

Promise A'Plenty

First year sires start strongly

by
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Back at the beginning of the juvenile season we asked some questions about the group of 2004 first crop sires. Would Mr. Prospector add to his impressive roster of successful sons? How would the 16 new sons of Storm Cat perform? Would the Halo sire-line gain strength? Would we see evidence that Kingmambo and Dixieland Band could be sires of sires?

With the final numbers in on the first crop sires we have some answers. As we've been reporting in recent months, it looks like a very promising group overall. Lead by Successful Appeal's \$1,727,557 and six stakes winners, four freshman went over the \$1 million mark in progeny earnings and five freshman sired at least four stakes winners.

The most recent to join that group was Cape Canaveral, whose daughter Angel Trumpet won the December 16th Gowell at Turfway Park. The son of Mr. Prospector finished the year with just under \$1 million in progeny earnings, \$970,633 to be exact. With another Mr. P son, Fusaichi Pegasus, also among the top five, it does indeed look like the great stallion has a few more siring sons.

Cat Attack

"While Storm Cat led all in terms of juvenile progeny earnings, his half-brother, Wheaton, led the nation in juvenile winners."

Catienus, ranked 14th in terms of progeny earnings, and led his contemporaries with 19 first crop juvenile winners (from only 45 foals) with Giant's Causeway second with 18 winners (from 138 foals). Both happen to be sons of Storm Cat, and with Bernstein and Tiger Ridge, there were four sons of the great Overbrook stallion among the top 11 first crop stallions in 2004. Including Catienus and the Maryland-based Lion Hearted, six sons of Storm Cat show up in the top twenty.

More Than Ready sired the third highest total of winners, 17 from 61 foals. The son of Southern Halo ranked 6th in terms of progeny earnings and was one of four grandsons of Halo in the top twenty. The three Saint Ballado sons, Sweetsouthernstain (12th), Yankee Victor (15th) and Straight Man (16th) are the others. However the latter three have sired only one stakes winner and seven stakes horses between them. So we'll have to wait a little longer to see if these Halo-line stallions make a larger impact.

Lemon Drop Kid started to make some noise late last year. The son of Kingmambo finished 2004 ranked 21st among his peers with eight winners from 55 foals and two stakes horses. One of those, Winning Season became her sire's first stakes winner with her December win in the Raging Fever at Aqueduct.

Another major son of Kingmambo sired his first stakes winner in December as well. Group one winner and Japanese champion El Condor Pasa (who died in 2002) saw his Vermilion win the group three Radio Tampa Hai Nisai in Japan on December 25.

And Dixieland Band's son Dixie Union finished the year with \$713,461 in progeny earnings, with a pair of stakes winners and four stakes horses. That was good enough for a number seven ranking on the first crop charts.

Over Achievers

If not for the untimely demise of Carson City, you might say it's the best of times for the Overbrook Farm stallion program.

Along with the top five performance by first crop stallion Cape Canaveral, Storm Cat finished atop the overall juvenile standings for the seventh time. That feat put yet another feather in his halter, as that betters Bold Ruler's previous record of six Juvenile Sire's title.

While Storm Cat led all in terms of juvenile progeny earnings, his half-brother led the nation in juvenile winners. Wheaton, by Alydar, sired 23 juvenile winners in 2004. He actually stood the 2004 season at Overbrook after leaving Sez Who Farm in Florida. He has now taken up residence at Pin Oak Lane in Pennsylvania.

With unbeaten 2004 Eclipse Champion Juvenile Declan's Moon, Malibu Moon has become one of the hottest stallions in Kentucky. On December 26 he added another juvenile stakes winner, with his son Malibu Moonshine taking the \$50,000 St. Nick at Charles Town. Overall Malibu Moon sired three juvenile stakes winners in 2004 and finished the year as the 14th ranked sire of juveniles.

Malibu Moon is one of 11 "veteran" stallions with at least three 2004 juvenile stakes winners. While five first crop stallions sired at least four stakes winners, only Storm Cat sired as many as four juvenile stakes winners among all other stallions in 2004. First Crops stallions also accounted for half of the Juvenile Sires List top ten last year. **BOB!**



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