



Wickedly

Florida-bred Wickedly Perfect winning the Alcibiades by at Keeneland.

his filly would be able to handle stretching out from seven furlongs to 1 1/16 miles, and after the race, all doubt had been removed. With usual rider Rafael Bejarano aboard, Wickedly Perfect led through pedestrian fractions of 24.48 seconds for a quarter-mile and 50.19 seconds for a half-mile while building a one-length lead.

Turning for home, she was challenged by Wonderlandbynight and Florida-bred Jordy Y, the top two finishers from the Arlington-Washington Lassie (G3) at Arlington Park last month. Wickedly Perfect had saved enough fuel to repel their bids, however, getting to the top of the lane with a 1 1/2-length lead before stopping the clock in 1:46.26.

"She always trained like a filly that wanted to run long," O'Neill said. "That's why we put blinkers on her in her very first start. She's shown amazing speed in all her

Daughter of Congrats scores second graded win of her career

A trainer never knows whether a horse will handle two turns until the horse actually does it, but when it came to Wickedly Perfect, Doug O'Neill was all but certain that the Florida-bred filly would pass the test.

On Oct. 8 at Keeneland, Wickedly Perfect proved him right, leading almost every step of the way en route to a two-length victory in the \$400,000 Darley Alcibiades Stakes (G1). It was the second graded win for the daughter of Vinery stallion Congrats, following her one-length score in the Sorrento Stakes (G3) at Del Mar in August.

Wickedly Perfect, bred by Y-Lo Racing Stables LLC, has won three of her four starts and earned \$404,600 for owners STD Racing Stable, Peter Moehrke and Rafter JR Ranch. She's run on or near the lead in all of her starts. Her lone defeat came in the Darley Debutante (G1) at Del Mar on Sept. 4,

when she led most of the way before watching Florida-bred Tell a Kelly rally resolutely for a 4 1/2-length victory, with Wickedly Perfect checking in second.

O'Neill said prior to the Alcibiades that

Rigoletta Lights Up Tote Board

Florida-breds sweep top three placings

Four of the seven juvenile fillies entered in the Oak Leaf Stakes (G1) at Hollywood Park Oct. 2 were born in the Sunshine State, so it certainly wasn't a surprise that a Florida-bred won the Grade 1 test. But the racing fans who made Rigoletta a 33-1 long shot certainly weren't expecting her to be the one in the winner's circle.

Rigoletta, a daughter of Ocala Stud Farm stallion Concerto who was bred at that farm, beat the favored Tell a Kelly by half a length, with Indian Gracey a length farther back in third place to complete a Florida-bred tri-

fecta. Rigoletta turned the tables on Tell a Kelly, who had defeated her in the Darley Debutante (G1) at Del Mar on Sept. 4.

Indian Gracey, a daughter of Bridlewood Farm stallion Indian Ocean bred by Ocala's Donarra Thoroughbreds, led for most of the 1 1/16-mile Oak Leaf, building a two-length advantage early. Rigoletta stalked her in second place most of the way, with Tell a Kelly toward the back of the pack.

Tell a Kelly advanced along the rail while going around the second turn to move

Perfect Best in Alcibiades

“races, but she’s always acted like a filly that would want to go a distance of ground.”

The victory gave Wickedly Perfect an automatic berth in the \$2 million Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) at Churchill Downs on Nov. 5, but O’Neill announced the following day that a bone chip in a knee will keep her out of the Breeders’ Cup. The filly, out of the Tactical Cat mare Wickedly Wise, was a \$70,000 purchase at OBS in April.

Aside from Wickedly Perfect, the star of the race was Congrats, who also sired third-place finisher Jordy Y. That filly, bred by Ocala’s Bridle Oaks Farm Inc., has won two of her four starts and earned \$93,500 for owners Evelyn and Darrell Yates and trainer Wayne Catalano. She was a \$52,000 purchase as a yearling.

Wickedly Perfect and Jordy Y have raced exclusively on synthetic surfaces. Jordy Y won a \$28,000 maiden special weight race by 2 ¾ lengths at Arlington Park in July to start her career, then captured a \$50,000 optional claimer at the suburban Chicago oval

by 1 ¼ lengths Aug. 1. She’s out of the Fly So Free mare Debt Free.

In two of the biggest races of Pleasant Prince’s career, the difference between the winner and the runner-up was just a nose.

But on Sunday at Remington Park, the Florida-bred colt left no doubt who had earned a trip to the winner’s circle, romping to a four-length score in the \$400,000 Oklahoma Derby.

In Oak Leaf

up to second place at the top of the stretch, a length behind Indian Gracey, with Rigoletta close behind in third place. The three fillies battled for the length of the stretch, with Rigoletta gradually taking command under urging from jockey David Flores. Rigoletta finished in 1:44.03.

“I just tried to put her in a good position,” Flores said. “She was in the bridle the whole way. She’s got one of those long strides, so I was surprised she was so aggressive early. Boy, is she game. Dan just told me to ride with confidence, and I think I had in her in the perfect spot. I’m very proud of her.”

Rigoletta, a \$35,000 purchase at OBS in April, has won two of her four starts for \$180,820.

Tell a Kelly, a daughter of Tapit out of the Tabasco Cat mare Evrobi bred by Karen C. West, has won two of her four starts and earned \$221,000. Ridden by Alonso Quinonez, she’s trained by John Sadler for

Ike and Dawn Trash.

“She ran well,” said trainer John Sadler. “She kind of had to come on the rail all the way and come between horses. Maybe she was a little compromised by the trip, but we thought she ran a good race. We’re disappointed not to win, but we’ll probably go on to the Breeders’ Cup.”



Florida-bred Rigoletta wins the Oak Leaf Stakes at Oak Tree.

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