

King's Bishop starts a sire

Race a source for breeding success

BY MATT O'NEIL

Some quality 3-year-olds run on the Travers Day card and the stallion farms in Kentucky will pay keen attention.

Travers winners such as Thunder Gulch have gone on to successful sire careers. But the King's Bishop, the traditional highlight of the day's undercard, has produced some of the best young sires in the country. The top three finishers since 1992 have had a particularly big impact on the first-crop-sire lists during the past decade.

Salt Lake, winner of the 1992 edition, went on to be the leading first-crop sire four years later. End Sweep finished second in the 1994 King's Bishop and he too would pick up the first-crop-sire crown in 1998, as well as set an American record with 36 first-crop juvenile winners. The 1997 King's Bishop victor was Tale Of The Cat, the fourth-ranked freshman sire in 2002 and the sire of such Grade I winners My Trusty Cat and Lion Heart.

The 1996 running of the King's Bishop was one for the stud books, as winner Honour And Glory and third-place finisher Distorted Humor would later lead the first-crop sire standings in 2000 and 2002, respectively. The second-place finisher that day, Elusive Quality, was the third-rated freshman sire in 2002 and topped the general sire list in 2004. He stood his first season for \$10,000 and now commands 10 times that figure.

Distorted Humor, of course, has a Kentucky Derby winner of his own in Funny Cide and he is moving toward Storm Cat and A.P. Indy territory among North American stallions. The son of Forty Niner also began his stud career for a \$10,000 fee and stood for \$150,000 in 2006. That fee will likely increase yet again in 2007 as he currently leads all American stallions with 15 stakes winners in 2006.

The King's Bishop earned Grade I status in 1999, and that running showcased what would become another deep sire field. Winner Forestry finished sec-



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More Than Ready used the King's Bishop as a springboard to stallion success.

ond as a first-crop sire in 2003 and currently stands for \$100,000, double his initial fee. Third-place finisher Successful Appeal was the leading first-crop sire in 2004 and stands for \$25,000 in Kentucky after beginning his career in Florida for a \$5,000 service fee.

The list goes on. More Than Ready took the 2000 King's Bishop and has taken to his stallion career in stellar

fashion. He ranked sixth among the freshman sires in 2004 and has sired 25 stakes winners from his first three crops (in America and Australia). He now stands for \$30,000 in America and an even higher fee Down Under.

City Zip ran third in the 2001 King's Bishop and ranked third on the freshman sire list last year. The son of Carson City began his career in New York before heading west to Kentucky.