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Clean Sweep

*Hronis Racing tops California's
major meets in 2013*

BY TRACY GANTZ

KOSTA HRONIS CLAIMED his first horse, Sleep Tight, with trainer John Sadler in February 2010, just as that year's 2-year-old sales calendar revved up. As Sadler began his preparations to buy for other clients, Hronis asked if he could get a 2-year-old.

"No, you're too new," Sadler told him. "You don't get any 2-year-olds."

Sadler wanted Hronis to enjoy the claiming game and learn about horse ownership before delving into it deeper. That conservative approach appealed to Hronis, who had researched and studied the cost of ownership before he signed up.

Hronis was a fast learner. Two years later, Hronis Racing led all owners at Santa Anita's 2011-12 winter meeting by wins. In 2013 Hronis has led by wins at all three major Southern California meets—repeating at Santa Anita and leading by wins and earnings at the Betfair Hollywood Park spring-summer meet and at Del Mar.

"When we won the Santa Anita meet in 2012, that was a shock," said Hronis. "We got on a roll. That was really special."

That season from just 23 starts, Hronis won 10 races for a 43% win percentage, earning \$415,690 in purses. This year the stable won 11 races and \$516,622 at Santa Anita, 11 races and \$479,190 at Hollywood, and six races and \$625,550 at Del Mar.

By mid-October Hronis had more than \$1.7 million in earnings for 2013.

In an era when many owners have left the industry or scaled back and newcomers are more likely to sign on with a multi-owner partnership, Hronis is expanding. Sadler has guided him into acquiring horses from a variety of sources. They have claimed, bought privately, and purchased at public auction. Hronis not only eventually got his 2-year-olds, he has bought a few yearlings.

"We do a little bit of everything,"



Kosta Hronis and Hronis Racing's green and white silks; below, from left, Kosta and Demetri Hronis with trainer John Sadler



BENOIT & ASSOCIATES PHOTOS



On Course for Breeders' Cup Glory! TIZBUD and TIZ FLIRTATIOUS

For her first **Grade I** win in the Rodeo Drive Stakes as the 6-5 favorite, **TIZ FLIRTATIOUS** earned a fees-paid start to the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf-**G1** at Santa Anita on November 2. The California-bred daughter of **TIZBUD** owned and bred by Pamela Ziebarth has raced exclusively in stakes in 2012-2013, compiling a career record of 12-8-3-1 and earnings of \$774,800.

TIZBUD, a **G2**-placed stakes-winning brother to **TIZNOW**, is one of only two "Active" California sires to have a **Grade I** winner in North America this year. From 49 starters, he is also represented by **G1**-placed **Soi Phet** (\$260,940) and stakes-placed 3-year-olds **Nina's Dragon (G3)** and **Ambitious Brew**.

Fee: \$1,500 Live Foal

by Cee's Tizzy – Cee's Song, by Seattle Song • Property of Pamela Ziebarth



TIZ FLIRTATIOUS

BENOIT PHOTO

UNUSUAL HEAT

Nureyev-Rossard, by Glacial

Eclipse Award Champion sire and five-time leading sire in California has lifetime earnings of \$40,680,349, 10 graded winners and an average earnings per runner of \$90,200. **Fee: \$20,000 Live Foal**

HEATSEEKER

Giant's Causeway-Rusty Back, by Defensive Play

In 2013, seven first-crop 3-year-olds have won or placed in stakes on turf, dirt and synthetic surfaces and five second-crop 2-year-olds in training averaged \$89,000 at public auction. **Fee: \$5,000 Live Foal**

LUCKY PULPIT

Pulpit-Lucky Soph, by Cozzene

Average earnings per runner of \$54,620 produces positive results in the auction ring in 2013 as eight Barretts October Sale yearlings averaged \$29,525 – nearly 12X his stud fee of **\$2,500 Live Foal**.

THORN SONG

Unbridled's Song-Festal, by Storm Bird

Wire-to-wire **Grade I** winner twice at one mile and the only millionaire son of **UNBRIDLED'S SONG** standing outside of Kentucky. First foals will race at two in 2014. **Fee: \$2,500 Live Foal**

DESERT CODE

E Dubai-Chatta Code, by Lost Code

Inaugural Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (now G1) winner and millionaire currently ranks second among California's Freshman sires by Average Earnings per Runner. **Fee: \$2,000 Live Foal**

LUCKY J. H.

Cee's Tizzy-Lucky C. H., by A. P. Indy

Sire of Hollywood Park 2-year-old stakes winner **ALPINE LUCK** (\$162,034) and undefeated 3-year-old Glorious Luck (\$123,660) from 13 starters in 2013. **Fee: \$1,500 Live Foal**

All stallions are nominated to the Breeders' Cup. Stud fees are payable at foaling.



Harris Farms

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2013 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA



Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2013 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$6,500	190/93	6/8	1/6	(Ethnic Dance, \$249,500)	\$3,944,720	529	33	1.36	1.17
2	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev), Harris Farms	\$20,000	114/56	8/10	7/8	(Surfcup, \$364,860)	\$3,836,868	*626	42	2.13	1.24
3	MINISTERS WILD CAT (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Tbreeds	\$3,500	116/74	5/8	2/5	(Tiz a Minister, \$393,000)	\$3,004,076	242	14	1.09	0.97
4	EDDINGTON (01, Unbridled), Ballena Vista Farm	N/A	125/70	0/0	0/0	(Brushed by a Star, \$170,200)	\$2,436,055	*324	5	1.21	1.60
5	BENCHMARK (91, Alydar), Ballena Vista Farm	\$5,000	108/60	7/10	1/7	(Points Offthebench, \$434,780)	\$2,358,604	683	40	1.25	1.13
6	KAFWAIN (00, Cherokee Run), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	115/63	5/7	1/5	(Raging Daoust, \$193,800)	\$2,228,813	*453	21	1.15	1.28
7	OLD TOPPER (95, Gilded Time), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	98/56	3/4	1/3	(Hail Mary, \$198,288)	\$1,776,662	498	22	0.97	0.86
8	SOUTHERN IMAGE (00, Halo's Image), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	82/52	1/3	0/1	(Winning Image, \$139,300)	\$1,457,563	*411	5	1.25	1.34
9	TIZBUD (99, Cee's Tizzy), Harris Farms	\$1,500	49/21	1/4	0/1	(Tiz Flirtatious, \$500,000)	\$1,394,342	146	4	1.16	0.93
10	GOOD JOURNEY (96, Nureyev), Magali Farms	\$4,000	59/28	2/4	0/2	(Dancingtothestars, \$142,816)	\$1,364,222	*367	4	1.50	1.01
11	DECARCHY (97, Distant View), Magali Farms	\$3,000	86/38	0/0	0/0	(Love de Car, \$91,450)	\$1,272,683	297	7	0.95	0.98
12	SALT LAKE (89, Deputy Minister)	Died, 2010	59/36	4/6	1/4	(Teddy's Promise, \$337,416)	\$1,209,325	*1224	58	1.41	1.40
13	HEATSEEKER (IRE) (03, Giant's Causeway), Harris Farms	\$5,000	53/26	1/1	1/1	(Surtsey, \$113,418)	\$1,081,195	*91	1	1.05	1.58
14	IN EXCESS (IRE) (87, Siberian Express)	Died, 2013	84/44	1/2	0/1	(Dixieland Blues, \$124,604)	\$1,066,571	986	63	1.58	1.40
15	UNBRIDLED ENERGY (02, Unbridled's Song), Golden Eagle Farm	\$2,500	83/45	0/0	0/0	(Double the Energy, \$92,636)	\$1,050,081	*206	4	0.97	1.19
16	MARINO MARINI (00, Storm Cat), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	79/36	2/2	1/2	(Sweet Marini, \$219,100)	\$973,730	263	7	0.92	1.00
17	VRONSKY (99, Danzig), Old English Rancho	\$3,500	37/19	1/1	1/1	(Island Sunset, \$90,589)	\$956,571	114	4	1.58	1.15
18	SWISS YODELER (94, Eastern Echo), Lovacres Ranch	\$3,000	85/42	0/0	0/0	(Nebikon, \$60,090)	\$901,815	712	27	1.02	1.08
19	LUCKY PULPIT (01, Pulpit), Harris Farms	\$2,500	40/23	2/2	1/2	(Rousing Sermon, \$121,722)	\$805,975	91	4	1.53	1.18
20	STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat), Golden Eagle Farm	\$4,500	70/27	0/0	0/0	(Kitty Marie, \$72,895)	\$786,728	*679	27	1.19	1.40
21	CINDAGO (03, Indian Charlie)	Died	28/18	0/0	0/0	(My Cinsation, \$117,480)	\$738,750	63	2	1.61	1.39
22	ATTICUS (92, Nureyev), Magali Farms	\$2,000	42/19	1/1	0/1	(Atta Girl Alma, \$139,570)	\$706,763	445	14	1.06	1.45
23	GAME PLAN (93, Danzig), E. A. Ranches	\$2,500	36/21	0/0	0/0	(Mel's Game, \$126,426)	\$657,925	424	23	0.85	0.80
24	ROCKY BAR (98, In Excess), E. A. Ranches	\$3,000	52/25	3/4	2/3	(Yawannagokid, \$64,560)	\$644,932	102	13	1.02	0.84
25	SUANCES (GB) (97, Most Welcome), Rancho Temescal	\$1,500	28/14	0/0	0/0	(Sassy Suances, \$99,408)	\$633,392	110	1	1.03	1.11
26	AFFIRMATIVE (99, Unbridled), Farrell Jones Layup Center	N/A	27/9	1/1	1/1	(Warren's Veneda, \$222,064)	\$598,798	86	2	1.13	0.79
27	AWESOME GAMBLER (04, Coronado's Quest), Lovacres Ranch	\$5,000	41/14	1/1	0/1	(Willie B Awesome, \$82,412)	\$555,086	94	2	1.21	0.76
28	TERRELL (00, Distorted Humor), Shalem Farm	\$2,000	54/25	0/0	0/0	(Pocket Prince, \$57,685)	\$542,305	159	3	0.60	0.93
29	PERFECT MANDATE (96, Gone West)	Died, 2012	35/19	1/1	0/1	(Kilat, \$88,120)	\$520,108	298	12	0.91	1.24
30	GLOBALIZE (97, Summer Squall), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	31/15	1/1	0/1	(Life Is a Stone, \$116,076)	\$503,466	159	5	0.80	0.79
31	POPULAR (99, Saint Ballado), Cottonwood Creek Ranch	N/A	28/14	1/2	0/1	(Halo Dolly, \$194,840)	\$441,086	76	2	1.07	0.95
32	SEA OF SECRETS (95, Storm Cat), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	70/21	0/0	0/0	(Gracie Grace, \$32,855)	\$423,357	*447	20	0.90	1.08
33	LUCKY J. H. (02, Cee's Tizzy), Harris Farms	\$1,500	13/7	1/1	0/1	(Alpine Luck, \$162,034)	\$411,690	41	1	1.40	1.36
34	HIGH BRITE (84, Best Turn)	Died, 2010	45/20	0/0	0/0	(Green Team, \$31,510)	\$364,368	*935	46	1.03	1.17
35	DON'TSELLMESHORT (01, Benchmark), Running Luck Ranch	\$2,000	28/17	1/1	1/1	(Jedi Mind Trick, \$141,828)	\$348,851	72	1	0.66	0.72
36	TANNERSMYMAN (98, Lord Carson), Woodbridge Farm	N/A	41/23	0/0	0/0	(Prime Issue, \$50,135)	\$347,645	134	2	0.66	0.81
37	MOMENTUM (98, Nureyev), Vessels Stallion Farm	\$2,500	34/15	0/0	0/0	(Goldilocks Planet, \$49,210)	\$321,181	185	1	0.58	1.04
38	CYCLOTRON (00, Grand Slam), Old English Rancho	N/A	15/9	0/0	0/0	(Circle the Moon, \$75,890)	\$312,092	40	1	1.77	1.45
39	GREY MEMO (97, Memo), Ridgeley Farm	N/A	25/11	0/0	0/0	(Adelicate Miss, \$78,130)	\$308,479	75	0	0.74	0.72
40	SILIC (FR) (95, Sillery), Pacific Coast Thoroughbreds	Died, 2013	21/9	0/0	0/0	(Wild in the Saddle, \$92,148)	\$306,014	*159	2	0.98	0.92
41	STORMY JACK (97, Bertrand), Brazeau Thoroughbred Farms	\$1,500	51/21	0/0	0/0	(Xcuse Me Monto, \$19,248)	\$291,543	174	3	0.63	0.76
42	PEPPERED CAT (00, Tabasco Cat), Daehling Ranch	\$2,000	19/8	0/0	0/0	(Pepnic, \$64,706)	\$286,062	30	0	1.16	0.78
43	□ SQUARE EDDIE (06, Smart Strike), Vessels Stallion Farm	\$5,000	10/3	1/2	0/1	(Sprouts, \$149,490)	\$285,040	17	1	1.82	0.97
44	IRON CAT (95, Storm Cat)	N/A	20/12	0/0	0/0	(J and S Express, \$74,424)	\$278,311	144	6	0.86	0.97
45	BIRDONTHEWIRE (89, Proud Birdie), Madera Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	12/3	0/0	0/0	(Wired for Fun, \$61,160)	\$263,603	*263	10	1.29	1.36

Sadler said. "We've bought some yearlings the last two years. We buy a couple of 2-year-olds. We've tried to build a balanced program."

The plan has paid off in more ways than mere statistics. Multiple grade I winner Lady of Shamrock became Hronis' first Breeders' Cup starter last year when she finished fifth in the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (gr. IT) behind champion Zagora, and she could compete in the race again. Vagabond Shoes, in winning the Aug. 24 Del Mar Handicap (gr. IIT), has a guaranteed "Win & You're In" berth to the Breeders' Cup Turf (gr. IT).

Hronis began his Del Mar run in fine

form opening day, when Rising Legend won a division of the Oceanside Stakes, a race that the Hronis runner Koast ran third in last year. Earlier this season, Sky High Gal captured the Blue Norther Stakes at Santa Anita and Iotapa won the Railbird Stakes at Hollywood. Barocci, a Japanese-bred who began his career in France, has finished third in this year's American Handicap (gr. IIT) and City of Hope Mile (gr. IIT).

Though Kosta Hronis runs the racing stable, he is quick to note that it is a family endeavor. Family plays a big role in the entire Hronis story.

"I'm second generation," said 54-year-old Hronis. "My parents are first genera-

tion and were born here. My dad's sister was born in Greece, but he was born here."

To honor that heritage, Hronis named one of his first yearling purchases Tripoli, the area in Greece his family comes from. A son of Speightstown—Wawasee, by Salt Lake, Tripoli cost \$300,000 at the 2012 Keeneland September yearling sale. Sadler has worked him several times, but the colt has yet to start.

Hronis' parents, Jim and Sophia, built a grape-farming business called Hronis & Sons in California's Central Valley in the mid-1940s. Now Hronis Inc., it is based in Delano, Calif., where Kosta
(continued on page 108)

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 October 16, 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.

*A World of Class
for California Breeders!*

*A.P. Indy-Splendid Blended,
by Unbridled's Song
FEE: \$2,500-Live Foal*

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WORLD RENOWNED

Sold for \$900,000 at the August 2009 Fasig-Tipton Sale

By **A.P. INDY**, champion Three-Year-Old, Horse of the Year and Classic winner of \$2,979,815.

Sire of 150 stakes winners, including champions **BERNARDINI**, **MINESHAFT**,
RAGS TO RICHES and **MARCHFIELD**

Out of the multiple graded stakes-winning **UNBRIDLED'S SONG** mare **SPLINDID BLENDED** (\$742,060),
winner of the **GI Hollywood Starlet Stakes**, **GI Vanity Invitational H.** and
GII Shirley Jones Breeders' Cup Hcp., and 2nd in the
GII Oak Leaf Stakes to two-year-old Champion **SWEET CATOMINE**.

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2014 STALLION ROSTER



Ranked in the Top Ten Active Sires by 2013 Cal-Bred Earnings

MARINO MARINI Storm Cat – Halo America, by Waquoit/ **\$2,500 LF**

- Outstanding 2013 season with FIVE Stakes performers, and one being the 3YO star **SWEET MARINI** (\$255,760), a 5¼-length Maiden Special winner in open company in only start at two, 4¾-length winner of the \$200,000 Fleet Treat S. over **Grade 2** Hollywood Oaks SW **DOINGHARDTIMEAGAIN**, plus placed in **Grade 3** Rancho Bernardo H. and \$250,000 Melair S.
- Sire of **11% Stakes Horses**, including 2013 Stakes Winner **GREGOR** (\$113,512).
- Sire of **10% \$100K+ earners** in his first four crops like 2012 SWs **STAR-LIGHT MAGIC** (\$334,900) and **SHUDADUDAWUDYA** (\$329,629).

California's #5 Active Sire by Average Earnings Index (AEI)

SOUTHERN IMAGE Halo's Image – Pleasant Dixie, by Dixieland Band/ **\$2,500 LF**

- First California-sired 2YOs are off to the races with **BETTER BET**, Del Mar Maiden Special winner and on-the-board in Del Mar's \$100,000 Graduation S.; **GLAMSQUAD**, 4½-length winner at Golden Gate first time out in open company; **YODELMESOMEMAGIC**, 2nd by a nose in open company to a Stakes filly; & **ZOOKS**, a little more than a length off the winner in a \$30,000 Stakes.
- His first crop, now matured to six, has average earnings over \$71,000 and has produced 10% \$100K+ earners, like **Grade 1** SW **SOUTHERN SPEED** (winner of \$2.9 Million and who has won or placed in FIVE **Grade 1** events) and **Grade 1**-placed **CALIBRACHOA** (5-time NYRA Graded winner of \$666,040).
- 2013 winners include **WINNING IMAGE** (\$525,637), now with 7 wins in East Coast Stakes and 11 career wins by nearly 40 combined lengths.



ALSO STANDING **Comic Strip / Onebadshark**

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HOME OF CALIFORNIA'S LEADING SIRES

Record-Setting G1 Performing Multiple Stakes Winner

SLEW'S TIZNOW Tiznow – Hepatica, by Slewpy/ **\$2,500 LF**

- Won on dirt and synthetic, including Del Mar's El Cajon S. at one mile by 3 lengths and Hollywood Park's War Chant S. at 1 1/16 miles in a **record 1:40.34**.
- Saratoga maiden winner and 2nd in Keeneland's **G1** Breeders' Futurity at two.
- In his final start, posted a **102 Beyer** in Hollywood Park's G2 Californian S.
- Full brother to Multiple Graded stakes winner **SLEW'S TIZZY** and 3/4-brother to the dam of 2012 **Group 1** Winner **THE HANGMAN**.
- First crop will be yearlings in 2014.



Among California's Leading Sophomore Sires

STORM WOLF Stormin Fever – Exclusive Rosette, by Ecliptical/ **\$2,000 LF**

- Graded SW full brother to **G1**-performing GSW **MISTY ROSETTE**.
- Won 3 of 5 starts, including the **G2** Lazaro Barrera Memorial S. by 6L in **1:22 1/5**.
- Posted a **104 Beyer** breaking his maiden at Santa Anita and a **101 Beyer** winning an allowance there in 1:09 flat.
- 2013 juveniles sold for **\$95,000** at the Barretts March sale.
- Solid 89% of runners are hitting the board with big-time wins like 5½-length winner **I'LL RUN THE SHOW**, 5-length winner **SEVEN STORMS**, 4-length winner **SWAYZE ROAD**, and 4-length winner **PIRATA LOBO**

Top TEN National Freshman Yearling Sire in 2013!

THE PAMPLEMOUSSE Kafwain – Comfort Zone, by Rubiano/ **\$2,500 LF**

- Sire of **\$160,000 BARRETTS SALES TOPPING YEARLING** in his First Crop!
- The #1 Freshman Sire outside of Kentucky, ranked among the Top Ten nationally with a seven yearling average over \$53,000.
- Santa Anita Graded stakes-winning miler by 2012 Top-3 California Sire **KAFWAIN**.
- Won 3 of 5 starts, including the **G3** Sham S. by 6L (**107 Beyer**) and **G3** San Rafael S. at one mile.
- Out of a half-sister to the dam of 2YO **G1 SW STORMELLO** (\$700,100) and **2012 G2 Del Mar Derby SW MY BEST BROTHER** (\$346,090).
- Precocious female family of **G2** Arlington-Washington Lassie S. winner **SPECIAL WARMTH**.



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2013 LEADING SIRES IN WASHINGTON

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	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2013 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	PARKER'S STORM CAT (00, Storm Cat), Gibson Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	48/22	1/4	0/1	(Ben's Cat, \$338,350)	\$884,235	*225	4	1.23	1.12
2	MATTY G (93, Capote), Lucky Acres Farm	\$1,200	77/36	0/0	0/0	(Nico Suave', \$79,987)	\$579,563	*500	17	0.83	0.99
3	CAHILL ROAD (88, Fappiano)	Died, 2010	67/37	0/0	0/0	(Royal Moses, \$51,110)	\$562,959	*654	31	0.95	1.13
4	HE'S TOPS (93, Seattle Slew), Woodstead Farm	\$1,000	36/24	2/6	0/2	(E Z Kitty, \$168,454)	\$444,096	281	13	0.56	0.66
5	PRIVATE GOLD (00, Seeking the Gold), El Dorado Farms	\$1,000	37/21	2/3	1/2	(Dallon's Gold, \$42,538)	\$334,913	130	7	0.49	0.60
6	SECRET ROMEO (98, Service Stripe), Southall Farm	\$1,000	15/9	1/1	1/1	(Brandys Secret, \$169,472)	\$324,814	55	3	1.01	0.81
7	YOU AND I (91, Kris S.)	N/A	34/22	2/4	0/2	(Chu and You, \$87,884)	\$318,331	*490	22	1.08	1.34
8	DELINEATOR (91, Storm Cat)	N/A	35/18	0/0	0/0	(Showme Yourfriends, \$73,820)	\$271,548	321	18	0.62	0.86
9	LIBERTY GOLD (94, Crafty Prospector), El Dorado Farms	\$2,000	24/13	3/4	0/3	(Jebrika, \$67,024)	\$251,288	167	9	0.41	0.61
10	RAISE THE BLUFF (03, Pine Bluff), El Dorado Farms	\$1,000	24/16	1/1	1/1	(He's Not Bluffin, \$59,286)	\$240,887	57	2	0.45	0.50
11	POLISH MINER (97, Danzig)	N/A	18/9	0/0	0/0	(Miner's Tune, \$56,055)	\$215,323	161	1	0.96	0.96
12	FREE AT LAST (89, Wild Again)	N/A	29/12	1/1	0/1	(Special Summer, \$42,550)	\$196,732	451	25	0.55	0.74
13	NACHEEZMO (00, Carson City), Don Munger Farm	\$1,000	30/13	0/0	0/0	(Camp Pendleton, \$15,498)	\$110,000	46	1	0.24	0.32
14	KATOWICE (87, Danzig)	N/A	23/6	0/0	0/0	(Perfect Finish, \$24,576)	\$107,268	409	19	0.80	1.01
15	TRICKY TREVOR (99, Demaloot Demashoot), Allaire Farms	\$1,250	17/4	0/0	0/0	(Finding More, \$56,449)	\$104,361	29	1	0.49	0.46
16	MAKORS MARK (97, Son of Briartic)	N/A	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Makinmymark, \$29,868)	\$75,162	46	1	0.43	0.79
17	SAM'S ACE (03, In Excess)	N/A	4/4	0/0	0/0	(River of Aces, \$21,154)	\$57,849	10	0	0.50	0.62
18	PREACHINATTHEBAR (01, Silver Charm), Pulse Ranches	\$1,000	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Bully At the Bar, \$14,780)	\$53,450	25	0	0.30	0.53
19	CHUMAREE (98, Hennessy)	N/A	27/8	0/0	0/0	(Be There for Me, \$7,062)	\$47,027	78	2	0.14	0.33
20	FLYING WITH EAGLES (94, Skywalker)	N/A	10/6	0/0	0/0	(King of the Sky, \$13,041)	\$43,913	87	5	0.53	0.84
21	PROSPECTED (99, Mr. Prospector)	N/A	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Youonlyliveonce, \$23,948)	\$37,861	64	0	0.24	0.47
22	TAHOE CITY (93, Fast Play), Crystal Ridge Farm	\$1,000	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Certified Diamond, \$17,767)	\$37,608	84	2	0.39	0.64
23	WAITING GAME (03, Carson City)	N/A	6/4	0/0	0/0	(Buds a Flyin, \$16,320)	\$35,533	34	1	0.22	0.44
24	OUTING (99, Danzig)	N/A	6/4	0/0	0/0	(Lizzy Lass, \$15,559)	\$34,009	33	0	0.38	0.61
25	HOUSEFROYALHEARTS (02, Chester House), El Dorado Farms	\$1,000	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Whiskeyonthehouse, \$18,049)	\$32,941	8	0	0.36	0.43

(continued from page 104)



Hronis with Hall of Fame rider Mike Smith

and his brother, Pete, were born. The company grows and sells a wide variety of table grapes, as well as navel oranges. Jim died in 1991, and Kosta and Pete have since continued the business, with Kosta's son, 30-year-old Demetri, now involved as well.

"Demetri is my 401k plan," joked Kosta. "When I get him all trained, I can be here (at the races) full time."

Kosta's 26-year-old daughter Hailey works in the Hronis Inc. administration department, while 21-year-old daughter Nia is in college. Pete's son Nick works in the company's sales department.

"They're really down-to-earth, good people," said Sadler. "They're level-headed. They're working every day, and they're hands-on with their business."

Kosta has named horses for just about every family member. Sophie's Secret and Brother Pete are named for his mother and brother, respectively. Scooter Bird is named for his daughters, Scooter being Hailey's nickname and Bird being Nia's.

California Sires by 2013 Stakes Winners

Sire	Stks Wnrs	Stks Wins
Unusual Heat	8	10
Benchmark	7	10
Tribal Rule	6	8
Ministers Wild Cat	5	8
Kafwain	5	7
Salt Lake	4	6
Bertrando	4	5
Old Topper	3	4
Rocky Bar	3	4
For Really	2	4
Good Journey	2	2
Lucky Pulpit	2	2
Marino Marini	2	2
Muqtarib	2	2

BENNETT & ASSOCIATES PHOTOS



Stable star Lady of Shamrock

Demetri preferred to name a horse rather than having one named for him.

“He won’t have it—that’s just Demetri,” said Kosta. “He’s low-key.”

Kristo, the horse Demetri named, is a 2-year-old son of Distorted Humor—Capote’s Crown, by Capote. The colt cost \$500,000 at the 2012 Keeneland yearling sale and has run second in a pair of maiden special weight races this year.

Kosta and Pete’s mother grew up in Pasadena, Calif., near Santa Anita, which is how they learned to love the racetrack.

The brothers parlayed that interest into becoming boxholders at Santa Anita, and they enjoyed betting on the races. One day Kosta decided it might be fun to own a horse as well. He and Pete struck up a conversation about it with Tony Vadurro, the usher in their box section.

“I suggested several trainers to them, including John Sadler,” recalled Vadurro, who has been an usher at Santa Anita for 20 years.

Kosta admired Sadler’s ability, but didn’t believe he could have a horse with someone of Sadler’s stature. Vadurro spoke to Sadler and facilitated a meeting between the two. Kosta and Sadler immediately hit it off.

“I liked him right off the bat,” said Sadler. “I thought there was a little bit of a kindred spirit. They came to Santa Anita as kids, and I came to Santa Anita as a kid with my parents.”

Before he even met Sadler, Kosta researched the costs so that he knew what to expect.

“That’s just me—I tend to do a lot of studying,” he said. “I really am very conservative. I knew what the training bills were going to look like.”

Hronis didn’t ask Sadler to win a Triple Crown race for him, though, of course, he’d love to do so.

“I want to go into this and see what we can do,” Hronis told Sadler. “I’d like it to be a business. If it’s a hobby, we can have two or three horses. If it’s a business, we can have a hundred. Let’s just see how it goes.”

Sadler claimed Sleep Tight for Hronis for \$40,000 out of a 2010 turf race down the hill at Santa Anita. The 5-year-old daughter of Exchange Rate—Shimmering Night, by Meadowlake, ran back on St. Patrick’s Day the next month as the 6-5 favorite, finishing third.

“I was thrilled,” Hronis said. “I wanted to go down and see the horse, and when I was walking back, there were people tearing up tickets on her and cursing. That was my first experience as an owner—that there are a lot of people who are counting on you.”

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Caities Secret, a 3-year-old California-bred daughter of Benchmark—Miss Lady Bug, by Rough Pearl, became Hronis' first winner that June when she captured a maiden special weight race at Hollywood as the 2-1 favorite with Rafael Bejarano aboard. She developed into a solid allowance runner, finishing her career with a third-place finish in the 2011 Solana Beach Handicap at Del Mar.

Although Hronis has no plans to get into the breeding side of the business, he couldn't resist keeping Caities Secret. She currently resides at Pete and Evelyn Parrella's Legacy Ranch near Clements, Calif., and has a weanling filly by Cindago. She is in foal to Lucky Pulpit.

The Sadler stable suits Hronis perfectly. Kosta and his wife, Stephanie, have become friends with Lee and Susan Searing, also Sadler clients. Hronis stops by the barn often to see his horses, both at Santa Anita and Hollywood, where he got to know assistant Larry Benavidez.

"John and Larry call me several times a week just to touch base and tell me what's going on with everybody," Hronis said.

Hronis tries to get to the track whenever one of his horses runs. Pete has been very helpful in the family business to allow Kosta to go often, though Kosta admits that responsibilities have kept him from seeing a few starts.

"If I couldn't be a part of it, I wouldn't do it," he said. "It's definitely a passion."

Kosta never tries to convince Sadler to run a horse on a particular day.

"John has made it quite clear that I don't make the schedule and he doesn't make a schedule—the horse makes it," said Hronis.

About a year into Hronis' ownership foray, Sadler called Hronis about a 2-year-old daughter of Scat Daddy—Blushing Issue, by Blushing John, bred by Grovendale Sales in Kentucky. Named Lady of Shamrock, she had won at Churchill Downs on the turf and was available for private purchase.

"John was really high on her because she was by Scat Daddy," said Hronis. "He wanted her for the 3-year-old series in California. I had no idea she would be this good."

In her first start for Hronis during the first week of the Santa Anita meeting, Lady of Shamrock won the 2011 Blue Norther Stakes. Within a year, she had added the China Doll Stakes, Providencia Stakes (gr. IIIT), American Oaks (gr. IT), and Del Mar Oaks (gr. IT).

At this year's Santa Anita winter meet-



Vagabond Shoes winning the Del Mar Handicap

BENNETT & ASSOCIATES PHOTOS

ing, Lady of Shamrock defeated older distaffers in the Santa Barbara Handicap (gr. IIT; winning by disqualification). She even traveled to Belmont Park for the New York Stakes (gr. IIT), where she finished second to Starformer.

Sadler is preparing Lady of Shamrock for a second attempt at the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf. After that, she will head to the sales ring at Keeneland as part of the November breeding stock sale.

Because he isn't in the breeding business, Hronis often sells his horses as breeding prospects after their racing careers. He is also careful to find good homes for geldings and others without residual breeding value.

"We've had some horses that are now show horses," said Hronis. "That's John's background. We make sure we follow up, that they get a great home with someone who takes care of them. That's our re-

sponsibility, and that's important to me. That's one of the blessings of being with John and Larry."

Vagabond Shoes, being a gelding, can look forward to that kind of home eventually. But right now he is Hronis' next potential Breeders' Cup starter. Sadler bought Vagabond Shoes for €100,000 (\$130,360) out of last year's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe sale in France on the advice of bloodstock agent Hubert Guy.

A 6-year-old son of Beat Hollow—Atiza, by Singspiel, Vagabond Shoes literally washed out in his first couple of U.S. starts. He came around late in the Hollywood meeting, and at Del Mar finished second in the Eddie Read Stakes (gr. IT) before taking the Del Mar Handicap. Vagabond Shoes ran second in the Sept. 29 John Henry Turf Championship (gr. IIT) to Indy Point en route to the Breeders' Cup Turf.

From a stable of 38, which includes claimers in all age groups, distances, and surfaces, as well as stakes winners, Hronis has two older turf horses poised for the Breeders' Cup, illustrating why he likes that series better than the Triple Crown.

"I originally told John that I'd much rather focus on the Breeders' Cup," he said. "As a fan I knew, Breeders' Cup—boy horse, girl horse, turf, dirt, long, short—I could have any kind of horse and be in the Super Bowl." BH



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