

OCELLI

Bay colt by Connect – Scat Daddy

Breeder: Rosedown Racing Stables (Kentucky)

Birth date: April 20, 2023

Bought for \$12,000 at the 2024 Fasig-Tipton October sale

Owner: Ashley Durr, Anthony Tate and Front Page Equestrian

Trainer: D. Whitworth Beckman

Jockey: Tyler Gaffalione

Lifetime Record: 9 0-2-4

Lifetime Earnings: \$829,800

OCELLI

- Has earned more than three-quarters of a million dollars but has yet to graduate from the maiden ranks.
- Was the runner-up in the Ohio Derby (Grade 3) last time out.
- Finished 4th in the Preakness (Grade 1) on May 16.
- Was withdrawn from consideration for the June 6 Belmont (Grade 1) to target the Ohio Derby.
- Drew into the May 2 Kentucky Derby (Grade 1) field as an also-eligible and rallied from the back of the pack to take third place at 70.50-1.
- He is the first maiden to hit the Kentucky Derby board since 1937 and possibly since 1933, according to The Blood Horse (full past performances of every Kentucky Derby runner are not available before the mid-1930s).
- Was also third in the Wood Memorial (Grade 2) at Aqueduct April 4.

BREEDING

- He is a son of Connect, who was sold to Turkish interests June 1.

- Connect sired the first 2 finishers in the June 20 Ohio Derby – Chip Honcho and Ocelli – and they were separated by one length at the wire.
- Connect won the 2016 Cigar Mile (Grade 1) and Pennsylvania Derby (Grade 2).
- Connect’s best runners to date are Grade 1 winner Rattle N Roll and 2023 Canadian champion 2-Year-Old Filly Witwatersrand.
- Ocelli’s paternal grandsire is Curlin, the 2007 and 2008 Horse of the Year and Hall of Famer.
- The seven-time Grade 1-winning Curlin won the 2007 Breeders’ Cup Classic at Monmouth Park.
- Curlin finished third in the 2007 Haskell and is enshrined in Monmouth’s Hall of Champions.
- Curlin is the sire of three Haskell winners: Journalism (2025), who also won the Preakness; Good Magic (2018), victor in the 2017 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile, and Exaggerator (2016), who also took the Preakness.
- Curlin’s son Good Magic sired 2024 Haskell winner Dornoch. He also won the Belmont.
- 2026 Kentucky Derby and Belmont winner Golden Tempo is by Curlin.
- Curlin, a Classic sire and perennially one of the North American leading sires, is a champion sire of sires.
- He is the only sire with four Eclipse Award winners in the same year.
- He is the only one whose progeny won three Breeders’ Cup races on the same day, an extraordinary accomplishment he has done twice.
- In 2026 Curlin had a unique triple in the Kentucky Derby: he was the sire of the winner, Golden Tempo; the maternal grandsire of the runner-up, Renegade; and the paternal grandsire of the third-place horse, Ocelli.
- Connect’s maternal grandsire is Hall of Famer Holy Bull, the 1994 Haskell winner who is a member of Monmouth’s Hall of Champions.
- Ocelli’s dam is Zalia.
- She is by Scat Daddy, the sire of 2018 Triple Crown winner Justify.
- Zalia has one other foal to race; Ocelli’s 4-year-old half-brother Red Thorn is also a maiden.

ASHLEY DURR, ANTHONY TATE & FRONT PAGE EQUESTRIAN

- Ashley Durr is the majority owner of Ocelli.
- She and her husband, Travis, own the Web Carroll Training Center in South Carolina, where 150 to 200 horses come through their operation each year.
- Travis Durr, Kristian Villante and Kyle Zorn are the principals of Legion Bloodstock.
- Kevin Page is Front Page Equestrian. He is a medical products distributor.
- He is the colt's minority owner. Travis Durr called him and offered him the share.
- Page owns Grand Prix show jumpers and Thoroughbreds.
- His fiancé, show jumper Lisa Shirley, introduced him to thoroughbred racing and now he owns about a dozen racehorses.

WHIT BECKMAN

- Haskell record: First starter
- Born: December 20, 1981 in Louisville, KY.
- He is the owner and racing manager of the Kentucky-based Beckman Racing Stables.
- This is the third straight year he has saddled a Kentucky Derby horse.
- Honor Marie finished 8th in 2024; Flying Mohawk was 18th in 2025.
- Son of an equine veterinarian. His mother owns show horses.
- After college when in his early 20s he was cleaning stalls and grooming his mother's horses and became convinced his future was in Thoroughbred racing.
- Worked as the assistant to Eoin Harty, Hall of Famer Todd Pletcher (2007-13) and Chad Brown, for whom he ran Brown's Kentucky division for a number of years.
- Also did a one-year stint as a head trainer in Saudi Arabia.
- Worked for Pletcher when he won the Kentucky Derby with Super Saver and for Brown when he won the Preakness with Cloud Computing.
- Said that without Pletcher and Brown and the experience he gained with each he would not have come close to accomplishing what he has.
- Credits Pletcher and Brown with teaching him to correctly manage horses.

- Went out on his own in 2021.
- Through Pletcher connected with Kristian Villante and Legion Bloodstock, which has been a supporter from the beginning.
- Beckman's first winner was Irrepressible (Turfway Park Dec. 26, 2021).
- His first^t stakes winner was Harlan Estate (Kentucky Downs Aug. 31, 2023).
- His first^t graded stakes winner was Honor Marie (Grade 2 Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes at Churchill Downs Nov. 25, 2023).
- Other graded stakes winners are Grade 3 victors Regaled and Bring the Smoke.

TYLER GAFFALIONE

- Haskell record: 1 0-0-0
- Born Sept. 12, 1994 in Davie, Fla.
- Broke his left ankle in a freak post parade incident at Gulfstream Park March 26, 2025.
- Returned to the saddle in July at Ellis Park and was the meet's leading rider.
- Missed the Churchill Downs spring meet but returned for the September meet and was leading rider.
- Has earned multiple leading rider titles at Churchill Downs, Keeneland and Ellis Park.
- Born into the business. His father, Steve Gaffalione, rode from 1978-1998, and his grandfather Bobby Gaffalione was a jockey until 1990.
- Grew up on the backstretch following his dad around and got his first pony at age 4.
- Started riding professionally in South Florida after graduating from high school first at his family's insistence.
- Was an immediate rising star, with more than 200 wins his first year.
- Earned the 2015 Eclipse Award as the Outstanding Apprentice Jockey.
- In the jockeys' room at the South Florida tracks he used the same locker that his dad had been assigned.
- Won the 2019 Preakness on War of Will.
- Won the 2023 Kentucky Oaks (Grade 1) on Godolphin's Pretty Mischievous.
- Has 35 Grade 1 wins through July 7.

- 2022 was a banner year. Won his first two Breeders' Cup Races: the Turf Sprint with Caravel and the Juvenile Fillies with eventual champion Wonder Wheel.
- First Grade 1 win was with Salty in the 2018 La Troienne.
- In 2026 was elected by his peers to the post of secretary of the Jockeys' Guild.