

MIDWEST/CANADA

Quick Entrance

Anthony Bilotta jumps right into Peaceful Valley Farms

BY ERIN SHEA



COURTESY OF PEACEFUL VALLEY FARMS

Anthony Bilotta outside his Peaceful Valley Farms near Didsbury, Alberta

WHEN ANTHONY BILOTTA made a trip to Alberta, Canada, to see his son graduate from Olds College he didn't expect to make a major life decision during that visit. But that's what happened in 2013 when he took a 15-minute drive down the road to see one of his favorite horses, Alydeed, who was standing at Peaceful Valley Farms near Didsbury, Alberta.

Bilotta was just thrilled to see the multiple graded stakes winner in the flesh instead of through his computer's screensaver, and after a quick conversation with Peaceful Valley owners Jack and Linda Johnston, it seemed Bilotta and Alydeed would be seeing more of each other.

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*New For
2017*

JAVA'S WAR

WAR PASS – JAVA (GB), BY RAINBOW QUEST

2017 Fee: \$3,000

Live Foal Guaranteed; Breed Secure Option available

Photo by Equisport Photos

Grade 1 Winner Enters Stud in Ontario

WON Keeneland's **Toyota Blue Grass S. [G1]** (AWT) at 3.

By **Champion 2YO WAR PASS** out of a sister to **Champion FIJI (GB)**,
by **Champion RAINBOW QUEST**.

Excellent outcross pedigree.

Met and defeated 19 GSWs, including:

- Eclipse Champion 3YO **WILL TAKE CHARGE [G1]** (\$3,924,648)
- Horse of the Year **UNCAPTURED [G2]** (\$1,065,147)
- Champion **DYNAMIC SKY [G3]** (\$1,098,956)
- Champion **ARE YOU KIDDING ME [G2]** (\$981,852)
- **GOLDENCENTS [G1]** (\$3,044,000, Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile [G1] twice)
- **PALACE MALICE [G1]** (\$2,691,135)
- **VERRAZANO [G1]** (\$1,878,013)
- **UNDRAFTED [G1]** (\$1,300,813)
- **HABIBI (NZ) [G1]** (\$702,711)
- **JOHA [G1]** (\$613,182), etc.

*{ Also standing, Queen's Plate Winner **NOT BOURBON** }*

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FARMS**

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2016 LEADING SIRES IN CANADA



For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017Stud Fee Can \$	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	OLD FORESTER (01, Forestry), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$4,000	138/71	3/3	3/3	(Thor's Rocket, \$150,079)	\$3,493,372	349	13	1.44	1.55
2	GIANT GIZMO (04, Giant's Causeway), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	65/38	5/9	3/5	(Amis Gizmo, \$539,789)	\$2,543,283	107	7	2.00	1.55
3	WHERE'S THE RING (99, Seeking the Gold), Colebrook Farms	\$3,000	88/51	1/2	0/1	(River Maid, \$286,790)	\$2,106,964	319	9	1.35	1.39
4	MILWAUKEE BREW (97, Wild Again), Adena Springs North	\$5,000	89/45	3/4	2/3	(Sweater Weather, \$165,326)	\$2,023,604	*532	24	1.20	1.48
5	SLIGO BAY (IRE) (98, Sadler's Wells), Adena Springs North	\$5,000	73/31	4/6	1/4	(Lexie Lou, \$293,824)	\$1,675,191	*378	12	1.22	1.40
6	SILENT NAME (JPN) (02, Sunday Silence), Adena Springs North	\$7,500	72/31	3/4	2/3	(Lokinfurpusemonee, \$202,920)	\$1,675,140	*293	15	1.43	1.25
7	NIIGON (01, Unbridled)	Died, 2012	45/23	0/0	0/0	(Nipigon, \$151,392)	\$1,298,654	178	6	1.82	1.17
8	WILKO (02, Awesome Again), Paulee Thoroughbreds	Private	54/30	2/3	0/2	(Melmich, \$239,594)	\$1,018,460	*202	5	1.09	1.14
9	IMPERIALISM (01, Langfuhr), Esquirol Farms	\$2,500	61/27	1/1	1/1	(Imperial Hint, \$123,605)	\$941,014	223	5	0.78	1.00
10	ROSBERG (01, A.P. Indy)	Died, 2014	51/30	1/5	0/1	(Snuggles, \$153,974)	\$899,440	81	8	0.87	0.86
11	WANDO (00, Langfuhr)	Died, 2014	35/20	2/2	2/2	(Shake Down Baby, \$143,213)	\$856,208	*158	4	1.23	1.11
12	GOTTCHA GOLD (03, Coronado's Quest), Peaceful Valley Farms	\$2,500	46/24	1/3	0/1	(Making Havoc, \$107,425)	\$803,328	*111	1	0.85	1.35
13	SOCIETY'S CHAIRMAN (03, Not Impossible), Shannondoe Farm	\$5,000	12/8	1/4	0/1	(Caren, \$469,378)	\$731,372	21	3	3.89	1.08
14	NOT BOURBON (05, Not Impossible), Colebrook Farms	\$3,500	37/14	1/1	1/1	(Internal Bourbon, \$122,599)	\$697,242	59	2	1.12	1.30
15	SAFFIR (02, Unbridled)	Died, 2014	37/20	0/0	0/0	(Galina Point, \$138,100)	\$662,209	87	2	1.37	1.23
16	STRUT THE STAGE (98, Theatrical)	N/A	40/19	1/1	1/1	(Strut the Course, \$118,470)	\$660,517	117	4	1.42	1.19
17	FINALITY (99, Dehere), Red Rock Farm	\$2,500	58/26	2/3	0/2	(Arabella's Muse, \$76,484)	\$644,895	261	14	0.64	0.76
18	CAPE CANAVERAL (96, Mr. Prospector), Highfield	\$3,000	42/26	0/0	0/0	(Onestaratatime, \$144,562)	\$567,117	426	20	1.00	1.19
19	LEONNATUS ANTEAS (04, Stormy Atlantic), Colebrook Farms	\$3,500	35/12	0/0	0/0	(Athdara, \$56,293)	\$543,834	77	2	1.04	1.16
20	SECOND IN COMMAND (00, Silver Deputy), Road's End Farm	\$2,000	43/21	1/1	0/1	(Stanz in Command, \$88,486)	\$541,290	94	5	0.76	0.76
21	SINGING SAINT (04, El Prado), Adena Springs North	Private	29/14	1/1	1/1	(Songs and Laughter, \$117,427)	\$524,427	*53	2	1.09	0.95
22	KENTUCKY BEAR (05, Mr. Greeley), Curraghmore Farm	\$2,500	29/12	1/1	1/1	(Classyshadesofgrey, \$89,266)	\$502,547	52	2	1.35	1.29
23	STORM VICTORY (00, Storm Cat)	N/A	58/29	0/0	0/0	(Too Much Johnson, \$33,236)	\$463,618	211	6	0.53	0.63
24	OMEGA CODE (00, Elusive Quality), Peaceful Valley Farms	\$2,000	41/17	1/1	0/1	(Penguini, \$80,749)	\$450,296	315	10	0.70	1.21
25	WAR CRY (02, Unbridled)	N/A	33/19	0/0	0/0	(Frosty Vixen, \$65,867)	\$418,142	76	0	0.75	1.26
26	SKIMMING (96, Nureyev)	N/A	22/11	1/2	0/1	(Avadiva, \$82,478)	\$418,026	334	7	0.74	0.99
27	CAUSE TO BELIEVE (03, Maria's Mon), Road's End Farm	\$2,500	44/23	1/1	1/1	(Kermode, \$64,047)	\$392,146	109	5	0.53	0.83
28	SKY CONQUEROR (02, Sky Classic)	N/A	17/10	0/0	0/0	(Conquer the Sky, \$77,341)	\$365,062	41	1	1.21	1.59
29	BOLD N' FLASHY (89, Bold Ruckus)	N/A	26/15	0/0	0/0	(Azimut, \$58,953)	\$363,740	347	16	1.29	1.21
30	QUEST (99, Seeking the Gold)	N/A	31/14	1/1	0/1	(Greengrassofyoming, \$170,875)	\$335,530	131	2	0.76	1.29
31	MR. SCOTTY (02, Mr. Greeley)	N/A	10/6	1/1	1/1	(Touch of Disney, \$140,697)	\$292,925	38	1	1.17	0.84
32	SMOOTH BID (02, Rubiano)	N/A	19/9	0/0	0/0	(Gran Bid, \$67,358)	\$277,217	41	0	1.11	0.90
33	EXHI (07, Maria's Mon), Highfield	\$3,000	18/11	0/0	0/0	(Norm's Big Bucks, \$53,201)	\$272,293	33	1	0.75	1.51
34	STEPHANOTIS (93, Regal Classic), Canmor Farms	\$1,500	31/13	0/0	0/0	(Hey Didjanotis, \$67,284)	\$272,222	317	12	0.67	0.84
35	SUNGOLD (02, A.P. Indy), Flying Horse Farm	Private	22/10	1/2	0/1	(Strate Remark, \$77,410)	\$256,009	46	5	0.68	0.95

(continued from page 38)

"When I was there, (Jack Johnston) goes, 'So, we're looking to retire,'" Bilotta recalled of his initial conversation with the Johnstons, who have been raising horses for decades and who both won the 2011

Alberta Horseperson of the Year award. "I said, 'So you'd look at selling the farm?'"

"I went home with that thought (that the farm was for sale) and the next thing I know, I bought it."

Bilotta is overjoyed with the 160-acre

facility and is making plans for the farm's future and dreaming of his stallions' progeny on the track. The farm currently has two active stallions on its property, Omega Code and Gottcha Gold, along with 70 broodmares, with around half owned by Peaceful Valley. Alydeed, now 27 years old, is also still on the farm.

"Alydeed is still alive and breathing, believe it or not," Bilotta joked of the stallion who unknowingly jump-started a new career for his new owner.

The Johnstons are still involved in overseeing the day-to-day operations, along with a resident veterinarian and Bilotta's son, Bryan Schoures, an Olds College graduate who is now working as the farm's farrier. The farm provides breeding and foaling, boarding, breaking yearlings, sales preparations, and farrier services.

"It was just a childhood dream to grow up and be part of the sport," Bilotta said. "My wife (Janice) and I, and my son—

(continued on page 42)



COURTESY OF PEACEFUL VALLEY FARMS

Bilotta with Alydeed (right) and others at Peaceful Valley

OMEGA CODE

Elusive Quality - Tin Oaks, by Deputy Minister

WESTERN CANADA'S SPRINT SIRE

- Omega Code is a 2-year-old track record setter and sprinter.
- Sire of more US winners than any son of Elusive Quality and sired over 100 stakes winners including Smarty Jones, Raven's Pass and Quality Road.
- Omega Code has sired 2 champions, 11 black type winners, 5 black type placers.
- 78% runners in first 6 crops including SWs Quick Code and Code of Honour.

2017 FEE: \$2,000



GOTTCHA GOLD

Coronado's Quest - Gottcha Last by Pleasant Tap

SPEED RECORD HOLDER

- AMONG THE TOP THREE LEADING WESTERN CANADIAN SIRES BY 2016 EARNINGS
- Sire of undefeated 2016 Grade 1 Winner DELAND, plus Stakes-Placed Winners C D Gold, Hows My Gold, Uptown Anthem and Mucho Man Gold
- Multiple Grade Stakes Winner of \$1,258,000 CDN with 118 Equibase First/Second in Eleven Stakes, incl. Grade 1 Pimlico Special & \$1,000,000 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile
- Half-brother to 2016 Grade 1 Performer AMERICAN FREEDOM (\$911,044 CDN, 109 Equibase)

2017 FEE: \$2,500



Peaceful Valley Farms.

Inquiries to: Jack & Linda Johnston



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2016 LEADING SIRES IN OHIO


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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	COWTOWN CAT (04, Distorted Humor), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$3,000	93/51	1/2	0/1	(Calgary Cat, \$281,735)	\$2,159,605	180	2	1.13	1.28
2	MAIMONIDES (05, Vindication)	N/A	51/27	0/0	0/0	(Brewing, \$64,519)	\$783,059	*100	1	0.72	2.19
3	CITY WEEKEND (02, Carson City), Meadow Springs	\$2,000	45/24	0/0	0/0	(Cantico, \$65,405)	\$703,732	100	1	0.75	0.89
4	MOBIL (00, Langfuhr), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	33/16	0/0	0/0	(Mobil Sky, \$78,300)	\$634,413	*163	4	1.31	1.29
5	INDY WIND (02, A.P. Indy), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$2,000	33/17	0/0	0/0	(Pleiadian, \$114,334)	\$626,756	67	1	1.11	1.08
6	ADDED EDGE (00, Smart Strike), Raimonde Farms	\$1,500	53/27	1/1	1/1	(Foxy Flea, \$72,613)	\$567,417	159	7	0.69	0.78
7	MR. MABEE (01, Storm Cat)	N/A	24/10	0/0	0/0	(She Mabee Wild, \$165,007)	\$471,511	69	0	0.71	0.84
8	KISS THE KID (03, Lemon Drop Kid), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$2,500	13/7	0/0	0/0	(Extravagant Kid, \$73,275)	\$346,249	37	0	1.01	1.68
9	PARENTS' REWARD (98, Mr. Prospector), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,000	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Eightthehardway, \$176,828)	\$317,500	55	3	0.94	0.80
10	MERCER MILL (94, Forty Niner), Fair Winds Farm	Private	15/6	0/0	0/0	(Pyrite Mill, \$43,748)	\$277,451	223	15	0.70	0.90
11	LIGHTNIN N THUNDER (01, Storm Cat), Ben Mears Farm	\$2,000	15/9	0/0	0/0	(What's Up J P, \$36,529)	\$228,149	197	6	0.87	1.06
12	KENTUCKY DANE (00, Danehill), JHL Performance Horses	Private	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Hope's Frog Song, \$75,062)	\$212,660	22	2	1.34	0.47
13	KILLENAULE (02, Fusaichi Pegasus)	N/A	24/7	0/0	0/0	(Bahnke, \$59,054)	\$190,788	89	0	0.49	0.84
14	HOSTILE TAKEOVER (04, Dixie Union), Raimonde Farms	\$1,500	7/6	0/0	0/0	(He's Taken, \$54,870)	\$167,034	11	0	0.70	1.08
15	FLAGSHIP (07, El Prado)	N/A	8/5	0/0	0/0	(Orbital Flag, \$49,204)	\$157,750	9	0	0.69	1.06
16	LEELANAU (99, Carson City)	N/A	7/4	0/0	0/0	(Showersofblessings, \$51,118)	\$157,237	139	0	0.43	0.80
17	WESTERN PRIDE (98, Way West), R.C. Cline Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Sweet Butterfly, \$55,220)	\$140,199	99	0	0.62	0.93
18	ALCINDOR (07, Unbridled's Song), Haras El Alfarfar, Arg	N/A	5/2	0/0	0/0	(True Cinder, \$98,650)	\$137,895	9	0	1.31	1.37
19	SAINTS N' SINNERS (00, Saint Ballado)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Deniro's Saint, \$97,420)	\$137,297	23	1	1.10	0.21
20	MR. SILVER (03, Concorde's Tune)	Died	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Kerfluffle, \$64,441)	\$120,893	5	0	1.64	1.18

(continued from page 40)
 we're pleased to say the least."

Bilotta's love for the sport began as a child, when his father brought him to racetracks in Canada. There, he was introduced to Canadian Hall of Fame trainers Frank Merrill and Lou Cavalari Jr., and got to meet another Hall of Famer, Cool Reception, plus Dancer's Image, the only horse in the history of the Kentucky

Derby (gr. I) to cross the wire first and be disqualified.

As a lifelong student of pedigrees Bilotta puts great thought into the stallions that he stands at Peaceful Valley, even if they do fall into his hands by being in the right place at the right time. His most recent acquisition, Gottcha Gold, was an unexpected find in September at the Canadi-

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Dr. Brenda Abbey, a client of Peaceful Valley, with stallion Omega Code

2016 CANADA SIRES
BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Old Forester	138	71
Where's the Ring	88	51
Milwaukee Brew	89	45
Giant Gizmo	65	38
Sligo Bay (IRE)	73	31
Silent Name (JPN)	72	31
Wilko	54	30
Rosberg	51	30
Storm Victory	58	29
Imperialism	61	27
Finality	58	26
Cape Canaveral	42	26
Gottcha Gold	46	24
Niigon	45	23
Cause to Believe	44	23
Second in Command	43	21
Saffir	37	20
Wando	35	20
Strut the Stage	40	19
War Cry	33	19
Omega Code	41	17
Kissin Kris	34	17
Schramsberg	32	16
Bold n' Flashy	26	15
Not Bourbon	37	14
Quest	31	14
Singing Saint	29	14
Formal Gold	36	13
Stephanotis	31	13

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 2012 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 11, 2016. As supplied to BloodHorse 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 2015 is \$21,782 or 50% of the 2015 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 50% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 57%. 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.



Stallion Season Telephone Auction

January 6, 7, 8, 2017 Noon – 4:00 PM daily

2017 Seasons Available-updated daily.

8 States 131 seasons

FLORIDA-Double Diamond Farm-Bahamian Squall NG

Get Away Farm-Drill NG, Two Step Salsa NG
Stonewall's Prestige Stallions-LF-Zahadoon, Suns Out Guns
Out, Burning Roma, Black Onyx, Suntracer, Telling, Greatness,
Lord of Greatness, Doneraile Court, Kibbutznik, Zimmer,
Reward the Cat

ILLINOIS-McCrosky Farm- Forest Attack LF

INDIANA

Breakway Farm-LF-Guy's Reward, Irish Road,
Noble's Promise, Mondavi, Star Cat, Skylord,
Time Raker, Turbo Compressor
Hidden Springs Farm LF-Goods, Vibank
Indiana Stallion Station LF
Domestic Dispute, Lentenor, Elnaawi, Ventana,
Mustanfur, Heat Shimmer, DrinkWithTheDevil
R Star Stallions- LF-Taprize, What Now
Swiftly Farms NG- Benny the Bull, Cashel Castle, Fort Prado,
Majestic Harbor, Pass Rush, Pataky Kid

KENTUCKY

Adena Springs-NG-Capo Bastone, City Wolf
Calumet Farm-NG- Behesht, Eye of the Leopard, Gray
Swallow, Muskettier, Optimizer, Producer, Raison D'Etat,
Snapy Halo, Slumber, Smarty Jones, War Correspondent
Considine Farm-SkipShot-LF
Crestwood Farm- NG-Country Day, Get Stormy,
Taste of Paradise, Tizdejavu
Darby Dan Farm NG-Jersey Town, Tale of Ekati,
Sky Kingdom, Run Away and Hide
Darley NG- Midshipman
Millennium Farms NG-Giant Oak, I Want Revenge, Hakassan
Roseglade Farm- Bold Warrior LF
Spendthrift Farm NG-Can the Man, Danza
War Horse Place-Dramedy LF
Win Star-NG-Daredevil, Revolutionary

NEW YORK

Dutchess Views-Bellamy Road NG, Marsh Side LF
Foggy Bottom LF- Encaustiz
Irish Hill Century Farm-LF-Hold Me Back, Desert Party, Zivo
Milfer-Golden Missile LF
Oriskany Creek Farm-Dr. Large LF
Questroyal North-NG-Golden Ticket, Majestic City,
Boys at Tosconova, Courageous Cat
RockRidge Stud NG
Soaring Empire, Trinniberg, Micromanage, War Dancer,
D'Funnybone, Honorable Dillon
Sequel Stallions NG- Forty Tales, Mission Impazible
Waldorf Farm- V.E. Day NG

OHIO

Blue Diamond Farm-Lightnin N Thunder
Cedar Brook Farm-Prayer On A Wing
Diamond Eyes Farm- William's Kitten NG
Duncan Farms-EZ's Gentleman
Eilers Farm-Forestry Type
M/M Stables- Much the Best
Mapleton TB Farm- Mobil, Cowtown Cat, Global Power
Meadow Springs Farm- City Weekend NG
Poplar Creek Horse Center-Indy Win, Kiss The Kid, Aeneas,
Birdrun, Favorite Bid, King of the Roxy, David Copperfield
Mixmaster, Louie Villian, Tidal Volume, Twinspired,
Vertiformer
Raimonde Farm- Vaquero, Tropical Storm,
Added Edge, Hostile Takeover
Win Row Farm- Big Atlantic, Market Strike, Music City

PENNSYLVANIA

Godstone LF- Activist, Well Spelled
Mountain Springs Farm-Emperor Tiberius LF
Pin Oak Lane NG-More Smoke
Woodvale Farm LF-City Sharpster, Revival Song

NORTH DAKOTA

Backhaus & Sons-LF-Royal Challenger, Kin Cha Cha

Stallion	Bid
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
Print Bidder's Name _____	
Phone: () _____	
May be copied. Participants will be called during auction.	

Return to OTBO PO Box 165 Miamitown, Ohio 45041
or Fax to (513) 353-0562 (Call first)

Mail in Bids Postmark Deadline: January 4, 2017
At any time before the auction you may call
(513) 574-5888 or e-mail gb.otbo@fuse.net
a bid on any of the listed stallions.

No registration is required to participate.

2016 LEADING SIRES IN INDIANA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Sire Index	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	BENNY THE BULL (03, Lucky Lionel), Swifty Farms	\$3,000	57/34	0/0	0/0	(Tormenta de Oro, \$101,300)	\$1,031,938	*195	2	0.89	1.00
2	FORT PRADO (01, El Prado), Swifty Farms	\$2,000	68/34	1/1	0/1	(Big Tom Prado, \$86,654)	\$1,014,006	138	2	0.85	1.45
3	VICTOR'S CRY (05, Street Cry), Holden Farm	\$10,000	38/18	1/1	1/1	(Raglan Road, \$127,690)	\$818,840	59	1	1.13	1.19
4	MONBA (05, Maria's Mon), Nicks Farm	\$2,000	31/18	0/0	0/0	(Rally Gal, \$75,634)	\$652,237	68	0	0.71	1.32
5	PASS RUSH (99, Crown Ambassador), Swifty Farms	\$2,500	45/16	0/0	0/0	(Peyton's Pass, \$107,096)	\$605,744	105	5	1.02	1.06
6	STRONG HOPE (00, Grand Slam), Midwest Equine & Veterinary Hospital	\$2,000	27/14	1/2	1/1	(Defining Hope, \$159,729)	\$535,501	328	5	0.93	1.68
7	LANTANA MOB (05, Posse), Southern Indiana Equine	\$2,500	26/11	0/0	0/0	(Operation Stevie, \$105,055)	\$511,900	37	3	1.06	1.10
8	SWEET RETURN (GB) (00, Elmaamul), Nicks Farm	\$2,000	30/11	0/0	0/0	(Daddy's Boo, \$174,834)	\$486,542	101	0	0.66	0.85
9	MANCINI (98, Mr. Prospector)	Died, 2012	23/13	0/0	0/0	(Strong Composition, \$110,173)	\$475,293	*161	3	0.69	0.91
10	DEPUTY STORM (01, Forestry), R Star Stallions	\$1,500	22/14	0/0	0/0	(Jrock, \$134,383)	\$456,204	88	2	0.99	1.22
11	STAR CAT (07, Storm Cat), Breakway Farm	\$2,500	25/16	1/1	1/1	(I Came to Praise, \$80,309)	\$405,397	41	1	0.80	0.92
12	CHIEF SEATTLE (97, Seattle Slew)	Died, 2011	21/12	0/0	0/0	(Still Chief, \$76,483)	\$370,389	*431	9	1.11	1.27
13	DESERT WARRIOR (00, Deputy Minister)	Died, 2015	33/11	0/0	0/0	(Frisky Warrior, \$52,504)	\$339,076	*282	1	0.83	0.96
14	UNBRIDLED EXPRESS (04, Unbridled's Song), Swifty Farms	\$2,000	11/7	1/1	1/1	(Derby Express, \$121,582)	\$322,023	19	3	1.74	1.25
15	CASHEL CASTLE (99, Silver Ghost), Swifty Farms	\$1,000	23/7	2/2	1/2	(Cashel Rock, \$108,400)	\$307,768	108	4	0.88	1.03
16	STRONG CONTENDER (03, Maria's Mon), R Star Stallions	\$3,000	31/10	0/0	0/0	(Bold Contender, \$70,600)	\$295,507	*146	4	0.97	1.16
17	VIBANK (03, Silver Deputy), Hidden Springs	\$1,000	26/13	0/0	0/0	(Villageofvibank, \$48,531)	\$280,219	100	0	0.85	1.23
18	ELITE SQUADRON (04, Officer), Midwest Equine & Veterinary Hospital	\$2,000	23/11	0/0	0/0	(Quiet Elite, \$37,281)	\$251,383	56	0	0.61	1.06
19	MONDAVI (03, Maria's Mon), Breakway Farm	\$1,500	7/4	1/1	1/1	(Ron, \$125,037)	\$212,089	30	1	0.84	0.62
20	SKYLORD (08, Sky Mesa), Breakway Farm	Private	9/5	0/0	0/0	(Check Or a Wreck, \$54,580)	\$198,813	15	0	0.95	0.91
21	MAJOR SUCCESS (01, Mazel Trick)	N/A	8/2	0/0	0/0	(Success Is Racing, \$172,490)	\$183,480	23	1	0.82	0.25
22	SILVER MOUNTAIN (05, Victory Gallop), Nicks Farm	\$2,000	15/6	0/0	0/0	(She's Going Strong, \$49,230)	\$174,632	23	0	0.51	0.97
23	DOMESTIC DISPUTE (00, Unbridled's Song), Indiana Stallion Station	\$2,000	17/7	0/0	0/0	(Vim, \$42,237)	\$166,533	*327	2	0.85	1.16
24	ELUSIVE BLUFF (06, Elusive Quality), Southern Indiana Equine	\$1,500	12/4	1/1	1/1	(A M Milky Way, \$87,697)	\$156,340	36	2	1.21	0.87
25	CHARGING INDIAN (02, Indian Charlie)	N/A	10/6	0/0	0/0	(Picaboo Rose, \$43,920)	\$156,239	18	0	0.59	0.86

(continued from page 42)

an Thoroughbred Horse Society, Alberta Division, yearling and mixed sale.

Bilotta purchased Gottcha Gold on the sale grounds from Stride Away Thoroughbreds' Steen and Cathy Reggelsen. The 13-year-old stallion had been standing at Stride Away in British



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Columbia, and before that he was at Ocala Stud in Florida. This year, he ranks 13th in Canada by progeny earnings.

"I didn't even see him, I just knew his history," Bilotta said of the Florida-bred son of Coronado's Quest who earned \$933,570 with eight victories and seven seconds in his racing career, including a score in Gulfstream Park's Skip Away Handicap (gr. III). He also finished second behind Corinthian in the 2007 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at Monmouth Park.

"What a beautiful, full-bodied horse he is," Bilotta continued. "If the Marlboro man was to ride a horse, he would in all likelihood pick him to go across those fields...he's got that power that just emits from him when you look at him. When you look at him, it's like, 'wow.'"

Having Ribot on both the top and bottom of Gottcha Gold's pedigree was also a draw for Bilotta.

"My dad used to preach to me about horses such as Nearco and Ribot," he said. "So when we got Gottcha Gold, the Ribot line top and bottom was very important.

"With those undefeated bloodlines, and me being from an Italian descent (Bilotta) with my mother being English, I get the best of both worlds," he joked of the British-bred Ribot, who was trained and raced in Italy. "But to get the Ribot line with Gottcha Gold, that was everything for me. Now I know I have a foundation going forward."

Gottcha Gold is out of the stakes-winning Pleasant Tap mare Gottcha Last. The bay horse is a half brother to American Freedom (by Pulpit), a grade III winner who ran second to Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I) winner Arrogate in the Travers Stakes (gr. I) and to Preakness Stakes (gr. I) winner Exaggerator in the betfair.com Haskell Invitational Stakes (gr. I). Out of his 86 runners, Gottcha Gold has 57 winners lead by Deland, a grade I stakes winner in Puerto Rico, who has won six of seven starts this year.

The other Peaceful Valley stallion, Omega Code, added to Bilotta's plan for the farm's future because he also wanted to stand a sprinter. In his 12-race career, the Florida-bred won two six-furlong

stakes, the San Miguel Stakes (gr. III) at Santa Anita Park and the Ron and Jessman Cloud Memorial Stakes at the Big Fresno Fair meet—setting a track record there for 2-year-olds when he stopped the clock in 1:07.70.

Peaceful Valley acquired the stallion outside of the auction ring as Omega Code

was a \$9,000 RNA at the 2015 Keeneland November breeding stock sale. The son of Elusive Quality stood at Peaceful Valley this year, but was previously located at Rockin' Z Ranch in Oklahoma. He's sired 174 total winners from 259 starters, including Oklahoma champion older female Zeta Zody and stakes winners Penguni,

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2016 LEADING SIRES IN MICHIGAN

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	UNBRIDLED ENERGY (02, Unbridled's Song), Hubel Farms	Private	48/21	0/0	0/0	(Huntstown, \$87,835)	\$600,569	*233	5	0.86	1.14
2	EQUALITY (99, Mt. Livermore), Dickinson Farms	Private	30/21	0/0	0/0	(Pink Pajamas, \$74,477)	\$417,133	160	7	0.67	0.77
3	FIRE BLITZ (99, Storm Cat)	Died, 2012	13/11	0/0	0/0	(Charlies Hot, \$30,565)	\$169,391	56	3	0.56	0.68
4	GUN POWER (97, Unbridled)	N/A	14/4	0/0	0/0	(Gun Powder, \$34,333)	\$154,056	44	0	0.55	0.80
5	ELUSIVE HOUR (00, Elusive Quality)	N/A	8/6	0/0	0/0	(Battle Drum, \$33,552)	\$120,109	73	3	0.78	0.68

Code of Honour, and Quick Code.

“Our goal is to have real strong sprint lines and a miler, that’s what we were looking for in a breeding line when we selected the stallions,” Bilotta said.

In addition, there have been a couple of other stallions in the mix at Peaceful Valley. Bilotta purchased stakes winner Where’s the Ring in late 2014. The son of Seeking the Gold stood two years at Peaceful Valley, and then went to Colebrook Farms Stallion Station in Ontario, which maintains some of his breeding rights.

Also, Irish-bred Best of the Bests, who won the 2002 Prix d’Ispahan (Fr-I) for Godolphin, stood at Peaceful Valley from 2014 until he died from colic in 2015. Some of his top progeny include Qatar

group I winner Amico Mio and Canadian stakes winner Good Better Best.

“We have a crop of his (Best of the Bests) right now that is really impressive,” Bilotta said. “He was a Machiavellian son and so we crossed some of our broodmares (with him) trying to go back to the Native Dancer line and the Nearco line, anything that we can to hone into those lineages.”

For someone who hasn’t been racing and breeding horses for years, Bilotta makes up for his lack of experience with a head full of pedigrees and the passion to do what it takes to succeed. Although it hasn’t been long since he jumped in head first, he is proud of the current stallion line up and the yearlings the farm has on the ground now.

2016 CANADA SIRES
BY BT STAKES WINNERS

Sire	SWnrs	SWins
Giant Gizmo	5	9
Sligo Bay (IRE)	4	6
Milwaukee Brew	3	4
Silent Name (JPN)	3	4
Old Forester	3	3
Finality	2	3
Wilko	2	3
Wando	2	2

“We’re excited that we now have the bloodlines that we can go forward with,” he said.



ANDREA BLAIR - P. PHOTOGRAPHY

2016 LEADING SIRES IN MINNESOTA



For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	KELA (98, Numerous), Stillwater Equine Clinic	Private	50/18	0/0	0/0	(Joyous Lady, \$157,011)	\$723,091	*248	2	0.95	0.95
2	MATT'S BROKEN VOW (05, Broken Vow), Dove Hill Farm	\$2,500	11/4	0/0	0/0	(Matchlock, \$124,779)	\$198,671	42	0	0.44	0.89
3	SAM LORD'S CASTLE (98, Carson City), Boehlke Farm	\$1,000	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Queen Sammy, \$27,290)	\$140,977	43	0	0.60	0.78
4	MAGIC CAT (95, Storm Cat), Benz Lake Farm	\$1,250	14/6	0/0	0/0	(Kitty Blonde, \$51,609)	\$139,847	243	10	0.66	0.90
5	FORD EVERY STREAM (99, Seeking the Gold), Nightmare Stables	\$1,000	11/6	0/0	0/0	(Aunt Lois, \$50,195)	\$109,493	139	1	0.55	0.81

"I'm a big believer that some of the old foundation sires are truly where the bloodlines continue to come forward into modern horses," he added. "Anything you see (now) that's running great, if you just go back three (generations) you start to see (those foundation horses). It doesn't go away, no matter what people may think."

Out of the handful of yearlings the farm had in 2016, two were sold at the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society Alberta fall mixed sale in September and Bilotta kept four to race, from Best of the Best's last crop and one by Alydeed.

Trainer Tim Rycroft, who also trains for Riversedge Racing Stables and runs horses at Northlands Park in Alberta, and his assistant trainer Gonzalo Anderson Rodriguez recently started working with the yearlings.

"They seem very willing, very forward, good minds," Rycroft said of the group.

Although a definitive plan will be formatted in their 2-year-old season next year, Rycroft mentioned he and Rodriguez have expertise in working with young horses. He spoke highly of his assistant and said he could possibly see him taking over the string in the future.

"I've had pretty good success with young horses," he said. "If they were good enough that they could go on to the U.S., that's something we'd have to discuss further down the road."

Rycroft, who had trained for Jack and Linda Johnston before, was also amazed at Bilotta's passion for the sport and is happy to see a new owner embrace racing the way Bilotta has.

"He's got a great attitude," Rycroft said. "You always want to encourage new people in the business.

"He said to me that he's always loved the horses, and he wanted to be in the (racing industry). The guys who are a little too eager and a little too excited at first, they always worry me because the first disappointment that comes along will stop them dead in their tracks, but he doesn't seem like that. In the racing business, there are ups and downs.

"We need new people; we lose owners every day."

And that urge to get in the game was planted in Bilotta's mind when he saw Northern Dancer win the Kentucky Derby in 1964—the first Canadian-bred horse to do so and the only horse to have won both the Derby and the Queen's Plate. Although his dream is slowly becoming a reality now, Bilotta still maintains a presence outside of the horse world, continuing his trade in real estate and commercial development.

"My partners in real estate say, 'If you study real estate like you

do the horses, you could have made a \$160 million in sales this year!'" Bilotta said, although he is quick to change the subject back to his horses.

For him, the real estate business comes secondary to his ultimate goal now: winning the Kentucky Derby with a Peaceful Valley homebred. And he's confident that there are no "ifs" in this scenario—it will happen, it's just a matter of time.

"Our goal as a breeding farm is to breed them at 2,500 feet above sea level and bring them down to the eastern seaboard and then run them in the Kentucky Derby," he said.

"My personal goal is to win the Kentucky Derby—it's not, 'I might,' it's 'I'm going to.' I'm too strong on pedigrees not to get one." **BH**

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