

Long shot So Happy eyes Derby amid heartbreak

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mike Smith hugged Dena Glatt in the winner's circle after riding So Happy to victory in the San Vicente Stakes at Santa Anita Park in January, a joyous sign that the unheralded horse trained by her husband, Mark, might be better than expected.

"We were all excited about it," Smith said. "And then tragedy struck."

Dena Glatt died of heart failure just over a month later, at the age of 57. Mark now wears a bracelet with some of her ashes in it so "she'll always be with me."

So Happy is Mark Glatt's first Kentucky Derby horse in more than 30 years in the business, potentially the second-generation horseman's shining career achievement coming at a time of overwhelming grief.

"Some of it's amazing. Some of it's so sad," Smith said Monday. "It's just an emotional roller coaster, I can imagine, for Mark. He's so happy on one hand, and then he's so sad on the other because Dena's not with him. But she is. I really feel like she is. I feel her presence, and I know how much she liked this horse."

Nearly everything about this underdog journey makes So Happy a fan favorite, starting before he was even foaled. Decades ago, longtime breeder Leverett Miller bought his wife, Linda, a filly she named So Divine. He then took a suggestion that one of his mares, So Cunning, would be a good match with sire Runhappy.

"I said 'OK, we'll try it,'" recalled Miller, now 94. The resulting colt was



Charlie Riedel | AP Photo

Kentucky Derby entrant So Happy works out at Churchill Downs Monday in Louisville, Ky.

So Happy, initially sold for \$12,000 and then \$20,000 as a yearling sale as recently as October 2024. Even the \$150,000 Glatt paid for him as a 2-year-old in training in March 2025 is a bargain for a thoroughbred of Triple Crown quality.

"The horse doesn't know what you purchased him for, thank goodness," said Ana Maron, who co-owns the horse with husband Hans and Robert Norman's Norman Stables.

Combining the parents' names along with a joke about Glatt's stoic public disposition led to the moniker So Happy, which is what he has made everyone around him since his first race at Del Mar on Nov. 22. He finished first in a field of 10, leading Smith to wonder: "Who is this guy, man? Where is this coming from?"

Miller said the success was a shocker. Runhappy was a champion sprinter, but So Happy showed he could handle longer dis-

tances, which made the 1 1/4-mile Kentucky Derby a realistic possibility. His only loss came March 7, on the five-year anniversary of Linda Miller dying of cancer at age 70. So Happy is a four-legged piece of the Miller family's legacy.

"It's hard to put into words, isn't it?" Leverett said. "He's so much a part of what we've been doing for so many years, me and my wife and my children."

SO MUCH BETTER

The Miller house was unusually silent when So Happy ran down the stretch in the Santa Anita Derby on April 4, beating Bob Baffert-trained favorite Potente and erasing any doubt about being a Derby contender.

"He proved himself around two turns (and) improved tremendously," Glatt said. "He was actually pulling away late in the race. You couldn't say that distance was really a problem for

him off of such a strong effort."

Smith, who at 60 is aiming to become the oldest jockey to win the Kentucky Derby, said he thought Dena Glatt was pushing them along that day. He also does not think anyone has seen the best yet from So Happy, who opened at 15-1 in the field of 20.

"He gets better with each and every race, it seems like, which is good," Smith said. "He's not flashy in the morning at all. He kind of just does what he has to do, but, man, when he gets there in the afternoon it's like he knows the difference between practice and game time."

Hans Maron, who along with his wife started Saints or Sinners racing stable, is accustomed to watching a horse run, talking about it and moving on. So Happy has put he and Ana on a surreal path to Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May that neither could have anticipated.

"This one's a little different," Hans said. "It's been a daily discussion, worry. It's just a little bit of a journey, but at the same time amazing. The horse has taken us here, we're super excited and we're just looking forward to get to the race healthy and sound and just hope he shows up for us."

WHAT WOULD MAKE THEM HAPPY

Asked what it would mean if So Happy wins the Kentucky Derby, Miller chuckled and pointed out one of the cruel realities of the sport.

"Oh my gosh," he said. "I certainly wish that a great deal. But I also realize that it's very unlikely."

Only one horse will get that honor, and Todd Pletcher-trained Renegade and Brad Cox's Commandment and Further Ado look like better bets. But So Happy has exceeded every expectation so far and, in turn, put Glatt's name on the map.

Growing up in the Pacific Northwest, winning the Derby was a dream. If it happens, he'd consider it the biggest thrill of his life behind only his children being born, and So Happy has made it possible.

"He's taken me to my first Kentucky Derby," Glatt said. "He's been very successful to this point, so, yeah, he's high on the priority list at the moment."

The Marons have seen it all, from the time they first became friends to dinner parties and the emotional toll of this past winter, and they get choked up just talking about Dena. For the mom-and-pop-shop owners, this

is not only a chance to honor her and celebrate Smith but to show horse racing is accessible.

"Everyone thinks this sport is only for the rich — it's the sport of kings — but it kind of lets people know that you can also get in the game," Ana Maron said. "A family can do it. It's not just for the rich and wealthy. It's for anybody."

She doesn't believe in coincidences. She does believe everything happens for a reason.

So Happy encapsulates that, with Dena Glatt perhaps his guardian angel.

"I know that she's so proud of Mark, and she'd want him to hold his head up and enjoy this: really enjoy it, go out there and see what it's all about," Smith said. "He's finally got one that's made it there, and I'm so happy for him. Mark, for him, it's exciting but it's also sad."



INSPECTION PERIOD FOR THE PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL

The Hopkins County real property tax roll will be opened for inspection from May 4 through May 18, 2026. Under the supervision of the property valuation administrator (PVA) or one of the deputies, any person may inspect the tax roll.

This is the January 1, 2026, assessment on which state, county, and school taxes for 2026 will be due about October 1, 2026.

The tax roll is in the office of the property valuation administrator in the county courthouse annex and may be inspected between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM, Monday - Friday and 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM on the two Saturdays during inspection period.

Any taxpayer desiring to appeal an assessment on real property made by the PVA must first request a conference with the PVA or a designated deputy. The conference may be held prior to or during the inspection period. Written documentation supporting your opinion of value will continue to be required. However, you will be instructed on the best method to submit your documentation after contacting our office regarding your request to have a conference. More specific instructions regarding how conferences will be held this year are available online at www.hopkinspva.org and will be posted at the entrance to the PVA's office, located at: 25 E Center St Madis-onville, KY 42431.

Any taxpayer still aggrieved by an assessment on real property, after the conference with the PVA or designated deputy, may appeal to the county board of assessment appeals. The appeal must be filed with the county clerk's office no later than one work day following the conclusion of the inspection period (WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2026). Please contact the county clerk's office to receive instructions on the method the office is using to accept appeals this year and to obtain a form that can be used to file your appeal.

Any taxpayer failing to appeal to the county board of assessment appeals, or failing to appear before the board, either in person or by designated representative, will not be eligible to appeal directly to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Appeals of personal property assessments shall not be made to the county board of assessment appeals. Personal property taxpayers shall be served notice under the provisions of KRS 132.450(4) and shall have the protest and appeal rights granted under the provisions of KRS 131.110.

The following steps should be taken when a taxpayer does not agree with the assessed value of personal property as determined by the property valuation administrator.

- (1) Taxpayer must list under protest (for certification) what he believes to be the fair cash value of his property.
- (2) Taxpayer must file a written protest directly with the Department of Revenue, Office of Property Valuation within 30 days from the date of the notice of assessment.
- (3) This protest must be in accordance with KRS 131.110.
- (4) The final decision of the Department of Revenue may be appealed to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Joe Blue
Property Valuation
Administrator
Hopkins County

PGA Tour returns to Doral after long absence

BY TIM REYNOLDS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DORAL, Fla. — Scottie Scheffler doesn't have much familiarity with Trump National Doral. Then again, hardly does anyone else in the field this week for the Cadillac Championship.

The PGA Tour is back in Doral for the first time in a decade, this time as a 72-player, \$20 million signature event. Some in the field are playing Doral as pros for the first time, and the overwhelming majority of players in this week's field didn't play in the most recent tour event on the Blue Monster in 2016.

Scheffler — the world's No. 1 player — is among the first-timers. After a couple of practice rounds at Doral this week, he seems to know what awaits over the next 72 holes. Figuring it all out, well, that's another story.

"There's not really many tricks to this golf course," Scheffler said. "It's just very, very difficult. It's a flat piece of land. There's just a lot of bunkers, a lot of



Gerald Herbert | AP Photo

Adam Scott, of Australia, hits from the bunker on the second hole during the first round of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club, Thursday, April 9, in Augusta, Ga.

water and the golf holes are long. So, with that combination, it's going to be tough."

Indeed, it is a tough course and a field including 10 of the world's top 15 players. Even more of the world's best likely would have been at Doral if it wasn't such a jam-packed time on the golf calendar, with either five signature events or majors within this current six-week span that

started with the Masters and ends with the PGA Championship in mid-May.

Among those not playing this week: back-to-back Masters champion Rory McIlroy.

"If I had it my way I would play every single week out here," Scheffler said. "But just (with) the nature of our sport and the demand on our time and everything, it's not really possible. I have to set up my schedule

in certain type of cadence."

Doral first became part of the PGA Tour schedule in 1962. It became a World Golf Championship in 2007, and then the PGA Tour struggled to find a title sponsor when President Donald Trump bought the resort. LIV Golf has played events at Trump National Doral in the past, and now the PGA Tour returns.

The last PGA Tour winner on the Blue Monster

was Adam Scott in 2016. That tournament was called the WGC-Cadillac Championship; this one is the Cadillac Championship, and no, Scott isn't the defending champion. Technically, this is a new event.

"Good memories for me," said Scott, who beat Bubba Watson by a shot to win at Doral a decade ago. "Obviously winning the last time we were here, but I've always enjoyed playing this golf course. It's a challenge. It's called the Blue Monster for a reason. It's a big golf course, very penal. The wind can blow, and that's the biggest challenge out here. So, you've got to strike it well, just demanding tee to green. It's great that we're back and looking forward to this week."

Justin Rose is also a past winner at Doral, after winning the WGC-Cadillac in 2012. He's one of 18 players in this field who have competed in PGA Tour events at the course in the past — though Rose noted the course has undergone a few changes since then.

JUSTIN

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commitment came after the signing of Senegalese European professional Ousmane N'Diaye, who most recently has played pro ball in the top flight of Italy, creating a strong combination.

Elsewhere, McBride joins a roster

that includes returnees Trent Noah, Reece Potter, Braydon Hawthorne, Kam Williams and, likely, Malachi Moreno, freshmen Mason Williams and Zyon Hawthorne and fellow transfers Zoom Diallo and Alex Wilkins.

Kentucky continues to remain active in the transfer portal in the meantime, with decisions still set to be made regarding decision surrounding the NBA draft.

GO

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June 18 Ben Hawes Golf Course – Owensboro
June 22 Madisonville CC - Madisonville
June 25 Panther Creek

GC – Owensboro
June 29 The Pearl Club @ the Summit – Owensboro
July 6 Owensboro Tour Championship – OCC – Owensboro
July 9 Hopkinsville Tour Championship –HGCC – Hopkinsville

LADY

FROM PAGE B1

Scott is the lightning rod for the Lady Panthers offense this season and has already shown

a very solid 2026 campaign. Scott shouldered the bulk of the pitching duties, battling through five innings of work against a potent offensive lineup. Scott showed remarkable poise, recording two strikeouts and allowing only two walks during her outing while throwing 94 pitches.

Fellow seventh-grader Josey Spurlin provided a bright spot in relief, coming on to toss a scoreless final frame. Spurlin was highly efficient in her inning of work, surrendering just one hit and picking up a strikeout to

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