

BRACKET BUSTER

**Bay colt by Vekoma – Spring Dance by Dance With Ravens
Purchased for \$125,000 at the 2023 Keeneland September Yearling Sale**

Breeder: David Baxter (Kentucky)

Birth date: May 22, 2022

Owner: BBN Racing

Trainer: Vicki Oliver

Jockey: John Velazquez

Lifetime Record: 7 2-1-1

Lifetime Earnings: \$236,318

BRACKET BUSTER

- Dominated the NYRA Bets Pegasus (Listed) at Monmouth Park, the last local Haskell prep, on June 14, winning the 1 1/16 miles test on a sloppy/sealed track by seven lengths in front of fellow Haskell competitor Wildncrazynight.
- Three starts back was the Lexington Stakes (Grade 3) runner-up, two lengths behind Haskell entrant Gosger at Keeneland at 1 1/16 miles on April 12.
- Late bloomer wasn't ready to join the top of the 3-year-old class on the Triple Crown trail earlier in the season.
- Name is a nod to the brackets that college basketball fans fill out before the men's and women's NCAA championship tournaments.

BREEDING

- Bracket Buster is by multiple Grade 1 winner Vekoma.
- Vekoma is making a bold statement as a stallion. He was the leading freshman sire in 2024 and is the leading second-crop sire in 2025.
- Bracket Buster was Vekoma's 12th stakes winner.
- Vekoma is by Candy Ride (ARG), a multiple G1 winner on both dirt and turf in Argentina and the United States during a six-race, undefeated career.

- Candy Ride has sired six champions.
- Dam Spring Dance (Pa.-bred) was a stakes winner on the track.
- At least her first five dams were bred in Maryland and are part of a historic Maryland breeding program.
- Bracket Buster is her first stakes winner.
- Bracket Buster's maternal grandsire is the Canadian-bred Dance With Ravens, a homebred for the legendary Sam-Son Farm.
- Dance With Ravens is a son of Sam-Son homebred Dance Smartly, a dual member of the American and Canadian Thoroughbred Halls of Fame and a multiple Eclipse and Sovereign Award winner.

BBN RACING

- BBN Racing is a syndicate based in Paris, Ky.
- Founding partners are Braxton Lynch, Brian Klatsky, and Brendan O'Brien.
- Lynch is the racing manager.
- She is the granddaughter of the owners of the famed Christiana Stables, a legacy she and her mother uphold. She is the former president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association.
- Klatsky became a racing fan while attending Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
- O'Brien brings 25-plus years of experience in wealth management to the group.
- Bo Bromagen is the bloodstock consultant.
- BBN has about 40 owners from around the country.
- BBN stands for Big Blue Nation, the moniker for the fan base of the University of Kentucky athletics, especially for the Wildcats men's and women's basketball and football teams.

VICKI OLIVER

- Born: Sewickly, Pa. Age 52
- Haskell record: First starter
- Worked in the Monmouth Park publicity department and was an exercise rider here in 1997.
- Trained horses at Monmouth for 10 years. Her first career winner was here in 1998.

- Said it would be “Pretty unbelievable to have a horse in the Haskell. It would be a great thing.”
- With her late husband, Phil Oliver, started their stable here in 1999. Phil passed away at age 53 in February 2024.
- Under Vicki, the stable has grown to about 40 horses.
- Multiple graded stakes-winning Oliver is one of racing’s most successful women trainers and she is one of only 18 women to saddle a Kentucky Derby starter.
- Started out riding show horses.
- The Wittenburg College graduate also has worked on the track as an assistant to a blacksmith, a veterinarian, and several trainers.
- Is the daughter of Sally and G. Watts Humphrey, prominent Kentucky breeders and owners.
- The Humphreys bred Genuine Risk, one of only three fillies to win the Kentucky Derby.
- They are co-breeders of Belmont Stakes winner Crème Fraiche and multiple Grade 1 winner Improbable.
- They are the most prominent of the owners in BBN Racing.

JOHN VELAZQUEZ

- Born Nov. 24, 1971 in Carolina, Puerto Rico.
- Haskell record: 6 2-0-1
- Haskell winners: Verrazano, 2013; Blue Grass Cat, 2006
- Elected to the Racing Hall of Fame 2012.
- Earned the Eclipse Award as Outstanding Jockey in 2004 and 2005.
- Achieved a personal Triple Crown in 2023 when he won his first Preakness (Grade 1) aboard National Treasure, trained by Bob Baffert.
- Has won the Kentucky Derby three times. Finished first on Medina Spirit in 2021 but the horse was later DQ’d.
- Has won the Belmont Stakes twice.
- Has 21 Breeders’ Cup victories, the most recent of which was in 2024 aboard champion Straight No Chaser in the Sprint.
- All-time winningest jockey at Saratoga. Passed the 1,000-win mark at The Spa in 2022.
- Career earnings in excess of \$500 million are most of all time.
- Co-chairman of the board of directors of the Jockeys’ Guild with Mike Smith.

- Board member of the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund.
- On Aug. 13, 2025 he and his wife, Leona, will be honored by the New York Race Track Chaplaincy with the John Hendrickson and Mary Lou Whitney Award for their dedication to the backstretch community.
- Puerto Rican native came to the U.S. to ride in 1990.