

Florida Pedigree Perspective

Trying to uphold a Florida tradition, the state's freshman sires aim for the top of the charts.

By MATT O'NEILL

Since 1983, some 40 Florida stallions have ranked among the national top ten on the first crop sires list, and Florida has produced five overall freshman sire champions during that time. In the past decade alone, two Leading First Crop Sires have come out of the Sunshine State, Valid Expectations in 2001 and Successful Appeal in 2004. Several of those Florida stallions

created nice paydays for their owners and shareholders when they were lured away to Kentucky after impressive

first crop performances. Fappiano, Crafty Prospector, Premiership, With Approval, Glitterman, Honor Grades, Storm Creek, Stormy Atlantic, Successful Appeal, Yes It's True, and Songandaprayer all made the trip north after ranking among the best freshman sires in the country.

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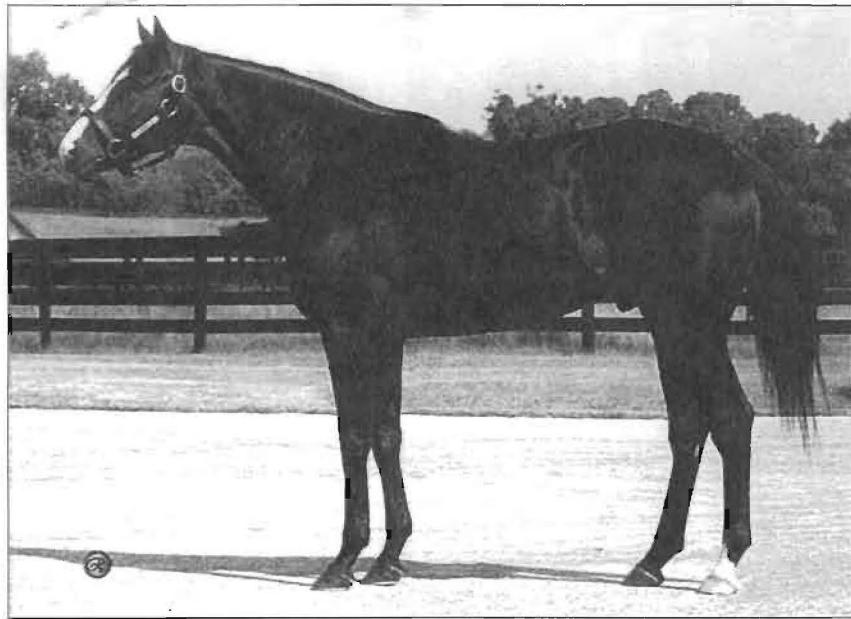
Successful Appeal and Yes It's True are members of the same sire crop, and finished one-two on the 2004 first crop list. The Florida pair bested the more heralded Coolmore stallions that year, Fusaichi Pegasus and Giant's Causeway, who both stood for over \$100,000 and had a tremendous advantage in terms of crop size. In fact, Successful Appeal and Yes It's True combined to field only 101 registered juveniles in 2004, while Giant's Causeway alone had 128 in his first crop (Fu Peg had 82). Overall, that sire class, which also included More Than Ready and Dixie Union, has continued to do good work in the ensuing years.

There is similar hope and excitement surrounding this year's group of first crop stallions. The Florida-based contingent of 2007 freshman sires is also very promising and there could be more than a few members that hit the big time. Only time will tell if the Sunshine State stallions will top the charts as well, but there are

Macho Uno



LOUISE REINAGEL PHOTOS



Repent

several candidates to do just that.

The folks at Adena Springs South will be watching a lot of juvenile races this year. They stand four first crop stallions at their Florida division, including a champion and a multiple grade one winner. Macho Uno earned an Eclipse as champion juvenile in 2000 after his exciting win over Point Given in the Breeder's Cup Juvenile (G1). It's a little tricky trying to evaluate the sales histories of the young Adena Springs stallions as there are often a good number of homebreds among their offspring. However, the Macho Uno yearlings averaged a solid \$44,071 last year, with three selling in the six figures. His first sales juveniles have fared even better so far with a \$325,000 juvenile at the Fasig-Tipton Calder sale and a \$150,000 colt at the

OBS February sale. Macho Uno is represented by 67 juveniles this year.

Another of the big name Adena freshman stallions, Milwaukee Brew, was back in the news a few weeks ago after Lava Man matched his (and John Henry's) feat of winning a second Santa Anita Handicap (G1). The son of Wild Again stood his first few seasons in Kentucky before covering 102 mares in Florida in 2006. He has a first crop of 82 juveniles ready to hit the races.

Adena Springs found gold with El Prado, a son of the great European stallion

Gulf Storm



Sadler's Wells, and are trying another son of that sire. Their Sligo Bay certainly has a sire's pedigree; his dam is a full sister to Saint Ballado, Devil's Bag and Glorious Song, the dam of Rahy. Like Milwaukee Brew, he stood at Adena Springs' Kentucky division his first two years and he'll have 79 juveniles to state his case this year.

The least heralded of the Adena Springs South foursome is Greatness. While just a winner in his racing days, he's one of the last of the Mr. Prospector sons to stud and comes from a good female line. At least one of his 39 registered juveniles appears to be a runner as Castletop Stable went to \$220,000 at the OBS February sale to secure a Greatness colt.

Bridlewood Farm's Storm Cat son Lightnin' N Thunder also had a big seller at OBS, with a \$250,000 colt going to part owner WinStar Farm. His first yearlings were also well received last year, averaging ten times his \$4,000 stud fee.

Between his native Chile and North America, Lido Palce (CHI) won seven Grade/Group 1 races in his career, including back-to-back editions of the prestigious Woodward Stakes. The grandson of Forty Niner racked up over \$2.7 million while on the track and has 45 registered juveniles in the pipeline for Lambholm South.

Grade one winner Trust N Luck stood his first three seasons at Vinery Kentucky before being offered to Florida breeders for the 2007 season. The Florida-bred has 69 registered juveniles set to go.

D'Wildcat will be the first son of Forest Wildcat with runners when his 39 colts and fillies hit the races this spring. The grade one winner stood his first few seasons in Canada before being relocated to Vinery South.



Essence Of Dubai

Repent was a multiple graded stakes winner as a two year old and duplicated the feat at three. He has 77 registered juveniles in his first crop, including a \$165,000 OBS February colt that will race under the green and yellow silks of Dogwood Stable.

A graded winner at two and three, Essence of Dubai is one of the first two sons of Pulpit to have runners (with fellow 2007 freshman Sky Mesa being the other). The Hartley/De Renzo stallion has 51 first crop juveniles registered so far.

The two Florida stallions with the biggest advantage in terms of sheer numbers are Full Mandate and Gulf Storm. The former is a stakes-winning son of A. P. Indy and he has 97 registered juveniles, including a \$90,000 OBS February colt. The Storm Cat son Gulf Storm was a \$1.4 million yearling and was stakes-placed in his racing days. He has 95 juveniles in his first crop for Lou-Roe Farm.

The other members of the Florida sire class of 2007 include Drewman (54 2yo's); grade two winner Smooth Jazz (41 2yo's), the first Storm Boot stallion with runners; the precocious Montbrook son Pure Precision (38 2yo's); the Deputy Minister-Hollywood Wildcat son Deputy Wild Cat (26 2yo's); Skip Trial's grade three-winning son Skip to the Stone (24 2yo's); Express Tour (11 2yo's), a grade two-winner by Tour D'Or; Hadrian's Wall (11 2yo's), a \$1.15 million son of Storm Cat; and Awesome Again's first sire son, the juvenile stakes winner Awesome of Course (8 2yo's). ■