

MIDWEST/CANADA

North Stars

Adena Springs North boasted the top three sires in Canada for 2014

BY JENNIFER MORRISON

ALMOST HALF A CENTURY ago Frank Stronach surprised a business partner with news that he used some of his profits from their small company to buy a farm. It was 1968 and Stronach, who had immigrated to Canada from Austria in 1954, was well on his way to parlaying the few dollars he had in his pocket into millions.

At the time, Stronach, who christened his Aurora, Ontario, property Beechwood Farm, considered the farm a hobby and a place to build a home and start a family. Stronach not only did those things but developed the original 100-acre property into a 500-acre, mammoth Thoroughbred paradise now called Adena Springs North, Canada's leading stallion station by a good margin.

The evolution of Adena Springs North (renamed in 1989 when Stronach purchased a Central Kentucky farm and christened it Adena Springs) epitomizes Stronach's mantra in all things business: Continue to move forward and look for new ideas, scrutinize details, and supply the best product.

Those goals were in place when Stronach built up his small businesses and turned them into Magna, the world's largest auto parts manufacturer; then he began to purchase race-tracks in the United States and set up horse racing television stations and betting platforms.

Ontario will always be home to Stronach, however. His dedication to improving the local industry, currently on the rebound from a serious blow when the slots revenue-sharing partnership was canceled by the provincial government three years ago, has been unmatched. The stallion trio of Milwaukee Brew, Sligo Bay, and Silent Name finished one-two-three on the leading general sire list in Canada for 2014.

The early years at Beechwood Farm began with a small horse population—riding horses and modest Thoroughbred purchases. However, Glorious Song, a 1977 purchase, set the Stronach ship on course when she earned championships in 1979, 1980, and 1981 in Canada. It didn't take long for Stronach to try his hand at matching mares to stallions, and by 1984 he had his first (of nine) Sovereign Award as outstanding breeder.



MALLORY HAIGH PHOTOS

The stallion barn at Adena Springs North near Aurora, Ontario

Standing stallions was not at the top of Stronach's wish list during the early years of Beechwood, with only the occasional stallion performing stud duty in a private role for the farm. The focus in Canada remained on racing and breeding until 2009 when Stronach and his longtime bloodstock and sales adviser Dermot Carty formulated a plan to test the waters of the Ontario stallion market.

Carty, an energetic Irishman with layers of pedigree knowledge learned from legends such as Tom Gentry and Art Stollery, had made his first major purchase for Stronach in 1989 when he obtained group winner Saint Andrews, a son of Kenmare. Later that year Saint Andrews repeated his 1988 victory in the Prix Ganay (Fr-I) in Stronach's silks.

Carty's acquisition of the recently retired champion El Prado, by Sadler's Wells, in 1993 ignited the success of Stronach's stallion business.

"We sat down and talked about how to build a long-term stallion business," said Carty, now in his 29th year working for Stronach. "I had an idea to get a son of Sadler's Wells. I picked El Prado because he had a strong American female family."

El Prado was an instant hit.

Stronach filled up Adena Springs in Kentucky and Adena Springs South, the nursery he'd purchased in Florida, with stallions, but in 2008 Carty was becoming aware of declining business in central Florida.

"I didn't think the market was going to hold there any longer; shops were closing, and it looked like a recession was coming."

As Carty had just completed a deal to place graded stakes winners Old Forester and Philanthropist in Ontario at T.C.

(continued on page 34)

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2015 LEADING SIRE IN CANADA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee Can\$	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2015 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	BADGE OF SILVER (00, Silver Deputy), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$5,000	37/7	0/0	0/0	(Magic of Believing, \$77,100)	\$219,875	*299	11	1.22	1.39
2	WILKO (02, Awesome Again), Adena Springs North	Private	25/7	1/1	0/1	(Happy My Way, \$29,400)	\$181,531	*155	4	1.14	1.18
3	MILWAUKEE BREW (97, Wild Again), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	34/11	0/0	0/0	(Intoxicating Move, \$34,800)	\$168,658	*503	27	1.22	1.57
4	SILENT NAME (JPN) (02, Sunday Silence), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	15/4	1/1	0/1	(Fanticola, \$57,420)	\$132,964	*233	11	1.54	1.24
5	NORTH LIGHT (IRE) (01, Danehill), Adena Springs North	Private	24/8	0/0	0/0	(Feisty Albert, \$25,650)	\$117,899	*319	8	1.07	1.55
6	FORMAL GOLD (93, Black Tie Affair), Esquirol Farms	\$1,500	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Crimson Giant, \$36,600)	\$117,885	508	22	1.06	1.29
7	SLIGO BAY (IRE) (98, Sadler's Wells), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	24/6	0/0	0/0	(Lexie Lou, \$40,000)	\$103,418	*362	11	1.24	1.45
8	IMPERIALISM (01, Langfuhr), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	37/4	0/0	0/0	(Miss Wilby, \$15,000)	\$91,943	201	4	0.80	0.98
9	DOUBLE HONOR (95, Gone West), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	22/3	1/1	0/1	(Double Secret, \$60,750)	\$85,003	*599	22	1.04	1.16
10	WHERE'S THE RING (99, Seeking the Gold), Peaceful Valley Farms	\$3,000	19/3	0/0	0/0	(She Ain't Bad, \$18,240)	\$75,300	302	9	1.37	1.41
11	OLMODAVOR (99, A.P. Indy), Dunroven Farm	\$1,250	25/3	1/0	0/1	(Persuasive Paul, \$27,520)	\$73,395	*260	10	0.90	1.34
12	OLD FORESTER (01, Forestry), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$4,000	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Lahaina, \$23,460)	\$66,465	301	10	1.49	1.67
13	ROSBERG (01, A.P. Indy), Canmor Farms	\$3,000	7/5	1/0	0/1	(Lady Rosberg, \$27,909)	\$58,996	69	7	0.82	0.87
14	FINALITY (99, Dehere), Red Rock Farm	\$2,500	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Amber Moon, \$15,640)	\$56,928	237	16	0.65	0.76
15	BOLD N' FLASHY (89, Bold Ruckus), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$2,500	1/1	1/1	0/1	(Bold Thunder, \$52,200)	\$52,200	339	17	1.33	1.23
16	WANDO (00, Langfuhr)	Died, 2014	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Wando's Rebel, \$17,100)	\$42,785	*151	2	1.17	1.14
17	GOTCHA GOLD (03, Coronado's Quest), Strideawayacres	\$2,500	21/3	0/0	0/0	(Off Duty, \$16,200)	\$38,815	*94	0	0.91	1.49
18	SINGING SAINT (04, El Prado), Adena Springs North	Private	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Harp N Halo, \$24,000)	\$37,690	*44	0	0.85	1.07
19	BEST OF THE BESTS (IRE) (97, Machiavellian), Peaceful Valley Farms	\$2,000	6/0	0/0	0/0	(Amico Mio, \$35,039)	\$37,639	294	3	0.73	0.96
20	EINSTEIN (BRZ) (02, Spend a Buck), Adena Springs North	\$5,000	19/2	0/0	0/0	(Swan Deer, \$16,500)	\$35,486	*110	0	0.65	1.00
21	SKIMMING (96, Nureyev), Pacific Stud	\$4,000	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Mah Gellin, \$26,520)	\$29,315	329	17	0.74	1.02
22	SECOND IN COMMAND (00, Silver Deputy), Road's End Farm	\$2,000	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Hollywood Miss, \$20,010)	\$27,169	74	5	0.78	0.83
23	GIANT GIZMO (04, Giant's Causeway), Adena Springs North	\$5,000	4/3	0/0	0/0	(As Noted, \$11,400)	\$24,475	86	2	1.65	1.55
24	MAST TRACK (04, Mizzen Mast), Highfield Stock Farm	\$2,500	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Mytrack Marie, \$12,540)	\$20,020	25	0	0.92	1.57

2015 LEADING SIRE IN ILLINOIS

Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2015 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ROAD RULER (02, Unbridled's Song), JB Stables	\$2,000	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Armando's Star, \$22,176)	\$35,569	74	0	0.99	0.84
2	ALLUVIAL (02, Forestry), Casey Thoroughbred Farm	Private	12/3	1/0	0/1	(Smoke Em Charlie, \$13,920)	\$31,571	126	1	0.51	0.91
3	CHEROKEE RAP (01, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2012	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Wildwood Nafir, \$20,328)	\$27,428	79	5	1.03	1.10
4	LEELANAU (99, Carson City), Indian Hills Thoroughbred Farm	Private	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Showersofblessings, \$15,440)	\$21,346	135	0	0.41	0.82
5	CASHEL CASTLE (99, Silver Ghost), Hill 'N Dale Farm	\$1,000	4/1	0/0	0/0	(With a Twist, \$12,600)	\$16,215	100	1	0.87	0.98

(continued from page 32)

Westmeath Stud and Gardiner Farms, respectively, for syndicates that included Stronach as a shareholder, a move was made to take Adena Springs' stallions from Florida and put them in Ontario.

Working closely with Gardiner's president and manager, Dr. Mike Colterjohn, a close friend of Carty's, Stronach placed Sligo Bay and Silent Name at Gardiner for the 2009 breeding season.

"Racing in Ontario was healthy; there was a lot of money to be made," said Carty. "With a horse like Sligo Bay, a son of Sadler's Wells, we felt his genetics were better suited to Canadian racing. Because we didn't have a stallion operation then and we needed to work with a professional at the time, a man we could trust, Mike was perfect."

Colterjohn, who passed away from cancer in 2012, had already built the old

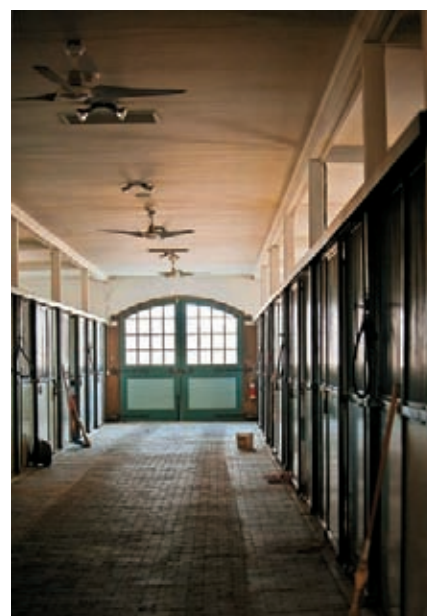
Gardiner Farms into a top Ontario stallion destination and was eager to help Stronach accomplish his Ontario stallion project.

Four more stallions arrived at Gardiner—Alphabet Soup, Olmodavor, Milwaukee Brew, and Giant Gizmo—to complete the "Adena Six-Pack," which was an immediate hit with local breeders.

Stronach considered purchasing Gardiner but instead built six new stallion paddocks on the Caledon East farm and went with construction on a modern stallion facility near Aurora. Tabbed at a cost of about \$7 million, the complex is a compilation of the best in barn architecture observed at farms around the world.

"I was sent on a mission to look at other stallion operations: England, Ireland, France, Italy, Brazil, South Africa, Australia, Argentina, Kentucky, and Florida,"

(continued on page 36)



The stallion facility took 1½ years to build

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2011 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through February 24, 2015. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American earnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2014 is \$21,617 or 45% of the 2014 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 45% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 19%; Singapore by 54%. 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.

2015

SOVEREIGN AWARD FINALISTS

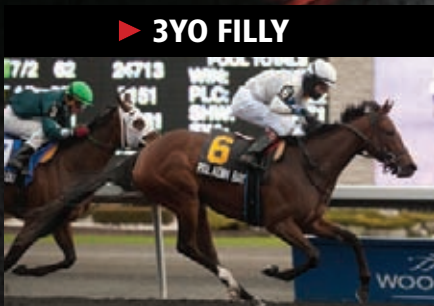


▶ 3YO FILLY, TURF FEMALE,
HORSE OF THE YEAR

LEXIE LOU
by **SLIGO BAY**

SIX by
ADENA NORTH
SIRE

and
ADENA SPRINGS
Finalist for a 10th
OUTSTANDING BREEDER AWARD



▶ 3YO FILLY

PALADIN BAY
by **SLIGO BAY**



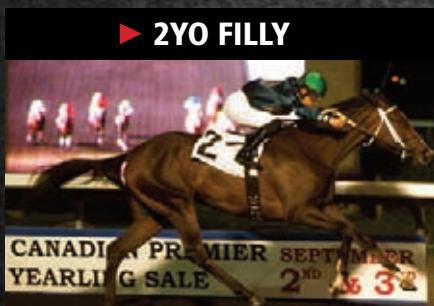
▶ 3YO FILLY

SWEATER WEATHER
by **MILWAUKEE BREW**



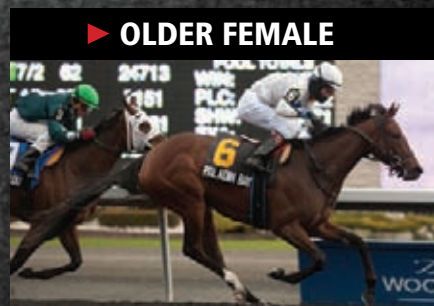
▶ 3YO MALE

COLTIMUS PRIME
by **MILWAUKEE BREW**



▶ 2YO FILLY

BROOKLYNSWAY
by **GIANT GIZMO**



▶ OLDER FEMALE

SILENT STAR
by **SILENT NAME**



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2015 LEADING SIRES IN IOWA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2015 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	STORM AND A HALF (97, Storm Cat), Rockin River Ranch	\$2,000	20/5	0/0	0/0	(We Be Stormin, \$36,300)	\$127,845	439	20	0.80	0.95
2	WOKE UP DREAMIN (00, Holy Bull), Madison County Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Daybreak Dreamer, \$23,080)	\$44,712	138	6	0.77	0.94
3	HEART OF THE STORM (04, Storm Cat), McClintock Equine Station	Private	12/4	0/0	0/0	(Bee Bee Q, \$9,450)	\$39,297	51	0	0.71	0.87
4	COLORFUL TOUR (99, Tour d'Or)	N/A	2/2	0/0	0/0	(I Tour, \$14,400)	\$27,000	20	0	0.71	1.02
5	SHORE BREEZE (98, Danzig), Iowa State University Horse Farm	\$1,000	18/2	0/0	0/0	(Fast Cast, \$7,800)	\$22,971	173	1	0.82	0.75

2015 LEADING SIRES IN OHIO

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2015 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	COWTOWN CAT (04, Distorted Humor), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	35/5	0/0	0/0	(Native Hatchet, \$10,800)	\$89,674	134	2	1.12	1.27
2	LUNARPAL (02, Successful Appeal), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	15/2	0/0	0/0	(Drew Clear, \$23,130)	\$64,850	102	2	0.81	1.01
3	MOBIL (00, Langfuhr), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Figy's Mobil Pride, \$10,640)	\$29,932	*152	5	1.34	1.40
4	MR. MABEE (01, Storm Cat), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,500	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Mr. Mabee's Baby, \$14,780)	\$22,875	59	0	0.62	0.90
5	KING OF THE ROXY (04, Littleexpectations), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,000	4/1	0/0	0/0	(I Like to Roxy, \$19,320)	\$21,638	7	0	0.36	0.95

(continued from page 34)

said Carty. "In South Africa I made note of the high ceilings and the constant moving of air so that the horses were not cooped up. In England and Ireland, I learned about stallion handling and in Australia, proper turn-out for stallions."

Stronach had a Eurowalker built (a bigger and less noisy version of the Equicizer-type walking machine) to ensure the stallions went on a regular training program, an idea first presented by Stronach's wife, Freida.

The stallion facility took 1½ years to complete and when it was opened, a lavish and entertaining open house was held to introduce the barn and the stallions to the local breeders.

"The breeding and stallion business also means you are in the people business," said Carty. "The people we are dealing with have mares and have done their research. They have acquired these mares based on factual knowledge, and we work with them to create something bigger."

Nine stallions are at Adena Springs North for 2015, and as is custom for Stronach, another new initiative has been introduced.

The Adena Advantage Program allows breeders to buy a share in a stallion for a price just above the stud fee and share in any success the stallion may have. The program is currently available on Adena's newest stud, Rookie Sensation, a graded stakes winner by Unbridled's Song.

"Breeders will have equity in the stallion, equity that can be sold, traded, or used for collateral," said Carty. "Frank's belief is

simple: If you participate in the program, everyone shares in the growth. It is the same concept that he used at Magna; a regular person gets a chance to share in the big picture."

Milwaukee Brew (by Wild Again) was Canada's leading sire by earnings and stakes winners in 2014. The two-time winner of the Santa Anita Handicap (gr. I) had six new stakes winners last year, perhaps the most significant being Coltimus Prime.

Bucking Milwaukee Brew's reputation as a sire of top fillies, Coltimus Prime won the \$500,000 Prince of Wales Stakes, the second jewel of Canada's Triple Crown, at Fort Erie Racetrack. The classic winner is a nominee for champion 3-year-old male in Canada. Also included among Milwaukee Brew's nine stakes winners in 2014 is then-2-year-old colt Kingsport, winner of the Kingarvie Stakes and a Queen's Plate hopeful for 2015. Milwaukee Brew sired a country-leading 74 winners and had progeny earnings of more than \$3.9 million for 2014.

Sligo Bay sired four stakes winners of 2014, including Lexie Lou, the Queen's Plate-winning filly who also won the Autumn Miss Stakes (Can-IIIT) and finished second to dual U.S. classic winner California Chrome in the Hollywood Derby (gr. IT). Sligo Bay sired graded stakes winner Paladin Bay, too, and has been a perennial top-10 stallion in Canada.

Sunday Silence's son Silent Name has taken Canada by storm with two strong seasons in succession. The grade II winner had 15 stakes horses in 2014 including group I winner Jaspion Silent plus stakes winners Silent Treat, Silent Star, and San Nicola Thunder. His offspring not only are quick but have proven stamina and can handle all surfaces.

These top-three Canadian/Adena North sires all stand for fees of \$7,500 Canadian funds for 2015.

Wilko, a Bessemer Trust Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I) winner by Adena Springs stallion Awesome Again, has returned to Ontario after standing a couple of seasons in Alberta. He finished sixth on the Canadian general sire list last year. Giant Gizmo, by Giant's Causeway, was Canada's leading first- and second-crop sire, and his five stakes horses in 2014 include Brooklyncrow, a contender for the Woodbine Oaks and Queen's Plate. Giant Gizmo finished 10th on the Canadian general sire list last year. Fellow Adena stallion North Light was 12th.

Singing Saint (by El Prado) is a promising young sire as is grade I winner Einstein (by Spend a Buck).

The future of Ontario racing and breeding is on more stable footing these days with the assistance of government funding, but that plan ends in four years. Stronach has never wavered in



Silent Name was a leading sire in Canada in 2014

2015 LEADING SIRE IN INDIANA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2015 Earnings	Cumulative Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	STRONG CONTENDER (03, Maria's Mon), R Star Stallions	\$3,000	18/2	0/0	0/0	(Sox to the Hox, \$24,160)	\$67,655	*142	6	1.07	1.13
2	STRONG HOPE (00, Grand Slam), Midwest Equine & Veterinary Hospital	\$1,800	16/2	0/0	0/0	(Hattaash, \$33,270)	\$60,883	316	5	0.96	1.71
3	CITY WEEKEND (02, Carson City), Equine Vet Hospital of Northern Indiana	\$2,000	13/6	0/0	0/0	(Hotel Mike, \$19,295)	\$48,421	90	3	0.75	0.99
4	IRISH ROAD (00, Unbridled's Song), Breakway Farm	Private	10/1	0/0	0/0	(An Imaginary Road, \$21,200)	\$44,900	69	0	0.94	0.86
5	MONBA (05, Maria's Mon), Nicks Farm	\$2,000	16/2	0/0	0/0	(Bright Monba, \$13,876)	\$44,486	52	0	0.53	1.45
6	DEPUTY STORM (01, Forestry), R Star Stallions	\$1,500	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Arkaybee, \$15,540)	\$35,321	81	2	1.03	1.28
7	DESERT WARRIOR (00, Deputy Minister), Haffner Farm	\$1,000	10/1	0/0	0/0	(Desert Spirit, \$18,600)	\$26,938	*267	0	0.86	0.99
8	UNBRIDLED EXPRESS (04, Unbridled's Song), Swiftly Farms	\$1,000	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Express Miss, \$10,395)	\$22,725	15	2	1.55	1.44
9	SAINTLY LOOK (00, Saint Ballado)	Died, 2014	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Needmore Cash, \$14,570)	\$21,475	22	3	1.35	0.89
10	LANTANA MOB (05, Posse), Southern Indiana Equine	\$5,000	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Dance Biz, \$18,981)	\$20,661	34	2	1.17	1.10



Rookie stallion Rookie Sensation

his support of the Ontario industry, and the results have been stellar. This spring Stronach stallions will be represented by some 200 new foals.

"Frank has made his money here. He felt he owed Ontario something. It is his home, and he is going to stick by it," said Carty.

The Adena North property includes barns for broodmares, yearlings, and horses in training plus a show horse barn that operates in conjunction with the successful Adena Retirement initiative that places retired Stronach runners.


"We are now at a level with Adena Springs North where we are very happy with the way the stallions are doing and how the structure looks," Carty said. "The results are there, but this could not be achieved without the local breeders. We meet with the breeders on a regular basis. We are not just order takers."

And on any given day Stronach can be seen wandering the property, checking out trees he has planted or examining hay and grain.

"He is very visual at what he does," said Carty. "He is always keeping his eyes open for new things to do. He has his racetrack ownership, tote systems, and television and management groups, and Adena Springs North is one major part of that big portfolio." **BH**

NOBLE'S PROMISE


CUVEE - THE DEVIL'S TRICK, BY CLEVER TRICK




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- Won Churchill's Aristides S.-G3, 6F, 1:08³/₈, 103 Beyer
- Graded Performer every year from 2 to 5 earning \$1,182,776
- From the **CARSON CITY** sire line of **CITY ZIP**, 2014 Leading Sire of G1SWs
- Female family of the incredible Darby Dan matriarch **SOARING**



2015 FEE: \$2,500 LIVE FOAL
DUE NOVEMBER 1, 2015



BREAKWAY FARM

DILLSBORO, INDIANA

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