



SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2008

# Pedigree Profiles

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## CASINO DRIVE

**Trainer:** Kazuo Fujisawa  
**Jockey:** Edgar Prado  
**Owner:** Hidetoshi Yamamoto  
**Breeder:** Shell Bloodstock

MINESHAFT, dkb/br, 1999	A.P. Indy, 1989l	Seattle Slew, 1974	Bold Reasoning My Charmer
		Weekend Surprise, 1980	Secretariat Lassie Dear
CASINO DRIVE ch, c March 7, 2005	Prospectors Delite, 1989	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Raise a Native Gold Digger
		Up the Flagpole, 1978	Hoist the Flag The Garden Club
BETTER THAN HONOUR, b, 1996	Deputy Minister, 1979l	Vice Regent, 1967	Northern Dancer Victoria Regina
		Mint Copy, 1970	Bunty's Flight Shakney
	Blush With Pride, 1979	Blushing Groom, 1974	Red God Runaway Bride
		Best in Show, 1965	Traffic Judge Stolen Hour

Those coming to Belmont Park on June 7 to if see history will be made aren't depending only on Big Brown's Triple Crown bid. If Japanese-trained Casino Drive should win, he will also make history, and arguably in an even more remarkable way.

When Casino Drive realized \$950,000 as a Keeneland September Yearling, he was already a very well-credentialed individual, his half-brother, Jazil, having won the 2006 Belmont Stakes (gr. 1) just a few months earlier. Of course, less than nine months later, the pedigree improved still further, when Casino Drive's three-parts-sister, Rags to Riches, defeated Curlin to claim the 2007 renewal of the Belmont. A mare producing three Belmont Stakes winners is certainly nothing short of astounding. Casino Drive will add additional luster to the feat by winning a U.S. classic in only his third start.

Apart from Jazil and Rags to Riches, this family has been no stranger to classic performance over the years. The dam, the Deputy Minister mare, Better Than Honour, won the Demoiselle Stakes (gr. II), and ran second in the Acorn Stakes (gr. I) and third in the Mother Goose Stakes (gr. I). The granddam, Blush With Pride, won the Kentucky Oaks (gr. I), Santa Susana Stakes (gr. I) and Ashland Stakes (gr. II) and she is also granddam of Peeping Fawn, who won the 2007 renewals of the Darley Irish Oaks (Ire-I) and Darley Yorkshire Oaks (gr. I). Blush With Pride is half-sister to Sex Appeal, dam of the Irish Derby (gr. I) and 2,000 Guineas (gr. I) winner, El Gran Senor, and Champion European 2-Year-Old Try My Best. Other luminaries from this family are Aldebaran, Xaar, Senure, Thewayouare, Aviance, Denon, Good Journey, Spinning World, Bahamian Pirate, Domedriver, Redoute's Choice, Platinum Scissors, Hurricane Sky and Umatilla.

Casino Drive is a member of the first crop of Mineshaft, who began his career in Europe, but who then switched to the U.S., where his efforts at 4 earned him a title of Horse of the Year, and a standing as the best son of A.P. Indy to be seen up to that point. Mineshaft is also sire of the Fountain of Youth Stakes (gr. II) winner, Cool Coal Man; stakes winning La Mina and four other stakes placed horses.

Rated A by TrueNicks Casino Drive is a product of the A.P. Indy/Deputy Minister cross that also includes Rags to Riches and graded stakes winner Minister Eric. — *By Alan Porter*



## BIG BROWN

**Trainer:** Rick Dutrow, Jr.  
**Jockey:** Kent Desormeaux  
**Owner:** IEAH Stable & Paul Poma Jr.  
**Breeder:** Monticule

BOUNDARY, b, 1990	Danzig, 1977	Northern Dancer, 1961	Nearctic Natalma
		Pas de Nom, 1968	Admiral's Voyage Petitioner
BIG BROWN b, c April 10, 2005	Edge, 1978	Damascus, 1964	Sword Dancer Kerala
		Ponte Vecchio, 1970	Round Table Terentia
MIEN, b, 1999	Miasma, 1992	Northern Dancer, 1961	Nearctic Natalma
		Special, 1969	Fori Thong
		Lear Fan, 1981	Roberto Wac
		Syrian Circle, 1979	Damascus Friendly Circle

Big Brown mania is in full swing, and with good reason. Not only has the IEAH Stables color-bearer done everything asked of him to this point, but he has done it with style, never letting an opponent even get close at the wire. So dominating have his victories been that in some quarters, opinion makes his lone remaining obstacle on the road to the Triple Crown to be the 12 furlongs of the Belmont Stakes (gr. I) rather than any of his potential rivals.

Can Big Brown stay out the distance of the "Test of Champions?" Saturday will tell the tale, of course. But before ruling Big Brown out just because he is the son of a sprinter and sire of sprinters, a deeper consideration of his pedigree is warranted.

For starters, while it is true that Big Brown's sire, Boundary, never won beyond sprint distances, it is also true that he was never tried beyond sprint distances. A son of Danzig, Boundary proved fleet but, like his sire, fragile thanks to a set of iffy knees. He won six of eight starts, including the grade III A Phenomenon and Roseben handicaps, and might perhaps have stayed further had he been better able to withstand training. He retired to Claiborne Farm in 1995 and was pensioned in July 2005 due to declining fertility.

To date, Boundary has 21 stakes winners to his credit, including 2000 English and Irish highweighted juvenile male Minardi and multiple grade I-winning sprinter Pomeroy. His progeny have an average maximum winning distance of 7.56 furlongs, which is in the same range as that of commercially popular sires such as Storm Cat (7.35 furlongs) and Unbridled's Song (7.57 furlongs) but substantially below that of established Classic sires such as Gone West (8.01 furlongs), A.P. Indy (8.70 furlongs), and Dynaformer (9.04 furlongs).

Boundary certainly does not have the pedigree of a pure sprinter.

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While the progeny of Danzig have been best known as sprinters and milers, he was fully capable of siring horses that could get a mile and a half, among them champions Dance Smartly and Petit Loup. On the distaff side, Boundary is out of the Damascus mare Edge, winner of the 8.5 furlong El Encino Stakes (gr. III); the dam of Edge, 1974 Maskette Handicap (gr. II) winner Ponte Vecchio, is by another first-rate stayer in Round Table.

Bred by Monticule, Big Brown is out of Mien, a turf winner at 8.5 furlongs in the second of her two starts. She is by Nureyev out of Miasma, stakes-placed over seven furlongs in England and a turf allowance winner at nine furlongs in the United States. Miasma, in turn, is by the good Roberto horse Lear Fan, whose progeny included some good turfers at 10 furlongs and beyond, out of Syrian Circle, a Damascus half-sister to three stakes winners including 1997 champion older female Hidden Lake.

Boundary and Mien are closely related, for Boundary is by a son of Northern Dancer out of a mare bred on a Damascus/Round Table cross, while Mien is by a son of Northern Dancer out of the daughter of a mare bred on a Damascus/Round Table cross. Given that Damascus won at up to two miles in to company, and Round Table at up to 13 furlongs, it may well be that this inbreeding in Big Brown's pedigree may be the key to his staying ability.

Historically, colts with a high cruising speed that can stay on or near the lead have done well in the Belmont, and Big Brown's running style fits this pattern very well. Assuming that his foot continues to heal well, he should have every chance to pass the "Test of Champions" and join the other immortals in the Triple Crown pantheon.

— *By Avalyn Hunter*



### ANAK NAKAL

**Trainer:** Nick Zito

**Jockey:** Julien Leparoux

**Owner:** Four Roses Thoroughbreds

**Breeder:** Buckram Oak Farm

VICTORY GALLOP, b, 1995	Cryptoclearance, 1984	Fappiano, 1977	Mr. Prospector
		Naval Orange, 1975	Killaloe
	Victorious Lil, 1989	Vice Regent, 1967	Hoist the Flag
		Glass House, 1979	Mock Orange
ANAK NAKAL dkb/br, c April 23, 2005	Quiet American, 1986		Northern Dancer
			Victoria Regina
MISK, b, 1997	Perlee, 1979	Fappiano, 1977	Halo
		Demure, 1977	Glass Collector
	Margouillat, 1970		Mr. Prospector
		Zirconia, 1970	Killaloe
		Dr. Fager	
		Quiet Charm	
		Diatome	
		Tita	
		Charlottesville	
		Zilette	

On the surface, the Belmont Stakes (gr. I) seems an extremely tough spot for Anak Nakal to pick up his first win since the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (gr. II) on November 24. But while undefeated Big Brown is a huge obstacle on the way to the winner's circle, Anak Nakal's pedigree suggests that should the dual Classic winner falter, the Four Roses Stable colt may have what it takes to pick up the pieces.

Bred by Buckram Oak Farm, Anak Nakal is by 1999 U.S. champion older male Victory Gallop, winner of the 1998 Belmont Stakes

by a nose over dual Classic winner Real Quiet. Now in Turkey, Victory Gallop has sired 25 stakes winners from 452 foals of racing age and has sired stakes winners over distances up to 13 furlongs. His sire, multiple grade I winner Cryptoclearance, was the 1987 Belmont Stakes runner-up and has also sired a number of horses that could handle distance well, among them 1997 Canadian champion 3-year-old male Cryptocloser and 2002 Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) winner Volponi.

Any stamina transmitted to Anak Nakal by Victory Gallop is supplemented nicely by the distaff side of his pedigree. To be sure, his dam, Misk, looks more the part of a miler; not only did she have an average winning distance of 7.66 furlongs herself, but she is a half-sister to the Lyphard mare Pearl Bracelet, winner of the 1989 Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (Fr-I) over 1600 meters (the so-called "metric mile"). The longest distance Misk ever tried was nine furlongs, and her best finish at the distance was a distant third.

Misk, however, is by Quiet American, who actually compares favorably to Victory Gallop and Cryptoclearance as a source of stamina despite being seen as a talented miler during his own racing days. Winner of the 1990 N.Y.R.A. Mile Handicap (gr. I), Quiet American has an average winning distance of 7.57 furlongs for his progeny, which include the aforementioned Real Quiet and 1997 U.S. champion older female Hidden Lake.

Quiet American also has a solid reputation as a broodmare sire. He first captured headlines in that area when his maternal grandson Saint Liam (out of Quiet Dance) won the 2005 Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) and U.S. Horse of the Year honors along with it. The following year, Quiet American's daughter Cara Rafaela earned Broodmare of the Year honors thanks to her son Bernardini, 2006 U.S. champion 3-year-old male. So far, Quiet American's daughters have produced 24 stakes winners worldwide from 521 foals of racing age.

Misk was produced from Perlee (Fr), who scored her biggest win in the 1982 Prix de Minerve (Fr-III) over 2400 meters. She was sired by Margouillat, who won the 1973 Prix Hocquart (Fr-II) over 2400 meters and was a close third to the brilliant Allez France in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (Fr-I) at the same distance. Margouillat, in turn, was by the Washington, D. C. International winner Diatome, whose sire was the 1951 Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) and Grand Prix de Paris winner Sicambre, and was out of a mare by 1958 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Tim Tam. The stout French strain in Misk's pedigree is continued via Perlee's dam Zirconia, whose sire Charlottesville duplicated Sicambre's double in the 1960 Prix du Jockey Club and Grand Prix de Paris.

Anak Nakal is the second graded stakes winner to sport inbreeding to Fappiano, the sire of both Cryptoclearance and Quiet American. The first was Symphony Sid (by Fappiano's son Unbridled out of Happy Time, out of Fappiano's daughter Hum Along), winner of the 2006 Carleton F. Burke Handicap (gr. IIIT). Given that such inbreeding has been tried very little as yet, given that Fappiano's great-grandsons and great-granddaughters are only just now retiring to the paddocks, the results are not unpromising. Anak Nakal is also inbred 5 x 5 x 4 to Dr. Fager and 5 x 5 to Nearctic, more sources of brilliance than of stamina but perhaps needed in an overall pedigree weighted towards stamina.

There is not a great deal about Anak Nakal's pedigree that says "precocity," so the fact that he has already shown good form as a juvenile is quite promising. Should he live up to both the promise and the stamina inherent in his breeding, he will be one to watch in the spring of 2008. — *By Avalyn Hunter*

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## DA' TARA

**Trainer:** Nick Zito  
**Jockey:** Alan Garcia  
**Owner:** Robert LaPenta  
**Breeder:** WinStar Farm, LLC

TIZNOW, b, 1997	Cee's Tizzy, 19871	Relaunch, 1976	In Reality
		Tizly, 1981	Foggy Note
	Cee's Song, 1986	Seattle Song, 1981	Lyphard
		Lonely Dancer, 1975	Tizna
DA' TARA dkb/br, c April 26, 2005	Pirate's Bounty, 1975	Hoist the Flag, 1968	Seattle Slew
		Bad Seed, 1969	Incantation
TORCHERA, dkb/br, 1993	Kaylem Ho, 1978	Salem, 1968	Nice Dancer
		Kay Ho, 1973 13 f, 12 r, 11 w, 1 SW	Sleep Lonely
	Pirate's Bounty, 1975	Tom Rolfe	Wavy Navy
		Steward	Rich and Rare II
Cee's Song, 1986	Cyane	Witching Hour	
	Quid Pro Quo	Cloud Ho	

Tiznow was a horse who improved considerably through the course of his 3-year-old season. This trait has been shared by several of his progeny. Tiznow's son, Da' Tara appears to following in that path, as he produced the best performance of his career on his most recent start, when he finished a close second to Roman Emperor in the Barbaro Stakes.

Two-time winner of the Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I), Tiznow was something of a surprise Leading Sire of 2-Year-Olds, beating out his more precocious rivals when his daughter, Folklore, captured the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (gr. I). So far, with three crops 3-year-olds and upwards to represent him, Tiznow has 11 stakes winners, including other grade I winners Colonel John and Tough Tiz's Sis; and graded winners Bear Now, Slew's Tizzy, Tiz Wonderful, Well Armed and Tizdejavu.

Da' Tara is out of the Pirate's Bounty mare, Torchera, who is a three-time winner and twice stakes-placed in California-bred restricted company. Torchera is a sister to two better runners -- the Vanity Invitational Handicap (gr. I) victress, Private Persuasion, and the Fleet Treat Stakes winner, Sound Wisdom. By coincidence, Sound Wisdom's grandson, the Southwest Stakes (gr. III) winner and Kentucky Derby (gr. I) third Denis of Cork, will also be in the Belmont Stakes (gr. I) field. Torchera is also half-sister to the listed stakes winning and graded stakes placed Wishful Splendor. Da' Tara's granddam, Kaylem Ho, was a four-time stakes winner by Salem. When Kaylem Ho's dam, Kay Ho, was bred to Pirate's Bounty, she produced two stakes placed horses. One of those, Toot Sweet, is dam of the 2008 Rebel Stakes (gr. II) winner, Sierra Sunset, who is by Bertrando (a grandson of Relaunch, like Tiznow, the sire of Da' Tara). — *By Alan Porter*



## DENIS OF CORK

**Trainer:** David Carroll  
**Jockey:** Robby Albarado  
**Owner:** William and Suzanne Warren Jr.  
**Breeder:** Westbury Stables

Coming off a strong-finishing third in the Kentucky Derby-Pre-

sented by Yum! Brands (gr. I), Denis of Cork seems to have recovered from a shocking upset in the Illinois Derby (gr. II). The question now is whether he can take enough of a step forward in the Belmont Stakes (gr. I) to be a contender to upset Big Brown's Triple Crown bid.

Bred in Florida by Westbury Stables, Denis of Cork (who races for Mr. and Mrs. William K. Warren, Jr.) is from the first crop of Harlan's Holiday, who was one of the better 3-year-olds of 2002 with victories in the Florida Derby (gr. I), the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (gr. I), and the Pennsylvania Derby (gr. II). As a 4-year-old, Harlan's Holiday added the Donn Handicap (gr. I) and a second in the Dubai World Cup (UAE-I) to his resume before retiring to Airdrie Stud for the 2004 season. To date, the 99 foals of Harlan's Holiday's first crop have yielded six stakes winners, led by 2007 CashCall Futurity (gr. I) winner Into Mischief.

Although clearly a contender at 10 furlongs — he placed in three grade or group I races at that distance — Harlan's Holiday was better at nine furlongs, the distance of all three of his grade I wins. At that, he stayed better than did his sire, Harlan. A son of Storm Cat and the stakes-winning Halo mare Country Romance, Harlan proved a durable but rather late-maturing sort who took his only stakes win at age 5. He picked a good showcase in which to strut his stuff, however, as his big win was in the Vosburgh Stakes (gr. I), then at seven furlongs.

Harlan was not heavily patronized during his brief time at stud (he died in February 1999), siring but 98 named foals. Six turned out to be stakes winners, among them Harlan's Holiday and the classy Menifee, who won the 1999 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes and Haskell Invitational Handicap (gr. I) and was runner-up to eventual Horse of the Year Charismatic in the Kentucky Derby (gr. I) and Preakness Stakes (gr. I).

Harlan certainly transmitted racing quality but did not appear to stamp his foals strongly, and Harlan's Holiday is a horse more in the mold of his broodmare sire, 1978 Triple Crown winner Affirmed, than of Storm Cat. The dam of Harlan's Holiday, Christmas in Aiken, never raced but is a granddaughter of the tough distaffer Princessnesian, who defeated males in the 1968 Hollywood Gold Cup Handicap.

Denis of Cork belongs to a family that has been doing very well in recent years, that of the Quid Pro Quo mare Kay Ho. Foaled in Maryland in 1973, Kay Ho failed to win in 13 starts but is a full sister to the minor stakes winner M. A.'s Date and a half-sister to another minor stakes winner in Salem Ho (by Salem). Among the 11 winners she produced from her 13 foals is stakes-placed Toot Sweet (by the good California sire Pirate's Bounty), the dam of Southwest Stakes runner-up Sierra Sunset (by Bertrando), who had previously won last year's California Cup Juvenile Stakes.

Much the best of Kay Ho's produce was Kaylem Ho, a 1978 daughter of Salem who won four stakes during her racing career. She was a little slow to hit her stride as a broodmare but struck gold with her

HARLAN'S HOLIDAY, b, 1999	Harlan, 1989	Storm Cat, 1983	Storm Bird
		Country Romance, 1976	Terlingua
DENIS OF CORK b, c February 16, 2005	Christmas in Aiken, 1992	Affirmed, 1975	Halo
		Dowager, 1980	Sweet Romance
UNBRIDLED GIRL, b, 1998	Unbridled, 1987	Fappiano, 1977	Exclusive Native
		Gana Facil, 1981	Won't Tell You
UNBRIDLED GIRL, b, 1998	Sound Wisdom, 1992	Pirate's Bounty, 1975	Honest Pleasure
		Kaylem Ho, 1978	Princessnesian
			Mr. Prospector
			Killaloe
		Le Fabuleux	Charedi
		Hoist the Flag	Bad Seed
		Salem	Kay Ho

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seventh foal, Private Persuasion (by Pirate's Bounty), winner of the 1995 Vanity Invitational Handicap (gr. I) as a 4-year-old. Kaylem Ho also produced the restricted stakes winner Sound Wisdom (a 1992 full sister to Private Persuasion) and the listed stakes winner Wishful Splendor (a 1999 mare by Smart Strike), as well as three stakes-placed runners All told, Kaylem Ho produced 15 winners from 16 foals, a remarkable accomplishment in itself, and her only foal not to race, Wisdom Keeper (a full sister to Private Persuasion and Sound Wisdom), is the dam of the listed stakes winner Seam Seeker (by Bertrando). Denis of Cork was produced from Unbridled Girl, an unraced daughter of Unbridled and Sound Wisdom.

Ironically, late closers have generally not fared well in the Belmont despite the distance of the race, so the running style that Denis of Cork displayed in the Derby might not be to his advantage in the Belmont despite its hint at distance potential. A hot pace scenario in front would work more to his advantage. — *By Avalyn Hunter*



## GUADALCANAL

**Trainer:** Fred Seitz  
**Jockey:** Javier Castellano  
**Owner:** Fred Seitz  
**Breeder:** Eugene Melnyk

GRAEME HALL, ch, 1997	Dehere, 1991	Deputy Minister, 1979	Vice Regent
			Mint Copy
GUADALCANAL b, c March 12, 2005	Win Crafty Lady, 1988	Sister Dot, 1985	Secretariat
		Crafty Prospector, 1979	Sword Game
		Honeytab, 1982	Mr. Prospector
BESSETTE, dkb/br, 1996	Quest for Fame, 1987	Rainbow Quest, 1981	Real Crafty Lady
		Aryenne, 1977	Al Hattab
		Gate Dancer, 1981	Get Up Honey
		River Way, 1973	Blushing Groom
ADORAHY, ch, 1997	Jackie's Gate, 1988		I Will Follow
			Green Dancer
			Americaine
			Sovereign Dancer
			Sun Gate
JUMP START, dkb/br, 1999	A.P. Indy, 1989		Diplomat Way
			Lotta Miss

Taking on Big Brown with a colt who is still a maiden after five outings seems like bringing the proverbial knife to a gun fight. However, the Fred Seitz-trained Guadalcantal has one advantage over his Belmont Stakes (gr. I) opponents, and that is a run over the full 1 1/2-mile distance. On May 23, Guadalcantal produced the best effort of his career to date, closing strongly to miss by just a nose in a 12 furlong turf maiden at Churchill Downs.

A \$28,000 Ocala Breeders Sales yearling, and \$27,000 OBS Spring 2-year-old in training, Guadalcantal was bred by Eugene Melnyk and is by Melnyk's home stallion, Graeme Hall, out of Bessette, a mare claimed specifically to support Graeme Hall.

Eugene and Laura Melnyk bought Graeme Hall for \$200,000 at the Keeneland September yearling sale and campaigned him for his entire career. The son of Dehere out of Win Crafty Lady, by Crafty Prospector, was twice graded stakes placed at 2, and at 3 won the Arkansas Derby (gr. II) and Jim Dandy Stakes (gr. II). At 4, Graeme Hall captured the Eclipse Handicap (Can-II) and Stuyvesant Handicap (gr. III) and also took second in the Cigar Mile Handicap (gr. I) and Razorback Handicap (gr. III). As a 5-year-old, Graeme Hall started three times for a second in the New Orleans Handicap (gr. II), before retiring to stand at Melnyk's Winding Oaks Farm, near Ocala, Fla., with earnings of \$1,147,441. A top 12 third season sire of 2008, Graeme Hall has sired three stakes winners with his first two crops, including

the recent Winning Colors Stakes (gr. III) victress Graeme Six.

Guadalcantal's dam, Bessette was a hard-knocking mare who won six of 38 starts for earning of \$116,102. She was claimed by the Melnyks for CAN\$6,500 at Fort Erie on her final start. Bessette is a daughter of Quest For Fame, winner of the Ever Ready Epsom Derby (Eng-I), Hollywood Turf Handicap (gr. I) and San Luis Obispo Handicap (gr. I). One would imagine that it's the long-winded son of Rainbow Quest who is the source of Guadalcantal's stamina. In addition to being by a Derby winner, Bessette is out of a mare by a Preakness Stakes (gr. I) winner, as her dam, Jackie's Gate is by Gate Dancer, hero of the 1984 renewal of that event. A two-time winner, Jackie's Gate is also dam of Bunker Hill Road – a stakes winner who also ran third in the Southwest Stakes (gr. III) and Rebel Stakes (gr. III) — and to the 2007 Super Derby Prelude victor, Forty Acres.

Guadalcantal is rated B by TrueNicks on the basis of the Dehere/Blushing Groom cross. This cross has produced three stakes winners, including Dehere's Australian grade II winner, Red Hannigan, as well as Graeme Hall's stakes-placed runners, Wishing Wishes and Hallway. — *By Alan Porter*



## ICABAD CRANE

**Trainer:** Graham Motion  
**Jockey:** Jeremy Rose  
**Owner:** Earle I. Mack  
**Breeder:** Gallagher's Stud

JUMP START, dkb/br, 1999	A.P. Indy, 1989	Seattle Slew, 1974	Bold Reasoning
		Weekend Surprise, 1980	My Charmer
ICABAD CRANE dkb/br, c April 9, 2005	Steady Cat, 1993	Storm Cat, 1983	Secretariat
		Hopespringsforever, 1984	Lassie Dear
		Blushing Groom, 1974	Storm Bird
ADORAHY, ch, 1997	Adorable Micol, 1983	Rahy, 1985	Terlingua
		Glorious Song, 1976	Mr. Prospector
		Riverman, 1969	Hopespringseternal
		Turn to Me, 1965	Red God
ADORAHY, ch, 1997	Adorable Micol, 1983		Runaway Bride
			Halo
ADORAHY, ch, 1997	Adorable Micol, 1983		Ballade
			Never Bend
ADORAHY, ch, 1997	Adorable Micol, 1983		River Lady
			Cyane
ADORAHY, ch, 1997	Adorable Micol, 1983		Tempted

Since he's named for the principal character in the American literature classic *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, it's appropriate that New York-bred Icabad Crane was foaled at Gallagher's Stud, which is situated in Ghent, little more than 100 miles north of Tarrytown, the setting for the book. Now, after a surprise third in the Preakness Stakes (gr. I), Icabad Crane returns to New York in quest to create his own legend.

Icabad Crane is from the second crop of the young A.P. Indy stallion, Jump Start. Bred by Overbrook Farm, Jump Start is a very well-bred horse, being out of graded stakes placed Steady Cat, a sister to stakes winner Apollo Cat, and by Storm Cat out of a sister to Miswaki. Trained by D. Wayne Lukas, Jump Start was in action early, winning a 5 1/2-furlong Churchill Downs maiden on his debut in June 2001. He returned to take the Saratoga Special (gr. II), but then finished off the board in the Hopeful Stakes (gr. I). A second to Officer in the Champagne Stakes (gr. I) encouraged Jump Start's connections to take a chance in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I). He crossed the finish line

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but he was vanned off the track, after suffering a career ending injury. Jump Start has made a promising start to his stud career, and from his first two crops, has 11 stakes winners, headed by the Gulfstream Park Handicap (gr. II) victor Sir Whimsey, and Jump On In, who took the Santa Ynez Stakes (gr. II), and eight stakes placed horses.

Icabad Crane is out of the Rahy mare, Adorahy. She is a half-sister to the graded stakes winning Adcat (a daughter of Jump Start's broodmare sire, Storm Cat), and to the stakes winning and grade I placed Alydar daughter, Adorydar. Adorahy is also three-parts-sister to the Firecracker Handicap victress, Ruthian, who is by Rahy out of Adoryphar, a group placed Lyphard half-sister to Adorahy. It's worth noting that when Ruthian was bred to Pulpit (by A.P. Indy out of a Mr. Prospector mare, where Jump Start is by A.P. Indy with a second dam by Mr. Prospector), the result was Icabad Crane's very close relative, Rutherienne, winner of seven graded stakes events, including the 2007 Del Mar Oaks (gr. I) and the 2008 Jenny Wiley Stakes (gr. II). Icabad Crane's second dam, Adorable Micol, a daughter of Riverman campaigned on both sides of the Atlantic, winning the Prix de Boulogne in France, and the Countess Fager Handicap (gr. III) in the U.S. Adorable Micol was half-sister to stakes winners Columbia Gold and Brokerette. The latter produced the stakes-winning and graded-placed Hushi when bred to Adorable Micol's sire, Riverman. Brokerette is ancestress of several other stakes winners, including the graded scorers Palliser Bay and He Loves Me. The fourth dam is champion handicap mare, Tempted, and the next dam, Enchanted Eve, is ancestress of such as French Derby (gr. I) winner, Polytain; English 1,000 Guineas (gr. I) heroine, Wince; and group and grade one winners Contredance, Skimming, Lazy Slusan, King of the Heap and Quiff. Icabad Crane's third dam, Turn to Me, is herself three-parts-sister to Futurity Stakes winner Salem, graded stakes winner Pumpkin Moonshine, and stakes winners Tingle Stone and Pinch Pie, who were all by Cyane out daughters of Enchanted Eve.

By and large, the cross of Seattle Slew line stallions over Blushing Groom line mares has been disappointing, but Icabad Crane and his close relative Rutherienne give the A.P. Indy/Rahy version of the cross an A++ TrueNicks rating. It might be significant that Jump Start is inbred to Buckpasser, a son of Tom Fool (Menow/Bull Dog cross) and Pulpit has Buckpasser and Nijinsky II (dam a Bull Dog/Menow cross). Historically, these strains have done well with Blushing Groom, as his sire, Red God is out of Spring Run, another Menow/Bull Dog cross. — *By Alan Porter*



## MACHO AGAIN

**Trainer:** Dallas Stewart  
**Jockey:** Garrett Gomez  
**Owner:** West Point Thoroughbreds  
**Breeder:** Milan Kosanovich

The oldest American native male line is that which stems from Eclipse. This Eclipse was not the breed-shaping horse of the same name foaled during the great solar eclipse of 1764, but a high-class son of the English Derby winner and champion sire Orlando (GB), and was brought to this country in 1859. Here he became a very successful sire, and was most notably responsible for Alarm, generally considered the first great American sprinter. In turn, the best son of Alarm was Himyar, a horse who started two branches of the sire line, one through "The Black Whirlwind" (Domino, tale male ancestor of the recently-pensioned champion sire Broad Brush), and the other through the 1898 Kentucky Derby winner Plaudit. Both lines have frequently seemed in peril of extinction, but both have persevered

into the current century, where the Domino line is best represented by Broad Brush's promising son Include, and the Plaudit line by Holy Bull. The latter, Horse of the Year for 1994, has several young sons with prospects of extending the line, including champion 2-year-old Macho Uno; Kentucky Derby (gr. I) victor Giacomo; the Stephen Foster Handicap (gr. I) winner Flashy Bull; and the multiple graded stakes-winning sprinter Woke Up Dreamin'.

Only one of these, Macho Uno, has had runners to date, and he is off to a very promising start. From his first crop of 2-year-olds, which reached the races last year, Macho Uno was represented by 16 individual juvenile winners, including black type scorer Swiftly Victress, and Wicked Style, who took the Arlington-Washington Futurity (gr. III) and Keeneland's Lane's End Breeders' Futurity (gr. I). This year's stars have been Macho Again — who defeated Canadian champion 2-year-old and Eclipse award nominee Kodiak Kowboy for the Derby Trial Stakes, then finished second in the Preakness Stakes (gr. 1) — and Harlem Rocker, who captured the Withers Stakes (gr. III) on his stakes debut.

Macho Again is out of the Wild Again mare Go Donna Go, and is her fourth winner from five foals of racing age and four starters. Go Donna Go is half-sister to a pair of listed winners in the fillies Kiwi Mint and Kiwi Sunshine, one by Key to the Mint, and the other by that horse's son Java Gold. She is also half-sister to Kiwi Princess, whose son Weekend Money (by Tactical Advantage) never won a black type event but did take third in the Champagne Stakes (gr. I). In addition, Kiwi Princess is granddam of New York-bred Stud Muffin, who took the restricted Noble Nashua Stakes at Belmont last weekend. Macho Again's granddam, Proud Nova (by the Hail to Reason grandson Proud Birdie), was a tough performer who won nine of 39 races over four seasons, including the Lady Pitt Stakes at Belmont Park, and was also several times stakes-placed. Proud Nova was the only stakes winner produced by her dam, Startex, but her Silver Buck half-sister, Silver Nova, is dam of the stakes-winning Tactical Advantage filly Tactical Move. The family does go back to classic roots, albeit European ones: Proud Nova's third dam, Blue Star II, who was imported in 1953, was by English Derby winner Blue Peter (GB), out of a mare by English Derby winner Hyperion (GB).

Macho Again is rated A++ by TrueNicks, and in addition to a positive nick, has some interesting connections in the center of his pedigree. Macho Uno is out of a mare by Blushing Groom (FR), a horse who has strong pedigree connections to Macho Again's broodmare sire Wild Again. Blushing Groom and Wild Again are both by grandsons of Nearco (ITY), and Blushing Groom's granddam, Aimee, is by a grandson of Hyperion out of a daughter of the mare Eclair (GB), while Wild Again's broodmare sire, Khaled, is by Hyperion out of Eclair. Recent Ben Ali Stakes (gr. III) winner Sterwins and Brazilian grade II winner Fort Wilderness (BRZ) are horses bred on the Blushing Groom/Wild Again cross, and Wild Again himself sired at

MACHO UNO, gr/ro, 1998	Holy Bull, 1991	Great Above, 1972	Minnesota Mac
		Sharon Brown, 1980	Ta Wee
MACHO AGAIN gr/ro, c February 25, 2005	Primal Force, 1987	Blushing Groom, 1974	Al Hattab
		Prime Prospect, 1978	Agathe's Dawn
GO DONNA GO, dkb/br, 1994	Wild Again, 1980	Red God	Runaway Bride
		Icecapade, 1969	Mr. Prospector
	Proud Nova, 1981	Bushel-n-Peck, 1958	Square Generation
			Nearctic
			Shenanigans
			Khaled
			Dama II
		Proud Birdie, 1973	Proud Clarion
		Startex, 1974	Bernie Bird
			Vertex
			Star Bolt

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least three stakes winners with Blushing Groom in the dam. Oddly enough, the Khaled connection is not limited to Macho Again: in fact he appears in the dams all four stakes winners sired by Macho Uno to date, and is twice in the pedigree of the dams of Harlem Rocker and Swiftly Victress. — *By Alan Porter*



## READY'S ECHO

**Trainer:** Todd Pletcher  
**Jockey:** John Velazquez  
**Owner:** Let's Go Stable  
**Breeder:** Meg T. & Michael J. Buckley

MORE THAN READY, dkb/br, 1997	Southern Halo, 1983	Halo, 1969	Hail to Reason Cosmah
		Northern Sea, 1974	Northern Dancer Sea Saga
READY'S ECHO dkb/br, r January 14, 2005	Woodman's Girl, 1990	Woodman, 1983	Mr. Prospector Playmate
		Becky Be Good, 1981	Naskra Good Landing
MENEKINEKO, dkb/br, 1998	Kingmambo, 1990	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Raise a Native Gold Digger
		Miesque, 1984	Nureyev Pasadoble
	Maison Close, 1985	Spectacular Bid, 1976	Bold Bidder Spectacular
		Magdalena, 1980	Northern Dancer Madelia

Ready's Echo has yet to win a stakes, but in his short career he's drawn plenty of attention with his Silky Sullivan-like running style. On his debut, a 5 1/2-furlong maiden at Saratoga, he lagged nearly 26 lengths off the pace at the first call, was still more than 11 lengths adrift turning for home, but flew down the stretch to take second, 53/4 lengths behind subsequent graded winner Z Humor. Ready's Echo open his 3-year-old campaign in a seven-furlong maiden at Gulfstream Park, when he again rallied from well off the pace to win by 3 1/4 lengths. In an allowance event on Keeneland's Polytrack, Ready's Echo charged from 10th to fall a neck short of catching Limestone Edge (a good fourth in the WinStar Derby (gr. III) on his next start), with the subsequent Crown Royal American Turf Stakes (gr. III) winner, Tizdejavu in third. Ready's Echo's Belmont Stakes prep came in the Peter Pan Stakes (gr. II). Here he was some 13 lengths back in the early stages, but again made rapid late progress to finish third to Casino Drive, missing second by only half a length.

Ready's Echo's sire, More Than Ready was a brilliant 2-year-old, who earned grade I honors at 3 with a win in the King's Bishop Stakes (gr. I) over seven furlongs. He was, however also only beaten a head in the nine-furlong Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (gr. I), and finished fourth in the Kentucky Derby (gr. I), beaten six lengths by Fusaichi Pegasus. A look at his best runners shows that More Than Ready has primarily been a source of ability at up to a mile, examples including Australian superstar juvenile, Sebring; other Australia grade I winners Perfectly Ready and Carry On Cutie; and Ready's Image. On the other hand, there are exceptions, such as Benicio, who took the Australian Derby (Aus-I) over 12 1/2 furlongs, and Ready's Gal, winner of the Canadian Stakes (Can-II) at nine furlongs.

Ready's Echo's dam, Menekinenko, was unplaced in two starts, but is a daughter of Kingmambo — sire of a Belmont Stakes (gr. I) winner in Lemon Drop Kid and one of the best classic sires of the current era. Menekinenko is half-sister to House Key, a stakes winner in restricted company in New York. The granddam, Maison Close, a

daughter of Spectacular Bid (whose Triple Crown hopes were dashed when he finished third to Coastal in the Belmont Stakes), was black-type placed in France, and took the Nassau Stakes on turf in Canada. Maison Close's dam, Magdalena, earned black-type with a third in the Coronation Stakes (Eng-II) at Royal Ascot. Magdalena is a superbly bred daughter of Northern Dancer out of the Caro mare, Madelia, who won all four of her starts, including the French 1,000 Guineas (Fr-I), Prix Saint-Alary (Fr-I) and French Oaks (Fr-I). Magdalena is a half-sister to the Prix Saint-Alary (Fr-I) heroine, Moonlight Dance, and to Claude Monet, winner of the Mecca-Dante Stakes (Eng-II), England's premier Derby Trial.

By U.S. standards there is a reasonable degree of stamina in the pedigree of Ready's Echo (who is rated A by TrueNicks), and this, allied with his running style, should give him a good chance of being effective at the Belmont trip. There is also a lot of turf ability in this pedigree, and it will be no surprise to see Ready's Echo do well on that surface in the long run. — *by Alan Porter*



## TALE OF EKATI

**Trainer:** Barclay Tagg  
**Jockey:** Eibar Coa  
**Owner:** Charles Fipke  
**Breeder:** Charles Fipke

TALE OF THE CAT, dkb/br, 1994	Storm Cat, 1983	Storm Bird, 1978	Northern Dancer South Ocean
		Terlingua, 1976	Secretariat Crimson Saint
TALE OF EKATI b, c March 31, 2005	Yarn, 1987	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Raise a Native Gold Digger
		Narrate, 1980	Honest Pleasure State
SILENCE BEAUTY(Japan), dkb/br, 1997	Sunday Silence, 1986	Halo, 1969	Hail to Reason Cosmah
		Wishing Well, 1975	Understanding Mountain Flower
	Maplejinsky, 1985	Nijinsky II, 1967	Northern Dancer Flaming Page
		Gold Beauty, 1979	Mr. Prospector Stick to Beauty

With his win in the Wood Memorial (gr. I) and a strong-finishing fourth in the Kentucky Derby, Charles Fipke's homebred colt Tale of Ekati has successfully followed up on a juvenile season that saw him win the 2007 Futurity Stakes (gr. II). But whether he can step up his game over the 12-furlong Belmont Stakes (gr. I) distance enough to be a threat to undefeated dual Classic winner Big Brown is an open question.

Tale of Ekati is by Tale of the Cat, whose son Lion Heart demonstrated both class and heart in winning the 2004 Haskell Invitational Handicap (gr. I) and running second to Smarty Jones in the Kentucky Derby (gr. I). Tale of the Cat himself favored shorter distances than Lion Heart but showed plenty of speed in winning the 1997 King's Bishop Stakes (gr. II).

A son of Storm Cat out of Yarn, by Mr. Prospector, Tale of the Cat is closely related to his fellow Ashford stallion, 2001 U.S. and European champion juvenile Johannesburg, who is by Storm Cat's son Hennessy out of Yarn's daughter Myth (by Ogygian). Tale of the Cat is also from the immediate family of A.P. Indy's popular sire son Pulpit, whose dam, Preach, is a full sister to Yarn. The family, descended from Round Table's stakes-winning full sister Monarchy, has been oriented more towards miler speed than towards stamina.

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As might be expected from such a background, Tale of the Cat has been a prolific and commercially popular stallion, with 46 stakes winners to his credit so far from the 900 named foals of his first six crops of racing age. He has, however, been more a source of speed than stamina; the average winning distance for his progeny is 6.70 furlongs, and their average maximum winning distance is just 6.95 furlongs.

Tale of Ekati may get more help in the stamina department through his dam, Silence Beauty. A Japanese-bred daughter of 1989 Horse of the Year Sunday Silence, Silence Beauty failed to win in three tries but is a half-sister to 1994 champion older female Sky Beauty (by Blushing Groom [Fr]), whose 13 graded stakes wins include the 10-furlong Coaching Club American Oaks (gr. I) and Alabama Stakes (gr. I).

Silence Beauty is a daughter of the 1988 Alabama winner, Maplejinsky, who took after her sire, Nijinsky II, rather than her dam, Gold Beauty, in the matter of stamina. The last horse to win the English Triple Crown, Nijinsky II proved one of the stronger stamina influences among the sons of Northern Dancer. Although he sired top-flight horses that excelled at a mile and even a Breeders' Cup Sprint (gr. I) winner in Dancing Spree, his more typical progeny stayed well

and often showed a strong taste for grass racing.

Gold Beauty was a very different type of runner than Nijinsky II, for her calling card was pure speed — enough, in fact, to make her the champion sprinter of 1982. Her victories that year included the Fall Highweight Handicap (gr. II) and the Test Stakes (gr. II), and her only loss was in the Vosburgh Handicap (gr. I), in which she suffered a season-ending saucer fracture. (She did return to racing at four, winning the True North Handicap, gr. III). As a broodmare, her career was also short and brilliant. The daughter of Mr. Prospector produced only five foals, but in addition to Maplejinsky, she produced the brilliant sprinter Dayjur (by Danzig), Horse of the Year in England and champion sprinter in both France and England as a 3-year-old in 1990.

Tale of Ekati is inbred 4 x 6 x 4 to Northern Dancer, with two of those crosses coming through Nijinsky II, and has an additional line of Northern Dancer's granddam Almahmoud through Halo (out of Cosmah, out of Almahmoud), sire of Sunday Silence. Tale of Ekati is also inbred 3 x 4 to Mr. Prospector via Yarn and Gold Beauty, so his pedigree shows inbreeding to two of the most noted Classic influences in the modern Thoroughbred. — *By Avalyn Hunter*