FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, | DC | 20549 |
|------------------|------|-------|
| vvasi ii iytori, | D.C. | 20349 |

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: 3235-0287 | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | |

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| Name and Address of Reporting Person* DiSanto Mark | | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol XCel Brands, Inc. [XELB] | | | | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) X Director 10% Owner | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--|---|---------------|--|------------|--------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| (Last) | • | * | (Middle) | | | | of Earliest 2023 | Trans | saction (N | Month. | /Day/Year) | | Officer below) | | Other below | (specify) | | | |
| C/O TRIPLE CROWN CORP., 5351 JAYCEE AVENUE | | | | | 4.1 | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| (Street) | BURG PA | A | 17112 | | | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | | | | | | | orting | | |
| (City) | (S | tate) | (Zip) | | - Ri | Rule 10b5-1(c) Transaction Indication Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written p satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10. | | | | | | | | | n plan th | at is intend | ed to | | |
| | | Tab | le I - No | n-Deriv | vativ | e Se | curities | s Ac | quired | , Dis | sposed o | f, or Be | neficial | ly Owned | | | | | |
| Date | | | | 2. Transa Date (Month/D | | ur) E | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | Transaction D Code (Instr. 5) | | | I. Securities Acquired (A) o Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 S) | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | (instr. 4) | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Stock 08/23/2 | | | | | /2023 | 2023 | | A | | 10,000(| 1) A | \$0 | 25,000 | | D | | | | |
| Common | Stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1,032,613 I See Footr | | | | See Footnote ⁽²⁾ | |
| Common | Stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | 82,392 I See Footno | | | | | |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | rcise (Month/Day/Year) of tive | Execution if any | | | ction Instr. | on of | | 6. Date Exercisable a Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | te | 7. Title and Am of Securities Underlying Derivative Sect (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | | 10. Ownersh Form: Direct (D) or Indirec (I) (Instr. | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | Code | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisa | | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | | | |
| Stock Option | \$1.51 | 08/23/2023 | | | A | | 25,000 | | (4) | | 04/01/2028 | Common Stock | 25,000 | \$0 | 25,000 | | D | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Represents shares of restricted stock awarded pursuant to a restated stock agreement, which vests as to 50% of the shares on each of April 1, 2024 and April 1, 2025, provided that the reporting person may extend the vesting date as to all or a portion of the shares, one or more times, in six month increments, at his sole discretion.
- 2. Represents shares held by The Mark X DiSanto Investment Trust, of which Mr. DiSanto is trustee and as to which Mr. DiSanto has sole voting dispositive power.
- 3. Represents shares held by other truests, of which Mr. DiSanto is trustee and as to which Mr. DiSanto has sole voting dispositive power.
- 4. The options vest as to 50% of the shares on each of April 1, 2024 and April 1, 2025.

/s/ Mark DiSanto

08/25/2023

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.