



BRILLIANT RACING II (BP-2)

YEAR IN REVIEW

2019

Whether you're an owner, trainer, jockey or fan, horse racing is built on hope.

As it relates to Brilliant Racing and our pursuit to win races and make memories, it all starts at the sales. Watching the breezes, evaluating strides, inspections, vetting and eventually the sales ring. At the conclusion for the Ocala April 2-year-old in training sale, we felt like we came away with two very promising prospects, and little did we know that another would fall into our laps just a couple months later.

As the second Brilliant Racing partnership wraps up its first year of existence, we should reflect upon 2019 and look forward to a promising future.

In partnership with J S Stables, it all starts with Steely Danza, perhaps the most exciting Brilliant Racing prospect to date. We were impressed with his physicality and mind from the outset, and following a minor setback, he has progressed even better than expected under the tutelage of "The Boss" Steve Margolis and his staff. Debuting a work short for a trainer who hasn't won a race with a first timer starter since 2015 in what was supposed to be a springboard to a route, Tony almost won by accident, but instead finishing second behind the highly-regarded, odds-on favorite. The performance earned accolades nationwide and we can't wait to see what his future holds.

Our other Ocala purchase, Risky Behavior, has proven to be more of a challenge. She worked three times over the summer at Churchill Downs for Michelle Lovell, but was bothered on an off by both ankle and hip issues. She is in light training, but we need to take our time with her.

In late July, we purchased half interest in Templet from our friends at J S Stables, and he has improved with every start for "The Boss" Steve Margolis. Running exclusively in maiden special weights on turf at four different venues, he has improved with every start, crossing the finish line second in his two most recent runs.

Let's take a look back at 2019, a Brilliant year to remember and hopefully a launching pad to even better things to come!

April 24

On Wednesday, Brilliant Racing Partnership II closes with the drop of the gavel on hip #559 for \$32,000. A Maryland-bred by Daredevil out of the Stormin Fever mare Rough Water, who has several talented sprint siblings. The dam was mostly a two-turn horse who earned over \$90,000 and she too has very productive brothers and sisters. She breezed in 10 flat with purpose and we love her personality and disposition. She came with the name Deep Diver, but a poll will be conducted in the coming weeks whether to keep or change her name.



April 25

In a 50-50 split with J S Stables of Sam and Janelle Aguiar, the gavel dropped for Brilliant Racing Partnership II on hip #786. He breezed a quarter of a mile in 21 2/5 and this big boy has quite an engine on him. Purchased for \$62,000, this statuesque gray son of the first crop sire Danza is just the second foal out of the Unbridled's Song mare Unbridled Quest. The mare was lightly raced (which we like) and she is a half to a pair of very talented siblings including Mister Maestro, a rocket of a turf sprinter.



May 17

Brilliant Racing conducts a "meet and greet" at LaCroix with the new horse kids.



May 30

After narrowing down member name suggestions and conducting a vote based on the favorites, the Daredevil filly was named Risky Behavior (Mike Gibbs) and the Danza colt was named Steely Danza (Jesse Hearin)

June 1

Steely Danza arrives at Churchill Downs under the care of trainer Steve Margolis.

June 8

Risky Behavior arrives at Churchill Downs under the care of Michelle Lovell.



June 17

During a routine walk, a small pocket of fluid was discovered on the upper outside portion of Steely Danza's left knee. Images were taken and sent to the famous Rood and Riddle clinic in Lexington, Kentucky. They notified us that "Tony" has a small, bony prominence that is irritating the area and causing inflammation. Following consultation with Rood and Riddle's Dr. Wes Sutter, Steve Margolis and J S Stables (Sam and Janelle Aguiar), we decided unanimously to have the bony prominence surgically removed. It could have been managed and treated and we could have carried on with Tony, but there is always a risk that the issue could have worsened. Collectively, we think very highly of our colt. The plan has always been to take our time and let him grow into his body slowly. This setback basically forced our hand. The extra time should not prove detrimental to his progress.

June 24

Steely Danza had successful surgery to remove the bony prominence that was irritating the sheath around his left knee. He will spend 60 days at LaCroix Rehab.

June 29

After several attempts at a claim prove fruitless and with the approval of our members, Brilliant Racing Partnership II purchases half interest in Templet, an unraced 2-year-old Temple City colt, for \$12,500 from our friends at J S Stables. A Brandon Stauble steal for \$6,500 out of the Fasig-Tipton October yearling sale, Templet was not pushed into a 2-year-old sale because he wasn't physically ready. He had some growing up and needed more time, thus the decision to keep the horse and put him in training with the intention to race. At the time of purchase, Templet had already logged six workouts and was a race ready product with potential. The sales price for half of the colt represents far less than half of the money J S had invested in the colt up and to this point, which includes the sales price, board, prep, vet and two-plus months of training with Steve Margolis. He is second foal out of the Tale of the Cat mare Perdy, who hails from a productive family. Her half brother Crimson King Cat is multiple stakes winning sprinter and career earner of \$333,116, and Bella Figura, another one of her siblings, banked \$154,441. We are very excited to add Templet to the Brilliant Racing family!



August 25

Risky Behavior remains in the care of Michelle Lovell at Churchill Downs, but she has not breezed since 8/11 (three works total) due to a nagging left hip issue. Originally presented to the vets as a front limb injury, Risky B. was eventually diagnosed with a case of bursitis, a condition that was causing her to put excess pressure on her front legs.



August 29

Right on schedule, Steely Danza aka "Tony" returned to Churchill Downs and the barn of Steve Margolis and was immediately put on a diet (which he was NOT happy about). He looks great, his energy level is good but there's no doubt that Tony still has a lot of maturing to do both physically and mentally.

September 5

So many positives from Templet's career debut at Kentucky Downs. He looked fantastic and he didn't turn a hair in the paddock. He got a little excited once he hit the track, but stayed with the pony and handled the pre-race warm-up just fine. Out of the gate, Templet got sandwiched and pinched back. He was just galloping early on, cut the turn inside and found traffic. Once in the clear, he finished willingly and you could tell that his stride is much more suited for turf. He basically split the field, but the performance was much better than it looks on paper. After the race, jockey Chantal Sutherland was quite pleased with the effort. She said the trouble obviously cost him, but she was encouraged by his maturity and liked the way he competed down the stretch. She suggested stretching out around two turns.

September 19

After several frustrating weeks of trying to figure out what is bothering her and why, Risky Behavior undergoes a bone scan at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in Lexington which reveals an issue in her left hind ankle. Our vets believe a chip (loose piece of bone) was taken out the area sometime when Risky was a yearling. The people that owned her before we did likely managed the issue enough to get her through the Ocala Sale and now after being put into training at the track, we are seeing the effects.

She will be given 30 days at LaCroix Rehab, therapeutic treatment will be provided to help the area. If she does not respond, there is the possibility we would consider shutting her down for an extended period.

September 22

In his second career start and first try around two turns, Brilliant Racing Partnership II and J S Stables' Templet took a nice step forward. He split the field (fifth of ten) in the one mile maiden special weight race on turf and was beaten only 3 1/2 lengths for the win, finishing in front of the two favorites in the process. He raced a bit greenly, but his Beyer speed figure (61) and BRIS number (75) both increased noticeably from the Kentucky Downs debut.



October 23

In just his third career start and racing with blinkers for the first time, Brilliant Racing Partnership II and J S Stables' Templet finished a very good second on the Indiana Grand turf. Despite a five-minute delay caused by a loose horse, Templet kept his composure throughout. Away alertly from an extreme outside post, the 2-year-old son of Temple City crossed over and made the lead. Setting a slow pace while composed and well in hand with the favorite New Eagle glued to his flank, Templet switched leads cleanly off the turn for home, raced straight as a string and dug in, only to finish second behind the public choice. Beaten 1 1/2 lengths for all the money, it was a wide margin of six lengths back to the horse who finished third. After the race the winner was blowing hard but Templet acted like he wanted to go around again. The final time for 1 1/16 miles over a "good" turf was 1:46.11, but the mile split was 1:39.68, which is actually nearly 4/5ths of a second faster than the final time for the 2-year-old allowance run two races later (1:40.41).



October 13

In what was his first official workout, Brilliant Racing II and J S Stable's Steely Danza stopped the timer in :38 2/5 at Churchill Downs. Tony did it easily and with plenty in reserve.

November 28

In his fourth career start on November 28 at Fair Grounds, Brilliant Racing II and JS Stable's Templet caught a tough break with the trip and the DQ from 2nd to 4th, but the bottom line is, Templet is a nice horse with a bright future. He handles himself with class and learns something every time he goes out there. Templet broke in the air a bit at the start and Colby did a good job guiding him over to the rail to enjoy a forward, pocket trip. Templet wanted to GO. He was a bit rank into the first turn, but settled nicely on the backstretch. He got out cleanly on the second turn, but when the horse who got the lead at the top of the stretch drifted over slightly on us, Colby wasn't sure if he wanted to go inside or outside. He drifted into the path of a tired horse, righted himself, and then was cut off slightly again by the leader. The Fair Grounds stewards are usually solid, but that was a tough DQ on us. The horse we bothered was tiring and would never have finished in front of us, and one could argue that we were bothered by the leader first. Whether or not the winner should have come down is debatable. The major beef relates to the way it was handled. There was a steward's inquiry (on us) and Colby's objection against the winner, but only the top two numbers were highlighted, causing major confusion when WE were taken down. Speed figures for Templet's four career starts:

BRIS – 68 * 75 * 78 * 81

Thoro-Manager – 64 * 73 * 71 * 77

Beyer – 53 * 61 * 64 * 73.

December 23

Risky Behavior is getting healthier at LaCroix Rehab but the progress continues to be slow. She is currently galloping at the training track, which is a good sign, and she has become more confident in herself. At this point we have learned that we must handle Risky in a delicate manner, meaning we won't send her back to Michelle Lovell until we feel like she's at her best. The left ankle has improved but she continues to be plagued by small areas of pain along her spine and into the hips. This can be looked at as a "trickle-down" effect. The discomfort she has along her top line changes her gait pattern and causes other areas to flare up. To her credit, she continues to fight on, and on a positive note, we have not had to completely back off of her.



December 28

We were confident we had a nice horse, but WOW was that impressive. In his first career start against ten rivals, Brilliant Racing Partnership II and JS Stables' Steely Danza finished a clear second behind the odds-on favorite Digital, a \$260,000 son of Into Mischief. From post two, he broke alertly under Gabriel Saez, who asked Tony for speed right out of the gate. Taken back off the run off pacesetter, he sat second in a clear, spying position on the backstretch. Urged on the turn, he took over at the top of the stretch, switched leads cleanly, dug in when challenged by the winner while racing a bit greenly, held second firmly under the finish wire, and then galloped out in front, which is a great sign for his prospects to eventually stretch out moving forward. The early fractions were hot – 21.43 and 45.5. The final time was 1:11.58 over a muddy, drying out, heavy surface. For the effort, Steely Danza earned a 75 Beyer an 89 BRIS number and got an 8 (99) from Thoro-Manager.



On behalf of founding member Joe Kristufek and managing partners Brandon Stauble and Natalie Gils, we'd like to thank you all for your continued trust and support. We appreciate each and every one of you, big time, and hope you're enjoying this journey as much as we are. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. Let's make 2020 a BRILLIANT year!

#bebrilliant

JBN