



LEAHY REWARDED FOR HIS AUDIBLE



Audible at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale with consignor Don Robinson | Ferran Robinson photo

by Chris McGrath

So often, it pays to be out of step. In fact, there's something of a clue in the name of the investment management company of which Richard Leahy is co-founder. Episteme Capital is named for the Ancient Greek term for true knowledge or understanding, as distinct from common belief or opinion. Yes, like everyone else who gets involved in breeding, Leahy stresses the role of luck. After all, on both the occasions he tried to sell her, over the past four years, even his own valuation of Blue Devil Bel (Gilded Time) fell well short of what she is worth now, as dam of one of the leading contenders for the GI Kentucky Derby. Even so, nobody remotely approached the kind of bidding he had in mind.

Blue Devil Bel was actually carrying **Audible** (Into Mischief)--such an impressive winner of the GII Holy Bull S. last month--in utero when offered at the Keeneland November Sale in 2014. She was only nine, she had won plenty of races, her third dam was a triple Grade I winner, and she had been covered by a hot young sire. Just a few days previously, in fact, Goldencents had promoted Into Mischief afresh with a second GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile win. Yet Blue Devil Bel was led out unsold for \$57,000.

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OP/ED: DERBY TOO MUCH, TOO SOON FOR JUSTIFY by Bill Finley

I realize my telling Bob Baffert how to train and manage a horse is right up there with my asking to give Sinatra singing lessons or telling Picasso I have some suggestions on how he should use more blue in his paintings. But, Baffert is talking about pointing **Justify** (Scat Daddy) to the GI Kentucky Derby, and here is my two cents: forget about it.

There's no doubting this horse has talent, perhaps, extraordinary talent. When he broke his maiden Feb. 18 by 9 1/2 lengths, while earning a 104 Beyer figure, Justify became the talk of the sport. Fast horse, talented trainer, good pedigree, smart ownership in WinStar Farm LLC, China Horse Club and SF Racing LLC. He has everything going for him, everything but time, which is not on his side. **Cont. p7**

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