BY DAN LIEBMAN



W.T. Young has built a winning team at Overbrook Farm

he only real decision being made is whether to choose a chicken or steak sandwich, but the weekly luncheon and bull session are

critical to the success of one of the world's leading
Thoroughbred
breeding farms.

At the head of the table—his choice was chicken, by the way—is 81-year-old W.T. Young (who turns 82 on Feb. 15), the master of Overbrook Farm and one of racing's

most recognizable owners. Around the table are key advisers and members of Young's management team.

These are the men whose collective input leads to the decisions ranging from which mares get bred to 1999 leading sire Storm Cat to which foals get sold or sent to trainer D. Wayne Lukas.

Make no mistake about it—the team concept is very much an integral part of how Overbrook Farm operates. But also

Photos by Anne M. Eberhardt

make no mistake about this—W.T. Young is captain of the team. A highly successful businessman, Young appreciates—no, make that encourages—a free flow of ideas. A bad idea is better than no idea. But after weighing all the input, being that it is his money on the line, Young makes the final decisions.

He doesn't overrule very often, but he also doesn't rubber stamp. Instead, by surrounding himself with a skilled management team, Young believes the right decision is usually made before he is consulted.

■ Bob Warren

Title: General Manager Age: 57

We enjoy the racing, but the game plan is stallions and mares."

■ Bruce Jensen

Title: Yearling Manager Age: 45

66 Surfside is the most laid back filly to ever be on this farm. She has the greatest mind of any horse we ever raised.



■ Ric Waldman

Title: Syndicate Manager Age: 51

farm is unique. There are no egos that come into a meeting.

Joe Yocum, D.V.M.

Title: Farm Veterinarian Age: 44

44I prefer to see the horses outside. Unless there's a reason for them not to be, they should be outside.??



Jim Cannon

Title: Farm Manager Age: 50

66 I love the part of selling a portion of our yearlings, but it kills me to sell a good horse.

Ben Giles

Title: Project Manager Age: 50

66Mr. Young is very much a builder. He has a real eye for architecture. This farm

is one man's vision, and for him, it has been a real labor of love.

Among the outside mares being bred to Storm Cat this season are such household names as:

Banshee Breeze
Capote Belle
Clear Mandate
Colonial Minstrel
Glitter Woman
Heavenly Prize
Personal Ensign
Hidden Lake
Memories of Silver
Miesque
Phone Chatter

Serena's Song

As lunch continues on this late November Tuesday, Young asks why his homebred Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) winner Cat Thief is getting no serious support for Horse of the Year. "Because he won only two races," someone replies. "Both grade ones," the owner says. "Two races isn't

enough," comes the answer.

Other topics during the casual and informal gathering include who will be the new president of Keeneland (Nick Nicholson gets the

job two weeks later), the stock market, a filly who might require surgery, a pressing need to hire a new stallion manager (Wes Lanter is soon hired), slot machines at racetracks, the close race between Storm Cat and Cherokee Run for leading

> juvenile sire (which Storm Cat wins), the local hockey team, and whether a couple of the owner's colts might not be better served by becoming geldings.

> While the conversation continues,

Young takes a folded-up piece of paper from his pocket. On it are the names and race records of every Overbrook horse currently in training. While he checks how many geldings are on the list (very few), the farm

manager makes an interesting observation: "Did you know, if on January first, when our 2year-olds turn three, if we gelded every colt who hadn't

started, we would still have every stallion in our stallion barn?"

GETTING STARTED

Many highly successful businessmen and women in Central Kentucky find themselves drawn to the Thoroughbred industry. Young is a good example.

Having made his mark in peanut butter, trucking, soft drinks, and warehousing, he purchased 110 acres from Lucas Combs in 1972. He has been buying parcels of adjacent land ever since, estimating it has taken 30 property transfers to make up the now 2,400 acres of Overbrook. Actually, there are two farms—

1,700 contiguous acres on Delong and Armstrong Mill Roads, and 700 acres on Shelby Lane, a half-mile away, purchased two years ago.

"I have no partners, no syndications, we don't board mares. We're concentrating on our own horses...I knew early on you had to stand stallions. By racing your own horses, it gives you a chance to get lucky."

-W.T. Young

When Young bought the initial acreage, "The only use for land in this area" was horses, he said. He knew that would not always be the case. "I bought the closest farm next to Lexington and that was deliberate."

The Shelby Lane land was purchased with the thought in mind that some day, the main Overbrook property

Strictly Business

re you a poker player?" W.T. Young, the owner of Overbrook Farm, asked. "If you are, you'd know all we did was hedge our bet."

Young was speaking about the decision last year to sell some lifetime breeding rights in the Overbrook stallion Storm Cat to the John Magnier-controlled Coolmore operation.

Storm Cat is not syndicated. He was bred, raced, and stands as the property of Overbrook. The 17-year-old son of Storm Bird is arguably the most sought after stallion since his grandsire, Northern Dancer, in the early '80s. His live foal stud fee for 2000 was first announced as \$250,000, but then upped another \$50,000 before the breeding season began. Most seasons, however, had already been sold for the \$250,000 figure.

Last year, 18 yearlings by Storm Cat were sold at public auction for an average of \$1,045,556. Also, four Storm Cat weanlings were sold for an average of \$662,500, and five mares in foal to Storm Cat averaged a whopping \$2,580,000. The only mare in the recently completed Keeneland January sale sold in foal to Storm Cat, Claxton's Slew, the dam of champion Escena, brought \$3.3 million.

Besides the breeding rights to Storm Cat last year, Demi O'Byrne, who buys for partners Magnier and Michael Tabor, signed for the three highest-priced 1999 yearlings sired by Storm Cat, at \$3



Overbrook owner W.T. Young, center, is flanked by, left to right, Bob Warren, John Lovern, Ric Waldman, and Jim Cannon

might become too valuable not to develop. "Maybe not in Mr. Young's lifetime, or even in his childrens', but somewhere down the road," said Bob Warren, who serves as general manager of Overbrook and financial adviser to Young.

In fact, today, just across the back fence from Overbrook, sits Hartland subdivision.

In the late '70s, Young decided it was time to put horses on Overbrook. He jokes now, "Every bloodstock agent was hustling" him, but he turned for early advice to someone who was both a friend and a horseman, John Bell. He also credits Bill Lockridge, Vic Heerman, and veterinarian Bob Copelan with helping him make early decisions which turned out well.

million, \$2 million, and \$1.4 million. Magnier signed for the highest-priced mare, Winglet, at \$4.6 million, and the recently purchased Claxton's Slew.

Storm Cat was both the leading general sire and leading juvenile sire for 1999. He became the first North American stallion in history to have progeny earnings exceed \$10 million, and captured his fifth juvenile sire

title. His offspring racing last year included Overbrook homebred Cat Thief, who won the Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I), and seven juvenile stakes winners.

"It was a business decision," Young said of the sale of breeding rights. "He got so valuable. There was no pressure to do it. We were convinced with Coolmore, it would attract good mares. It can only help Storm Cat."

Still, Young admits, "If he lives five more years, it will have been a bad decision," financially.

Neither Young nor Coolmore has publically discussed how many lifetime breeding rights were sold for how much, but industry gossip has it being 10 breeding rights for \$12 million. Ric Waldman, syndicate manager for the Overbrook stallions, confirmed the breeding rights were first offered to another party, but the deal never materialized. Coolmore was then approached.

Waldman said Overbrook has the right of first refusal should Coolmore want to sell a breeding right. Coolmore may sell seasons, but only privately. Each breeding right allows Coolmore to send one mare each

season to Storm Cat.

Overbrook, on the other hand, sold two no-guarantee seasons for 2000 to Storm Cat last November at Stallion Access, the first time seasons to the stallion had ever been offered. The seasons were purchased by Coolmore for \$430,000 and \$415,000.

"We had talked about it (selling Storm Cat seasons) for years," Waldman said. "We're the market maker

on Storm Cat. This was the only way for the public to see it (his stud fee) as fair and justifiable."

Because the seasons sold at Stallion Access brought the prices they did, Waldman said, "The fair market price for a no-guarantee (season) is more than our live foal fee."

Waldman said Storm Cat's book will number 90-100 mares, with 10-15 of those mares being owned by Overbrook.

By Dan Liebman

Storm Cat, the 1999 leading sire, has the highest stud fee among stallions for 2000, \$300,000 live foal

John Lovern Title: Controller Age: 41

66One part of my job is to make sure we know Storm Cat is not forever."

Wes Lanter Title: Stallion Manager

Age: 35

66 This is a rare opportunity, it being a homebred operation. Every stallion here, Mr. Young bred, raised, raced, and then brought home. "



Bob Copelan, D.V.M. Title: Adviser

Age: 63

66 I often wonder what would have happened had the phone been busy (the first time W.T. Young called him). Meeting W.T. Young was that bolt of lightning; the most important thing to happen to me in my life."



■ Billy Joe Skinner, below right with City Band Title: Broodmare Manager Age: 35

66You've got to take care of the mare, her foal, and the foal she's carrying. You've got to maintain all three."

nancial trouble.

It was Lockridge, at the time co-owner of Ashford Stud with Robert Hefner. who selected three racemares coming off the track to be purchased in part-

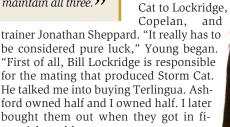
nership by Young and Ashford-Three Troikas, Cinegita, and Terlingua—and bred to the Ashford stallion Storm Bird. Three Troikas (by Lyphard), though an Arc (Fr-I) winner and French Horse of the Year, had

little success as a broodmare, producing only one group III stakes winner from seven foals. But with Cinegita and

> Terlingua (both graded stakes winners by Secretariat), Young hit the jackpot.

> Cinegita produced two stakes winners and is the granddam of Overbrook champion Flanders and great granddam of 1999

grade I winner Surfside, while Terlingua is the dam of Storm Cat, the type of stallion every farm owner dreams about. Young gives all



"Storm Cat was entered in the (1984 Keeneland summer yearling) sale, but Keeneland asked us to take him out and sell him instead in September because he tested positive (for equine viral arteritis). I couldn't understand that, so I decided to race him.

"In the Breeders' Cup (Juvenile, gr. I) at Aqueduct, he had it won, but Chris (McCarron) didn't see the other horse (Tasso) way on the outside, and he just got beat (a nose). In fact, Durkin called him the winner," Young said of the race caller.

Even a loss in a million-dollar race, Young said, proved to be lucky. He had been offered \$8 million for Storm Cat before the Juvenile, but "because he lost, his value was less, and I kept him." Storm Cat's current value is difficult to

"I don't consider myself a horseman. I feel that has been an asset."

-W.T. Young

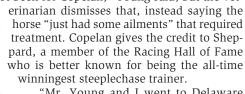
determine, because Overbrook breeds as many as 15 of its own mares, for which, obviously, no stud fee is paid, and because some breeding rights were sold last year to Coolmore (see sidebar, page 748).

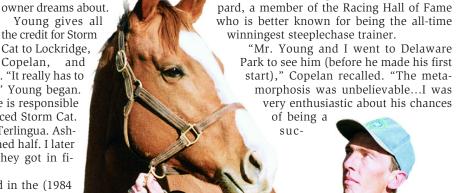
At \$300,000 live foal, Storm Cat has the highest stud fee of any stallion standing in 2000. If every stud fee is paid at that figure, and 75 live foals are produced from the 90-100 mares he covers this year, Storm Cat would generate income of \$22.5 million.

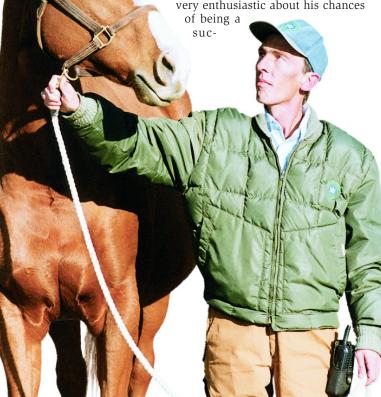
Ric Waldman, syndicate manager of the Overbrook stallions, prefers to look at the Overbrook mares bred to Storm Cat in a slightly different light. "Because we're turning down mares (to Storm Cat to breed our own), we are in effect paying \$300,000," he said.

Though regally bred, as a foal Storm Cat was nothing to write home about. Copelan remembers seeing him for the first time as a weanling when he arrived from Marshall Jenney's Derry Meeting Farm in Pennsylvania. "He was just another weanling, a little fat, sort of potbellied," Copelan said. Over time, however, Copelan said Storm Cat "began to take on some of the characteristics that made him noticeable."

Storm Cat "never would have raced as a 2-year-old had it not been for Copelan," Young said, but the vet-







cessful racehorse. Jonathan (Sheppard) had just done a wonderful job with him."

Storm Cat lost his first start at Saratoga by a head, but came back 10 days later and broke his maiden by a neck. He then won an allowance at Meadowlands before getting his first black type when finishing second in the World Appeal Stakes. In Meadowlands' Young America Stakes, Storm Cat sat just off the pace, then in a grueling stretch drive, outlasted Danzig Connection and Mogambo (nose, neck) to become a grade I winner.

Besides that day at Delaware Park, Copelan's other remembrance of Storm Cat as a 2-year-old was at Sheppard's Pennsylvania farm. "Mr. Young and I went up for his last breeze (before the Juvenile). Jonathan took

"Retirement is terrifying to me. Happiness to me is in work; in doing something constructive. In corporate America, a lot of talent is retiring; a lot of happiness goes with it."

—W.T. Young

us out in this paddock, which was undulating, very hilly. We couldn't see any horses at all. All of a sudden, we hear horses. Here comes Storm Cat, with another horse, breezing uphill. We took one look at him and you could see, here was pure power coming up that hill."

Even then, Copelan said, he saw the traits in Storm Cat that helped make him such a successful stallion. "He always had a great disposition. He has that big eye and a great looking head. He had a presence that set him apart. He had a will to win, and I think that is a heritable characteristic."

Young thought so much of the work Copelan and Sheppard did with Storm Cat that each was given a lifetime breeding right to the horse.

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

Having started his broodmare band, Young next began buying shares in top proven stallions, both to support his mares and as an investment. He bought two shares each in Northern Dancer and Mr. Prospector, and one apiece in such horses as Nijinsky II, Blushing Groom, and Secretariat.

At the same time, Young began the process of assembling a team to advise him and run his expanding

The blanket of roses won by Grindstone was frozen, then framed to hang in the farm office



TOP OVERBROOK BROODMARES

BRIGHT CANDLES (13, El Gran Senor—Christmas Bonus, by Key to the Mint) SW, gr. I SP; dam of gr. I SW Grand Slam, in foal to Gone West; booked to Gone West

CAT APPEAL (8, Storm Cat—Amyark, by Caro) Gr. III SW; in foal to Coronado's Quest; booked to Unbridled

CATCHER (6, Storm Cat—Train Robbery, by Alydar) SP; full sister to gr. I SW Cat Thief; in foal to Seattle Slew; booked to Grand Slam

CHINA BELL (11, Seattle Slew—'N Everything Nice, by Damascus) Winner; dam of gr. III SW; in foal to Storm Cat; booked to Storm Cat

CHINA STORM (4, Storm Cat—China Bell, by Seattle Slew) Winner; maiden mare; booked to Coronado's Quest

CITY BAND (6, Carson City—Wedding Band, by Mighty Appealing) Gr. I SW; carrying first foal by Storm Cat; booked to Broad Brush

FLANDERS (8, Seeking the Gold—Starlet Storm, by Storm Bird) Champion; dam of gr. I SW Surfside; in foal to A.P. Indy; booked to Seattle Slew

GOLDEN ATTRACTION (7, Mr. Prospector—Seaside Attraction, by Seattle Slew) Champion; first foal 2yo; in foal to Storm Cat; booked to Storm Cat

HARBOR SPRINGS (11, Vice Regent—Tinnitus, by Restless Wind)
SW; dam of champion Boston Harbor; in foal to A.P. Indy; booked to Seeking the Gold

OCEAN CAT (8, Storm Cat—Pacific Princess, by Damascus) SW; first foal 2yo; in foal to Mr. Prospector; booked to A.P. Indy

PEARL CITY (6, Carson City—Island Kitty, by Hawai)
Gr. I SW; first foal yearling; in foal to Storm Cat, booked to Storm Cat

PROPER DANCE (7, Nureyev—Sophisticated Girl, by Stop the Music) SP; first foal 2yo; in foal to Seeking the Gold; booked to Seattle Slew

SHY MISS (13, Secretariat—Alyanna, by Alydar)
Unraced; dam of gr. II SW Boone's Mill; in foal to Seeking the Gold; booked to
Deputy Minister

STARLET STORM (13, Storm Bird—Cinegita, by Secretariat) Winner; dam of champion Flanders; in foal to A.P. Indy; booked to Seeking the Gold

TERRE HAUTE (11, Caro—Mia Dancer, by Marshua's Dancer) SW; dam of gr. I SW Tactical Cat; in foal to Storm Cat; booked to Storm Cat Overbrook operation. Stressing he "is not a horseman," Young says his major contributions to the success of

Overbrook have been the physical development of the farm and the team of people he put together.

put together.

The first man asked for his opinions on horses and farm development was Copelan,

who had already been practicing equine vet-

erinary medicine for more than 25 years when the two men met. "He has been a friend since day one," Young said.

"Back then, it was just the two of us," Copelan said. "We looked at mares together, planned the matings...it was just us."

Copelan, now in his 47th year of practice, spends at least two days a week at Overbrook, and also monitors the physical

well-being of the Overbrook runners at the racetrack.

A little known fact about Copelan is that before he graduated from Ohio State's veterinary school in 1953, he worked as an exercise rider for Calumet Farm from 1949-1951. It was Copelan who broke 1952 Kentucky Derby winner Hill Gail.

Copelan recommended to Young the hiring of Jim Cannon—who had both farm and racetrack experience—as farm manager, having roomed with Cannon's father at Ohio State. Cannon took the job the week following the Keeneland July yearling sale in 1985. The same week CPA John Lovern began his

to do as farm manager is note which male foal is weaned first each year. That group, he said, has included Carson City, Grindstone, Boston Harbor, and Cape Town.

In the mid-1980s, friend Alex Campbell suggested Young have an appraisal done of his bloodstock holdings. Waldman was hired to do the job in 1986. Four years later, Waldman moved his office to Overbrook to manage the stallion books and become more of a full-

"I made a good decision in hiring Lukas (trainer

D. Wayne Lukas). People seem to think he's overloaded
with horses. But he's not. I thought he was the best
person out there and I still feel that way."

—W.T. Young

time consultant. Today, Young said, "I don't buy or sell anything without Ric's input."

Waldman also manages the Windfields Farm stallions in Kentucky, Deputy Minister and Silver Deputy, which stand at Fred Seitz' Brookdale Farm near Versailles, Ky. That means he oversees the general sire leaders the past three years and one-two finishers the last two years (Deputy Minister in '97; Deputy Minister/Storm Cat in '98; and Storm Cat/Silver Deputy in '99).

When Waldman arrived, it was expected Grand

Canvon would be the

big name in the

stallion barn. A top 2-year-old of The same week, CPA John Lovern began his 1989, Grand new job as controller at Overbrook. Canyon was When Cannon arrived, there were 20 mares and 25 euthanized employees on the farm. Today those numbers both are because of near 100. Throughout his first breeding season, Cannon accompanied every mare to the breeding shed because Young wanted him to observe how other farms were doing things. That's why, Cannon said, "our breeding shed is modeled after Claiborne (Farm) and our receiving barn is like Three Chimneys (Farm)." One thing Cannon likes

Stallion Shares Owned By Overbrook

A.P. Indy
Bates Motel*
Belong to Me
Coronado's Quest
Deputy Minister
Diesis*
Kingmambo
Old Trieste
Miswaki*
Seattle Slew - 2
Seeking the Gold
Unbridled
Woodman
* (not using 2000 season)

(not using 2000 season)

2000 Seasons Purchased By Overbrook

A.P. Indy

Broad Brush Capote Cherokee Run Forest Wildcat - 2 **Gone West** Grand Slam - 2 Hennessey - 2 Lil's Lad - 2 Pine Bluff Pulnit Saint Ballado - 2 Seeking the Gold - 2 Silver Charm **Sultry Song** Touch Gold Unbridled's Song

complications from laminitis, leaving Storm Cat, who was struggling to get mares his first few seasons. There are 10 stallions at Overbrook in 2000, most of them homebreds and six of which have yet to have a runner. All but one are owned 100% by Young (David Reynolds owns 50% of Tabasco Cat).

In 1979, Young met Bob Warren, a former accounting professor who was the state budget director, then Secretary of Finance under Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. Young was serving as Secretary of the Cabinet ("I was a dollar a year guy, and I think they still owe me the Young jokes).

Highly impressed by Warren, Young hired him as a vice president of W.T. Young Inc., to manage his financial holdings. "The state is loaded with good people, and I thought the best was Bob,"
Young said. "He oversees everything I do."

Ordnanded With good people, and I thought the best was Bob,"
UK and

Most of the other key members of the Overbrook team also have lengthy tenures at the farm, including:

- Ben Giles: as project manager, he has supervised the construction of nearly every building on the farm. Though he has a liberal arts degree from Vanderbilt University, Giles' love of historic restoration and furniture building led him to a life of working with his hands. He has been at Overbrook 20 years, first as an independent contractor, now as a full-time employee.
- Billy Joe Skinner: was the broodmare manager at Wimbledon Farm for five years before coming to Overbrook in the same capacity 10 years ago. He oversees 25 men who care for the mares and their babies. Though soft spoken, Skinner has a good sense of humor: "We've got 80 mares to foal. That's like taking care of 80 preg-

"In the American economic system, the owners have an advantage. I'm one of the few people that has always felt the capital gains tax has always been too low."

—W.T. Young

nant women." Asked why the 'team approach' works so well at Overbrook, he says, "Because it's all about what's best for the horses."

• Bruce Jensen: an Idaho native whose parents both rode and trained horses, he knew little else while growing up. A

former rider himself until a bad spill at Thistledown in 1974, Jensen had broken horses for Cannon. He was hired as yearling manager nearly 17 years ago. He had eight yearlings to worry about his first year at Overbrook; this year, he has 75.

- Joe Yocum, D.V.M.: because 80% of his time was being spent doing reproductive work at Overbrook, he left his position as a partner at Hagyard-Davidson-McGee to become the farm's resident vet. Yocum has been taking care of the Overbrook mares since 1985. A graduate of the Auburn veterinary program, his family formerly owned a farm that is now part of the Three Chimneys stallion division.
- Wes Lanter: the new member of the team is stallion manager Wes Lanter, who joined Overbrook Jan. 10 after 10 years at Three Chimneys. He worked at Spendthrift Farm for seven years, and thus worked with Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew at two different locations. "This is a new challenge and a great opportunity," Lanter said. "There aren't many places I would have left Three Chimneys for."

Not to be left out of the picture are Young's two children, Bill Jr., 51, who runs W.T. Young Storage Co., and Lucy Young Boutin, 47, who lives in Chantilly,

Young at Heart

William Thompson Young is one of Lexington's favorite sons. He was born in Lexington, educated in Lexington, and has invested heavily in Lexington. Tirelessly, he has given his time, energy, and resources to Lexington businesses, charities, universities, and nonprofit agencies.

Feb. 15, 1918, and graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1939, Young served in the Army's

Ordnance Department from 1941-45.

He and his wife, Lucy, met while students at UK and have been married 54 years. They have lived in the same home since 1947, just a block from where their son, Bill Jr., now lives. They also have a daughter, Lucy, who lives in France.

Young began manufacturing Big Top peanut butter in 1946 and, in 1955, sold the company to Procter & Gamble, which still produces the product today, only under the name Jif. The Lexington plant is the largest producer of Jif peanut butter.

One of the trucking firms that each day loads Jif at that Procter & Gamble plant is Lexington Cartage, begun by Young in 1955 and now run by his son. The elder Young started W.T. Young Storage in 1958. Today, Lexington Cartage has 575 trucks and trailers and W.T. Young Storage has three million square feet of warehouse space.

Young was a major shareholder in Humana, and from 1966-84 served as chairman of Royal Crown Cola. A former trustee of the University of Kentucky, his \$5-million gift launched the construction of the school's new library, which bears his name. He is chairman of the board of Shakertown and Transylvania University in Lexington. He established the W.T. Young Scholars program at Transylvania.

Racing related, Young is a director emeritus of Churchill Downs and Breeders' Cup Ltd.

Young has bred and/or raced about 80 stakes winners, including four Eclipse Award winners—Flanders, Timber Country, Golden Attraction, and Boston Harbor. He has won the Kentucky Derby (gr. I) with Grindstone, Preakness (gr. I) with Timber Country and Tabasco Cat (both owned in partnership) and Belmont Stakes (gr. I) with Tabasco Cat and Editor's Note. His Cat Thief won last year's Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I).

By Dan Liebman

France, and was married to the late trainer Francois Boutin.

Conversations with employees at Overbrook always wind their way back to Young, a smallish white-haired man with a grandfatherly look and demeanor. Warren summed it up best of all: "He's as kind as anyone you will meet. A gentleman and a gentle man. He's always concerned with others; very open minded; always invites debate. But he wants to hear the truth."

The truth is, the team he has put together at Overbrook Farm has Young on top of the Thoroughbred business.