

TEN WITH MORE POTENTIAL PER DOLLAR

In today's economic climate, value has become an important criterion for yearling buyers as well as mare owners evaluating stallions. Alan Porter has sifted through the barns of commercial stud farms and found 10 stallions that deserve consideration because their progeny performance records have outperformed their value as judged by stud fee or sale averages.

The production record says "yes," but the market says "no." That would be about the only way to sum up last year's reaction to **Awesome Again's** marketplace yearlings. The son of Deputy Minister has sired Horse of the Year Ghostzapper, champion older mare Ginger Punch, Breeders' Cup champions Wilko and Round Pond, and grade I winners Toccet, Spun Sugar, Sugar Shake, Daaher, and Dubai Escapade, so one would assume that his offspring would be in demand. Well, last year they averaged only \$104,271 off a stud fee of \$125,000, with a median of only \$47,500. Okay, we get that some of the better ones are retained by his connections, and that



Awesome Again

he doesn't sire the type the market likes, but for a horse with 22 graded stakes winners in his first seven crops, and 9.2% stakes winners to starters, we've got to think there has to be some value for money here. (Awesome Again stood for \$125,000 in 2009.)

How about a horse that has a current Eclipse Award laureate and 2009 grade I scorer running for him, and with a 2008 yearling average of \$27,574, and a median of \$18,272? **Belong to Me** is sire of Emirates Airline Breeder's Cup Filly and Mare Turf (gr. IT) heroine and champion Forever Together, as well as other U.S. grade I scorers Jersey Girl, Circle of Life, Lucky Roberto, and Miss Houdini. By the way, we

should also note he has eight stakes winners, three graded already in 2009. **Belong to Me** is also a rising broodmare sire, his daughters having produced grade I winner Circular Quay and 2009 grade II winners Kensei, Papa Clem, Radiohead (GB), and Lookin At Lucky. Given that the fillies have been better than the colts and look like broodmares in the making, we have to pay special attention to a North American filly yearling average of only \$29,300 last year. His cover fee for the recently concluded season was \$10,000.

We've said before, if not for a photo-finish or two, **Dehere** would have been the leading freshman sire of 1998. Had that happened, his story probably would have been very different and almost certainly would not include the relatively unproductive sojourn to Japan. It's hard for a stallion to recapture the momentum after "the missing years" but in 2009 Dehere has sired four 2-year-old winners from nine starters to date, including the Debutante Stakes (gr. III) winner Decelerator from the first crop after his return. We think they'll be very good value this year, and we'd particularly keep an eye on the fillies as Dehere is shaping up very well as a broodmare sire. Dehere's Kentucky fee for 2009 was \$15,000.

E Dubai never captured a grade I event, but in terms of raw talent the winner of the Dwyer Stakes and Suburban Handicap



E Dubai



Dehere



Belong to Me



COURTESY OF CLABORNE FARM

Flatter

(both gr. II) would rank among Mr. Prospector's better sons. An initial lack of libido — which he's since overcome — restricted his initial North American crop to 47 foals, but that crop has supplied five stakes winners, including graded scorers High Heels, Buy the Barrel, and Desert Code (who took the inaugural Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint). He's sired another eight stakes winners in his next two crops, including this year's graded scorers Accredited and Mr. Fantasy. His yearling median was just \$11,513 last year with 46 sold worldwide, a number significantly lower than his median (\$16,041) and average (\$41,154) lifetime earnings per starter. Darley's fee for E Dubai was \$15,000 in 2009.

Though **Flatter** is bred on the same A.P. Indy/Mr. Prospector cross as Pulpit and Malibu Moon, he doesn't occupy the same commercial bracket. Still, despite having stood for \$5,000 throughout his career, he has eight stakes winners and 10 additional stakes horses with his oldest runners only 4. His best include the graded stakes winning 2-year-old Jack o' Lantern and the smart fillies Champagne Eyes and Tar Heel Mom. He has an average earnings per starter of \$32,542, and a median of \$22,890, so some value must be out there on the basis of his 2008 yearlings averaging \$12,025 with a median of just \$5,350.

Another A.P. Indy son is **Jump Start**, who won the Saratoga Special (gr. II) and took second in the Champagne Stakes (gr. I) at 2 before suffering a career-ending injury. With a dam by Storm Cat out of a sister to Miswaki, Jump Start has a stallion's pedigree, and on the early evidence he looks potentially very smart. So far he has 17 stakes winners from his first three crops, including this year's TVG/BETFAIR Hollywood Gold Cup (gr. I) winner Rail Trip; graded scorers Sir Whimsey, Jump On In, and Bold Start, and Preakness Stakes (gr. I) third Icabad Crane. All of these were sired at fees between \$5,000 and \$10,000, and the 2009 yearlings are a result of Jump Start's only crop sired at \$20,000. So, they may cost a little more than the average of \$24,643 and median of \$16,000 that his 2008 yearlings brought, but there's a good chance that any increase in price is going to be offset by what will have probably been the best book of mares he's bred. Overbrook Farm stood Jump Start for \$10,000 in 2009. Jump Start begins shuttling to Haras La Esperanza in Argentina this year.

Kafwain can get a runner. From his first three crops (including juveniles of 2009) he has nine stakes winners, including graded winners Massive Drama, The Pamplemousse, and Don't Forget Gil



COURTESY OF OVERBROOK FARM

Jump Start



COURTESY OF HURSTLAND FARM

Kafwain



TONY LEONARD/COURTESY OF LANE'S END FARM

Lemon Drop Kid

(who also very nearly won this year's Coaching Club American Oaks (gr. I)), and his runners have an average earnings of \$28,630 per starter. They were very easy to buy last year, with an average of \$15,337 and a median of \$9,000. He's now moved from Kentucky (with a \$10,000 fee) to California (\$5,000), so there will probably be a little element of "out of sight, out of mind" in play at the fall yearling sales, too.

Another with an A.P. Indy connection is **Lemon Drop Kid** whose dam is a Seattle Slew half-sister to the dam of his fellow Lane's End stallion. It might seem

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Undervalued Sires

(Continued from page 21) a little odd to select a stallion who had 22 stakes winners last year, and who has 13 stakes winners (five graded) to represent him already in 2009, but a look at the Lemon Drop Kid sales returns from last year indicates that it's very possibly less expensive to buy one than to breed one. The top U.S. price last year was only \$92,000, and a worldwide average \$47,123, and median of \$35,000 indicates that they were a relatively evenly priced bunch. His four grade I winners are fillies, but any suggestion he is a filly sire is refuted by his seven 10 grade II and III scorers that are males. The current crop of yearlings was sired at \$20,000, and his fee is now back up to \$50,000, so if you want one, now might be the time to buy.

Stephen Got Even — yes, A.P. Indy again — may not get the highest percentage of stakes winners, but for a horse at this level (his 2009 stud fee was \$7,500, down from \$20,000 when this year's yearlings were conceived), his best are very good, including champion 2-year-old Stevie Wonderboy; I Want Revenge, so impressive in the Wood Memorial (gr. I) and Gotham Stakes (gr. III) this spring; multiple graded winner and Kentucky Derby (gr. I) fourth Don't Get Mad; and other graded scorers For All We Know, Sweet Vendetta, Steve's Double and Time to Get Even. The Stephen Got Evens averaged \$29,578 last year, with a median of only \$20,000, and not too many other stallions out there will get you a better shot at graded-standard horses for the price.

Yonaguska has always been a prolific sire, particularly of 2-year-olds (he's averaged nearly 25 juvenile winners per year with his first three crops). This year he's come through with more class, represented by five stakes winners, including the multiple graded stakes-winning and classic-placed Musket Man. Yonaguska is now in Louisiana (where he's the current leading sire) for a fee of \$4,000 — his Kentucky crops were sired at \$10,000 — and that might make his yearlings even more reasonable than in 2008, when they had a median of \$12,000. 🍷



Stephen Got Even

TONY LEONARD/COURTESY OF LANE'S END FARM



Yonaguska

JOY B. GILBERT/COURTESY OF WINERY