

Regional Stars

Catienus, Not For Love Making National Impact in 2007

by

Matt
O'Neil

"Mr. Greeley's future looks especially bright across the pond as he already has a pair of group-placed juveniles in Europe this season."

With the year half over we thought it would be an opportune time to check in on the regional stallions. There are certainly several stallions standing outside of the state of Kentucky that have done good work during the first six months of 2007.

No regional stallion is having as good a year as the New York-based Catienus. The son of Storm Cat blossomed on the racetrack during his five-year-old season when he captured his first stakes and placed in a pair of important Grade 1 fixtures, the Suburban Handicap (to Behrens) and Whitney Handicap (to Victory Gallop and Behrens). He was primarily supported by mares from the paddocks of owners Ken and Sarah Ramsey during his first few years at their Nicholasville, Kentucky farm. He subsequently moved to New York and has emerged as that state's preeminent sire, ranking seventh nationally on the 2006 Third Crop Sires list.

In 2007 Catienus leads all (current) regional stallions with five stakes winners, four of them bred and raced by the Ramseys. His headliner is the Ramsey homebred Precious Kitten who placed second in the Jenny Wiley Stakes (G3) at Keeneland before capturing the Gallorette Handicap (G3) on Preakness Day. Also on Preakness Day, Talent Search, winner of the Jim McKay Stakes in April, ran second in the Maryland Breeders' Cup Sprint Handicap (G3).

The Maryland-based Not For Love has been the leading regional sire in terms of progeny earnings in 2003 and 2004 and holds that distinction through the first half of 2007. His progeny have earned in excess of \$2 million already this year, good enough for a top 25 ranking on the General Sire list. He has been represented by the 2007 stakes winners Smart and Fancy, Akronism and Katie's Love, as well as three additional stakes-placed runners.

Bertrando is enjoying another fine season with three stakes winners and progeny earnings over \$1.8 million, tops among the Golden State stallions. His California compatriot Benchmark gained national prominence in recent seasons with the likes of Brother Derek and Silent Sighs. He's kept the momentum going with three new stakes winners in 2007, including the juvenile stakes winner Mark's My Name.

More Florida Heat

Trippi is the slim leader in Florida over Montbrook among the active stallions in Florida. As of this writing, his progeny had earned \$1,486,891 while the progeny of Montbrook had racked up \$1,482,746. Trippi was represented by his first graded winner on May 28 when Miss Macy Sue got to the wire first in

the Winning Colors Stakes (G3) at Churchill Downs.

Florida has been a constant proving ground for young stallions over the past few decades. Mr. Prospector, Fappiano, Kris S. and Saint Ballado all started in Florida and more recently Stormy Atlantic, Songandaprayer, Successful Appeal and Yes It's True earned trips to 'bluer' pastures. Exchange Rate is the most recent graduate of the Florida breeding program and will follow his former barn mate Yes It's True from Padua Farm to Three Chimneys for the 2008 breeding season. The son of Danzig will take a 2007 record of six stakes winners and just over \$1.4 million in progeny earnings with him to Kentucky.

Back At The Old Kentucky Home

Exchange Rate will be sharing the Three Chimney's stallion barn with another Danzig son in 2000 Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) winner War Chant. That stallion has been on a bit of a hot streak during the first three weeks of June.

On June 9, El Roblar earned his first graded win in the Ack Ack Handicap (G3) at Hollywood Park. The very next day, Asperity captured his first stake in the Prix Paul de Moussac (G3) at Chantilly. His streak continued to the following weekend when the multiple graded winner Karen's Caper set a course record in winning the Eatontown Stakes (G3) at Monmouth Park.

Mr. Greeley is another Kentucky stallion who has is having success on both sides of the Atlantic in 2007. His headline runner is dual Classic winner Finsceal Beo, winner of the English One Thousand Guineas (G1) and the Irish Two Thousand Guineas (G1) this season. Mr. Greeley's future looks especially bright across the pond as he already has a pair of group-placed juveniles in Europe this season; Swiss Franc, runner up in the Coventry Stakes (G2) at Royal Ascot, and Saorise Abu, third in the Swordlestown Stud Spring (G3) at Naas (in Ireland).

Stateside Mr. Greeley was represented by two new stakes winners in as many days when Greeley's Conquest captured the Prairie Mile Stakes on June 9 and Silky Smooth took the Alywow Stakes at Woodbine on June 10. Previously, on May 18, Time's Mistress followed up her win in Oaklawn Park's Honeybee Stakes with her first graded win in the Miss Preakness Stakes (G3) at Pimlico. All five of Mr. Greeley's 2007 stakes winners are three-year-olds from his eighth crop. That group also includes Super Abraham, winner of the Derby Mexicano (G1-Mex).

JOB

Matt O'Neil is a freelance writer and thoroughbred marketing consultant and editor of Owner-Breeder International.