

True Quality

Yes It's True first fresher with G1 winner

by
Matt
O'Neil

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Yes It's True became the first member of his crop to sire a coveted grade one winner when his unbeaten son Proud Accolade won the Champagne (G1) at Belmont Park on October 9. Proud Accolade is also the third stakes winner for his sire. Earlier on that Belmont card, More Than Ready's daughter Ready's Gal ran good second to Balleto in the Frizette (G1). And that same day at Delaware Park, Killanue, by Fusaichi Pegasus, became his sire's third stakes winner with his triumph in the Dover Stakes.

Proud Accolade and Ready's Gal are Breeders' Cup bound and FuPeg will be represented by Roman Ruler at Lone Star. With \$2.5 million in purses up for grabs between the Juvenile and the Juvenile Fillies, top finishes by any of those contenders would go a long way in determining the year-end leader among the first-crop stallions.

Over the last weekend in September, Cape Canaveral sired two new stakes winners, bringing his total up three in that category as well. His daughter Megascape won the rich Joseph A. Gimma for New York-breds at Belmont, while another daughter, Roving Angel, beat the boys in the open Finger Lakes Juvenile upstate. They join Puerto Rican grade one winner Launch Sequence. The three-quarter brother to Cape Town has now sired six total stakes horses, which ties him with Successful Appeal for tops in that category among this year's freshman.

Regional Roundup

With only two months left in the year, it's a good time to check in on the Leading First Crop sires from the major regional markets.

With Yes It's True and Successful Appeal graduating to Kentucky, Running Stag and Straight Man are the new freshman leaders among those remaining in the Sunshine State. As of this writing, Running Stag is ranked 10th nationwide, while Straight Man checks in 12th. Neither has yet to sire a stakes winner, but Running Stag has the multiple winner Stag Nation among his seven early winners and Straight Man has the stakes-placed Lady Glade and Inrightclassitme among his eight winners.

With nine winners, a stakes winner and five total stakes horses, Precise End is tops in New York. The son of former freshman leader End Sweep currently ranks 8th nationally, with progeny earnings approaching half a million dollars. Caticus, who moved to New York from Kentucky prior to the 2004 season, ranks second among the first crop sires currently standing in the Empire State and 18th nationally. He has sired 10 winners and the stakes

winner Kathern's Cat. The New York-based Phone Trick stallion Intidab is making the best of his limited opportunity. From only six foals he has sired five starters, and a pair of winners including Kentucky Cup Juvenile (G3) winner Greater Good. That runner is among three stakes horses so far from those six first crop foals. While Intidab is by the speedy Phone Trick, he did not win a stake until he was six when he took the A Phenomenon (G2) (now Vanderbilt) at Saratoga. The following year, as a sprightly seven year-old, he took the True North (G2).

Lion Hearted sired the early season stakes winner Chocolate Brown and has added another blacktype winner in Maryland Million Lassie winner Hear Us Roar. The Maryland-based son of Storm Cat has sired four winners from only nine starters and currently leads the Mid-Atlantic first crop sire list. Another Storm Cat son, Magic Cat is tops in Texas. He ranks 21st nationally with nine winners and the stakes winner Major League, who won the grassy Harrah's Juvenile at Louisiana Downs.

Out west, Old Topper continues to show the way with five winners and the stakes-winning Top Money. Muqtarib (by Gone West) and Crowning Storm (Storm Cat) are two other Cal-based freshmen that have sired stakes winners so far. The latter is one of five freshman sons of Storm Cat to have sired a stakes winner in 2004.

Storming On

The 'old man' is having another stellar year with his own juveniles. With three juvenile stakes winners and two grade one winners in Sweet Catomine and now Consolidator, Storm Cat has surpassed Successful Appeal as the leading sire of two-year olds in the U. S.

Outside of the first-crop stallions, Valid Expectations and Peaks and Valleys are the only other stallions with three juvenile stakes winners this year. Thunder Gulch is having a nice year with his two year-olds as well. While grade one Matron winner Sense of Style failed to menace after a difficult trip in the Alcibiades (G2), his Elusive Thunder won the World Appeal on the grass at The Meadowlands. **TOB**



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