

OH SUSAN'S BOYS  
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Last month we made our annual springtime visit to Lexington, Kentucky, to see old friends among the horses and horse people. As always, it was very pleasant, and as always, we returned home reluctantly to the everyday routine of medical practice.

Out on the Keeneland track one morning, we saw Northern Dancer, the Derby winner, gallop a leisurely two miles under the watchful eye of his trainer. The next day we were properly impressed as we watched him win the Blue Grass Stakes under wraps and with minimum effort. Watching the Blue Grass Stakes in the comfort and lovely surroundings at Keeneland is always a more enjoyable experience than attending the Derby at Churchill Downs, which is not unlike standing in the center of Canal Street in New Orleans for eight hours on Mardi Gras Day.

Our own hope for the Blue Grass and Derby races, a handsome three-year-old chestnut colt with the unattractive name of Susan's Gent was taken out of training at the last minute by his owner to have his chronically sore ankles treated with the firing iron. This will lay him up for several months and will eliminate any chance of his running in the Preakness or the Belmont. He will have to catch up with Northern Dancer and Hill Rise later on in the summer and fall in the big races at the Chicago and New York tracks.

Our interest in Susan's Gent (a name that neither we nor his owner claim any credit for) stems from the fact that in partnership with a friend, we own his mother, Oh Susan. Hardly anything makes a mare owner happier than to have one of her offspring win or place in the Derby. Oh Susan was obtained by chance about three years ago for a ridiculously small sum. She was in foal when we got her and also had a young six-week-old colt by her side. We raised the young colt (we called him King on the farm) with loving care and sold him in the September horse auctions in 1962 to his present owner. As a two-year-old in 1963, Susan's Gent won five races and placed in five others in twelve starts. He won the World's Playground Stake in Atlantic City and placed in the Seashore and Cowdin stakes, racing against many of the horses that answered the bugler's call in this year's Derby. As a three-year-old this year, he won his first two races easily and was coasting home on his way to winning his next race, the \$40,000 Louisiana Derby, when he had to be pulled up on account of a nosebleed. It was an expensive epistaxis. We were disappointed that Susan's Gent did not get to run in the Derby last month, but that is all part of the day-to-day uncertainty of horse racing.

Oh Susan presented us with a full sister to Susan's Gent in 1962. This one was also sold in the fall auctions and is just now starting her racing career in New Jersey. Oh Susan slipped (miscarried) a foal in 1963 but came through for us again this spring with a nice colt by Nouredin. Maybe in 1967 we will have another one of Oh Susan's boys to follow as a Derby prospect.