

NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC



In This Section

LEADING PENNSYLVANIA SIRES
 BY 2010 EARNINGS

LEADING MARYLAND SIRES
 BY 2010 EARNINGS

LEADING MASSACHUSETTS SIRES
 BY 2010 EARNINGS

LEADING NEW YORK SIRES
 BY 2010 EARNINGS

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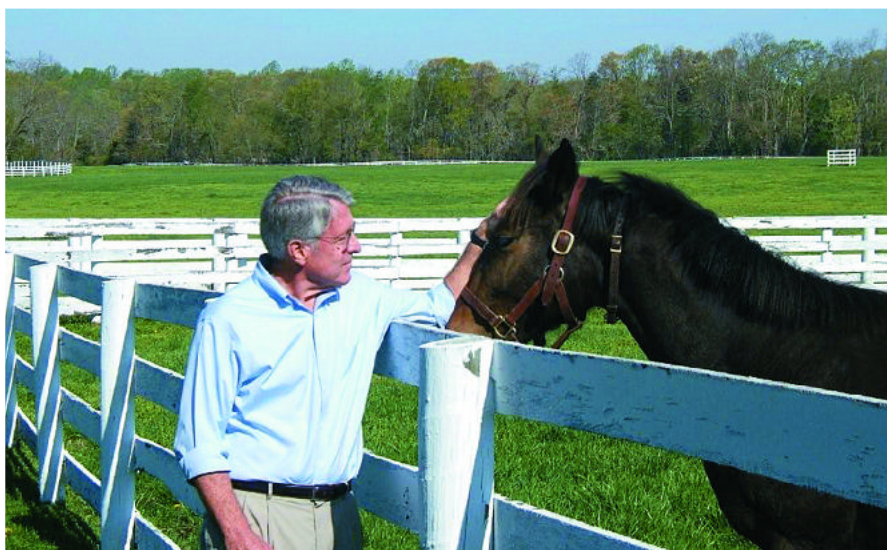
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In Session

Robert Evans' Courtland Farm continues family tradition

BY TERRY CONWAY



COURTESY COURTLAND FARM

Robert Evans purchased his first horse in 1965 at age 21

Along Skipton Creek in Maryland's Talbot County near the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay, tundra swans take flight and a rafter of wild turkeys forage the woodlands. A blue heron fishes in a contented way as a sleek red fox trots past the shoreline. Bald eagles wheel above in a bright blue sky, while white-tailed deer dart across a meadow.

History runs deep here. York, Md., was a port of entry and the county seat. By 1869 the tiny village boasted the first measured (half-mile) racetrack in Maryland. A mile across the creek sits the Wye River Plantation, originally the estate of William Paca, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the third governor of Maryland. Now known as the Aspen Institute on the Wye River, it was the site of the 1998 peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

In 1993 Robert "Shell" Evans discovered these beautiful stretches of forest and open fields that today serve his twin passions of sailing the meandering waterways and raising Thoroughbreds at his Courtland Farm. A few miles outside Easton, his property once was that village of York. He purchased the 440-acre farm from its former longtime owner Dr. John Walker, a cousin of former President George H.W. Bush.

While the primary residence of Evans and his wife, Susan, is Greenwich, Conn., from spring through fall the couple spends time at Courtland checking on their stock. Their beautifully restored house overlooks Skipton Creek that links to the Wye River, a waterway Evans navigates in his day-sailer.

Except for horse vans rolling up and down an access road, Courtland Farm maintains a low-key presence, and that's just fine with Evans.

"Being on the water and all the wildlife make this property very special," Evans said. "It's very accessible from our home in Connecticut, plus we enjoy the sophistication of Easton. Wish I could be at the farm more often."

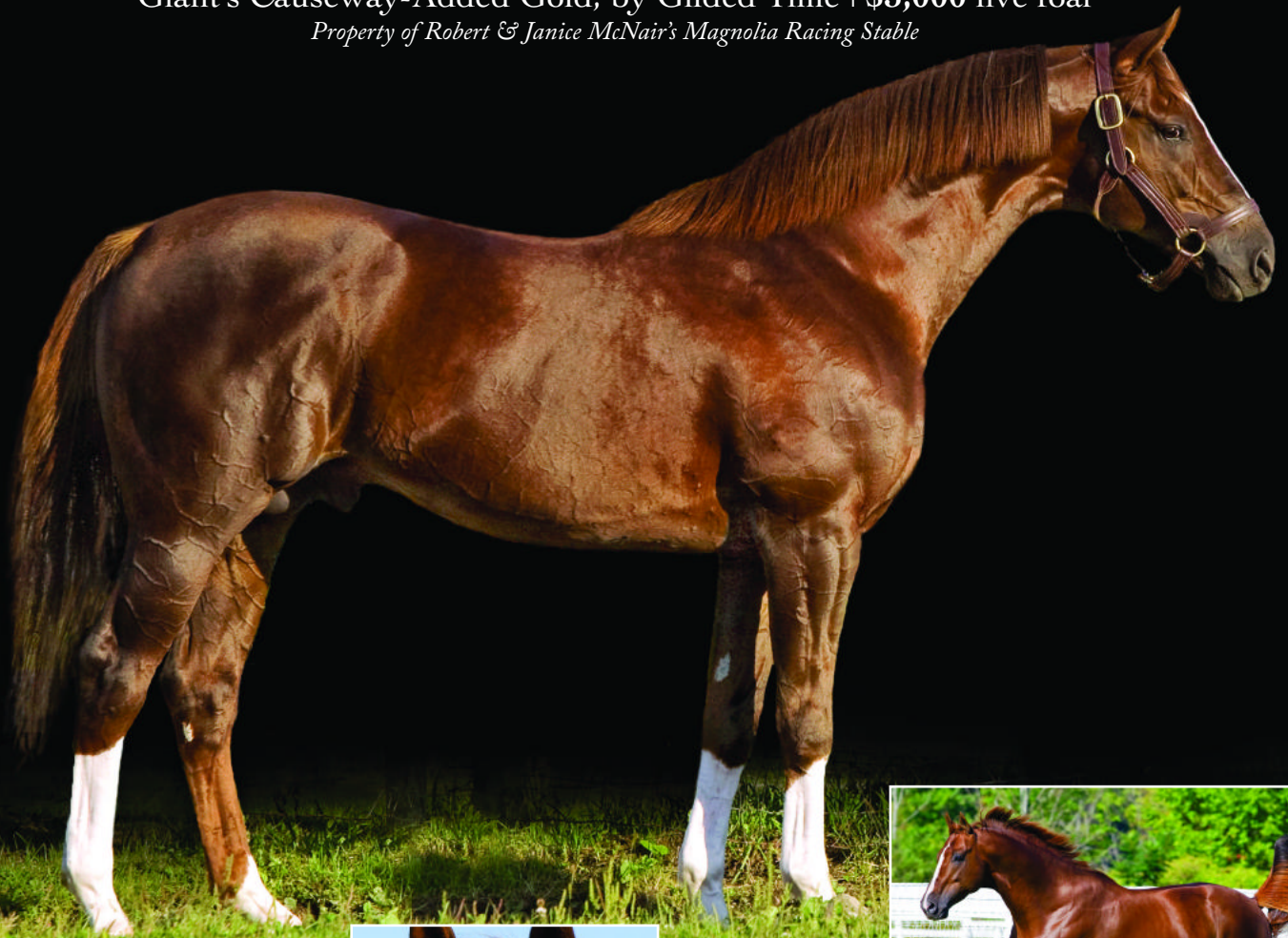
Evans is the non-executive chairman of Crane Co. in Stamford, Conn., a diversified manufacturer of highly engineered industrial products that employs a workforce of 10,000 in five business segments across 25 countries.

At age 21 Evans purchased his first horse at the 1965 Keeneland yearling sale. He owned farms in Pottersville, N.J., and then Ocala, Fla., before relocating to the Eastern

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2010 Leading Sires in Pennsylvania

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For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Pennsylvania (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through April 7, 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.

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								Foals	*Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Ghost Ridge Farms	\$10,000	81/19	3/3	1/3	(Bold Start, \$64,650)	\$558,889	*348	19	1.50	1.43
2	TOCCET (00, Awesome Again), Dana Point Farm	\$3,500	60/21	1/1	0/1	(Ventana, \$150,000)	\$536,504	*182	6	1.28	1.36
3	CAT THIEF (96, Storm Cat), Penn Ridge Farms	\$5,000	68/26	3/3	1/3	(Tensas Cat, \$65,550)	\$518,069	*375	17	1.26	1.76
4	DELAWARE TOWNSHIP (96, Notebook), Penn Ridge Farms	\$2,500	68/20	1/1	1/1	(Mannington, \$115,410)	\$430,429	223	7	1.20	1.33
5	HONOUR AND GLORY (93, Relaunch), Ghost Ridge Farms	\$6,500	92/24	0/0	0/0	(Killing Me, \$26,700)	\$387,540	*1753	40	1.11	1.52

*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.

Shore in 1993. From the outset Evans' game plan was to build a top-quality broodmare band that would allow him to sell or race the offspring. His successful breeding operation can be traced to a daughter of Bold Ruler named Bold Sequence. A half sister to Mr. Prospector's dam, Gold Digger, Bold Sequence entered Evans' broodmare band in 1974 when the breeding operation was located in New Jersey. Bold Sequence was mated with Dr. Fager, producing Surgery, who in turn produced Sewickley, by Star de Naskra, and a Pleasant Colony filly named Shared Interest, who won the 1992 First Flight Handicap (gr. II) as well as the 1993 Ruffian (gr. I) on her way to earning \$667,610.

Sewickley brought Evans his greatest racing success. The homebred triumphed in the 1989 and 1990 editions of the Vosburgh Stakes (gr. I) and retired a millionaire. At 25, Sewickley patrols the paddock adjacent to the Evans family home.

Shared Interest brought Evans his greatest success as a breeder, thus far. Her 1996 foal by Storm Cat topped the 1997 Keeneland July sale at \$1.5 million. That colt, Forestry, went on to win the King's Bishop Stakes (gr. I) and today stands at Taylor Made Stallions near Nicholasville, Ky. Shared Interest's next foal, Cash Run, won the 1999 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (gr. I).

"Well, the bad news was I sold both of

them and their success brought great expectations," Evans said with a laugh. "But it was wonderful to see them run in the Breeders' Cup the same year."

Those deeds earned Shared Interest the award for Virginia Broodmare of the Year in 2000. She died in 2005 as a result of a difficult foaling at age 17.

"She was the kindest, sweetest horse and always recognized me when I was at the farm," Evans reflected. "Shared Interest was one of the great broodmares and the definition of class."

Thoroughbred racing has long been a thread running through the Evans family. Evans is the youngest son of Thomas Mellon Evans, a famed Wall Street titan, and his brother, Edward P. (Ned) Evans, is also a highly successful owner and breeder at his Spring Hill Farm near Casanova, Va.

Their passion was whetted by their father. In 1964 the elder Evans started Buckland Farm, where he bred and raced Thoroughbreds for four decades, campaigning 1981 Kentucky Derby and Preakness (both gr. I) winner Pleasant Colony.

Thomas Mellon Evans began his financial career at the bottom, despite his gilded name. Evans' grandmother's first cousin was Andrew Mellon, the famous banker. By the mid-1950s, Evans, a native of Pittsburgh, had earned fame and fortune waging scores of corporate takeover battles. In 1956, Evans purchased a 495-acre cattle ranch in Gainesville, Va., and switched Buckland Farm from Black Angus cattle to Thoroughbreds in 1964. Buckland's dual classic winner Pleasant Colony was honored with the Eclipse award as the nation's top 3-year-old of 1981.

A decade later Buckland Farm's Pleasant Stage claimed the 2-year-old filly championship after winning the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies at Churchill Downs in 1991. The following year Michael Trombetta-trainee Pleasant Tap, a son of Pleasant Colony, captured the Suburban Handicap and Jockey Club Gold Cup (both gr. I) and finished second to Horse of the Year A.P. Indy in the Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I). He earned an Eclipse Award as champion older horse. Pleasant Tap was foaled at Courtland Farm. Jointly owned by Evans

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Progeny Earnings

UPDATE

#1 PA Sire by 2010 Winners w/26!
#1 by Repeat Wnrs
Tied for #1 by Stakes Winners

Cat Thief

(Storm Cat — Train Robbery,
by Alydar)

Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Classic and
Swaps Stakes winner

Proven sire of 36 stakes horses
with **3 SWs in 2010**; lifetime
yearling average \$64,685; Average
Earnings/starter nearly \$60,000
\$5,000 LF

Delaware Township

(Notebook — Sunny Mimosa, by Sunny North)

Grade 1 De Francis Dash winner. Proven sire of 13
stakes horses including G3 VICTORINA. **Sire of
20 winners in 2010, including SW MANNINGTON
(\$328,188)**; Average Earnings/starter \$43,045
\$2,500 LF



...history in the making

Real Quiet

(Quiet American — Really Blue,
by Believe It)

3YO CHAMPION Grade 1 Kentucky
Derby, Preakness S., Hollywood Futurity,
Hollywood Gold Cup and Pimlico Special
winner. Sire of CHAMPION MIDNIGHT
LUTE, G1 PUSSYCAT DOLL, etc.,
and **2 SWs in 2010**.

Average Earnings/starter \$50,620
\$6,000 LF

Monba

(Maria's Mon — Hamba, by Easy Goer)

Grade 1 Blue Grass S. winner (over COWBOY CAL,
VISIONAIRE, COOL COAL MAN, PYRO, etc.). Won first time
out; defeated eventual G1 winner MACHO AGAIN in his
second start. **Enters stud for 2010**

\$5,000 LF, fsn

Trust N Luck

(Montbrook — Bold Burst, by Dahar)

Grade 1 Fountain of Youth winner. Proven sire of seven stakes horses in his first
three crops including 2009 stakes horses TRUST OR BUST (\$362,856),
TRUST N SEVEN, FEAR NO EVIL. **13 winners in 2010**.

\$2,000 LF

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2010 Leading Sires in Maryland

State sire lists updated daily online.
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For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Maryland (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through April 7, 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).

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								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station	\$20,000	98/25	0/0	0/0	(Love's Blush, \$52,240)	\$649,861	729	65	1.83	1.48
2	LION HEARTED (96, Storm Cat), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	96/19	0/0	0/0	(Call of a Lion, \$28,700)	\$547,102	*421	14	1.26	1.32
3	LOUIS QUATORZE (93, Sovereign Dancer), Murmur Farm	\$5,000	71/18	1/3	0/1	(Sweet Goodbye, \$174,000)	\$526,416	*847	22	1.19	1.46
4	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Maryland Stallion Station	\$5,000	62/19	0/0	0/0	(Moonshine Road, \$43,920)	\$476,236	383	18	1.43	1.16
5	DOMESTIC DISPUTE (00, Unbridled's Song), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,000	53/14	0/0	0/0	(Domesticated Max, \$37,950)	\$362,788	*221	0	0.87	1.27

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2010 Leading Sires in Massachusetts

State sire lists updated daily online.
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For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Massachusetts (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through April 7, 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).

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								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	LIGHTNIN N THUNDER (01, Storm Cat), New England Stallion Station	\$2,000	43/10	1/1	0/1	(Bulpae Gisang, \$44,732)	\$281,617	152	5	1.04	1.17
2	DREWMAN (98, Unbridled), New England Stallion Station	\$1,500	44/12	0/0	0/0	(Cigar Man, \$37,920)	\$224,522	173	0	0.83	1.30
3	LYCIUS (88, Mr. Prospector), B.E. Stables	\$1,500	13/3	0/0	0/0	(Palladio, \$100,000)	\$152,627	*547	29	1.01	1.29
4	SAFE IN THE U S A (99, Gone West), New England Stallion Station	\$1,500	14/6	0/0	0/0	(Summitting, \$23,670)	\$119,888	47	0	0.85	1.27
5	DREAM RUN (98, Cherokee Run), New England Stallion Station	\$500	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Bonita Sonador, \$36,460)	\$55,231	*91	0	0.47	1.51

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The Beacon for New England Racing & Breeding

LIGHTNIN N THUNDER

STORM CAT—THINGS CHANGE, BY STALWART

#1 Sire in Massachusetts

11% stakes horses • Over \$2.5 Million in earnings
Current runners include graded-placed SW **CRIOLLA BONITA**
Sire of multiple SW **LA CHICA SENSUAL** (\$379,595)
and champion **Bulpae Gisang** (\$426,522)
Fee: \$2,000

DREWMAN

UNBRIDLED—LUCKY SOPH, BY COZZENE

#2 Sire in Massachusetts

68 winners • 5 stakes horses • Over \$2.3 Million in earnings. Top runners include multiple stakes-placed **Cigar Man** (\$277,430)
From the family of leading sire **UNBRIDLED'S SONG**
Fee: \$1,500

SAFE IN THE U S A

GONE WEST—SAFELY KEPT, BY HORATIUS

#1 Third-Crop Sire in Massachusetts

68% winners/runners • 55% 2YO winners/runners
Gone West's sons at stud include **ELUSIVE QUALITY, MR. GREELEY, SPEIGHTSTOWN**, etc. Out of a champion sprinter and earner of \$2.1 Million
Fee: \$1,500



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ZONG (UNBRIDLED'S SONG—ZING, BY STORM CAT)

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and his brother, Ned, Pleasant Tap today stands at Lane's End Farm near Versailles, Ky. He eclipsed the half-century mark for black-type winners during the 2009 season.

Among the 100-plus stakes winners bred at Ned Evans' Spring Hill Farm was Saint Liam, winner of the 2005 Breeders' Cup Classic and that year's Horse of the Year. Currently Ned Evans campaigns Quality Road.

"It's pretty exciting; I think Ned's got the best racehorse I've seen in 30 years," Robert Evans stated. "When he's right, he goes out and breaks the track record. They have a good program mapped out for Quality Road this year. I'm thrilled when Ned does well, and he is too when I've had success."

And success has been Robert Evans' good companion recently. Evans, whose racing manager is Patrick Lawley-Wakelin, has horses in training with Mark Frostad in Canada, Neil Drysdale on the West Coast, and in New York with Seth Benzel, a Todd Pletcher protege. In 2008 the Courtland horses enjoyed a very good year. Akronism, a three-time stakes winner in the States, made her Canadian debut at Woodbine winning the Royal North Stakes (Can-III). The then-4-year old daughter of Not For Love followed that with a victory in the Seaway Stakes (Can-III). That summer Evans' stakes winner Lemon Drop Mom wound up on the losing end of a heart-breaking head bob to champion Ginger Punch in an epic battle in the Personal Ensign Stakes (gr. I) at Saratoga.

Marsh Side also shined in 2008 with a turf victory in the Patison Canadian International (Can-IT) at Woodbine for Drysdale. Last fall the son of Gone West finished first in Woodbine's Northern Dancer Stakes Turf (Can-IT) but was disqualified and placed fourth for drifting in during the stretch run. He also experienced a rough trip in the Japan Cup (Jpn-I). Now 7, Marsh Side is stabled in Southern California with Drysdale.

Evans relies on Scott Warner to handle the day-to-day operations at Courtland Farm. Warner is assisted by a staff of four including Vassi Cozaciuc, who's been on the farm 14 years.

A native of Sharpville, Ind., Warner left the Hoosier state at age 18 and headed for Ocala to learn the horse business. "I mucked

Deputy Storm

Forestry-
Deputy Jane West,
by Silver Deputy

First Starter Storms Home In Track Record Time



DEPUTY STORM could not have been quicker to the draw—his first two starters finish first and third in the first 2-year-old race run in Maryland in 2010!

It was a track record-setting performance for **TWELVE PACK SHELLY**, the only filly in the field of six, who blazed to the front in the 4½ fur. maiden special weight at Laurel Park on April 8 and kept pouring it on. Up by six lengths after the first quarter, she sizzled home to win by nearly 11 lengths in :50.83, shattering the track record by more than a second! Bred by Sycamore Hall Farm LLC, **TWELVE PACK SHELLY** is trained by John Salzman Jr.

Finishing third was Hidden Hill Farm's **DYLAN THE DEPUTY**, trained by John Robb also by **DEPUTY STORM**.

2010 Fee: \$2,000 Live Foal

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For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in New York (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through April 7, 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.

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								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	REPENT (99, Louis Quatorze), Empire Stud	\$5,000	85/26	2/4	1/2	(Diva Delite, \$222,780)	\$931,625	*268	10	1.39	1.24
2	POSSE (00, Silver Deputy), Empire Stud	\$10,000	104/36	2/3	1/2	(Comedero, \$66,000)	\$922,064	286	11	1.52	1.33
3	CONGAREE (98, Arazi), Highcliff Farm	\$7,500	54/27	3/3	1/3	(Jeranimo, \$227,600)	\$684,675	167	8	1.29	1.45
4	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$6,500	57/16	2/2	1/2	(Franny Freud, \$120,000)	\$623,753	297	17	1.78	1.33
5	GOLDEN MISSILE (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm	\$7,500	90/21	0/0	0/0	(Shameless, \$58,600)	\$564,648	*500	13	1.09	1.79

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stalls and tossed bales of hay for my uncles; they made sure I worked my way up," Warner said. "Learned the hard way, then went on to be the yearling manager and assistant farm manager for my uncle. I interviewed for a job opening and found Mr. Evans owned the farm. I jumped at the chance to work with an owner that competed in racing at that level."

Warner arrived at Courtland in December 1994. A few years later he met his future wife, Jeannette, who trains hunters and show horses.

"I had no concept of the Eastern Shore other than it was across the (Chesapeake) bay," Warner admitted. "It's a much slower way of life here. Suits me perfectly."

A recent visit to Courtland found Warner sporting a blue Colts cap and being trailed by a pair of brawny companions, a black Labrador and a golden retriever/poodle mix. The 15-stall broodmare barn and 14-stall yearling barn lean more toward functional than fancy. A new 10-stall barn to be used as a lay-up for racehorses is being planned. Ten mares are turned out in a paddock next to the broodmare barn, including grade II stakes winner Colonial

Play, a full sister to Buckland star Pleasant Stage. During her racing career Colonial Play won or placed in nine of 21 starts with career earnings of \$244,678. Another of the mares is A.P. Interest, a daughter of Shared Interest, who produced a Distorted Humor colt that sold for \$520,000 at the 2008 Keeneland September yearling sale.

"We didn't sell any of our yearlings last year, couldn't get the stud fee," Evans related. "Right now we have 23 horses, 3-year-olds and up.

Courtland's mares, mostly bred to Kentucky stallions, board at Taylor Made Farm. Courtland expects 19 foals this year.

The farm's stock is given as much time as possible outdoors, even if that means hooking a snow-blade to the tractor and plowing a path to the paddocks. This winter three unprecedented "monster" snowfalls socked the Mid-Atlantic region.

"The fellow across the road has been here 60 years and never seen a winter like it," Warner related, shaking his head. "We get horses to the gate, then clear an area and they stand there eating hay until we bring them in. It is what it is. My philosophy is to let horses be horses. Try and

stay out of the way. They come in twice a day to be fed, get their feet picked, and we paint their feet every other day. They get handled, but we don't believe in hot-housing them. The more they're outside getting grass and sun, running around and playing with each other, that's what it's all about."

If there is one challenge at this gorgeous Eastern Shore farm, it's the size of some of the paddocks. One is 40 acres; another is 30.

"If the horses decide they don't want to come in, and it's a rainy and chilly day, and they're way over yonder, it's difficult," Warner acknowledged with a sigh. "Forestry used to be that way. Could be amusing or irritating. As an older yearling he was very independent."

On this particular winter's day the broodmares are spread out across a nearby paddock, while yearlings romp across a distant pasture. Walking past the Evans' home, Warner points out retiree Sewickley, with his white-tipped muzzle, digging and picking at hidden shoots of grass under a cover of snow.

Sewickley won 11-of-32 career starts and wound up with earnings of \$1,017,517. Retired to Florida, Sewickley experienced an uneven career in the breeding shed and returned to Courtland nine years ago.

"With the purses today that would have been real money," Evans said of Sewickley's race record with a chuckle. "I think he was the best sprinter of those years. When Sewickley went to stud, he didn't get that many mares in foal, so people were reluctant to breed to him. He's quite a character. He's a little nippy, so you've got to keep an eye on him. Nothing big, but he will take a little nip."

As for his family's racing legacy, in a recent conversation Robert Evans' pride and passion were clearly evident.

"My father got me interested in the game, so I'm very grateful for that," Evans acknowledged. "But I know I can't top what my father and my brother have achieved. Honestly, I never aspired to play at that level. For me, it's the intellectual challenge of breeding and the racing. And, I do love the horses." 🐾



Marsh Side won the 2008 Canadian International at Woodbine in Evans' colors

MICHAEL BURNS