

Back Ring

Getting to know bloodstock consultant Charlie Boden



How did you get in the business?

I was forced into a summer job after my sophomore year in college on a small training farm outside of Louisville. I thought I was going to play soccer that summer and hone my game to become the professional soccer player I thought I'd be. My father had other ideas, and he found me a job with a trainer R.J. "Boston Bob" Pincins at Roundhouse Farm in Pewee Valley, Ky.

If not the horse industry what would you be doing?

I was chasing a finance degree in college when I quit school to go to work on Mike Rutherford's farm. So I probably would have followed in the footsteps of my father, who's an accountant.

What's your favorite part of this game?

Definitely the racetrack. The regularity of what happens every day, culminating with the excitement of the races. I love the early mornings and the excitement of the afternoons.

Is there a piece of advice someone gave that has stayed with you?

I can give you a quote from Maurice W. Miller III. "No matter what, you've got to do what you say you're gonna do."

Who's the greatest horse you ever saw?

Frankel. I saw him run in Ascot in October of the Champions meet (in the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes) and at Royal Ascot the following year (Group I Queen Anne Stakes).

How about the best jockey?

I'd say Mike Smith. He was great in the 1980s when I saw him a lot, and then the '90s and he's still great today.

Do you have a favorite racetrack?

Saratoga

Best racetrack meal?

The Shake Shack at Saratoga.

Favorite racing movie?

"The Longshot," with Tim Conway. It's hilarious.

What gives you the most hope about racing?

The big events like the Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup and Travers Day. A place like Saratoga on a big day makes me think there's nothing better than this, that it's the greatest sport in the world.



Who'd you see in your last concert?

I took my 11-year-old son to see James Taylor.

How would you define perfection?

Zenyatta, minus the Classic? Personal Ensign. Now that's perfection.

Where do you see the industry in the next 3-5 years?

I hope I see it with me doing a hell of a lot of business, with a couple of big, new clients. **PRS**

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