

SOUTHEAST

In This Section

LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA
BY 2011 PROGENY EARNINGS

LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA
BY 2011 WINNERS

LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA
BY 2011 STAKES HORSES

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Index**

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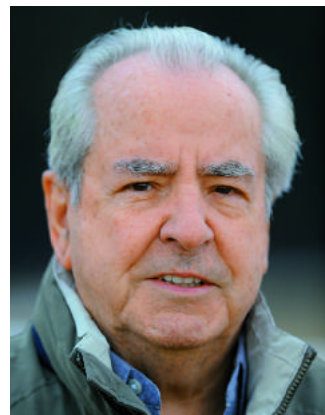
Harold Queen finds success in the Sunshine State

BY DEIRDRE B. BILES

Retirement is a dirty word to Harold Queen. The 75-year-old Florida resident said he works “seven days a week” and doesn’t plan to stop “until I’m dead.” While many men his age in the Sunshine State are fishing or playing golf, Queen keeps busy managing his nearly 82-acre farm that is part of the Nelson Jones training complex near Ocala. He has 10 broodmares, boards horses for clients, rehabs injured runners, and breaks 20-25 racing prospects each year.

Queen also is the proud breeder and owner of Big Drama, 2010’s champion male sprinter. An earner of more than \$2.6 million as of early February, the son of Montbrook is trained by David Fawkes and has won nine added-money events, including last year’s Sentient Jet Breeders’ Cup Sprint (gr. I). In his 2011 debut the 5-year-old dark bay or brown horse captured the Jan. 15 Mr. Prospector Stakes (gr. III) by four lengths at Gulfstream Park.

“We thought for sure he was going to win, to be honest with you, because he was training so good coming up to the race,” said Queen of Big Drama’s 1½-length Sprint triumph. “It was a great day because



JOSEPH D'ORIO



CRAWFORD/IFLAND

Big Drama leads the pack in the Sentient Jet Breeders’ Cup Sprint; Harold Queen (above)

VINEMEISTER-G3 ~ FOREST HEIRESS-G3 ~ GOLD PRINCESS-G3 ~ RUNNING TIDE-G3 ~ OMEGA CODE-G3

IN SUMMATION-G1 ~ SPRING AT LAST-G1 ~ STAR DE LADY ANNE-G1 ~ D'WILDCAT-G1 ~ STORMY BLUES-G1

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For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Florida (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through February 2, 2011. 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	2011 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2011 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Sire Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	MONTBROOK (90, Buckaroo), Ocala Stud Farm	\$7,500	32/5	2/2	1/2	(Tackleberry, \$280,000)	\$449,276	*719	47	1.64	1.59
2	GRAEME HALL (97, Dehere), Winding Oaks Farm	\$5,000	57/11	0/0	0/0	(Duke of Mischief, \$100,000)	\$305,006	*279	16	1.58	1.38
3	WILDCAT HEIR (00, Forest Wildcat), Journeyman Stud	\$10,000	66/14	2/2	0/2	(Breathoffreshheir, \$39,000)	\$286,491	*237	10	1.74	1.48
4	WITH DISTINCTION (01, Storm Cat), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	27/6	1/1	0/1	(Decisive Moment, \$150,000)	\$280,499	159	1	1.10	1.24
5	POMEROY (01, Boundary), Vinery Florida	\$5,000	21/6	2/2	0/2	(Pomeroy's Pistol, \$140,000)	\$263,520	*110	2	1.12	1.55
6	CHAPEL ROYAL (01, Montbrook), Signature Stallions	\$10,000	62/12	0/0	0/0	(Big Shot Syd, \$35,400)	\$237,356	*421	5	1.03	1.22
7	STRONG HOPE (00, Grand Slam), Winding Oaks Farm	\$5,000	55/12	0/0	0/0	(Brush Creek, \$21,840)	\$196,353	261	1	0.88	1.89
8	CONCERTO (94, Chief's Crown), Ocala Stud Farm	\$3,500	31/6	1/1	0/1	(Dream Maestro, \$58,000)	\$174,862	*365	24	1.57	1.29
9	CONSOLIDATOR (02, Storm Cat), Journeyman Stud	\$4,000	50/10	0/0	0/0	(Fist of Rage, \$32,800)	\$160,385	*258	5	0.91	1.29
10	PUT IT BACK (98, Honour and Glory), Bridlewood Farm	\$5,000	49/5	0/0	0/0	(Jessica Is Back, \$40,000)	\$134,063	*475	17	1.55	1.35
11	LEROIDESANIMAUX (BRZ) (00, Candy Stripes), Stonewall Farm Ocala	\$7,500	18/2	1/1	0/1	(Always a Princess, \$90,000)	\$130,140	*148	2	1.90	1.92
12	FULL MANDATE (99, A.P. Indy), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	56/8	0/0	0/0	(Kissa Melissa, \$14,500)	\$123,075	*306	3	0.87	1.07
13	CONCORDE'S TUNE (89, Concorde Bound), Ocala Stud Farm	\$2,500	37/6	0/0	0/0	(Dance Caller, \$28,500)	\$116,741	433	25	1.24	1.15
14	WEST ACRE (95, Forty Niner), Stonehedge Farm South	\$2,500	14/4	1/1	0/1	(Western Prospector, \$30,380)	\$104,505	287	10	1.41	1.22
15	ROAF OF THE TIGER (99, Storm Cat), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	Died, 2010	40/6	0/0	0/0	(Storm Island, \$19,300)	\$101,860	*232	2	0.83	1.25
16	VALUE PLUS (01, Unbridled's Song), Stonewall Farm Ocala	\$5,000	36/6	0/0	0/0	(Hidden Value, \$23,100)	\$99,021	187	0	1.09	1.34
17	D'WILDCAT (98, Forest Wildcat), Vinery Florida	\$8,500	34/9	0/0	0/0	(Gloomy I'm Knot, \$23,100)	\$98,013	214	6	1.72	1.40
18	CITY PLACE (00, Storm Cat), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	19/6	0/0	0/0	(Escrow Kid, \$20,250)	\$85,213	136	5	1.63	1.09
19	MASS MEDIA (01, Touch Gold), Journeyman Stud	\$2,000	12/3	1/1	0/1	(Manicero, \$45,000)	\$83,710	62	2	1.67	1.23
20	DONERAILE COURT (96, Seattle Slew), Stonewall Farm Ocala	\$3,000	30/1	0/0	0/0	(Sporting Art, \$51,600)	\$77,871	*599	21	1.14	1.37
21	BLACK MAMBO (99, Kingmambo), Bridlewood Farm	Died, 2009	39/5	0/0	0/0	(Abdel's Ghost, \$14,000)	\$73,525	*164	2	0.97	1.34
22	THREE WONDERS (97, Storm Cat)	Died, 2008	41/4	0/0	0/0	(Diced N Sliced, \$25,200)	\$72,929	275	5	1.05	1.15
23	STRAIGHT MAN (96, Saint Ballado), Signature Stallions	\$6,000	21/3	0/0	0/0	(Dee's Rose, \$27,830)	\$70,035	323	11	1.10	1.19
24	ACT OF DUTY (00, Mr. Prospector), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000	26/6	0/0	0/0	(Aldomear, \$11,110)	\$69,517	*107	1	0.80	1.28
25	B L'S APPEAL (97, Valid Appeal), Randolph Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	34/6	0/0	0/0	(B L's Tsumani, \$10,800)	\$66,825	187	2	1.07	1.26
26	MARQUETRY (87, Conquistador Cielo), Stonewall Farm Ocala	Pnsd	25/7	0/0	0/0	(Marquet Rebel, \$13,600)	\$59,630	*872	34	1.16	1.45
27	INDIAN OCEAN (02, Stormy Atlantic), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,500	29/2	0/0	0/0	(Ocean Princess, \$12,530)	\$56,246	*164	1	0.82	1.36
28	SUAVE (01, A.P. Indy), Vinery Florida	\$4,500	22/1	0/0	0/0	(Gleaming Lady, \$13,200)	\$55,381	*119	1	0.76	1.34
29	UNBRIDLED TIME (98, Unbridled's Song), Signature Stallions	\$3,500	22/4	0/0	0/0	(More Is Better, \$17,400)	\$54,085	186	1	0.79	0.97
30	GINMEAWINK (00, Elusive Quality), Bridlewood Farm	N/A	30/2	0/0	0/0	(My Man Luca, \$18,600)	\$52,744	*140	1	0.88	1.18
31	BURNING ROMA (98, Rubiano), Rising Hill Farm	\$5,000	31/3	0/0	0/0	(Redfoxy Dorothy, \$8,400)	\$50,348	125	2	0.75	1.39
32	CIMARRON SECRET (91, Tejano)	Died, 2008	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Dade Babe, \$19,900)	\$47,370	141	4	1.04	0.89
33	HALO'S IMAGE (91, Halo), Bridlewood Farm	Died, 2010	31/2	0/0	0/0	(Wink At the Girls, \$11,500)	\$46,519	*519	18	1.31	1.35
34	PROUD ACCOLADE (02, Yes It's True)	Died, 2009	17/1	0/0	0/0	(My Charming Clyde, \$25,320)	\$43,992	*91	3	1.59	1.31
35	WERBLIN (99, Unbridled's Song)	\$5,000	26/1	0/0	0/0	(Philly Bound, \$8,160)	\$43,216	*151	1	0.81	1.07

*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.

my wife (Jean), four sons, and my daughter were there. I got to spend time with the kids, and he finished first."

Queen purchased Big Drama's dam,

Riveting Drama, for \$36,000 from West Wind Farm at the 1996 Ocala Breeders' Sales Co. March select sale of 2-year-olds in training.

"She bucked shins as a 2-year-old," Queen said. "We cooled her out and gave her like three months off and then 'pin-fired' her. We brought her back as a 3-year-old and the first time we bred her, she bucked shins again."

Riveting Drama never raced, but the bay daughter of Notebook was fast and had good conformation, so Queen added her to his broodmare band. Her first foal, Drama's Way, won the 2002 Scarlet and Gray Handicap at Beulah Park. Riveting Drama has produced three added-money winners in all, including Little Drama, who captured the 2010 Frank Gomez Memorial Stakes at Calder Casino & Race Course, and all seven of her offspring that have started have been winners.

The result of breeding Riveting Drama to Montbrook in 2005 was Big Drama.

"It was easy," said Queen of the analysis involved beforehand. "A blind man could have picked that mating. Montbrook has had I



Queen enjoys Big Drama's Breeders' Cup victory with his family

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Queen with his 2-year-old filly, Queen Drama, a half sister to Big Drama

JOSEPH D'ONO

don't know how many stakes winners out of Notebook mares, so I bred my Notebook mare to him."

And after Big Drama was born, Queen didn't have to wait long to find out he had a horse with potential.

"He was very special from day one, believe me," Queen said. "Around the barn he was a little rank when he was younger because he just wanted to say, 'I'm king,' and he had a lot of energy. But after we broke him, we could do anything we wanted with him on the track, and when he was in his stall, he would lie down and relax."

Big Drama swept the three-race Florida Stallion Stakes series for 2-year-old males in 2008, and he also won the Boyd Gaming's Delta Jackpot Stakes (gr. III). The following year he captured the Red Legend Stakes at the Charles Town Races. In addition, he finished second in the West Virginia Derby (gr. II) and Swale Stakes (gr. II), and he was fifth in the BlackBerry Preakness Stakes (gr. I).

"We tried to run him long and that was my fault," Queen said. "There is a lot of big money out there for a horse as a 3-year-old if he can get a mile and an eighth. But he's really a seven-furlong or a one-turn mile horse, and we were able to shorten him up to six furlongs."

Racing exclusively in sprints in 2010, Big Drama won two of his four outings prior to his Breeders' Cup appearance. He scored in the Ponche and Smile Sprint (gr. II) handicaps at Calder before finishing second in the Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap (gr. I) and Forego Stakes (gr. I) at Saratoga.

While Queen was confident heading into the Breeders' Cup Sprint, he did admit to worrying a little bit about Big Drama's No. 1 post position.

"We watched horses coming out of the one hole at Churchill Downs and they were laboring on the one path," Queen said. "The morning of the race David Fawkes and I both sat down with (jockey) Eibar Coa and talked to him about it. We told him, 'You have to get this horse out of the one hole quickly,' and he did. We also were fortunate that the two and three horses broke a little slow and Big Drama was able to get over to the three path right away and then he went out to the four path, which was the best part of the racetrack."

Setting the pace nearly all the way, Big Drama, who was the second-betting choice in a field of 12 runners, covered six furlongs in 1:09.05. Favored Girolamo would up 11th.

"He won with something left; his ears were still pricked, and he was waiting for horses," Queen said. "I would love to get him back to the Breeders' Cup this year as good as he was last year."

Other horses bred and/or raced by Queen include Askbut I Won'tell, who captured the 2010 Cardinal (gr. IIIT) and My Charmer (gr. IIIT) handicaps; Real Napkin, a grade I winner in Puerto Rico; Inside Affair, who finished first seven times in added-money events and earned \$431,392; Tri Uimet, a three-time stakes winner and an earner of \$318,462; and Learn by Heart, who finished first five times in added-money events and earned \$312,103.

Prior to Big Drama, Queen's most accomplished runner was Burning Roma. The son of Rubiano won the 2000 Futurity Stakes (gr. I), 2002 Meadowlands Cup Handicap (gr. II), and 2004 Red Bank Handicap (gr. IIIT). In addition, he scored in the Tampa Bay Derby, two editions of the Tampa Bay Breeders' Cup Stakes, and

2011 Florida Sires By Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Wildcat Heir.....	66.....	14
Chapel Royal.....	62.....	12
Strong Hope.....	55.....	12
Graeme Hall.....	57.....	11
Consolidator.....	50.....	10
D'wildcat.....	34.....	9
Full Mandate.....	56.....	8
Marquetry.....	25.....	7
Roar of the Tiger.....	40.....	6
Concorde's Tune.....	37.....	6
Value Plus.....	36.....	6
B L's Appeal.....	34.....	6
Concerto.....	31.....	6
With Distinction.....	27.....	6
Act of Duty.....	26.....	6
Pomeroy.....	21.....	6
City Place.....	19.....	6
Put It Back.....	49.....	5
Black Mambo.....	39.....	5
Montbrook.....	32.....	5
Three Wonders.....	41.....	4
Unbridled Time.....	22.....	4
Wagon Limit.....	14.....	4
West Acre.....	14.....	4
Burning Roma.....	31.....	3
Straight Man.....	21.....	3
Texas Glitter.....	20.....	3
Mass Media.....	12.....	3
Bring the Heat.....	11.....	3
It's No Joke.....	4.....	3
Halo's Image.....	31.....	2
Gimmeawink.....	30.....	2
Indian Ocean.....	29.....	2
Leroidesanimaux (BRZ).....	18.....	2
Scorpion.....	14.....	2
Sarava.....	13.....	2
Cimarron Secret.....	10.....	2
Marciano.....	10.....	2
Gold Market.....	7.....	2
Diligence.....	6.....	2
Hear No Evil.....	6.....	2
Wind Whipper.....	5.....	2
Cutlass Fax.....	4.....	2
Northern Trend.....	4.....	2

2011 Florida Sires By Stakes Horses

Sire	Stks Horses	Stks Wnrs	Stks Wins
Wildcat Heir.....	3.....	2.....	2
Concerto.....	3.....	1.....	1
Montbrook.....	2.....	2.....	2
Pomeroy.....	2.....	2.....	2
West Acre.....	2.....	1.....	1
Graeme Hall.....	2.....	0.....	0
Put It Back.....	2.....	0.....	0



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six other added-money events. Burning Roma also was third in the 2001 Haskell Invitational (gr. I) and 2002 Carter (gr. I) handicaps and fourth, finishing only two lengths behind the winning Macho Uno, in the 2000 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I).

Burning Roma, who earned \$1,500,200, stands at Rising Hill Farm near Ocala.

"He has absolutely gorgeous conformation," said Queen, whose association with the late Florida pinhooker Robert Scanlon was instrumental in the acquisition of Burning Roma.

Through Scanlon, who was a leading consignor to juvenile auctions prior to his death in 2005, Queen bought Burning Roma for \$90,000 from Johnson Hollow

didn't make a big splash in Scanlon's consignment for the 2004 OBS March select sale of 2-year-olds in training, bringing \$72,000, but the next year she won the Delaware Oaks (gr. II) and the Florida Oaks at Tampa Bay Downs.

"I picked the horses out, but you know what, I always let him (Scanlon) approve them because he had to sell them," Queen said. "If he didn't approve them, I didn't buy them. Bobby worked hard, and he was a wonderful guy. We sold some very nice horses."

Queen bought Texas Glitter for \$70,000 from Winalot Farm at the 1997 OBS August yearling sale and then sold him privately. The son of Glitterman earned

A friendship with Edward J. DeBartolo Sr., according to Queen, contributed to his enjoyment of the Thoroughbred business. DeBartolo, who died in 1994, was a shopping center magnate and racetrack builder and operator. He pumped millions of dollars into such facilities as Thistledown in Ohio, Louisiana Downs, and Remington Park in Oklahoma. He also created the Super Derby (gr. II), which became one of racing's top events and once enjoyed grade I status.

"I went to the races with Eddie quite often, and he used to take me and my wife to Louisiana Downs and Remington Park on big race days," Queen said.

In the 1970s Queen moved to Florida because "my wife wanted to live there," he said, and the couple resided in Clearwater before moving to Ocala. But Queen didn't sell his farm in Ohio and consolidate his Thoroughbred ventures in the Sunshine State until about eight years ago.

"We have something in Florida that we've always known is really great and that's sunshine," Queen said. "Our horses are raised outside more here, and we learned a long time ago that our Florida-breds were superior to our Ohio-breds because of that."

Queen has a 23-stall broodmare barn, an 18-stall yearling barn, and a 24-stall training barn on his Florida spread, and he has access to a mile dirt track and a seven-furlong turf course.

"I enjoy working with horses and watching them develop," Queen said. "Every horse is different and has different problems, so I don't want to get stuck in one pattern of training. The main thing is to take care of the problems on a daily basis because the longer you let them go, the bigger they become. Another of my philosophies is to treat every horse like a star until they prove they're not and to never mistreat any horse. I just don't allow it."

"If you take your time, do everything right, and don't let anyone yell and scream at your horses, they'll turn out pretty good," Queen continued. "Many of them will win at some level."

And, in Queen's case, the horses will perform well enough to keep a farm going, even through the domestic and global economic downturns and setbacks in the Thoroughbred business.

"We're very fortunate that we're racing our horses and having some luck," Queen said. "I also watch every penny we spend. I handle all the invoices and none of them are paid without my approval. My staff and I repair everything on the farm ourselves and cut our own grass. We buy hay a trailer load at a time because we can get it cheaper. We really, truly do work hard at it. But I don't know how you survive unless you have at least one decent horse out there running in stakes races and earning \$200,000 or \$300,000." 📌



Harold Queen at the Nelson Jones Training Center near Ocala, Fla

JOSEPH D'ORIO

Farm, agent, at the 1999 OBS August yearling sale.

Scanlon, as agent for Queen, consigned Burning Roma to the Fasig-Tipton Florida select sale of 2-year-olds in training.

"He was a good-looking colt, and I wanted \$150,000 for him," Queen remembered.

But the bidding stopped long before it reached that amount. Fasig-Tipton reported that Queen was the buyer at \$40,000.

"I bid him back in, kept him, and ran him myself," Queen said.

Even though Burning Roma was a racing, but not a pinhooking, home run, Queen and Scanlon did have success together. In 1997 Queen purchased Kettle Won for \$120,000 from Dark Hollow Farm at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern fall yearling sale. The next year, through Scanlon, Queen resold the son of Colonial Affair for \$370,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Florida juvenile auction and the colt went on to win three races and finish second in the 2000 Fort Lauderdale Handicap (gr. IIIT).

In 2003 Queen purchased R Lady Joy for \$57,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July select yearling sale. The daughter of Vicar

\$826,077 and finished first nine times in added-money events, including the Spectacular Bid Stakes (gr. III) in 1999, Laurel Dash Stakes (gr. IIIT) in 2000, and Hollywood Turf Express Handicap (gr. IIIT) in 2002.

A Hard-Knock Life

Queen was born in West Virginia, but he moved with his family to New Jersey and then to Ohio.

"My father mowed and did maintenance work at Garden State Park," Queen said. "He pulled the starting gate using Clydesdales before the track closed down during World War II. I liked the horses."

Queen has a high school education and is a graduate of what he calls "the school of hard knocks." By his count he has been involved in 11 different businesses, among them real estate, a computer company, and a billing and accounting operation.

While in Ohio, Queen went to the races and became a fan. He bought his first Thoroughbreds in the early 1960s, and he established a nursery near Lodi, Ohio, later in the decade and named it Hal Queen Farm.