

Return to The New Math

A.P. Indy no “one horse sire” in 2003

by
Matt
O’Neil

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Over the past five years A.P. Indy has been the most prolific sire of top class two-turn dirt performers in North America. Runners like Secret Status, Jilbab, Golden Missle, Tempera, Stephen Got Even, Aptitude, Runup The Colors, and Pulpit make that case. Despite all the success, it should be fair to say that 2003 was A.P. Indy’s “breakout” year.

His Mineshaft will no doubt be named Eclipse Champion Older Male after wins in the Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1), Woodward (G1), Suburban (G1), etc. Those exploits will likely be good enough for a Horse of the Year title as well. What Mineshaft also did was help his sire top *The Blood-Horse* General Sires List for the very first time. A.P. Indy had previously finished as high as third in both 2000 and 2001.

Even without the benefit of Mineshaft’s \$2.2 million, A.P. Indy would still be the Leading Sire of 2003. As we’ve done the past few years, we’ve constructed a new Leading Sires list, omitting the purse money achieved by each stallion’s leading earner.

Eliminate the positive

This year there is actually very little change among the top 10 sires on the original General Sires List. In fact, the original top four, A.P. Indy (#1), El Prado (#2), Dynaformer (#3), and Kris S. (#4), all remain, although Dynaformer and El Prado would

trade places without counting the earnings of Medaglia D’oro (by El Prado) and Perfect Drift (by Dynaformer), their leading earners in 2003.

The first change comes with Langfuhr, 5th on the General Sires List. Without the earnings of Canadian Triple Crown winner Wando, the son of Langfuhr would fall to 11th. Saint Ballado would fill in at 5th on the new list followed by Grand Slam (originally 8th), Carson City (originally 6th), Smart Strike (originally 9th) and Silver Deputy (originally 11th).

The only sire other than Langfuhr to drop out of the top 10 is the original #10 sire, Unbridled. Not For Love, who amassed progeny earnings of just under \$5 million with a top earner, Presidentialaffair, who earned only \$188,140, moves into this spot. (Last year another Maryland stalwart, Allen’s Prospect, moved up from 17th to 10th on the revised list.) It was also the second time in the past 10 years that Unbridled would have dropped out of the top 10.

Looking back over the General Sires List since 1994 inclusive, five other original top 10 sires would also have fallen out of the top 10 twice: Cee’s Tizzy (without Tiznow in 2000 and 2001), Skip Trial (without Skip Away in 1996 and 1997), Cozzene (without Alphabet Soup in 1996 and Tikanen in 1994), Cryptoclearance (without Volponi in 2002 and Victory Gallop in 1998), and Gulch (without Thunder Gulch in 1995 and Nayefin in 2002).

Table I:
Leading Sires of 2003, Listed by Total Progeny Earnings

RANK	SIRE	PROGENY EARNINGS	LEADING EARNER	EARNINGS LESS TOP EARNER
1	A.P. Indy	\$9,100,912	Mineshaft (\$2,209,686)	\$6,891,226
2	El Prado (IRE)	\$8,290,368	Medaglia d’Oro (\$1,990,000)	\$6,300,368
3	Dynaformer	\$8,177,072	Perfect Drift (\$1,505,388)	\$6,671,684
4	Kris S.	\$7,675,812	Kris Kin (\$1,633,448)	\$6,042,364
5	Langfuhr	\$6,726,492	Wando (\$2,017,323)	\$4,709,169
6	Carson City	\$6,385,634	State City (\$1,292,469)	\$5,093,165
7	Saint Ballado	\$6,057,316	Ashado (\$610,800)	\$5,446,516
8	Grand Slam	\$5,956,391	Cajun Beat (\$820,000)	\$5,136,391
9	Smart Strike	\$5,651,378	Soaring Free (\$699,200)	\$4,952,178
10	Unbridled	\$5,651,328	Empire Maker (\$1,936,200)	\$3,715,128
11	Silver Deputy	\$5,648,645	Mr. Jester (\$730,800)	\$4,917,845
12	Storm Cat	\$5,154,004	Nebraska Tornado (\$558,240)	\$4,595,764
13	Pleasant Colony	\$5,128,369	Pleasantly Perfect (\$2,470,000)	\$2,658,369
14	Distorted Humor	\$5,001,930	Funny Cide (\$1,963,200)	\$3,038,730
15	Not For Love	\$4,975,470	Presidentialaffair (\$188,140)	\$4,787,330

Surprisingly, the very steady Gulch would never have been atop 10 sire using the method of subtracting the leading earner. The same goes for the good regional sires Cee's Tizzy and Skip Trial. Cryptoclearance, Cozzene, and Unbridled would still have been among the top 10 at least once during the past 10 years, even when using the new math.

Solid standings

In all, during the past 10 years, these stallions and others have lost a total of 28 "spots" among top 10 stallions on the original General Sires List. Another way to put it: 72 percent of the stallions that ranked among the top 10 by progeny earnings since 1994 would have remained in the top 10 even if the leading was not included in the year end total. So while progeny earnings has its problems, the stallions that rank highly tend to have had pretty solid years overall.

In each of the past 10 years there have been at least two stallions fall out of the top 10 using the new math and as many as four. 1995 was interesting as the only two to be absent from the top 10 after the new calculations were Palace Music and Gulch, the 1-2 finishers on the General Sires List.

On the other end of the spectrum, Storm Cat has been a top 10 sire in eight of the last 10 years even without the benefit of his leading earner. Storm Cat led the General Sires List in 1999 (with a record \$10,355,446 in progeny earnings) and in 2000 (with \$9,270,333, second highest ever) and finished among the top 10 General Sires in seven of those years. In 2001

the great stallion moved into the new top 10 from the 16th spot on the original list.

Wild Again has ranked among the "new" top 10 stallions six times, finishing in the top 10 on the General Sires List in five of those years. The other year, 1994 he moved up from 19th to 8th, the biggest jump from any stallion during the past decade. A.P. Indy, Dixieland Band, Broad Brush, and Carson City all have five top 10 finishes on the new list, while Crafty Prospector, Dynaformer, Cure the Blues, and Black Tie Affair all have had four. The latter is the only other stallion to crack the new top 10 from as high as 19th on the original list, moving up to 9th in 1999.

Looking at the leading sires the past 10 years without benefit of their leading earners we can add to the accolades given to A.P. Indy for his performance in 2003. The \$6,891,226 amassed by his progeny other than Mineshaft is the second highest total ever, behind only the \$7,334,946 racked up by Storm Cat runners other than Cat Thief in 1999. 

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Matt O'Neil is a pedigree analyst and works at Taylor Made Farm's Stallion Division.

Table II:

New Ranking of Leading Sires of 2003, Listed by Progeny Earnings Less Amount Won by Leading Earner

NEW RANK	SIRE	PROGENY EARNINGS	LEADING EARNER	EARNINGS LESS TOP EARNER
1	A.P. Indy	\$9,100,912	Mineshaft	(\$2,209,686) \$6,891,226
2	Dynaformer	\$8,177,072	Perfect Drift	(\$1,505,388) \$6,671,684
3	El Prado (1RE)	\$8,290,368	Medaglia d'Oro	(\$1,990,000) \$6,300,368
4	Kris S.	\$7,675,812	Kris Kin	(\$1,633,448) \$6,042,364
5	Saint Ballado	\$6,057,316	Ashado	(\$610,800) \$5,446,516
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