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# Under Plank

BY TERRY CONWAY

## *Kevin Plank seeks to repeat his Under Armour magic with historic Sagamore Farm*

**T**he temptation—as the red-roofed foaling and broodmare barns have gone up, the white-board fencing began stretching across the perimeter, and a string of horses settled in—is to dwell on the glory days of Sagamore Farm where Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt Jr. bred generations of champions.

Its brightest star was Native Dancer, winner of 21 of 22 races. He was nicknamed “The Gray Ghost” for his light gray coat, which turned snow-white when he stood at Sagamore as a legendary stallion. Under a stand of sugar maple trees, his grave is marked by a small, plain stone slab in a nondescript equine cemetery.

While Sagamore’s new owner pays homage to its wondrous past, Kevin Plank is also clearly focused on his vision for the future.

“The farm has the DNA of champions in its bones, but being part of building something brick by brick, that’s what inspires me more than anything,” said Plank, 37. “We honor the legacy, but we’re all about looking forward.”

Plank knows a thing or two about building a winner. In 1996 the Maryland native launched Under Armour—a moisture-wicking, compression T-shirt business—in the basement of his grandmother’s townhouse in Washington, D.C.

The stretchy, fast-drying garments fit like a glove, keeping athletes cool in summer and

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Under Armour founder Kevin Plank at his Sagamore Farm in Maryland

PHOTOS BY TRANG DAM

# SUNRIVER

## *overhauls pacesetter Lewis Michael in Peter Pan*

“SUNRIVER, the SAINT BALLADO colt who is a full brother to two-time champion ASHADO, last raced on April 1 when he finished a promising third to BARBARO in the Florida Derby (G1)... ‘I knew I had a lot of horse, he really finished strong’, Bejarano said.”

Reprinted from *thoroughbredtimes.com*, May 20, 2006

THE G1 HOLLYWOOD TURF CUP (PICTURED) CAME DOWN TO TWO OF THE BEST-BRED RUNNERS IN THE WORLD, AND THE WINNER IN A VIRTUOSO PERFORMANCE WAS **SUNRIVER** OVER **CHAMPS ELYSEES**



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# 2009 Leading Sires in New York

State sire lists updated daily online.

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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 March 11, 2009. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. \*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	2009 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	<b>GOLDEN MISSILE</b> (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm	\$7,500	85/18	2/2	0/2	(Gold Wonder, \$39,870)	<b>\$390,711</b>	*436	10	1.12	1.88
2	<b>CHIEF SEATTLE</b> (97, Seattle Slew), Empire Stud	\$5,000	66/21	0/0	0/0	(Chief Export, \$52,800)	<b>\$363,202</b>	*314	9	1.22	1.39
3	<b>GOLD TOKEN</b> (93, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2006	41/11	0/0	0/0	(Leap Day, \$57,300)	<b>\$286,679</b>	*270	6	1.37	1.14
4	<b>AMERICAN CHANCE</b> (89, Cure the Blues)	Died, 2004	26/7	1/2	1/1	(Mor Chances, \$82,770)	<b>\$251,702</b>	*409	30	1.52	1.29
5	<b>FREUD</b> (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	35/7	1/1	1/1	(Lights Off Annie, \$44,108)	<b>\$249,286</b>	*235	11	1.73	1.38
6	<b>DESERT WARRIOR</b> (00, Deputy Minister), McMahon of Saratoga	\$2,500	24/9	0/0	0/0	(Lilly of Paradise, \$53,710)	<b>\$244,209</b>	*126	0	0.96	0.96
7	<b>WESTERN EXPRESSION</b> (96, Gone West), Highcliff Farm	\$5,000	35/7	1/1	0/1	(I Lost My Choo, \$60,000)	<b>\$191,300</b>	247	4	1.26	1.31
8	<b>A. P. JET</b> (89, Fappiano), Sugar Maple Farm	Pnsd	35/6	0/0	0/0	(See More Spirit, \$42,430)	<b>\$184,869</b>	442	14	1.15	1.34
9	<b>ELTISH</b> (92, Cox's Ridge), Keane Stud Operations	\$3,500	43/11	0/0	0/0	(Wyatt's Women, \$27,223)	<b>\$182,645</b>	234	12	1.25	1.42
10	<b>DISCO RICO</b> (97, Citidancer), Keane Stud Operations	\$5,000	31/9	0/0	0/0	(Disco's Son, \$23,400)	<b>\$181,796</b>	137	6	1.60	1.23
11	<b>FAST PLAY</b> (86, Seattle Slew), Questroyal at Dutchess Views Farm	\$2,500	20/4	1/1	1/1	(Two Nickel Bud, \$75,000)	<b>\$180,461</b>	*402	19	1.22	1.44
12	<b>REGAL CLASSIC</b> (85, Vice Regent)	Pnsd	30/7	0/0	0/0	(Joe Corrigan, \$39,040)	<b>\$179,545</b>	*956	44	1.44	1.57
13	<b>PHONE TRICK</b> (82, Clever Trick)	Died, 2005	27/8	0/0	0/0	(Strummer, \$59,900)	<b>\$175,878</b>	*1112	52	1.52	1.52
14	<b>PRIME TIMBER</b> (96, Sultry Song), Sez Who Thoroughbreds North	\$3,000	30/4	0/0	0/0	(Beam of Love, \$65,800)	<b>\$164,625</b>	161	4	1.24	1.39
15	<b>WHEELAWAY</b> (97, Unbridled), McMahon of Saratoga	\$3,000	38/7	0/0	0/0	(Win for Fun, \$24,600)	<b>\$156,316</b>	*225	5	0.97	1.22
16	<b>OUTOFTHEBOX</b> (98, Montbrook), Sez Who Thoroughbreds North	\$2,500	27/5	1/2	1/1	(Hypocrite, \$87,500)	<b>\$138,927</b>	196	3	0.73	1.49
17	<b>HOOK AND LADDER</b> (97, Dixieland Band), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	32/4	0/0	0/0	(Vinnie Van Go, \$30,740)	<b>\$128,425</b>	138	6	1.52	1.52
18	<b>KING CUGAT</b> (97, Kingmambo), Questroyal at Dutchess Views Farm	\$3,500	32/9	0/0	0/0	(El Cugat, \$30,800)	<b>\$127,567</b>	*390	7	1.31	1.18
19	<b>READ THE FOOTNOTES</b> (01, Smoke Glacken), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	17/7	0/0	0/0	(Rightly So, \$58,600)	<b>\$122,185</b>	82	1	1.48	1.26
20	<b>MAYAKOVSKY</b> (99, Matty G), Mill Creek Farm	\$3,000	25/5	0/0	0/0	(Vladimira, \$28,121)	<b>\$119,331</b>	62	1	1.23	1.40

\*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.

warm in winter. Recognized as a major breakthrough, the technology enabled the company to carve out a healthy niche in a fiercely competitive sporting-goods market. Along the way Under Armour unwittingly created one of the shrewdest power plays in fashion history.

You get the feeling talking with Plank that he enjoys defying doubters.

It's why he purchased the sacred ground of Sagamore (a sagamore is an Indian chief) and carefully crafted a plan to resurrect the 530-acre farm near Glyndon, Md.

"I was told, 'you're crazy; you can't compete with those huge companies (Nike, Reebok). They'll chew you up,'" recalled Plank, Under Armour's president and CEO, from his office that overlooks Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

"Well, something I say at Under Armour

is we're smart enough to be naive enough to not know what we can accomplish. In other words, don't tell me what we can't do. Putting a team of people together to build something special, I believe that's one of my true strengths."

With a careful eye and a measured respect for Sagamore's storied history, Plank and his team of architects, land planners, and farm staff recognize the real merit lies in the farm's varied physical components that will forever link Sagamore to its glorious past.

"It's not a two- or three-year plan to get to the Kentucky Derby," said the affable Plank.

"I understand it's going to be a long, tough climb and I don't have all the answers. "We're talking maybe a 15-to 20-year plan. I like the idea that (farm man-

ager) Tom (Mullikin) and I are young and hungry. Besides, I don't like to fail."

## BUILDING SLOWLY

Tom Mullikin played football with Plank at St. John's, a prep school in Washington, D.C. They've forged a life-long bond. In 2007 Mullikin got an unexpected call from Plank offering him command of Sagamore's day-to-day operations.

"We're looking to produce winners, give people compelling stories to talk about, then bring those horses back here to be great stallions," Mullikin said. "Let's throw that out there. That's why we get up every morning. It's also about respecting the game, doing right by your horses, and having some fun with it, too."

Plank scored his first victory when a 2-year old filly named Bourbon Maid won



Plank's goal is to resurrect the 530-acre Sagamore Farm near Glyndon, Md.

**I LOST MY CHOO-G3  
Undeclared at  
Gulfstream in 4 starts**



Adam Cogliandro

# WESTERN EXPRESSION

Gone West - Tricky Game, by Majestic Light

**Sire of the world's  
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Making her first start in nearly seven months and carrying co-topweight, multiple Graded stakes winner **I LOST MY CHOO** won the Honey Fox S.-G3 at Gulfstream, setting a new stakes record of **1:33 2/5** and running the fastest mile in the world for 2009.

**I LOST MY CHOO** was bred, foaled and raised at Highcliff Farm. Congratulations to owner/breeder Flying Zee Stables, trainer Philip Serpe, and jockey Jose Lezcano.

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a maiden special weight at Laurel Park in November 2007. Maryland jockey Mario Pino was sporting Sagamore's new silks, a patterned white diamond surrounded by a block of red. The stable colors are a nod to the lovely design of white and cerise diamonds Vanderbilt campaigned for more than 60 years.

Five mares will foal at the farm this season to go along with two yearling colts and two yearling fillies. Five horses are in training with primary trainers Graham Motion and Rick Violette. Motion tutors the promising 3-year-old filly Shared Account, who triumphed in a pair of races at Laurel Park this winter.

California bloodstock agent Bob Feld selected Shared Account at the Keeneland yearling sale. He recalls seeing Vanderbilt race at Santa Anita in the early 1970s.

"I remember his silks and horses," said Feld. "As a kid, I felt that sense of history. Working with this farm, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"The plan is to take baby steps rather than jump in full bore. Kevin is a very confident, positive person. I've been with him at Under Armour, and you can see how he transfers those traits to others. We're all optimistic. Hopefully, we can pull off some of that Sagamore magic again."

Dan Rosenberg, the former manager of Three Chimneys Farm near Midway, Ky., is a consultant to the Sagamore team as it slowly puts together a quality broodmare band through private acquisitions and public sales of fillies in training, broodmares, and yearling fillies.

"I've seen too many people new to the business go out and buy a broodmare band all at once," Rosenberg related. "Usually that means paying a premium for an existing broodmare band, or buying mares you really don't want just to get the numbers up quickly. Kevin is taking the long view."

"It is obvious that Kevin's vision, enthusiasm, and talents in branding and team-building were all integral to his success at Under Armour. Kevin brings that same energy to Sagamore and it is fun to be involved."

### MUSCLIN' UP

The youngest of five brothers, Plank grew up in Kensington, Md. His mother worked for the U.S. State Department during the Reagan administration, while his late father, William, was a developer.

A football walk-on at the University of Maryland, Plank was chosen as special teams captain and also played linebacker. In his spare time Plank was notorious for his entrepreneurial ventures on the College Park campus.

After graduating, Plank had one of those eureka moments. Why should football players wear those dank, clammy gray T-shirts under their pads? His answer was



Plank's business slogan of "Protect This House" applies to the restoration going on at Sagamore

to develop a batch of snug-fitting, polyester/Lycra blend T-shirts that wicked sweat away from the body and also helped regulate temperature during exercise.

Under Armour's explosive growth over the past decade has been spurred by its unique hard-core athlete-branding strategy. Their catchy slogan, "Protect This House," became a rallying cry for all kinds of athletes and helped propel Under Armour into the big leagues of sportswear sales alongside Nike, Reebok, and others. Last year the company introduced a performance-training shoe, and they're planning a big sales push for a running shoe in 2009.

The company has launched retail stores in four locations across the country as well as 25 outlet stores. In a wafer-flat economy, Under Armour saw revenues in 2008 climb to \$725.2 million, a jump of 20% from \$606.6 million in 2007.

"Our brand stands for quality and attention to detail," Plank noted. "Even in a tough economy, I think we have the ability to really connect with the consumer."

### ECHOES OF HISTORY

It's a safe bet that Plank was wearing

his tight-fitting gear as he pedaled through the Worthington Valley several years ago. Located roughly 20 minutes northwest of downtown Baltimore, not much has changed there from the 18th century. You'll find large tracts of preserved lands and lovely fieldstone homes. It's been the site of the famed Maryland Hunt Cup each spring since 1894.

"As I rode through this thicket of trees, it opened up into this great, expansive valley," Plank recalled. "I just thought it was the most spectacular piece of scenery in the state. The farm had fallen on hard times. It was pretty rundown, but you couldn't help but feel the history."

Once part of the Worthington estate that gave the valley its name, farmers there raised alfalfa, chickens, and cattle.

When it came on the market in 1926, Issac Emerson, the Baltimore chemist who patented Bromo-Seltzer and became one of the richest men in America, bought it. The farm was a gift for his daughter, Margaret, the widow of Alfred Vanderbilt Sr., who needed a base for her Thoroughbred stable.

The great-great-grandson of steamship and railroad tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt,

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-Doug Cauthen, President of WinStar

	UTOPIA	DISTORTED HUMOR
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Wins	9	8
G1 wins	4	0
GSW ages	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4, 5
Best U.S. mile	1:33.23	1:36.03
Fee	\$7,500	\$150,000

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## 2009 Leading Sires in Maryland

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

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 March 11, 2009. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. \*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	2009 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	<b>NOT FOR LOVE</b> (90, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station	\$25,000	99/25	2/2	0/2	(Waquoit's Love, \$60,000)	<b>\$686,692</b>	665	55	1.85	1.49
2	<b>LION HEARTED</b> (96, Storm Cat), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,500	95/30	0/0	0/0	(Lion by My Side, \$31,320)	<b>\$637,853</b>	*371	9	1.30	1.34
3	<b>OUTFLANKER</b> (94, Danzig), Maryland Stallion Station at Bonita Farm	\$6,500	72/22	0/0	0/0	(Apple Special, \$47,880)	<b>\$522,966</b>	369	17	1.46	1.17
4	<b>LOUIS QUATORZE</b> (93, Sovereign Dancer), Murmur Farm	\$6,000	72/19	0/0	0/0	(Shikilu, \$34,090)	<b>\$306,035</b>	*805	17	1.21	1.48
5	<b>TWO PUNCH</b> (83, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station	N/A	53/13	0/0	0/0	(Twopunchestogo, \$40,560)	<b>\$267,435</b>	*939	52	1.50	1.46

\*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.

## 2009 Leading Sires in Pennsylvania

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

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 March 11, 2009. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. \*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	2009 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	<b>CAT THIEF</b> (96, Storm Cat), Penn Ridge Farms	\$6,000	81/28	0/0	0/0	(Dr. W, \$58,500)	<b>\$506,815</b>	*346	11	1.26	1.84
2	<b>ALBERT THE GREAT</b> (97, Go for Gin), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$3,500	38/12	1/1	0/1	(Albertus Maximus, \$300,000)	<b>\$497,389</b>	*217	4	1.37	1.22
3	<b>BUDDHA</b> (99, Unbridled's Song), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$3,500	94/29	0/0	0/0	(Hisse, \$58,800)	<b>\$392,186</b>	*442	3	0.68	1.54
4	<b>DELAWARE TOWNSHIP</b> (96, Notebook), Penn Ridge Farms	\$4,000	67/15	1/2	0/1	(Victorina, \$90,780)	<b>\$366,341</b>	206	5	1.22	1.34
5	<b>PARTNER'S HERO</b> (94, Danzig), Northview, PA	\$2,500	51/10	0/0	0/0	(Novation, \$39,760)	<b>\$278,040</b>	343	15	1.34	1.44

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## 2009 Leading Sires in New Jersey

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

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in New Jersey (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through March 11, 2009. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. \*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	2009 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	<b>DEFRERE</b> (92, Deputy Minister), Walnford Stud	\$6,000	32/10	0/0	0/0	(Peanut, \$39,230)	<b>\$164,146</b>	*446	20	1.32	1.24
2	<b>CRAFTY FRIEND</b> (93, Crafty Prospector), Walnford Stud	\$6,000	25/3	0/0	0/0	(Savethebestforlass, \$19,800)	<b>\$78,469</b>	311	9	1.03	1.21
3	<b>UNBRIDLED JET</b> (96, Unbridled), Steeter Farm	\$4,000	22/4	0/0	0/0	(Silent Jet, \$15,120)	<b>\$74,662</b>	*210	7	1.16	1.26
4	<b>PRIVATE INTERVIEW</b> (92, Nureyev), Colonial Farms	\$2,500	15/4	0/0	0/0	(Nondo, \$18,274)	<b>\$57,958</b>	192	4	1.16	1.32
5	<b>IRON DEPUTY</b> (99, Silver Deputy), Walnford Stud	\$3,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Iron Woman, \$33,060)	<b>\$35,060</b>	13	0	0.86	1.29

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tall and handsome Alfred Vanderbilt Jr. epitomized the racing blueblood. In 1933 at the age of 21, Alfred inherited the farm from his grandfather's estate.

For the next 40 years Vanderbilt trained his yearlings and 2-year-olds there, and his stallions were based at the farm. His Thoroughbred operation was one of the best in the country. Vanderbilt's line of stars began when he purchased Discovery from breeder Walter Salmon Sr. Discovery won six stakes races in 1934, won 27 of his 63 races overall, and later sired 25 stakes winners. Other champions Vanderbilt (who passed away in 1999) bred included Petrify, Conniver, Bed o' Roses, Next Move, and Jam.

Scan the vistas and you can almost feel Vanderbilt's bustling Thoroughbred operation. At its peak the farm grew to nearly 1,000 acres with 20 buildings and nearly

70 full-time employees including trainers, exercise riders, grooms, veterinarians, blacksmiths, and grounds managers.

The sprawling, white octagonal barn boasts a string of 90 stalls with cerise-brushed doors. Each has its own intricately carved white tack box imprinted with four red diamonds. The stalls frame a quarter-mile indoor track where horses worked out when snow piled up outside. The arch over one stall marks it as Native Dancer's box, reconfigured so the rangy gray didn't have to duck his head when coming and going.

Ralph Kercheval, now 97, and his wife, Blanche, managed the farm for Vanderbilt during its heyday, from 1948 to 1958. It was Kercheval who advised Vanderbilt on the breeding session that produced Native Dancer.

"We were so excited about his racing,

and then when 'Nate' retired the huge training barn was filled with top-class mares," recalled Blanche.

"Alfred would come down a lot of weekends. He was very smart and witty, and he loved the women. A number of famous friends would turn up. I remember watching the Maryland Hunt Cup with the Aga Khan from the top of one of our hills. It was a magical time."

Beyond the training barn are the former kitchen and dining room that were supervised by a Japanese-born cook, and the dormitory that housed as many as 70 grooms, exercise riders, and men who kept the farm running. The outdoor three-quarter-mile training strip was racetrack-quality. Farther ahead sits the equine cemetery, where such greats as Loser Weeper, Bed o' Roses, Discovery, and the incomparable Native Dancer were put to rest.

Sires Of

# Champions



## Not For Love

Mr. Prospector-Dance Number, by Northern Dancer  
2009 Stud Fee: \$25,000 Live Foal



## Partner's Hero

Danzig-Safely Home, by Winning Hit  
2009 Stud Fee: \$2,500 Live Foal

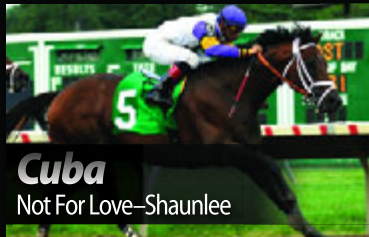
## Maryland Champion Older Female



### Smart and Fancy

Not For Love-Substitute Teacher

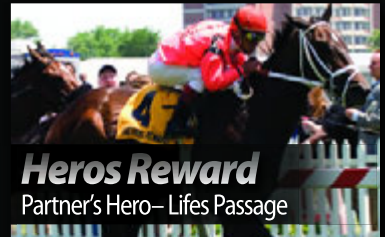
## New Jersey Champion Handicap Horse



### Cuba

Not For Love-Shaunlee

## Maryland Champion Older Male



### Heros Reward

Partner's Hero-Lifes Passage

## New Jersey Champion Juvenile Filly



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**REBUILDING A LEGEND**

After graduating from college, Mullikin spent seven years working as an IT guy for the Gannet Co. By then he had soured on taking the subway to work and the corporate grind. Through a friend he heard about a job at Machmer Hall, a farm near Paris, Ky., and stepped onto the lowest rung of the Thoroughbred world.

"Started out mucking stalls, and worked my way up," said Mullikin, a native of Silver Spring, Md. "I was living in a trailer with my girlfriend and two dogs, not making great money. But every day I went to work around these great athletes lifted my spirit."

In July 2006, when Mullikin and his family were driving through Baltimore, he met Plank and his wife, DJ, for dinner.

"He told me he wanted to get into the game," Mullikin recalled. "I said, 'that's great.' And he replied, 'No, I want us to do it together.' Best after-dinner conversation I've ever had."

Plank admits he could have hired someone with more seasoning to manage the iconic landmark.

"One of my greatest strengths is picking people," Plank explained. "I'm never sold on someone's lofty resumé, but rather how they perform at game time."

"Tom is hungry; he really wants this to succeed."

A friend put Plank in touch with then-owner Jim Ward, who had purchased the farm from Vanderbilt in 1986. Plank closed on the deal in February 2007.



The barns at Sagamore have been refurbished

"Kevin took the big swing and went for it," said Mullikin with a broad smile. "In the beginning I was a little overwhelmed. You see the old barns and buildings, the old track. It was like renovating a ghost town. Like climbing a mountain, you don't look up. We're taking it project by project and just keep our heads down and work hard."

Mullikin and his crew started the resurrection by hauling off 30 dumpsters of debris from the barns and outbuildings two years ago. They transformed 150 acres of cornfield into lush pastures once more. The first rebuilding phase was the installation of 10 miles of bright, white fencing, and refurbished houses on the property for Mullikin's family and five other employees. Blackburn Architects designed the renovations of the 22-stall broodmare barn and the 20-stall foaling barn.

As a late winter wind whips across Sagamore's grounds, Mullikin and his crew are

restoring the weed-choked, rock-strewn, three-quarter-mile training track. Later this year Plank's stock of young runners will turn up for morning gallops. Adjacent to the track resides a vintage, two-story clockers' tower and starting gate, reminders of glory days past.

Many local horsemen believe Plank can be the lightning bolt that re-ignites racing in Maryland.

"How do you create a buzz in Maryland?" he inquired. "It's not slots machines. How about watching horses breeze around this training track."

"That'll be special. We want them born here, broken here, and schooled here. Keep them here as long as we can before they head to the track."

"We're looking to produce great horses that run with a lot of heart. We're looking for winners and more winners. That's what it's all about." □

## 2009 Leading Sires in Virginia

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

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Virginia (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through March 11, 2009. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. \*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	2009 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2009 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	HAY HALO (84, Halo), Avonlea Farm	Died, 2008	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Crossroad's Gold, \$23,260)	\$53,474	*311	13	1.13	1.10
2	AARON'S GOLD (90, Slew o' Gold), Mortgage Hall Farm - Mrs. Calvin E. Rofe	\$1,000	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Ask the Price, \$13,200)	\$25,160	66	0	0.46	0.96
3	SECRET HELLO (87, Private Account)	Died, 2002	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Domi Knows, \$10,800)	\$18,740	*295	20	1.11	1.26
4	BOWLER'S WHARF (88, Pass the Tab)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Mymanmax, \$15,180)	\$15,180	43	1	0.87	1.14
5	LADINOS BAMBINO (96, Heading Back Home), Karl Johnson	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Ladino's C E O, \$11,860)	\$14,335	10	0	0.22	0.19

\*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.

## 2009 Leading Sires in West Virginia

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

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in West Virginia (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through March 11, 2009. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. \*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	2009 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2009 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	MAKIN (90, Danzig)	N/A	38/6	0/0	0/0	(Ridden Out, \$25,200)	\$144,995	177	3	0.81	0.74
2	PRIZED (86, Kris S.)	N/A	28/6	1/1	0/1	(Premio Loco, \$44,890)	\$140,496	*660	25	1.39	1.43
3	MEADOW MONSTER (91, Meadowlake), O'Sullivan Farms	\$3,000	28/5	0/0	0/0	(Green Suede Shoes, \$34,800)	\$127,023	296	8	1.05	1.14
4	LIMIT OUT (95, Northern Flagship), Naylee Farm	\$2,500	8/2	1/1	0/1	(Any Limit, \$95,000)	\$124,419	53	4	1.62	1.23
5	CIVILISATION (98, Gone West), Naylee Farm	\$3,500	33/3	0/0	0/0	(Prized Asset, \$15,900)	\$115,019	130	0	0.61	0.76

\*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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Photo: Barbara Livingston

New York-breds...they start with an Advantage.



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