

Lunarpal Leads Freshman Appeal

Successful Appeal retains hold on sire division lead

by
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The story of the early juvenile season continues to be Successful Appeal and his unbeaten son Lunarpal. After sweeping the three juvenile stakes at the Churchill Downs spring meet, Lunarpal now has earnings of nearly \$285,000. Those earnings have secured his sire's place atop both the first crop and overall juvenile sire standings.

Of course, Lunarpal is not only the headliner for Successful Appeal. He has also sired a strong supporting cast with three other winners and a pair of additional stakes winners in Punch Appeal (J J's Dream Stakes at Calder) and Double D Appeal (Nursery Stakes at Hollywood). All three of these stakes winners carry a return of Mr. Prospector, great-grandsire of Successful Appeal's dam. The dams of Lunarpal and Punch Appeal are products of the Mr. Prospector sireline while Double D Appeal's second dam is a granddaughter of Mr. Prospector.

The Successful Appeals are obviously precocious and it will be interesting to see what happens when the distances get longer and the rest of the crop has more time to mature. With only a total foal crop of 30, it may well be difficult for the son of Valid Appeal to maintain his leadership when the leaves start to turn. There are certainly plenty of highly regarded young stallions in pursuit.

Five winners

Fusaichi Pegasus may be the main danger the second half of 2004. The most heralded member of this year's freshman class, he has already sired five maiden-special winners from eight starters. Those winners include a pair victorious in Europe and an American "buzz" horse in Roman Ruler, (a half-brother to El Corredor) who is heading for a stakes engagement at Del Mar.

As with Successful Appeal, there are already some pedigree trends with his early runners. Fusaichi Pegasus carries both Mr. Prospector and Northern Dancer up close, so it's perhaps no surprise that three of his early winners are out of Seattle Slew-line mares (two daughters and a granddaughter), with Slew not only a nick to both strains, but an outcross as well.

Fusaichi Pegasus' other two winners are out of granddaughters of Deputy Minister (therefore linebred to Northern Dancer at 4x5), including Roman Ruler, who also carries inbreeding to Mr. Prospector at 2x4.

Off the scale

The July 4 My Dear Stakes at Woodbine showcased the progeny of two other stallions who have made a lot of noise in the past month. The race was won by Quite a Ruckus, a daughter of the top sprinter Richter Scale. She was breaking her maiden in that race, and in a maiden special the same day at Churchill Downs, so did Lady Dynasty, another daughter of Richter Scale. Richter Scale's holiday fireworks were good enough to move him up to fifth on the freshman sire standings.

Finishing second in the My Dear Stakes was Sweet Solairo, a daughter of Bernstein. While still a maiden, she is Bernstein's first stakes horse, to go with his four winners. At press time, Bernstein got his first stakes winner, when Berbatim won the Canterbury

Park Lassie Stakes on July 11.

Bernstein is a beautifully bred son of Storm Cat out of La Affirmed. A group three winner in Ireland, he is brother to three stakes winners including Caress, dam of Sky Mesa. Bernstein now has as many winners as Successful Appeal and More Than Ready and is currently ranked eighth among his peers.

Richter Scale was among six first-crop stallions to have sired their first stakes winner in the past month. More Than Ready's Ready to Live broke through in the Rebel Stakes at Louisiana Downs.

Two sons of Gone West were also represented with their first black-type winners. The California-based Muqtarib saw his daughter Whatsthenameman win the Malcolm Anderson Stakes at Bay Meadows and Florida's Dance Master was made proud when his son Flamenco won the Victoria Stakes at Woodbine. Dance Master is the second freshman sire standing at Padua to be represented with a stakes winner (joining Yes It's True) and the third Florida-based stallion.

In Europe, the tragically lost Dubai Millennium was represented by Dubawi, winner of the Weatherbys Superlative Stakes (G3) at Newmarket.

By winners

As far as winners go, Yankee Victor and the Texas-based Magic Cat match Fusaichi Pegasus with five winners. Yankee Victor is the second grade one-winning son of Saint Ballado to have runners, following Captain Bodgit. Four of Yankee Victor's winners have won maiden specials, including Yankee Bull in Puerto Rico.

The surprising Storm Cat stallion Magic Cat won one of 11 starts in his racing days, placing in the listed Crabapple Stakes at age five. All five of his winners have won at Lone Star Park, two in maiden special events.

Looking at the overall juvenile sire standings, Carson City is now second behind Successful Appeal. The prolific son of Mr. Prospector has sired six early juvenile winners and his Classic Elegance won the Debutante Stakes (G3) at Churchill Downs for Wayne Lukas and Bob and Beverley Lewis. The rest of the top five are all familiar faces: Swiss Yodeler (nine winners now), Valid Expectations (seven winners) and Storm Cat (six winners).

Looking down the list a little further we find that Wheaton is doing quite well this year. The half-brother to Storm Cat by Alydar has seven juvenile winners and a pair of minor stakes winners. His 2002 foal crop is his largest to date (80), so much more could be expected.

While currently ranking nineteenth, Seeking the Gold also deserves mention because of his very promising juvenile filly in Broadway Gold. The granddaughter of Eclipse Champion Eliza remained unbeaten in winning the \$100,000 Astoria Stakes at Belmont. 



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