

Early Season Success

More Than Ready, Stephen Got Even shine in January

by
**Matt
O'Neil**

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More Than Ready has quickly become a consistent source of blacktype winners in both the U. S. and Australia. While we still await his first Northern Hemisphere, grade one winner (he has three down under), 2007 is already shaping up as another stellar year for the Southern Halo stallion.

The Fair Grounds might as well be renamed 'the proving grounds' for More Than Ready runners. Offspring of the stallion have already captured two stakes events at the resurrected track, and placed in another.

Get Ready Bertie got the year off to a good start by taking the listed Tiffany Lass Stakes at the Fair Grounds on January 13. The sophomore filly had previously run a game second to Boca Grande in the Demoiselle Stakes (G2) at Aqueduct last fall.

On January 27, the Saturday feature in New Orleans was the Black Gold Stakes for three year-old sprinters. Originally scheduled for the turf, the race fell to the More Than Ready colt Probation Ready. He too was coming off a stakes placing, a second place run to Teuflesberg in the Sugar Bowl Stakes in December.

It's worth noting that Probation Ready is the second stakes winner and fourth overall blacktype runner (from six foals) out of the Olympio mare Satinet. Her first stakes winner, Britt's Jules, is still going strong at age six, having placed in the Fairfax Stakes at Golden Gate Fields in early February.

The More Than Ready-Fair Grounds momentum carried over into early February when Vote Early ran second to long shot Mykindasaint in the Pan Zareta Breeders' Cup Stakes for sprinting fillies. Like Get Ready Bertie, Vote Early is owned by the Klein family of Louisville, and she picked up her first blacktype check in the race.

More than even

Stephen Got Even is another with pair of new stakes winners and a new stakes-placed runner in the year's first month. The sire of 2005 Eclipse Champion Juvenile Stevie Wonderboy saw his three year-old daughter Slew O'Platinum win the Sun Devil Stakes at Turf Paradise on January 13. It was the first blacktype for the filly who is out of the stakes-winning Two Punch mare Platinum Punch.

The blacktype wait was a bit longer for the Stephen Got Even horse Buddy Got Even, who won the Forego Stakes over the Polytrack at Turfway Park on January 20. The newly turned five year-old is a member of his sires' first crop and is now the third

stakes winner from that group of 56 foals. He is out of the Java Gold mare Gem Treck, a sister to multiple grade one winner Hidden Light, and also the dam of 2005 Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) winner Artie Schiller.

Earlier in the month of January the Stephen Got Even three year-old colt Joe Got Even placed second in the Turfway Prevue, earning his first blacktype.

Recent firsts

We mentioned last time that Indian Charlie is now the sire of an Eclipse Award winner after his daughter Fleet Indian was named the top older filly/mare of 2006. That mare will get every chance to prove herself in her second career (she's going to Storm Cat), and it's fitting that we can now report the first stakes winner out of an Indian Charlie daughter.

Golden Dreamer, winner of the January 7 Ruthless Stakes at Aqueduct is out of the Indian Charlie mare West Indian. The mare is a member of Indian Charlie's first crop, foaled just seven years ago in 2000. Golden Dreamer is by the Unbridled stallion Malabar Gold and is also the first stakes winner for the sophomore sire. She is another stakes winner bred on a version of the Unbridled/Caro cross that has also yielded the likes of Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) winner Unbridled's Song and Preakness Stakes (G1) winner Red Bullet.

Two other stallions have also gotten on the board as broodmare sires of stakes winners in recent months. Siphon's first foals were born a year before Indian Charlie's and a daughter from that crop has produced the stakes winner Runway Rosie. By the second crop Broad Brush stallion Include, Runway Rosie took the Sharp Cat Stakes over the Cushion Track surface at Hollywood Park last November.

The regally bred Forty Niner stallion Roar is the damsire of Special Cheers, winner of the Sandpiper Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs in the waning days of 2006. Special Cheers is by the Florida-based Chief's Crown stallion Concerto and is out of the mare Frisky Cheerleader, a foal of 1999 and a member of Roar's second crop. It should be noted that Roar also has a stakes-producing daughter in South America. The Argentine-bred stakes winner Stormy Converse, out of the Roar mare Forty Converse (Arg), is by the Storm Cat stallion Bernstein. **JOE**



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