

Cutting it Close

Tiznow edges El Corredor for Freshman title

The race for Leading First Crop Sire came down to the last few days of 2005, but in the end it was Tiznow over El Corredor by \$78,145. That's among the closest finishes in the past 25 years. In 2002, Distorted Humor took the Freshman title by \$43,300 over Awesome Again. In 1995, Farma Way edged out Quiet American by \$25,642 and in 1992 Forty Niner eked out the First Crop sire crown by just \$6,270 over Silver Deputy.

Songandprayer was represented by the most first crop juvenile stakes winners with three and his six total stakes horse tied with Trippi and City Zip. The latter stallion sired 20 first crop juvenile winners, the most in his crop.

Half of the sires who made up the top ten on the First Crop Sires List stood or currently stand in regional markets outside of Kentucky. Third ranked City Zip began his stud career in New York before moving to Lane's End for the 2005 season. Fourth ranked Songandprayer will stand in Kentucky this year after four years in Florida. Three other stallions, Exchange Rate (ranked 7th), Trippi (9th) and Delaware Township (10th) remain in the Sunshine State. Kudos are due to Padua Stables who stood last year's second ranked Freshman Yes It's True and currently stand both Exchange Rate and Delaware Township.

A solid start

Overall, the class of 2005 looks like a pretty solid group for the long haul. The top ten of 2005 compare favorably in most categories with the top ten in recent sire classes. The stellar classes of 2002 (Distorted Humor, Awesome Again, Elusive Quality, Tale of the Cat, etc) and 2004 (Successful Appeal, Yes It's True, Fusaichi Pegasus, Giant's Causeway, etc) each produced four stallions whose progeny surpassed the \$1 million mark in first crop juvenile earnings. The 2005 group of freshman can also boast four such stallions, Tiznow, El Corredor, City Zip and Songandprayer.

The total number winners sired by the top ten of 2005 is about on par with the new sire crops of the last five years. The previous five top tens produced an average of 144 winners and the top ten of 2005 was represented by 143 winners.

The total progeny earnings of the 2005 top ten ranks third since (and including) 2000. The \$8,808,216 accumulated by the runners of the top ten 2005 freshman is well below the \$9,962,291

racked up by the previous year's top ten, but very close to the 2002 top ten total of \$8,896,164.

The top ten of 2005 sired a total of 16 first crop juvenile stakes winners more than the class of 2003 (14) and 2001 (15), but less than the class of 2003 (34), 2002 (28) and 2000 (20). That great class of 2002 had three stallions sire (Northern Hemisphere) first crop juvenile grade one winners. The 2005 group has two such stallions, Tiznow and El Corredor, the same number as the class of 2000. The classes of 2004, 2003 and 2001 had only one grade one first crop juvenile sire.

Monarchos in fashion

Monarchos was among the early first crop leaders after his daughter Fifth Avenue won the Fashion Stakes at Belmont in early June. She followed that effort with a second to eventual Champion Folkore in Saratoga's Adirondack Stakes (G2). The Kentucky Derby winner now has stakes winner number two in the books after his son Fagan's Legacy took the Pilgrim Stakes at Belmont in late October.

The overall 2005 Juvenile Sires List was lorded over by two sons of Storm Cat. Giant's Causeway was represented by three 2005 juvenile stakes winners and his progeny earned a total of \$1,609,388. His 28 juvenile winners were tops among North American sires and his eight total stakes horses were matched by Hennessy and daddy Storm Cat.

Hennessy once again had a strong year as sire of juveniles, with five such stakes winners and a progeny earnings total of 1,352,540. Those five stakes winners were matched only by Distorted Humor and (surprise) Storm Cat. Leading Freshman sire Tiznow ranked third on the Two Year Old Sires List followed by Stephen Got Even, sire of Breeders' Cup Juvenile hero Stevie Wonderboy. Another first crop sire, El Corredor, rounded out the top five and along with City Zip (ranked 8th) and Songandprayer (9th) there were four first crop sires in the overall juvenile sires top ten. **20B**



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