

Freshman Sire on Song

Songandprayer headed to KY after sensational start

by
**Matt
O'Neil**

*"He's Got Grit
easily won the
Tyro Stakes at
Monmouth"*

For the Walmac Farm stallion operation it's déjà vu all over again. Last year at this time, Successful Appeal was the nation's leading first crop sire and had sired a graded winner in Lunarpal, and an additional stakes winner in Closing Argument. That early success earned him his diploma from Walmac's Florida division and he took up residence at the operation's Central Kentucky hub. Now, in 2004 it's Songandprayer who is following the same pattern. He is currently number one among his first crop peers, both in terms of total progeny earnings and stakes winners and it's already been announced that he'll be joining Successful Appeal at Walmac.

His What A Song, a \$1,900,000 million Barretts March purchased, quickly helped to justify his sire's move north with a gritty win in the Hollywood Juvenile Championship (G3) over Bashert (by another Walmac South stallion, the second year Tiger Ridge), then followed up by beating the same rival in the Best Pal Stakes (G2). Unfortunately, What a Song was subsequently fatally injured while training.

Songandprayer added to his impressive early resume when his track record-setting son He's Got Grit easily won the listed Tyro stakes at Monmouth. He's Got Grit is out of the With Approval mare Hollow Miss and inbred to both Caro and Well Decorated at 4 x 3. He is at least the eighth stakes winner that carries a double of Caro (the others include the grade one winners Golden Apples and Starine), and the first unrestricted winner with two strains of Well Decorated.

The now horse

Tiznow proved his best distance was a mile-and-a-quarter in his back-to-back Breeders' Cup Classic triumphs. However, his progeny don't seem to mind going a little shorter. He has so far sired three maiden special weight winners from six starters, including Enforcement a sharp winner at Hollywood Park for Bob Baffert. Of course, the star for Tiznow is his daughter Folklore, who followed up her second in the Astoria Stakes with a professional score in the Adirondack Stakes (G2) to open the Saratoga meet. Folklore is out of the Storm Cat mare Contrived and carries a double of Tiznow's great-grand sire In Reality at 4 x 4.

Forest Camp is proving to be an early win

machine. From only 10 starters he shows seven winners, all who have won at first asking. A pair of those winners are already stakes placed and it shouldn't be long before we're reporting on his first stakes winners. Snuck In has snuck up the freshman sire standings with four winners in the past month. The Florida-based son of Montbrook is now up to five winners.

City Zip, Trippi and the surprising B L's Appeal are also continuing to sire winners at a steady clip. City Zip now has five winners, with three new maiden earners since last issue, while Trippi and B L's Appeal have added a pair of new winners to bring

Sires of 2 YOS by Winners

RNK	STALLION	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	--Danchill Dancer (IRE).....	362	51	17	2
2	--Bertolini.....	86	52	16	2
3	--Mull Of Kintyre.....	78	42	15	0
4	--Danchill.....	1407	26	14	6
	--Xaar (GB).....	127	32	14	0
	--Zafonic.....	545	35	14	4
7	--Cape Cross (IRE).....	203	34	11	1
	--Hennessy.....	535	22	11	1
	--More Than Ready.....	162	27	11	1
	--Namid (GB).....	151	35	11	0

Sires of 2 YOS by Stakes Winners

RNK	STALLION	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	--Danchill.....	1407	26	14	6
2	--Zafonic.....	545	35	14	4
3	--Bertolini.....	86	52	16	2
	--Danchill Dancer (IRE).....	362	51	17	2
	--Devon Lane.....	170	10	5	2
	--Favorite Trick.....	215	8	3	2
	--King Of Scat.....	73	9	4	2
	--Lord Carson.....	312	16	7	2
	--Mujadil.....	465	26	10	2
	--Songandprayer.....	47	12	5	2
	--Swiss Yodeler.....	262	18	6	2

Freshman Sires of 2 YOS by Winners

RNK	STALLION	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	--Bertolini.....	86	52	16	2
2	--Mull Of Kintyre.....	78	42	15	0
3	--Observatory.....	69	31	10	0
4	--King Charlemagne.....	69	33	9	1
5	--Distant Music.....	42	27	8	0
5	--Mozart (IRE).....	81	40	8	1

their totals up to six.

On the European first crop sire chart, it's a battle of the Danzig-line stallions. Mozart (by Danzig) has surged ahead of Bertolini (also by Danzig) and Mull of Kintyre (by Danehill). Mozart now has sired eight first crop winners and was represented by his first stakes winner when Modeeroch took the Tyros Stakes in Ireland. His son Amadeus Wolf also placed second in the Phoenix Stakes (G1) at The Curragh, then captured the Gimcrack Stakes (G2).

Donna Blini is stakes winner number two and group winner number one for Bertolini after her score in the Cherry Hinton Stakes (G2). Bertolini is also up to 12 first crop winners as is Mull of Kintyre, whose Mullaad ran third in the Richmond Stakes (G2). The Distant View stallion Observatory is also off to a promising beginning with nine winners and Nidhaal, second in the Princess Margaret Stakes (G3).

The Danzig-line stallions are also dominating the overall European juvenile standings with Danehill and his son Danehill Dancer running one-two. The prolific Danehill has already sired six 2005 juvenile stakes winners, including Phoenix Stakes (G1) winner

George Washington and War Chant's little three-parts-brother Ivan Denisovich, winner of the July Stakes (G2). Danehill Dancer has sired the juvenile stakes winner Salut D'Amour and the additional juvenile stakes horses Ooh Aah Camara and Cappa Brack.

Back in the U.S.A. Hennessy and More Than Ready are going hoof to hoof atop the Juvenile Sire list. Both have sired 11 2005 juvenile winners, both have also sired a juvenile stakes winner and three juvenile stakes horses. Hennessy holds a slight edge in juvenile progeny earnings though and an even bigger edge in star power. His Henny Hughes proved his Tremont Stakes romp over a suspect field was no fluke when he trounced Master of Disaster in the Saratoga Special Stakes (G2). **NOB'**



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