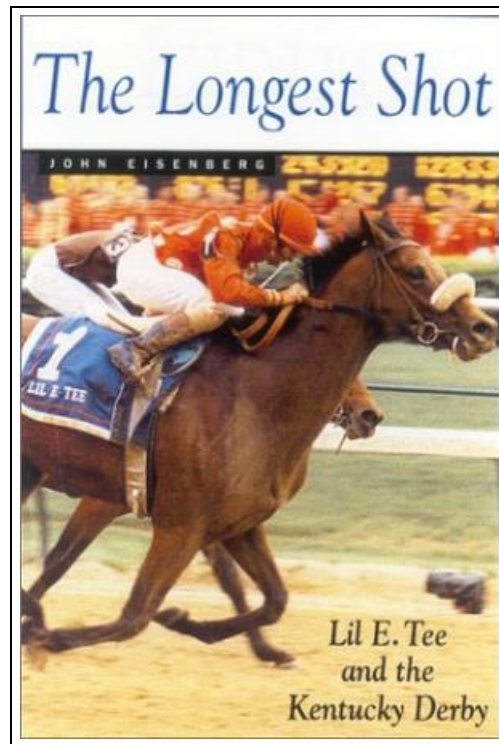


## The Longest Shot: Lil E. Tee and Kentucky Derby



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## THE LONGEST SHOT: LIL E. TEE AND KENTUCKY DERBY

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University Press of Kentucky. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 224 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.4in. x 0.6in. On the first Saturday in May every year in Louisville, Kentucky, shortly after 5: 30 PM, a new horse attains racing immortality. The Kentucky Derby is like no other race, and its winners are the finest horses in the world. Covered in rich red roses, surrounded by flashing cameras and admiring crowds, these instant celebrities bear names like Citation, Secretariat, Spectacular Bid, and Seattle Slew. Theyre worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. But in 1992, a funny thing happened on the way to the roses. The rattling roar of 130, 000 voices tailed off into a high, hollow shriek as the horses crossed the finish line. Lil E. Tee ABC broadcasters knew nothing about him, but they werent alone. Who knew about Lil E. Tee A blacksmith in Ocala, Florida, a veterinary surgeon in Ringoes, New Jersey, a trainer a Calder Race Course, and a few other people used to dealing with average horses knew this horse -- and realized what a long shot Lil E. Tee really was. On a Pennsylvania farm that raised mostly trotting horses, a colt with a dime-store pedigree was born in 1989. His odd gait and tendency to bellow for his mother earned him the nickname E. T. Suffering from an immune deficiency and a bad case of colic, he survived surgery that usually ends a horses racing career. Bloodstock agents dismissed him because of his mediocre breeding, and once he was sold for only 3, 000. Hed live in five barns in seven states by the time he turned two. Somehow, this horse became one of the biggest underdogs to appear on the American sporting landscape. Lil E. Tee overcame his bleak beginnings to reach the...

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