

ARIZONA

ARKANSAS

COLORADO

KANSAS

LOUISIANA

MISSOURI

NEW MEXICO

OKLAHOMA

TEXAS

Early to Rise

Tom Early has overseen many advances in the Bayou State

BY DAN LIEBMAN

There once was a Louisiana breeder who purchased broodmares in the \$7,500-\$10,000 range. But last November he bought a mare for \$65,000, and in January he spent \$85,000 for another.

Tom Early smiles when telling that story. And he should. That a breeder in the Bayou State would upgrade his stock so dramatically is a direct reflection of the measures Early has helped push through during his tenure as head of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

“When I first came (to the LTBA), we didn’t own a magazine, there was no video poker, there were no slot machines, we didn’t own a sale company, and we paid breeders awards to first place only,” Early said in an interview Mardi Gras weekend.

“What came with the slots was an effort by breeders to go out and buy better-quality stock. They realized with the big money coming they would have to increase the level of their breeding stock. I used to say the catfish, the bottom feeders from Louisiana, showed up for the last three days of the Keeneland sale. Now they have moved up to the middle of the sale and have a real presence.”

They have that presence in part because of the hard work of Early, his staff and board members, the support of the state’s racetracks, and the relationship Early has built with

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ALEXANDER BARKOFF

Tom Early outside the offices of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association



ON THE FENCE OVER YOUR BREEDING CHOICE?

Look to Clear Creek Stud for a roster of Outstanding Stallions at affordable fees.

Clear Creek Stud is one of the premier breeding facilities in the entire south.

In operation since 1969, we have Forty Years of Devotion to the Thoroughbred!

AFTERNOON DEELITES

7 GRADED STAKES WINNERS! 22 STAKES WINNERS (6%)!
LIFETIME EARNINGS OF \$22 MILLION
Fee: \$3,000 9-1/\$3,500 LFSN

B. J.'S MARK

IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS
17% Stakes Horses • 78% Wnrs/Starters
Fee: \$1,000 9-1/\$1,500 LFSN

DOCTOR MIKE

7-TIME STAKES WINNER OF OVER HALF-A-MILLION
DOLLARS! Doc of the Bay wins Maiden Sp. Wt. by 4 3/4 lengths
Fee: \$1,000 9-1/\$1,500 LFSN

FORD EVERY STREAM

FROM FAMILY OF SMART STRIKE.
FIRST CROP OF 2-YEAR-OLDS WILL BE HARD TO MISS.
First foals are 2YOs of 2009. Fee: \$2,500 9-1/\$3,000 LFSN

IDE

48 winners of OVER \$100,000 each • 5% STAKES WINNERS.
5 Stakes Winners in 2008, including new track record holders
IDE LIKE A DOUBLE and JUNIOR COLLEGE..
Fee: \$2,500 9-1/\$3,000 LFSN

LION TAMER

G1 MILLIONAIRE SPRINTER/MILER.
First crop of yearlings look the part. Keep an eye on the sales ring!
Fee: \$2,500 9-1/multiple mare discounts

OLE REBEL

TONS OF SPEED, bred on the same cross as CITY ZIP.
First full crop (yearlings of 2009.) foals look awfully special.
Fee: \$1,500 9-1/\$2,000 LFSN

PLACID FUND

AVERAGE EARNINGS PER STARTER \$40,634.
Sire of FASS FEAT (\$267,440), PLACID STAR (\$265,600), and
J. D.'S BLUE BAYOU (\$185,720)
Fee: \$750 9-1/\$1,000 LFSN

PORTO FORICOS

HIGHEST AEI IN LOUISIANA 1.73.
First crop of Louisiana Breds are yearlings of 2009.
Fee: \$1,500 9-1/\$2,000 LFSN

STORM DAY

BRAND NEW STAKES WINNER STORMIN SOX
Delta Downs Premier Night Ragin Cajun S.
Fee: \$1,500 9-1/\$2,000 LFSN



FREE
E-nicks and
TrueNicks available

2009 Leading Sires in Louisiana

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

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Louisiana (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	YONAGUSKA (98, Cherokee Run), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$4,000	94/27	1/1	0/1	(Earth Living, \$100,000)	\$732,484	*347	7	1.16	1.31
2	LEESTOWN (94, Seattle Slew)	Died, 2008	97/21	2/2	2/2	(Tiger Monarch, \$61,200)	\$615,570	436	15	0.98	0.98
3	BRAHMS (97, Danzig), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	77/20	0/0	0/0	(Therogoesjojo, \$72,200)	\$473,005	*449	7	1.09	1.06
4	IDE (93, Forty Niner), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,000	63/15	0/0	0/0	(Bide, \$55,600)	\$455,220	394	14	1.30	1.19
5	AFTERNOON DEELITES (92, Private Terms), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,000	49/15	0/0	0/0	(Classy Deelites, \$51,450)	\$395,088	*490	22	1.28	1.53
6	STORM DAY (97, Storm Cat), Clear Creek Stud	\$1,500	67/13	1/1	1/1	(Stormin' Sox, \$36,120)	\$355,793	230	3	0.73	1.09
7	TIME BANDIT (96, Time for a Change), Heritage Stud	\$2,500	45/17	0/0	0/0	(Mysterious Bandit, \$39,300)	\$350,416	175	3	1.05	1.02
8	GOLD TRIBUTE (94, Mr. Prospector), Red River Farms	\$2,000	56/12	0/0	0/0	(Dancing Rebecca, \$60,000)	\$335,940	*353	4	1.06	1.20
9	SEFAPIANO (89, Fappiano), Landlock Equine Center	\$2,500	33/12	2/2	1/2	(Rolling Sea, \$48,000)	\$254,898	294	21	1.37	0.97
10	ZARBYEV (84, Nureyev), Foxwood Plantation	\$3,500	36/8	1/1	1/1	(Zarb's Ballerina, \$61,500)	\$254,571	*288	13	1.15	0.91
11	SNUCK IN (97, Montbrook), Matthews Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	72/13	0/0	0/0	(Gentsfinishfirst, \$26,900)	\$231,194	246	3	0.94	1.00
12	HONOR GLIDE (94, Honor Grades), Fanlew Farms	\$2,500	35/10	0/0	0/0	(Euroglide, \$51,800)	\$192,822	132	1	0.68	1.20
13	ROBYN DANCER (87, Crafty Prospector), Shady Lane Farm	N/A	51/13	0/0	0/0	(Savacool, \$32,800)	\$191,931	623	21	1.15	1.37
14	RICHTER SCALE (94, Habitony), Chad White Farm	\$2,500	54/13	0/0	0/0	(Calabria, \$24,060)	\$175,618	300	7	0.86	1.46
15	GOOD AND TOUGH (95, Carson City), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	44/9	0/0	0/0	(Aiken Cura, \$22,860)	\$172,676	*286	11	1.35	1.26
16	FINEST HOUR (94, Forty Niner), Camelot Farm	\$2,000	46/5	0/0	0/0	(Sparkling Diamond, \$28,200)	\$170,745	252	4	0.73	0.81
17	DEPUTY DIAMOND (95, Deputy Minister)	N/A	32/8	0/0	0/0	(Retief, \$26,400)	\$158,865	160	0	0.60	0.92
18	EASYFROMTHEGITGO (99, Dehere), 519 Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	19/9	0/0	0/0	(Cajun Hospitality, \$44,930)	\$156,001	78	0	0.69	1.13
19	STORM PASSAGE (99, Storm Cat), Red River Farms	\$1,500	16/6	0/0	0/0	(This Storms Moving, \$39,000)	\$154,680	64	0	0.77	1.13
20	ROYAL STRAND (IRE) (94, Royal Academy), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Costa Rising, \$32,250)	\$149,370	29	2	2.01	0.78
21	TOOLIGHTTOOQUIT (92, Dixieland Brass), Ryder River Ridge Farm	\$2,500	17/5	0/0	0/0	(Light and Dreamy, \$29,980)	\$148,975	128	6	1.10	1.13
22	FORTY WON (91, Forty Niner), Averett's Farm	\$1,000	18/6	0/0	0/0	(Princess Forty One, \$44,000)	\$140,860	166	3	0.86	0.88
23	PRINCE OF THE MT. (91, Mt. Livermore), Red River Farms	\$1,000	25/7	1/1	1/1	(Jeanne's Sweep, \$37,200)	\$138,937	125	6	0.82	0.83
24	LAKE AUSTIN (97, Storm Cat)	Died, 2007	20/4	0/0	0/0	(Austin's Buddy, \$28,830)	\$137,027	105	3	1.22	0.97
25	MY FRIEND MAX (92, Danzig), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	20/4	0/0	0/0	(Blend, \$25,100)	\$133,315	89	10	1.38	0.99

*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.

Statistically Speaking, You Can't Miss With This Pair

CAT STRIKE

STORM CAT - TEN CENTS A KISS, BY KEY TO THE MINT ~ \$1,500 LF

- 72% Runners from Foals
- 12 winners to date, including 2YO SW **GOLD BEACON**, first in two of three starts at two.
- Also sire of 2YO SP Miss Cady, never worse than third in four juvenile starts!

By sire of sires **STORM CAT**, **CAT STRIKE** is a half-brother to G1 millionaire **CORPORATE REPORT** (Travers S.-G1, etc.) and G3 SW **DRACHMA** among 17 stakes horses under his first dam. She is a half-sister to the dam of G1 SW **TONZARUN** (\$377,268).

TOOLIGHTTOOQUIT

DIXIELAND BRASS - RAKSH, BY FAPPIANO ~ \$2,500 LF

- 71% Runners from Foals
- 77% Winners from Runners
- \$55,796 Avg. Earnings per Runner

15% Stakes Horses from Runners, headed by 2008 2-time \$100,000 stakes winner **COACH MIKE** (\$378,550), first in 5 of 10 starts last year, all stakes events. Most recently 2nd in the \$100,000 Premier Night Matron S. on Feb. 7.

TOOLIGHTTOOQUIT is a stakes-winning grandson of **DIXIELAND BAND** out of a **FAPPIANO** daughter from the family of Champion **FARM**. Classic **NORTHERN DANCER/MR. PROSPECTOR** Nick!

1955 Williams Avenue, Natchitoches, LA 71457
318.352.6090 ■ 318.471.3532 (cell) ■ ryderriverridgefarms@yahoo.com

Ryder River Ridge

**2009 Louisiana Sires
By Stakes Winners**

Sire	Stks Wnrs	Stks Wins
Leestown.....	2.....	2
Sefapiano.....	2.....	2
Belek.....	1.....	1
Halos and Horns.....	1.....	1
Prince of the Mt.....	1.....	1
Storm Day.....	1.....	1
Yonaguska.....	1.....	1
Zarbyev.....	1.....	1

Louisiana lawmakers. One of the keys to such success is that Early can relate; he understands what is happening locally, and the history behind it, because he is a local. A native of New Orleans, he began working on a horse farm while in his teens, and Early and his wife, Chrisie, live on a farm where they breed and raise Thoroughbreds.

BIRDS AND HORSES

Early is one of 11 children (one is deceased) who almost all still reside in or near New Orleans. It makes for easy family reunions. "We had 86 for Christmas dinner one year," he said. His mother, Leah, was not a direct casualty of Hurricane Katrina, but died at age 90 after the storm. Early believes it broke her heart to see what had happened to her beloved city. His father, Mike, a former television station general manager,



Early and his wife, Chrisie

ALEXANDER BARKOFF

is now 92 and lives near Early's farm.

While in college at Loyola University New Orleans, Early began working for Harry Hahn at his Greenleaf Farm in Bush, La. "He taught me about horses during the day, and at night we

Jack Hebert's
All Star Thoroughbreds

Home to 2008 Leading Louisiana Freshman Sire
Top Five in the Entire Southwest
Fourth Leading Louisiana Sire by Mares Bred in 2008!

RAINMAKER

(Storm Cat–Antespend, by Spend a Buck)

- ★ First crop winners include maiden special winners RAINSHINE (by 3 3/4 lengths) and CALL NINE ONE ONE (by 3 1/2 lengths)
- ★ First crop 2YOs sold for up to \$165,000!!



Fee: \$2,500 – 17 Hands



GOLDEN SLEW

(Seattle Slew–Golden Bri, by Gold Alert)

- ★ Son of Triple Crown winner SEATTLE SLEW & C.C.A. Oaks-G1 SW GOLDEN BRI
- ★ Sire of PEACE OF GOLD, new open-company \$38,800 maiden special weights winner on 2/26

Fee: \$1,500

Jack Hebert's
All Star Thoroughbreds

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Alisha (337) 309-8979 • Rick Carroll (Manager) (337) 962-0033

Also Standing: RIDDLER'S REVENGE (by Gilded Time) • UNITED SPIRIT (by Mr. Prospector)

studied pedigrees," Early said. Early earned a degree in business administration.

"I promised my dad I would go back and get my degree, which I did. Of course, then I promptly went back to the farm for another breeding season."

Tom and Chrisie Early met in 1968 and married in 1972. They have three children: Bently, 30, works in the shipping industry; Pam, 29, works at the LTBA office and will soon return to nursing school; and Meghan, 25, is an accountant.

The Earlys bought 57 acres near Folsom on the north side of



COURTESY OF LOUISIANA THOROUGHBRED

Early has been the head of the LTBA since 1985



RULER'S COURT

Doneraile Court - Future Guest, by Copelan

Winner of the Grade 2 Norfolk S. by 14 lengths!

Won from 5f - 1 1/8 miles

Career earnings of \$235,900

Half-brother to 5 winners, incl. GSW WISE RIVER

MALIBU WESLEY

*Storm Cat - La Spia,
by Capote*

2009 runners incl.
**DOUBLE HELIX,
MALIBU BEAU, and
MALIBU MONKEY**

MIDDLESEX DRIVE

*Pine Bluff - York Woods,
by Mining*

Multiple Graded SW
of \$746,819
Sire of stakes-plcd.
Quistopher (\$153,563)

HOLLY HILL FARM

BOB & TRACY HEWLETT • BENTON, LA

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2009 Louisiana Sires By Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Yonaguska.....	94	27
Leestown.....	97	21
Brahms.....	77	20
Time Bandit.....	45	17
Ide.....	63	15
Afternoon Deelites.....	49	15
Snuck In.....	72	13
Storm Day.....	67	13
Richter Scale.....	54	13
Robyn Dancer.....	51	13
Gold Tribute.....	56	12
Sefapiano.....	33	12
Honor Glide.....	35	10
Good and Tough.....	44	9
Easyfromthegitgo.....	19	9
Rossini.....	39	8
Zarbyev.....	36	8
Deputy Diamond.....	32	8
Authenticate.....	31	7
Littlebitively.....	29	7
Prince of the Mt.....	25	7
Halos and Horns.....	15	7
In a Walk.....	22	6
Forty Won.....	18	6
Storm Passage.....	16	6
Placid Fund.....	14	6
Finest Hour.....	46	5
Valid Belfast.....	39	5
Count the Time.....	27	5
Littleexpectations.....	26	5
Kipper Kelly.....	18	5
Toolighttoquit.....	17	5
Worldly Ways (GB).....	16	5
Royal Strand (IRE).....	14	5
Like a Soldier.....	12	5
Millennium Wind.....	36	4
Lake Austin.....	20	4
My Friend Max.....	20	4
Laabity.....	18	4
Macabe.....	18	4
Seattle Sleet.....	16	4
Gift of Gib.....	8	4
Eriton.....	26	3
Wire Me Collect.....	19	3
Belek.....	16	3
Silky Sweep.....	16	3
Kimberlite Pipe.....	14	3
Run Production.....	14	3
A. P. Delta.....	12	3
Direct Hit.....	11	3

2009 Leading Sires in Texas

State sire lists updated daily online.

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For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Texas (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	VALID EXPECTATIONS (93, Valid Appeal), Lane's End Texas	\$10,000	62/17	1/1	1/1	(Valid Stripes, \$85,000)	\$436,890	471	32	1.39	1.32
2	PINE BLUFF (89, Danzig), Duncan 21 and Change Farm	N/A	35/6	0/0	0/0	(Stopbluffing, \$34,305)	\$181,213	*566	34	1.61	1.69
3	SWAMP (96, Slew City Slew), Collier Vet Clinic	\$1,000	10/4	1/2	1/1	(Snug, \$112,000)	\$163,816	24	1	1.43	1.22
4	MAGIC CAT (95, Storm Cat), Valor Farm	\$2,500	32/4	1/1	0/1	(Pacific Tsunami, \$35,400)	\$147,795	176	10	0.78	1.02
5	EARLY FLYER (98, Gilded Time), Valor Farm	\$3,500	20/7	0/0	0/0	(Come On Flyer, \$25,580)	\$134,786	89	3	1.35	0.94
6	OPEN FORUM (94, Deputy Minister), Delta Equine Center	\$2,500	24/11	0/0	0/0	(Glitter's Forum, \$38,400)	\$132,800	*412	11	0.99	1.34
7	SENECA JONES (90, Alydar), Asmussen Horse Center	\$1,500	17/3	1/1	1/1	(Tiffany Royal, \$75,000)	\$126,405	209	10	1.01	0.91
8	DOVE HUNT (91, Danzig), Lane's End Texas	\$2,000	25/5	0/0	0/0	(Ranger Danger, \$19,710)	\$67,131	302	10	0.95	1.11
9	UNCLE ABBIE (97, Kingmambo), Key Ranch	\$3,000	20/4	0/0	0/0	(Monica's Skirmish, \$13,750)	\$64,017	98	3	0.82	0.64
10	LIL'S LAD (95, Pine Bluff), Key Ranch	\$2,000	19/3	0/0	0/0	(Easter Bonus, \$30,670)	\$63,256	*185	7	0.91	1.25
11	NAEVUS (80, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2005	19/6	0/0	0/0	(Finish Line Ahead, \$13,298)	\$62,463	*711	32	1.20	0.96
12	DIXIELAND HEAT (90, Dixieland Band), Key Ranch	\$2,000	22/2	0/0	0/0	(Dixie Dust, \$25,480)	\$60,237	*244	9	1.19	1.05
13	THATS OUR BUCK (90, Buckaroo), Jamar LDK Farms	\$1,500	15/2	0/0	0/0	(Funny Buck, \$12,840)	\$59,377	190	4	0.79	0.70
14	TRULUCK (95, Conquistador Cielo), Lane's End Texas	\$2,000	22/2	0/0	0/0	(Pacific Amour, \$13,000)	\$57,861	134	2	0.78	0.74
15	COMMANCHERO (95, Unbridled), Mitchell County Vet Clinic	\$1,500	21/4	0/0	0/0	(Man Named Sue, \$13,860)	\$57,731	168	3	0.63	0.77
16	RIVER SQUALL (94, Summer Squall), Cedar Creek Farm	\$2,500	11/2	0/0	0/0	(Pretty Squall, \$34,080)	\$55,426	69	3	0.56	0.79
17	PANCHO VILLA (82, Secretariat)	Died, 2006	19/4	0/0	0/0	(Kitty Violet, \$14,580)	\$52,828	*613	22	0.93	1.39
18	HADIF (86, Clever Trick)	Pnsd	15/2	0/0	0/0	(Austin Lights, \$18,080)	\$51,721	372	24	0.85	1.08
19	CAPTAIN COUNTDOWN (96, Relaunch), Double S Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	17/4	0/0	0/0	(Wilby's Ray, \$9,636)	\$51,296	79	1	0.70	0.71
20	IRISH OPEN (84, Irish Tower)	Died, 2007	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Dot's Imp, \$11,580)	\$47,489	487	13	0.95	0.95

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Lake Pontchartrain in 1974. At their Brehon Farm, they raise horses and Tom Early's other passion, birds. He began racing homing pigeons as a kid, and over the years has bred various breeds of cockatoos, African greys, and macaws. The couple's current horse population consists of a dozen mares and five horses in training, some owned in partnership. The bird population is three breeding pairs of macaws.

In 1995 Early purchased the Our Native mare Nob Hill Native for \$2,600, and she has produced two Louisiana champion juvenile males: Early Goer (by Zuppardo's Prince), who in 1999 won the Louisiana Champions Day Juvenile Stakes and the Louisiana Futurity; and Nob Hill Deelite (by Afternoon Deelites), who won the same two races in 2005. Nob Hill Native has since died.

Among the mares at the farm is Dynamic Broad, by Broad

2009 Texas Sires By Winners		
Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Valid Expectations.....	62	17
Open Forum.....	24	11
Early Flyer.....	20	7
Pine Bluff.....	35	6
Naevus.....	19	6
Dove Hunt.....	25	5
Irish Open.....	16	5

Smart Breeders Bred to the Best Families... Here are Two Pedigrees That Can't Miss!

GO NOW ~ New to Texas in 2009!

- By **GO FOR GIN**, sire of 20+ SHs, including **ALBERT THE GREAT**, sire of 2009 G1 SW **ALBERTUS MAXIMUS** (B.C. Dirt Mile-G1, etc.)
- Out of a half-sister to Champion **SLEW O'GOLD** and Belmont S.-G1 winner **COASTAL**.
- Claiborne Farm family of Bourtai, dam of **BAYOU, LEEVEE, DELTA**, etc.
- **GO NOW** is a SW of \$376,119 who retired sound after 54 starts.



Go for Gin - Area, by Forty Niner
Fee: \$2,000 live foal
Accredited Texas Stallion

MINISTER OF FIRE~First Foals Arrive this Year!

- By **DEPUTY MINISTER** whose sons include leading sires **AWESOME AGAIN, TOUCH GOLD, SILVER DEPUTY**, etc.
- Out of SW **HORSAFIRE**, dam of 3 SWs, including G2 SW **INCINERATE** (\$553,556; dam of G1 SW **IN THE GOLD**, \$745,617, etc.) and G3 SW **FAN THE FIRE** (\$388,623).
- Minister of Fire sold for \$500,000 as weanling at Keeneland and brought \$800,000 as a Saratoga yearling, but was unraced due to injury on the track.

Deputy Minister - Horsafire, by Hold Your Peace
Fee: \$2,000 live foal
Accredited Texas Stallion
Nominated to the Breeders' Cup



COUNTRY GOLD EQUINE

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State sire lists updated daily online.
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For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Oklahoma (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	TACTICAL CAT (96, Storm Cat), Diamond G Ranch	\$2,500	76/26	1/1	0/1	(Tacky Cat, \$30,270)	\$416,761	418	22	1.21	1.38
2	DIAMOND (95, Mr. Prospector), Oklahoma Equine	\$2,500	41/8	0/0	0/0	(Movin' Out, \$89,040)	\$212,976	229	5	1.23	1.16
3	ARTAX (95, Marquetry), Diamond G Ranch	\$2,500	51/9	0/0	0/0	(Arpleasure, \$29,640)	\$209,364	369	6	1.11	1.45
4	EVANSVILLE SLEW (92, Slew City Slew), Diamond G Ranch	\$2,500	43/9	0/0	0/0	(Foxye's Boy, \$50,400)	\$200,284	*386	26	1.23	0.95
5	MALABAR GOLD (97, Unbridled), Winner's Circle Farms	N/A	54/8	0/0	0/0	(Stettler, \$28,500)	\$163,962	*206	3	0.69	1.13
6	DANCE MASTER (97, Gone West), JEH Stallion Station	\$3,000	40/7	0/0	0/0	(Sir Winston, \$33,600)	\$119,368	169	7	1.06	1.15
7	BOLD ANTHONY (90, Bold Ruckus), Pendergraft Farm	\$500	27/4	0/0	0/0	(Bold Amigo, \$16,800)	\$77,264	196	3	0.59	0.97
8	SENR SPEEDY (87, Fast Gold), Winner's Circle Farms	\$1,250	11/4	0/0	0/0	(King of Speed, \$46,560)	\$74,960	*270	5	0.87	0.90
9	PARADE GROUND (95, Kingmambo), Legend Farm	\$2,000	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Give No Ground, \$28,400)	\$67,068	136	3	0.91	1.17
10	LUCKY LIONEL (93, Mt. Livermore), Diamond G Ranch	\$2,500	29/1	0/0	0/0	(Lion Man, \$10,460)	\$49,364	255	11	1.31	1.31
11	GOLD REGENT (96, Mr. Prospector), Winner's Circle Farms	N/A	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Whiskey n' Me, \$16,200)	\$48,166	125	3	0.77	0.90
12	CONCERN (91, Broad Brush), Oklahoma Equine	\$2,500	19/2	0/0	0/0	(Lisselan Gardens, \$16,272)	\$47,804	249	10	1.07	1.61
13	BURBANK (93, Wild Again), Boyd Caster	\$1,000	12/3	0/0	0/0	(Explosive Okie, \$14,192)	\$46,271	80	2	0.91	0.76
14	JACK WILSON (88, Encino), Caines Stallion Station	\$1,000	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Romeos Wilson, \$36,410)	\$38,960	97	13	1.29	1.43
15	STAR PROGRAMMER (94, Storm Cat), Merrick Ranches	\$1,000	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Una de Gato, \$8,280)	\$38,435	206	0	0.36	0.69

*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.

**STORM CAT's Leading Money Earner
Outside of KENTUCKY**

Star Programmer

Graded Earner of \$827,498

Storm Cat-Bank Key, by Key to the Mint
2009 Fee: \$1,000 LFG
Nominated: OK-Bred Programs
OK Stallion Stakes

The Stars Are Out

2009 winners already include:

- UNA DE GATO**
- NEW wnr setting all the pace
- STAR'S CLASSIC CAT**
- 2nd KY win, both by 3 lengths
- SLATS AND HONEY**
- Six wins by nearly 25 lengths
- NO SMALL STAR**
- Three wins by nearly 15 lengths
- AINTTTHATAKICKINTHE**
- Three wins by nearly 19 lengths

MERRICK RANCHES

Joe Merrick, RR4, Box 292, Sayre, OK 73662
Cell 580.210.9182 / joemerrick14ranch@yahoo.com

Brush, purchased by Early for \$28,000 at the 2004 Keeneland November sale in foal to Jump Start. Last year Early bred the mare to a stallion he believed was on the rise, and he was right. She is in foal to Tapit.

Though he may hate to admit it to his Thoroughbred friends, Early bred one of his mares to a Quarter Horse stallion because the mare's foals all seemed to prefer sprinting. The result was En Trepeins Jewel, by First Down Jewel out of the En-

2009 Oklahoma Sires By Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Tactical Cat.....	76.....	26
Artax.....	51.....	9
Evansville Slew.....	43.....	9
Malabar Gold.....	54.....	8
Diamond.....	41.....	8
Dance Master.....	40.....	7
Star Programmer.....	16.....	5
Bold Anthony.....	27.....	4
Gold Regent.....	16.....	4
Senor Speedy.....	11.....	4
Prospector's Music.....	23.....	3
Burbank.....	12.....	3
Maghnatis.....	4.....	3
Concern.....	19.....	2
Barkerville.....	18.....	2
Parade Ground.....	12.....	2
Rare Brick.....	11.....	2
It'sallinthechase.....	10.....	2
Notable Cat.....	5.....	2

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tropy mare En Trepein. The only Quarter Horse Early has ever raced, she won three stakes, earned \$217,042, was a Louisiana and regional champion, and now is a member of his broodmare band.

JOB SECURITY

One day at Greenleaf Farm, Early mentioned to the LTBA field inspector that he would be interested in a similar job should it become available, which it did.

"We used to register the foals as accredited Louisiana-bred, and do the paperwork on every foal born in the state for The Jockey Club," Early said. "I started out as the field inspector, and one day Mr. Abadie (former LTBA secretary/treasurer Buddy Abadie) asked if I could type. And, I said, 'Yeah, I could type.'"

Because Abadie's secretary was about to become the first female racing official in the state, he needed to hire an assistant. So, Early took the position until it was time to head back into the field. "But he said he wanted me to stay full time and they would hire a new field inspector. That was 1975, and I've been there ever since."

When Abadie retired in 1985, Early took over, and he is now grooming the next head of the association, Roger Heitzmann, who has been his assistant the past five years. Early turned 61 in January, just a few weeks after his title was changed to chief executive officer.

Much has changed since Early became the group's secretary/treasurer nearly 25 years ago. He rattled off the list: "We bought the magazine (*Louisiana Thoroughbred*) in 1991; got video poker in 1991; OTBs in 1987; slots passed in 1998, with the first track up and running being Delta Downs in 2000; we formed the sale company in 1988."

Of course, the biggest development has been the addition of slots. "When we got slots, I promised my board we would have a Louisiana Champions Day at every race-track, and we do," Early said proudly. "The one true \$1-million day is at Delta Downs. Fair Grounds gives away \$1.1 million, but there are three Quarter Horse races, so we really only give away \$800,000. Evangeline is about \$750,000; Louisiana Downs is about \$650,000.

"I would like to get Fair Grounds to 1,500 slot machines," he added. "Our agreement is for 700, and they are operating 600. The one that is a phenomenon is Delta Downs."

The numbers certainly bear that out. Delta's purses the year prior to slots averaged \$50,000 a day; they are now at \$220,000. Evangeline has jumped from \$70,000 to \$213,000 and Louisiana Downs has risen from \$110,000 to \$201,000. Fair Grounds got a late start on slots in the fall of 2007 and did not open its full casino until last fall. Its purses are up from \$334,000 to \$346,000, but Early predicts about \$375,000 for the 2009-10 meeting.

Early has been in his position so long he has seen ownership change at every race-track in Louisiana.

2009 Arkansas Sires By Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Storm and a Half.....	60	12
Proudest Romeo.....	31	8
Hesabull.....	9	5
Smolderin Heart.....	21	4
Future Storm.....	22	3
Stark Ridge.....	7	3
Cinnamon Creek.....	5	3

Oklahoma's Future Looks Bright with These Young Stallions From Established Leading Sire Lines

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Bennett & Associates

\$2,500 Live Foal **Standing his first season**

Point Given – Santaria, by Star de Naskra

- Santa Anita Graded Stakes winner of \$248,680.
- First or second in 5 of 9 career starts, winning the \$200,000 G2 San Fernando S., defeating G1 SWs **TIAGO** and **JOHNNY EVES**, and 2nd in the \$250,000 G2 San Felipe S.
- The **leading** son of Horse of the Year and leading sire **POINT GIVEN** (\$5+ million in 2008 earnings) to retire to stud.
- Half-brother to G2 SW **MEDALLIST** (\$421,375). First three dams **ALL** Graded performers.

NEW for 2009

\$2,000 Live Foal **First foals are winning!**

Seattle Slew – Omi, by Wild Again

- Multiple Kentucky/Florida allowance winner by sire of sires **SEATTLE SLEW** out of a mare by sire of sires **WILD AGAIN**.
- 1st dam is G3 SW **OMI** (\$319,718), 2nd dam is G2-pl. SW **FLYING HEAT** (\$372,842).
- \$4.2 million yearling
- First foals, 2YOs in 2008, include Someotherspring, who has won or placed in 3 of 4 starts; Phantom's Diva, winner in her 2yo debut; and 3yo Turkey Hunter, maiden special winner on Feb. 20!

DISTINCTION



OCEAN TERRACE



\$2,000 Live Foal **#1 2009 Oklahoma Second-Crop Sire**

Saint Ballado – Crystal River, by Black Tie Affair (Ire)

- Four first-crop 2yo winners, including **Ocean Ace** (3rd \$110,075 Jim Edgar Illinois Futurity), **Against the Tide** (3rd \$50,000 Edmonton Juvenile S.), and **Foxy Bailey**, stakes-placed on Feb. 16!
- First starter, **Cowboy At Heart**, ran second at Keeneland!
- Three Southern hemisphere 2yo winners, two which won first out!
- **OCEAN TERRACE** won G3 El Camino Real Derby, defeating **MINISTERS WILD CAT**, **TEN MOST WANTED**, etc.
- Oklahoma's **ONLY** GSW Son of **SAINT BALLADO**.

\$1,500 Live Foal **First foals are yearlings in 2009!**

Deputy Minister – Miss Ra He Ra, by Rahy

- By the leading sire of leading sires **AWESOME AGAIN**, **DEHERE**, **SILVER DEPUTY**, **TOUCH GOLD**, etc.
- Out of G3 SW **MISS RA HE RA**, dam of G2 pl **Dancing Band**.
- 2nd dam is a half-sister to Broodmare of the Year **Primal Force**, dam of leading sires **MACHO UNO** (Champion) and **AWESOME AGAIN** (also by **DEPUTY MINISTER**).

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2009 Leading Sires in Arkansas

State sire lists updated daily online.
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								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	STORM AND A HALF (97, Storm Cat), McDowell Farm	\$2,500	60/12	0/0	0/0	(Southern Sister, \$27,600)	\$211,613	277	11	0.96	1.07
2	PROUDEST ROMEO (90, Proud Truth), Kilkerry Farm	N/A	31/8	0/0	0/0	(Affirmed Truth, \$44,500)	\$166,647	154	6	1.09	1.11
3	HESABULL (93, Dispersal), Lake Hamilton Equine Associates	\$1,000	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Taurus, \$27,000)	\$67,148	77	4	1.12	1.35
4	SMOLDERIN HEART (95, Two Punch)	Died, 2004	21/4	0/0	0/0	(Heart Ack Road, \$20,400)	\$65,030	59	1	0.63	0.79
5	FUTURE STORM (90, Storm Cat), Against the Wind Farm	\$1,500	22/3	0/0	0/0	(Chief Bill, \$18,940)	\$62,022	*448	12	0.94	1.41
6	CINNAMON CREEK (95, Darn That Alarm), Three Boys Stables	\$1,500	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Cinnamon Snapp, \$27,600)	\$52,140	75	1	0.50	0.70
7	ILE ST. LOUIS (CHI) (97, Hussonet), Bello Vita Thoroughbreds	\$1,000	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Chief Jay, \$35,400)	\$50,112	29	0	0.54	0.85
8	SHARKEY (87, Sharpen Up), Against the Wind Farm	\$1,500	14/1	0/0	0/0	(Blazinett, \$27,086)	\$40,416	157	5	0.89	0.73
9	GOODBYE DOENY (91, Storm Cat)	N/A	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Easy Drifter, \$19,200)	\$38,890	198	3	0.63	0.69
10	IDABEL (86, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2004	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Jack's Lil Bit, \$12,300)	\$35,249	*179	8	0.74	0.93

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"That has been the biggest change, seeing all of the tracks now owned by corporate America where they were once owned by family interests," he said. "Lee Berwick used to own Delta Downs; Billy Trotter used to own Evangeline Downs; the Krantzes, or Louie Roussel, or Joe Dorignac, used to own Fair Grounds; Louisiana Downs, even though it was owned by the DeBartolo family, you could talk to Dr. (John) York. Now, it is a multi-step process to get something done. I'm not saying it is bad, it is just different."

As for the future, Early has some thoughts on what he would like to see happen in his home state. One is a permanent facility for Thoroughbred auctions.

There was a sale company in existence in Louisiana until the mid 1970s, when Fasig-Tipton began conducting auctions in the state. But after about 10 years, Fasig-Tipton quit holding a yearling sale and a few years later also discontinued having a

"I would like to see the money emphasized more in the higher claiming races or allowance races"

TOM EARLY

sale of 2-year-olds in training.

"I went to my board and we formed the sale company in 1988, with the first sale at Fair Grounds," Early recalled. "In 1994 or 1995 we moved the sale to Louisiana Downs. We've moved it around a lot, from Fair Grounds to Louisiana Downs, back to Fair Grounds, back to Louisiana Downs. Now we are in West Monroe, La., which is a long way from a racetrack. We had a

good sale there last year, but I would still like to see us have a sale facility either in the New Orleans area or Shreveport area close to a racetrack. It would not only make it more convenient to go to a horse sale, but you might get a guy who comes just because it is close and then he decides to buy a horse."

To help underscore the continued need to upgrade both racing and breeding stock, Early would also like to see some purses raised, others lowered.

"This might be a little controversial, but I would like to see the money emphasized more in the higher claiming races or allowance races," Early said. "Let the cheaper horses run for a purse of lesser value. I think it is not good for the whole economic outlook to have cheap, cheap horses running for big purses. True, I've been the beneficiary of it on some occasions, but I'm still in favor of having bigger purses for winning better races." 🐾

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