

# Striking Performance

## Keeping a smart strike rate

by  
Matt  
O'Neil

If it seems like Smart Strike sires a stakes winner every weekend, that's because he does. Well, at least four consecutive weekends, stretching from mid-June to early July, he did. In that period of time he was represented by a total of six stakes winners.

On June 12, Smart Strike's sophomore daughter, Gold Strike, won the \$400,000 Labatt Woodbine Oaks. On the undercard that day at Woodbine, Hatpin won her first stake by taking the Alywow Stakes at six furlongs on the grass. Six days later, High Strike Zone took the Ark-La-Tex at Louisiana Downs for his second 2005 stakes triumph. The following weekend, the good Smart Strike three year-old colt, English Channel, easily won the \$500,000 Colonial Turf Cup in Virginia, while the venerable six year-old former Sovereign Award winner Soaring Free won the Scotts Highlander Handicap. The next

Sunday it was Smart and Classy's turn and the five year-old mare won her first black-type event, Eatontown Stakes (G3) on the Monmouth Park grass.

All told, Smart Strike has sired nine 2005 stakes winners, who have won a total of 16 stakes races, the most total stakes wins for any North American-based sire this year.

Seeking the Gold had a spectacular first half of the year as well, with ten stakes winners to lead all North American sires. Four of those stakes winners have won graded events: Seeking the Ante in the Nassau County Stakes (G2); Pleasant Home in the Bed o' Roses Breeders' Cup Handicap (G3); Wanderin Boy in the Mineshaft Handicap (G3) and Seeking Slew (via DQ) in the Kent Breeders' Cup Stakes (G3). Pleasant Home and Wanderin Boy are out of Pleasant Colony mares and are among the five stakes winners Seeking the Gold has sired out of such mares (the others include Cash Run and Pleasant Home's full sister Country Hideaway). Seeking Slew is at least the seventh stakes winner Seeking the Gold has sired out of daughter or granddaughter of Seattle Slew. That group also includes the successful stallions Mutakddim and his only U.S. grade one winning colt Cape Town.

## Giant strides

Much has been written in recent weeks about the exploits of the Coolmore pair of Montjeu and Giant's Causeway. And with good reason. The Irish-based Montjeu indeed looks like the heir apparent to his sire Sadler's Wells with seven stakes winners, two Classic winners and two additional Classic-placed colts from his first crop.

Giant's Causeway had a similar impact on the 2005 European Classics with his first crop. He was represented by 2,000 Guineas (G1) winner Footstepsinthesand and triple group one winner Shamardal (French 2,000 Guineas, French Derby, St. James Palace Stakes) not to mention two of the top three in the Coronation Stakes (G1) at Royal Ascot, winner Maids Causeway and third place-finisher Mona Lisa.

Giant's Causeway, of course, stood his first season in Ireland so it's no surprise that's he's enjoyed the bulk of success in Europe. He has, however, also had some good American runners like the Florida Derby (G1) second Noble Causeway and Hilltop Stakes winner My Typhoon. The son of Storm Cat also has

### Broodmare Sires of First Time Stakes Winners

RNK	STALLION	CROPS	SIRE	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	--Dixieland Band	14	Northern Dancer	1233	284	124	7
2	--Pleasant Colony	18	His Majesty	941	225	96	4
	--Storm Cat	12	Storm Bird	884	248	108	4
4	--A.P. Indy	7	Seattle Slew	232	77	28	3
	--Beau Genius	9	Bold Ruckus	239	89	39	3
	--Cozzene	14	Caro (IRE)	605	154	60	3
	--Dehere	5	Deputy Minister	122	34	16	3
	--Deputy Minister	16	Vice Regent	1258	274	122	3
	--Gulch	11	Mr. Prospector	534	162	62	3
	--Halo	25	Hail To Reason	2190	243	77	3
	--Mr. Prospector	25	Raise A Native	2953	327	124	3
	--Quiet American	8	Fappiano	171	63	28	3
	--Relaunch	19	In Reality	1439	265	130	3
	--Storm Bird	18	Northern Dancer	1480	269	89	3
	--Strawberry Road (AUS)	13	Whiskey Road	488	139	65	3

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2	--Mr. Prospector	25	Raise A Native	2953	327	124	11
3	--Storm Bird	18	Northern Dancer	1480	269	89	10
4	--Kris S.	18	Roberto	927	224	90	7
	--Relaunch	19	In Reality	1439	265	130	7
	--Strawberry Road (AUS)	13	Whiskey Road	488	139	65	7
7	--Bold Ruckus	19	Boldnesian	968	185	85	6
	--Danzig	19	Northern Dancer	1918	290	86	6
	--Deputy Minister	16	Vice Regent	1258	274	122	6
	--Rahy	9	Blushing Groom (FR)	524	176	71	6
	--Silver Deputy	10	Deputy Minister	357	118	62	6

some promising dirt two year-olds so far in 2005, namely Stonesider and First Samurai, from his first Kentucky-bred crop.

Stormy Atlantic began his stallion career in Florida before moving to Hill 'N' Dale Farm in Kentucky two years ago. The runners produced from his years in the Sunshine State continue to impress. In 2005 he has been represented by seven stakes winners including the grade three winning three year-old colt Indian Ocean and Sunshine Millions Oaks winner Hot Storm, who has also placed in several graded events this year. Indian Ocean and Hot Storm are members of Stormy Atlantic's third crop and his final Florida crop are juveniles of 2005. That group already includes four winners and Mystery Girl, third in Hollywood Park's Landaluce Stakes.

Prior to 2005, Slew City Slew had sired 328 winners, 31 stakes winners and 11 graded winners from 12 crops to race. But not one of those performers had ever won at the grade one level. With Lava Man's record triumph in the G1 Hollywood Gold Cup and Sis City's win in the Ashland back in April, Slew City Slew now has sired a pair of grade one winners in three months. The son of Seattle Slew has also been represented by the restricted stakes winners Jaguar City and My Sweet Sug as well as the Puerto Rican grade three winner City Flyer in 2005.

Concorde's Edge became the first unrestricted stakes winner out of a Boundary mare when he won the Gilded Time in course record time at Monmouth Park. The colt's dam, Pretty Boundary, is a foal of 1998 and a member of her sire's third crop. Claiborne recently announced that the 15 year-old Danzig stallion is being pensioned due to limited fertility. **2005**



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

## Sires of Stakes Winners

RNK	STALLION	CROPS	SIRE	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	-- Smart Strike	6	Mr. Prospector	319	111	53	9
	-- Unbridled's Song	6	Unbridled	473	123	57	9
3	-- Seeking The Gold	13	Mr. Prospector	692	93	39	8
	-- Wild Rush	4	Wild Again	291	119	63	8
5	-- Distorted Humor	4	Forty Niner	246	109	49	7
	-- Silver Deputy	14	Deputy Minister	724	127	53	7
	-- Storm Cat	15	Storm Bird	1014	97	48	7
	-- Stormy Atlantic	4	Storm Cat	281	113	44	7
9	-- A.P. Indy	10	Seattle Slew	697	137	60	6
	-- Forestry	3	Storm Cat	200	65	30	6
	-- Pulpit	5	A.P. Indy	255	97	46	6
	-- Saint Ballado	10	Halo	686	130	58	6
	-- Skip Away	4	Skip Trial	274	120	56	6

## Sires of First Time Stakes Winners

RNK	STALLION	CROPS	SIRE	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	-- Stormy Atlantic	4	Storm Cat	281	113	44	6
2	-- Langfuhr	5	Danzig	391	157	71	4
	-- Pulpit	5	A.P. Indy	255	97	46	4
	-- Seeking The Gold	13	Mr. Prospector	692	93	39	4
	-- Unbridled's Song	6	Unbridled	473	123	57	4
6	-- Bernstein	2	Storm Cat	68	32	16	3
	-- Distorted Humor	4	Forty Niner	246	109	49	3
	-- Fusaichi Pegasus	2	Mr. Prospector	179	62	24	3
	-- Maria's Mon.	6	Wavering Monarch	439	148	62	3
	-- More Than Ready	2	Southern Halo	157	65	32	3
	-- Roar	6	Forty Niner	312	114	52	3
	-- Smart Strike	6	Mr. Prospector	319	111	53	3
	-- Storm Creek	6	Storm Cat	356	114	40	3
	-- Swiss Yodeler	4	Eastern Echo	262	96	45	3