

Sports

A.L. grad Thompson seventh in Derby

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Despite a sloppy track, jockey Terry Thompson said his colt Dublin had a relatively clean trip in the Kentucky Derby.

But it wasn't good enough to beat Super Saver, who carried Calvin Borel to victory Saturday in the 136th running of the race.

"I can't say we had any excuses," Thompson said. "I wish we could have run a little better race, but my horse didn't quite get there today."

Thompson, an Omaha native and 1990 graduate of Abraham Lincoln High School, guided Dublin to a seventh-place finish. It was the first Derby mount for the 38-year-old, who began his career at Ak-Sar-Ben in 1992.

Dublin, breaking from the No. 17 post, was content to run off the pace of the early leaders. Thompson moved the colt into striking position near the head of the stretch, but Dublin lacked the closing speed necessary to challenge Super Saver and the other leaders in deep stretch.

"There was a lot of speed in the race and I thought my horse would have more of a kick," the jockey said. "He seemed to handle the slop well, so I don't think that was a factor."

Heavy rain earlier in the day saturated the racetrack, though the sun came out shortly before the running of the Derby.

Thompson said Dublin, which at times has been difficult to handle before a race, was not that way Saturday despite the crowd of more than 155,000 at Churchill Downs.

"The horse was a perfect gentleman for me," he said. "He loaded in the gate OK and did everything I asked during the race, but he just didn't make that late move I was looking for."

Thompson said his first experience riding in the Derby is one he'll never forget.