

Freshman Sires to Watch: Our Picks



Alan Porter

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| Pioneer of the Nile | The first good son of the much-missed Empire Maker to be represented by runners. Good enough at 2 to take the CashCall Futurity (gr. I), and in five starts at 3, he took three graded stakes, including Santa Anita Derby (gr. I), and ran second in Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I). Has some pedigree similarities to Unbridled's Song, and they did sell well. |
| Zensational | Unbridled's Song is still looking for his first really good stallion son, and he has four of the leaders by 2010 stud fee among the 2013 freshmen. Zensational was as good a colt as Unbridled's Song has got, with the rare feat of three straight wins in grade I sprints. He didn't win at 2 but his broodmare sire, Phone Trick, sired a champion 2-year-old colt and filly, and his second dam is by juvenile champion Forty Niner. |
| Kodiak Cowboy | This is one who shouldn't be overlooked, even though he stands for only \$6,500 this year. He was precocious as a champion in Canada at 2; a good sprinter at 3; and champion of the sprint division at 4 when he was a grade I winner at six, seven, and eight furlongs. He's by a leading freshman sire in Posse (by another influence for precocity, Silver Deputy), and we've heard some good things about his youngsters. |
| Old Fashioned | Another Unbridled's Song. Impressive when 3-for-3 as a juvenile, including 7¼-length Remsen Stakes (gr. II) win. Graded winner over a mile, and two seconds in graded stakes in three starts the following year. Dam is a talented graded winner by speed/precocity influence Meadowlake, and is closely related to the dam of good sire French Deputy. |
| U S Ranger | This might be a little bit of a sleeper, and he's advertised at only \$5,000 this term. He went 3-for-3 in France at 2, was a listed winner in France and Ireland at 3, and at 4 missed by just a head in the six-furlong July Cup (Eng-I) and took third in the Prix de la Foret (Fr-I). He's certainly got the pedigree, as he's by Danzig out of a mare closely related to Dynaformer, from the family that provided an upset leading freshman sire in Offlee Wild. Very solid sales with a \$42,394 average. |
| Colonel John | He follows Tiz Wonderful—who made a promising start last year—as the second in a line of good sons of Tiznow who will be bidding to extend this branch of the Man o'War line, and is actually his sire's highest money winner at stud. Colonel John was a stakes winner and second to Into Mischief in the CashCall Futurity (gr. I) at 2 took the Santa Anita Derby (gr. I)—then on all-weather—and Travers Stakes (gr. I) at 3 and was a stakes winner over a mile on turf in a fast time at 4. The market really liked them, and he was the leader by yearling average and median. |
| Dunkirk | Another Unbridled, but an atypical one for aptitude. Unraced at 2, he was an impressive maiden and allowance winner at 3, and also took second in the Florida Derby and Belmont Stakes (both gr. I). The classic tendencies spring from his dam, Secret Status, winner of the Mother Goose Stakes and Kentucky Oaks (both gr. I), and by A.P. Indy out of an Alydar mare. He's going to have more to run than any of his contemporaries, but we wouldn't expect them to make their mark until the distances stretch out a bit. |
| Thewayyouare | Last year's leading freshman was Henrythenavigator, an Ashford-based son of Kingmambo out of a Sadler's Wells mare. Thewayyouare (now, with "Henry" back in Ireland) is bidding to make it a repeat performance for the same formula. His career record doesn't quite match his predecessor, but he was champion at 2 in France, where he won three stakes, including the Prix Thomas Bryon (Fr-III) and Criterium International (Fr-I). Thewayyouare certainly has the family: a half brother to champion and classic winner Peeping Fawn, he's a grandson of Blush With Pride and a great-grandson of Best in Show. |
| Cowboy Cal | Equally effective on all-weather and turf, Cowboy Cal won the Laurel Futurity at 2, captured a pair of graded stakes and was grade I-placed at 3, and at 3 took a trio of grade IIs, including the Oak Tree Mile Stakes on turf and Strub Stakes on Santa Anita's Cushion Track. He's by three-time leading sire Giant's Causeway, who has been shaping up pretty well as a sire of sires, out of a Seeking the Gold daughter of blue hen Hot Novel. There has been a little buzz about the youngsters by this horse, with Ron Winchell buying a significant interest, when his first crop were yearlings. |
| Noonmark | New York's Noonmark, California's grade I 2-year-old winner Dixie Chatter, and grade I-winning sprinter In Summation in Florida, look like the regional horses with the best shot of making an impact. Noonmark is another Unbridled's Song, but he has a lot of his broodmare sire, Storm Cat, about him. He broke his maiden going 5½ furlongs by more than 10 lengths at 2 and went on to become a graded stakes-winning and multiple graded stakes-placed sprinter. |

Freshman Sires Analysis

By Scot T. Gillies

HOW'D WE DO?

Last February Henrythenavigator was top pick for both Alan Porter and Avalyn Hunter (and third choice of the *MarketWatch* editorial team). Ashford Stud's son of Kingmambo—who moved to Coolmore's Irish hub for 2013—led the freshman sire list in 2012. Boosting Henrythenavigator's statistics were a crop-leading 227 foals (tied with Curlin), from which came grade or group I winners George Vancouver, who returned from a European juvenile campaign to annex the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (gr. IT), and Pedro the Great, whose big victory came in the Keeneland Phoenix Stakes (Ire-I) at the Curragh.

Second among first-crop sires of 2012 was WinStar Farm's Spring At Last, whom the *MarketWatch* team listed as a young stallion to keep an eye on—though we were more excited about the Silver Deputy stallion's chances when his first crop turned 3. We're even more keyed up now for his 2013 prospects. Flying under the radar on our predictions, Harlan's Holiday's son Into Mischief netted third by 2012 progeny earnings representing Spendthrift. The editors noted fourth-placed Majestic Warrior (who currently heads the second-crop list in 2013) as another top contender, and Alan Porter was even higher on Ashford's son of A.P. Indy, ranking him third on his list. Street Boss, who rounded out the top five freshmen in 2012, was a unanimous prediction in last year's issue. Street Boss stands alongside sire Street Cry at Darley.

This year's unanimous picks include Colonel John, Pioneer of

the Nile, Zensational, Dunkirk, Old Fashioned—a group of stallions who've attracted considerable industry attention—but also U S Ranger, a less heralded French and Irish listed stakes winner by Danzig out of a closely bred half sister to Dynaformer and a horse Alan Porter deems this year's sleeper.

Which freshman sire of 2013 are you keen to watch? Visit MarketWatch.BloodHorse.com and post your comments on the *MarketWatch* blog.

2012 Leading First-Crop Sires

| 1st-Crop Rank | Stallion | 2012 2YOs | 2012 Rnrs/Wnrs | 2012 Earnings | Porter Rank (of 10) | Hunter Rank (of 10) | Editors Rank (of 15) |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Henrythenavigator | 112 | 45/15 | \$1,231,383 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | Spring At Last | 71 | 32/13 | \$1,181,230 | | | 14 |
| 3 | Into Mischief | 42 | 21/8 | \$1,171,578 | | | |
| 4 | Majestic Warrior | 114 | 69/30 | \$1,065,051 | 3 | | 7 |
| 5 | Street Boss | 107 | 54/20 | \$866,019 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | Frost Giant | 31 | 15/12 | \$840,633 | | | |
| 7 | Midnight Lute | 121 | 41/11 | \$695,571 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 8 | Tiz Wonderful | 110 | 40/13 | \$639,818 | 4 | | 9 |
| 9 | Curlin | 104 | 47/15 | \$606,364 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| 10 | Run Away and Hide | 56 | 27/9 | \$597,246 | | | |



Avalyn Hunter

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| Colonel John | Judging by his sale results, Colonel John is turning out youngsters with the right physical equipment, and his initial book of mares was quite nice. A listed winner himself at 2, the Colonel was a closing second to Into Mischief in the 2007 CashCall Futurity (gr. I)—not a bad omen, given that Into Mischief was third on last year's freshman sire list. |
| Pioneerof the Nile | A grade I winner at 2, Pioneerof the Nile has the second largest initial crop of any of this year's freshmen. Like Colonel John, he will likely get two-turn runners but good late juveniles are a distinct possibility. He's bred on a similar cross to War Emblem, who has produced some quality runners in Japan despite his breeding difficulties. |
| In Summation | In Summation is the right horse in the right market. A very fast horse from a male line that has historically done well in Florida, he missed sweeping the Florida Stallion Stakes series by a nose as a juvenile. That plus a very solid if not huge first book ranks him high on the list. |
| Zensational | Unbridled's Song has eight sons among this year's freshman sires, making this a critical year for him as a sire of sires. The nod among them goes to the brilliant sprinter Zensational, who has a pretty fair amount of speed close up on the distaff side of his pedigree and a nice book of mares supporting him. |
| Kodiak Kowboy | By a champion freshman sire (Posse) and a juvenile champion himself, champion sprinter Kodiak Kowboy looks like a logical choice to throw some quick runners early. His main handicap is that he doesn't have as large an initial crop as any of the sires ranked ahead of him. |
| Thewayyouare | A very good juvenile in France, Thewayyouare has one of the best pedigrees on the planet. He didn't get a lot of love at the sales but is the right type to have some good European winners boosting his stats. |
| Old Fashioned | Winner of the Remsen Stakes (gr. II) at 2, Old Fashioned was more a two-turn type than the similarly sired Zensational, though he does have the speedy Meadowlake as broodmare sire. His initial crop was well received at the sales. |
| Cowboy Cal | Cowboy Cal is a well-bred horse with a large initial crop, and the quality of his initial book was strong. He was a stakes winner at 2 and second dam Hot Novel was a quick filly. |
| Dunkirk | Dunkirk is another well-bred horse with numbers on his side; he has the largest initial crop of any of this year's freshmen. His racing performance and pedigree both suggest two turns, so late juveniles will be the key. The obvious question here is soundness. |
| U S Ranger | U S Ranger doesn't have a huge initial crop or the best race record in this group, but he had ability and he certainly has pedigree—by sire of sires Danzig out of a mare closely related to Dynaformer. |

MarketWatch Editorial Consensus—Eric Mitchell, Scot T. Gillies, and Tom Hall



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| Colonel John | Bred, raced, and now standing for powerful owner/breeder WinStar; was a stakes winner and grade I stakes-placed at 2. First book includes 25% mares that won at 2 and nearly 19% have already produced juvenile winners.—EM |
| Cowboy Cal | Having sire of sires Giant's Causeway as a daddy doesn't hurt, given the first-crop performances of sons such as Frost Giant, Heatseeker, and First Samurai. Cowboy Cal was a good middle-distance performer on turf and synthetic—and perhaps will transmit dirt ability from dam who is Seeking the Gold half to dirt star Behrens. Numbers on his side too: 99 2-year-olds.—TH |
| Zensational | Won three consecutive grade I sprints. Speed-riddled pedigree with Unbridled's Song (7.14-furlong AWD for progeny) over 6-furlong stakes-winning dam whose sire Phone Trick is noted source of speed. Zensational ranks high by percentage of dams that have produced juvenile winners and stakes winners. Having 85 2-year-olds won't hurt either.—TH |
| Parading | By A.P. Indy's recently deceased sire-of-sires heir Pulpit, out of a daughter of dominant broodmare sire Storm Cat, and from the family of champion runner and Broodmare of the Year Personal Ensign: Few stallions have such royal bloodlines. Breeders like Claiborne's chestnut, sending to him increasingly large books of top-performing mares. The question that 2013 and 2014 will answer: Can Parading's foals bloom earlier than their sire's breakout as a 6-year-old?—STG |
| Pioneerof the Nile | Grade I winner at 2 whose dam has produced three juvenile winners out of four to race; plenty of opportunity with 99 first-crop foals. Ranks fifth among freshman sires by percentage of 2-year-old stakes winners from dams (2.8%).—EM |
| Fort Prado | El Prado has several prominent sons standing in Kentucky for fees between \$10,000 and \$100,000: Medaglia d'Oro, Artie Schiller, Kitten's Joy, and Paddy O'Prado are all hot commercial sires. Fort Prado's niche is for breed-to-race operations. For only \$5,000 at Buck Pond Farm, mare owners have access to a healthy and hard-knocking millionaire who ran 59 times from age 2 to 8 and won 18 times (13 of them in stakes company) from five to nine furlongs and on dirt, turf, and synthetics. His first book of mares were producers, too, setting up Fort Prado to explode in 2013.—STG |
| U S Ranger | If runners from the first crop of this listed stakes-winning stallion from Danzig's penultimate crop should strike early—and there's good reason to believe they will, considering U S Ranger was 3-for-3 as a juvenile—he'll be unstoppable as a second- and third-crop sire. His books for those two crops expanded quickly when WinStar acquired him after his debut year at Pauls Mill.—STG |
| Dunkirk | Precocious certainly isn't a word that comes to mind to describe this handsome gray son of Unbridled's Song out of Kentucky Oaks (gr. I) winner Secret Status, by A.P. Indy. However, Coolmore backing won't hurt. Neither will having a pool of 136 2-year-olds to pour runners from. Unraced at 2, Dunkirk looks to be the type whose progeny will need at least a mile to be at their best.—TH |
| In Summation | Lots of speed and precociousness in the family. Put It Back was undefeated grade II sprinter at 3 and Florida's leading juvenile sire in 2012. Dam produced three 2yo winners out of five to race.—EM |
| Tiago | Small crops in 2011 and 2012—and a medical redshirt for the 2012 breeding season—will keep Adena Springs' half brother and barnmate to Giacomo off the numbers-dominated sire lists. As the sole commercial representative of Pleasant Tap and possessing a pedigree that promises success as race lengths increase, though, Tiago easily could be in the headlines come 2014 Triple Crown season.—STG |
| Old Fashioned | First book of mares offers huge potential; ranks first among freshman sires by percentage of mares that were juvenile winners (33%) and first among dams percentage of 2-year-old stakes winners (4.8%). Eighty-four foals create plenty of opportunity.—EM |
| Einstein (BRZ) | Adena has a way of taking the atypical sire line and making it work, i.e. Macho Uno, Milwaukee Brew. Sound and hardy, the big, rangy Einstein, from the tenuous Buckpasser line, liked a route of ground, but triple-digit Beyer Speed Figures indicate a stellar turn of foot. Look for late in the year. Sire Spend a Buck won not only Kentucky Derby (gr. I) but Arlington-Washington Futurity (gr. I)—TH |
| Thewayyouare | Will he be another Henrythenavigator, 2012 leader of first-crop list? Follows same pattern, having moved from Ashford to Ireland after one season in U.S. Thewayyouare was a very good miler at 2 (won the group I Criterion International and two other stakes). From the sire-producing female family of Best in Show (El Gran Senor, Redoute's Choice, etc.) and bred on successful Kingmambo/Sadler's Wells cross.—TH |
| Monba | Precocity (he won two of three at 2) and raw talent (he annexed the grade I Toyota Blue Grass on the 2008 Triple Crown trail) combine with an in vogue sire line (his sire Maria's Mon appears poised to dominate the non-Mr. Prospector branch of Raise a Native in the 21st century) in Monba. If his first crops include a few standouts, Monba could become a go-to outcross sire—he's free of Seattle Slew, Northern Dancer, Mr. Prospector, and even In Reality.—STG |
| Dixie Chatter | Won grade I Norfolk S. at 2, second dam is '93 champion 2-year-old female Phone Chatter. First books of mares rank among top 10 by percentage of 2yo stakes winners produced (2%).—EM |