

Ballado's best

Saint Liam takes sire to top of the class

by
Matt
O'Neil

With nearly \$16 million in purses up for grabs, Breeders' Cup day figured to seismically shift the landscape on the 2005 General Sires List. Indeed the sires whose progeny fared well on racing's Championship Day look to be the top finishers in the race for Leading Sire of 2005.

The deceased Saint Ballado began Breeders' Cup morning ranked sixth on the General Sires List. But a third by Ashado in the \$2 million Distaff, coupled with Saint Liam's thrilling win in the \$4 million Classic, vaulted the son of Halo to the top spot. His new total of \$8.7 million in 2005 progeny earnings puts him about \$1.5 million ahead of Distorted Humor.

Flower Alley's good second place run in the Classic was good enough to move Distorted Humor up from fourth to second after sunset on Breeders' Cup Saturday. The Classic trifecta was completed by Perfect Drift, a son of Dynaformer, who led the General Sires List on Breeders' Cup morning. Third place finishes by both Perfect Drift and Film Maker in

the Filly & Mare Turf weren't quite enough to hold off Saint Ballado and Distorted Humor.

El Prado again

El Prado once again finds himself among the top four stallions in the land. Despite the disappointing performance of his dual 2005 grade one winner Borrego in the Classic, El Prado moved up a spot from fifth to fourth after his hard luck son Artie Schiller came up big in the Mile for his first grade one triumph.

Neither Suave nor Sweet Symphony managed a money finish on Breeders' Cup Day for current General Sires fifth A. P. Indy. His stature as a sire grew nonetheless with a pair of sons siring their first grade winners on the card.

Stevie Wonderboy's win in the Juvenile topped off a spectacular fall for Stephen Got Even, while Silver Train's narrow Sprint victory made Old Trieste's premature death all the more lamentable. It's hard to imagine a better start for A. P. Indy in the 'sire of sires' category. With Pulpit, Malibu Moon and Golden Missile all grade one sires as well, there are now five different A. P. Indy sons who have sired grade one winners in their first or second crops. By comparison, 11 different sons of Storm Cat have sired grade one winners so far, with Harlan the first to reach that milestone with Menifee in 1999.

Over the moon

Malibu Moon, sire of grade one winner Declan's Moon, sired three new stakes winners far and wide on three successive weekends in October. On October 8, his four year-old daughter Culpeper Moon took the Zia Park Distaff at the inaugural Zia Park meeting in New Mexico. The following Saturday, another first crop daughter took home the Maryland Millions Ladies at Laurel. On October 22 at Charles Town in West Virginia, the Malibu Moon juvenile colt Sound Moon won the Tri State Futurity. Malibu Moon has now sired 11 stakes winners from his first three crops, or 7% of the 167 live foals he sired while standing in Maryland. He has been represented by eight stakes winners in 2005.

The most recent grade one siring Storm Cat son is Stormin Fever. Back in March, Stormin Fever's daughter Tarlow captured the Santa Margarita (G1) at Santa Anita to become her sire's first winner at the highest level. In mid-October Sweet Talker made it two grade winners for the Airdrie-based stallion with

Broodmare Sires of First Time Stakes Winners

RNK	STALLION	CROPS	SIRE	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	-Deputy Minister	-16	Vice Regent	1279	361	186	11
	-Dixieland Band	-14	Northern Dancer	1256	366	197	11
3	-Storm Cat	-12	Storm Bird	903	324	164	9
4	-Mr. Prospector	-25	Raise A Native	2988	454	202	8
	-Rahy	-9	Blushing Groom (FR)	542	236	123	8
	-Storm Bird	-18	Northern Dancer	1494	324	152	8
7	-Bold Ruckus	-19	Boldnesian	976	231	134	7
	-Kris S.	-18	Roberto	949	288	139	7

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2	-Deputy Minister	16	Vice Regent	1279	361	186	16
	-Storm Bird	18	Northern Dancer	1494	324	152	16
4	-Dixieland Band	14	Northern Dancer	1256	366	197	15
5	-Kris S.	18	Roberto	949	288	139	14
6	-Bold Ruckus	19	Boldnesian	976	231	134	13
	-Forty Niner	11	Mr. Prospector	602	208	110	13
	-Rahy	9	Blushing Groom (FR)	542	236	123	13
9	-Danzig	19	Northern Dancer	1956	380	134	11
	-Storm Cat	12	Storm Bird	903	324	164	11

her win in Keeneland's Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup. The week prior to that race, another Stormin Fever daughter, After the Tone, took the Long Look at The Meadowlands. Stormin Fever has also been represented by the grade two winner Storm Wolf in 2005.

With the major racing in Europe now in the books, it's worth taking a peek at the Sires List across the pond. The incomparable Danehill leads all stallions with 2005 progeny earning of just over 3,400,000 Euros stet on the flat. With his first crop only three-year-olds, Montjeu ranks second with over 2,700,000 Euros million in progeny earnings. That works out to around 900,000 Euros more in progeny earnings than his sire, the great Sadler's Wells. The Dinesis stallion Halling and Pivotal round out the European Top Five.

In terms of 2005 European stakes winners, again it's Danehill leading the pack with 25 such winners. Sadler's Wells follows with 19. Linamix has had a fine year with ten 2005 European stakes winners as have Machiavellian and Singspiel with nine each. Montjeu, Selkirk and Unfuwain have all sired eight stakes winners this season. 



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Sires of Stakes Winners

RNK	STALLION	CROPS	SIRE	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	- A.P. Indy	10	. Seattle Slew	702	185	85	14
	- Distorted Humor	4	. Forty Niner	252	152	79	14
3	- Smart Strike	6	. Mr. Prospector	326	140	79	12
	- Storm Cat	15	. Storm Bird	1018	135	71	12
	- Unbridled's Song	6	. Unbridled	485	181	93	12
6	- Dixieland Band	18	. Northern Dancer	1058	149	77	11
	- Dynaformer	13	. Roberto	736	151	70	11
	- El Prado (IRE)	10	. Sadler's Wells	615	173	95	11
	- Langfuhr	5	. Danzig	401	197	105	11
10	- Forest Wildcat	6	. Storm Cat	404	185	95	10
	- Forestry	3	. Storm Cat	208	99	46	10
	- Indian Charlie	4	. In Excess (IRE)	218	110	66	10
	- Saint Ballado	10	. Halo	696	171	83	10
	- Stormy Atlantic	4	. Storm Cat	287	152	83	10
	- Wild Rush	4	. Wild Again	301	158	87	10

Sires of First Time Stakes Winners

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1	- Langfuhr	5	. Danzig	401	197	105	8
	- Stormy Atlantic	4	. Storm Cat	287	152	83	8
3	- Distorted Humor	4	. Forty Niner	252	152	79	7
	- Maria's Mon	6	. Wavering Monarch	446	185	100	7
	- Rahy	13	. Blushing Groom (FR)	775	137	73	7
6	- Dixie Union	2	. Dixieland Band	121	67	34	6
	- Indian Charlie	4	. In Excess (IRE)	218	110	66	6
	- Saint Ballado	10	. Halo	696	171	83	6
	- Unbridled's Song	6	. Unbridled	485	181	93	6
10	- A.P. Indy	10	. Seattle Slew	702	185	85	5
	- Dixieland Band	18	. Northern Dancer	1058	149	77	5
	- Forest Wildcat	6	. Storm Cat	404	185	95	5
	- Fusaci Pegasus	2	. Mr. Prospector	199	103	48	5
	- Giant's Causeway	2	. Storm Cat	282	166	71	5
	- More Than Ready	2	. Southern Halo	166	99	55	5
	- Precise End	2	. End Sweep	89	56	41	5
	- Pulpit	5	. A.P. Indy	262	120	67	5
	- Smart Strike	6	. Mr. Prospector	326	140	79	5
	- Thunder Gulch	7	. Gulch	666	200	85	5
	- Tiger Ridge	2	. Storm Cat	113	72	42	5
	- Touch Gold	4	. Deputy Minister	298	138	74	5