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## Stronger Than Storms

*Sam Stevens has seen it all and keeps winning*

BY LENNY SHULMAN

**THERE IS A SANDSTORM** blowing through the West Texas Plains, reports Sam E. Stevens, hardly bothered by the blowing dust. In fact, Stevens welcomes such calling cards from Mother Nature, since his Sam Stevens Inc., a large farm equipment manufacturing company, produces the "Sandfighter," a machine that protects planted vegetation by making divots, clodding dirt, and preventing sand from blowing low across the ground.

It takes a tough hombre to carve out a life in this corner of the world, and Stevens is just such a man, and one who knows how to raise a tough horse as well. For more than 40 years he has been buying, raising, breeding, and owning runners that have carried him to winner's circles throughout the Southwest and, for a time, out in California. His Thoroughbreds have taken him to a Breeders' Cup as well as to sprint stakes for precocious 2-year-olds around New Mexico; and his business acumen has carried him to co-owning for a while Ruidoso Downs and Sunland Park in New Mexico and the Ocala Breeders' Sales Co. in Florida.

Headquartered in the small town of Lamesa, halfway between Lubbock and Midland/Odessa, Stevens, now in his 80s, began in racing by purchasing a half-interest in a \$2,000 claimer in 1969. With his wife, Latane, he soon got involved in breeding horses.

"In 1971 I raised my first foal, and I've had them, by golly, ever since," said Stevens. "The second one we raised wound up being stakes-placed, and in 1973 we raised a horse that became the top 2-year-old in New Mexico."

*(continued on page 64)*

Sam and Latie Stevens; top, stakes horses earn signage along the highway fence line at Sam Stevens Farm

MARK UMSTUTT PHOTOS

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## 2014 LEADING SIRE IN LOUISIANA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>D'WILDCAT</b> (98, Forest Wildcat), Louisiana Stallion Station South	\$4,500	86/29	1/2	0/1	(Wildcat Red, \$610,000)	<b>\$1,216,194</b>	*355	13	1.44	1.32
2	<b>SONGANDPRAYER</b> (98, Unbridled's Song), The Stallion Stn @ Copper Crowne	\$5,000	123/36	3/4	1/3	(Aireofdistinction, \$97,200)	<b>\$1,083,907</b>	*801	36	1.22	1.58
3	<b>CLOSING ARGUMENT</b> (02, Successful Appeal), Louisiana Stallion Station North	\$5,000	49/24	1/2	1/1	(Closing Report, \$139,500)	<b>\$692,192</b>	*365	16	1.28	1.25
4	<b>EL CORREDOR</b> (97, Mr. Greeley), The Stallion Station @ Copper Crowne	\$3,500	78/25	0/0	0/0	(Andrus Athena, \$40,950)	<b>\$507,291</b>	*1012	34	1.22	1.52
5	<b>PRIVATE VOW</b> (03, Broken Vow), Red River Farms	\$2,000	43/13	1/1	1/1	(Tensas Harbor, \$102,000)	<b>\$414,688</b>	114	2	0.75	1.34
6	<b>MASS MEDIA</b> (01, Touch Gold), Red River Farms	\$1,500	33/11	0/0	0/0	(Your Move, \$73,800)	<b>\$347,068</b>	*138	4	1.24	1.10
7	<b>SALUTE THE SARGE</b> (05, Forest Wildcat), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	33/9	0/0	0/0	(Salutos Amigos, \$74,400)	<b>\$318,956</b>	*120	3	0.95	1.31
8	<b>HALF OURS</b> (03, Unbridled's Song), Clear Creek Stud	\$5,000	47/15	0/0	0/0	(Half Nelson, \$36,400)	<b>\$318,014</b>	*224	5	1.06	1.31
9	<b>IDE</b> (93, Forty Niner), Clear Creek Stud	\$2,500	51/8	1/2	1/1	(Ide Be Cool, \$135,000)	<b>\$312,293</b>	548	17	1.14	1.09
10	<b>YANKEE GENTLEMAN</b> (99, Storm Cat), Le Mesa Stallions	\$5,000	47/13	0/0	0/0	(Jerry and Me, \$55,600)	<b>\$304,154</b>	*406	18	1.29	1.27
11	<b>BIG TOP CAT</b> (02, Storm Cat)	Died, 2012	26/11	0/0	0/0	(Chaotic Kitty, \$54,000)	<b>\$304,017</b>	120	2	0.85	0.89
12	<b>TENPINS</b> (98, Smart Strike), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	48/11	0/0	0/0	(Ten to Midnight, \$46,440)	<b>\$297,575</b>	*312	9	0.98	1.09
13	<b>GRAND APPOINTMENT</b> (98, Unbridled), Fallen Oaks Farm	\$1,500	17/9	1/1	1/1	(Gold Appointment, \$81,460)	<b>\$270,909</b>	58	2	1.06	0.93
14	<b>AFTERNOON DEELITES</b> (92, Private Terms)	Pnsd	34/6	0/0	0/0	(Afternoon Tango, \$64,800)	<b>\$259,247</b>	*602	25	1.11	1.35
15	<b>LION TAMER</b> (00, Will's Way), Clear Creek Stud	\$2,500	31/7	0/0	0/0	(Win Lion Win, \$59,857)	<b>\$257,203</b>	101	2	0.84	1.12
16	<b>GOOD AND TOUGH</b> (95, Carson City)	Died, 2012	41/10	0/0	0/0	(Crypto Good, \$57,100)	<b>\$249,278</b>	*444	16	1.16	1.16
17	<b>TIME BANDIT</b> (96, Time for a Change), Heritage Stud	\$1,000	27/6	1/1	1/1	(Awesome Bandit, \$64,200)	<b>\$239,964</b>	244	4	0.86	0.92
18	<b>GOLD TRIBUTE</b> (94, Mr. Prospector), Red River Farms	\$2,000	35/7	0/0	0/0	(Nubin Ridge, \$33,771)	<b>\$222,933</b>	*462	11	0.97	1.10
19	<b>RUN PRODUCTION</b> (00, Saint Ballado), Louisiana Stallion Station South	\$3,500	21/6	1/1	1/1	(She Loves Runnin', \$68,100)	<b>\$206,562</b>	124	7	1.43	1.08
20	<b>PORTO FORICOS</b> (95, Mr. Prospector), Clear Creek Stud	Died, 2013	26/10	0/0	0/0	(Social Misfit, \$64,194)	<b>\$183,047</b>	230	5	1.08	1.16
21	<b>SNUCK IN</b> (97, Montbrook), Matthews Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	21/7	1/1	1/1	(Sneaking Uponyou, \$81,000)	<b>\$176,986</b>	*297	5	0.88	0.95
22	<b>MY FRIEND MAX</b> (92, Danzig)	NA	27/5	0/0	0/0	(Tey's Big Boy, \$36,500)	<b>\$174,269</b>	214	10	1.02	0.91
23	<b>CHATAIN</b> (03, Forest Wildcat), Louisiana Stallion Station North	\$1,500	18/7	0/0	0/0	(Hatainsroyalrouj, \$54,500)	<b>\$169,402</b>	47	0	0.59	1.03
24	<b>OLE REBEL</b> (99, Carson City), Clear Creek Stud	\$1,500	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Warren's Rebel, \$50,100)	<b>\$160,716</b>	72	1	0.82	0.87
25	<b>SUN KING</b> (02, Charismatic), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	49/12	0/0	0/0	(Justfollowmylead, \$19,550)	<b>\$159,189</b>	226	2	0.73	1.06

## 2014 LEADING SIRE IN TEXAS

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>MY GOLDEN SONG</b> (03, Unbridled's Song), Valor Farm	\$4,000	23/9	3/5	2/3	(Fiftyshadesofgold, \$125,000)	<b>\$395,350</b>	68	7	1.08	1.10
2	<b>TOO MUCH BLING</b> (03, Rubiano), Lane's End Texas	\$4,000	41/15	1/1	1/1	(Scooter's Choice, \$45,305)	<b>\$362,961</b>	122	12	1.27	1.18
3	<b>VALID EXPECTATIONS</b> (93, Valid Appeal), Lane's End Texas	Pnsd	46/15	0/0	0/0	(Ivan Fallunovalot, \$58,980)	<b>\$358,567</b>	633	43	1.23	1.17
4	<b>UNCLE ABBIE</b> (97, Kingmambo), Key Ranch	\$2,000	25/6	2/3	0/2	(Ibaka, \$93,000)	<b>\$252,953</b>	211	8	0.68	0.66
5	<b>EARLY FLYER</b> (98, Gilded Time), Valor Farm	\$3,500	38/8	0/0	0/0	(Fly the Red Eye, \$24,980)	<b>\$175,468</b>	219	15	0.86	0.89
6	<b>SPECIAL RATE</b> (00, Pulpit), Stoneview Farm	\$3,000	23/6	0/0	0/0	(Sassy N Special, \$27,963)	<b>\$139,071</b>	125	2	0.63	0.50
7	<b>ORATORY</b> (02, Pulpit), Eureka Thoroughbred Farm	\$3,500	20/2	0/0	0/0	(Cottonwood Will, \$27,136)	<b>\$111,850</b>	*157	3	1.26	1.18
8	<b>SCRIMSHAW</b> (00, Gulch), R&S Stables	\$1,500	20/6	0/0	0/0	(My Boy Gene, \$21,980)	<b>\$110,543</b>	*174	3	1.02	0.92
9	<b>CAPTAIN COUNTDOWN</b> (96, Relaunch), Double S Thoroughbred Farm	\$500	22/7	1/1	1/1	(Wampas Kitty, \$35,500)	<b>\$100,716</b>	174	3	0.53	0.68
10	<b>LITTLEEXPECTATIONS</b> (97, Valid Appeal), Asmussen Horse Center	\$1,500	14/6	0/0	0/0	(Expect Elprada, \$19,170)	<b>\$94,499</b>	186	4	0.79	1.02

(continued from page 62)

That would be Tracy Dias, who was born on Friday the 13th and whose name is loosely taken from the Spanish translation of 13. In 1975 the homebred won three six-furlong futurities at three different tracks and returned the following season to win the Ruidoso Thoroughbred Derby Handicap and the Memorial Day Handicap, running out better than \$100,000 for the

Stevens family. Another Stevens-bred, Mr. Moon, took the 1977 Land of Enchantment Futurity and the New Mexico Thoroughbred Futurity and the 1978 Conquistador Handicap.

"Back in the day of Tracy Dias and Mr. Moon, you could breed out of state and foal in New Mexico and get in as a New Mexico horse," Stevens said. "They changed the rules after I won those races with those

two horses. So you now have to breed the mare in New Mexico and keep her there and foal there. We bring the mares home to Texas after they wean."

In the mid-1970s Stevens began journeying to Florida in a bid to upgrade his stock. On one such trip he landed Faneuil Girl (Bolin's Boy—Miss Newcastle, by Coaltown), a filly bred by Farnsworth (continued on page 66)

**Special Note For Sire Lists:**

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2010 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through April 14, 2014. 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.

## 4-TIME LOUISIANA BRED HORSE OF THE YEAR!

# Star Guitar

Quiet American-Minit Towinit, by Malagra

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- A Stakes Winner every year from ages two to seven
- Set **New Track Record** at Evangeline Downs in final start - 1 1/16 miles in 1:43.71
- **Won 22 stakes**
- Pedigree includes **DR. FAGER** on the top and **DAMASCUS** on the bottom, a powerful cross to two Hall of Famers

**\$3,500 Live Foal, 9-1 • \$4,000 Live Foal, LFSN**

Nominated to Breeders' Cup Series

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## 2013 LOUISIANA STALLION OF THE YEAR

Leading sire of Louisiana-Bred runners by 2013 earnings making **IDE** The Andrew L. "Red" Erwin Louisiana Stallion of the year for the 2nd time!

# Ide

Forty Niner-Maytide, by Naskra  
Sire of

**IDE BE COOL**, 2013 Louisiana Bred Champion Two-Year-Old Colt. Four time SW. Undefeated in six starts! Won 2014 Louisiana Premier Night Prince S. and 2014 Pelican Stakes.

**IDEFROMTHEBAYOU**, set NCR winning Louisiana Showcase Starter S., @7.5 f. T in 1:28.90 (\$327,571)

**\$2,000 Live Foal, 9-1 • \$2,500 Live Foal, LFSN**

Nominated to Breeders' Cup



# Half Ours

Unbridled's Song-Zing, by Storm Cat

Sire of **mult.G1** placed SW **GENTLEMEN'S BET** (9-5-0-3, \$416,700).  
Juvenile SW

**ALL WOMAN** (9-3-3-2)

**68% WINNERS FROM STARTERS**

**OBS 2YO BY HALF OURS SELLS FOR \$190,000**

**THE TOP SIRE BY TOTAL** at '14 EVD 2YO In Training Sale

**THE TOP SIRE BY TOTAL** at '13 Breeders Sales Company of Louisiana Yearling sale in West Monroe

**Fee: \$4,500 Live Foal, 9-1 • \$5,000 Live Foal, LFSN**

Nominated to Breeders' Cup



# Lion Tamer

Will's Way-Tippecanoe Creek, by Olympio

**MILLIONAIRE G1 WINNING Sprinter/Miler**  
**9 Triple Digit Beyers**

Won the G1 Cigar Mile H. in 1:332/5 (111 Beyer); etc

Sire of:

**HEAVY ON THEMISTER**, Multiple SW. Set track records in Evangeline Mile H. (1:36.38), EVD NTR 6 furlongs (1:08.93).

**SOUTHERN DUDE**, G3 placed, triple digit Beyers in first start.

**\$2,000 Live Foal, 9-1 • \$2,500 Live Foal, LFSN**

Nominated to Breeders' Cup Series



# Custom For Carlos

More Than Ready-Meadow Oaks, by Meadowlake

**GSW at 3 and 4**

**5 Triple Digit Beyers**

**Won the G3 Jersey Shore**

**Stakes going 6 f. in 1:08 FLAT!**

On the board in 11 of 15 starts. Earned \$483,865

By G1SW millionaire **MORE THAN READY**, out of **Meadow Oaks**, a stakes placed winning daughter of **MEADOWLAKE**.

**CUSTOM FOR CARLOS** yearling colt sells for **\$44,000** at **OBSFEB Winter Mixed Sale**.

**\$3,000 Live Foal, 9-1 • \$3,500 Live Foal, LFSN**

Nominated to Breeders' Cup

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## Also Standing B.J.'s Mark

Sheikh Albadou-Gem's For Julie, by Diamond Prospect

**13% STAKES HORSES • \$43000 AVE/EARNINGS**

**\$1,000 Live Foal, 9-1 • \$1,500 Live Foal, LFSN**

## G.W.'s Skippie

Skip Away-Logical Reasoning, by Lord Avie

**STAKES WINNER AT 2 AND 3**

**\$1,500 Live Foal, 9-1 • \$2,000 Live Foal, LFSN**

Nominated to Breeders' Cup Series

## Ole Rebel

Carson City-Velvet Tulip, by Valid Appeal

**Multiple SW Sprinter • TRIPLE DIGIT BEYERS 4X**

**\$1,000 Live Foal, 9-1 • \$1,500 Live Foal, LFSN**

Nominated to Breeders' Cup Series

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## 2014 LEADING SIRES IN NEW MEXICO Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	DESERT GOD (91, Fappiano), A & A Ranch	Pnsd	39/17	2/2	1/2	(Proceed, \$72,000)	<b>\$486,489</b>	258	26	1.50	0.74
2	ATTILA'S STORM (02, Forest Wildcat), A & A Ranch	\$3,000	28/9	1/1	1/1	(Reaper, \$51,000)	<b>\$264,558</b>	91	9	1.52	0.86
3	THE WAY HOME (04, Giant's Causeway), Doubletree Farm	\$3,500	22/7	1/1	1/1	(Western Way, \$55,465)	<b>\$216,302</b>	73	4	1.19	0.95
4	DEVON LANE (93, Storm Cat)	Died, 2012	27/7	1/1	1/1	(Devons Ca Ching, \$78,290)	<b>\$205,884</b>	434	19	0.79	0.81
5	QUINTON'S GOLD (97, Carson City), Doubletree Farm	\$3,500	32/11	0/0	0/0	(Rascal Who, \$26,184)	<b>\$204,082</b>	82	7	1.58	0.87
6	DIABOLICAL (03, Artax), A & A Ranch	\$3,500	30/7	1/1	1/1	(Mays Or Mantle, \$46,322)	<b>\$203,812</b>	83	2	0.95	1.10
7	YOUR EMINENCE (01, Saint Ballado)	Died, 2012	25/7	0/0	0/0	(Lisa Sue, \$33,275)	<b>\$185,599</b>	150	3	0.72	0.76
8	PREMEDITATION (99, Afternoon Deelites)	N/A	22/4	1/1	1/1	(Mr. Wizard, \$74,940)	<b>\$167,868</b>	74	6	1.15	0.88
9	ROLL HENNESSY ROLL (00, Hennessy), A & A Ranch	\$3,500	23/5	0/0	0/0	(Rollsetroll, \$26,362)	<b>\$135,718</b>	109	9	1.07	1.07
10	TO TERAS (00, Unbridled's Song), New Mexico State University	\$1,500	12/6	0/0	0/0	(Pure Tera, \$45,234)	<b>\$120,470</b>	71	1	0.86	0.63

## 2014 LEADING SIRES IN ARIZONA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	TOP HIT (98, Twining), Triple AAA Ranch	N/A	22/9	0/0	0/0	(Easy Hit, \$15,559)	<b>\$119,536</b>	81	9	1.02	0.91
2	MARGIE'S WILDCAT (01, Storm Cat), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm	N/A	20/6	0/0	0/0	(Easy Solution, \$32,400)	<b>\$100,252</b>	84	0	0.73	0.95
3	CHELOKEE (04, Cherokee Run), University of Arizona Horse Center	\$1,500	13/5	0/0	0/0	(Luvmealldayindyusa, \$21,750)	<b>\$54,389</b>	39	0	0.68	0.84
4	DEPUTY WILD CAT (99, Deputy Minister)	Died, 2012	15/3	0/0	0/0	(Deputy Vic, \$11,205)	<b>\$47,219</b>	131	2	0.89	1.03
5	CHESTERTOWN SLEW (02, Seattle Slew)	N/A	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Easter Girl, \$28,485)	<b>\$35,098</b>	23	0	0.51	2.86

(continued from page 64)

Farms. Faneuil Girl ran third in the 1974 Ruidoso Futurity but found her best stride in the breeding shed. Her first three foals, all bred by Stevens, became stakes winners. First came Captain Double (by Nodouble), who won the 1980 Ruidoso Thoroughbred Derby and earned more than \$125,000. Next up was Faneuil's Jewel, a filly by Barachois, who scored in the 1982 Monroe Handicap at Finger Lakes. Then came Faneuil Lass, a Somebody II filly who won the 1982 Railbird Stakes and Princess Stakes (both gr. III) at Hollywood Park and the 1983 Las Cienegas Handicap at Santa Anita. Faneuil Lass ran second in the 1982 Hollywood Oaks (gr. I)

and earned \$222,068 in her 18 starts.

Stevens and his partner Louis Brooks then sent Faneuil Girl to Secretariat and got a filly they would sell at the 1983 Keeneland July select yearling auction for \$525,000 to D. Wayne Lukas. Named Fiesta Lady, she won the 1984 Matron Stakes (gr. I) at Belmont Park and a division of the Del Mar Debutante Stakes (gr. II). Striking while the iron was hot, Stevens and Nita Brooks (the wife of Louis) sold Faneuil Girl for \$1.45 million at Keeneland's November breeding stock sale in 1984 in foal to Green Dancer. The mare went on to produce stakes winner Land Rush and graded stakes-placed Track Rebel, the latter of whom stood at

stud in Louisiana.

In 1978 Stevens established Sam Stevens Farm on 45 acres about three miles from the Stevens' residence in Lamesa. Frank Sumpter has been the farm manager since the farm's inception. Stevens breeds at Doubletree Farm near Hobbs, N.M., about 70 miles from Lamesa, close enough for Sumpter to keep an eye on the babies until they're weaned. Stevens and his son Sammy have an interest in two stallions that stand there: Indian Firewater, a son of Indian Charlie trained by Bob Baffert to win the 2011 San Fernando Stakes (gr. II) and the earner of \$339,242; and The Way Home, an unraced son of Giant's Causeway who was the New Mexico Breeders Association top freshman Thoroughbred sire in 2011. Stevens also breeds at A&A Ranch near Anthony, N.M.

"Mr. Stevens has been in the business a long time," said Steven Prather, owner of Doubletree Farm. "He loves to study bloodlines and he's good at it. The mares he buys have good pages, and he's done real well with them. He's an easy man to get along with; do your job and you won't have a problem."

Also in 1978, Stevens bought into the auction company when Florida's OBS was expanded, and he retained that owner-

(continued on page 68)



Stevens' horses have plenty of open space at his farm near Lamesa, Texas

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## 2014 LEADING SIRES IN OKLAHOMA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	READ THE FOOTNOTES (01, Smoke Glacken), River Oaks Farm	\$3,500	37/14	0/0	0/0	(Storied Lady, \$69,900)	<b>\$521,811</b>	*269	13	1.42	1.19
2	LATENT HEAT (03, Maria's Mon), River Oaks Farm	\$3,500	66/19	0/0	0/0	(Supermonic, \$52,754)	<b>\$477,335</b>	*250	3	0.97	1.08
3	CACTUS RIDGE (01, Hennessy), Royal Vista Ranches	\$5,000	47/21	2/2	0/2	(Seeking Ms Shelley, \$46,200)	<b>\$442,325</b>	*408	20	1.28	1.06
4	KIPLING (96, Gulch), Mighty Acres	\$2,500	64/21	0/0	0/0	(Kipling's Joy, \$45,146)	<b>\$356,307</b>	291	10	1.15	0.89
5	TOCCET (00, Awesome Again), Mighty Acres	\$2,500	37/15	1/1	0/1	(Az Ridge, \$39,066)	<b>\$296,401</b>	*306	14	1.12	1.25
6	DON'T GET MAD (02, Stephen Got Even), Rockin' Z Ranch	Died	35/10	0/0	0/0	(Highroller Dave, \$30,460)	<b>\$261,925</b>	*124	4	1.24	0.95
7	NOTIONAL (04, In Excess), Rockin' Z Ranch	\$2,000	35/9	1/1	1/1	(Hopeful Notion, \$61,800)	<b>\$213,877</b>	159	4	0.79	1.22
8	TACTICAL CAT (96, Storm Cat), Raywood Farm	\$1,000	28/9	0/0	0/0	(Devilishly Clever, \$48,471)	<b>\$189,381</b>	543	26	1.07	1.26
9	OMEGA CODE (00, Elusive Quality), Rockin' Z Ranch	\$2,000	30/8	0/0	0/0	(Misty Mae, \$28,450)	<b>\$172,207</b>	297	8	0.70	1.28
10	EVANSVILLE SLEW (92, Slew City Slew)	Died, 2012	39/9	0/0	0/0	(Imma Bee Sexy, \$26,275)	<b>\$137,016</b>	*517	34	1.10	0.91

(continued from page 66)

ship interest until 2000. He was also part of a group that bought Ruidoso Downs and Sunland Park that same year until he was removed from the board in a proxy fight in the early 1980s.

Besides selling farm equipment around the Midwest, Southwest, and Southeast, Stevens enjoys doing his own pedigree work on his horses and also puts together and manages a handful of different partnerships "because no one else wants to do it."

Asked what he enjoys most about his life around horses, Ste-

vens said, "I've been in the game so long, by golly. We started going to the races and enjoyed that, and raising a horse is a wonderful challenge. Working with your pedigrees and being able to have your own farm. We used to wean all the babies and break them here. But the best is running against your friends in a race, and if you beat them, by golly, you rub it in pretty good, then go out and have a steak and enjoy it. Of course, sometimes it works the other way too. But that's something that we enjoy a lot."

Many of the Stevens' horses are easily recognizable because they have the word "who" included in their names. Stevens explained that his wife's nickname is Latie, and when friends call on the phone and ask for Latie, Stevens always replies, "Latie who?" One of their friends suggested they should name a horse that. But while Stevens doesn't like naming horses after family or friends, he does enjoy working the "who" into their names. One of the most prominent so-named was a son of Faneuil Lass, by Lypheor.

"We entered six names with The Jockey Club," said Stevens, "and the last name I put on the list was Sam Who, and that's the name they gave that horse."

As a 4-year-old in 1989, Sam Who went on a spree for the Stevens and Brooks families, winning the Los Angeles Handicap (gr. III), Hollywood Park Budweiser Breeders' Cup Handicap, and Ancient Title Handicap while trained by Lukas. He was good enough to make a start in that year's Breeders' Cup Sprint (gr. I) at Gulfstream Park and wound up running fourth. However, the stewards disqualified Sam Who for veering in and causing interference shortly after the start, and placed him 12th. The Kentucky-bred was claimed away from the partners for \$100,000 in California in 1991 and wound up with earnings in excess of \$470,000.

When racinos came onboard in New Mexico, the once-moribund racing and breeding circuit there picked up. Stevens, who was running several horses with Lukas in California, eventually sold those horses and the mares he'd accumulated and concentrated on buying less-expensive stock to run in New Mexico, where the purses had perked back up. The Stevenses also enjoy a home they have in the mountains outside Ruidoso, where they are able to escape the triple-digit West Texas summertime heat. And lately they've enjoyed a steady parade of stakes winners on that circuit.

Lefty Who (Quinton's Gold—Fortunate Kate, by Fortunate Prospect), trained by Joel Marr of Peppers Pride fame, won seven stakes between 2008 and 2010

(continued on page 70)

THE TREND CONTINUES.....



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Texas-bred Ol Winedrinker Who is a three-time stakes winner

(continued from page 68)

as a homebred. The gelding won 10 of 23 starts with five seconds and four thirds and banked \$635,994. At the same time, Blue Eyed Bella (Le Grande Danseur—Miss Grubby, by Grub), bred and owned by Stevens and son Sammy, won two stakes in 2008 and another in 2009 with Marr, and added \$263,409 to the family coffers.

“He’s got a knack,” said Marr. “He does a lot of research, and he finds mares with something in their pedigree that strikes his fancy. He’s been acquiring mares for a long time and has had a lot of success over the years. He loves to run but also affords you the time that’s needed. He’ll do right by the horse.”

That’s Who, bred by Stevens and co-owned by Latie and him, has run up \$521,942 with a dozen wins from 23 starts. Still on the track, That’s Who (Quinton’s Gold—Rama Lassie, by Hadif) has won five added-money events, including last year’s Land of Enchantment Handicap at Ruidoso. Texas-bred Ol Winedrinker Who, a son of Sligo Bay bred and raced by Stevens and Sammy, won the Veteran Stakes in 2013 and the Zia Park Derby and Norgor Thoroughbred Derby in 2012. He was most recently third in the April 13 Sunland Park Handicap and has earned more than \$350,000. Stevens won the Copper Top Futurity male division last year with Dandy Don Who, and his Storming Who ran third in this year’s filly division April 12.

“It used to be I didn’t fool with the early horses; I always wanted to run later in the year,” Stevens said. “But now we have Todd Fincher handling the early horses, and we split them up between Todd and Joel, two of the top men in New Mexico.

“We don’t have anything good enough to race in California anymore; just the New Mexico-breds. Now and then we’ll get a good one though. Ol Winedrinker Who is the best open horse we’ve had in a long time. As for favorites, first it was Tracy Dias, then Sam Who, then Lefty Who. When we started in 1969, I began with the number one, and I’ve listed every horse we’ve had—raised or bought. We had a foal two days ago and that baby’s number is 626. And from them we’ve had 51 stakes horses. We have signs on top of our fence that runs along the highway with the names of our stakes horses on the signs. That’s a good deal, by golly, for people driving along the highway.”

Stevens owns some 34 mares today, some in partnership with various family members. Most were bought in Florida with the help of Hubert and Bert Pilcher.

“They have helped me tremendously through the years,” said Stevens. “We try to buy mares with speed that we can bring home, foal, and run the open babies before we breed them back to New Mexico sires. Now that we are shooting for the early 2-year-old races, we try to plan it so they foal by the middle of April. If they miss, we’ll just skip them and wait a year when we can breed them early.”

Racetrack owner, sales company owner, stallion owner, owner of graded stakes winners trained by Wayne Lukas in California and of futurity winners in New Mexico, farm owner, top breeder, and successful businessman, Sam Stevens has truly done it all in the horse business.

“We’ve dealt with a lot of people over the years,” he states in his plain-speaking Texas Plains manner. And Sam Stevens, a man tough enough to fight sandstorms and the dark clouds that can envelop the horse business, is still winning races and enjoying those steak dinners. **BH**

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2014 Oklahoma Sires by Winners		
Sire	Rnrs.	Wnrs
Kipling	64	22
Cactus Ridge	47	22
Latent Heat	66	19
Tocset	37	15
Read the Footnotes	38	14
Evansville Slew	40	10
Don’t Get Mad	35	10
Notional	36	9
Omega Code	30	9
Tactical Cat	29	9
Freefourinternet	11	7
Artax	17	5