other group stakes performers. Like other great producers I've encountered, she is a very independent lady who demands respect and insists on things being done her way. But she has her tender moments, too.

When planning matings, what are some of the factors you consider? Genetic and conformational compatibility are the main emphases--equal amounts of both--with the hope that the blend also has commercial appeal.

How much do you focus on matching the physical traits of mares and stallions? We consider physical compatibility to be of the utmost

importance. We never breed to a sire that I have not inspected and feel confident that his physical make-up will complement our mare.

If you are having friends over for dinner, what's on the menu?

Lamb with roasted potatoes, but I must add that I am a sushi addict.

What is your favorite vacation spot? Japan-I love the people and their culture.

What is your favorite sports team-favorite athlete? I'm a big fan of the University of Kentucky basketball team. And I think Tiger Woods is incredible.

What is your favorite music? Abba's greatest hits and Handel's greatest hits. Don't laugh.

What is the last good book you read? The Frontiersman by Allan W. Eckert, a historically accurate novel about early settlers in Kentucky and the surrounding region.

If you could have dinner with one historical figure, who would it be? Thomas Jefferson. To me, he is one of the most fascinating men who ever lived.

Funniest movie? City Slickers.



Divine Park Sarah K Andrew



Divine Park After the Met Mile

Sarah K. Andrew

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Winning Colors S. (GIII) Winner

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