

Out with the Old?

Last year's leading sires still shining in 2007

by
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Only time will tell how history treats the first crop stallions of 2006. As was mentioned in a recent OBI issue (Terrible Two's-December 2006) there were some historically significant numbers posted by the group as a whole and by some individual stallions as well.

The proof, of course, will be in the progeny pudding, but so far the freshman sires of 2006 are only adding to their reputations. During the first month and a half of the new year, five of the top ten 2006 freshmen have sired new stakes winners.

Last year's first crop champion, Street Cry, looks to have another Classics contender to go along with his champion son Street Sense. Summer Doldrums earned praise (and a big speed figure) for his romp in the Whirlaway Stakes for three year-old colts at Aqueduct. He also shares a connection to Dixieland Band with his more heralded crop mate. Summer Doldrums is out of a mare by the Private Account stallion Unaccounted For, who in turn is out of a mare by Dixieland Band, the direct damsire of Street Cry.

Johannesburg's record seven first crop juvenile stakes winners weren't quite enough to overtake Street Cry on the 2006 first crop standings. But we can now report stakes winner number eight from his large first crop (141 foals). His daughter Baroness Thatcher made British conservatives proud with her win in the Santa Ysabel Stakes (G3) at Santa Anita in early January. She came right back with a strong second to early Kentucky Oaks favorite Rags to Riches in the Las Virgenes (G1). Baroness Thatcher is the second Johannesburg stakes winner out of a daughter of Gulch, joining the group two winning juvenile Hamoody.

Officer, the fourth ranked freshman last year with just over \$1.2 million in progeny earnings, has now produced his seventh first crop stakes winner. His daughter Special Dream took the listed Dearly Precious Stakes on the inner course at Aqueduct on February 17. She had previously placed in that track's Ruthless Stakes in early January.

Yonaguska and Jump Start rated seventh and eighth among their peers last year. Jump Start was provided with his first stakes winner in early December, the Illinois stakes winner Copper State. His first graded winner emerged in mid-January when the filly Jump On In lived up to her favored billing in the Santa Ynez Stakes (G3).

Yonaguska tied Johannesburg with 26 first crop juvenile winners last year and those winners are start-



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ing to pay blacktype dividends. His gelded son Crafty Bear, a stakes placed runner in 2006, took the Miracle Wood Stakes at Laurel on February 3.

More of the Same

There is a familiar face atop the early General Sires list as well. A. P. Indy is already over the \$1 million mark in progeny earnings (without benefit of Sunshine Millions riches) and is the sire of four 2007 stakes winners. Rags to Riches pushed her sire closer to the century mark for lifetime stakes winners on February 10. In just her third start she took the Las Virgenes (G1) for three year-old fillies, becoming her sire's 97th stakes winner. A. P. Indy may also have the leading East Coast contender for the Kentucky Oaks and year end honors with last year's Demoiselle Stakes (G2) winner Boca Grande expected to make her sophomore debut in the coming weeks. The Seattle Slew stallion also looks to be well stocked in the male handicap division with Master Command, Patriot Act and A. P. Arrow all having won or placed in graded two-turn handicap events so far this year.

And then there are the runners out of the A. P. Indy daughters. Sam F. Davis winner Any Given Saturday, Sham Stakes (G3) winner Ravel and Risen Star Stakes (G3) third Zanjero are all out of A. P. Indy mares and are all in the thick of the Classics chase.

Royal Academy sits just behind A. P. Indy on the General Sires list and is already the sire of a diverse group of three 2007 stakes winners.

The sprinting filly Oprah Winney was a stakes winner at both two and three and she is now a multiple stakes winner at four. The miss captured the Interborough Handicap at Aqueduct on New Year's Day and followed that effort with her first graded score in the Barbara Fritchie Breeders' Cup Handicap (G2) at Laurel on President's Day weekend.

Molengao was sired on one of Royal Academy's trips to South America and he now making an impact on the West Coast handicap division. The six year-old Brazilian-bred placed in a pair of graded events in 2006 and broke through with a win in the San Antonio Handicap (G2) at Santa Anita in early February.

Royal Academy is also the sire of one of the few European winter blacktype winners. His four year-old gelded son, Merlerault, took the Grand Prix de la Riviera Cote D'Azur over the all weather surface at Cagnes Sur Mer in France. 