

# Thanks Dad

Young sires often key early success for 2YOs

BY MATT O'NEIL

While there have been a handful of 2-year-old races run this year, the juvenile racing season begins in earnest at Keeneland Spring.

Last year proved that trainers tend to unveil some of their most promising juveniles when the dogwoods bloom in Kentucky. In 2005 there were 12 "baby" races run at the spring meet and seven (see box) were won by future stakes winners. Four of those would go on to win graded races.

With little to no afternoon form to analyze, pedigree plays a crucial role when betting 2-year-olds at this time of year. There are several established stallions known for siring precocious progeny. Indeed, last year many of the juvenile races were won by the sons and daughters of leading 2-year-old sires such as Storm Cat, Hennessy, Carson City and Montbrook.

But then there are the new sires whose first crops of juveniles hit the races for the first time each spring. In 2005 a pair of first crop sires, El Corredor and Five Star Day, were represented by their first winners at the spring meeting. Adieu's easy 4-length win served notice that El Corredor would be a serious sire. She



Tod Marks  
First-crop sire Orientate could translate his speed into early success.

would later win the Grade I Frizette and help her sire finish 2005 as the second leading first crop sire.

Five Star Day's winner, the \$600,000 juvenile purchase Dance Daily, would go on to win the Grade II Santa Ynez.

El Corredor and Five Star Day figured to sire speedy runners, so look for the same from similar first-crop stallions this year.

Here are a dozen stallions with first juveniles of 2006 that could very well follow suit.

**CAME HOME:** The son of Gone West hails from a speed-laden female family. His dam, the Clever Trick mare Nice Assay, was stakes placed at 2 and has also produced the ultra-quick sprinting mare A. P. Assay. As a juvenile, Came Home won a pair of graded sprint stakes, including the Grade I Hopeful.

**EXCITING STORY:** He has only 26 foals in his first crop but they should be ready early. He is a son of Diablo, the second leading first crop sire of 1996, out of the Valid Appeal mare Appealing Story. Exciting Story placed in the Grade I Hopeful at 2 and is a full-brother to Diablo's Story, a juvenile stakes winner.

**GRAEME HALL:** The Florida-based Grade II winner placed in multiple graded stakes at 2. His sire, the

Deputy Minister stallion Dehere, was the champion juvenile of 1993 and the second ranked first crop sire of 1998.

**JOHANNESBURG:** Put together one of the greatest 2-year-old seasons of all time in 2001. He won five stakes in three European countries before easily winning the Breeders' Cup Juvenile in his dirt debut. His sire (Hennessy) and grandsire (Storm Cat) are perennial leading juvenile sires in North America and his dam is a sister to Tale Of The Cat, the fourth leading freshman sire of 2002.

**JUMP START:** By A. P. Indy out of a Storm Cat mare, Jump Start won the 2001 Grade II Saratoga Special at 2 for Overbrook Farm. His second dam, the Mr. Prospector mare Hopespringseternal, is the dam of the good stallion Miswaki, who was a Grade I juvenile stakes winner in Europe.

**LITTLE EXPECTATIONS:** Based in Texas, he has an extremely precocious pedigree. By Valid Appeal, he was a two-time juvenile stakes winner and is a full-brother to three other juvenile stakes winners. One of those, Valid Expectations, was the leading first crop

## Keeneland Spring to Stakes

These seven horses won 2-year-old races at Keeneland Spring 2005, and later went on to capture stakes.

Horse	Sire	Achievement
Adieu .....	El Corredor .....	Gr. I SW
Dance Daily .....	Five Star Day .....	Gr. II SW
Effectual .....	Carson City .....	Gr. III SW
Beacon Shine .....	Montbrook .....	Gr. III SW
Yaddo Cat .....	Forest Wildcat .....	Listed SW
Half Ours .....	Unbridled's Song .....	Listed SW
Tompest .....	Storm Cat .....	Listed SW

## New Sires —

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sire of 2001. Steve Asmussen, whose family operates a training center in Texas, might have a few babies by Littleexpectations ready to fire at Keeneland this spring.

**OFFICER:** America's top juvenile for much of 2001, the son of Bertrando won four stakes at 2 including the Grade II Del Mar Futurity and the Grade I Champagne. Like Littleexpectations, Officer hails from the In Reality sire line and four of the past six leading first crop sires descend from that male line.

**ORIENTATE:** The champion sprinter of 2002 possessed extreme speed. He failed to win both of his starts at 2 and had his best season at 4. However, his dam, the Cox's Ridge mare Dream Team, was a multiple stakes winner as a juvenile and finished third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies in 1987.

**SNOW RIDGE:** Florida's Padua Farm has produced three top 10 first-crop sires the past two seasons, including Yes It's True. In 2006, Snow Ridge might continue the trend. A graded stakes-winning sprinter, the son of Tabasco Cat also placed in a pair of juvenile stakes, including the Grade III Sapling.

**UNBRIDLED TIME:** The first winner and the first stakes winner sired by Breeders' Cup juvenile winner Unbridled's Song. Unbridled Time broke his maiden at first asking at the 2000 Keeneland Spring meeting, before winning the WHAS-TV on Derby Day. Songandaprayer, Unbridled's Song's first son to stud, was the fourth leading first crop sire in 2005.

**TEXAS GLITTER:** The Florida-based Texas Glitter was one of the quickest runners in recent years, winning eight stakes, all at 6 furlongs or shorter. He was



Matt Goins

**Adieu used this Keeneland maiden win as a springboard to major stakes success in 2005.**

adept on dirt and turf, equaling the 5-furlong course record at Calder in 2002. At 2, he placed in the Grade III Sanford and won the Huntington Stakes at Aqueduct. By Glitterman out of an Apalachee mare, he didn't surprise anyone with his early success as a racehorse.

**YONAGUSKA:** The son of 1999 leading first crop sire Cherokee Run was purchased for \$1.95 million at the 2000 Fasig-Tipton February 2-year-olds-in-train-

ing sale. He quickly began recouping that investment with a win in the Flash Stakes at Belmont Park in June. He would go on to have a fine juvenile season with a second in the Grade II Sanford and a dead heat win (with City Zip) in the Grade I Hopeful at Saratoga.

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