



LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

From left, Jim and Christy Steele and Tom Rooney

## Shamrock Hopes for Good Luck

*Rooney family farm in Maryland has long history*

BY JOHN SCHEINMAN

**JIM STEELE SURVEYED** the Thoroughbred stallion landscape in northern and western Maryland and figured Shamrock Farm, the Westminster property he has overseen for the past 39 years, is pretty much the sole survivor in the region.

The illustrious Glade Valley Farms, near Frederick, is down to a few horses including one stallion, the unfashionable old turf star La Reine's Terms. Ron and Carolyn Green have been winding down Green Willow Farm, birthplace of several standout runners including 2014 King's Bishop Stakes (gr. I) winner The Big Beast, after 45 years in business. The Greens' farm has been reduced to 70 acres and 35 stalls after selling much of their Westminster property, and every one of their own horses is gone, leaving only the mares and other boarders of a few longtime clients. The remaining land is on the market.

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# 2015 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK

➤ 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	<b>BIG BROWN</b> (05, Boundary), Dutchess Views Farm	\$8,500	71/12	1/2	0/1	(Dortmund, \$330,000)	<b>\$837,609</b>	*405	14	1.33	1.84
2	<b>POSSE</b> (00, Silver Deputy), Rockridge Stud	\$5,000	72/13	0/0	0/0	(Possessed, \$56,750)	<b>\$414,234</b>	*620	26	1.38	1.37
3	<b>FREUD</b> (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$10,000	62/14	0/0	0/0	(Perfect Freud, \$34,200)	<b>\$413,757</b>	*874	39	1.68	1.28
4	<b>CATIENUS</b> (94, Storm Cat), McMahon of Saratoga T'breeds	\$2,000	39/14	0/0	0/0	(Jcs American Dream, \$50,540)	<b>\$298,743</b>	*543	26	1.13	1.26
5	<b>BOB AND JOHN</b> (03, Seeking the Gold), Saratoga Stud	\$6,000	41/12	1/1	0/1	(Why Two, \$82,065)	<b>\$287,852</b>	*189	9	0.97	1.39
6	<b>DESERT PARTY</b> (06, Street Cry), Sequel Stallions New York	\$7,500	25/8	1/1	0/1	(Shore to Party, \$44,000)	<b>\$242,503</b>	94	3	0.85	1.48
7	<b>HERE'S ZEALOUS</b> (97, Dehere), Kaz Hill Farm	\$1,000	25/7	0/0	0/0	(Mighty Zealous, \$45,600)	<b>\$237,577</b>	179	0	0.85	0.97
8	<b>NOBLE CAUSEWAY</b> (02, Giant's Causeway)	Died, 2014	45/9	1/1	0/1	(Noble and a Beauty, \$80,000)	<b>\$216,729</b>	227	7	0.85	1.08
9	<b>STONESIDER</b> (03, Giant's Causeway), Saratoga Stud	\$3,500	27/6	0/0	0/0	(Big Gally's Answer, \$41,100)	<b>\$216,367</b>	*182	3	1.18	1.22
10	<b>DISCO RICO</b> (97, Citidancer), Keane Stud Operations	Died, 2014	20/6	0/0	0/0	(Goodto look, \$52,592)	<b>\$214,875</b>	250	11	1.36	1.22
11	<b>CONGAREE</b> (98, Arazi), Saratoga Stud, LLC	\$7,500	22/5	1/1	0/1	(Shrinking Violet, \$120,000)	<b>\$201,855</b>	*337	15	1.38	1.46
12	<b>FROST GIANT</b> (03, Giant's Causeway), Keane Stud Operations	\$10,000	25/3	0/0	0/0	(Lady Luciano, \$69,900)	<b>\$178,419</b>	*140	5	1.88	1.16
13	<b>MR. SEKIGUCHI</b> (03, Storm Cat), Mole's Hill Farm	\$2,500	14/4	0/0	0/0	(Yourdreamsormine, \$26,240)	<b>\$108,622</b>	*89	1	0.87	1.28
14	<b>MUSKET MAN</b> (06, Yonaguska), Waldorf Farm	\$2,500	9/4	0/0	0/0	(H Man, \$28,700)	<b>\$84,722</b>	34	1	1.56	1.14
15	<b>BUSTIN STONES</b> (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	18/2	0/0	0/0	(Lulu Rocks, \$22,800)	<b>\$76,501</b>	95	2	1.34	1.45
16	<b>LEWIS MICHAEL</b> (03, Rahy), Questroyal North	\$2,500	20/2	0/0	0/0	(Ace Deuce, \$22,400)	<b>\$75,635</b>	98	2	0.77	1.17
17	<b>SIR WHIMSEY</b> (04, Jump Start), Mill Creek Farm	\$2,500	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Take Issue, \$52,800)	<b>\$74,800</b>	8	0	0.76	1.56
18	<b>COSMONAUT</b> (02, Lemon Drop Kid), Saratoga Stud	\$5,000	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Moldavite, \$23,800)	<b>\$70,471</b>	64	1	1.02	1.11
19	<b>RELATO DEL GATO</b> (01, Tale of the Cat)	Died, 2014	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Town Kitty, \$69,600)	<b>\$69,724</b>	12	0	1.22	0.76
20	<b>TEUFLESBERG</b> (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga T'breeds	\$5,000	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Lady Asano, \$25,800)	<b>\$64,695</b>	80	4	1.77	1.18
21	<b>GOLDEN MISSILE</b> (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm, Inc.	\$3,500	19/3	0/0	0/0	(Missilewhileuwork, \$22,120)	<b>\$58,810</b>	*629	15	1.05	1.54
22	<b>ALEX'S PAL</b> (99, Valid Expectations)	Died, 2015	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Benanti, \$12,490)	<b>\$57,619</b>	101	2	1.27	0.95
23	<b>THE CLIFF'S EDGE</b> (01, Gulch), McMahon of Saratoga T'breeds	\$2,500	21/2	0/0	0/0	(Frazil, \$7,596)	<b>\$40,713</b>	234	5	0.83	1.20
24	<b>SAY FLORIDA SANDY</b> (94, Personal Flag)	Pnsd	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Say Mr. Sandman, \$20,200)	<b>\$34,595</b>	*189	1	0.80	1.12
25	<b>GRIFFINITE</b> (98, Unbridled's Song)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Lexsoya, \$12,400)	<b>\$28,021</b>	66	0	0.61	0.89

The much ballyhooed and anticipated revival of Maryland breeding, triggered in late 2013 by a revamped Maryland-Bred Race Fund breeders and owners awards program, sparked a drive to stand new stallions in the northeast part of the state.

At Shamrock, Steele, and the owners of the farm, the Rooney family of Pittsburgh Steelers fame, have five stallions on the grounds that they hope won't be overlooked by people who no longer see breeding to race in Maryland as financial insanity.

"By other stallions coming into the state, it creates more of a buzz," Steele said. "So, they've got the buzz up there (at the farms in the northeast), and the state has the buzz, but the fact that we're alone down here...If you could go next door and see another stallion, you might breed in this area."

Steele, who learned virtually everything he knows about breeding from working under Joe Taylor, the late renowned farm manager at Gainesway Farm near Lexington, is candid about his stallion roster.

"School is out on our breeding operation," said Steele, whose wife, Christy, is the secretary at the farm. "Some of them have fairly good pedigrees, but it's gotten



Baltimore Bob, a son of leading sire Malibu Moon, stands at Shamrock Farm

very competitive for us. With Outflanker and Rock Slide, we still have two of the most successful stallions—at least in the top 10—in the state."

Along with the two venerable horses Steele named, the farm is home to Nicenor, a full brother to the legendary Barba-

ro; Baltimore Bob, a multiple stakes-winning, multiple graded stakes-placed son of leading sire Malibu Moon; and Admiral Alex, a stakes-winning son of champion Afleet Alex, whose stock has risen after his son Texas Red won the 2014 Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I).

Anytime you ask Steele how many mares one of the Shamrock stallions is getting, his answer is, "Not enough." As a family operation, and a well-off family at that, Shamrock is not under pressure to make money, Steele said. Rather, the yearly goal is to break even.

Steele confesses that he doesn't make a very good barker for the Shamrock stallions, and the farm probably doesn't advertise enough, but he believes in the bloodstock.

"If people are brutally honest, there are not many commercial stallions in the state, and I think a lot of these new stallions are being positioned as the next big thing," he said. "But the reality is there are not that many commercial stallions. So, you're left with, 'Why are you breeding?' If you're breeding to race, I'm golden because the horses are proven and the ones that are getting ready to get proven have good bloodlines, good physical abilities.

**Special Note For Sire Lists:**

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in New York (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 March 16, 2015. As supplied to 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.



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# 2015 LEADING SIRES IN MARYLAND

➤ 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	<b>NOT FOR LOVE</b> (90, Mr. Prospector)	Pnsd	50/11	0/0	0/0	(Little Love, \$40,732)	<b>\$420,235</b>	921	79	1.71	1.45
2	<b>LION HEARTED</b> (96, Storm Cat), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	45/12	0/0	0/0	(Spotted Heart, \$40,122)	<b>\$338,993</b>	*597	21	1.22	1.30
3	<b>ORIENTATE</b> (98, Mt. Livermore), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	54/10	1/0	0/1	(Mappin Time, \$44,594)	<b>\$281,923</b>	*747	40	1.30	1.75
4	<b>GREAT NOTION</b> (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,500	23/6	0/0	0/0	(Great Drive, \$44,730)	<b>\$205,293</b>	189	11	1.59	1.21
5	<b>GIACOMO</b> (02, Holy Bull), Heritage Stallions	\$3,500	43/10	0/0	0/0	(Classic Giacroll, \$20,210)	<b>\$182,717</b>	*290	15	1.11	1.27
6	<b>SCIPION</b> (02, A.P. Indy), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	22/7	0/0	0/0	(Scip's Sonata, \$25,519)	<b>\$149,386</b>	109	3	1.13	1.04
7	<b>LOUIS QUATORZE</b> (93, Sovereign Dancer), Murmur Farm	\$2,500	28/8	0/0	0/0	(Madbobandshan, \$20,807)	<b>\$146,821</b>	*961	24	1.15	1.34
8	<b>TWO PUNCH</b> (83, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2011	21/4	0/0	0/0	(Shinnecock Bay, \$33,228)	<b>\$141,265</b>	*1103	56	1.42	1.40
9	<b>STREET MAGICIAN</b> (04, Street Cry), Heritage Stallions	\$3,000	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Magic Soul, \$36,960)	<b>\$131,825</b>	49	2	1.03	1.20
10	<b>OUTFLANKER</b> (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$3,000	26/4	0/0	0/0	(Joey N, \$22,930)	<b>\$122,392</b>	*518	24	1.39	1.14
11	<b>DANCE WITH RAVENS</b> (02, A.P. Indy), Northview Stallion Station	\$3,000	37/7	0/0	0/0	(Charm City Dancer, \$16,330)	<b>\$114,629</b>	327	10	1.17	1.48
12	<b>GATORS N BEARS</b> (00, Stormy Atlantic)	Died, 2012	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Change of Command, \$44,600)	<b>\$105,803</b>	151	6	1.05	1.19
13	<b>PETIONVILLE</b> (92, Seeking the Gold), Murmur Farm	\$5,000	29/6	0/0	0/0	(Pesci to De Niro, \$13,800)	<b>\$100,524</b>	*687	49	1.33	1.28
14	<b>ROCK SLIDE</b> (98, A.P. Indy), Shamrock Farm	\$2,000	19/1	0/0	0/0	(Aix En Provence, \$30,600)	<b>\$96,316</b>	259	8	1.02	1.21
15	<b>GO FOR GIN</b> (91, Cormorant)	Pnsd	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Shaunna Alexandra, \$49,100)	<b>\$87,941</b>	*400	14	1.24	1.40
16	<b>CHEROKEE'S BOY</b> (00, Citidancer), Murmur Farm	\$2,000	16/4	0/0	0/0	(Touring Hong Kong, \$17,943)	<b>\$82,641</b>	88	1	1.19	1.05
17	<b>M EIGHTY</b> (99, Lite the Fuse), Shamrock Farm	Private	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Fran's Buckaroo, \$39,102)	<b>\$51,942</b>	14	0	1.37	0.89



The breeding shed at Shamrock Farm

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS PHOTOS

They could be anything. They've got as good a shot as anybody."

The Rooney family is an Irish-American dynasty from Pittsburgh, and a slew of books has been written about them. Patriarch Art Rooney, the famed founder of the NFL's Steelers, was also one of the most chronicled gamblers—on horses and boxing—of the first half of the 20th century. The wild stories in the book *Rooney: A Sporting Life* make him out to be a daredevil, yet principled, Damon Runyon character. In fact, Rooney and Runyon, the newspaperman and author of "Guys and Dolls," were friends.

In one tale after another, Rooney proceeds with his prowess to separate bookies and racetracks from tens and sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars in a single day.

From the book about his gambling in the late 1930s and early 1940s: "The (newspaper) stories were headlined 'Art Rooney Wins Again! Denies \$100,000 Killing,' 'Rooney Prays, Then Slaughters Books,' and 'Bookies Cry for Help, Art Rooney at Races.' One story captured the mythic Rooney in a few lines: 'Dear Boss: I'm fainting. That fellow, Rooney, has horseshoes in both hands! Can't Wait came in at 16-to-5. That's \$64,000 he won on that race.'"

Rooney raced his own horses beginning in 1938 and used the football team's training facility in Hershey, Pa., as a base to get to East Coast racetracks. In 1948 he purchased the farm—about 328 acres at the time, according to Steele—and named it Shamrock to match his green-and-white racing silks.

After much restoring and building on the property, "Art went to Shamrock frequently to get away from football and Pittsburgh," Rob L. Ruck and Maggie Jones Patterson wrote in *A Sporting Life*.

"The sweet smell of hay and fruit blossoms mixed with a whiff of composting manure," they wrote. "It's so quiet and restful that I can relax almost at once," Art said. "Horses don't talk back, you know, and that can be a great relief when you spend most of your life around sometimes temperamental football players."

The Rooney family bought two other contingent farms and today Shamrock stands at 640 acres, said Steele, who described it as three farms operated as one. The farm bequeathed to the grandchildren is strictly used for crops—mostly wheat and soybeans. On another part of the property, the family raises cattle.

Rooney and Shamrock had a terrific run racing in the 1940s under trainer Tom Berry and then experienced a resurgence in the 1970s with ace sprinter Christopher R. with trainer "Tuffy" Hacker.

The Steelers, founded by Rooney as the Pirates in 1933, didn't do much winning until the 1970s, when the team erupted to capture four Super Bowls in six years on the strength of a conveyor belt of Hall of Fame players.

Steele began working at Shamrock in the heart of the football heyday, and he lights up when telling about the time. The farm bred mares for stars Terry Bradshaw, Mel Blount, and others, and



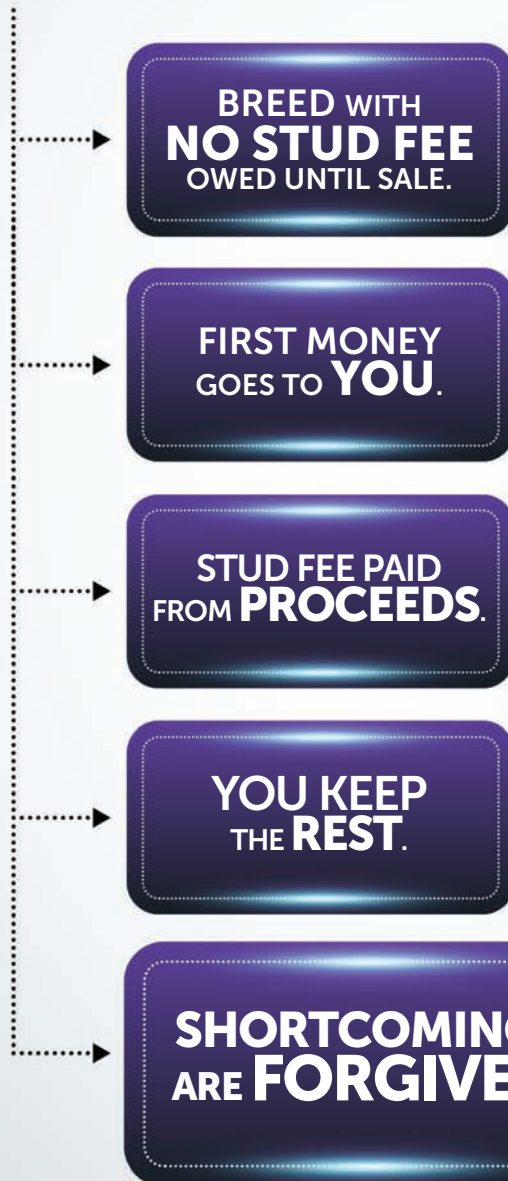
Stallion Admiral Alex enjoys a romp in the snow



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# 2015 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA

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	Sits Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ROCKPORT HARBOR (02, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2013	100/29	0/0	0/0	(Port Aggregate, \$47,600)	\$693,351	434	26	1.39	1.45
2	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy), Northview PA	\$10,000	69/18	1/1	0/1	(Willet, \$60,000)	\$584,668	*1098	41	1.59	1.35
3	SMARTY JONES (01, Elusive Quality), Northview PA	\$4,000	48/12	0/0	0/0	(Old Time Hockey, \$42,000)	\$425,278	*563	25	1.67	2.05
4	CORINTHIAN (03, Pulpit), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$4,000	99/18	0/0	0/0	(Life At Six, \$43,680)	\$382,886	*456	9	0.83	1.40
5	SILVER TRAIN (02, Old Trieste)	Died, 2013	76/14	0/0	0/0	(Fiftyshadesofbay, \$28,095)	\$273,562	*433	16	1.03	1.31
6	FAIRBANKS (03, Giant's Causeway), Northview PA	\$2,500	43/10	0/0	0/0	(Brazilian Symphony, \$36,960)	\$252,829	187	2	1.10	1.30
7	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,000	26/13	0/0	0/0	(Horizontalyspeakin, \$36,250)	\$235,314	183	6	1.28	1.43
8	LOVE OF MONEY (01, Not For Love)	Died, 2012	16/8	0/0	0/0	(Jack's in the Deck, \$40,050)	\$190,858	123	2	1.06	1.26
9	WEIGELIA (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	\$3,500	22/6	0/0	0/0	(Brenda's Way, \$33,345)	\$135,645	63	2	1.20	1.00
10	TALENT SEARCH (03, Catenus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	19/2	0/0	0/0	(Total Talent, \$52,350)	\$119,571	73	0	0.97	1.39
11	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin), Pin Oak Lane Farm	\$2,500	24/7	0/0	0/0	(Mia Alberta, \$19,980)	\$116,181	*368	9	1.17	1.15
12	ACTIVIST (94, Wild Again), Godstone Farm	Private	18/3	0/0	0/0	(Gottagetamoveon, \$18,810)	\$81,609	175	3	0.93	0.86
13	FORMAL DINNER (88, Well Decorated)	N/A	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Kayudy Flyer, \$14,620)	\$74,426	*639	25	1.08	1.10
14	REAL QUIET (95, Quiet American)	Died, 2010	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Sabbath Bay, \$27,792)	\$71,702	*624	16	1.19	1.23
15	LITE THE FUSE (91, Buckaroo)	N/A	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Parrakeet, \$22,878)	\$70,601	536	23	1.23	1.19
16	PARTNER'S HERO (94, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm	\$1,500	18/2	0/0	0/0	(Pink Hero, \$22,775)	\$66,523	447	21	1.20	1.33
17	SNOW RIDGE (98, Tabasco Cat)	Died, 2012	13/5	0/0	0/0	(Victor's Tuition, \$16,857)	\$63,131	*284	8	1.00	1.16
18	IT'S A BIRD (03, Birdonthewire)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Thinks He's a Bird, \$39,330)	\$54,370	14	0	0.39	1.05
19	SIR SHACKLETON (01, Miswaki), Dana Point Farm	\$1,000	15/3	0/0	0/0	(Ameridue, \$17,550)	\$51,880	*94	2	0.68	1.08
20	WISEMAN'S FERRY (99, Hennessy)	Died, 2015	16/2	0/0	0/0	(Wise Lou, \$19,584)	\$51,462	*278	6	1.71	1.09
21	GIMMEAWINK (00, Elusive Quality), Mountain Springs Racing Stable	\$2,500	21/4	0/0	0/0	(Gimmeadrink, \$18,400)	\$50,202	*213	3	0.78	1.06
22	AISLE (99, Pulpit), Whirlwind Stables	\$1,000	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Circular Drive, \$12,492)	\$40,441	84	0	0.83	0.79
23	DELAWARE TOWNSHIP (96, Notebook), Maui Meadow Farm	\$1,000	15/2	0/0	0/0	(Picketts Corner, \$12,940)	\$39,343	283	7	1.08	1.23
24	ANDIRON (06, A.P. Indy), Xanthus Farms, Inc.	\$2,000	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Hot Stocker, \$15,960)	\$37,623	31	0	0.54	0.63
25	CITY SHARPSTER (99, Carson City), Woodvale Farm	\$1,000	16/2	0/0	0/0	(Vereda Tropical, \$8,208)	\$35,237	53	0	0.59	0.75

even stood a Standardbred stallion named Super Bradshaw.

"I went to the '79 Super Bowl as (Rooney's) guest and sat at his table," Steele said. "I was a relatively young kid. I went to Pittsburgh and got on a plane to go to Florida and on the plane was the governor, the mayor—lots and lots of people. My claim to fame in that game is, I had a Steelers polo shirt on, and they were staying at a hotel that had an outside pool and a Tiki bar. And I'm sitting outside at the Tiki bar with some players and these kids came along to get autographs. And they came up to me and wanted my autograph, and I said, 'Look, I'm nobody.' They said, 'You're sitting here, aren't you? You're somebody!'"

Rooney would come to the farm "two or three times a year," Steele said. "He came Preakness, and he'd come in the fall. He enjoyed it. When he was younger, he actually did things on the farm. Players used to come here and help bale hay and stuff. They weren't the stars they are now; they had real jobs and he needed some help baling hay and some of them would come down."

The history and character of Shamrock have exerted a strong pull on one of Rooney's grandsons, Tom Rooney, a U.S. congressman from Florida.

Working in Washington, D.C., Rooney, 44, spends more time at Shamrock these days than any other family member, and said he has caught the pedigree bug, staying up late into the night reading breeding books and magazines and studying nicks online.

"If you want to get corny about it, (the farm is) probably the closest to who my grandfather was," said Tom Rooney, who owns a yearling by Nicanor that traces back to Christopher R., as well as a couple of 2-year-olds by Shamrock stallions. "Me getting elected to Congress and getting to visit more, I understand it now. I remember coming to Shamrock as a little kid for whatever reason. My parents would stop in, and we saw it as this unbelievably magical place.

"I'm trying to get into the business in a meaningful way, the right way, and to have people like Jim and Christy hold my hand through the process, and avoid a lot of mistakes, means a lot. Me being green and wanting to follow in my grandfather's footsteps, and Uncle Tim's business, they've helped me navigate a lot of landmines."

"Uncle Tim" is 78-year-old Tim Rooney, a son of Art Rooney who has been involved in the racing industry most of his adult life.



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# 2015 LEADING SIRES IN WEST VIRGINIA

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	<b>BROTHER DEREK</b> (03, Benchmark), Naylee Farm	\$3,500	39/12	2/2	1/2	(Sam's Sister, \$138,000)	<b>\$461,269</b>	*115	5	1.34	1.24
2	<b>SWISS YODELER</b> (94, Eastern Echo), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,000	42/15	0/0	0/0	(Swissarella, \$60,280)	<b>\$273,209</b>	748	29	1.01	1.06
3	<b>WINDSOR CASTLE</b> (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,500	49/16	0/0	0/0	(Ruby Red Rocket, \$22,260)	<b>\$242,656</b>	253	11	1.16	1.08
4	<b>LIMEHOUSE</b> (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$3,500	43/11	0/0	0/0	(House Wine, \$27,500)	<b>\$202,140</b>	*348	19	1.25	1.23
5	<b>LUFTIKUS</b> (96, Meadowlake), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$750	24/6	0/0	0/0	(Devil's Gate, \$18,700)	<b>\$112,986</b>	281	9	0.99	1.11
6	<b>BOP</b> (97, Rahy)	Died, 2012	29/4	0/0	0/0	(Bop Along, \$20,960)	<b>\$96,259</b>	*192	5	0.98	0.90
7	<b>PEAK DANCER</b> (97, Mt. Livermore), Householder Farm	Private	20/5	0/0	0/0	(Honybadgerdontcare, \$17,990)	<b>\$86,524</b>	79	4	1.03	0.91
8	<b>DENIS OF CORK</b> (05, Harlan's Holiday), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,500	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Lady of Cork, \$20,010)	<b>\$73,827</b>	59	0	0.71	1.27
9	<b>CHARITABLE MAN</b> (06, Lemon Drop Kid), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$3,500	14/2	0/0	0/0	(Charitable Annuity, \$30,340)	<b>\$63,875</b>	80	0	0.82	1.18
10	<b>FIBER SONDE</b> (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	11/2	0/0	0/0	(Morningsbreaking, \$31,980)	<b>\$60,226</b>	63	3	1.40	0.75
11	<b>REPARATIONS</b> (96, Forty Niner), Blue Spruce Farm	\$1,500	15/2	0/0	0/0	(Let Freedom Ring, \$19,740)	<b>\$58,477</b>	135	3	0.98	0.81
12	<b>GARNERED</b> (98, Holy Bull), Naylee Farm	\$1,000	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Nay's Back, \$35,160)	<b>\$54,480</b>	90	0	0.67	0.74
13	<b>FOREST GROVE</b> (01, Forestry), Naylee Farm	\$1,500	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Arborville, \$14,000)	<b>\$45,989</b>	105	3	0.91	1.22
14	<b>GRAND RESERVE</b> (02, Theatrical), One Sparrow Farm	\$1,000	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Mighty Grand, \$21,947)	<b>\$34,621</b>	35	0	0.40	0.78
15	<b>FEAR THE CAPE</b> (01, Cape Town), Blue Spruce Farm	\$1,500	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Wye Not Win, \$18,810)	<b>\$34,601</b>	35	1	1.03	0.87

# 2015 LEADING SIRES IN NEW JERSEY

➤ Go to [BloodHorse.com](http://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	<b>DEFRERE</b> (92, Deputy Minister), Walnford Stud	\$2,000	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Miami Music, \$30,000)	<b>\$97,604</b>	*581	23	1.24	1.18
2	<b>DON SIX</b> (00, Wild Escapade), Greenfields Farm	Private	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Beautiful Joe, \$13,800)	<b>\$57,884</b>	73	2	1.18	1.22
3	<b>PRIVATE INTERVIEW</b> (92, Nureyev), Colonial Farms	\$1,000	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Amblin Easy, \$27,000)	<b>\$35,468</b>	222	4	1.08	1.22
4	<b>UNBRIDLED JET</b> (96, Unbridled)	Died, 2011	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Gringo Bay, \$25,320)	<b>\$32,775</b>	*257	10	1.04	1.22
5	<b>CHIPS ARE DOWN</b> (02, Distorted Humor), Greenfields Farm	Private	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Play It Again, \$7,490)	<b>\$14,770</b>	8	0	0.36	0.58

The Rooney family bought historic Yonkers Raceway in 1972 and operates the New York harness track to this day. Rooney also had the first licenses to run a racetrack in Pennsylvania and opened Liberty Bell Park, for Thoroughbreds and harness horses, in 1963. He also owns the Palm Beach Kennel Club.

To this day Tim Rooney is Steele's boss at Shamrock.

"I started going to the races with my father when I was 8 years old," Tim Rooney said. "We'd go to Atlantic City, and my brothers would go to the beach, and I'd go to the races in Atlantic City and then Monmouth Park.

"I worked at our farm in Maryland, and I'd go down there for a couple weeks when I got out of school. When you were lifting those bags of grains and oats and barley, that was beyond my capacity. I was 15, 16, 17 years old."

When he became old enough, Tim Rooney took over all the books and payroll at Shamrock. He worked in the investment business at the time and after work would go to Shamrock "and

sometimes I'd be there until 4 o'clock in the morning, I'd be doing this in my father's office. The phone would ring, and I was wondering if there was an emergency or my wife, and it would be a guy looking for tickets to the Steelers game Sunday."

Tim Rooney owns 30 mares, with 12 of the Thoroughbred mares and three Standardbreds at Shamrock. While he is partial to breeding to City Zip, Into Mischief, and Malibu Moon in Kentucky, he also supports the Shamrock stallions.

He said he considers the primary business of the farm to be boarding, more so than the stallions, but sees the two as partners.

"You want to have enough stallions to get a certain number of mares to bring into them, and, hopefully, you pick up some of that business as year-round boarders," Tim Rooney said. "I think in the last couple of years, things have improved. We're doing much better. I haven't had to make a call to my brothers for years to say, 'Come up with some cash,' because we all own it equally. My brother Art comes down to the farm. Brother Pat comes, too. Dan, it's hard to get his nose out of watching football players, but he still has 40 percent of the place."

While part of Shamrock is protected through a conservation easement, the property owned by the third generation of Rooneys is zoned for housing. No one, at the time, appears to be talking about developing.

"I have 35 cousins, and we all split that property over there," Tom Rooney said. "I don't know what the plan is. That's up to my Uncle Tim and his brothers. If I had a voice, I would prefer to keep it as a stud farm and continue the legacy my grandfather started. The industry being what it is, and the land value being what it is, I'm sure there's a debate. The hard part they're going to think about is passing it to the next generation.

"Trying to pass a family farm down is damn near impossible" because of estate taxes, he said. "It's going to be hard to see places like Shamrock continue. I don't know how my Dad and Tim will continue, but I hope I can be a part of it." **BH**



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