

SOUTHWEST

Aiming High

*Breeder/owner Larry Hirsch
 opens Highlander Training Center*

BY DENIS BLAKE / PHOTOS BY JERRY GOODALE



COURTESY OF LARRY HIRSCH

Larry Hirsch is chairman of Highlander Partners

OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS few partnerships in the Southwest have enjoyed as much success as that of Texans Larry Hirsch and Wayne Sanders. The two have teamed up on more than 300 winners with earnings in excess of \$10 million during that time. Much of their success has been accomplished at their home track, Lone Star Park, and some on the national scene in graded stakes. Though the partner-

ship continues, Hirsch recently took on a new venture with the opening of Highlander Training Center near Sulphur Springs, about 100 miles east of the heart of the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex.

Hirsch, the chairman of the private investment firm Highlander Partners L.P. in Dallas, enjoyed the races at Aqueduct and Belmont Park while growing up in New York, but it wasn't

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2018 LEADING SIRES IN TEXAS



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2018 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	TOO MUCH BLING (03, Rubiano), Valor Farm	\$6,500	48/19	1/1	1/1	(Imma Bling, \$51,660)	\$367,828	241	26	1.14	1.06
2	MY GOLDEN SONG (03, Unbridled's Song), Valor Farm	\$5,000	27/9	2/2	2/2	(Swift Shock, \$31,020)	\$191,343	143	12	1.01	1.07
3	GRASSHOPPER (04, Dixie Union), Valor Farm	\$3,500	32/6	0/0	0/0	(Delicious, \$18,000)	\$115,142	111	2	0.85	0.93
4	STONESIDER (03, Giant's Causeway), Valor Farm	\$2,000	8/4	0/0	0/0	(My Last Million, \$36,530)	\$94,315	*207	4	1.06	1.20
5	REVOLVING (09, A.P. Indy), Double S Thoroughbreds	N/A	10/2	0/0	0/0	(K K's Revolver, \$23,120)	\$65,965	30	0	0.57	1.44
6	LUNARPAL (02, Successful Appeal)	N/A	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Lunar Knight, \$20,737)	\$61,661	112	2	0.81	0.92
7	CONGAREE (98, Arazi), Valor Farm	\$3,000	15/4	0/0	0/0	(Princess Rose, \$15,720)	\$59,470	*384	13	1.24	1.38
8	LITTLEEXPECTATIONS (97, Valid Appeal)	N/A	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Darylslittleengine, \$21,420)	\$48,904	217	5	0.75	0.98
9	INTIMIDATOR (01, Gone West)	N/A	18/4	0/0	0/0	(Carencro Special, \$12,000)	\$48,505	204	6	0.57	0.75
10	DRUMS OF THUNDER (04, Concerto)	N/A	7/2	1/1	1/1	(Witt's Town, \$33,000)	\$47,999	35	2	0.55	0.34
11	EARLY FLYER (98, Gilded Time), Valor Farm	\$2,500	20/3	0/0	0/0	(Silis, \$10,840)	\$47,273	288	16	0.76	0.91
12	EATON'S GIFT (05, Johannesburg)	N/A	16/3	0/0	0/0	(Ramblin Fever, \$17,040)	\$45,263	58	0	0.45	0.59
13	GAFF (02, Maria's Mon)	N/A	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Hook, \$21,100)	\$43,862	95	0	0.60	0.99
14	FEARLESS EAGLE (04, Invisible Ink)	N/A	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Jim's Eagle, \$17,886)	\$39,418	19	0	0.50	0.25
15	TOTAL COMMAND (01, Forestry)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Back Stage Boy, \$32,030)	\$35,293	36	0	0.33	0.74
16	STREET MOVE (06, Street Cry)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Level Temper, \$14,730)	\$32,879	9	0	0.84	1.33
17	LIGHT UP THE SCORE (08, Even the Score)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Light Up the Devil, \$18,960)	\$28,919	5	0	0.36	1.12
18	SCRIMSHAW (00, Gulch)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Dagny, \$18,235)	\$28,476	*198	3	0.97	0.90
19	RIVER SQUALL (94, Summer Squall), Cedar Creek Farm	\$1,500	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Rapid Lady, \$12,411)	\$26,841	90	3	0.57	0.72
20	UNCLE ABBIE (97, Kingmambo), Key Ranch	\$2,000	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Stillwater R., \$12,180)	\$21,697	250	7	0.65	0.64
21	CROSSBOW (08, Bernardini), Valor Farm	\$2,000	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Pink Adobe, \$11,622)	\$21,269	33	1	0.58	1.15
22	WIMBLEDON (01, Wild Rush), Key Ranch	\$2,000	8/1	0/0	0/0	(South Wimbledon, \$10,225)	\$20,022	135	4	0.74	0.76

until a chance meeting with fellow businessman Sanders that he jumped into owning and breeding.

"We were both CEOs in Dallas, and we were at some business deal and started talking and it just kind of happened," Hirsch recalled. "He told me he was running some horses at Lone Star, and I always had a passion for it, so we bought one horse and then two horses. And then we bought a lot of horses.

"We've had many good ones," he added. "We haven't really broken into the grade 1 level, but we've been close and certainly

have run in some grade 1 races."

Among those good horses were grade 3 winners Bahnah and Baghdaria along with Texas-bred Taptam, who finished second, albeit a non-threatening 4¼ lengths back, to Zenyatta in the grade 1 Apple Blossom Invitational Stakes in 2010 at Oaklawn.

While the two have gone to six figures to acquire horses, two of their most successful runners have been relative bargains, including the aforementioned graded stakes winners that they purchased as

(continued on page 40)

2018 TEXAS SIRES BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Too Much Bling	48	19
My Golden Song	27	9
Grasshopper	32	6
Intimidator	18	4
Congaree	15	4
Stonesider	8	4
Early Flyer	20	3
Eaton's Gift	16	3
Lunarpal	11	3
Littleexpectations	9	3
Gaff	6	3
Day of the Cat	3	3



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#97	C	UNNAMED	SHAKIN IT UP	PURRFECT SONG
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#104	F	PICK N RUN	INTIMIDATOR	SHELTERED
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#117	C	THE GUY ROCKS	LITTLEEXPECTATIONS	THE GIRL ROCKS
#118	C	ROUNABOUTATION	LITTLEEXPECTATIONS	TIFFANY ROYAL
#119	C	COUNTRY KING	LITTLEEXPECTATIONS	TRIFOLIUM



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2018 LEADING SIRES IN NEW MEXICO



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2018 Earnings	2018 Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	ATTILA'S STORM (02, Forest Wildcat), A & A Ranch	\$4,000	53/10	0/0	0/0	(Hunter Rocks, \$27,680)	\$267,682	242	17	1.16	0.81
2	DIABOLICAL (03, Artax), A & A Ranch	\$4,000	44/15	0/0	0/0	(Diabolical Gator, \$37,020)	\$235,534	164	10	0.97	0.92
3	ROLL HENNESSY ROLL (00, Hennessy), A & A Ranch	\$2,500	31/9	0/0	0/0	(Hennessy Express, \$51,963)	\$217,860	179	10	0.94	0.97
4	QUINTON'S GOLD (97, Carson City), Doubletree Farm	\$5,000	29/9	0/0	0/0	(Golden Band, \$18,300)	\$158,492	148	10	1.23	0.88
5	FUSAICHI ZENON (JPN) (97, Sunday Silence), Weatherly Horse Farms	\$2,000	23/6	0/0	0/0	(Sunday Rose, \$39,200)	\$142,144	118	4	0.68	0.84
6	PRO PRADO (01, El Prado), Hourigan Horse Farm	\$2,000	15/5	0/0	0/0	(Citizen Geller, \$51,740)	\$126,824	95	2	0.75	0.82
7	INDIAN FIREWATER (07, Indian Charlie)	Died, 2017	24/6	0/0	0/0	(Belly Button Who, \$31,800)	\$125,898	64	2	0.71	1.22
8	DOME (98, Storm Cat), Double LL Farm	\$2,500	21/5	0/0	0/0	(Thunder Dome, \$58,880)	\$102,789	254	7	0.73	0.79
9	SOUTHWESTERN HEAT (04, Gone West)	Died, 2017	27/6	0/0	0/0	(Southwest Moonlite, \$20,370)	\$102,334	*112	3	0.67	0.95
10	WEATHER WARNING (04, Storm Cat)	N/A	19/3	0/0	0/0	(Western Warning, \$29,470)	\$95,671	*144	4	0.97	1.00
11	ROMAN EMPEROR (05, Empire Maker)	N/A	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Scarlet Streak, \$19,890)	\$82,644	22	1	0.53	0.84
12	SONG OF NAVARONE (04, Sultry Song)	N/A	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Blazing Navarone, \$51,000)	\$74,172	33	0	0.77	0.91
13	MCKENNA'S JUSTICE (07, Medaglia d'Oro), McKenna Thoroughbreds	Died, 2017	9/3	0/0	0/0	(McGoldie, \$20,210)	\$63,688	22	0	0.62	0.63
14	DOMINIQUE'S CAT (97, Storm Cat), McKenna Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Dom Dee Dom Dom, \$16,390)	\$59,666	111	2	0.80	0.61
15	SOURCE (98, Montbrook)	N/A	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Shining Source, \$51,000)	\$58,140	51	0	0.63	0.69
16	SWISSE STICK (02, Swiss Yodeler), MJ Farms	\$1,500	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Sippin, \$51,000)	\$56,704	28	1	0.74	0.80
17	GOLDEN RANSOM (99, Hennessy)	N/A	5/3	0/0	0/0	(War Wounds, \$21,640)	\$55,067	119	0	0.49	0.83
18	MR. GOLD MOVER (08, Mr. Greeley), Bar Y Equine	N/A	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Move It Mister, \$16,380)	\$54,870	45	2	0.83	0.87
19	THE WAY HOME (04, Giant's Causeway), Doubletree Farm	\$2,500	24/2	0/0	0/0	(Reback Home, \$10,365)	\$47,177	124	5	0.81	0.87
20	NACIMIENTO (05, Gone West), Crozier Farm	Private	3/1	0/0	0/0	(To Satisfy You, \$38,870)	\$40,080	26	0	0.66	0.92
21	DELHOMME (10, Dixie Union)	N/A	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Del Argent, \$14,040)	\$37,210	13	0	0.90	1.07
22	WESTERN GAMBLER (04, Storm Cat)	N/A	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Roller, \$11,700)	\$33,932	43	1	0.85	1.52
23	KING BULL (01, Holy Bull), Tucumcari Thoroughbreds	Private	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Unbelievabull, \$22,360)	\$31,221	28	3	1.25	0.60
24	RIGHT RIGGER (06, Unbridled's Song), Hunter Creek Farms	\$3,500	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Right Time, \$14,040)	\$30,766	12	3	1.83	0.84
25	MONTEREY JAZZ (04, Thunderello)	N/A	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Fastinating Allie, \$10,558)	\$29,085	25	0	0.39	0.59
26	MR. TRIESTE (01, Old Trieste), McKenna Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Bad Rabbit, \$14,645)	\$28,900	51	1	0.60	0.85
27	DESERT GOD (91, Fappiano)	Pnsd	9/1	0/0	0/0	(Vic Tories, \$11,672)	\$24,652	259	25	1.46	0.74
28	EVERYDAY HEROES (06, Awesome Again)	N/A	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Black Storm Rising, \$11,549)	\$23,044	51	0	0.25	0.85
29	UNBRIDLED TRUST (04, Unbridled's Song), Hourigan Horse Farm	\$1,200	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Trust Emily, \$12,660)	\$20,962	21	0	0.38	0.88
30	TO TERAS (00, Unbridled's Song)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(La Grange Lady, \$11,108)	\$20,839	83	1	0.80	0.58

(continued from page 38)

yearlings. Bahnah cost \$62,000 and Baghdadia \$52,000. In addition, Taptam, a daughter of Pleasant Tap who earned more than \$575,000, was out of a former Sanders runner who ended her career for a \$25,000 claiming tag.

In the Texas-bred ranks last year, Sanders and Hirsch were represented by the state champion 3-year-old filly Kat's Infatuation and champion older mare Zippit E. Both Bret Calhoun trainees are homebreds sired by stallions at nearby Valor Farm (Silver City and My Golden Song, respectively).

The partnership has produced remarkably consistent results over the past decade, recording between 20 and 27 wins

annually, save for 2010, which saw 38 winner's circle visits, and an average total of about \$900,000 in stable earnings.

Along the way, Hirsch said he surmised that the early development and training of a horse were vitally important to success and longevity on the track. He had a longtime relationship with trainer Jimmy "Scooter" Dodwell of Diamond D Ranch, so last year the two joined forces to launch Highlander Training Center.

"The opportunity came up with Scooter, so it seemed like an appropriate thing to do, both because of our mutual passion for racing and from a market standpoint that we could create a premier facility in the Southwest," said Hirsch.

2018 NEW MEXICO SIRES BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Diabolical	44	15
Attila's Storm	53	10
Roll Hennessy Roll	31	9
Quinton's Gold	29	9
Southwestern Heat	27	6
Indian Firewater	24	6
Fusaichi Zenon (JPN)	23	6
Dome	21	5
Pro Prado	15	5
Roman Emperor	10	5
Weather Warning	19	3
McKenna's Justice	9	3
Golden Ransom	5	3
Delhomme	4	3

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 2014 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through March 11, 2018. As supplied to *BloodHorse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., lists 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 2017 is \$22,593 or 47% of the 2017 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 47% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 15%; Singapore by 68%. Current year stakes winners include all Northern Hemisphere black-type stakes results from all available countries. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners include all countries.

*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.



Horses take to the track at Highlander Training Center, which is near Sulphur Springs, Texas

A large number of horses owned by Sanders and Hirsch are getting their early lessons at Highlander, along with those from outside clients, and the venture will allow the partners the possibility to breed more of their own.

“Instead of looking to sell mares (after racing), they had two come off the track that are pretty nice and they bred one to Arrogate and one to Lookin At Lucky. Then a couple of others went to Valor Farm to go to Too Much Bling and My Golden Song,” said Dodwell, who serves as president and head trainer at Highlander. “They’ve always had some at Valor and had success,

but with Larry having his own place he can do more breeding now.”

BUILDING IN TEXAS

Texas was once dotted with training centers, but as the state’s racing and breeding industry has languished over the last 10-15 years, many of those dots have disappeared to the point where a dot-to-dot puzzle connecting them could be solved with a few pen strokes. Even so, with racing flourishing in nearby Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, and the Texas industry leveling out to some extent, Hirsch figured a top-class facility was needed to give horsemen

another option besides sending stock to Kentucky or Florida.

Dodwell had been at Diamond D, which was started by his late father, Ed, for nearly 30 years, but he jumped at the chance to continue his relationship with Hirsch on this new venture. Dodwell found a suitable property not far from Diamond D at the former Rafter L Training Center.

Although the facility had not been active for several years and needed considerable work to get up and running again, Dodwell said the track surface and overall property were pleasant surprises.

“This surface is one of the best I’ve ever

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2018 LEADING SIRES IN LOUISIANA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2018 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	HALF OURS (03, Unbridled's Song), Clear Creek Stud	\$5,000	64/19	1/1	1/1	(Ours to Run, \$99,500)	\$585,544	*414	20	1.03	1.17
2	STAR GUITAR (05, Quiet American), Clear Creek Stud	\$7,500	40/11	1/1	0/1	(Blue Suade Guitar, \$48,110)	\$389,886	94	5	1.14	1.15
3	CUSTOM FOR CARLOS (06, More Than Ready), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,500	56/11	1/1	1/1	(Monte Man, \$99,000)	\$389,034	173	5	0.93	1.01
4	REDDING COLLIERY (06, Mineshaft), Red River Farms	\$2,000	37/7	0/0	0/0	(Red Wined Up, \$41,220)	\$294,750	75	1	0.72	1.40
5	D'WILDCAT (98, Forest Wildcat), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$2,500	45/8	0/0	0/0	(Guns Loaded, \$62,933)	\$278,608	*470	16	1.30	1.22
6	ASTROLOGY (08, A.P. Indy), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne	\$4,000	47/10	0/0	0/0	(Leah's Dream, \$44,400)	\$276,939	*178	2	0.87	1.27
7	YANKEE GENTLEMAN (99, Storm Cat), Le Mesa Stallions	\$2,500	45/8	0/0	0/0	(Adios Yankee, \$62,800)	\$268,271	*525	21	1.08	1.18
8	FOREFATHERS (04, Gone West)	N/A	46/8	0/0	0/0	(Overthegardengate, \$48,800)	\$255,299	178	1	0.60	1.07
9	RUN PRODUCTION (00, Saint Ballado), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$1,500	37/6	0/0	0/0	(Bill's Production, \$29,040)	\$242,838	231	8	1.03	0.94
10	MY PAL CHARLIE (05, Indian Charlie), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	43/7	0/0	0/0	(Tammany Parkway, \$31,650)	\$242,166	167	2	0.75	1.07
11	GREELEY'S GALAXY (02, Mr. Greeley)	Died	32/8	0/0	0/0	(Mariah's Galaxy, \$54,200)	\$234,799	167	2	1.05	1.04
12	LION TAMER (00, Will's Way)	N/A	28/5	0/0	0/0	(Fame Feather, \$40,800)	\$183,865	148	2	0.74	1.04
13	MASS MEDIA (01, Touch Gold), Red River Farms	\$1,500	37/4	0/0	0/0	(Yes Gorgeous, \$42,400)	\$183,092	*228	4	1.05	1.03
14	INTERACTIF (07, Broken Vow), Red River Farms	\$2,000	22/8	0/0	0/0	(Do Guess Again, \$22,400)	\$180,880	72	1	0.76	1.10
15	DUE DATE (05, El Prado), Peach Lane Farms	\$2,000	20/6	1/1	1/1	(Gladyouasawme, \$72,000)	\$176,910	83	1	0.60	0.76
16	TENPINS (98, Smart Strike), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	25/7	0/0	0/0	(Queeten, \$40,840)	\$165,750	*379	8	0.86	1.04
17	HONEST MAN (04, Unbridled's Song)	N/A	22/6	0/0	0/0	(Honest Tina, \$31,200)	\$132,442	68	0	0.37	1.23
18	BIND (08, Pulpit), Red River Farms	\$1,500	14/3	1/1	1/1	(La Mistake, \$51,600)	\$131,460	50	1	0.75	1.04
19	SAINT AFLEET (01, Northern Afleet), Landlock Equine	\$1,500	20/6	0/0	0/0	(County Coroner, \$25,200)	\$124,337	105	3	0.68	0.86
20	LINE OF DAVID (07, Lion Heart), Red River Farms	\$2,500	34/5	0/0	0/0	(Line Drive, \$22,545)	\$123,803	229	3	1.00	1.10
21	COURT VISION (05, Gulch), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne	\$3,500	24/6	0/0	0/0	(B Three, \$18,160)	\$116,494	*248	6	1.12	1.50
22	LONE STAR SPECIAL (05, Malabar Gold), Horse of Course	\$2,500	10/1	1/1	1/1	(Mobile Bay, \$102,000)	\$116,325	59	3	1.52	1.11
23	TIZ THE ONE (07, Tiznow)	N/A	22/4	0/0	0/0	(Blessed Song, \$22,830)	\$116,277	79	1	0.65	0.94
24	CLOSING ARGUMENT (02, Successful Appeal), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$3,000	25/4	0/0	0/0	(Miracle Master, \$18,360)	\$114,101	*467	18	1.21	1.14
25	BEHINDATTHEBAR (05, Forest Wildcat), Le Mesa Stallions	\$2,000	17/4	0/0	0/0	(River Bobcat, \$57,600)	\$109,920	103	0	0.57	0.83
26	TIME BANDIT (96, Time for a Change), Averett Farm	\$1,000	21/2	0/0	0/0	(King Bandit, \$28,410)	\$106,561	287	4	0.85	0.89
27	SMOOTH AIR (05, Smooth Jazz)	N/A	16/6	0/0	0/0	(Smoothmoney, \$22,200)	\$96,552	61	0	0.52	0.74
28	MAUK FOUR (00, Boston Harbor)	N/A	14/4	0/0	0/0	(Doc's Rocket, \$34,480)	\$90,540	76	0	0.64	0.83
29	ZONG (05, Unbridled's Song), Indian Creek Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Zyanara, \$52,800)	\$84,280	35	0	0.94	0.94
30	SUN KING (02, Charismatic)	N/A	22/4	0/0	0/0	(King Sniper, \$26,550)	\$82,797	277	2	0.69	0.98
31	PROUDINSKY (GER) (03, Silvano), All Star Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Proud Italian, \$18,389)	\$77,369	41	0	0.41	0.79
32	GOLD TRIBUTE (94, Mr. Prospector), Red River Farms	\$2,000	13/2	0/0	0/0	(Tortuga Rio, \$27,000)	\$70,255	*492	14	0.96	1.05
33	IDE (93, Forty Niner)	Pnsd	18/3	0/0	0/0	(Ide Stang You, \$24,400)	\$67,630	589	15	1.05	1.05
34	CHOOSING CHOICE (93, Unreal Zeal)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Vastjesus, \$49,200)	\$54,680	153	0	0.55	0.53
35	SILENT PLEASURE (03, Real Quiet)	N/A	11/2	0/0	0/0	(Deep End, \$18,300)	\$53,740	39	0	0.39	0.60

been on," he said. "There was grass growing up on it, and we got that off, and we were amazed how good the surface was. There was a lot of natural sand here that was used,

and it gives it a good cushion, but it's not too deep. It absorbs rain really well. We were fortunate to end up with a track like that.

"It's got rolling hills, pine trees, several

ponds; it's kind of like a Kentucky farm in some ways. It's a real attractive property."

Dodwell hopes to expand the half-mile training track to at least five-eighths at



Hirsch purchased the property early last year and horses arrived that July

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2018 LEADING SIRES IN OKLAHOMA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2018 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	WILBURN (08, Bernardini), River Oaks Farms	\$3,500	70/11	1/2	0/1	(Afleet Willy, \$120,000)	\$354,692	*289	6	0.81	1.11
2	POLLARD'S VISION (01, Carson City), Mighty Acres	\$2,500	31/10	1/1	0/1	(Vision Perfect, \$53,385)	\$278,366	*710	19	1.21	1.19
3	MAGNA GRADUATE (02, Honor Grades), Brewster Ranch	\$2,500	27/5	0/0	0/0	(Bellarmine, \$68,000)	\$170,368	*220	6	0.96	1.03
4	AMERICAN LION (07, Tiznow), River Oaks Farms	\$1,000	31/8	0/0	0/0	(Princess Tiznow, \$19,680)	\$168,460	*180	1	0.72	1.06
5	MR. NIGHTLINGER (04, Indian Charlie)	Died	23/6	0/0	0/0	(Michelle's Grace, \$31,195)	\$129,732	174	4	0.64	0.86
6	ORATORY (02, Pulpit)	Died, 2016	24/6	0/0	0/0	(South Texas Lingo, \$18,345)	\$126,629	*221	5	1.14	1.15
7	LATENT HEAT (03, Maria's Mon), River Oaks Farms	\$1,500	25/5	0/0	0/0	(Shannon C, \$23,100)	\$106,241	*338	5	0.88	1.09
8	READ THE FOOTNOTES (01, Smoke Glacken), River Oaks Farms	\$1,000	15/3	0/0	0/0	(Proletariat, \$32,328)	\$95,833	*334	19	1.31	1.17
9	CACTUS RIDGE (01, Hennessy)	Pnsd	20/2	0/0	0/0	(Smack Ridge, \$25,142)	\$75,378	*457	23	1.24	1.04
10	CHITZO (05, Forest Wildcat), River Oaks Farms	\$1,500	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Okie Diva, \$50,750)	\$71,623	45	1	0.73	0.95
11	SPECIAL RATE (00, Pulpit), Glasses Creek Ranch	\$2,000	12/4	0/0	0/0	(Mighty Ferrari, \$8,640)	\$53,272	174	4	0.57	0.63
12	EUROEARS (04, Langfuhr)	N/A	19/3	0/0	0/0	(Three Chords, \$15,911)	\$53,242	108	3	0.96	0.93
13	DA STOOPS (03, Distorted Humor)	N/A	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Da Wildcat Girl, \$23,600)	\$47,836	*89	1	1.05	1.04
14	KIPLING (96, Gulch)	Pnsd	13/3	0/0	0/0	(Dubdubwatson, \$13,860)	\$44,416	356	9	0.99	0.89
15	MAIMONIDES (05, Vindication), J&M Equine Reproduction Center	\$1,500	16/2	0/0	0/0	(McFly, \$10,160)	\$37,602	*106	1	0.73	2.04
16	AFFIRMATIF (06, Unbridled's Song), Caines Stallion Station	\$1,000	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Affirming, \$26,800)	\$34,673	73	1	0.51	0.81
17	TACTICAL CAT (96, Storm Cat), Raywood Farm	\$1,000	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Dazzling Okie, \$11,120)	\$24,084	615	24	1.00	1.18
18	LIQUOR CABINET (IRE) (01, Hennessy)	N/A	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Only Liquor, \$16,900)	\$22,442	90	1	0.57	0.88
19	KENNEDY (08, A.P. Indy)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Little Dixie K, \$5,900)	\$14,562	42	0	0.65	1.15
20	FOREIGN POLICY (02, Danzig), River Oaks Farms	\$1,250	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Cheyenne Blues, \$12,192)	\$14,442	40	1	1.00	0.84
21	WESTERN EXPRESSION (96, Gone West), Kirton Farms	\$1,500	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Western Tryst, \$5,049)	\$12,974	*374	4	1.06	1.25
22	SAVE BIG MONEY (03, Storm Cat), Mighty Acres	\$1,500	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Charlie's Deere, \$7,011)	\$12,818	117	2	0.73	0.98
23	SERVICE STRIPE (91, Deputy Minister)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Smooth Service, \$10,368)	\$12,769	394	19	1.15	0.99
24	DOCTOR CHIT (09, War Front), Royal Vista Ranches	\$2,500	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Booneville Chapel, \$9,450)	\$9,715	24	0	0.07	0.69
25	THE VISUALISER (03, Giant's Causeway), Mighty Acres	\$1,500	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Dreamers Vision, \$4,440)	\$8,402	68	2	0.69	0.86

some point in the future to allow for official, timed works, and said he's already had success with horses coming off the track and going right to the races.

"The track has an irrigation system on the inside and outside rails, which you

don't see around here much," he said. "I've sent several horses from here to Sam Houston, and they are running well right off this track, so you can sure get them fit on this."

The Dodwell name, both that of Ed and

Scooter, are well known in Texas and the Southwest, though perhaps not as recognized nationwide. One Diamond D graduate, however, is sure to ring a bell—Rachel Alexandra.

The 2009 Horse of the Year got her start



Highlander Training Center features a 29-stall barn; a 32-stall barn is in the works



The Leading Southwest Sire for 2017

2017 PROGENY EARNINGS IN EXCESS OF \$3,000,000

WILBURN

#1

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IN THE SOUTHWEST BY REPEAT WINNERS — 37

CO-#1 IN THE SOUTHWEST BY BLACKTYPE WINNERS — 5 (#1 IN OKLAHOMA)

CO-#1 IN THE SOUTHWEST BY BLACKTYPE WINS — 8 (#1 IN OKLAHOMA)

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in Texas, and though Dodwell knew she had considerable talent from the start, he didn't envision a Preakness Stakes (G1) and four other grade 1 wins—consecutively no less—in her future.

"We had the mare, Lotta Kim, and she was a very good horse but she was kind of tough to deal with," Dodwell recalled. "The mare didn't actually raise Rachel; she rejected her. Rachel was raised by a nurse mare, and that might have been the best thing that happened to her because her dam was not very nice."

Dolphus Morrison, Rachel Alexandra's breeder and initial owner, was looking to sell the filly as a 2-year-old, but Dodwell suggested he might want to hang on to her.

"We worked her one last time, and I told him that it's hard to judge her at that point but I don't know if I'd sell her," Dodwell said.

Rachel Alexandra went on to earn more than \$3.5 million and a Hall of Fame induction.

"After I had her, suddenly I was a lot smarter and a lot better trainer," Dodwell joked.

Highlander gives Dodwell the chance to extend the legacy started by his father.

"I learned everything I know in the business from my dad," he said. "He's the only person I ever worked for, and I pretty much took what he did and just kept doing it and it's been successful. We are in this to make people a good horse and not just for the money. It's never been about that for me;

otherwise, I'd probably do something else. It's about the relationships with the owners and the horses."

ALREADY LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Hirsch approached the launching of the training center in a businesslike manner while also recognizing that it's fueled by a love for the sport from himself, Dodwell, the employees, and the clients.

"We had a lot of discussions about what works and what doesn't," Hirsch said, adding that Dodwell took a trip to Ocala, Fla., to check out several facilities there. "We have a passion for this, but we also looked at it analytically."

Not being a hands-on owner who is at the facility every day, it was important to Hirsch to have an experienced team in place.

"Like anything in business, it's based on trust, and I have complete trust in Scooter and the whole team there," he said regarding the staff that also includes general manager and assistant trainer Jon Newbold, also a Diamond D alum.

Hirsch bought the property early last year, and horses moved in around July. Right now the facility is at capacity, and expansion plans are in the works.

"We have a 29-stall barn and plenty of pastures and paddocks so we max out at around 65 horses, which is what we have now," Hirsch said. "That's without any advertising, so that's pretty good proof

2018 OKLAHOMA SIRES BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Wilburn	.70	11
Pollard's Vision	.31	10
American Lion	.31	8
Oratory	.24	6
Mr. Nightlinger	.23	6
Magna Graduate	.27	5
Latent Heat	.25	5
Special Rate	.12	4
Euroears	.19	3
Read the Footnotes	.15	3
Kipling	.13	3
Cactus Ridge	.20	2
Maimonides	.16	2
Da Stoops	.9	2
Tactical Cat	.9	2
Chitoz	.7	2
The Visualiser	.3	2

of concept and that there's demand for it. Long term, when our second 32-stall barn is done, which is hopefully Sept. 1 to take horses from the Keeneland sale, we'll have the capacity for 110 to 120."

After that, Hirsh is looking to add a therapy and rehabilitation component.

"Everything we looked at suggested that to have a total training facility we should have a therapy center, so we'll have a resistance pool and vibrating plates. We don't have an absolute date on that yet as we are



The capacity at Highlander Training Center will be 110-120 by September



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*Four SHs in 2018, including
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Gulfstream SW by 4 3/4*

2018 FEE: \$2,500



SAVE BIG MONEY

(Storm Cat-Tomisue's Delight,
by A.P. Indy)

*Sire of two-time 2017
SW INAGOODWAY (\$215,237)*

2018 FEE: \$1,500



THE VISUALISER

(Giant's Causeway-Smokey Mirage,
by Holy Bull)

*Sire of two-time WRD
Horse of the Meet WELDER (\$305,601)*

2018 FEE: \$1,500



All fees are stands and nurses

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2018 LEADING SIRES IN ARKANSAS

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2018 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	PRIMARY SUSPECT (01, Hennessy)	N/A	34/8	0/0	0/0	(K J's Nobility, \$52,800)	\$233,381	170	4	0.74	1.16
2	PORTOBELLO ROAD (04, Storm Cat)	N/A	23/9	0/0	0/0	(Fetch's Mon, \$47,370)	\$197,387	150	1	0.75	0.90
3	BRAHMS (97, Danzig), Trophy Club Training Center	\$2,000	32/6	0/0	0/0	(B B Special, \$32,500)	\$180,184	*670	13	1.06	1.14
4	STORM AND A HALF (97, Storm Cat), Tommy Ives Thoroughbreds	Private	14/1	1/1	1/1	(J. E.'s Handmedown, \$75,200)	\$154,082	452	20	0.76	0.93
5	ORDAINED (08, Pulpit), Starfish Stallions	\$1,000	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Ministry, \$106,200)	\$126,388	40	1	0.62	0.76
6	MACHO ROCKET (09, Macho Uno), Starfish Stallions	\$1,000	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Firewater Rocket, \$61,800)	\$101,169	25	0	0.45	0.87
7	DOUBLE IRISH (11, Tapit), McDowell Farm	\$1,000	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Dutch Treat, \$83,150)	\$98,863	16	0	0.60	0.92
8	ZARBYEV (84, Nureyev)	Died, 2017	14/2	0/0	0/0	(Zarb's Gift, \$37,600)	\$84,407	*376	13	1.05	0.82
9	SPOTSGONE (03, Bright Launch)	N/A	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Spotitude, \$45,218)	\$76,996	28	0	0.32	0.75
10	JONESBORO (02, Sefapiano), Lake Hamilton Equine Associates	\$500	22/2	0/0	0/0	(Uncle Goyle, \$14,017)	\$70,290	79	2	0.71	0.77
11	SONNY DOM'S DAY (03, T. G. Dewey), Crystal Creek Equine	Private	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Midnight Ruler, \$64,600)	\$64,600	6	0	0.97	2.57
12	STRYKER (04, Mr. Greeley)	N/A	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Stryker Man, \$22,900)	\$62,325	27	0	0.32	0.74
13	CINNAMON CREEK (95, Darn That Alarm), Three Boys Stables	\$500	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Acumen, \$55,550)	\$59,180	116	0	0.58	0.68
14	THE DADDY (02, Valid Expectations), Trophy Club Training Center	\$1,500	7/2	0/0	0/0	(Macandales, \$23,045)	\$53,144	*161	5	1.02	1.14
15	COMMANDER'S SHOES (03, Deputy Commander), Rafter R Ranch	\$1,500	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Guska Mon Shoes, \$19,800)	\$38,252	68	0	0.59	0.82

2018 LEADING SIRES IN COLORADO

For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2018 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	EL ROBLAR (02, War Chant), Winner-Maker Farm	\$1,500	6/0	0/0	0/0	(Robthequeen, \$3,315)	\$4,624	46	1	0.52	0.55
2	CRAFTY SHAW (98, Crafty Prospector)	N/A	4/0	0/0	0/0	(Mr. Deputy, \$2,025)	\$3,252	*111	3	0.85	0.94
3	GRAND MINSTREL (05, Grand Slam), Menoken Farms	\$1,500	7/0	0/0	0/0	(Trigo Padigo, \$912)	\$2,478	93	0	0.33	0.64

focusing on the new barn and then putting in a viewing area where owners can watch their horses train.”

Dodwell added that having mares and foals on the 122-acre property might also be a possibility down the road and that the plan is to take one expansion or enhancement at a time.

“We’ve been working non-stop since Larry bought the place,” Dodwell said.

Hirsch plans to continue his successful partnership breeding and owning horses with Sanders; plus, he is working to buy some horses who will race under the Highlander Training Center banner. Now that the facility is off to a promising start with a long-term plan in place, he hopes it will become a shining star on the Texas landscape.

“We are really committed to this and re-

ally excited about it,” he said. “Everyone involved has a passion for it. We are doing this in a very professional fashion, but everyone from the office staff to the riders to the trainers has a love for it, and that’s just how you want to have it when you do something like this.” **BH**

Denis Blake is editor and publisher of American Racehorse magazine.



Room to roam: the Highlander Training Center is 122 acres



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