



MIDWEST/CANADA

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# Tree Top

*Rudy and Virginia Tarra  
hit the heights with Giant Oak*

BY EVAN HAMMONDS

**W**hen a horse finds its best stride and is good enough to knock down a couple of grade I races, it's rarely a case of being an overnight sensation. Behind every "big horse" is usually a breeder or owner that has been doing all the right things for years.

Such is the case with Rudy and Virginia Tarra, who, after being in racing for nearly 50 years, have come up with their homebred "big horse"—Giant Oak. A strapping son of Giant's Causeway out of the Tarras' star mare Crafty Oak, Giant Oak has moved beyond being the Illinois-bred horse of the year to the front of the national handicap division with a win in last November's Clark Handicap (gr. I) at Churchill Downs (via disqualification) and an impressive score Feb. 5 in the Donn Handicap (gr. I) at Gulfstream.

Now both 73 and married for 53 years, the Tarras, racing's latest "overnight sensations," began back in 1962 as a young married couple in Orland Park, Ill.



Familiar sighting in Illinois: breeders-owners Rudy and Virginia Tarra in the winner's circle with trainer Chris Block (right)

FOUR FOOTED PHOTOS

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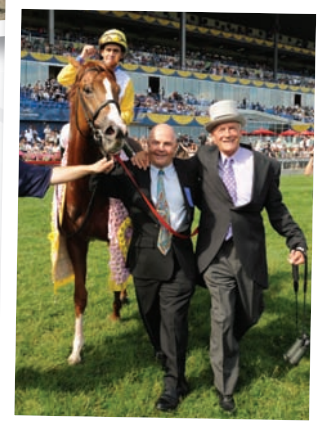
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# 2011 Leading Sires in Canada

State sire lists updated daily online. Go to <http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/thoroughbred-breeding/sire-lists>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Canada (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through February 23, 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 Can\$	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2011 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	SLIGO BAY (IRE) (98, Sadler's Wells), Adena Springs Canada	\$6,000	36/7	1/1	0/1	(Bourbon Bay, \$120,000)	<b>\$235,705</b>	*226	5	1.15	1.64
2	GILDED TIME (90, Timeless Moment), Bar None Ranches	\$6,500	40/8	0/0	0/0	(Lilly Fa Pootz, \$24,830)	<b>\$183,190</b>	*1205	48	1.39	1.68
3	MILWAUKEE BREW (97, Wild Again), Adena Springs Canada	\$12,500	50/10	1/1	0/1	(Mazucamera, \$33,750)	<b>\$175,039</b>	*312	12	1.36	1.56
4	FORMAL GOLD (93, Black Tie Affair), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	34/10	0/0	0/0	(Make It Cozy, \$32,400)	<b>\$172,531</b>	451	19	1.20	1.41
5	FOREST GROVE (01, Forestry), Canmor Farms	\$3,000	18/8	0/0	0/0	(Forbidden Forest, \$30,310)	<b>\$132,410</b>	73	1	0.83	1.39
6	SKIMMING (96, Nureyev), Pacific Stud	\$4,000	37/12	1/2	0/1	(All Saint, \$37,350)	<b>\$121,686</b>	290	12	0.86	1.16
7	CAPE CANAVERAL (96, Mr. Prospector), Highfield Stock Farm	\$4,500	27/5	0/0	0/0	(Cape Time, \$22,800)	<b>\$92,293</b>	330	17	1.18	1.34
8	ROCK AND ROLL (95, Cure the Blues), Kirby	\$3,000	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Meese Rocks, \$35,000)	<b>\$84,594</b>	*102	1	1.00	0.95
9	PEAKS AND VALLEYS (92, Mt. Livermore), Gardiner Farms	\$4,000	16/5	1/1	0/1	(El Inspirado, \$39,000)	<b>\$84,011</b>	533	33	1.30	1.44
10	MOBIL (00, Langfuhr), Schonberg Farm	\$4,500	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Mobil the Gambler, \$37,800)	<b>\$80,400</b>	*110	2	1.48	1.57
11	NORTH LIGHT (IRE) (01, Danehill), Adena Springs Canada	\$10,000	20/4	0/0	0/0	(Go Forth North, \$18,000)	<b>\$68,316</b>	*171	3	1.52	1.49
12	EXPLICIT (97, Distant View), Winsome Acres	Died	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Edplicit, \$18,858)	<b>\$67,616</b>	161	4	0.82	0.86
13	QUEST (99, Seeking the Gold), Dunroven Farms	N/A	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Gaya, \$24,600)	<b>\$58,593</b>	52	0	0.54	1.59
14	TRAJECTORY (97, Gone West), Gardiner Farms	\$4,000	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Rainin Sideways, \$18,950)	<b>\$55,905</b>	293	12	1.23	1.37
15	THE TRADER'S ECHO (94, Eastern Echo), Bar 17 Stable	\$3,000	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Lester's Echo, \$45,600)	<b>\$53,735</b>	51	0	0.68	1.02
16	ONE WAY LOVE (95, Regal Classic), Norse Ridge Farms	\$3,500	12/1	0/0	0/0	(From Gray to Gold, \$19,010)	<b>\$40,613</b>	300	3	0.98	1.39
17	BOLD EXECUTIVE (84, Bold Ruckus), Gardiner Farms	\$15,000	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Legal Move, \$10,215)	<b>\$35,533</b>	722	43	1.72	1.32
18	TEJANO RUN (92, Tejano), Ascot Stud	\$5,000	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Ksenia, \$9,009)	<b>\$33,039</b>	272	12	1.36	1.18
19	CROWN ATTORNEY (93, Silver Deputy), Debany Farm	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Rahy's Attorney, \$30,000)	<b>\$30,775</b>	132	2	1.41	1.32
20	WANDO (00, Langfuhr), Schonberg Farm	\$4,500	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Quite a Charmer, \$7,920)	<b>\$29,844</b>	*99	2	1.12	1.26
21	GOLD LEGEND (90, Seattle Slew), Esquirol Farms	Died	16/1	0/0	0/0	(Oro Quest, \$6,630)	<b>\$25,460</b>	385	19	1.27	1.17
22	YIING VICTOR (89, Flying Paster)	Died, 2008	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Victoriasilsecret, \$6,120)	<b>\$24,257</b>	591	35	0.83	0.80
23	ALJABR (96, Storm Cat), Ascot Stud	\$3,500	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Munaddam, \$7,650)	<b>\$23,524</b>	*148	8	0.97	1.66
24	TETHRA (92, Cure the Blues), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$2,500	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Skootin, \$18,000)	<b>\$22,622</b>	292	10	1.28	1.38
25	STEPHANOTIS (93, Regal Classic), Canmor Farms	\$2,500	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Afleet Deal, \$12,000)	<b>\$20,935</b>	255	10	0.71	0.85

\*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.

Rudy Tarra worked for the D and L Transport trucking company that just happened to be located across the street from Hawthorne Race Course in Cicero, Ill. Tarra would take his lunch break in the early afternoon and go catch the first few races on the card, thinking one day he'd like to own one of the horses he watched racing.

With the trucking company that close to the racetrack, other employees were involved in racing and horse people filled the local restaurants, so it wasn't long before Rudy and Virginia got their first taste of ownership through a partnership.

Their first winner came in 1962 at Sportsman's Park. The next year they purchased a few claiming horses privately. "We didn't want to support it all by ourselves, and we also wanted to learn," Rudy Tarra said. "The more we got into it, the more there was to learn. We were just looking at the races—they go out and run and we'd pay a few bills. But we learned it's much more than that."

As the Tarras' life journey progressed—they have three sons—so too did their journey with Thoroughbreds. They started buying 2-year-olds at the Florida sales in the early 1980s. As some of their partners lost interest, Rudy and

Virginia decided to venture out on their own because they enjoyed the sport and had had some luck.

"Without luck, there's only so far you'll go in this business because the well will go dry," Rudy said.

Venturing to Florida in 1995, they went

to the Calder sale and purchased a 2-year-old daughter of Phone Trick named Fast Busy.

Racing at Saratoga, Fast Busy broke her maiden in her second outing in August, then was shipped to Ellis Park for the \$100,000 Ellis Park Debutante Stakes,

where she finished second as the 2-1 favorite. After the race it was discovered she had a chip in a knee, but she didn't progress after surgery and never returned to the races.

The following year the Tarras returned to Florida and came way with a daughter of Crafty Prospector—Oak Blossom, by Tarleton Oak, from the Fasig-Tipton select sale for \$60,000. Named Crafty Oak, the dark bay or brown filly would become the Tarras' first "big horse."

Trained for the majority of her career by the late Gene Cilio, Crafty Oak won eight of 30 starts in a four-season campaign. After breaking her maiden, the Tarras lost her at the claim box for \$25,000 but went right back and claimed her for \$50,000 in her next start. As a 4- and 5-year-old, Crafty Oak would elevate her game to stakes level and win three added-money events, taking the Sixty Sails Handicap (gr. III) in mid-May of her final season.



Giant Oak makes a smashing 2011 debut in the Donn Handicap

ADAM DOGLIANESE



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Sadler's Wells - Angelic Song, by Halo  
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Awesome Again - Native Roots, by Indian Ridge  
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## 2011 Leading Sires in Ohio

State sire lists updated daily online. Go to <http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/thoroughbred-breeding/sire-lists>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Ohio (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through February 23, 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).

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								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	PRIVATE SCHOOL (87, Bates Motel)	Died, 2007	3/1	0/0	0/0	(School Lass, \$9,600)	\$15,900	120	1	0.52	0.81
2	PRIDE OF BURKAAN (90, Burkaan)	Pnsd	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Red Carpet Queen, \$5,920)	\$15,741	73	0	0.49	0.57
3	ACADEMY AWARD (86, Secretariat), Win Row Farm	Pnsd	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Well Bred Boy, \$6,015)	\$11,714	*390	9	0.78	0.99
4	MERCER MILL (94, Forty Niner), Fair Winds Farm	\$2,500	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Rollin for Mercy, \$5,580)	\$10,508	201	13	0.69	0.87
5	COLONY KEY (93, Keycolony), Harmony Hill Farm	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(We Can Do It, \$5,254)	\$8,210	39	0	0.19	0.22

\*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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								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	APPEALING SKIER (93, Baldski), Hanson's Thoroughbreds	\$1,750	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Blushing Skier, \$24,640)	\$37,773	253	5	0.93	1.10
2	DEMIDOFF (90, Mr. Prospector), Waverly Stallion Station	\$2,500	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Kenta Kun, \$6,690)	\$13,505	249	20	0.98	0.84
3	FULL COUNT (92, Private Account), Fortuna Farm	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Old Beck, \$7,250)	\$7,694	14	1	0.90	0.33
4	GOLD FEVER (93, Forty Niner)	Died	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Fenway Lady, \$3,520)	\$6,770	*434	10	1.23	1.34
5	GHAZI (89, Polish Navy), Boehlke Farm	\$2,000	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Watch Pat, \$4,960)	\$4,960	441	19	0.95	1.27

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The Tarras' horses always race in Virginia's name because Rudy said he put all of his trucking company business in his name and wanted to give Virginia a stronger stake in the industry. "She does a lot," he said. "All of the book work. She deserves the recognition."

### Tarras All About Teamwork

Tarra has assembled the right team to fit his program, and the success of Crafty Oak's runners attests to the fact everyone seems to be doing the right things.

First of all, Crafty Oak and her female offspring compose the Tarras' broodmare band and spend the majority of their time at Mike Evans' Sheltoewe Farm near Midway, Ky.

"He has formed a good team around him and that contributes to his success in the racing game," Evans said of Tarra. "He's the one putting the money up and making the decisions, but he has the right people in the right spots."

After being bred to Kentucky stallions—and Tarra has his own system for stallion selection—the mares are sent to Illinois to foal at Richard Duchossois' Hill'N Dale Farm near Barrington Hills. Heading the operation at Hill'N Dale is Joe Carper, who has been there for more than 35 years.

"We're fortunate here in that we've had a lot of big clients that have turned out some nice horses, and he's one of them," Carper said of Tarra. "I think Rudy has figured out if you have people on your team that do well in what they like doing, it all works out. What we like to do is foal mares. I've been at it a long time, and I've foaled a lot of mares. That's the best part of my year."

The young horses, when they are ready to be broken and put into training, are sent to Noel Hickey's Irish Acres Farm near Ocala, Fla. Hickey and Tarra have known each other for years, having met when Hickey was a mainstay on the Illinois circuit as a trainer.

Hickey may be the perfect set-up man for Tarra's Illinois-breds, as the longtime trainer remains the all-time leader by wins at Arlington Park and was the leading trainer there from 1990-92.

# 2011 Leading Sires in Illinois

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								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	<b>GOLDMINERS GOLD</b> (93, Crafty Prospector), Southern Illinois Stud	\$1,000	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Digger Karakorum, \$36,810)	<b>\$37,785</b>	119	1	0.99	1.12
2	<b>UNREAL ZEAL</b> (80, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2006	5/2	0/0	0/0	(River Bear, \$14,800)	<b>\$36,378</b>	602	30	1.10	1.17
3	<b>CASHEL CASTLE</b> (99, Silver Ghost), Hill 'N Dale Farm	\$1,000	12/1	0/0	0/0	(Ice Climber, \$19,200)	<b>\$35,819</b>	71	0	0.76	1.01
4	<b>DENOUNCER</b> (90, Tsunami Slew), High Prairie	Died	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Where's Winston, \$15,860)	<b>\$29,776</b>	77	2	1.04	0.94
5	<b>CRYPTO STAR</b> (94, Cryptoclearance), Eagle Valley Farm North	\$2,000	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Calculate a Star, \$10,500)	<b>\$26,950</b>	176	3	0.90	1.02
6	<b>SHORE BREEZE</b> (98, Danzig), Eagle Valley Farm North	\$3,000	20/0	0/0	0/0	(Professional Grade, \$7,600)	<b>\$25,640</b>	113	1	0.96	0.80
7	<b>BEN BULBEN</b> (02, Pioneering), Eagle Valley Farm North	\$1,000	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Forthelonghaul, \$8,105)	<b>\$23,521</b>	17	0	0.84	1.13
8	<b>CALLER I. D.</b> (89, Phone Trick)	Died, 2006	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Daddo, \$9,000)	<b>\$22,690</b>	*517	21	0.96	1.37
9	<b>CHICAGO SIX</b> (95, Wild Again), Hill 'N Dale Farm	\$1,500	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Dance for Paco, \$20,953)	<b>\$21,626</b>	*98	1	0.50	0.74
10	<b>FRIENDLY LOVER</b> (88, Cutlass), Three Way Horse Farm	\$2,500	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Hands On, \$14,460)	<b>\$17,509</b>	473	11	1.04	1.06

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In the fall of 1998 he sent out Buck's Boy to win the Breeders' Cup Turf (gr. IT) at Churchill Downs.

"They're fine people who really love the business," Hickey said of Rudy and Virginia. "It's so great that the horse is doing good for them because they really deserve it. They've put in the money, the time, and the effort, and Rudy does work hard on his own research."

Once the horses have had their lessons and are ready for racing, they're turned over to Illinois-based trainer Chris Block.

## Pedigree Puzzle

Crafty Oak has become the Tarras' "blue hen" mare. Her third foal, Cause She's Crafty, a full sister to Giant Oak, was Illinois-bred stakes-placed. Her next foal, Little Star, by Forestry, was a three-time winner. In 2005 Crafty Oak delivered Apple Martini, a chestnut filly by Giant's Causeway. Apple Martini won three stakes



Giant Oak cuts an imposing figure in the paddock at Churchill Downs



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Congratulations to GIANT OAK and his team on being named the  
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# 2011 Leading Sires in Michigan

State sire lists updated daily online. Go to <http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/thoroughbred-breeding/sire-lists>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Michigan (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through February 23, 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	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	<b>EQUALITY</b> (99, Mt. Livermore), Dickinson Farms	N/A	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Bipolar Express, \$7,815)	<b>\$14,968</b>	118	5	0.69	0.81
2	<b>SYNCLINE</b> (97, Danzig), McMaster Farm	\$1,000	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Bee Line's Edge, \$4,650)	<b>\$11,980</b>	95	2	1.12	0.95
3	<b>THE DEPUTY</b> (IRE) (97, Petardia), Hubel Farms	\$2,000	8/1	0/0	0/0	(The Lil Dep, \$4,296)	<b>\$8,836</b>	226	4	0.56	0.96
4	<b>FIRE BLITZ</b> (99, Storm Cat), Campbell Stables	\$1,500	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Blitz Eclipse, \$5,385)	<b>\$6,409</b>	38	2	0.54	0.76
5	<b>DEMALOOT DEMASHOOT</b> (90, Bold Ruckus), McMaster Farm	\$1,000	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Quick Carnage, \$2,950)	<b>\$5,625</b>	309	9	0.91	1.10

\*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.



FOUR FOOTED PHOTOS

The Tarras' Crafty Oak winning the Sixty Sails Handicap in 1999

for state-breds and placed in six other stakes including the Arlington Oaks (gr. III). Full brother Giant Oak came in 2006.

Crafty Oak has a 2-year-old filly by After Market and a yearling colt by Bluegrass Cat. She's been bred to Giant's Causeway for 2011 and will visit him again after she foals.

"She's a plain brown wrapper," said Evans of Crafty Oak. "She throws really nice foals, and her foals are throwing really nice foals."

Carper has been there to deliver all of her foals.

"She's a great mare," he said. "Being in the horse business, you can tell the class mares from the plain mares, and she's truly a class mare. She foals easy, her foals get up and nurse right away, and they're very smart and easy to handle."

Rudy Tarra has his own system when it comes to selecting which stallions will be mated to his mares. He's fond of the late Jack Werk's program, and he takes the Werk Thoroughbred Consultants figures and gives them his own tweak.

"We use his quality ratings," Tarra said. "The word 'quality' is a combination of Dosage points and Werk's quality points, and it's based on the performance of certain pedigrees."

While Tarra takes those figures and gives them his own spin, he has another criterion: A stallion must be a grade I winner.

"Another horse that fits our mare is Malibu Moon, but one of the criteria that we use is that the stallion has to be a grade I winner," he said.

"The stallion also has to be from a very strong female family. I need the female family to be good up-close, not just back in the fourth or fifth generation. I call it 'now' breeding. I look for the ratings and the crosses and that the female family is exceptional."

Another of Tarra's criteria for stallion selection is the farm itself. He wants one that supports its stallions.

"You look at Ashford and WinStar—and we deal with them—they have the wherewithal to make a stallion, and that helps," he said. "It's not dollars and cents...it's what makes sense. You have to do that if you want to succeed."

Customer service also ranks high.

"Being a 'novice,' you need people you can call and get information from. When you call at places like Ashford and WinStar and you're asking for different things, they help you instead of trying to shuttle you off to the side."

## Michigan's Exacta Sire Payoff

### #1 SYNCLINE

Danzig-Annie Edge, by Nebbiolo ~ \$1,000

1st Among Michigan Sires in 2010

19 winners from 31 runners in 2010

Sire of 2011 Turfway Park stakes-placed Bee Line's Edge

### #2 DEMALOOT DEMASHOOT

Bold Ruckus - Trouble Free, by Nodouble ~ \$1,000

2nd Highest # of Repeat Winners in 2010

Sire of 73% winners/runners lifetime



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# 2011 Leading Sires in Indiana

State sire lists updated daily online. Go  
to <http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/thoroughbred-breeding/sire-lists>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Indiana (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through February 23, 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	Rstret SW/ BT SW (Chief Earner, Earnings)	2011 Earnings	Cumulative			
							Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	DOMESTIC DISPUTE (00, Unbridled's Song), Indiana Stallion Station	\$2,000	55/13	0/0	0/0 (Weeper, \$45,250)	\$227,855	*264	1	0.92	1.25
2	CAT DREAMS (01, Storm Cat), Still Creek Farm	\$2,000	17/3	1/1	1/1 (Caracortado, \$165,000)	\$191,307	101	1	0.88	0.99
3	SPANISH STEPS (01, Unbridled), Foot Fall Farm	\$2,000	33/10	1/1	0/1 (Little Mike, \$66,000)	\$181,164	168	3	1.04	1.39
4	CHIEF SEATTLE (97, Seattle Slew), Lake Shore Farm	\$2,500	39/7	0/0	0/0 (Chiefette, \$51,370)	\$175,492	*380	10	1.21	1.35
5	DESERT WARRIOR (00, Deputy Minister), Swifty Farms	\$2,000	36/8	0/0	0/0 (Diannedoesthebooks, \$16,200)	\$143,360	*191	0	0.93	0.98
6	KELA (98, Numerous), Foot Fall Farm	\$2,500	25/7	0/0	0/0 (All Around Fancy, \$28,200)	\$132,601	*157	0	0.92	1.09
7	MAX'S PAL (97, Marquetry), Indiana Stallion Station	\$1,500	21/4	0/0	0/0 (Bella Moneta, \$42,000)	\$117,005	134	4	0.97	0.93
8	ACTION THIS DAY (01, Kris S.), Indiana Stallion Station	\$1,000	39/8	0/0	0/0 (Afternoon Action, \$23,740)	\$114,161	214	1	0.67	1.34
9	DREWMAN (98, Unbridled), Breakway Farm	\$1,500	39/3	0/0	0/0 (Too Experience, \$45,000)	\$113,839	202	3	0.90	1.29
10	ZAVATA (00, Phone Trick), Foot Fall Farm	\$2,500	39/8	0/0	0/0 (Flea Hop, \$24,660)	\$107,644	*211	3	1.08	1.13
11	JACKPOT (98, Seeking the Gold)	N/A	10/5	0/0	0/0 (Legal Separation, \$20,560)	\$52,647	50	0	0.56	1.25
12	ARROMANCHES (93, Relaunch), Buckshot Stables	\$1,000	3/1	0/0	0/0 (Caixa Eletronica, \$42,800)	\$43,650	60	0	1.20	0.59
13	WILD ZONE (90, Wild Again), Breakway Farm	\$3,000	13/4	0/0	0/0 (Paster's Bad Habit, \$24,760)	\$42,629	*467	12	0.80	1.11
14	HIGH FLY (02, Atticus), WinRich Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	7/4	0/0	0/0 (Flyingwiththebeat, \$14,400)	\$40,693	41	0	1.04	2.12
15	ALYSWEEP (00, End Sweep), Indiana Stallion Station	\$1,000	9/2	0/0	0/0 (Memory Motel, \$14,200)	\$34,840	*45	0	0.39	1.05

\*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.

## The Giant Grows Up

Hickey saw that Giant Oak was a standout right from the beginning.

"I've been at it a long time, and that doesn't necessarily mean I know what I'm talking about, but that horse was outstanding," he said.

For the Tarras and Block, Giant Oak ripped through his maiden and allowance conditions easily at Arlington, was unimpressive on the turf, but roared back to miss by a neck in the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (gr. II).

Wintering at Fair Grounds Giant Oak was well backed but failed to shine in off-the-board finishes in the Risen Star Stakes (gr. III) and Louisiana Derby (gr. II). After running second to Musket Man in the Illinois Derby (gr. II), he was off the Derby trail.

"Instead of pushing him on the Derby trail, they kind of backed off a bit and knew he was immature," Carper said. "Rudy's a damn good handicapper, and that parlays into how they've done with this horse. Patience has paid off for them."

After winning the Arlington Classic in May 2009, Giant Oak would go 14 starts without finding the winner's circle. Twelve of those efforts came in graded races and Giant Oak also had his fair share of bad racing luck.

"It made us feel like we couldn't find the key to him," Tarra said. "It wasn't his fault. There was something we couldn't discover that made him run right up to those horses and just kind of hang. He ran high Beyer (Speed Figure) numbers and they broke the track record at Hoosier the day he ran against Misremembered (second in the Indiana Derby, gr. II). He just didn't pass him."

Giant Oak turned it around in the Clark Handicap (gr. I) in the growing darkness at Churchill Downs during a chilly Thanksgiving weekend. While he came up short again, missing by a head to Successful Dan, he was elevated to first via the stewards.

His strong rally in the Donn may have set the table for a very successful handicap division campaign in 2011.

While bigger stages may be in store for the Tarras and Giant

Oak, Rudy Tarra is proud to be at the top of the Illinois-bred program.

In the last four years the Tarras have been responsible for two Horse of the Year titles, five divisional championships, and a pair of broodmare of the year titles in Illinois.

"That means a lot to us," Tarra said. "We don't deal on the level of Zenyatta, but we've got our little thing here. It's things like that out there that keep you doing this. Everybody has a dream in this business."

The Tarras dreamed about the "big horse" and have found it in Giant Oak. 🐾

## His Record Says It All!

# BITTEL ROAD

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STORMY ATLANTIC - SULTRY SAL, BY SULTRY SONG

## Graded Stakes Winner

In his first three starts at two:

- Belmont maiden winner in debut going 6fT in **1:08 4/5**
- Saratoga stakes winner at 8.5fT
- Woodford Reserve Bourbon S.-G3T, defeating **GIANT OAK** (now MG1SW)

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