

The Boys of Summer

Freshman sires shine in June

**by
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"During the first 15 days of June Posse was represented by five more winners and his first stakes winner."

We noted in last month's issue that the first crop sires of 2007 had yet to live up to expectations. But, seemingly on cue, the group has exploded in the last month and no freshman sire has caught fire as quickly as Posse.

The Silver Deputy stallion was represented by his first two winners in rapid succession at Churchill Downs on May 26 when Posse Valley took the opener on the card a few hours before Kodiak Cowboy took the day's sixth race. The next day at Golden Gate fields winner number three emerged for Posse when My Little Cokie took a maiden special event by 4 1/2 lengths.

Posse didn't slow down at all when the calendar page was turned to June. During the first 15 days of that month he was represented by five more winners and his first stakes winner. Five of his first eight winners have come at Churchill Downs, but he has also had two Polytrack winners to his credit in Possethemax and Deputy Dance, both winners at Arlington Park. His first stakes winner, Kodiak Cowboy won the Victoria Stakes over the synthetic surface at Woodbine. Kodiak Cowboy is out of a mare by Coronado's Quest and is the first stakes winner out of a mare of the Forty Niner stallion.

Another Vinery stallion, Trust N Luck, who now stands at that farm's Florida division, acquitted himself well in the first round of two-year-old stakes in California. His daughter Wonderful Luck won the Cinderella Stakes at Hollywood Park the same afternoon that his son Bold Trust took third in that track's Willard L. Proctor Memorial Stakes.

Fresh Stakes

Van Nistelrooy is also doing good early work with a diverse group of five winners and a stakes winner. The Storm Cat stallion has already sired winners on turf and Polytrack in Europe and on dirt and synthetic surfaces stateside. His daughter Maileys Cat broke her maiden in the rich Texas Thoroughbred Association Sales Stakes at Lone Star on June 9.

Along with Posse, Trust N Luck and Van Nistelrooy, the Florida-based Full Mandate is also off to a promising start. The A. P. Indy son is the sire of three winners from his first eight starters and already has a stakes winner to his credit. His son Thoroughly, set the track standard over Hollywood Park's new Cushion Track surface in winning the Willard L. Proctor. It's worth mentioning that Thoroughly is out of a mare by the Seattle Slew son Slewacide and therefore inbred tail-male to Seattle Slew at 3x3.

Proud Citizen has come out of the gates with three early winners, including Motovato, a good looking nine length maiden winner at Churchill. The Gone West stallion has also been represented by a juvenile winner in England.

Kafwain was represented by his first two winners in early June when Kadira took a maiden special under the Twin Spires on June 3 and Rasierra captured a maiden special by over six lengths at Prairie Meadows two days later.

D'Wildcat, Vinery's third entry into the freshman sire sweepstakes, also had his first winner last month. Wildcat Nite took a maiden special at Woodbine in Ontario, Canada, where D'Wildcat began his stallion career before moving south.

The Winners Circle

Adena Springs has four first crop stallions in 2007 and three have them have sired their first winners in the past several weeks. On May 27, Brewtiful Girl won a maiden special at Delaware Park for two-time Santa Anita Handicap (G1) winner Milwaukee Brew. On June 1, the impeccably bred Sligo Bay saw his filly La Bonita Uno capture a maiden special at Woodbine. A week later it was juvenile champion Macho Uno's turn. His first winner, Swiftly Victress, trounced Louisiana-bred maidens by over six lengths.

Empire Maker, Vindication and Harlan's Holiday, three of the bigger names among the '07 freshman are now on the board with their first winners too. Galiano was an easy four length victor over maiden special company at Lone Star for champion juvenile Vindication. Multiple Grade 1 winner Harlan's Holiday's first winner, Holidaze, came in maiden special company at Monmouth June 6. Empire Maker's first winner came at Colonial Downs on June 18. His filly Miss Red Delicious took a 5 1/2 furlong maiden special event over that track's dirt course by 13 1/2 lengths.

With the recent successes of the '07 first crop stallions, it's not surprisingly that they have asserted themselves on the overall juvenile sire chart. Through mid-May there were no first crop stallions in the top ten on the Leading Sires of Two-Year-Olds list. But by mid-June the freshman occupied three of the top six spots. Posse lead all juvenile sires, with Van Nistelrooy fifth and Trust N Luck sixth. **JOE**



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