

# Byrne Identity

*Veteran horseman Michael Byrne steers Park Stud through uncertain times*

BY LENNY SHULMAN/MALLORY HAIGH PHOTOS



Michael Byrne, right, with his wife, Laurel, and son Warren

**IN HORSES**, as in life, timing is everything. So for the Byrne family's Park Stud near Orangeville, Ontario, Canada, incoming 2016 stallion Frac Daddy represents a fortuitous opportunity. His sire, Scat Daddy, finished ninth on the North American leading sires list for 2015 and second on the leading sires of 2-year-olds list. He had nine stakes winners, 13 stakes horses, and 36 winners among his 2-year-olds of 2015, leading the continent in each of those categories.

Unfortunately, Scat Daddy died suddenly in December at Ashford Stud. His blood, though, will be sought out after the season he just enjoyed, and Frac Daddy in particular appears well-suited to Canadian breeders, many of whom will race at Woodbine, where a new Tapeta synthetic surface is being installed. Frac Daddy won the grade II Eclipse Stakes and the grade III Ben Ali Stakes over synthetic surfaces, and was a precocious 2-year-old himself.

Michael Byrne, who has worked through the go-go days of decades past as well as the tough times, hopes that good timing will help balance the challenging atmosphere that Canadian horsemen find themselves working in as the uncertainty surrounding the Canadian government and its revenue formula from a new casino at Woodbine continue to play out.

Byrne grew up on a family farm, Park House Stud, in County Carlow, Ireland. The farm raised steeplechasers and show horses, and Byrne began riding and fox hunting at a tender age. With an older brother poised to take over the family operation, Byrne was meant to follow in the footsteps of an uncle who was a veterinarian, but it turned out he had no love for studying and went to work at Airlie Stud for Captain Tim Rogers.

"He was very successful and innovative as far as standing

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## 2015 LEADING SIRES IN CANADA



Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOBB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 Stud Fee Can\$	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2015 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>OLD FORESTER</b> (01, Forestry), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$4,000	137/68	3/3	3/3	(Goodoldhockeygame, \$222,611)	<b>\$3,260,220</b>	313	10	1.44	1.60
2	<b>WHERE'S THE RING</b> (99, Seeking the Gold), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$3,000	107/59	2/2	2/2	(Tahnee, \$128,823)	<b>\$2,517,374</b>	307	8	1.36	1.37
3	<b>MILWAUKEE BREW</b> (97, Wild Again), Adena Springs North	\$6,000	107/67	3/5	2/3	(Kingsport, \$197,666)	<b>\$2,427,376</b>	*508	24	1.21	1.52
4	<b>GIANT GIZMO</b> (04, Giant's Causeway), Adena Springs North	\$5,000	58/35	3/7	3/3	(Amis Gizmo, \$260,233)	<b>\$2,226,244</b>	89	4	1.90	1.59
5	<b>SLIGO BAY (IRE)</b> (98, Sadler's Wells), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	90/39	1/2	0/1	(Ol Winedrinker Who, \$190,676)	<b>\$1,763,090</b>	*370	10	1.22	1.43
6	<b>BADGE OF SILVER</b> (00, Silver Deputy), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$2,500	78/44	1/1	0/1	(Bigger Picture, \$110,885)	<b>\$1,652,369</b>	*303	10	1.18	1.36
7	<b>SILENT NAME (JPN)</b> (02, Sunday Silence), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	66/26	2/3	0/2	(Fanticola, \$300,420)	<b>\$1,585,538</b>	*236	12	1.46	1.25
8	<b>NIIGON</b> (01, Unbridled)	Died, 2012	57/28	1/1	1/1	(Seen It All Before, \$123,785)	<b>\$1,556,589</b>	176	6	1.86	1.15
9	<b>WILKO</b> (02, Awesome Again), Adena Springs North	Private	58/34	2/5	0/2	(Melnich, \$252,774)	<b>\$1,342,022</b>	*167	5	1.16	1.14
10	<b>STRUT THE STAGE</b> (98, Theatrical), Iron Horse Equine	Private	34/15	1/2	0/1	(Strut the Course, \$333,972)	<b>\$1,021,069</b>	105	3	1.54	1.22
11	<b>WANDO</b> (00, Langfuhr)	Died, 2014	39/18	1/1	1/1	(Shake Down Baby, \$119,533)	<b>\$1,006,901</b>	*153	3	1.19	1.12
12	<b>IMPERIALISM</b> (01, Langfuhr), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	66/31	0/0	0/0	(Miss Wilby, \$173,940)	<b>\$975,621</b>	206	4	0.79	0.99
13	<b>BOLD EXECUTIVE</b> (84, Bold Ruckus)	Died, 2011	55/27	0/0	0/0	(Super Colerosa, \$77,799)	<b>\$959,007</b>	805	45	1.61	1.29
14	<b>NORTH LIGHT (IRE)</b> (01, Danehill), Adena Springs North	Private	62/29	0/0	0/0	(Artic North, \$77,583)	<b>\$887,639</b>	*326	8	1.03	1.54
15	<b>OMEGA CODE</b> (00, Elusive Quality), Peaceful Valley Farms	\$2,000	47/28	1/1	1/1	(Zeta Zody, \$158,258)	<b>\$829,267</b>	306	9	0.70	1.24
16	<b>ROSBERG</b> (01, A.P. Indy)	N/A	49/31	4/5	0/4	(Lady Rosberg, \$126,400)	<b>\$780,557</b>	71	8	0.82	0.86
17	<b>KENTUCKY BEAR</b> (05, Mr. Greeley), Curraghmore Farm	\$2,500	19/13	2/2	2/2	(Bear's Pride, \$140,219)	<b>\$757,337</b>	33	2	1.60	1.35
18	<b>SECOND IN COMMAND</b> (00, Silver Deputy), Road's End Farm	\$2,000	42/28	2/3	0/2	(Two Pump, \$70,560)	<b>\$706,789</b>	75	5	0.78	0.80
19	<b>OLMODAVOR</b> (99, A.P. Indy)	N/A	55/27	0/0	0/0	(Persuasive Paul, \$101,297)	<b>\$695,160</b>	*261	8	0.87	1.32
20	<b>SINGING SAINT</b> (04, El Prado), Adena Springs North	Private	25/15	1/1	0/1	(Harp N Halo, \$129,270)	<b>\$693,692</b>	*46	1	1.18	1.02
21	<b>FINALITY</b> (99, Dehere), Red Rock Farm	\$2,500	53/28	2/3	1/2	(Arabella's Muse, \$90,802)	<b>\$680,057</b>	239	14	0.64	0.76
22	<b>GOTTCHA GOLD</b> (03, Coronado's Quest), Strideawayacres	\$2,500	54/22	0/0	0/0	(Hows My Gold, \$55,970)	<b>\$646,239</b>	*102	0	0.82	1.41
23	<b>NOT BOURBON</b> (05, Not Impossible), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$5,000	31/18	1/1	1/1	(Conquest Strate Up, \$134,535)	<b>\$641,595</b>	45	1	1.10	1.34
24	<b>CAPE CANAVERAL</b> (96, Mr. Prospector), Highfield Stock Farm	\$3,000	55/33	0/0	0/0	(Queenoftheforest, \$61,220)	<b>\$597,332</b>	412	20	1.01	1.21
25	<b>¶ SOCIETY'S CHAIRMAN</b> (03, Not Impossible), Shannondoe Farm	\$5,000	7/3	3/7	2/3	(Caren, \$340,818)	<b>\$555,365</b>	16	3	4.84	1.11
26	<b>SAFFIR</b> (02, Unbridled)	N/A	28/12	1/1	1/1	(Galina Point, \$161,476)	<b>\$545,094</b>	70	2	1.47	1.23
27	<b>BOLD N' FLASHY</b> (89, Bold Ruckus), T.C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$2,500	25/12	2/2	1/2	(Bold Thunder, \$122,605)	<b>\$521,330</b>	340	16	1.31	1.21
28	<b>LEONNATUS ANTEAS</b> (04, Stormy Atlantic), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$3,500	24/11	1/1	1/1	(Born in a Breeze, \$148,457)	<b>\$519,774</b>	55	2	1.12	1.07
29	<b>CAUSE TO BELIEVE</b> (03, Maria's Mon), Road's End Farm	\$2,500	51/28	0/0	0/0	(At the Riiz, \$33,348)	<b>\$426,980</b>	92	4	0.52	0.85
30	<b>STORM VICTORY</b> (00, Storm Cat), Klimes Farm	\$2,000	50/27	1/1	1/1	(Power Corrupt, \$56,836)	<b>\$417,870</b>	194	6	0.55	0.62
31	<b>FORMAL GOLD</b> (93, Black Tie Affair), Esquirol Farms	\$1,500	44/23	0/0	0/0	(Tabled With Gold, \$49,133)	<b>\$406,597</b>	509	17	1.03	1.27
32	<b>SMOOTH BID</b> (02, Rubiano), Fieldstone Farms	Private	17/12	0/0	0/0	(My Bid, \$87,693)	<b>\$386,324</b>	40	0	1.19	0.92
33	<b>BEST OF THE BESTS (IRE)</b> (97, Machiavellian)	N/A	20/6	0/0	0/0	(Danish Princess, \$102,902)	<b>\$366,224</b>	294	3	0.74	0.97
34	<b>DOUBLE HONOR</b> (95, Gone West), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	43/13	1/1	0/1	(Double Secret, \$93,439)	<b>\$355,393</b>	*601	17	1.02	1.15
35	<b>SKY CONQUEROR</b> (02, Sky Classic), Curraghmore Farm	\$4,500	21/10	0/0	0/0	(Missile Threat, \$48,832)	<b>\$323,147</b>	33	1	1.22	1.62

and syndicating stallions," said Byrne. "He ended up with some of Winston Churchill's good horses that stood at stud in Ireland. I had a great grounding with him."

Rogers expanded and bought several farms, keeping Byrne busy as a manager. Then timing came into play. One day Rogers pulled Byrne aside and told him he'd gone as far as he could with his operation and urged him to go to America. At the same time, a friend of Byrne's father, bloodstock agent Jack Doyle, suggested Byrne hook up with some Canadian clients of his that were buying horses in Ireland. So as the calendar turned to 1970, Byrne blazed a trail to Canada. After a stint there at a small farm, he went to work at Gardiner Farms later that year at age 21.

Byrne would stay at Gardiner for 12 years, rising to general manager and president.

"We were the leading stable in Canada

for many great years," Byrne noted. "We had a broodmare band of 30 supplying the runners and 75 or 80 racehorses at any one time."

While at Gardiner, Byrne would meet the American version of Captain Rogers when both he and Hermitage Farm owner Warner Jones were trying to buy Sauce Boat for stallion duty. The battle apparently ended amicably enough with Jones buying the horse and offering Byrne a job. But Byrne was intent on starting his own operation whenever he decided to leave Gardiner, so the men settled on an arrangement whereby Byrne would help Jones evaluate his foals and yearlings and would also sell yearlings for Jones.

"I sold his yearlings at Saratoga and at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky sales under my name, and I would help him at Keeneland, where they sold in his name," said Byrne. "I would come down once a month to look

at the foals throughout the year and do the sales and buy mares for him. And I was there when Seattle Dancer sold for \$13.1 million. That was a busy day. And the next day, as always, we'd have lunch at Hermitage and go right to looking at the foals."

Bill Landes worked for Jones at the time and today serves as general manager of Hermitage, outside of Louisville.

"Mike became a member of the Sauce Boat syndicate and supported the horse with a lot of mares from Canada," Landes said. "He helped us in a variety of ways. In addition to selling yearlings, he knew people that Mr. Jones didn't and had good connections to people in England and Ireland. Plus, he helped us find nice mares such as Rainbow Connection, who we purchased and had a successful run with. Mike is a good, reliable guy."

Added Byrne, "Mr. Jones was a very  
(continued on page 34)

#### Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the states featured in this section (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 December 31, 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.

#1 YOUNG SIRE IN CANADA

# GIANT GIZMO

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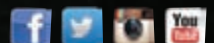
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Park Stud's Frac Daddy (by Scat Daddy), left, a first-year stallion for 2016, and Exhi (by Maria's Mon), right

*(continued from page 32)*

driven man. I was lucky to be around two very smart men in Captain Rogers and Warner Jones."

A variety of factors combined to line the path to Byrne's establishing his own operation in 1982. Part of it was his association with Jones and the opportunities that connection opened up. Byrne also was appointed as the youngest-ever member to serve on the Ontario Racing Commission at a time when racing was expanding there through inter-track wagering.

"There were a lot of things happening then," Byrne said. "Money was coming into the industry from the government, and you had big people in Ontario racing. Charles Taylor of Windfields and Ernie Samuel of Sam-Son and George Henry and his family were all major players. So many people were committed to the industry."

Byrne and his wife, Laurel, established Park Stud in 1982 on 100 acres they purchased close to Gardiner. They converted the cattle farm to a Thoroughbred operation and eventually expanded it to 140 acres. There was renovation of the home, built in 1846, and of old barns into stallion and foaling barns. Park Stud today is home to some 20 mares.

Park Stud subsequently raised 1993 Canadian Triple Crown winner Peteski, Queen's Plate winner Mike Fox, and millionaire Krz Ruckus. It co-bred and raised three-time Canadian champion Financingavailable (with Helen Irving) and the stakes-winning and group I-placed Zadracarta (with J. Plemmons).

Byrne also made a name for his stud in the sales arena. Byrne has sold for Sam-Son and also benefited from referrals from Windfields, which was selling only its own stock.

"I was fortunate to be appointed a racing commissioner early on," said Byrne. "Through that exposure and the trust you build up with people comes opportunity. And I had good clients when I started on my own, people like Richard Bonnycastle and Gus Schickedanz who knew me from Gardiner."

Canadian owner/breeder Garland Williamson has been doing business with Byrne for at least 20 years.

"I've had shares in his stallions, and he's sold many horses for me," said Wil-

liamson. "Mike is a seasoned horseman for whom I have great respect. I like to get his opinion on horses and bounce ideas off him. He knows the players and the stallions in Kentucky, and I feel comfortable doing business with the people I know."

As a consignor to sales in Canada and the U.S., Byrne has sold horses such as champions Johannesburg, Bolulight, and Rousillon; grade I winners Gal in a Ruckus, Consolidator, Ride Sally, and Hard Not to Like; and eventual stallions Bold Executive, Highland Ruckus, and Bold n' Flashy. He also sold top broodmares such as Diva's Debut, Miss Sobriety, Wavering Girl, and Sweet Briar Too, the last-named the dam of Schickedanz' grade I winner

*(continued on page 36)*



Seven-year-old Nephrite is a son of Pivotal

# FRAC DADDY

SCAT DADDY - SKIPPER'S MATE BY SKIP AWAY

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## 2015 LEADING SIRE IN OHIO

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 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>COWTOWN CAT</b> (04, Distorted Humor), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	87/47	2/4	0/2	(Calgary Cat, \$206,770)	<b>\$1,814,628</b>	156	2	1.11	1.31
2	<b>MOBIL</b> (00, Langfuhr), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	36/16	0/0	0/0	(Obeah Woman, \$134,812)	<b>\$862,924</b>	*153	4	1.33	1.34
3	<b>MAIMONIDES</b> (05, Vindication), Hand Ride Stables	\$2,500	52/24	0/0	0/0	(Fear, \$69,405)	<b>\$777,932</b>	80	1	0.73	2.41
4	<b>CITY WEEKEND</b> (02, Carson City)	N/A	48/29	0/0	0/0	(Rockin Cityweekend, \$60,657)	<b>\$764,516</b>	91	1	0.75	0.94
5	<b>INDY WIND</b> (02, A.P. Indy), Hand Ride Stables	\$2,000	30/14	0/0	0/0	(A. P. Cino, \$110,430)	<b>\$692,853</b>	59	1	1.11	1.08
6	<b>ADDED EDGE</b> (00, Smart Strike), Raimonde Farms	\$1,500	56/25	0/0	0/0	(Sweetedge, \$46,091)	<b>\$539,546</b>	146	6	0.74	0.79
7	<b>KENTUCKY DANE</b> (00, Danehill), Raimonde Farms	\$1,000	10/4	1/1	1/1	(Jac's Fact, \$303,996)	<b>\$480,594</b>	21	2	1.33	0.46
8	<b>MR. MABEE</b> (01, Storm Cat), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,500	27/12	0/0	0/0	(She Mabee Wild, \$67,117)	<b>\$418,181</b>	61	0	0.65	0.86
9	<b>MERCER MILL</b> (94, Forty Niner), Fair Winds Farm	Private	19/7	0/0	0/0	(Ebby, \$90,294)	<b>\$355,914</b>	222	15	0.70	0.90
10	<b>KILLENAULE</b> (02, Fusaichi Pegasus)	N/A	33/16	0/0	0/0	(Hesacutabove, \$51,237)	<b>\$319,254</b>	88	0	0.50	0.85
11	<b>KISS THE KID</b> (03, Lemon Drop Kid), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$2,500	15/8	0/0	0/0	(Just Kidding, \$105,380)	<b>\$305,256</b>	29	0	0.83	1.91
12	<b>TROPICAL STORM</b> (00, Storm Cat)	N/A	13/6	0/0	0/0	(Hersilia, \$42,777)	<b>\$176,145</b>	*94	0	0.67	0.79
13	<b>WESTERN PRIDE</b> (98, Way West), R.C. Cline Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	20/10	0/0	0/0	(Go Bernie Go, \$30,848)	<b>\$175,468</b>	99	0	0.62	0.94
14	<b>BIG ATLANTIC</b> (02, Stormy Atlantic), Win Row Farm	\$1,200	7/4	0/0	0/0	(My Pardner Cal, \$107,480)	<b>\$174,275</b>	14	1	0.94	0.24
15	<b>PARENTS' REWARD</b> (98, Mr. Prospector), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,000	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Eightthehardway, \$61,230)	<b>\$161,949</b>	53	3	0.88	0.79

## 2015 LEADING SIRE IN ILLINOIS

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 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>ROAD RULER</b> (02, Unbridled's Song), JB Stables	\$2,000	37/22	0/0	0/0	(Armando's Star, \$88,566)	<b>\$667,767</b>	75	0	0.94	0.82
2	<b>CHEROKEE RAP</b> (01, Cherokee Run)	Died, 2012	38/27	1/1	1/1	(Rocket Professor, \$75,927)	<b>\$625,035</b>	79	3	0.98	1.08
3	<b>CASHEL CASTLE</b> (99, Silver Ghost), Hill 'N Dale Farm	\$1,000	21/12	1/1	1/1	(Puntsville, \$107,160)	<b>\$526,134</b>	101	2	0.91	1.01
4	<b>STRAIGHT LINE</b> (02, Boundary), Fairberry Farm	Private	21/14	0/0	0/0	(Streamline, \$85,276)	<b>\$455,059</b>	43	0	0.75	1.22
5	<b>INDY SNOW (GB)</b> (01, A.P. Indy), Hondo Ranch	Private	15/12	0/0	0/0	(Gyp Rope, \$43,765)	<b>\$314,788</b>	36	1	1.20	0.84
6	<b>ALLUVIAL</b> (02, Forestry), Casey Thoroughbred Farm	Private	31/16	0/0	0/0	(Smoke Em Charlie, \$42,119)	<b>\$288,740</b>	128	0	0.50	0.90
7	<b>THREE HOUR NAP</b> (02, Afternoon Deelites), Oak Tree Farm	\$1,000	13/11	0/0	0/0	(Runningfromthefeds, \$51,486)	<b>\$288,522</b>	21	0	0.92	1.18
8	<b>EL MEDWAR</b> (04, Elusive Quality), Hondo Ranch	Private	9/7	0/0	0/0	(Enchanted Facts, \$48,263)	<b>\$194,180</b>	13	0	0.76	1.25
9	<b>BEN BULBEN</b> (02, Pioneering), Ben Bulben Farm	\$1,000	12/4	0/0	0/0	(Ballyjamesduff, \$45,441)	<b>\$147,607</b>	38	0	0.74	0.85
10	<b>BRAVE 'N AWAY</b> (00, Skip Away)	N/A	16/7	0/0	0/0	(Mightylee, \$25,110)	<b>\$121,804</b>	38	0	0.45	0.59
11	<b>COUNTRY BE GOLD</b> (97, Summer Squall), Cutsinger's Stallion Station	\$500	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Right Squall, \$41,510)	<b>\$114,291</b>	58	0	0.58	1.12
12	<b>LEELANAU</b> (99, Carson City), Indian Hills Thoroughbred Farm	Private	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Showersofblessings, \$38,325)	<b>\$112,087</b>	135	0	0.41	0.81
13	<b>POWERFUL GOER</b> (94, Easy Goer)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(So Good to Go, \$68,408)	<b>\$96,322</b>	58	1	0.72	0.94
14	<b>CHOSEN DEPUTY</b> (05, Deputy Minister), Hondo Ranch	Private	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Chosen Facts, \$36,722)	<b>\$95,579</b>	11	0	0.64	1.01
15	<b>WILD GAMBLER</b> (93, Wild Again)	N/A	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Gambler Five, \$57,257)	<b>\$94,262</b>	30	0	0.98	0.86

(continued from page 34)  
and sire Langfuhr.

Beyond his time on the Ontario Rac-

ing Commission, Byrne has been active in myriad organizations. He has served as chairman of the Equine Research Centre,

helping to select research projects to benefit horse health. He has sat on the board at Woodbine and has been chairman of the Jockey Club of Canada, serving in that position for a decade. Byrne is a founding member of the Canadian Graded Stakes Committee. He also owned the Canadian Breeders Sales Company for 11 years, and in 2005 he was awarded the E.P. Taylor Award of Merit for lifetime contributions to Canadian racing.

"The industry has been good to me, so you try and give back," Byrne said, summarizing his service.

Byrne has also given to the industry his son, Warren, who does bloodstock and marketing work out of his Toronto-based The Horse Agency. Having grown up on the farm, Warren spent time working at Ashford Stud and WinStar Farm in Kentucky and then worked in California for five years with bloodstock agent and owner William DeBurgh. He has bought horses such as Homeboykris, who ran in the 2010 Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I); Amen Hallelujah; and was involved with DeBurgh's



Along with the three stallions, Byrne's Park Stud is home to 20 broodmares

# 2015 LEADING SIRES IN IOWA

➤ Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2015 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	<b>SHORE BREEZE</b> (98, Danzig), Iowa State University Horse Farm	\$1,000	39/25	1/1	1/1	(Creative Art, \$104,354)	<b>\$634,879</b>	173	2	0.82	0.74
2	<b>STORM AND A HALF</b> (97, Storm Cat)	N/A	41/20	2/2	2/2	(We Be Stormin, \$88,800)	<b>\$496,173</b>	442	19	0.78	0.95
3	<b>WOKE UP DREAMIN</b> (00, Holy Bull), Madison County Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	24/12	2/2	2/2	(Dreamin, \$69,816)	<b>\$383,713</b>	139	4	0.77	0.92
4	<b>HEART OF THE STORM</b> (04, Storm Cat), McClintock Equine Station	Private	27/12	0/0	0/0	(Franky and Jane, \$45,007)	<b>\$332,115</b>	55	0	0.66	0.88
5	<b>COLORFUL TOUR</b> (99, Tour d'Or)	N/A	11/6	0/0	0/0	(I Tour, \$67,444)	<b>\$212,222</b>	20	0	0.76	1.02
6	<b>WILD GOLD</b> (90, Wild Again)	N/A	19/11	0/0	0/0	(Do It, \$35,056)	<b>\$211,966</b>	247	3	0.76	0.85
7	<b>AUTONOMY (IRE)</b> (97, Doyoun)	N/A	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Kims Star, \$116,143)	<b>\$144,466</b>	9	0	1.03	0.02
8	<b>WINTER GLITTER</b> (97, A.P. Indy)	N/A	13/7	0/0	0/0	(Lively's Last Ride, \$39,065)	<b>\$108,085</b>	110	0	0.48	0.82
9	<b>BRAVO BULL</b> (97, Holy Bull)	Died, 2012	11/6	0/0	0/0	(Zack's Billie, \$20,807)	<b>\$93,606</b>	58	3	0.58	0.66
10	<b>¶ NATIVE RULER</b> (04, Elusive Quality), Abraham's Equine Clinic	\$2,000	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Native Princess, \$45,288)	<b>\$90,408</b>	17	0	0.71	0.95

Heatseeker. He also was instrumental in bringing Court Vision and Frac Daddy to stand at Park Stud.

"I've been going to horse sales before I was born and every year since," Warren Byrne, 34, noted. "And I've been looking at horses with my dad since I can remember. I love the horses and love racing, and that's something we share. It consumes our lives in a good way."

Warren also recently organized a stallion season auction to raise money for the people who lost jobs and horses because of a barn fire in Canada that took the lives of more than 20 Standardbreds. The auction raised \$25,000, and like his father, Warren believes in service to the local community of horsemen.

Perhaps the most difficult task horsemen face is standing successful stallions, an endeavor hampered by the fact about nine out of 10 stallions won't make their way. Yet Michael Byrne has succeeded in this. Starting out, he hit with three-time leading Canadian stallion Bold Ruckus and Brave Shot. Through his association with Jones, Byrne got to know Seth Hancock and did a deal for Geiger Counter that turned out well. For the past few years he's stood TVG Breeders' Cup Mile (gr. IT) winner Court Vision, although Spendthrift Farm has recalled him to stand in Kentucky for 2016. Park Stud now has a roster of three young stallions, and having sold Johannesburg, Byrne certainly has an affinity for his grandson Frac Daddy.

"Scat Daddy gets really good-looking horses; big, strong horses with a lot of desire to run," Byrne said. "I've always liked him. Warren urged me to make the deal for Frac Daddy, so we talked to (trainer) Kenny McPeck and worked it out. He is a very versatile horse and loves synthetic tracks. He won the Ben Ali at Keeneland and the Eclipse at Woodbine, so we thought he'd be a good fit. He's an absolutely gorgeous horse and a good mover.

"There is a lot of interest in him. People were very impressed at our stallion show



## It PAYS to NOMINATE

There is still time to nominate your 2014 foals to the ITBOA Iowa Stallion Stakes Races

Easy one time payment makes your foal eligible for TWO races, one as a 2 yo and one as a 3 yo. 2015 Stallion Futurity, Stallion Stakes & Stallion Filly Stakes had total purses of \$217,375!!!

If you have a foal born in 2014 by one of the following stallions, you are eligible to nominate, regardless of what state they were foaled in:

Added Edge	Double Honor	Magic Cat	Sligo Bay
Aeneas	Drinkwiththedevel	Magna Graduate	Soaring Empire
After Market	Einstein	Margie's Wildcat	Star Cat
Air Commander	El Caballo	Matt's Broken Vow	Stephen Got Even
American Lion	Fappie's Notewook	Midshipman	Storm Account
Belong to Me	Ford Every stream	Mr. Nightlinger	Storm Catcher
Blazin' Dreams	Forest Attack	Mt. Glittermore	Stormy Business
Bold Warrior	Giacomo	Native Ruler	Student Council
Bulldogger	Gold Schleiger	Nob Hill Delight	Tactical Cat
Canaveral	Governor Vasquez	Omega Code	Tale of Ekati
Charging Indian	Heart of the Storm	Pass Rush	The Visualiser
Chitoz	Hold Me Back	Read the Footnotes	Tiago
Concord Point	Imperialism	Regal Ransom	Toccet
Connecticut	Irish Road	Royal Jabar	Two Step Salsa
Cougar Cat	Jafmil	Run Away and Hide	US Ranger
Cowboy Cal	Kela	Rushin to Altar	Western Expression
Dazzling Falls	Kennedy	Saintly Look	Wild Gold
Desert Key	King of Scat	Sam Lord's Castle	Woke Up Dreamin
D'Funnybone	Kings Blood	Sangaree	Zanjero
Dialed In	Kipling	Save Big Money	
Discreetly Mine	Kirkendahl	Shadow Hawk	
Distorted Reality	Lewis Michael	Sidney's Candy	
Doneraile Court	Maclean's Music	Silver Poet	



LATE DEADLINE IS MARCH 1st

Late nominations also due for IOWA Bred foals of 2014

2016 Prairie Meadows: April 28th - Aug 13th



IOWA THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS AND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For More Information Contact Our ITBOA Office at 800-577-1097 ■ e-mail ITBOA@msn.com  
Nomination forms and more info at [www.iowathoroughbred.com](http://www.iowathoroughbred.com)

## 2015 LEADING SIRES IN INDIANA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2016 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>STRONG CONTENDER</b> (03, Maria's Mon), R Star Stallions	\$3,000	42/15	0/0	0/0	(Miss Da Point, \$116,800)	<b>\$649,527</b>	*146	5	1.02	1.16
2	<b>CHIEF SEATTLE</b> (97, Seattle Slew)	Died, 2011	33/23	0/0	0/0	(Seattle Lights, \$47,985)	<b>\$591,384</b>	*431	9	1.12	1.29
3	<b>LANTANA MOB</b> (05, Posse), Southern Indiana Equine	\$5,000	25/9	2/3	2/2	(Daddy Justice, \$192,130)	<b>\$557,321</b>	34	3	1.11	1.04
4	<b>UNBRIDLED EXPRESS</b> (04, Unbridled's Song), Swiftly Farms	\$2,000	12/10	1/2	1/1	(Derby Express, \$172,289)	<b>\$550,026</b>	16	3	1.91	1.28
5	<b>PASS RUSH</b> (99, Crown Ambassador), Swiftly Farms	\$2,500	31/17	0/0	0/0	(I Like Beer, \$100,705)	<b>\$516,850</b>	84	5	1.15	1.05
6	<b>DESERT WARRIOR</b> (00, Deputy Minister)	Died, 2015	38/12	1/1	1/1	(Frisky Warrior, \$107,255)	<b>\$514,311</b>	*267	1	0.85	0.97
7	<b>ELUSIVE BLUFF</b> (06, Elusive Quality), Southern Indiana Equine	\$1,500	15/8	2/3	0/2	(C. Zee, \$180,070)	<b>\$443,626</b>	33	2	1.46	0.90
8	<b>MONBA</b> (05, Maria's Mon), Nicks Farm	\$2,000	34/11	0/0	0/0	(Bright Monba, \$56,894)	<b>\$428,173</b>	57	0	0.58	1.40
9	<b>DEPUTY STORM</b> (01, Forestry), R Star Stallions	\$1,500	24/12	0/0	0/0	(Jrock, \$43,585)	<b>\$400,132</b>	83	2	0.98	1.25
10	<b>STRONG HOPE</b> (00, Grand Slam), Midwest Equine & Veterinary Hospital	\$1,800	36/11	0/0	0/0	(Hattaash, \$54,943)	<b>\$352,048</b>	320	4	0.93	1.69

# NOBLE'S PROMISE

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- Female family of the incredible Darby Dan matriarch **SOARING**

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in December. We're going to breed a dozen of our mares to him, and we're hoping for a book of between 80 and 100."

Frac Daddy (out of Skippers Mate, by Skip Away) stands this year for \$4,000 (Canadian funds). He earned better than \$700,000 and placed second at 2 in the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (gr. II) and ran second at 3 in the Arkansas Derby (gr. I) and third in the Commonwealth Turf Stakes (gr. IIIT). So Frac Daddy, now 6, either won or placed in graded stakes on all three surfaces.

Park Stud stands 9-year-old Exhi for \$3,500 (Canadian). The son of Maria's Mon—Soldera, by Polish Numbers, won six of 16 starts and more than \$800,000. He won the Coolmore Lexington Stakes (gr. II) at 3 and the Ben Ali the following year, and also won the Victoria Park Stakes and Marine Stakes in Canada.



Park Stud expanded to 140 acres



# 2015 LEADING SIRES IN MINNESOTA Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 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	<b>KELA</b> (98, Numerous), Stillwater Equine Clinic	Private	52/31	0/0	0/0	(Joyous Lady, \$107,553)	<b>\$917,678</b>	*232	3	0.96	0.95
2	<b>GHAZI</b> (89, Polish Navy)	Died, 2011	15/7	0/0	0/0	(Dear Fay, \$45,175)	<b>\$145,473</b>	468	19	0.88	1.22
3	<b>FORD EVERY STREAM</b> (99, Seeking the Gold), Nightmare Stables	\$1,000	14/8	0/0	0/0	(See the Stream, \$22,620)	<b>\$145,352</b>	135	1	0.55	0.82
4	<b>MAGIC CAT</b> (95, Storm Cat), Benz Lake Farm	\$1,250	12/6	0/0	0/0	(Kitty Blonde, \$38,737)	<b>\$131,284</b>	234	10	0.67	0.91
5	<b>DEMIDOFF</b> (90, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2012	16/6	0/0	0/0	(Hoist Her Demi, \$33,800)	<b>\$129,864</b>	280	17	0.86	0.80

# 2015 LEADING SIRES IN MICHIGAN

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2016 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	<b>UNBRIDLED ENERGY</b> (02, Unbridled's Song), Hubel Farms	Private	76/42	1/1	0/1	(Geothermal, \$180,061)	<b>\$1,075,921</b>	*225	5	0.88	1.16
2	<b>EQUALITY</b> (99, Mt. Livermore), Dickinson Farms	Private	35/17	0/0	0/0	(Comeflywithanangel, \$71,432)	<b>\$468,136</b>	156	7	0.67	0.78
3	<b>FIRE BLITZ</b> (99, Storm Cat)	Died, 2012	23/11	0/0	0/0	(Dorthys Blitz, \$27,131)	<b>\$185,721</b>	56	3	0.56	0.69
4	<b>ELUSIVE HOUR</b> (00, Elusive Quality), Campbell Stable	\$1,000	10/4	0/0	0/0	(Hour by Hour, \$40,964)	<b>\$145,625</b>	70	3	0.78	0.69
5	<b>WAR IMAGE</b> (01, Halo's Image)	Died, 2012	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Kiki's War, \$39,800)	<b>\$106,125</b>	14	1	0.65	0.44

His first crop just became 3-year-olds in 2016.

"He's had nice horses that have sold well, good-looking horses; and he's had a stakes winner," said Byrne. "He's a big, scopey horse, and I think his progeny are more suited to being good 3-year-olds. They're running out west on the dirt and at Woodbine on the synthetic, and they seem to like everything. We have a lot to look forward to with him."


Nephrite has more of a European accent to him. The 7-year-old son of Pivotal—Cape Merino, by Clantime, is a group III winner in Ireland at 2 and is a half brother to English group I winner Cape of Good Hope and group III-placed Cape

Columbine. His first crop have just turned yearlings. Nephrite stands at Park Stud for \$2,500 (Canadian).

"They look great, but there's not enough of them," noted Byrne. "I thought it would be a lot easier selling Pivotal. He's a great sire who gets horses that run on the synthetic in England. And they also love hard turf. I thought he'd be a great fit here, but it's been tough selling him, even though there's a bit more attraction for grass runners up here than there is in the States, and we have a great turf course at Woodbine."

Byrne also developed the family that produced 2015 TwinSpires Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint (gr. I) winner

Wavell Avenue. He bred Wavell Avenue's great-great-granddam Bar Tea H. to Geiger Counter, getting the filly Katebyrne, whom he sold but eventually bought back for broodmare duty. Byrne bred her to Bold Ruckus and sold the resulting filly, Ruby Park, to Eugene Melnyk. Melnyk bred Ruby Park to Silver Deputy and got Lucas Street, the dam of Wavell Avenue. Byrne purchased Lucas Street at Melnyk's dispersal and sold her privately after Wavell Avenue's Breeders' Cup victory. With Canada's breeding industry in uncertain times, Byrne decided it was best to take some chips off the table in the glow of Wavell Avenue's huge win.

After all, timing is everything. 

## Indiana- A Good Program Getting Even Better!

### Top Ten Indiana Sire of 2015



**For Irish Road and Star Cat:**  
Special consideration for Stakes-Winning and Stakes-Producing Mares, and Multiple Mare Discounts

### IRISH ROAD - Private

Unbridled's Song - Twin Propeller by Known Fact  
2015 Winners incl. SPW **Irish Nuggets** (\$120,591), 4 wins by 18 lengths, on-the-board in 7 of 9 starts incl. Churchill's \$100,000 Debutante S.; SPW **Mani Income**; allowance winners **MAJOR HIGHWAY** (\$435,541, 9 wins by nearly 25 lengths), **IT'S TIME TO LAUGH** (\$183,564, 8 wins), **MISO BAD** (\$124,187, 3 wins), etc.

### STAR CAT - Fee \$2500

Storm Cat - Ashado, by Saint Ballado  
2015 Winners incl. **ANGEL CHOIR** (\$112,599), Indiana-bred back-to-back Belmont winner by 2 & 2 1/2 lengths; **PURRPURRPURR** (\$83,332), 6 wins by over 25 lengths, on-the-board in \$85,000 Indiana Stallion S.; **ATHENA STAR**, 4 1/4 -length allowance winner

### Top Five Indiana 3rd Crop Sire in 2015



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