

## **SPEECHIFY PUTS ONE OF HIS PARTNERS OVER TOP IN ANNUAL CONTEST GRIBBINS NAILS CORRECT WIN TOTAL FOR TEAM VALOR IN 2014 SEASON PRIZE IS FREE FIVE PERCENT INTEREST IN ANY HORSE SYNDICATED IN 2015**

Jim Gribbins is a partner in eight Team Valor horses who combined for 12 wins in 2014, and his most valuable triumph came four days before the end of the year and on two fronts when Speechify prevailed in the Grade 3 Mr. Prospector Stakes at Gulfstream Park.

Gribbins not only shared in the Speechify partnership's joy in owning a Graded stakes winner, but he also stood alone in the Team Valor annual contest for active partners. Speechify's win ended up being decisive in the challenge to predict the stable's win total and purse earnings for the season. More than 145 active partners submitted entries last January, and Gribbins hit the nail on the head with a prediction of 32 wins for the year, and he was closest to the mark in the earnings category at \$2,275,000.

The prize is a free 5 percent interest in any horse Team Valor syndicates in 2015 up to a \$1-million.

Gribbins, of Evansville, Indiana, has participated in a few foreign partnerships, including the amazing ride that 5-time winner Panama Hat provided in Ireland in 2014, but he is looking forward to applying the winning prize to an American prospect.

"I just like the occasional chance to go watch them run in person," he said.

Gribbins' preference for the live racing experience is understandable considering he grew up in Louisville, only a few furlongs from Churchill Downs. Growing up, he would ride his bike to the track to get in free after the seventh race. As Gribbins described in a nice profile in the *Louisville Courier-Journal* when one of his horses, Went the Day Well, was approaching the Kentucky Derby, he was always tall for his age and could pass for 18, the minimum betting age. It was the Derby that fueled his bankroll—he would park cars at the auction house that his father and grandfather owned just down the street from Churchill. Returning home to Louisville as a partner in a live horse for the 2012 Derby—Went the Day Well came flying to finish fourth after a troubled trip—was a priceless experience that his wife commemorated in a gift this Christmas.

"She gave me a framed collage with a program, the rose that she wore, the pass to get into the paddock, and other things we collected from that day," he said. "It is a priceless gift that can't be bought and will hang in a prime spot in my office. The 2012 Derby will always be a racing experience of a lifetime for me."



*Jim Gribbins (right) with his son, Grant (center), in the winner's circle at Turfway Park after Went the Day Well punched his ticket to the 2012 Kentucky Derby.*