

# The Deputy Minister Influence

*Champion founded his own branch of Northern Dancer Line*

by  
Matt  
O'Neil

Deputy Minister – who died on September 10, at the age of 26 years - has been duly eulogized elsewhere, but it is worth noting his impact thus far in 2004. While he never again approached his 1997 and 1998 status as the Leading Sire in North America, the production of his sons and daughters has assured his legacy for years to come. Silver Deputy, Salt Lake, Dehere, Deputy Commander, French Deputy, Service Stripe, Awesome Again and Touch Gold have all sired at least one grade one winner. Deputy Minister is the sire of the grade three juvenile winner Evil Minister this year, but is those last two sons, Touch Gold and Awesome Again, who are getting the glamour horses nowadays.

Belmont winner Touch Gold produced the grade one filly Composure among his four first-crop stakes winners. His Mass Media won the overnight Fly So Free stakes on September 12, and earlier this summer his Medalist took the Dwyer Stakes (G2) over a strong field of sophomores. And, of course, there is Midas Eyes who won the Forego Handicap (G1) over the Labor Day weekend, to throw his bridle in the ring for Eclipse Champion Sprinter honors.

Awesome Again matched his paternal half-brother with two first-crop grade one winners in Toccet and Ghostzapper. The latter is now back with a vengeance, having reeled off victories in the Tom Fool (G2), Islelin (G3) and most recently the Woodward Stakes (G1) at Belmont. He'll have to knock off Pleasantly Perfect in the Breeders' Cup Classic, but if he does, Champion Older Horse laurels await. Awesome Again has also sired 2004 grade three winner Snorter.

Not to be outdone, the Deputy Minister daughters have produced the likes of 2003 Eclipse Champion Juvenile Filly Halfbridled, Belmont Stakes (G1) winner Sarava and multiple grade one-winning turfer Redatorre. The day after Deputy Minister's death was announced, Magistretti, out of his daughter Ms. Strike Zone won his first grade one in the Man o'War Handicap. Deputy Minister is currently North America's sixth ranked broodmare sire with Request For Parole (G1), Last Song (G2) and Newfoundland (G3) among the 2004 stakes winners to his daughters credit.

## Dixie Daughters

The still active, at age 23, Dixieland Band is another great who is having a big impact on a variety of fronts in 2004. Like Deputy Minister, he is the sire of 2004 juvenile stakes winner Ragtime Hope. More importantly, though, he has overtaken Smile as the

leading broodmare sire of 2004. "Dixie" is already the maternal grandsire of a Kentucky Derby winner in Monarchos and this year his daughters are responsible for multiple grade one winner (and Eclipse Award candidate) Society Selection, grade one winner Southern Image, and other graded winners Limehouse, Pollard's Vision and Champali.

While the Dixieland Band daughters have long been a source of classy winners, it has been a different story with his sons. Citidancer and the late Dixie Brass have proven to be useful regional stallions but, for all his success, Dixieland Band has sired only three grade one-winning sons - Drum Taps, Dixie Brass and Dixie Union.

With each passing week, however, it looks more and more like Dixie Union, the flashy winner of the Haskell and Malibu, is going to make it as a commercial Kentucky stallion. With ten winners and the multiple stakes winner Im a Dixie Girl, Dixie Union is currently ranked in the top five among a strong group of first crop sires.

## Mambo's Euros

Rule of Law not only gave his connections an important win in the St. Leger at Doncaster in early September he also gave his sire, Kingmambo, his fourth group one win of 2004. The Lane's End son of Mr. Prospector does have three 2004 North American stakes winners, including grade three winner Mambo Slew. However, as has been the case throughout his career, his progeny are making a much bigger impact overseas. He now has a pair of English group one winners (Rule of Law, plus Russian Rhythm), one in France (Divine Proportions) and one in Japan (King Kamehameha). The latter doesn't count on the Blood-Horse sire list so officially Kingmambo is tied with his studmate A. P. Indy for the lead with three 2004 grade/group one winners. It should be noted that the Blood-Horse does count Racey Dreamer, a grade one winner over the jumps, along with Friends Lake and A. P. Adventure for A. P. Indy. In any event, it seems the Lane's End pair has a lock on grade/group one events, no matter the country or course.

## A Very Dear Birdie

There is a life-sized statue of Storm Cat outside the breeding shed at Overbrook Farm, a fitting tribute to the legendary sire who put the farm on the map. Perhaps a statue of the mare Dear Birdie would be appropriate as well. After all, Mary Lou Whitney's

prized mare has played a large role in the fortunes of two other Overbrook stallions, Cape Town and Grindstone.

The ledger still reads only one first-crop stakes winner for Cape Town, but that one stakes winner is Dear Birdie's Eclipse Award-winning daughter Bird Town. The "big horse" kept Cape Town afloat for at time, but he is doing just fine now thank you very much, with six second-crop stakes winners and four 2004 stakes winners. Those include a second graded winner in Monmouth Oaks (G2) winner Capeside Lady, and a third-crop juvenile stakes winner Timeintown.

Grindstone sired grade winner Ommadon among his two first-crop stakes winners. But with only five stakes winners from his first three crops, and none from his entire second crop, it seemed his spot on the Overbrook stallion roster was based more on sentimentality than anything else. Dear Birdie to the rescue again.

Her son Birdstone won the Champagne Stakes (G1) in 2003, and has won the Belmont Stakes (G1) and Travers Stakes (G1) this year to put himself in position to overtake Smarty Jones for year-end three year-old colt honors. Now all of a sudden Grindstone is one of the hottest sires in the country with Canadian grade three winner Organ Grinder and Smooth Maneuver also winning stakes events in late August/early September. The son of Unbridled is now the sire of four graded winners all told, including the aforementioned Smooth Maneuver who won the grade three Anne Arundel last season. 



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

#### Broodmare Sires of First Time Stakes Winners

RNK	STALLION	CROPS	SIRE	SW
1 -	Miswaki	19	Mr. Prospector	5
2 -	Mr. Prospector	25	Raise A Native	4
-	Flying Paster	11	Gummo	4
-	Storm Bird	18	Northern Dancer	4
-	Strawberry Road (AUS)	9	Whiskey Road	4
-	Chief's Crown	12	Danzig	4
7 -	Halo	22	Hail To Reason	3
-	Vice Regent	24	Northern Dancer	3
-	Mr. Leader	25	Hail To Reason	3
-	Green Dancer	25	Nijinsky 2nd	3
-	Sharpen Up (GB)	17	Atan	3
-	Clever Trick	21	Icecapade	3
-	Irish River (FR)	22	Riverman	3
-	Pleasant Colony	18	His Majesty	3
-	Diesis (GB)	18	Sharpen Up (GB)	3
-	Lord At War (ARG)	13	General (FR)	3
-	Storm Cat	14	Storm Bird	3
-	Aflect	12	Mr. Prospector	3
-	Seeking The Gold	13	Mr. Prospector	3
-	Forty Niner	10	Mr. Prospector	3
-	Cahill Road	10	Fappiano	3

#### Broodmare Sires of 2004 SWS

RNK	STALLION	SIRE	SW
1 -	Deputy Minister	Vice Regent	15
2 -	Halo	Hail To Reason	14
3 -	Mr. Prospector	Raise A Native	13
-	Storm Bird	Northern Dancer	13
-	Miswaki	Mr. Prospector	13
6 -	Cox's Ridge	Best Turn	12
-	Strawberry Road (AUS)	Whiskey Road	12
8 -	Seattle Slew	Bold Reasoning	11
-	Affirmed	Exclusive Native	11
-	Flying Paster	Gummo	11
-	Danzig	Northern Dancer	11
12 -	Valid Appeal	In Reality	10
13 -	Vice Regent	Northern Dancer	9
-	Green Dancer	Nijinsky 2nd	9
-	Private Account	Damascus	9
-	Fappiano	Mr. Prospector	9
-	Pleasant Colony	His Majesty	9
18 -	Great Above	Minnesota Mac	8
-	Spectacular Bid	Bold Bidder	8
-	Conquistador Cielo	Mr. Prospector	8
-	Rahy	Blushing Groom (FR)	8
-	Forty Niner	Mr. Prospector	8
-	Carson City	Mr. Prospector	8

#### Sires of First Time Stakes Winners

RNK	STALLION	CROPS	SIRE	SW
1 -	In Excess (IRE)	9	Siberian Express	6
2 -	Storm Boot	8	Storm Cat	5
3 -	Forest Wildcat	5	Storm Cat	4
-	Broad Brush	14	Ack Ack	4
-	Katahala County	7	Bold Ruckus	4
-	Dehere	7	Deputy Minister	4
-	Mr. Greeley	6	Gone West	4
-	Saint Ballado	9	Halo	4
-	Carson City	11	Mr. Prospector	4
10 -	Wild Again	16	Icecapade	3
-	Lord Avie	20	Lord Gaylord	3
-	Press Card	6	Fappiano	3
-	End Sweep	7	Forty Niner	3
-	With Approval	11	Caro (IRE)	3
-	Lost Soldier	4	Danzig	3
-	Mt. Livermore	16	Blushing Groom (FR)	3
-	Hadif	10	Clever Trick	3
-	Air Forbes Won	18	Bold Forbes	3
-	A.P. Indy	9	Seattle Slew	3
-	Red Ransom	11	Roberto	3
-	Royal Academy	11	Nijinsky II	3