



# In Focus

**Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall Yearling Sale**

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**THE**RACINGBIZ 

# Banking on Sire Power

Tuesday's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale may start with a something of a whimper -- Hip Number 1 is out -- but one way or another, it has a pretty good chance of ending with a bang.

It won't be the weather that does it, Hurricane Joaquin having passed the region by.

But there is the catalog, says Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Sales Director Paget Bennett.

"We feel very excited," she said Wednesday. "I'm excited about the catalog and the sire power that we have."

Ah, yes, sire power.

That gets started virtually right off the bat. Hip number 2 is by the productive veteran Flatter, and Hip number 3 is by the promising Line of David.

Indeed, the Timonium shopper will find sires from (sorry, couldn't resist) Afleet Alex to Zensational -- with plenty enticing in between.

"There's something for all tastes," Bennett says.

There are plenty of stallions with national profiles on offer: Malibu Moon and Majestic Warrior, English Channel and Ghostzapper among them.

And Bennett points to a couple of exciting newcomers who are making a splash nationally. Uncle Mo, whose six winners to date include two graded stakes winners, has a pair of horses on offer; so does Bodemeister, whose oldest offspring are yearlings, which are averaging over \$182,000 at auction.

"I feel very rewarded that people are bringing national sire yearlings to Maryland," says Bennett.

At the same time, there's plenty of local sire power on offer. Bennett points to the 11 offspring of the now-retired Not for Love as one exciting element of the sale.

"He's been good to people in the mid-Atlantic and everywhere," she says of Not for Love, who has sired 75 black-type winners with progeny earnings of nearly \$70 million.

For those in the "in with the new" brigade, Bennett points to Maryland sire Friesan Fire, who has 10 in the book. The son of A.P. Indy has six winners from his oldest crop, just two-year-olds, with two horses stakes-placed.

Another popular young regional sire, Street Magician, has eight in the book. His eldest are three now, and his initial crop included a pair of stakes winners. With 13 winners this year, Street Magician is the mid-Atlantic's leading second crop sire.

## Sire Power

*(All rankings below are sires standing in the mid-Atlantic.)*

- ✓ *Leading General Sire -- **Rockport Harbor**, 5 entered in the sale*
- ✓ *Leading third crop sire -- **Talent Search**, 2 entered*
- ✓ *Leading second crop sire - **Street Magician**, 8 entered*
- ✓ *Leading first crop sire -- **Friesan Fire**, 10 entered*
- ✓ *Leading sire of 2-year-olds -- **Jump Start**, 21 entered*
- ✓ *Leading sire by lifetime average earnings index -- **Smarty Jones**, 3 entered*

# **For breeders**

## **Perfect is the enemy of the good**

by **Teresa Genaro**

Late last Thursday afternoon, Dark Hollow Farm's David Hayden got a call from an unknown number, a call he nearly didn't pick up.

"It was the gas and electric company," he said with amused incredulity. "They were telling me to be prepared for a huge storm."

The storm that initiated the preemptive warning is Hurricane Joaquin, the northward route of which has, fortunately, taken it away from the mid-Atlantic. But as consignors looked ahead to the Fasig-Tipton yearling sale at Timonium tomorrow, the second of three yearling sales in a little over a month, weather wasn't their only concern.

In an article in *The Blood-Horse*, Reiley McDonald of Eaton Sales bemoaned the 30.9 percent buyback rate at a Keeneland yearling sale largely seen as a success.

"For most breeders," he said, "the sale was a disaster."

The problem is not, he said, with the quality of horses or the amount of money in the marketplace. The problem is, he believes, an unrealistic level of selectivity on the part of buyers who refuse to consider horses with even the slightest physical blemish.

That article was very much on the mind of Cynthia McGinnes, who with her husband Charles owns Maryland's Thornmar Farm.

"Did you read that?" she asked. "That's the biggest problem at the sales."

Thornmar is bringing a consignment of 10 horses, mostly Maryland-breds, to Timonium, and while she's confident in buyers' desire for horses bred in the state, she is less confident about their ability to discern which physical ailments are significant and which should be overlooked.

"They want a completely clean horse," she said.

And that, said Dark Hollow's Hayden, who sold a Ghostzapper colt for \$410,000 at Keeneland and who bred 1989 champion sprinter and Hall of Famer Safety Kept (MD), is unrealistic.

"You're not going to find the perfect horse," he said. "They're not out there."

McGinnes, who has been breeding and selling horses for 40 years, observed that the importance of veterinary records has emerged only in the last decade. Improvements in technology allow the tiniest of imperfections—"thinner than pencil lead," she said—to be revealed in x-rays, and in a litigious society, those imperfections will cause potential buyers, including trainers, to shy away.

"And it's to the detriment of the horse," she declared. "If you want a horse with a completely clean x-ray, you have to hot-house it. You can't let it run around."

The McGinneses have refused to give in to that trend, even it means taking horses home.

"We turn out all of our horses until the night before the sale," she said. "And if they don't sell, we'll give them to a good trainer and run

them for the breeders' awards."

They have also resisted what she sees as a dismaying trend, the offers that come in almost immediately after horses have left the ring after failing to meet their reserve, often from people who didn't bid.

## Hips by...

*(Numbers below are prior to the addendum of about 35 horses.)*

- **Sex**
  - Colts - 198
  - Fillies - 171
  - Geldings - 6
- **Color**
  - Brown - 145
  - Dark bay or brown - 116
  - Chestnut - 90
  - Gray/roan - 23
  - Black - 1
    - Hip 70, by Frost Giant-Gosh All Get Out, by D'Accord, is the only black

"We don't sell our horses back at the barn, especially if you want to pay me less than what was bid," she said. "If you want our horses, bid in the ring."

The Fasig-Tipton sale comes a little more than a week after the end of the marathon Keeneland yearling sale, at which more than 2,700 yearlings sold, and about two weeks before Fasig-Tipton's two-day October sale of fall yearlings, with a catalogue of nearly 1,500 horses, a schedule that might lead buyers to bypass this sale and simply stay in Kentucky.

The threat of a major hurricane won't do anything to increase traffic, but, Hayden

pointed out optimistically, a benefit to this sale is its proximity to the major buyers in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. He also expects pinhookers like Eddie Woods and Nick de Meric to come up from Florida, which will make the market for the best physical yearlings even tougher.

"There are things they won't touch," said Hayden, who will bring a 10-horse consignment, all Maryland-breds, to the sale. "Like sesamoiditis. It's something horses grow out of, but they may need three or four months. Pinhookers don't have that kind of time; they need to be able to start these horses in training right away, because they need to be ready for the two-year-old sales in March, April, and May."

Still, both McGinnes and Hayden expect their Maryland-breds to sell well. Thornmar sold six horses last year for an average of \$49,000, led by a \$295,000 Maryland-bred filly by Trappe Shot out of the Silver Deputy mare Argentesque.

Hayden and Dark Hollow sold four last year for an average of \$93,000, the top price of \$200,000 also for a Maryland-bred, also a filly, by Pure Prize out of He Loves Me (Not For Love), winner of the 2003 Iowa Oaks (gr. III).

While the buyers may have been selective last year and the schedule no more propitious than it is this year, at least consignors last year didn't have to worry about the unpredictable path of a hurricane. Still, Hayden was largely undaunted.

"It's gonna be what it's gonna be," he said, speaking of Joaquin. "We've got no control over that."

Which is as true for Tuesday's sale as for a storm as unpredictable as a young Thoroughbred.

# Delaware certified, state-bred programs check boxes for breeders, owners



Figure 1Hip 154. Courtesy of Bill Reightler.

by **Doug McCoy**

On Tuesday Fasig-Tipton will hold its fall Midlantic Yearling Sale, and while Maryland-breds and Pennsylvania-breds are in the catalog in abundance, don't sleep on the 22 Delaware certified yearlings slated to go on sale. The impact of that program is readily apparent.

"In this day and age where available foals are down and the economics of the business make it tougher and tougher to own, breed and race horses," said Mike Palmer, manager of Delaware's Candyland Farm, "being a Delaware Certified horse is a tremendous boost to that horse's potential earnings and makes them even more attractive as a sales prospect."

Put more simply: Delaware certified means racing for more money.

The Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program, which began in 2003, has given the owners and breeders of horses in the mid-Atlantic region a welcome source of additional earnings potential for their runners. Horses must spend 90 consecutive days at an accredited farm in Delaware prior to March 31 of their two-year-old season to be certified.

Once they begin their racing careers, these horses are eligible to receive an additional 50 percent bonus of the purse splits for a first, second, or third place finish at Delaware Park, with that bonus divided equally between the current

owner of the horse and the person who certified the horse. That means the owner of a Delaware Certified runner who wins a race with a \$20,000 purse can earn an additional \$6,000 in addition to the regular winner's share of \$12,000.

No wonder more than 3,000 horses are now enrolled in the program.

Herb and Ellen Moelis' Candyland Farm, where Palmer is the manager, is one of the top farms in the state of Delaware. Established in 1986, Candyland Farm has been a staunch supporter of the D.C.T.P since its inception. Candyland has boarded and certified more than 300 horses for the program at the facility.

"The Moelises realized the potential value to the industry the certified program presented from the start and we're proud to have been a small part of it's growth through the years," Palmer said from the his sales barn at Timonium.

Palmer has nine horses at Timonium for Candyland and is particularly high on several of those youngsters, including a Quality Road colt who is hip No. 246. The bay colt is by a stud that has sired 46 winners since his first crop hit the race track in 2014. Among Quality Road's offspring is Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf winner Hootenanny. The yearling is out of the stakes-placed She Is Raging, also the dam of seven-time winner Sovereign Default.

"This colt is just one of those horses that when you're walking down the shedrow and you see him, you have to stop and take a long look. He's got a good shoulder, he carries himself like a racehorse and he's very sensible for a young horse," Palmer pointed out. "I can't wait to see him at the races."

Palmer has also been impressed by a Malibu Moon filly who will go under the gavel as Hip No. 345. She's out of the hard-hitting Lion Hearted mare Aspenglow, winner of 14 of 21 starts and a full sister to Silver Heart, who won 15 races during her career.

"This filly is the complete package," Palmer exclaimed. "She's smart, well put together, she has a nice way of going and she just acts like a racehorse... I really think she's got a bright future."

Candyland is also offering a half sister to the speedy Cinco Charlie -- himself a Delaware Certified runner -- by Uncle Mo. Cinco Charlie has been one of the most successful Delaware Certified graduates, with earnings of \$519,182 in a career that has seen him win seven of 12 starts including the Grade III Bashford Manor.

Indeed, plenty of good horses get their Delaware certification. Among the other Del-certified runners making waves are defending Breeders' Cup Sprint champion Work All Week and G1 Arlington Million winner The Pizza Man.

Bill Reightler, another with a solid Timonium consignment, says that, beyond its obvious benefits for end users, the Del-certified program makes sense for breeders, too.

## Hips by State Program

- ✓ Registered **Maryland**-bred – 135
- ✓ Registered **Pennsylvania**-bred – 75
- ✓ Accredited **West Virginia**-bred – 15
- ✓ Registered **New Jersey**-bred – 10
- ✓ Registered **Virginia**-bred – 9
- ✓ **Maryland Million** certified – 78
- ✓ **Delaware** certified – 22

"There are a number of factors that can make a horse more attractive to a buyer, and in this region being Delaware Certified is certainly one of them," Reightler said. "It's certainly one of the top incentive programs in the business."

Reightler will be agent for Barbara Brown's Cut n Run Farm when that Wyoming, DE operation offers a half-brother to two top Delaware certified horses: G2 Delaware Oaks winner Dancing Afleet and 10-time winner Tujoes (\$464,361 in earnings), both out of the winning Citidancer mare Mrs. Vanderbilt.

The bay colt, by Jump Start, will be Hip No. 154, and Reightler says the young horse displays the effortless, flowing stride that the good ones have, as well as a lot intelligence for a horse of his age.

"I think he's just going to get better and better with time," Reightler said. "He's an April foal and he's a little lanky but if he continues to develop like he has been, he could be something special."

And yes, he, too, is enrolled in the Delaware Certified Program.

## Ben's Cat and Ah Day demonstrate

# Pedigree Counts



Figure 2 Ben's Cat. Photo by Laurie Asseo.

by **Jared Gollnitz**

King Leatherbury's influence on Thoroughbred racing is the stuff of legend, particularly in the Mid-Atlantic region. More widely known as a trainer, he is also the breeder of some nice horses, among them Maryland-bred stalwarts Ah Day (Malibu Moon - Endette, by Thirty Eight Paces) and of course Ben's Cat (Parker's Storm Cat - Twofox, by Thirty Eight Paces).

These two runners have more in common than their Hall of Fame-inductee breeder. In fact, they are out of full sisters and are by sires who are half-brothers.

So, what makes these pedigrees click? A 7-generation view of the pedigrees gives us a good look at the pattern and the key player that makes these two horses click. Both the of the

sires, Malibu Moon and Parker's Storm Cat, trace tail female to mares by Hasty Road, who is by Roman, who is a cross of full siblings Ormonde and Ornament from family 16 of the Bruce Lowe family number system. Hasty Road's dam is by Discovery, who has more of Domino's family than Domino himself. Discovery is not only the damsire of Hasty Road, but also of prolific sires like Bold Ruler,

Intentionally, and Native Dancer. Discovery is critical to linebreeding to Domino.

Macoumba, the dam of Malibu Moon and Parker's Storm Cat, is the result of female strains of Man O' War and other members of the Agnes clan (other than Ormonde and Ornament) building up over time, such as Saint Editha, Brown Bread, Ortegale (via Shut Out). Macoumba's damsire, Green Dancer, is also a direct female-line descendant of the Agnes clan.

All this leads to the following question: why did Malibu Moon turn into a top-flight stallion while Parker's Storm Cat languished into obscurity (and now plies his trade in Washington state)? The pedigree difference lies in their sires, A.P. Indy and Storm Cat, respectively.

The difference can be summed up in two words: La Troienne. Here is where Malibu Moon and

Parker's Storm Cat's pedigrees diverge, and drastically so.

Storm Cat has plenty of family 16, plenty of Domino, and plenty of Discovery, which can, on their own merits, produce great runners. The secret lies in the crosses of La Troienne with sex-balances to Man O' War, combined with the build-ups of Domino and his family, via Discovery. La Troienne is also the result of crossing full siblings Ormonde and Ornament, just like Hasty Road.

La Troienne was imported to the U.S. in foal to Gainsborough. After importation, she never saw a stallion free of Domino.

Several of her daughters were bred to War Admiral (Baby League, Businesslike, Big Event, and Big Hurry all produced offspring by War Admiral), resulting in an immediate double to Domino. Baby League (by Bubbling Over, out of La Troienne) is a special case because Bubbling Over's dam Beaming Beauty was already tripled to Domino! This means that any of Baby League's foals by War Admiral were quadrupled to Domino.

In the case of known influence Better Self, a son of La Troienne (Bimelech) was bred to a daughter of War Admiral named Bee Mac (take a look at the pedigree of Unbridled) and produced a top class horse on the reverse pattern. Being a son of Man O' War, War Admiral found all of those daughter strains of "the mostest horse" in Macoumba to be perfect sex-balances in the male strains of Man O' War found in A.P. Indy.

There are no male lines of Man O' War in Storm Cat, only female lines. For as great as a sire as he was, Storm Cat is the odd man in these breedings, and that has made the difference

between Malibu Moon's success at stud and Parker's Storm Cat's infrequent success.

Another emerging sire from the family of Malibu Moon and Parker's Storm Cat is Temple City (Dynaformer-Curriculum, by Danzig). Macoumba is Temple City's maternal granddam.

Temple City is off to a solid start at stud. Any son of Dynaformer brings with him Olympia, who has amazing strike capabilities when combined with La Troienne from any distance in the pedigree.

Two of Temple City's top three runners are packing La Troienne in the dam. A different two out of three are from the sire line of Conquistador Cielo -- not a line considered to be a dominant branch of the Mr. Prospector line, but the affinity here is pretty undeniable. The one of the top three not packing La Troienne, Startup Nation, carries a double of one of La Troienne's known best friends, Tourbillon, who carries rare male strains of Glencoe, critical to matching up with all the female strains of Glencoe present in Domino.

Malibu Moon and Temple City are both represented in Tuesday's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall Yearling sale.

The former is the sire of hip 345, a Delaware certified filly out of the multiple stakes-winning West Virginia-bred Lion Hearted mare Aspenglow.

Temple City, meanwhile, is the sire of two horses in the sale. Hip 90 is a Pennsylvania-bred filly out of the Indian Charlie mare Indian Beads. And Hip 244, bred in Maryland, is a filly out of the stakes-winning Septieme Ciel mare Sharp Ciel.