

NEW BLOOD

*Florida has attracted a promising group of **new sires** for the **2007** breeding season. Following is a brief rundown of the **new stallions** slated to take up **residence** in the Sunshine State* **PART 1 OF A 2-PART SERIES**



FOUR FOOTED PHOTO

FIRE SLAM IS RETIRING TO VINEYARD.

By MATT O'NEIL

The first wave of new Florida stallions has been announced, and it is a very accomplished group. All of the newcomers are graded stakes winners and include sons of A. P. Indy and Storm Cat.

The A. P. Indy son Congrats is one of three new stallions to take up residence at Cloverleaf Farms for 2007. Six sons of A. P. Indy—Aptitude, Pulpit, Old Trieste, Malibu Moon, Stephen Got Even and Golden Missile—have already sired grade one winners. Congrats certainly has the credentials to join that group.

In his four years on the track he won or placed in eight stakes contests and earned just shy of \$1 million. His big win came in the 2005 San

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BENOIT HEDDIE

WITH DISTINCTION IS TAKING UP RESIDENCE AT HARTLEY/DERENZO

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Pasqual Handicap (G2) at Santa Anita. In 2005, he also finished second to Rock Hard Ten in the Santa Anita Handicap (G1) and ran third in the Hollywood Gold Cup (G1).

Congrats hails from an exceptional Rokeby Farm female family that's one of the best in the stud book. His second dam, Wild Applause, has produced four graded stakes winners, including the useful sire Roar. Wild Applause is one of seven stakes winners produced by her dam with 1993 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Sea Hero among others. Congrats will begin his stallion career for a \$12,500 fee.

Fire Slam is one of two new stallions at The Vinery for 2007. Stakes-placed at two, Fire Slam developed into one of the better three-year-old sprinters of 2004, but not before a few obligatory stops on the Kentucky Derby trail. He won the Lecomte (G3) at The Fairgrounds and ran

second in the Lexington (G2) at Keeneland, before he found his niche in the sprinting game. His signature win came on Belmont Stakes Day with a handy score in the Riva Ridge Stakes (G2) going seven furlongs.

His stellar three-year-old campaign also included wins in the inaugural running of the Matt Winn at Churchill Downs and the Don Bernhardt Memorial over older rivals. The son of Grand Slam retired with \$687,271 in earnings. He will stand for a \$6,000 fee.

High Limit is among the new arrivals at CloverLeaf and he is the first son of Maria's Mon to stand in Florida.

He broke his maiden in October of his juvenile season and went on to win the Louisiana Derby (G2) in just his third career start. High Limit exhibited tremendous early season form in 2006 as well. He reeled off a pair of grade two wins during

the first two months of the year, capturing the San Pasqual and the Strub Stakes at Santa Anita over Derby winner Giacomo.

High Limit is out of a mare by Known Fact. He is inbred to Raise A Native, but at 5x5, and carries a pedigree completely free of both Mr. Prospector and Northern Dancer.

In 2005, Florida breeders welcomed Kentucky Derby third-place finisher and Florida-bred Peace Rules. Last year, Derby runner up Closing Argument came to the Sunshine State. For 2007, Imperialism will make it three straight years that a Derby-placed runner has retired to Florida. The son of Langfuhr finished a troubled third behind Smarty Jones and Lion Heart in the 2004 Derby and he will begin his stallion career at Get Away Farm.

Prior to his Classic placing, Imperialism had established himself as one of the top

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DENVER PHOTO

TRUST N LUCK IS RELOCATING TO FLORIDA AND WILL STAND AT VENERY

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three year olds on the West Coast. He won the San Vicente (G2), San Rafael (G2) and was second in the Santa Anita Derby (G1). He came back the following year to win the Pat O'Brien (G2) at Del Mar.

Imperialism is a son of the good Danzig stallion Langfuhr who has also sired the likes of Canadian Triple Crown winner Wando, Sovereign Award winner Mobil, multiple grade one winner Imperial Gesture and the multiple 2006 graded winner Lawyer Ron. He is out of a mare by Pass The Tab and is a half-brother to the multiple stakes winner White Beauty.

Pomeroy is another top grandson of Danzig retiring to Florida for 2007 and he completes the CloverLeaf trifecta.

Purchased out of the Fasig-Tipton Calder sale for \$300,000, the son of Boundary placed in a pair of graded two-year-old stakes later that year. As a three-year-old, he won the Jersey Shore (G3) at Monmouth and took the prestigious King's Bishop (G1) at Saratoga.

An uncanny number of top sires have emerged from the King's Bishop during the past decade. Stallions like Distorted Humor, Elusive Quality, Forestry, More Than Ready, Tale of the Cat and Florida-bred Successful Appeal have all won or placed in the King's Bishop since 1996.

Pomeroy returned to Saratoga to win the Alfred G. Vanderbilt as a four-year-old and made another successful trip to The Spa this past summer to earn his second grade one in the Forego Handicap.

Pomeroy is out of the Seeking

the Gold mare Questress and is one of only a few graded stakes-winning sons produced by Seeking the Gold daughters. Pure Prize (by Storm Cat) is one of that select group and he currently ranks among the top first crop stallions with three stakes winners.

Florida-bred Trust N Luck stood his first three seasons at The Venery in Kentucky and will be available to Florida breeders at that farm's southern stallion station in 2007.

He is one of Montbrook's top runners, winning the In Reality and the What A Pleasure Stakes at Calder as a juvenile before playing a big role in the Derby prep races at Gulfstream the following year. He beat the grade one winners Whywhywhy and Offlee Wild in the Fountain of Youth Stakes (G2) before finishing second to eventual Belmont Stakes (G1) winner Empire Maker in the Florida Derby (G1).

Trust n Luck was well received in Kentucky, greeting an average of 85 mares his first two years. He is a full brother to the stakes winner Grand Veranda and will stand for a \$5,000 fee in 2007.

With Distinction is the newest edition to the Hartley/De Renzo roster and he will be one of only three graded stakes-winning sons of Storm Cat standing in Florida.

In his racing days, With Distinction earned blacktype on seven occasions for Robert and Beverly Lewis and trainer D. Wayne Lukas. As a four-year-old in 2005, he ran second in the Maryland Breeders' Cup (G3) and placed in two other sprint stakes. He blossomed in early 2006, winning the El Conejo Stakes (G3) at Santa Anita and placing in the San Antonio (G2) and the Churchill Downs Handicap (G2) on the Kentucky Derby undercard.

With Distinction is out of the Alydar mare Extravagant Woman, who has also produced the grade one winner Living Vicariously and the classic-placed filly Resort. ■

IMPERIALISM IS RETIRING TO GET AWAY FARM



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