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Saved...for Now

*Two-year agreement
buys time for Ontario racing*

BY ALEX CAMPBELL

IT'S BEEN QUITE a year for those in the Ontario horse racing industry since the provincial government announced in February 2012 its intention to cancel the lucrative slots-at-racetracks program as a way to trim budget deficits.

"It was tough for us, and I think it was tough for other people, too," said Michael Byrne, a breeder and owner of Park Stud, home to three stallions in 2013, including the Spendthrift duo of Court Vision and Victor's Cry. "But I was always optimistic because I kept telling people somewhere common sense will prevail here."

Over the past 12 months industry representatives have been negotiating with the government in an attempt to save the industry, and those negotiations resulted in a two-year transitional funding agreement with Woodbine Entertainment Group to continue live racing at both Woodbine and Mohawk racetracks through the end of the 2014 season. With the Woodbine agreement now in place, other tracks are expected to reach similar pacts with the province in the near future.

The agreement, announced by WEG at a press conference in January, will see 133 Thoroughbred dates run at Woodbine in 2013—a 15% decrease from the 156 run there in 2012, although 167 dates were originally scheduled—along with 183 Standardbred dates split between Woodbine and Mohawk. WEG has also committed to running several major Thoroughbred stakes including the Queen's Plate, the Ricoh Woodbine Mile (Can-IT), and Pattison Canadian International (Can-IT) this season, while keeping the average daily purse for Thoroughbreds comparable to the \$508,722 U.S. that was distributed per day last season. The 2013 Thoroughbred meet will begin April 20, with the backstretch opening March 1.

"This long-awaited agreement offers stability while WEG and our partners in horse racing work with government toward a long-term sustainability solution," said Jim Law-



Canada's Woodbine Racetrack will host 133 Thoroughbred dates in 2013



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2013 Leading Sires in Canada

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee Can \$	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2013 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	WILKO (02, Awesome Again), Highfield Stock Farm	\$2,000	19/5	1/1	1/1	(Qiaona, \$165,000)	\$228,397	*114	2	0.72	1.40
2	MILWAUKEE BREW (97, Wild Again), Adena Springs	\$10,000	43/7	0/0	0/0	(Procurement, \$34,800)	\$208,626	*431	17	1.21	1.60
3	SLIGO BAY (IRE) (98, Sadler's Wells), Adena Springs	\$6,000	28/5	1/1	1/1	(Regalo Mia, \$90,000)	\$158,642	*314	8	1.09	1.51
4	OLMODAVOR (99, A.P. Indy), Rivard Stables	\$1,250	29/5	0/0	0/0	(Persuasive Paul, \$33,850)	\$110,668	*230	8	0.88	1.37
5	GOLD LEGEND (90, Seattle Slew)	Died	5/2	2/2	2/2	(Coyote Legend, \$60,000)	\$92,544	414	21	1.23	1.14
6	FORMAL GOLD (93, Black Tie Affair), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	25/2	0/0	0/0	(Gotta Go Gold, \$16,400)	\$68,639	476	19	1.13	1.34
7	NORTH LIGHT (IRE) (01, Danehill), Adena Springs	\$7,500	34/3	0/0	0/0	(Feisty Albert, \$16,160)	\$68,319	*287	7	1.17	1.51
8	SKIMMING (96, Nureyev), Pacific Stud	\$4,000	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Mah Gellin, \$28,080)	\$58,305	314	14	0.80	1.07
9	FOREST GROVE (01, Forestry), Canmor Farms	\$2,500	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Liberty for All, \$19,320)	\$53,696	88	2	0.98	1.33
10	FINALITY (99, Dehere), Red Rock Farm	\$2,500	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Racing for Gold, \$12,075)	\$50,930	192	12	0.70	0.79
11	SILENT NAME (JPN) (02, Sunday Silence), Adena Springs	\$5,000	14/0	0/0	0/0	(Silentio, \$18,000)	\$46,390	*152	4	1.26	1.31
12	BOLD EXECUTIVE (84, Bold Ruckus)	Died, 2011	15/2	0/0	0/0	(Finally Together, \$18,600)	\$45,835	777	45	1.65	1.30
13	WANDO (00, Langfuhr), Schonberg Farm	\$3,500	18/3	0/0	0/0	(Rusted Through, \$9,600)	\$41,705	*124	2	1.31	1.21
14	QUEST (99, Seeking the Gold), Dunroven Farm	\$1,000	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Charlie's Quest, \$18,450)	\$39,333	79	2	0.88	1.48
15	MARCAVELLY (04, Johannesburg), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$2,500	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Bright Away, \$19,450)	\$37,220	54	0	0.53	1.13
16	WHERE'S THE RING (99, Seeking the Gold), Mapleville Farms	\$4,000	6/3	1/1	0/1	(Thatboathassailed, \$9,600)	\$29,621	220	8	1.59	1.40
17	THUNDERELLO (99, Montbrook), Simmons Ranch	\$2,000	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Raised for Speed, \$16,200)	\$25,877	*165	3	1.03	1.09
18	GILDED TIME (90, Timeless Moment), Bar None Ranches	N/A	11/1	0/0	0/0	(Lookinforchange, \$11,880)	\$24,763	*1243	53	1.36	1.61
19	EXPLICIT (97, Distant View)	Died	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Serene Queen, \$15,200)	\$23,848	163	5	0.81	0.82
20	STORM VICTORY (00, Storm Cat), Klimes Farm	\$2,000	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Vernon Cat, \$6,372)	\$23,294	142	8	0.62	0.62
21	THE TRADER'S ECHO (94, Eastern Echo), Bar 17 Stable	\$3,000	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Hearing Voices, \$22,622)	\$22,937	57	0	0.68	1.00
22	STEPHANOTIS (93, Regal Classic), Canmor Farms	\$2,000	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Notis Her, \$10,643)	\$21,113	280	13	0.71	0.81
23	ROSBERG (01, A.P. Indy), Canmor Farms	\$3,000	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Mark, \$8,322)	\$20,921	32	0	0.33	1.02
24	OLD FORESTER (01, Forestry), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$7,500	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Clearcutadvantage, \$9,700)	\$19,490	174	7	1.75	1.50
25	COBRA KING (93, Farma Way), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Memo to Mya, \$16,658)	\$16,919	290	10	0.93	1.06
26	FLAMING WEST (94, Gone West)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Lornefivehundred, \$15,600)	\$15,659	44	0	0.39	0.59
27	TETHRA (92, Cure the Blues), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$2,500	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Perrito, \$10,400)	\$14,800	302	10	1.24	1.35
28	SHOWING UP (03, Strategic Mission), Adena Springs Canada	\$5,000	10/0	0/0	0/0	(Fessed Up, \$3,640)	\$14,745	76	0	0.49	1.44
29	SAFFIR (02, Unbridled), Spring Farm	N/A	1/0	0/0	0/0	(Haverhill, \$14,322)	\$14,322	38	0	1.82	1.28
30	WHISKEY WISDOM (93, Wild Again), Esquirol Farms	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Drunken Love, \$9,976)	\$12,476	353	17	1.53	1.47

son, chairman of the board of directors of WEG. "It's clear to us that this is only a short-term fix, and sustainability can only be achieved by the integration of horse racing into the province's gaming strategy."

Along with the transitional funding agreement, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation announced in January they have reached lease agreements with eight racetracks throughout the province, including Woodbine and Mohawk. Eleven racetracks will continue to feature slot parlors at their facilities after the slots-at-racetrack program ends March 31.

The arrangement will be very different than what the industry is used to, however. Nick Eaves, president and chief executive officer of WEG, noted that the agreements reached with each racetrack wouldn't provide the same benefits that the old revenue sharing program used to offer.

"They are treating it as a more standard form of commercial lease," he said. "Whereas in the past the industry benefited from a percentage—20% of net win from gaming at their facilities—the new calculation for this short-term period is more of a standard form lease agreement."

Eaves added that the old model was a



Nick Eaves, president and CEO of Woodbine Entertainment Group

sensible one because the funds allowed the racing industry in Ontario to invest in ways that grew its business. For Woodbine in particular, Eaves pointed out that hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested in infrastructure upgrades, from

2013 Canada Sires by Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Milwaukee Brew	43	7
Olmodavor	29	5
Sligo Bay (IRE)	28	5
Wilko	19	5
Forest Grove	12	5
Skimming	16	4
North Light (IRE)	34	3
Wando	18	3
Finality	14	3
Paynes Bay	11	3
Stephanotis	6	3
Where's the Ring	6	3
Thunderello	4	3
Rosberg	3	3
Formal Gold	25	2
Bold Executive	15	2
Quest	10	2
Storm Victory	8	2
Explicit	6	2
Gold Legend	5	2
Peaks and Valleys	5	2
Vibank	5	2
Mr. Jester	4	2
Old Forester	4	2
Second in Command	4	2
Marcavelly	3	2

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2009 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through February 19, 2013. 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.

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2013 Leading Sires in Illinois



Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	SHORE BREEZE (98, Danzig), Eagle Valley Farm North	\$1,000	24/5	0/0	0/0	(Champagne Tony, \$10,080)	\$46,703	147	1	0.91	0.79
2	CRYPTO STAR (94, Cryptoclearance)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Fred High, \$34,200)	\$40,510	183	3	0.88	1.01
3	SILVER ZIPPER (97, Unzipped), Chris Ryan	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(No Mo Moe, \$10,560)	\$10,560	12	0	0.68	0.54
4	CHEROKEE RAP (01, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2012	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Foxye's Sly Won, \$5,600)	\$10,361	60	3	1.21	1.16
5	BEN BULBEN (02, Pioneering), Eagle Valley Farm North	\$1,000	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Hiyaben, \$7,380)	\$7,680	28	0	0.88	0.96

2013 Leading Sires in Michigan

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	GNEISS (91, Diesis)	Died, 2011	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Dorsey's Dream, \$21,060)	\$24,176	62	1	0.67	0.82
2	MEADOW PRAYER (95, Meadowlake)	Died	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Classy Prayer, \$9,875)	\$14,505	145	13	1.05	0.78
3	EQUALITY (99, Mt. Livermore), Dickinson Farms	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Chariot Char, \$8,400)	\$10,850	144	7	0.69	0.83
4	ELUSIVE HOUR (00, Elusive Quality), Belair Farm	\$1,500	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Elusive Vidar, \$9,390)	\$10,457	67	4	0.83	0.69
5	DEMALOOT DEMASHOOT (90, Bold Ruckus), McMaster Farm	\$1,000	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Sapphire Shot, \$2,800)	\$5,320	313	9	0.89	1.10

consumer amenities on the frontside to upgrades in racing surfaces and broadcast technology to improved stabling areas on the backstretch.

"The old model was a very effective stimulant for encouraging investment in and focus on the horse racing industry," he said.

With the reduction in race dates, and the change in the agreement with the lottery and gaming corporation, WEG has opted to restructure its operating model significantly as a way to reduce costs. As a result, WEG announced in February that it had reduced its workforce by 109 salaried positions through the entire organization since late 2012, from the executive offices to frontline employees. A significant number of hourly positions have also been eliminated. Layoffs began once the Thoroughbred meet concluded in December.

"This restructuring of our operations is

absolutely necessary to ensure the viability of our business during this period of transition," Lawson said.

Despite the cancellation of the slots-at-racetracks program, WEG is still pursuing a full-scale casino, or expanded gaming, at its Rexdale, Ontario, facility. The organization has been lobbying the city of Toronto to be named the host municipality of the C2 gaming zone—separate from any proposed downtown Toronto casino—and has participated in a number of public consultation events to make its case. WEG's own poll suggested that more than 60% of citizens who live in the local area support a casino at Woodbine. City staff are expected to submit their findings to Toronto's executive committee in April.

Woodbine's pursuit of a casino may raise eyebrows after the government-commissioned Horse Racing Transition Panel

proposed a model in late October whereby purses for horse racing would be tied to pari-mutuel handle. If a larger casino were to be opened on the Woodbine property, it's possible that customers would go from the horse racing floor to the casino, decreasing the handle on live racing. But Eaves was quick to point out that WEG's not-for-profit structure ensures that any revenue generated at the facility—whether it's from horse racing, a casino, or food and beverage—would help the horse racing product.

"We have a mandate to ensure that we're reinvesting back in the business; it doesn't matter where the revenue comes from," he said. "We would use all sources of revenue to invest in the very best racing product."

Fort Erie Racetrack, on the other hand, which just completed its 115th season of live racing in 2012, is in a much different position.



MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOS

Because the slots facility at the track closed in April 2012 the future of racing at Fort Erie is in question

2013 Leading Sires in Ohio

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	LUNARPAL (02, Successful Appeal), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farms	\$2,000	25/5	0/0	0/0	(Moon Larry, \$61,200)	\$155,741	97	2	0.85	1.07
2	OUTRAGEOUSLYFUNNY (02, Distorted Humor), Poplar Creek Horse Center	N/A	2/1	1/1	0/1	(Funnys Approval, \$150,000)	\$150,178	7	1	1.59	0.93
3	THE CLIFF'S EDGE (01, Gulch), Fair Winds Farm	\$2,500	22/2	0/0	0/0	(Taste the Fortune, \$28,040)	\$74,810	214	4	0.89	1.22
4	LIGHTNIN N THUNDER (01, Storm Cat), Frontrunner Thoroughbreds	N/A	14/5	0/0	0/0	(Super Jetset, \$30,536)	\$70,170	178	7	0.90	1.12
5	PACIFIC WAVES (93, Seattle Slew), Raimonde Farms	\$1,000	7/4	0/0	0/0	(Plain Ol' Willard, \$9,114)	\$24,092	73	2	0.74	0.93
6	TROPICAL STORM (00, Storm Cat), Raimonde Farms	\$1,500	9/1	0/0	0/0	(El Oh El A, \$11,260)	\$23,757	*84	0	0.59	0.77
7	AENEAS (99, Capote), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,000	20/2	0/0	0/0	(To Vegas, \$6,420)	\$18,499	78	0	0.32	0.87
8	MR. SINATRA (94, Mining), Richards Farm	\$500	7/0	0/0	0/0	(Jennifer's Romeo, \$3,380)	\$11,996	58	0	0.92	1.14
9	NOON PROSPECT (86, Mr. Prospector)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Glory to Three, \$9,256)	\$10,882	82	0	0.33	0.41
10	KENTUCKY DANE (00, Danehill)	N/A	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Hotrod Haywagon, \$5,670)	\$10,650	18	1	0.44	0.52

In an effort to make its case more appealing to the province, the Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium, which operates live racing at Fort Erie Racetrack, announced in February that it had renegotiated its lease agreement with the Nordic Gaming Corporation, the owner of the racetrack facility. The new lease would see the FELRC pay \$395,000 per year for the next two years, a significant savings from the \$650,000 annual fee that was previously agreed to.

"The reduction of \$255,000 in annual payments will go a long way toward helping Fort Erie make a case in our negotiations with the province for race date approvals and transitional funding," said Jim Thibert, CEO of the FELRC.

But even with the reduction, the FELRC is concerned with one condition the province has set before transitional funding will be paid out. According to Thibert, the FELRC has not had any discussions with the province since late December and is hearing from other tracks involved in negotiations that the government is requiring tracks to lease space for other forms of gaming to the OLG. Fort Erie had its slot facility closed in April 2012, and the OLG has made no plans to expand gaming to the area as part of its modernization plan.

"We have no control over the matter, with the OLG and the province having unilaterally decided to remove the slots at Fort Erie," Thibert said. "When we offered to be the first in the province as private-sector operators of slots, the OLG and province excluded us from that oppor-

tunity and excluded us from any of the 29 gaming zones in Ontario."

Thibert is hopeful that the announcement of the lease reduction will be enough to bring the province to the table, however.

"We are optimistic the province will engage us soon and are very pleased we can offer even more value to our business plan through this generous rent reduction and lease for the next two years," he said.

How the short-term fix for racing will impact the breeding industry in Ontario is still unknown, as breeders try to recover from the 47% decline in median price at the Canadian-bred yearling sale last September and an 8% decline in the number of mares bred to Ontario stallions last season.

Despite the cancellation of the slots-at-racetracks program, Park Stud stallions Court Vision and Victor's Cry were among the top in Ontario in terms of mares bred, ranking third and fourth, respectively, behind Philanthropist and Old Forester. Court Vision in particular led all freshman sires in the province with 84 mares bred last season, according to the 2012 Thoroughbred Mares Bred report from The Jockey Club, but Byrne believes there would have been more interest in the five-time



Stallion Court Vision at Woodbine in 2011

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2013 Leading Sires in Indiana

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	DESERT WARRIOR (00, Deputy Minister), Haffner Farm	\$1,500	23/5	0/0	0/0	(Warrior Up, \$39,900)	\$169,677	*239	0	0.87	0.98
2	STRONG HOPE (00, Grand Slam), Midwest Equine & Veterinary Hospital	\$2,500	39/11	0/0	0/0	(Bullet Catcher, \$16,200)	\$153,177	291	5	1.01	1.79
3	SPANISH STEPS (01, Unbridled), Lake Shore Farm	\$5,000	28/4	1/1	0/1	(Animal Style, \$68,400)	\$151,947	211	7	1.54	1.33
4	DOMESTIC DISPUTE (00, Unbridled's Song), Indiana Stallion Station	\$2,000	29/8	0/0	0/0	(A Lady Called Max, \$22,680)	\$150,184	*306	1	0.92	1.23
5	ALLUVIAL (02, Forestry), Still Creek Farms	\$1,500	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Mi Viento, \$18,400)	\$64,096	117	0	0.52	0.87
6	ACTION THIS DAY (01, Kris S.), Indiana Stallion Station	\$1,000	34/3	0/0	0/0	(Rare Action, \$7,800)	\$39,303	248	3	0.67	1.28
7	CHIEF SEATTLE (97, Seattle Slew)	Died, 2011	15/0	0/0	0/0	(Crown the Chief, \$12,400)	\$36,052	*415	11	1.18	1.33
8	SIR SHACKLETON (01, Miswaki), Indiana Stallion Station	\$1,000	11/2	0/0	0/0	(Unshackled Rouge, \$9,310)	\$33,941	*87	1	0.59	1.14
9	DREWMAN (98, Unbridled), Breakway Farm	\$1,500	8/2	0/0	0/0	(The Silver Machine, \$12,250)	\$25,216	209	4	0.82	1.28
10	ENTREPRENEUR (97, Cure the Blues), Nicks Stables	\$1,000	10/1	0/0	0/0	(In Motion, \$11,700)	\$22,618	67	0	0.58	0.89



Woodbine is home to top races such as the Canadian International

grade I winner from breeders had the slots program not been cancelled.

"I was disappointed. I thought we would get around 100 mares, and I think we were on our way there," he said. "When the announcement was made, a lot of people were scared. We didn't have any cancellations; people that were booked and had confirmed showed up, but I think it would have been more."

The recent improvement in market conditions with the combination of the new agreement for Woodbine and the announcement of Kathleen Wynne as Ontario's new Premier and Agricultural Minister in January now has some breeders encouraged. At Park Stud, Byrne noted that between six and eight mares were booked to stallions there within 48 hours of Wynne's appointment.

But there's still skepticism among other breeders, particularly with the length of the agreement.

The Stars Are The Limit with

Star Cat

First Crop Yearlings Sold in Kentucky in 2012 For More Than **NINE** Times His Fee!

By 2012 Leading Broodmare Sire **STORM CAT** – the Sire Line of 2012!
Sire of 2012 Leading Sire **GIANT'S CAUSEWAY**.

Same **STORM CAT/HALO** cross that produced the sire of 2012 Leading Juvenile Sire **HARLAN'S HOLIDAY**, sire of Champion **SHANGHAI BOBBY**.

The first foal out of multiple Eclipse Champion **ASHADO** (G1, \$3,931,440, 106 Beyer) – a \$9,000,000 FULL sister to Top-10 Freshman Sire of 2011 **SUNRIVER** (G1, \$816,414, 108 Beyer), sire of multiple Grade 1 2YO SW **WEEMISSFRANKIE** (\$559,920).

First Foals Two-Year-Olds in 2013

2013 Fee: \$2,500 LF (due Nov. 1, 2013)
Breeders' Cup & Indiana Nominated | Property of Cedar Creek Ranch



STORM CAT-ASHADO, BY SAINT BALLADO

BREAKWAY FARM

Janice Jordan, Farm Mgr. | 13700 US Hwy 50, Dillsboro, IN 47018 | (812) 584-1967 | Farm/Fax (812) 432-3221

2013 Leading Sires in Minnesota

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2013 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	KELA (98, Numerous), Stillwater Equine Clinic	N/A	34/14	0/0	0/0	(Moonshine Bay, \$58,000)	\$240,199	*207	3	1.00	1.03
2	GOLD FEVER (93, Forty Niner)	Died, 2009	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Hop Skip and Away, \$41,800)	\$42,974	*436	10	1.22	1.30
3	FORD EVERY STREAM (99, Seeking the Gold), Nightmare Stables	\$1,000	17/1	0/0	0/0	(Classic Ford, \$15,400)	\$39,371	129	1	0.58	0.85
4	MAGIC CAT (95, Storm Cat)	N/A	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Kitty Blonde, \$8,200)	\$33,162	218	11	0.69	0.94
5	JOEY FRANCO (99, Avenue of Flags), Osborne Farm	\$1,800	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Bobby Handy, \$13,600)	\$25,872	65	1	0.51	0.77

“From conversations with others in the industry, there seems to be a glimmer of hope based on the agreement with Woodbine and Wynne taking over as Premier,” said Keith McClelland, owner of Stoneleigh Farm in Rockwood, Ontario. “The main problem with the agreement is its stop-gap nature. Two years is not even one half of a breeding cycle. It is still making it difficult to make future decisions based on what we have heard so far.”

McClelland’s broodmare band features four mares, three of which will be bred to Ontario stallions in 2013, including one each to Court Vision and Victor’s Cry, while one will be sent to Kentucky.

Byrne, meanwhile, is scaling back with his own broodmare band. Before the cancellation of the slots-at-racetracks program, he would typically breed close to 30 mares but estimates only 20 will be bred this year.

Moving forward, these breeders believe the Thoroughbred industry in Ontario would benefit in the long term by working with provincial elected officials and by having someone within the government that understands the inner workings of the horse racing industry.

“We need a commitment from the government that racing will be an integral part of the gaming strategy and overall plan for rural Ontario,” Byrne said. “(Former Agricultural Minister) Ted McMeekin has admitted that his government dropped the ball on this issue, and now we need them to pick it up. There needs to be a person in the agriculture ministry who is dedicated to the racing industry and understands the nature of the business. This has not been the case in the past.”

Byrne added that a casino at Woodbine—and the funding that would come along with it—would help bring long-term stability to the industry that’s been missing for the past year.

“It has to work for the government, it has to work for OLG, and it has to work for Woodbine and the horsemen,” he said. “For me, that’s the ideal world. They sit down and work out a deal where part of the funding goes to the stakeholders of the industry—the horsemen.”

With two years left until the expiration of this new agreement for Ontario racing, Byrne is hopeful that a permanent solu-

tion can be figured out.

“The two-year agreement at least gives us time to look to the future and make peo-

ple address it,” he said. “Sure, you’d like to have a longer one, but in relation to what’s happened, at least there’s time here.” **BH**

NOBLE’S PROMISE

Cuvee – The Devil’s Trick, by Clever Trick



SHIGEKI KIKKAWA PHOTO

**Nominated to
Indiana
Stallion Stakes**

ASSIGNED SECOND HIGHEST WEIGHT ON HIS EXPERIMENTAL FREE HANDICAP

- Second only to Experimental Free Co-Highweights **LOOKIN AT LUCKY** and **VALE OF YORK**
- Winner of the \$500,000 Dixiana Breeders’ Futurity-G1
3rd \$2,000,000 Grey Goose Breeders’ Cup Juvenile-G1
2nd \$750,000 CashCall Futurity-G1
- Won Churchill’s Aristides S.-G3, 6F, 1:08%, 103 Beyer
- Graded Performer every year from 2 to 5 earning \$1,182,776
- From the **CARSON CITY** sire line of 2012 Leading Sire **CITY ZIP**
- Female family of the incredible Darby Dan matriarch **SOARING**

2013 FEE: \$2,500 LIVE FOAL

(due Nov. 1, 2013)

BREAKWAY FARM

Dillsboro, Indiana

Inquiries to Janice Jordan, Breakway Farm, 10887 Racing Lane, Dillsboro, IN 47018.
Phone (812) 432-3221. Cell (812) 584-1967. Email: breakwayfarms@embarqmail.com
Website: www.breakwayfarm.com