

To the Wire

Close battle for freshman title

by
Matt
O'Neil

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The Leading First crop sire chase was still too close to call at press time. Tiznow and El Corredor were separated by about \$100,000 with the rich Hollywood Starlet (G1) and Hollywood Futurity (G1) still to be run. With that being the case, we will reserve comment until the race is official.

However, there are several first crop stallions on which we can report, most notably those that have sired new stakes winners in recent weeks.

Songandaprayer's daughter Stolen Prayer won the Three Ring Stakes at Calder in early December. She became the crop-high third stakes winner for the son of Unbridled's Song and also pushed her sire over the \$1,000,000 mark progeny earnings. Along with freshmen leaders Tiznow and El Corredor, Songandaprayer is one of three first crop stallions to top the seven figure mark in earnings.

Forest Camp made his mark over the summer with an incredible 11 debut winners and those runners are now proving their quality. Your Tent or Mine romped home in the Hollywood Prevue Stakes (G3) to become stakes winner number two and graded winner number one for his sire.

Florida-based Delaware Township has found his second stakes winner as well in Electrify, winner of the rich Jack Price Juvenile at Calder on November 12. Delaware Township stands at Padua Farm and he is one of two first crop sires in the top ten that are based at that farm. The Danzig stallion Exchange Rate being the other.

Floridians firing

Those two are also among four top ten freshmen that sired their first crops while standing in the Sunshine State. Ocala Stud's Trippi has yet to sire a stakes winner but has been represented by six stakes horses. The most recent member of that club was Laurel Futurity third Exton. Only former Florida stallion Songandaprayer has as many stakes horses among this year's first crop sires.

The Danzig stallion Brahms, a grade one winner on the turf in his racing days, has made a solid run during the final months of 2005. In late November Test Boy won his second eight furlong stake in the Centennial Mile on the grass at Remington Park. He had previously won the Remington MEC Mile at a mile on the dirt. Then on December 10, Up An Octave took home the 8 1/2 furlong Kris S. Stakes over the

Calder Turf course.

King Cugat was represented by his second official stakes winner when his daughter Seaside Retreat won the Display S. at Woodbine on November 26. The son of Kingmambo also has a grade one winner in Puerto Rico in Reina Musical.

The solid veteran stallion Meadowlake, is no longer with us, but one of his good sons sired his first stakes winners. Luftikus, winner of the Lone Star Park Handicap (G3), in his racing days sired Shesagrumpoo to win the Tri-State Futurity at Charles Town.

Sires of 2 YOS by Winners

RNK	STALLION	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	Danchill Dancer (IRE)	395	87	33	6
2	Zafonic	565	66	31	4
3	Bertolini	102	77	27	4
	Giant's Causeway	332	65	27	3
5	Xaar (GB)	154	63	26	2
6	Danehill	1,437	53	25	9
7	Namid (GB)	175	55	24	2
8	Orpen	278	66	23	3
	Valid Expectations	309	43	23	0

Sires of 2 YOS by Stakes Winners

RNK	STALLION	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	Danehill	1,437	53	25	9
2	Danehill Dancer (IRE)	395	87	33	6
3	Distorted Humor	305	34	13	5
	Hennessy	569	38	16	5
	Storm Cat	1,049	38	17	5
6	Anabaa	382	38	17	4
	Bertolini	102	77	27	4
	Favorite Trick	245	24	12	4
	Forestry	240	34	13	4
	Mozart (IRE)	93	64	20	4
	Thunder Gulch	696	47	16	4
	Zafonic	565	66	31	4

Freshman Sires of 2 YOS by Winners

RNK	STALLION	FOALS	STRS	WNRS	SWNRS
1	Bertolini	102	77	27	4
2	Mull Of Kintyre	91	66	22	0
3	City Zip	85	39	20	2
	Mozart (IRE)	93	64	20	4
5	Songandaprayer	74	37	18	3
6	Forest Camp	87	30	17	2
	Trippi	109	39	17	0

2005 Leading Sire Saint Ballado's last crop were juveniles of 2005. While Saint Liam and Ashado will be hard to replace, this final crop looks extremely promising. Saint Augustus made a big move turning for home to capture the What A Pleasure at Calder in early December. A few weeks earlier, Saint Daimon won the Huntington S. at Aqueduct. They join the summer stakes winner Mykindasaint as final crop juvenile stakes winners for Saint Ballado.

Cat attack

The incomparable Storm Cat had yet another strong season as a sire of juveniles. He led all North American based-sires with five 2005 juvenile stakes winners, including the grade three winner Hurricane Cat and the multiple American graded winner Bluegrass Cat. More can be expected from those two as the classic season nears.

Distorted Humor had a fantastic overall 2005 with four grade one winners and a second place ranking on the General Sire's List. His year is even more impressive when considering that none of his runners thus far were produced on a stud fee higher than

\$10,000. The last of those \$10,000 crops were juveniles of 2005 and the son of Forty Niner is showing no signs of slowing down. With the late year juvenile stakes winners Last Gran Standing and Lampoon his fourth crop now already includes four stakes winners. The star of the crop, so far anyway, is Arlington-Washington Lassie (G3) winner and Breeder's Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) third Original Spin. 



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