



Taking up **RESIDENCE**

FLORIDA CONTINUES TO ATTRACT NEW SIRES FOR THE 2006 BREEDING SEASON

By MATT O'NEIL

THE LATEST WAVE OF NEW STALLIONS
HIGH FLY retiring to Florida was announced late last year. There are now 25 stallions new to the Sunshine State for 2006, including four grade one winners.

Exactly three and a half years after buying the good racemare Verbasc in foal to Atticus at the 2001 Keeneland November sale, Charlotte Weber found

herself in the thick of the Kentucky Derby chase when the foal she purchased in-utero, later named High Fly, reeled off a string of important victories in the spring of 2005.

He entered the Holy Bull (G3) at Gulfstream unbeaten after his win in the Aventura Stakes. He ran third that day but bounced back to win the Fountain

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SERITA HULT PHOTO

RULER'S COURT

of Youth Stakes (G2) and the Florida Derby (G1) before being sent off as one of the choices in the Kentucky Derby. In the fall of his sophomore year, High Fly finished a good second in the Jerome Handicap (G2) to subsequent Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) winner Silver Train. High Fly is by the Nureyev stallion Atticus, who set a world record for a mile on the turf in the 1997 Arcadia Handicap at Santa Anita. He is the eighth foal and third stakes winner for Verbasle, who placed in the Matron (G1) as a juvenile and placed in a pair of grade three events the following year. High Fly will stand at Weber's Live Oak Stud for a fee of \$5,000.

Owner Ron Warranch hopes lightning strikes twice with his fast graded stakes winner Saint Afleet. Mr. Warranch (along with Greg Anderson) raced and

stood Saint Afleet's sire, Northern Afleet. He is, of course, the sire of 2005 dual Classic winner Afleet Alex, who is now standing in Kentucky for \$20,000. Saint Afleet won two of four starts for Warranch at two and won the Sunshine Millions Dash in his first start at three. In that effort he covered the six furlongs in 1:08 3/5 at Santa Anita. His biggest win came in the 2005 Portrero Grande Handicap (G2) in which he defeated the graded winner Hombre Rapido and the multiple graded winner and 2003 Breeders' Cup Sprint runner-up Bluesthestandard. Saint Afleet is out of a daughter of another Florida stallion success story in Saint Ballado. Saint Afleet will begin his second career at Rising Hill Farm and will be offered for \$5,000.

Aspen Ridge will set up shop at Oak Creek Stables in North Fort Meyers for 2006. He is a multiple-winning son of Wild Again, whose other sons Wild Rush, Wild Wonder and Vicar have done good work. Combined they have sired the likes of 2005 winners Stellar Jayne and Wild Fit and the graded winners Vicarage, R Lady Joy, Hollywood Story and Bank Audit. Aspen Ridge is out of the Canadian stakes winner Green Noble (by Green Dancer) and is a half-brother to the stakes winner Noble Strike and the stakes-placed Sir Frederick. He will stand for an initial fee of \$2,000.

Parent's Reward brings the right kind of pedigree to Lou-Roe Farm in 2006. He is a son of the incomparable Mr. Prospector and a brother to four stakes winners, including 1996 Belmont Stakes winner Editor's Note and group one winning-juvenile Hold That Tiger. Both Editor's Note and Hold That Tiger stand in Kentucky and a little further back in Parent's Reward's pedigree we find yet another Kentucky mainstay in Hennessy. Parent's Reward was purchased for \$800,000 at the 1999 Keeneland July Yearling Sale and was a winner in his racing days. He stood formerly in Ohio and his first crop will begin racing this spring. His 2006 fee at Lou-Roe is \$1,500.

Ruler's Court was one of the most exciting juveniles of 2003 and he is one of the most exciting stallions retiring to Florida in 2006. The son of the Seattle Slew stallion Doneraile Court exploded to win the grade two Norfolk in October of his juvenile season, winning by 14 lengths and establishing a stakes record in the process. The likes of Gulch, Dixie Union and Free House have won the Norfolk in recent years. Ruler's Court is out of the Copelan mare Future Guest, a sister to multiple Florida graded stakes winner Whata Brainstorm. He was purchased

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FOUR FOOTED FOTOS

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for \$400,000 at the 2003 Fasig-Tipton Calder Two Year-Old Training Sale and will stand at Vinery Florida for \$5,000.

The Deputy Minister sons like Awesome Again, Dehere, Silver Deputy, Touch Gold and Forest Camp have all proven successful in recent years. Silver Oaks Farm will offer a son of Deputy Minister out of a very active female family for 2006. Deputy Rokey is a brother to 2001 multiple graded winner Saudi Poetry, who recently sold for \$2 million at last fall's Keeneland November Sale. Another sibling, Aenas, was a multiple graded stakes placed runner of over \$430,000. Deputy Rokey is out of the Gone West mare Gone to Venus, a half-sister to three stakes winners including grade two winner Rokcby Rose, better known as the dam of 1999 Eclipse Champion Juvenile Filly Silverbulleteday. Under his fourth dam we find the Champion Rokey Stables runner Arts and Letters. Deputy Rokey will stand for \$1,500.

Signature stallions will welcome millionaire Freefourinternet to its 2006 stallion roster. The son of Tabasco Cat was a tough, sound and a versatile runner, winning or placing in 12 stakes, on turf and on dirt, from ages three to six. He won a pair of stakes in England at three and four before invading the U.S. in the spring of his five year-old season. That year he was kept primarily on the grass and culminated a strong campaign with a win in the one mile grade two Kelso H. on the Belmont Park turf course. Arguably his finest moment came the following autumn when he upset multi-millionaire

Perfect Drift on the dirt at Hawthorne. Freefourinternet will stand his first season for \$4,000.

The speedy multiple sprint stakes winner True Direction retires to Florida with an impressive resume. At three, the son of French Deputy ran third in the Riva Ridge Stakes (G2) and won the Hirsch Jacobs as well as the Fall Highweight Handicap (G3) over older horses. In the latter race he carried 134 lbs. He wrapped up his career with eight wins from 19 starts over three seasons and racked up nearly \$350,000 in earnings and posted an impressive 116 Beyer Speed Figure in an allowance contest at Belmont Park. True Direction is out of a daughter of 1985 Preakness winner Tank's Prospect, who is a sister to the multiple stakes winner Enclosure. The good runner and sire Big Spruce can be found under his third dam. True Direction will stand at Lou-Roe Farm for \$3,000.

Quick Action has the race record and pedigree to be any kind of sire. As a three year-old, the Carson City son won a pair of sprint stakes and placed in three others, including the Lafayette Stakes (G3) at Keeneland. The Overbrook Farm homebred, finished his career with seven wins from 17 starts and earnings of over \$190,000. But the real story with Quick Action is his female family. His second dam is a half sister to the very good stallion Royal Academy and a full sister to Terlingua, dam of the legend-in-his own time, Storm Cat. Quick Action will stand at Martin Stables South for a fee of \$3,500. ■

DEPUTY ROKEY (left)

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