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Driven for Success

*Mari Hulman George's interest
in Thoroughbreds is up to speed*

BY ESTHER MARR

MARI HULMAN GEORGE has a long and storied history with racing—auto racing. She is the only child of Anton “Tony” and Mary Fendrich Hulman who bought a dilapidated Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1945 and grew the Indianapolis 500 into one of the world’s premier sporting events.

Though the 78-year-old chairwoman of the speedway and her family’s Hulman Co. will always be linked primarily to Formula One muscle cars, she has been an equally devoted advocate of Thoroughbred racing in Indiana. She’s long held a passion for horse racing that grew out of a lifelong love of animals.

George said she remembers being given a doll once as child but ignoring it, preferring instead to play with her beloved cats and the family dog. As a teenager, she added horses to her personal menagerie and showed Appaloosas and Quarter Horses during the 1960s.

“Back then I would rather stay with my horse than go to the speedway,” said George while she stroked the head of a recently rescued and rehabilitated greyhound, one of four that live on her 60-acre Circle S Ranch near Terre Haute, Ind. “I just kind of fell into (the horse industry) like I’d always been in it. Now it seems like I’m doing well if you look around.”

The living room of George’s rustic, ranch-style mansion is an eclectic mix of Native American art, gargantuan chandeliers fashioned out of deer antlers from a ski lodge in Aspen, Colo., Indianapolis 500 memorabilia, and horse racing and breeding awards. Horse blankets etched with important races won by Circle S runners hang from a second floor staircase banister, while plaques and framed winner’s circle photos are displayed on end tables, kitchen counters, and even the bathroom sink vanity.

George got her introduction to horse racing in the 1970s during one of the many summers she spent out West at her family’s dude ranch—also called Circle S—near Pinedale, Wyo.

Through her connections in the local show horse circuit there, George learned of prominent New Mexico-based Quarter Horse owner C.L. “Tess” Maddon. Intrigued by the possibility of delving into racing and breeding, George contacted Maddon about visiting his operation and learning more.

“I spent quite a bit of time on his ranch, and he taught me everything he knew about horses,” said George of Maddon, who owned a American Quarter Horse Association Hall of Fame racemare named Maddon’s Bright Eyes. The mare was the first horse to sprint a quarter-mile in less than 22 seconds.

Enthralled with the industry, George began acquiring horses. She bought two Quarter Horse mares from Maddon and boarded them at the Wyoming Circle S



Mari Hulman George at her Circle S Ranch near Terre Haute, Ind.

ANNE M. EBERHARDT PHOTOS

2012 Leading Sires in Indiana

Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	GrSW/ Gr1SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2012 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	SPANISH STEPS (01, Unbridled), Lake Shore Farm	\$5,000	74/37	2/5	0/2	(Little Mike, \$2,668,742)	\$3,879,932	199	6	1.54	1.35
2	STRONG HOPE (00, Grand Slam), Midwest Equine & Veterinary Hospital	\$2,500	102/63	3/3	0/3	(Papaw Bodie, \$305,615)	\$1,926,161	287	5	1.01	1.80
3	DOMESTIC DISPUTE (00, Unbridled's Song), Indiana Stallion Station	\$2,000	100/52	0/0	0/0	(Daydreamin Gracie, \$116,850)	\$1,674,681	*301	1	0.91	1.23
4	ARROMANCHES (93, Relaunch), Buckshot Stables	N/A	27/11	1/4	0/1	(Caixa Eletronica, \$1,116,000)	\$1,300,327	66	1	1.48	0.61
5	ACTION THIS DAY (01, Kris S.), Indiana Stallion Station	\$1,000	95/48	1/1	0/1	(Action Lady, \$105,813)	\$1,193,160	245	3	0.67	1.29
6	DESERT WARRIOR (00, Deputy Minister), Haffner Farm	\$1,500	73/34	0/0	0/0	(Frisky Warrior, \$117,450)	\$1,060,286	*223	0	0.87	0.99
7	CHIEF SEATTLE (97, Seattle Slew)	Died, 2011	59/32	1/1	1/1	(Easy Ending, \$121,685)	\$1,038,210	*400	11	1.18	1.33
8	ZAVATA (00, Phone Trick), Foot Fall Farm	\$2,000	48/24	1/1	0/1	(Hi Ho Bambino, \$81,560)	\$655,092	*230	4	0.95	1.11
9	PASS RUSH (99, Crown Ambassador), Swift Farms, Inc.	\$2,500	17/7	1/1	1/1	(Facey's Spirit, \$131,993)	\$496,734	40	3	1.64	1.17
10	DREWMAN (98, Unbridled), Breakway Farm	\$1,500	51/22	1/1	0/1	(Cool Vixen, \$62,495)	\$491,718	207	4	0.82	1.28
11	SIR SHACKLETON (01, Miswaki), Indiana Stallion Station	\$1,000	42/19	1/1	0/1	(Miss Paxton, \$82,210)	\$473,249	*74	1	0.59	1.14
12	SAINTLY LOOK (00, Saint Ballado), RichWine Farm	\$1,000	12/3	1/3	1/1	(Aint She a Saint, \$337,366)	\$432,608	21	1	0.93	0.91
13	MANCINI (98, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2012	37/15	0/0	0/0	(Dandyman, \$65,586)	\$431,532	*131	3	0.74	0.91
14	WILD ZONE (90, Wild Again), Breakway Farm	Pnsd	26/12	0/0	0/0	(Uno Ducksy, \$67,448)	\$421,458	*473	13	0.80	1.08
15	ARTICLE OF FAITH (04, Storm Cat), RichWine Farm	\$1,000	23/11	0/0	0/0	(Maggie's Best, \$55,450)	\$393,376	42	1	0.92	0.99
16	ALLUVIAL (02, Forestry), Still Creek Farms	\$1,500	39/20	0/0	0/0	(Ideal Alluvial, \$29,015)	\$383,549	97	0	0.53	0.87
17	CITY WEEKEND (02, Carson City), Equine Vet Hospital of No. Indiana	\$2,500	22/9	1/1	1/1	(Boogiewoogieblues, \$51,390)	\$273,785	37	1	0.64	1.03
18	OCEAN INDY (03, A.P. Indy), RichWine Farm	\$1,000	20/9	0/0	0/0	(Miss Indy Cindy, \$59,810)	\$272,972	29	0	0.76	0.92
19	MECKE (92, Maudlin)	N/A	9/4	2/2	1/2	(Sweet as You Are, \$168,818)	\$238,033	287	14	1.23	1.39
20	KILLENAULE (02, Fusaichi Pegasus), Smallwood Bloodstock	N/A	22/7	0/0	0/0	(Hesraisincain, \$44,390)	\$230,326	41	0	0.61	0.92
21	MR. MABEE (01, Storm Cat), Lake Shore Farm	\$2,500	13/6	0/0	0/0	(Wave Land Mabee, \$73,341)	\$213,223	23	0	0.83	1.01
22	MORO ORO (93, Moro), Sorrell Farm	\$1,000	26/8	0/0	0/0	(Ms. Smitty, \$39,890)	\$198,343	121	4	0.69	0.76
23	HUNTING HARD (92, Seeking the Gold)	N/A	17/3	0/0	0/0	(Hard Luck Monk, \$91,847)	\$195,107	200	2	0.86	1.02
24	JUST PLAIN JOE (99, Alydeed), Foot Fall Farm	Died, 2012	7/5	0/0	0/0	(Joe's Keeper, \$62,491)	\$181,800	11	1	1.62	0.71
25	GOODS (03, Tale of the Cat), Hidden Springs	\$1,000	16/5	0/0	0/0	(P.T.'s Grey Goods, \$32,410)	\$164,554	36	0	0.62	0.75
26	CENTURY CITY (IRE) (99, Danzig), Breakway Farm	\$2,500	16/3	0/0	0/0	(Temple Lion, \$32,090)	\$149,476	*156	0	0.57	1.32
27	MONDAVI (03, Maria's Mon), Breakway Farm	\$1,500	6/4	0/0	0/0	(Crazy Maisy Daisy, \$35,005)	\$112,767	14	0	0.92	0.67
28	WILLIE BLUE (95, Sabona), Wright Road Stable LLC	\$500	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Mister Mooreland, \$84,395)	\$98,385	7	0	0.72	1.30
29	SOLD TO WALLSTREET (96, Wall Street Dancer)	N/A	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Austin's Senorita, \$27,336)	\$91,155	33	0	0.79	0.85
30	JUDGE VONSTUBON (91, Judge Smells), Sweet Sixteen Acres	\$1,000	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Jaydee, \$35,314)	\$87,898	22	0	0.73	0.58
31	GROUND STORM (96, Summer Squall)	Died, 2011	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Fiona Storm, \$71,800)	\$71,800	6	0	1.03	1.24



Spread out over 60 acres, Circle S Ranch has spacious paddocks

Ranch, which is now owned by her daughter, Josie. She also bought Quarter Horses to race. When she sent her runners to a trainer at Ruidoso Downs, George went with them.

"I thought I had to be there (in New Mexico) every minute to make sure he was doing what I wanted him to do," said George with a laugh.

Because the New Mexico tracks run mixed meets, George became interested in racing Thoroughbreds as well.

"I've been racing in mixed meets my entire career, so it was natural for me to race both," she said.

In the late 1970s George began boarding some Thoroughbred mares on the property of her family's Terre Haute-based Circle S Ranch, which she converted from a dairy farm into a full-service breeding facility. Following mostly a breed-to-race philosophy over the years, she now has multiple generations of families on her farm.

The first stallion to stand at Circle S Ranch was the winning homebred Fast Ferdie, a pensioned son of Ferdinand. He is the sire of the six-figure earner and stakes winner Check in Advance, whom George also raced as a homebred. The

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2007 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 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).

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned 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; 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 AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

farm currently stands the stallions His Special Guy and Lost Victory.

“(Fast Ferdie) was always my favorite horse,” said George of the strapping chestnut, who is still in good health and spirits. “He looks young...he’s very handsome.”

Another of her favorites was one of her first major runners, the Quarter Horse mare Me Gotta Go, who captured such key races as the 1970 Kentucky Futurity and the 1971 Raton Derby.

Other top horses George has bred over the years include Hebe’s Halo (by Sunny’s Halo), the dam of Will Carlson and Jerry Pint’s Heza Wild Guy, who is now in his 10th season of racing and last year became the top Indiana-bred money winner of all time. An 11-year-old son of Wild Event, Heza Wild Guy has earned \$694,447 in 84 starts. He broke his maiden at 2 at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino in 2003 and has gone on to win 32 races, eight of them stakes. She also bred and/or raced Irish Bacon, a stakes-placed son of Imperial Falcon and \$200,000-plus earner; stakes winners Special Express (by now-pensioned Circle S stallion Jungle Express, Indiana’s leading sire of 2000) and Smart Revenge (by Houston).

George is still involved in both breeds. She has eight Thoroughbreds in training with Stephen Fosdick in Indiana, Quarter Horses with Connie Barnes in Oklahoma, and has mares at her Ocala-based farm (also called Circle S), Lazy E Ranch near Guthrie, Okla., and Steve Johnson’s Margaux Farm near Midway, Ky.

“I knew (the Margaux stallions) as well as my own horses and the kind of babies they were going to produce,” said George. “Devil His Due was the one I kept coming back to—he fit quite a few of my mares.”

One of George’s biggest industry confidants is Tom Bozarth, owner of Arch Bloodstock and the mayor of Midway, Ky., who provides her with advice when needed and helps organize her breeding program.

“We’ve become good friends, and I just try to help whenever I can,” said Bozarth, who met George when he was selling stallion seasons at Tom Simon’s Vinery in the 1990s. “She called and wanted to breed a mare to Black Tie Affair and our friendship grew from there.

“Mari developed her own breeding philosophy, and she has her own beliefs on what works best for her and her program,” he said. “She’s loyal to the Indiana program and that’s where she likes to focus a lot of her energy; she likes to breed toward that.”

George’s farm manager of 36 years at the Indiana Circle S Ranch is Randy Gab-



Pensioned stallion Jungle Express

bard, who began working at the operation while he was in high school in 1976.

“I guess my dedication to being here all the time,” is how Gabbard describes his contribution to the farm’s success. “It’s been really special (working for George). She’s been good to me over the years. My favorite part (of my job) is working with the horses—I just love being with the horses.”

Only a short trek from George’s front porch, on which sits an Alaskan totem pole, are the farm’s oversized paddocks. The farm features two pristine cream-colored barns with crimson weather vanes and trim. Next to the barns are a walking ring and a round pen for yearlings. The walls of the barns are adorned with the Circle S silks, which resemble a black-and-white checkered flag with a “S” in the middle. Living on the farm are 40 mares, four stallions (two of them pensioned), and a sizable group of weanlings and racing lay-ups.

An unusual feature of Circle S—but not surprising considering George’s affinity for animals—is a kennel for stray dogs, which features

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- ◆ He is a true out cross stallion with no in breeding.
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2012 Leading Sires in Ohio



Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	GrSW/ Gr1SW	2012 (Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							Stks Earnings	Foals	Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	MOBIL (00, Langfuhr), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farms	\$2,500	69/37	3/3	2/3	(Welloiledmachine, \$136,289)	\$1,716,305	*120	5	1.42	1.47
2	LUNARPAL (02, Successful Appeal), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farms	\$2,000	41/22	1/1	1/1	(I Dare U Em, \$84,000)	\$631,743	85	2	0.83	1.08
3	LIGHTNIN N THUNDER (01, Storm Cat), Fronrunner Thoroughbreds	N/A	41/21	1/1	1/1	(Ima Jersey Girl, \$64,809)	\$474,707	173	7	0.91	1.12
4	TROPICAL STORM (00, Storm Cat), Raimonde Farms	\$1,500	20/12	0/0	0/0	(El Oh El A, \$82,145)	\$327,831	*82	0	0.59	0.76
5	MERCER MILL (94, Forty Niner), Fair Winds Farm	N/A	21/11	2/2	2/2	(Uncle Virgil, \$55,888)	\$315,428	207	15	0.69	0.86
6	ALLADIN RIB (85, Da' White Judge), Win Row Farm Ltd.	N/A	13/6	0/0	0/0	(Red Army, \$80,500)	\$223,143	58	5	0.89	0.58
7	PARENTS' REWARD (98, Mr. Prospector)	N/A	15/12	1/1	1/1	(Raise the Reward, \$87,152)	\$195,980	46	3	0.89	0.68
8	MUSICAL DREAMER (94, Stop the Music)	N/A	3/3	1/4	1/1	(Startin Something, \$172,150)	\$187,122	27	3	0.86	0.77
9	PACIFIC WAVES (93, Seattle Slew), Raimonde Farms	\$1,000	16/10	0/0	0/0	(Mr. C's Legacy, \$24,095)	\$161,355	69	2	0.75	0.92
10	BOLD TRUTH (99, Seattle Slew), Belford Farm	\$2,000	11/6	0/0	0/0	(Bold Captain, \$35,100)	\$144,890	*38	2	0.87	1.01

2012 Leading Sires in Illinois



Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	GrSW/ Gr1SW	2012 (Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							Stks Earnings	Foals	Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	SHORE BREEZE (98, Danzig), Eagle Valley Farm North	\$3,000	65/35	0/0	0/0	(Breathhtakingbreeze, \$57,470)	\$827,752	139	1	0.90	0.79
2	CHEROKEE RAP (01, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2012	34/26	1/1	1/1	(Nagys Piggy Bank, \$147,340)	\$820,538	50	3	1.21	1.16
3	INDY SNOW (GB) (01, A.P. Indy), Hondo Ranch	N/A	23/18	1/1	1/1	(Sandia Crest, \$149,384)	\$730,548	32	1	1.45	0.89
4	CASHEL CASTLE (99, Silver Ghost)	N/A	27/17	1/1	0/1	(Ice Climber, \$104,516)	\$619,104	76	1	0.86	1.02
5	CHICAGO SIX (95, Wild Again), Hill 'N Dale Farm	\$1,000	21/8	0/0	0/0	(Shoot the Loop, \$70,443)	\$285,964	*103	1	0.57	0.75
6	BUCKLE DOWN BEN (98, Devil His Due)	Died, 2012	16/9	0/0	0/0	(Runaway Ben, \$50,720)	\$267,727	34	0	0.75	0.87
7	BATTLE STAR (02, Seeking the Gold), Hondo Ranch	N/A	12/6	0/0	0/0	(Dancing Rock, \$98,830)	\$248,571	22	0	0.80	1.56
8	ANIMO DE VALEROSO (02, Pulpit), Fairberry Farm	\$1,000	22/11	0/0	0/0	(He's Bonafide, \$67,660)	\$234,265	65	1	0.68	0.88
9	CRYPTO STAR (94, Cryptoclearance)	N/A	15/5	0/0	0/0	(Quick Bid, \$50,375)	\$216,533	181	3	0.88	1.01
10	FRIENDLY LOVER (88, Cutlass)	N/A	20/12	0/0	0/0	(Hands On, \$50,640)	\$214,744	476	11	1.01	1.04

25 individual dog runs. Each three or four runs connect to a shed with heating and air-conditioning. The sheds have been painted to match the barns and each has its own weather vane.

When George isn't talking about horses or dogs, she's talking about her family, many of whom live around Indianapolis.

She has four children with her late husband, Indy car driver Elmer George: Nancy George, M. Josephine "Josie"

George, Katherine "Kathi" George-Conforti, and Anton "Tony" Hulman George. The three daughters currently serve on the speedway's board of directors, while Tony is the former president and CEO of the speedway and founder of the Indy Racing League.

She is especially close to her grandson, Kyle Krisiloff (son of Josie), a former race car driver. Proudly displayed in George's dining room is a trophy from Krisiloff's

victory in the 2004 Sports Car Club of America Formula Ford National Championship.

Etched on the award are the words, "Grandma, you have helped me more than you will ever know. Next year will be ever better!" George was an avid supporter of Krisiloff's career and traveled to watch several of the races won by her grandson, who now works at the Speedway.

George also spoke with special fondness of Josie's other son, Jerrod Krisiloff, who was a national champion in BMX bike racing. Jerrod also formerly competed on the national level in in-line speed skating (he raced against Olympic gold medal short track speed skating champion Apolo Anton Ohno). He is now the director of marketing for the speedway.

One of George's other favorite pastimes is supporting charitable causes, including the Indiana-based Mari Hulman George School of Equine Studies at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. In 1989, George's financial contributions helped endow and establish the program, which is the only one in the state to offer a bachelor of science degree in equine studies.

"I thought it was an honor to support these girls—the program helps them teach their horses, but still lets them enjoy riding and working with them," she said.

While George remains committed to the Indiana-bred program, she said she has reached the point where its time to cut back.

"It's just too expensive to have two



Hulman George with farm manager Randy Gabbard

2012 Leading Sires in Minnesota

Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	GrSW/Gr1SW	2012 (Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							Stks Earnings	Foals	Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	KELA (98, Numerous), Stillwater Equine Clinic	N/A	90/51	3/3	1/3	(Ricspretentiousgal, \$136,520)	\$1,717,490	*193	3	0.98	1.03
2	FORD EVERY STREAM (99, Seeking the Gold), Nightmare Stables	\$1,000	54/27	0/0	0/0	(Come On Lenard, \$96,319)	\$629,854	119	1	0.58	0.85
3	DEMIDOFF (90, Mr. Prospector), Cross Creek Farm	\$2,500	43/15	0/0	0/0	(Samendra, \$44,401)	\$335,207	267	25	0.93	0.82
4	JOEY FRANCO (99, Avenue of Flags), Osborne Farm	\$1,800	18/9	1/1	0/1	(High End Man, \$65,706)	\$259,161	62	1	0.50	0.77
5	APPEALING SKIER (93, Baldski), Hanson's Thoroughbreds	\$1,750	17/9	1/3	1/1	(Heliskier, \$103,056)	\$246,086	261	6	0.91	1.09
6	SAM LORD'S CASTLE (98, Carson City), B & D Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	16/10	0/0	0/0	(Adorkable, \$28,360)	\$204,548	32	1	0.71	0.85
7	MAGIC CAT (95, Storm Cat)	N/A	29/10	0/0	0/0	(Kitty Blonde, \$30,162)	\$192,099	215	11	0.69	0.94
8	SUPREMO (92, Gone West)	N/A	20/8	0/0	0/0	(Tez Virat, \$36,572)	\$171,160	*453	6	0.74	1.12
9	STORMY BUSINESS (02, Storm Creek), Osborne Farm	\$1,500	9/4	1/1	1/1	(Sugar Business, \$56,587)	\$153,572	19	1	0.79	0.48
10	HUMMING (96, Summer Squall)	N/A	19/4	0/0	0/0	(You Funny Man, \$49,496)	\$135,872	77	1	0.64	0.79

farms," she explained of running operations in Indiana and Florida.

She plans to cull some of her less accomplished stock and focus on developing her best Indiana-based horses.

"The ones I feel I'm going to keep—I'm spending the most time getting them to where I want them to be, and the rest I'm trying to sell," said George, who plans to consign some of her Thoroughbreds to upcoming Indiana-bred sales, as well as some Quarter Horse mares to Heritage Place in Oklahoma City.

George may be slowing down but her



passion for the sport still burns bright.

"She loves her horses and also loves her

Greyhounds and grandkids and her family," noted Bozarth. "All of her animals are part of a big family. She has a heart the size of Texas."

Bozarth said George has done much for Indiana's Thoroughbred program through her commitment to producing and racing quality stock and, as a longtime member of the Indiana Thoroughbred Development Advisory Committee, played a part in launching pari-mutuel racing in Indiana.

"I can't say enough about her loyalty for horses, family, and friends; you won't find a better person," Bo-

zarth said. 🐾

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Canterbury Park's historic marketing agreement with Mystic Lake Casino will add \$75 million directly to Canterbury's purses over the next decade!

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