

Three for the money

Third crop sires Johannesburg, Jump Start and Tribal Rule all on fire

by
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In 2006, Johannesburg set a record with seven first crop juvenile stakes winners and was narrowly beaten by Street Cry for the freshmen sire title. He again finished second on the 2007 second crop standings and, with four stakes winners to his credit so far in 2008, the son of Hennessy is proving his staying power as a stallion.

The three-year-old colt Eaton's Gift got the ball rolling for his sire with his 3 1/2 length score in the Grade 2 Swale Stakes at Gulfstream Park on February 2. Eight days later, Ingrid the Gambler, a filly from Johannesburg's first crop, won the grassy Wishing Well II Handicap down the hill at Santa Anita. Johannesburg's early season run was culminated by a pair of new three-year-old stakes winners over the first weekend in March. On March 1, Gattopardo took the Miracle Wood Stakes at Laurel, while the following day, Ten Meropa invaded from England to take the Grade 3 Baldwin Stakes, also on Santa Anita's downhill turf course.

Johannesburg is now the sire of 14 Northern Hemisphere stakes winners, which puts him on par with his third crop rivals Street Cry and Officer.

Third Crop Jumpers

The current leader on the third crop sire list (by 2008 earnings) is actually neither of the 'big three'. The top spot, in fact, belongs to Overbrook Farm's Jump Start. The A. P. Indy stallion is the sire of three stakes winners thus far in 2008, two of them new stakes winners, including Grade 2 Gulfstream Park Handicap winner Sir Whimsey.

As of mid-March, only two third crop stallions other than Johannesburg and Jump Start have as many as three stakes winners in their accounts this year: E Dubai and the California-based Tribal Rule. The latter, is a winning son of Storm Cat, from the female family of three-time leading California sire Pirate's Bounty (and now also from the family of promising second crop sire Yankee Gentleman). Tribal Rule is the sire of 2007 Grade 1 winner Georgie Boy, who took the San Felipe Stakes (G2) in his three-year-old debut on March 15. In February, Tribal Rule's multiple stakes winner Tribesman won the Phoenix Gold Cup, while back in January, Italian Rules won his first stakes event in the Stinson Beach Stakes at Golden Gate Fields.

Shining Silver

Silver Deputy continues to add to his reputation as a most dependable stallion. The veteran son of Deputy

Minister picked up the moniker of 'sire of sires' in 2007 after his son Posse was the leading first crop sire in North America. So far in 2008, Silver Deputy has been represented by a new Grade 1 winner, and a pair of juvenile sales toppers.

The new Grade 1 winner is Spring at Last, who took the Donn Handicap (G1) on February 2, his first stakes appearance in nearly a year. Overall, Silver Deputy is the sire of nearly 8% stakes winners from his 16 crops to the races. At the juvenile sales, the progeny of Silver Deputy have topped both the OBS February Sale and Barretts March Sale. At OBS February, West Point Thoroughbreds and John Williams went to \$520,000 for a Silver Deputy filly out of the stakes winner and producer Daisy Dukes. Out west in California, Jess Jackson became enamored with a Silver Deputy filly at the Barretts March Sale, paying a sales-topping \$800,000.

Even Hotter

Unbridled's Song and Giant's Causeway were the headliners for this column in February and, if not for fear of redundancy, they could well have topped this month's edition as well.

We reported in February that Unbridled's Song was the sire of three new stakes winners during the first three weeks of the year. As of mid-March, that total had risen to six stakes winners, a figure that leads all North American stallions.

Since mid-January, the son of Unbridled has been represented by Wild Hoots, winner of the Nellie Morse Stakes at Laurel, and the Oaklawn Park stakes winners Classify and Eight Belles. The latter has actually won a pair of stakes in Hot Springs, the Martha Washington Stakes (by an Oaklawn record margin of 13 3/4 lengths) and the Honeybee Stakes (G3).

Giant's Causeway has been represented by two more stakes winners since mid-January, including a new Grade 1 winner, and has vaulted to the top of the General Sires List. After placing in five stakes in his first three years on the track, the six-year-old Angliana broke through with his first stakes victory in the Aqueduct Handicap on January 19. On the first weekend in March, Giant's Causeway's Irish-bred five-year-old son Heatseeker won the Santa Anita Handicap (G1). He is his sire's seventh Grade/Group 1 winner from his first four Northern Hemisphere crops. **AOB**



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