

Devon in the Fast Lane

Cal-based Storm Cat son is current juvenile leader

We have come to expect speed-oriented regional sires to dominate the standings early in the juvenile season and this year is no exception, with the California-based Devon Lane and In Excess leading the way thus far. Of course, there are always surprises. A little known son of Mt. Livermore has made a big splash, and we have seen very few runners from this year's stellar crop of Kentucky-based freshman sires.

In 2001, a Devon Lane colt, Devon's Prospect, won the Copper Top Futurity for New Mexico-bred juveniles. This year, his full sister Stormy Lane accomplished the same feat. That win and its \$79,320 winner's share were enough to vault Devon Lane to the top of the Juvenile Sire List as of April 11. The Storm Cat stallion stood his first few seasons in New Mexico and is now resides at Vessels Stallion Farm in California.

With the slew of quarter-mile dashes for two-year-olds run in the Golden State so far this year, it is no surprise to see In Excess second on the Juvenile Sires List. He has been represented by a pair of winners so far and completes the Vessels Farm exacta.

King of the hill

The Louisiana-based Mt. Livermore stallion Prince of the Mt. could be this year's Bartok. From an initial foal crop of only nine foals, he is already represented by the Knight of the Mt., who captured the Jean Lafitte Futurity in his second start. While Prince of the Mt. was winless at two and did not win a stakes until he was four (the Ark-La-Tex Handicap-G3), his pedigree certainly is slanted towards "win early" speed. He is half-brother to Clever Monique, dam of grade one winning sprinter Yes It's True and his full brother, last year's juvenile stakes winner Honest Deceiver. He also becomes the fourth son of Mt. Livermore to sire an unrestricted stakes winner, joining Montreal Marty, Peaks and Valleys and recently repatriated Housebuster.

Several other regional freshman sires have had winners early in the season as well: the Danzig Connection son Parenthesis, the New Mexico-based Ghostly Moves (by Silver Ghost), the Gone West stallion Western Fame (California), and Semoran, a Florida-based son of Phone Trick.

Table I:

Leading Freshman Sires (Through 4/18/02)

RNK	STALLION	LOC	FOALS	WINNERS
1 --	Elusive Quality	KY	48	2
--	Souvenir Copy	KY	92	2
2 --	Distorted Humor	KY	58	1
--	Ghostly Moves	NM	11	1
--	Parentheses	NM	6	1
--	Prince of the Mt.	LA	9	1
--	Red	CA	12	1
--	Semoran	FL	21	1
--	Western Fame	CA	47	1

Ghostly Moves has the most impressive statistics of any stallion so far this year. From a foal crop of only eleven, seven have already started!

Elusive Quality has made the most noise of the Kentucky freshman sires thus far. His first two starters are winners, topped by Mr. Elusive, winner on April 12 at Santa Anita, and quickly followed by Adopted Daughter, at Keeneland on April 14. The son of Gone West stands at Gainsborough Farm. Souvenir Copy has had the most starters, with 12, and a pair of those have won.

WinStar Farm's fast son of Forty Niner, Distorted Humor, is the only other Kentucky-based freshman sire to have been represented by a winner as of this writing. His first starter, Awesome Humor, won at Keeneland on April 11 for renowned juvenile trainer Ronny Werner.

Many of this year's more prominent freshman sires do not figure to be "win early" stallions. It is therefore not all that alarming that we haven't seen many Touch Golds, Swains, Deputy Commanders, Skip Aways, or Awesome Agains. It is a bit surprising, however, that we have seen so few of the Grand Slams, Favorite Tricks, and Tale of the Cats, etc.

Perhaps the most impressive youngster unveiled so far this season is Posse. The Silver Deputy colt romped home by just over 13 lengths in his debut at Keeneland on April 10. That visually impressive performance likely earned him the role of favorite for the Three Chimneys Juvenile Stakes (formerly WHAS-TV Stakes) on the Derby Day undercard.

Based on their wins early in the Keeneland meet, Holiday Runner, Raise an Emblem, as well as Awesome Humor may be among the Derby Day challengers to Posse. The filly Holiday Runner, by Meadowlake, won impressively on April 7 for D. Wayne Lukas. Raise an Emblem, by the suddenly red-hot Our Emblem, took the first baby race at Keeneland at 17 to 1 on Opening Day. It should be noted that the second place finisher in that heat, Mason City suffered a

horrendous trip, breaking last and lacking room throughout the stretch before closing gamely for second. The son of Carson City won't be a maiden for long. 

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Table II:

Leading Sires of 2YO Winners (Through 4/18/02)

RNK	STALLION	LOC	FOALS	WINNERS	SWS	EARNS
1	Devon Lane	CA	28	1	1	\$79,320
2	Elusive Quality*	KY	48	2	0	\$63,225
3	Silver Deputy	KY	48	2	0	\$62,450
4	In Excess (IRE)	CA	61	2	0	\$60,000
5	Souvenir Copy*	KY	92	2	0	\$58,230
6	Prince of the Mt.	LA	9	1	1	\$52,031

* Freshman sire

by
Matt
O'Neil

*The
Louisiana-
based Mt.
Livermore
stallion
Prince of the
Mt. could be
this year's
Bartok.*

