



Affirmed (right) bested Alydar (left) and Believe It to win the 1978 Kentucky Derby.

Interpretive displays share how Louis Wolfson turned his modest family company into a financial empire and how the Wall Street financier established Harbor View Farm in Ocala, Fla., before marrying Patrice Jacobs in 1972. From that day forward, the Wolfsons became devoted to each other and to the sport they loved, with Patrice becoming an active partner in the day-to-day operations of Harbor View.

In 1975, the Wolfsons looked to restore their farm to its former glory. A decade had passed since the stable dominated racing with the offspring of its undefeated two-year-old superstar, Raise A Native, and 1965 Horse of the Year, Roman Brother.

They turned their hopes to Laz Barrera. Born in Havana in 1924, Barrera began working around racetracks as a teenager in his native Cuba and fast became recognized as one of that country's finest horsemen. No story of Affirmed is complete without recognizing the special relationship that the Wolfsons and Barrera shared. Noted turf writer Joe Hirsch described it well:

“An atmosphere of mutual respect and admiration existed between owner and trainer. Barrera, for his part, admired

Wolfson for his decorum, his generosity and his knowledge of racing. All the courtesies were punctiliously observed between the two men, and the friction so frequently seen in the management of leading horses was largely absent in Affirmed's camp.”

Affirmed was foaled at Harbor View on Feb. 21, 1975. According to Cooke, the Exclusive Native son was a product of the partnership that the Wolfsons built. They bred him, raised him and raced him.

Before 17-year-old Cauthen and 2-year-old Affirmed were united, the colt had won three of his first four races under three different jockeys. Cauthen, the son of a trainer and a farrier, had grown up just 80 miles from Churchill Downs' iconic twin spires. In only his second year of riding, 1977, Cauthen set an American earnings record of \$6 million.

As Affirmed dominated his 2-year campaign, Lou and Patrice knew they had been given a rare gift—a racehorse that was gentle and friendly yet blessed with a heart of passion and legs of steel. It was his refuse-to-lose mentality that would fuel the epic rivalry with Alydar, a rivalry that captivated a nation.

COURTESY OF PATRICE WOLFSON