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SALES UPDATE



PHOTOSBYZ.COM

Prospective buyers make last-minute notes prior to the March Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s 2-year-olds in training sale

WAVERTREE SEEKS TO CONTINUE SALE SUCCESS

By Ron Mitchell

Coming off a successful Fasig-Tipton Florida sale as leading consignors with nine sold for gross receipts of \$3,425,000, Ciaran and Amy Dunne's Wavertree Stable is poised to repeat at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s 2-year-olds in training sale March 15-16.

"We have a really good group of horses here," Ciaran Dunne said, during a break from showing his juveniles. "The good thing is they transformed their (racing) form from the farm to the (all-weather) surface (at the OBS under tack show)."

When asked to narrow his consignment to those he believes will be among the sale-toppers, Dunne had a hard time stopping.

"The problem is we have 40 here and they're all nice," he said.

Obviously, Hip 322, the Adios Charlie—The Church Lady (by Valid Wager) colt who breezed the co-fastest eighth-mile in :09 3/5 is on the short list (he's a "beautiful colt"), along with Hip 332, a Congrats—Toccet Over (by Toccet) filly Dunne labeled "stunning," and Hip 136, an attractive Lemon Drop Kid—Motokiks (by Storm Cat) colt Dunne said has "one of the best pedigrees in the book." **BH**

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**2016 OBS March Sale
Hips to Watch**

Hip	Notes
25	c. Tapit—Indian Way, by Indian Charlie Hartley/DeRenzo Thoroughbreds, agt.
40	f. Uncle Mo—Jessica's Halo, by Jolie's Halo Mayberry Farm, agt.
84	c. Tapit—Lindsay's Way, by Giant's Causeway Eisaman Equine
101	c. War Front—Maryfield, by Elusive Quality Eddie Woods, agt.
118	c. Bernardini—Miss Kate, by Storm Cat Crupi's New Castle Farm, agt.
136	c. Lemon Drop Kid—Motokiks, by Storm Cat Wavertree Stables, agt.
222	c. Twirling Candy—Sage Mist, by Henny Hughes Eisaman Equine, agt.
241	c. Forestry—Seek to Dance, by Gone West Eisaman Equine, agt.
248	f. Any Given Saturday—Sharp Minister, by Deputy Minister de Meric Sales, agt.
256	c. Tiznow—Silken Cat, by Storm Cat Bobby Dodd, agt.
257	f. The Factor—Silver Cub, by City Zip Eddie Woods, agt.
290	c. Tapizar—Starlight Lady, by Elusive Quality Halcyon Hammock Farm, agt.
293	c. Curlin—Stars Indy Skies, by A.P. Indy Eisaman Equine, agt.
299	c. Mizzen Mast—Storidawn, by Hennessy Casse Sales, agt.
304	c. To Honor and Serve—Successful Outlook, by Orientate Eddie Woods, agt.



RON MITCHELL

Mersad Metanovic was involved in the sale of both Melatonin and Hard Aces who finished 1-2 in the Big 'Cap

BIG 'CAP EXACTA FOR A CALIFORNIA AGENT

By Ron Mitchell

As he made the rounds at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Co., California agent Mersad Metanovic was widely congratulated for his role in the 1-2 finishes by longshots Melatonin and Hard Aces in the March 12 \$1 million Santa Anita Handicap (gr. I).

"It's unbelievable," Metanovic said. "It's never been done before."

A lightly race 5-year-old Kodiak Kowboy gelding, Melatonin was bought by Metanovic for \$20,000 from the Denali Stud consignment at the 2012 Keeneland September yearling sale. Consigned to the following year's Barretts Equine sale of 2-year-olds in training, a potential buyer backed out and the horse RNA'd for \$15,000.

After breaking his maiden for Metanovic and John Cavalli in his fifth start, Melatonin was sold privately to Tarabilla Farms, with Bob Feld acting as agent for the buyers.

"The most important thing for me is that they got a return on their investment," Metanovic said.

Metanovic also acted as agent on the private transaction that sent eventual grade I winner Hard Aces to Hronis Racing following a Louisiana Handicap victory in January 2015.

And he was in the minority of bettors who had the \$245.40 Big 'Cap exacta for a \$1 ticket. **BH**

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PHOTO BY SERITA HULT ©



SALES UPDATE

EISAMANS GROUNDED IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

By Ron Mitchell



Barry Eisaman prefers the wider variety of buyers at the OBS 2-year-old in training sales

Although Dr. Barry and Shari Eisaman's 2-year-olds in training could fit any market, including the Fasig-Tipton Florida select sale held recently at Gulfstream Park, the couple prefers to stick with the Ocala Breeders' Sales Co., which pioneered the 2-year-olds in training public auction concept.

"We were one of the first consignors to not go to the Miami sale," Barry Eisaman said from the OBS sales grounds. "We'd rather sell our very best horses here in March. It has worked out very well for us."

Indeed it has.

The Eisamans are consummate horse people who operate the 300-acre Eisaman Equine near Williston, Fla. They specialize in breaking and training of young equine athletes. The list of graduates from their program include grade I

winners I'll Have Another, Liaison, Ruler On Ice, The Factor, Midnight Lucky, and On Fire Baby, among others.

A Florida track veterinarian, Barry Eisaman emphasized sports training to develop athleticism of his horses before he started a farm with his wife, an experienced horsewoman, buyer, and seller.

"I think all of the OBS sales have grown to be the place to sell 2-year-olds," Eisaman said, noting there are more than 2,000 entries for the April juvenile sale and the June sale will be equally as large.

Eisaman recognizes the high-end niche that Fasig-Tipton's boutique Florida sale occupies, but prefers the greater diversity of prices at OBS in March.

"There are some very nice horses there and at the top end of the market there is a lot of competition, but at the next level down it is hard to sell. I think the OBS marketplace has a wider variety of buyers, so more horses are often in demand."

Labeling this year's Eisaman consignment as a "very good load," Eisaman said some of the standouts include Hip 293 a Curlin—Stars Indy Skies (by A.P. Indy) colt whose :09 4/5 under tack show breeze and gallop out "were probably the best of any horse I have taken to the breeze shows in the last 20 years."

Eisaman is also bullish on Hip 84, a Tapit—Lindsay's Way (by Giant's Causeway) colt who breezed in :10 1/5 and on Hip 222, a Twirling Candy—Sage Mist (by Henny Hughes) colt who also worked in :10 1/5.

Among Eisaman's homebreds is Hip 241, a Forestry—Seek to Dance (by Gone West) colt whose under tack show time was :09 4/5. "He is extremely athletic," the consignor said. **BH**



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Golden Legacy Stable graduates for OBS March Sale 2YO in training:

HIP 4: F. Sky Mesa - Harlotry Holiday

HIP 56: F. Giant's Causeway - Key is to Win

HIP 57: C. Gemologist - Kick'em Jenny

HIP 237: F. Lookin at Lucky - Secret of the Sea

HIP 269: C. Gio Ponti - Snappy Tune

HIP 271: C. The Factor - Some Pretender

HIP 387: C. To Honor and Serve - Affirmed Dancer

HIP 417: C. Candy Ride - Aviva's Pride

HIP 427: F. Bernardini - Bear Now

HIP 442: C. Into Mischief - Brighton Way

HIP 505: C. Two Step Salsa - Desirable Moment

HIP 527: C. Flashstorm - Dream Tour

HIP 586: F. Creative Cause - Goldbud

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LADY ELI UP TO FOUR FURLONGS WITH :49 BREEZE

By Lenny Shulman

Undefeated Lady Eli returned to the Palm Meadows Training Center March 14 for a third timed workout in her comeback from laminitis.

Keeping to her every Monday work schedule, the 4-year-old daughter of Divine Park worked four furlongs in :49, her first half-mile breeze, following a pair of three-furlong works.

Trainer Chad Brown is in Ocala for this week's Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s March 2-year-olds in training sale, but said that everything with the filly is "good so far."

Jay Hanley, who owns Lady Eli with Sol Kumin under their Sheep Pond Partners banner, was also en route to the sale and hadn't talked to Brown after the work, but noted, "I'm sure Chad isn't asking her for

anything yet, but just getting up to four furlongs, he must be feeling more confident with her. Sol and I have 100% faith in him to do what's right by her."

Lady Eli has won six starts and \$1,449,800, including victories in the Belmont Oaks Invitational Stakes and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (both gr. IT). **BH**



EQUUSPORT/DANA WIMPFHEIMER

Lady Eli has completed three timed workouts since her Feb. 29 return to training and is showing continuous improvement.

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COURTESY OF TAYLOR MADE SALES AGENCY

Consigned to the 2014 Keeneland September sale, Destin is now tied for second on the Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard with 51 points

DESTIN'S YEARLING CHART

By Evan Hammonds

Sam F. Davis Stakes (gr. III) and Tampa Bay Derby (gr. II) winner Destin already had plenty going for him as a foal in 2013.

The son of Giant's Causeway out of grade I winner Dream of Summer is a full brother to grade I winner and Preakness (gr. I)-placed Creative Cause.

The gray/roan Destin—bred by James Weigel and Taylor Made Stallions—was also progressing physically, as noted by the Taylor Made Sales Agency's yearling chart (which has been graciously shared with *Blood-Horse*).

"Strong made colt; good profile; square hip going away," were a few of broodmare manager Steve Avery's notes in May 2013.

When the colt was still a weanling, yearling manager John Hall noted: "This colt is way ahead of his full brother at this stage; good forearm and gaskin; slightly based narrow coming at you."

By June of Destin's yearling year, Mark Taylor's notes said: "Good balance and body; out in knees very slightly; progressing toward sale nicely."

While Creative Cause was a \$135,000 yearling, Destin did progress "nicely," selling to Twin Creeks Racing for \$400,000 on day four of the 2014 Keeneland September sale. **BH**

LATEST HEADLINES FROM BLOODHORSE.COM

DANZING CANDY, DESTIN MAKE TOP 5 IN NTRA POLL Danzing Candy and Destin, respective winners of classics preps on the West Coast and East Coast March 12, made the top five in this week's National Thoroughbred Racing Association top 3-year-old poll released March 14.

T.I.P. PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program has announced the winners and those who placed during its 2015 Performance Awards program.

TURFWAY PARK REJOINS KENTUCKY ADVOCACY GROUP The Kentucky Equine Education Project and Turfway Park March 14 said the Northern Kentucky track would rejoin the horse industry advocacy group and have a seat on the KEEP board of directors.

TAMPA SETS HANDLE RECORD FOR ONE PROGRAM Full fields, three graded stakes, and quality horses helped Tampa Bay Downs register record total pari-mutuel handle for one program March 12. More than \$12 million was wagered on 12 races.

CHARLES TOWN RENEWS DONATION TO CANTER Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races will make a \$10,000 donation to CANTER Mid-Atlantic for the eighth consecutive year as part of its Charles Town Classic (gr. II) program April 23.

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CAPE CROSS PROGENY TOPS SYNTHETICS IN BRITAIN

By Clive Webb-Carter

Runners by Cape Cross, who sired such champions as Ouija Board, Sea The Stars, and Golden Horn, are having a successful all-weather season.

During the 2015-16 all-weather season—which runs from Oct. 29, 2015, to March 25, 2016, in Britain—Cape Cross has sired 16 winners of 19 races and has earned £160,751 (\$229,930). Darley's son of Green Desert currently leads Britain's all-weather sires table by number of winners.

Cape Cross' success during this year's All-Weather Championship includes three individual stakes winners—the latest being Mister Universe, out of the Irish-bred Selkirk mare Miss Ivanhoe, who won the listed Lady Wulfruna at Wolverhampton March 12.

He also sired Irish-bred Lamar, who won the listed Fleur de Lys Fillies Stakes on opening day of the Championship at Lingfield; and Don't Be, winner of the listed Quebec Stakes as well as the Cooley Fillies' Stakes at Dundalk in Ireland.

An Irish-bred group I winner, Cape Cross ran almost exclusively at a mile. He was leading sire in France and England in 2009 as well as in the Slovak Republic in 2013. He will certainly be looking for further successes during Finals Day March 25. **BH**



COURTESY OF DARLEY

Cape Cross is currently the leading all-weather sire in England by number of winners



ISTOCK IMAGE

A bill that would grant the United States Anti-Doping Agency authority over equine medication policy, testing, and enforcement has gained support from sponsors

FEDERAL BILL PICKS UP MORE SPONSORS

By Tom LaMarra

The initial sponsor of federal legislation that would grant the United States Anti-Doping Agency authority over equine medication policy, testing, and enforcement said he will continue to push for a Congressional hearing on the bill.

U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko of New York introduced the bill last June. According to the Coalition for Horse Racing Integrity, it has picked up more sponsors the past few months. Last July the bill was sent to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

"I am energized to see this critical bipartisan legislation approach 25 co-sponsors," Tonko said. "I look forward to working with (Kentucky Rep. Andy) Barr to push this closer to the finish line. I will also continue to stress the importance of this legislation to the House Energy and Commerce Committee and advocate for a hearing on this issue."

The coalition said a Senate version of the bill is forthcoming, and the language could be altered to include all racing breeds, not just Thoroughbreds. **BH**



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In his first of three starts this year, the 3-yr-old colt scored at Gulfstream Park followed by back-to-back stakes performances, including a victory in the Texas Heritage Stakes at Sam Houston Race Park, 2/27 (earnings now, \$93,250).

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RACING COMMENTARY

with Bob Barry

A QUIET DAY AT CHELTENHAM

The fourth race was a steeplechase with an extremely short-priced favorite who seemed to have no knocks, other than his paltry odds. Most days I would simply pass the race and turn my attention to the fifth.

But since this racetrack outing was really just a serendipitous stop with my newish wife on a romantic road trip around the English countryside, we abandoned Cheltenham's higher ground for a closer view. We crossed over to the infield and walked down the hill to where the inner rail met the final fence.

As newcomers on the National Hunt scene, we thought the fence seemed ridiculously high—as if some sort of practical joke were being played on the horses. But the eight starters—each carrying either 168 or 174 pounds and all of them old enough to know better—gathered farther down the hill and, when ordered, went promptly on their way.

We both held our breath as bays and chestnuts raced toward the immovable object and—poof!—they were over it and gone.

A few minutes later they reappeared, still galloping strongly. Once more they took flight and were gone. The race was 3 1/4 miles and 22 fences long. One more lap to go.

The field was strung out as it approached us for the final time. The favorite—a 9-year-old

gelding named Double Silk—had dispensed his outclassed rivals, cleared the last fence and galloped home.

As the laggards arrived—each succeeding horse snorting air more desperately and looking more wobbly legged than the last—they nonetheless scraped over the fence as if this were some sort of sacred duty.

This was the moment I realized why English and Irish punters so love steeplechasing in general, and Cheltenham in specific. Here at racing's most testing uphill finish, even the losers are courageous.

We haven't been back to England since April 1993, when the quiet of the Cotswolds was broken only by the sound of hard-breathing horses and distant cheering from a sparsely populated grandstand. Our return is long overdue.

My American horseplayer friends couldn't care less about jump races. They scoff at the "slow" geldings and the intentional hazards that can spike these races with randomness (as if flats always go according to plan).

But starting March 15 and continuing until March 18, a quarter million pilgrims will pay dearly for the privilege of attending the Cheltenham Festival. They won't hear any labored breathing as the horses approach the final fence. That sound will be overwhelmed by ardent cheering for the bravest horses anyone could ever hope to see. **BH**



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RACE RESULTS

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ALLOWANCE RESULTS

Fair Grounds, Race 4, AOC

3/14, \$46,000, 4yo/up, 6f (dirt), 1:11.37, track fast.
1—[Jockamo's Song](#), 119, gr/ro g, 4, [Half Ours](#)—Miss Clairnette, by Trophy Hunter, \$27,600, O—Dare to Dream Stable LLC (Michael Faber), B—Debbie Allen & David Allen (LA), T—Michael Stidham, J—Mitchell Murrill

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Margin: neck, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

MAIDEN RESULTS

Golden Gate Fields, Race 9, MSW

3/13, \$26,000, 3yo, 5.5f (all-weather), 1:04.84, track fast.
1—[Compadre Sam](#), 122, ch g, 3, Western Fame—Corazon de Leo, by [Flame Thrower](#), \$20,280, O—Batlin, Marc, Batlin, Wright, Gonzalez, Silvia and Parnello, Kathy, B—Roberto Gonzalez, Wright Batlin & Marc Batlin (CA), T—Antonio L. Diaz, J—Cristobal Herrera
Margin: 2¼, 10 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Mahoning Valley Racecourse, Race 5, MSW

3/14, \$24,500, 3yo/up, 6f (dirt), 1:14.93, track muddy.
1—[Spark of the Year](#), 126, dk b/br g, 4, Risk and Reward—Doll of the Year, by Cryptoclearance, \$14,700, O—Laurie Pratt, B—Laurie S Pratt (OH), T—Laurie Pratt, J—Christian P. Pilares
Margin: ¾, 9 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

 Denotes Keeneland Sales Graduate

Will Rogers Downs, Race 5, MSW

3/14, \$23,760, 3yo/up, 1/m, 6f (dirt), 1:11.00, track fast.
1—[Fiddlers Tsunami](#), 120, dk b/br f, 3, [Seeking a Home](#)—Fiddlers Katami, by [Roaring Fever](#), \$13,668, O—Blue Moon Stables, B—Patricia Clark, Mike Duplissey & Marilyn Jean Duplissey (OK), T—Durk Peery, J—Troy Crissup
Margin: 1, 9 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)



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Thoroughbred Owner Conference: October 31 – November 3, 2016

Breeders' Cup: November 4 – 5, 2016

Conference Registration begins in April on

OwnerView.com

Hosted by OwnerView, an information resource developed jointly by The Jockey Club and TOBA.

2016 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires in California by 2016 Northern Hemisphere earnings through March 13, 2016. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2011 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2016 Northern Hemisphere only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'16 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Bluegrass Cat	Storm Cat, '03	\$7,500	Ballena Vista Farm, CA	Flexibility (\$132,500)	\$870,421
2	Unusual Heat	Nureyev, '90	\$20,000	Harris Farms, CA	Pacific Heat (\$116,030)	\$845,716
3	Tribal Rule	Storm Cat, '96	Died	N/A	Sunday Rules (\$90,000)	\$693,100
4	Vronsky	Danzig, '99	\$6,500	Old English Rancho, CA	What a View (\$377,500)	\$646,582
5	Lucky Pulpit	Pulpit, '01	\$7,500	Harris Farms, CA	California Chrome (\$210,000)	\$523,757
6	Southern Image	Halo's Image, '00	\$2,500	Rancho San Miguel, CA	Smokey Image (\$145,500)	\$383,747
7	Papa Clem	Smart Strike, '06	\$5,000	Legacy Ranch, CA	Tale of Papa Nick (\$45,240)	\$321,402
8	Square Eddie	Smart Strike, '06	\$25,000	Ocean Breeze Ranch, CA	Hacktivism (\$37,210)	\$297,093
9	Decarchy	Distant View, '97	\$4,500	Magali Farms, CA	Silvanus (\$21,926)	\$278,279
10	Ministers Wild Cat	Deputy Minister, '00	\$5,000	Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, CA	Toledo Eddie (\$61,800)	\$277,481

2016 LEADING SIRES IN OKLAHOMA

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires in Oklahoma by 2016 Northern Hemisphere earnings through March 13, 2016. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2011 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2016 Northern Hemisphere only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'16 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Cactus Ridge	Hennessy, '01	Pnsd	N/A	Steel Cut (\$72,000)	\$323,404
2	Latent Heat	Maria's Mon, '03	\$3,500	River Oaks Farm, Inc., OK	Latent Revenge (\$50,880)	\$306,375
3	Pollard's Vision	Carson City, '01	\$3,000	Mighty Acres, OK	Eye Luv Lulu (\$35,000)	\$238,745
4	Magna Graduate	Honor Grades, '02	\$2,500	Rockin' Z Ranch, OK	Amour's Charm (\$30,000)	\$233,168
5	Read the Footnotes	Smoke Glacken, '01	\$3,500	River Oaks Farm, Inc., OK	Storied Lady (\$75,300)	\$230,321
6	Notional	In Excess, '04	\$3,000	Rockin' Z Ranch, OK	Far Right (\$58,200)	\$187,939
7	Don't Get Mad	Stephen Got Even, '02	Died	N/A	Tuff Kid (\$25,390)	\$187,237
8	Kipling	Gulch, '96	\$2,500	Mighty Acres, OK	Big Sugarush (\$14,796)	\$117,915
9	Special Rate	Pulpit, '00	\$3,000	Glasses Creek Ranch, OK	Whiskey Eyes (\$23,000)	\$94,004
10	Mr. Nightlinger	Indian Charlie, '04	\$2,500	JEH Stallion Station-Oklahoma Division, OK	Victors Cowboy (\$13,863)	\$86,146

2016 LEADING SIRES IN LOUISIANA

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires in Louisiana by 2016 Northern Hemisphere earnings through March 13, 2016. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2011 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2016 Northern Hemisphere only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'16 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Yankee Gentleman	Storm Cat, '99	\$3,500	Le Mesa Stallions, LA	Icy Gentleman (\$135,000)	\$773,663
2	Half Ours	Unbridled's Song, '03	\$5,000	Clear Creek Stud, LLC, LA	Smittys Cougar (\$95,000)	\$627,567
3	D'wildcat	Forest Wildcat, '98	\$3,500	Whispering Oaks Farm, LA	Amelia's Wild Ride (\$116,550)	\$451,884
4	Songandaprayer	Unbridled's Song, '98	\$4,500	The Stallion Station @ Copper Crowne, LA	Pearl de Vere (\$58,200)	\$415,997
5	Good and Tough	Carson City, '95	Died	N/A	Tough Jeans (\$85,800)	\$348,342
6	My Pal Charlie	Indian Charlie, '05	\$2,500	Elite Thoroughbreds, LA	Harbour Island (\$65,600)	\$343,376
7	E Dubai	Mr. Prospector, '98	\$3,500	Elite Thoroughbreds, LA	American Dubai (\$57,000)	\$287,826
8	Closing Argument	Successful Appeal, '02	\$4,000	Whispering Oaks Farm, LA	American Pride (\$42,345)	\$284,988
9	Run Production	Saint Ballado, '00	\$2,500	Whispering Oaks Farm, LA	Choice Production (\$20,100)	\$280,812
10	Mass Media	Touch Gold, '01	\$1,500	Red River Farms, LA	Liberty Fuze (\$39,800)	\$248,294