

Return to the New Math

Another way to look at leading sires

The Leading Sire of 2002 depends on what method of calculation and indeed what magazine you subscribe to. According to *The Blood-Horse*, which counts the North American, European, and United Arab Emirates earning for stallions that actually stand (or stood) in the United States, gave the year-end title to El Prado. The *Thoroughbred Times* uses an expanded criteria that also counts Japanese and Australian earnings, and has subsequently crowned Dehere. However, the general notion of ranking sires purely on progeny earnings has its inherent flaws.

Last year in this space (*OBI* Vol. 15 No. 2, "New World Order"), we introduced a wrinkle to *The Blood-Horse's* General Sires List by ranking the American-based sires without the money earned by their top earner of the year. The premise was that a single big earner can win the race for his sire, as Cigar did for Palace Music in 1995. So, at the risk of adding to the confusion, we have our own Leading Sire of 2002, which happens to be neither Dehere nor El Prado.

Using the new math, Dynaformer, for the second year in a row, would be the Leading Sire of 2002. His top earner in 2002 was Lane's End Spiral Stakes winner Perfect Drift with \$695,120. In fact, for the past two years he has managed to finish fourth on the General Sires List without an earner of in excess of \$1,000,000.

Dynaformer's crown was earned narrowly, however. The deceased End Sweep finished a mere \$7,919 behind the veteran son of Roberto on the new list. End Sweep's top earner of 2002 was Met Mile (G1) winner Swept Overboard, and without his winnings of \$495,325, the progeny of End Sweep still racked up \$5,412,578.

A.P. Indy, Storm Cat, and Carson City round out the new top five. Carson City finished twelfth on the old list. Dehere and El Prado, second and first respectively on the General Sire List check in a very solid sixth and seventh, followed by previous number three Wild Again, then Mr. Greeley and Allen's Prospect. The latter two, like Carson City were ranked outside the top 10 on the year-end *The Blood-Horse* list. Those three expelled the original eighth, ninth, and tenth stallions Gulch, Cryptoclearance, and Broad Brush.

Table I:
2002 Top 10 Sires Without Top Earner

SIRE	2002 TOP 10	GENERAL RANK
Dynaformer	1	4
End Sweep	2	6
A. P. Indy	3	7
Storm Cat	4	5
Carson City	5	12
Dehere	6	2
El Prado	7	1
Wild Again	8	3
Mr. Greeley	9	15
Allen's Prospect	10	17

Historic perspectives

Going back to 1990, the actual Leading Sire would have retained his title six times even without the benefit of his top earner. In 1990, Alydar would still have been leading sire even without Horse of the Year Criminal Type and his \$2,270,290. Danzig would still have won three consecutive titles, however not in the same years. On the actual General Sires List, his three-year reign began in 1991, but that year he would have been surpassed by Mr. Prospector if their leading earners were omitted. However, in 1994 when Broad Brush led *The Blood-Horse* list, Danzig would have come out on top using the method put forward here.

In 1995 and 1996, this method would likely have had its greatest relevance. With Cigar dominating in 1995, his sire Palace Music sat atop the General Sires List despite the fact that all other Palace Music progeny earned only \$513,776. The following year Cozzene topped the charts with his Alphabet Soup earning nearly half of his sires \$5,171,395. In both 1995 and 1996 Palace Music and Cozzene would have dropped out of the top 10 using the method of deleting the top earner. In every other year since 1990 the original leader remained in the top 10 after doing the new math.

While this method can be used to point out the weaknesses in some of the past leading sires, it can also point to their real superiority. In 1997 Deputy Minister would still have been the top sire even without Deputy Commander's \$1,849,405. He would still have finished over \$500,000 ahead of Wild Again while still counting Wild Again's top money earner. And in 1999, the year Storm Cat topped the \$10,000,000 mark in progeny earnings, he would still have surpassed Silver Deputy by over \$770,000, even without the benefit of Cat Thief's \$3,020,500. **JOB**

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Table II:
Annual Leading Sires Subtracting Top Earner

YEAR	GENERAL RANK	FOAL EARNINGS
2002	Dynaformer (4)	El Prado
2001	Dynaformer (4)	Thunder Gulch
2000	Storm Cat (1)	Storm Cat
1999	Storm Cat (1)	Storm Cat
1998	Storm Cat (2)	Deputy Minister
1997	Deputy Minister (1)	Deputy Minister
1996	Aflect (3)	Cozzene
1995	Gone West (3)	Palace Music
1994	Danzig (4)	Broad Brush
1993	Danzig (1)	Danzig
1992	Danzig (1)	Danzig
1991	Mr. Prospector (3)	Danzig
1990	Alydar (1)	Alydar

by
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