

WEST COAST



Great Shape

Michael Talla brings his sports club success to horses

BY TRACY GANTZ

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Growing up in Arizona, Michael Talla rode bulls and bareback broncs at rodeos. These days he's more likely to get his exercise on a state-of-the-art treadmill at the Sports Club L.A. and his horse fix from watching his Thoroughbreds run at Southern California racetracks.

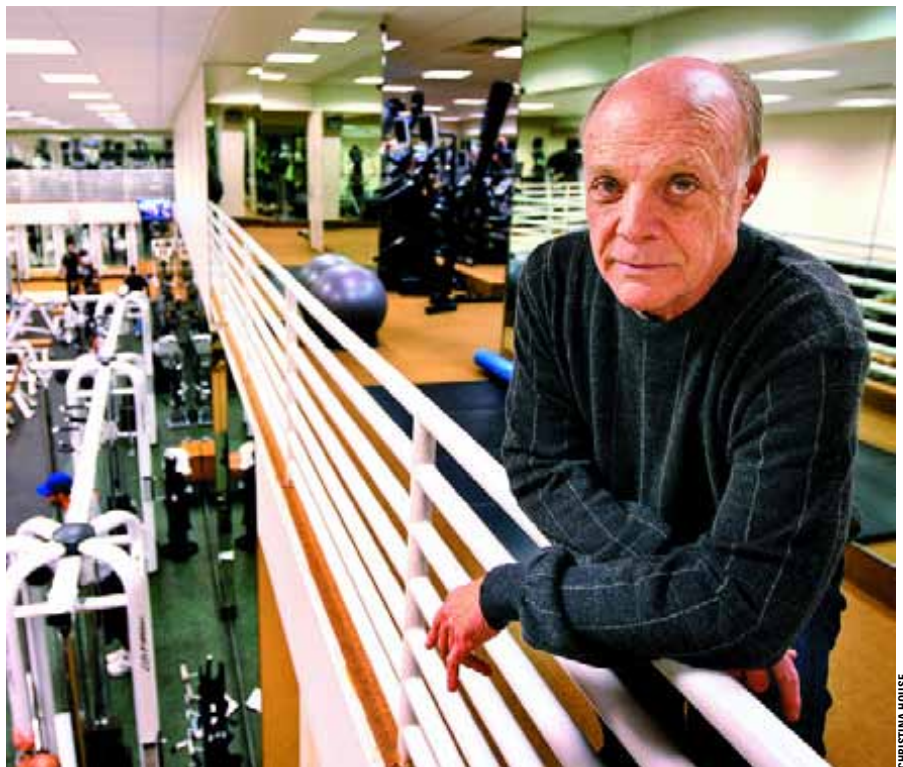
Talla, 63, is chairman of The Sports Club Co., which runs high-end fitness centers in Los Angeles, California's Orange County, and in New York City. A few years ago he branched out into Thoroughbred ownership. With his horses stabled at the barn of leading trainer John Sadler, he is heading toward first class in that endeavor as well.

Crisp won the Santa Anita Oaks (gr. I) March 6 for Talla, who owns the 3-year-old filly outright. He had his first taste of stakes success as a partner in Oil Man. Sadler and bloodstock agent David Ingordo have found Talla some young stock that could ultimately send Talla's stable into the rarefied atmosphere of not only grade I stakes victories but perhaps Triple Crown or Breeders' Cup territory.

"He loves to come out in the mornings and see the horses breeze," said Sadler. "He's the kind of owner we need. He wants to get some good horses and do things right."

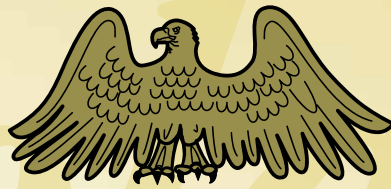
Talla, who lives in Bel Air, Calif., discovered racing as a youngster in Casa Grande, Ariz.

"The first races I went to were at Turf Paradise," said Talla. "But I never had time to buy a horse. I just got busy like we all do, doing our regular jobs."



CHRISTINA HOUSE

Michael Talla owns The Sports Club Co., which operates facilities in California and New York



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Though Talla's exposure to racehorses began with Thoroughbreds, his hands-on horse experience came from Quarter Horses. His parents raised cattle and grew cotton on a ranch.

"My dad was a rodeo guy," Talla said. "I rodeoed in high school."

Not the easy stuff, either. Talla hauled himself onto bulls and bareback broncs, and when he wanted to take a breather, he did some calf roping.

"There was no future in that, I understood real quick," he said. "I was actually a better bull rider than I was at anything. It was the dumbest thing to be good at. I

would have preferred to be better at something else because that was the most dangerous thing. But when you're a kid, you don't know any better."

Talla rode good roping horses from King Ranch in Texas. Famous also for its outstanding cattle and Quarter Horses, King Ranch produced 1946 Triple Crown winner Assault plus 1950 Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes winner Middleground.

Once young Michael figured out he needed a career other than rodeo, he attended the University of Arizona in Tucson, obtaining a business degree. The day he graduated he moved to California.

"When I was a kid, we used to work from six in the morning to six at night, driving a tractor or whatever it was," he said. "It would be 110-115 degrees in the summer, and I thought there had to be an easier way of making a living."

This being 1969-70, California and its laid-back hippie culture sounded great to teens and young adults from other states. While the lifestyle may have appealed to Talla, he took his business degree seriously and immediately founded a company called Foxy Lady that sold women's swimwear. Talla lived in Newport Beach and got the company's products into shops at many Southern California beach communities.

He sold the company in the mid-1970s and saw another opportunity as the racquetball craze took hold. He and some friends invested in racquetball clubs. When the management headed downhill, Talla's friends asked him to take over running a few of the clubs.

"One thing led to another, and I was in the athletic club business," he said.

Talla's company has built 50 sports clubs and today runs four of the largest—in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Irvine, and at Rockefeller Center in New York City. Sports Club L.A. offers just about any type of workout equipment, class, or exercise anyone could want.

The club in Los Angeles has an ideal location on the trendy Westside, not far from UCLA. Its 9,000 members have ranged in age from 18 to 100, several hundred of them in their 80s. They have access to 100,000 square feet that includes everything from yoga and Pilates classes to spinning, swimming, and personal trainers, not to mention a spa, restaurant, shop, and even a hair salon.

The current economic slump hit the fitness club industry hard, and Talla said that his company's gross revenues declined about 10% in 2009. But he has seen indications of improvement early this year.

"Our business has taken a dramatic turn for the better," he said.

Forecasts show that they could make up most of the 2009 loss in 2010 and actually increase business in 2011.

"We've got to work at it, but it's definitely on the upswing," he said.

While Talla was building his business, he and his wife, Mona, raised two sons, Brett, now 23, and Jared, now 20. That kept him too busy to consider racehorse ownership until about five years ago, when the company sold some of its clubs.

"Owning racehorses was always something I wanted to do," said Talla. "But horse racing is not a simple business. It's very complex. There are a lot of moving parts to it."

Talla's initial experience as an owner did not go well. An agent bought him four yearlings with pedigree, but without



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2010 Leading Sires in California

State sire lists updated daily online.
Go to <http://breeding.bloodhorse.com/sirelists.asp>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in California (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through March 10, 2010. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

| Rank | Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing | 2010 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | Stakes Wnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings) | 2010 Earnings | Cumulative | | | |
|------|--|---------------|------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | Foals | Sikts Wnrs | *A-E Index | *Comp Index |
| 1 | UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev), Old English Rancho | N/A | 69/23 | 2/2 | 0/2 | (Pretty Unusual, \$138,480) | \$801,746 | *454 | 25 | 2.18 | 1.09 |
| 2 | DECARCHY (97, Distant View), Magali Farms | \$4,000 | 41/14 | 2/2 | 1/2 | (Quisisana, \$151,340) | \$463,810 | 173 | 5 | 1.11 | 1.05 |
| 3 | BENCHMARK (91, Alydar), River Edge Farm | \$4,000 | 81/20 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Lady Alex, \$66,640) | \$435,143 | 565 | 27 | 1.33 | 1.21 |
| 4 | STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat), Golden Eagle Farm | \$5,000 | 58/16 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (A Little Warm, \$90,000) | \$434,449 | *551 | 25 | 1.24 | 1.50 |
| 5 | REDATTORE (BRZ) (95, Roi Normand), Harris Farms | \$2,500 | 22/8 | 1/2 | 1/1 | (Compari, \$120,000) | \$406,050 | *235 | 1 | 1.07 | 1.22 |
| 6 | IN EXCESS (IRE) (87, Siberian Express), Vessels Stallion Farm | \$12,500 | 61/22 | 2/2 | 0/2 | (Ez Dreamer, \$45,000) | \$356,174 | 885 | 60 | 1.79 | 1.46 |
| 7 | TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat), River Edge Farm | \$6,000 | 30/13 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Alphie's Bet, \$117,000) | \$354,323 | 237 | 13 | 1.63 | 1.11 |
| 8 | OLD TOPPER (95, Gilded Time), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds | \$3,000 | 68/19 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Tie Rod, \$31,800) | \$279,294 | 393 | 13 | 1.06 | 0.93 |
| 9 | BERTRANDO (89, Skywalker), River Edge Farm | \$8,000 | 58/13 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Karelian, \$90,000) | \$278,669 | 894 | 50 | 1.44 | 1.60 |
| 10 | SWISS YODELER (94, Eastern Echo), Harris Farms | \$6,000 | 62/15 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Yodeler Dan, \$31,680) | \$266,515 | 602 | 20 | 1.12 | 1.07 |
| 11 | KAFWAIN (00, Cherokee Run), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds | \$5,000 | 41/16 | 2/2 | 0/2 | (Don't Forget Gil, \$30,000) | \$245,702 | 285 | 9 | 1.16 | 1.36 |
| 12 | SALT LAKE (89, Deputy Minister), Golden Eagle Farm | \$5,000 | 53/11 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Veronica's Lake, \$24,540) | \$224,414 | **1158 | 48 | 1.46 | 1.43 |
| 13 | MARINO MARINI (00, Storm Cat), Rancho San Miguel | \$3,500 | 37/11 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Off Kilter, \$46,644) | \$218,758 | 131 | 2 | 0.89 | 1.10 |
| 14 | SIBERIAN SUMMER (89, Siberian Express), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds | \$3,500 | 34/13 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Warrens Summergold, \$29,240) | \$218,430 | *357 | 11 | 1.05 | 0.90 |
| 15 | HIGH BRITE (84, Best Turn), Harris Farms | \$5,000 | 49/13 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Enriched, \$43,750) | \$212,413 | *891 | 44 | 1.07 | 1.20 |
| 16 | FORMAL GOLD (93, Black Tie Affair), Rancho San Miguel | \$2,500 | 40/15 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Golden Horizon, \$26,400) | \$199,202 | 414 | 19 | 1.25 | 1.46 |
| 17 | LIT DE JUSTICE (90, El Gran Senor), Magali Farms | N/A | 43/9 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Dotsy Jean, \$60,220) | \$197,646 | 382 | 21 | 1.32 | 1.19 |
| 18 | SOUTHERN IMAGE (00, Halo's Image), Rancho San Miguel | \$5,000 | 30/10 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Berberis, \$36,290) | \$191,709 | *171 | 0 | 0.67 | 1.57 |
| 19 | ATTICUS (92, Nureyev), Magali Farms | \$4,000 | 35/9 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (There Goes Gee Gee, \$28,800) | \$172,795 | 390 | 11 | 1.14 | 1.58 |
| 20 | CEE'S TIZZY (87, Relaunch), Harris Farms | \$6,000 | 35/11 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Tizzy Retsina, \$27,400) | \$162,948 | 695 | 38 | 1.74 | 1.18 |
| 21 | MUQTARIB (96, Gone West), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds | Pnsd | 26/7 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (A Jealous Woman, \$78,000) | \$158,182 | *267 | 4 | 0.62 | 0.94 |
| 22 | LORD CARSON (92, Carson City) | Died, 2005 | 26/6 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (You Lift Me Up, \$57,484) | \$149,059 | 464 | 27 | 1.17 | 1.31 |
| 23 | SEA OF SECRETS (95, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm | \$3,000 | 48/7 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Wollaston Bay, \$17,364) | \$149,048 | *365 | 18 | 1.01 | 1.11 |
| 24 | COMIC STRIP (95, Red Ransom), Rancho San Miguel | \$1,500 | 25/9 | 2/2 | 0/2 | (Tornado Betty, \$21,500) | \$145,533 | 273 | 10 | 0.81 | 1.22 |
| 25 | DEPUTY COMMANDER (94, Deputy Minister), Ballena Vista Farm | Died, 2009 | 59/10 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Dubai Gold, \$20,400) | \$143,680 | *558 | 23 | 1.26 | 1.66 |

*A-E and COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. The Comparable Index indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.

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- Prix de Guiche (G3)
- Dallas Turf Cup Handicap
- San Francisco Breeders' Cup Mile (G2) defeating The Tin Man, Decarchy and Sarafan



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*Sire Production Index (SPI) indicates the average racing class of a stallion's foals.
Source: brisnet



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the conformation and ability to go with it. Talla already owned the horses by the time he researched trainers and selected Sadler.

"Choosing John was luckily one of the smartest things I did early," said Talla. "I was dumb early, but I was smart early with him. I have found John and Larry (Sadler's assistant Larry Benavidez) very honest guys, very trustworthy."

Sadler diplomatically suggested to Talla that the next time he bought horses he either let Sadler be more involved or allow Sadler to introduce him to someone who could find better prospects. The trainer put Talla in touch with Ingordo, whose resumé includes selecting champion Zenyatta as a yearling.

Ingordo grew up in Southern California, the son of the late jockey agent Jerry Ingordo and Dottie Ingordo, now racing manager for Jerry and Ann Moss. He has known Sadler most of his life.

"David bought Crisp as a yearling," said Sadler. "The program has grown, and last year we got him (Talla) in on Oil Man."

Sadler and Ingordo have bought Talla both yearlings and 2-year-olds in training. When Irish-bred Oil Man came up for sale as a horse in training, Sadler suggested that Talla take a part-interest with another of his owners, Tom and Debi Stull of Tommy Town Thoroughbreds. That allowed Talla to have something running right away.

Now a 4-year-old, the son of Pyrus—So

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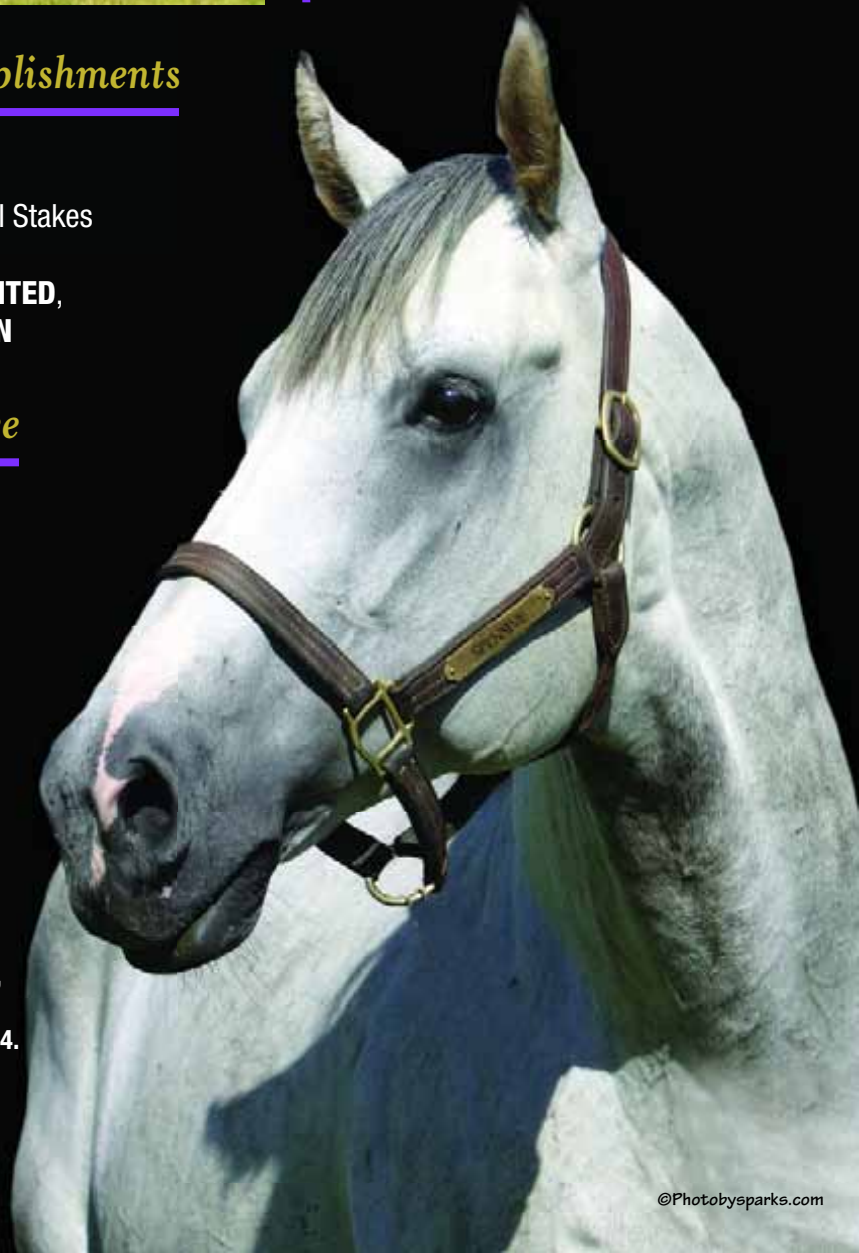
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For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in California (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2009. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ♯) indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race.

| Rank | Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing | 2010 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | Stakes Wnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings) | 2009 Earnings | Cumulative | | | |
|------|--|---------------|------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | Foals | Stks Wnrs | *A-E Index | *Comp Index |
| 1 | UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev), Old English Rancho | N/A | 141/75 | 9/12 | 6/9 | (The Usual Q. T., \$498,670) | \$5,184,194 | *419 | 24 | 2.17 | 1.06 |
| 2 | SILIG (FR) (95, Sillery), Getaway Thoroughbred Farm | \$3,500 | 40/16 | 1/3 | 0/1 | (Gladiatorus, \$3,297,720) | \$3,729,857 | *116 | 1 | 1.07 | 0.96 |
| 3 | BENCHMARK (91, Alydar), River Edge Farm | \$4,000 | 174/92 | 5/7 | 2/5 | (Grazen, \$245,000) | \$3,006,436 | 499 | 26 | 1.33 | 1.20 |
| 4 | STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat), Golden Eagle Farm | \$5,000 | 160/72 | 3/4 | 0/3 | (Biofuel, \$305,436) | \$2,612,483 | *537 | 24 | 1.23 | 1.51 |
| 5 | IN EXCESS (IRE) (87, Siberian Express), Vessels Stallion Farm | \$12,500 | 131/69 | 7/14 | 0/7 | (Ez Dreamer, \$217,900) | \$2,484,901 | 841 | 60 | 1.80 | 1.47 |
| 6 | SALT LAKE (89, Deputy Minister), Golden Eagle Farm | \$5,000 | 134/86 | 2/6 | 1/2 | (Nicks, \$130,742) | \$2,476,786 | 48 | 1.46 | 1.43 | |
| 7 | KAFWAIN (00, Cherokee Run), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds | \$5,000 | 120/66 | 4/7 | 0/4 | (Don't Forget Gil, \$240,972) | \$2,465,203 | 241 | 9 | 1.16 | 1.36 |
| 8 | DEPUTY COMMANDER (94, Deputy Minister), Ballena Vista Farm | Died, 2009 | 160/73 | 2/5 | 0/2 | (Shawanaga, \$148,275) | \$2,307,708 | *540 | 23 | 1.27 | 1.67 |
| 9 | BERTRANDO (89, Skywalker), River Edge Farm | \$8,000 | 134/60 | 3/4 | 2/3 | (Liberian Freighter, \$191,000) | \$2,253,244 | 844 | 50 | 1.44 | 1.60 |
| 10 | OLD TOPPER (95, Gilded Time), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds | \$3,000 | 141/85 | 3/5 | 1/3 | (Shifty Time, \$92,877) | \$1,860,691 | 351 | 13 | 1.07 | 0.92 |
| 11 | SEA OF SECRETS (95, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm | \$3,000 | 143/76 | 2/2 | 1/2 | (Hermosillo, \$150,420) | \$1,841,792 | *309 | 17 | 1.01 | 1.11 |
| 12 | SWISS YOVELER (94, Eastern Echo), Harris Farms | \$6,000 | 159/80 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Yodelen Dan, \$116,320) | \$1,827,098 | 542 | 20 | 1.13 | 1.07 |
| 13 | TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat), River Edge Farm | \$6,000 | 67/39 | 4/5 | 2/4 | (Georgie Boy, \$255,000) | \$1,718,952 | 155 | 12 | 1.61 | 1.11 |
| 14 | LIT DE JUSTICE (90, El Gran Senor), Magali Farms | N/A | 94/44 | 4/5 | 2/4 | (Bestressed, \$167,528) | \$1,511,585 | 375 | 21 | 1.32 | 1.20 |
| 15 | HIGH BRITE (84, Best Turn), Harris Farms | \$5,000 | 102/54 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Enriched, \$186,160) | \$1,327,642 | *870 | 44 | 1.07 | 1.20 |
| 16 | LORD CARSON (92, Carson City) | Died, 2005 | 76/41 | 3/3 | 3/3 | (You Lift Me Up, \$160,537) | \$1,269,280 | 464 | 27 | 1.17 | 1.31 |
| 17 | BIRDONTHEWIRE (89, Proud Birdie), Madera Thoroughbreds | \$3,500 | 32/15 | 1/2 | 0/1 | (It's a Bird, \$911,100) | \$1,219,608 | *235 | 9 | 1.32 | 1.42 |
| 18 | CEE'S TIZZY (87, Relaunch), Harris Farms | \$6,000 | 86/48 | 2/2 | 1/2 | (Cost of Freedom, \$222,953) | \$1,210,591 | 673 | 38 | 1.74 | 1.18 |
| 19 | VALID WAGER (92, Valid Appeal) | Died, 2007 | 106/58 | 2/3 | 1/2 | (U R All That I Am, \$134,810) | \$1,204,581 | 490 | 18 | 1.08 | 1.25 |
| 20 | ATTICUS (92, Nureyev), Magali Farms | \$4,000 | 83/30 | 2/3 | 0/2 | (Strawberry Tart, \$181,745) | \$1,202,233 | 375 | 11 | 1.15 | 1.58 |
| 21 | FORMAL GOLD (93, Black Tie Affair), Rancho San Miguel | \$2,500 | 93/45 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Semaphore Man, \$136,394) | \$1,170,994 | 383 | 19 | 1.26 | 1.47 |
| 22 | DECARCHY (97, Distant View), Magali Farms | \$4,000 | 69/39 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Sourdough Sam, \$95,000) | \$1,142,209 | 133 | 3 | 1.04 | 1.05 |
| 23 | TEN MOST WANTED (00, Deputy Commander), Magali Farms | \$4,000 | 67/36 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Karakorum Fugitive, \$142,190) | \$1,003,800 | 110 | 0 | 0.65 | 1.29 |
| 24 | SIBERIAN SUMMER (89, Siberian Express), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds | \$3,500 | 78/38 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Surf Town, \$96,100) | \$948,896 | 338 | 11 | 1.05 | 0.90 |
| 25 | BEAU GENIUS (85, Bold Ruckus), Ballena Vista Farm | N/A | 80/34 | 2/3 | 1/2 | (Miner Genius, \$95,824) | \$789,131 | *727 | 39 | 1.22 | 1.19 |

*A-E AND COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. The Comparable Index indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.

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Precious, by Batshoof, had started four times in England, winning a race by seven lengths and finishing second once and third once. Last summer Oil Man won the Cinema Handicap (gr. IIIT) at Hollywood Park and finished fifth in the American Derby (gr. IIT) and fourth in the Secretariat Stakes (gr. IT).

After that campaign Sadler and the owners decided to give Oil Man some time off at the Stulls' ranch in California's Santa Ynez Valley. The colt should return later this year, and Talla feels Oil Man will like the longer distances available to older grass runners.

Oil Man was a departure for Talla, who has concentrated on buying fillies.

"The residual value of fillies keeps you from losing a lot of money," said Talla. "A slow colt is worthless."

Ingordo began buying fillies for Talla a couple of years ago.

"Mike's a great guy," said Ingordo. "He's very successful in his regular business, and we want to make him successful in the horse business as well."

At the 2008 Ocala Breeders' Sales Co. select 2-year-old sale, Ingordo picked out a daughter of Speightstown—Society Gal, by Linkage, for \$335,000. Society Gal had already produced two stakes-placed horses and is a half sister to Mr. Greeley.

Talla named the filly Mona de Momma for his wife. Mona de Momma has won three races and finished fourth in the Feb. 12 Wishing Well Handicap.

"We're expecting nice things out of her," said Talla.

Another member of Talla's team is Jeanne Mayberry, who breaks his horses in Florida.

"She has done wonders with our horses," said Talla. "The horses are always in tip-top shape when we get them. We've never had any problems."

At the 2008 Keeneland fall yearling sale, Talla, with Ingordo's help, bought four fillies. Three have already won, including Crisp. The fourth, Kaysa Deeya, by Rock Hard Ten—Pleasant Emily, by Pleasant Tap, ran fifth in her debut March 13 at Santa Anita.



BENNETT & ASSOCIATES

The star of Talla's stable, Crisp (by El Corredor), under Joel Rosario, won the Santa Anita Oaks

Sadler unveiled Stockings and Fair Chase at Del Mar last summer. Stockings, a daughter of Hennessy—Chitka, by Jade Hunter, broke her maiden at Hollywood in mid-December. Fair Chase, a daughter of Tale of the Cat—Miss Sweep, by End Sweep, won her first race on the final day of 2009 at Santa Anita.

Crisp (El Corredor—Cat's Fair, by Sir

Cat) took a little longer to get going. So far she has proved the star of Talla's stable, despite taking an unusual route to the winner's circle.

In her second start, a maiden race at Hollywood, Crisp bolted on the second turn, racing so wide that she appeared to have lost any chance for even a piece of the purse. Jockey Rafael Bejarano tugged hard


on the left rein and straightened her out in the stretch. She accelerated so quickly that she managed to win the race.

"It was a very isolated incident—before and after she's been perfect," said Benavidez, who oversees Crisp daily at Sadler's Hollywood Park division.

Sadler and Benavidez changed bits for the Santa Ysabel, and when Bejarano decided to ride favored Zilva in the race, they put young Joel Rosario aboard. Crisp responded with a length victory.

"Larry is a critical part of the team," said Talla. "I actually talk with Larry much more than I talk with John. He's really taken on Crisp from day one as his personal project. He's very involved with her training. He's very intent on making sure she fulfills her potential."

Talla is currently keeping his Thoroughbred numbers down as he watches the bottom line. He didn't buy yearlings in 2009 but will likely buy some this year. The owner may also expand into the breeding business by retaining a few of his fillies after their careers have ended.

"I like the races—it's exciting," Talla said. "But I have just as much fun going to the barn, talking to Larry and John, seeing the guys around the barn. I like seeing the horses and feeding them carrots. It's very relaxing, and it's calming." 

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