



Tommy and Lori Fackler at their Best A Luck Farm near Ocala

# LUCKY SHAMROCK

## *Shamrock Rose the latest success story for Best A Luck Farm*

BY LENNY SHULMAN  
PHOTOS BY JOE DiORIO

**THIS IS BEGINNING** to be old hat, these grade 1 winners bred by Best A Luck Farm. When Shamrock Rose thrillingly rallied from dead last to prevail by a head in the Nov. 3 Breeders’ Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (G1) at Churchill Downs last year, it marked the second runner bred by Best A Luck’s Tommy and Lori Fackler to win at the highest level. Dance With Fate, winner of the 2014 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G1) at Keeneland, also was a product of the Facklers’ operation.

Not bad for a 45-acre farm outside Ocala, Fla., that never carries more than a dozen of its own broodmares.

There is, however, plenty of history that goes into Best A Luck.

The Facklers have been at it for some 34 years raising horses and have been married for the last 33 of those.

Lori is the daughter of a trainer and grew up on Lots A Luck, a Florida horse farm while Tommy worked there for several years before going off to ride. They eventually started their operation with a pinhooking venture. Lori is also a stepsister to trainer Mark Casse—her mother having married Mark’s father, Norm—whose family has a rich Florida pedigree in the horse business. Mark Casse happens to be the trainer of Shamrock Rose.

“I have a daily pipeline into how Shamrock Rose is doing,” said Fackler. “And she’s doing very well. She came out of the Breeders’ Cup perfect.”

The Facklers named Best A Luck for Tommy’s grandparents, whose surname was Best, and for Lori’s family’s farm where they first met. The fortunes of Best A Luck improved drastically thanks to one auction, that being the 2007 Keeneland November mixed sale. There, the Fack-

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## 2018 LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2019 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	<b>FIRST DUDE</b> (07, Stephen Got Even), Double Diamond Farm	\$10,000	157/89	8/13	3/8	(Shamrock Rose, \$848,076)	<b>\$4,918,031</b>	311	10	1.23	1.24
2	<b>WILDCAT HEIR</b> (00, Forest Wildcat)	Died, 2015	180/102	3/5	0/3	(Pay Any Price, \$196,240)	<b>\$4,155,371</b>	*686	34	1.34	1.32
3	<b>ADIOS CHARLIE</b> (08, Indian Charlie), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	105/64	5/7	4/5	(Patternrecognition, \$668,725)	<b>\$3,676,186</b>	179	7	1.55	1.27
4	<b>HIGH COTTON</b> (03, Dixie Union)	Pnsd	121/74	0/0	0/0	(Very Very Stella, \$124,495)	<b>\$2,387,117</b>	*394	11	0.97	1.24
5	<b>SONGANDPRAYER</b> (98, Unbridled's Song)	Pnsd	137/66	1/2	1/1	(Classy John, \$171,650)	<b>\$2,290,765</b>	*1010	36	1.10	1.41
6	<b>WITH DISTINCTION</b> (01, Storm Cat)	N/A	116/52	2/2	1/2	(Well Defined, \$317,600)	<b>\$2,233,573</b>	*540	13	1.05	1.15
7	<b>BRETHREN</b> (08, Distorted Humor), Arindel Farm	\$7,500	65/30	3/6	2/3	(Cookie Dough, \$372,500)	<b>\$2,217,856</b>	100	3	1.52	1.68
8	<b>GONE ASTRAY</b> (06, Dixie Union), Northwest Stud	\$4,500	112/56	5/6	3/5	(Noble Drama, \$245,602)	<b>\$2,004,445</b>	*205	9	1.00	1.13
9	<b>SOLDAT</b> (08, War Front), Woodford Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	89/47	1/3	0/1	(Big Drink of Water, \$204,490)	<b>\$1,634,759</b>	147	1	0.72	1.27
10	<b>BIG DRAMA</b> (06, Montbrook)	N/A	85/44	1/1	0/1	(Mr. Kisses, \$99,490)	<b>\$1,531,100</b>	191	4	0.90	1.29
11	<b>PROSPECTIVE</b> (09, Malibu Moon), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	51/34	3/3	2/3	(Broadway Run, \$170,400)	<b>\$1,493,755</b>	90	3	1.04	1.16
12	<b>AWESOME OF COURSE</b> (00, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	74/43	1/1	0/1	(Awesome Anywhere, \$131,420)	<b>\$1,397,599</b>	*216	10	1.39	1.32
13	<b>OVERDRIVEN</b> (09, Tale of the Cat)	Pnsd	74/32	0/0	0/0	(Driven by Thunder, \$129,230)	<b>\$1,353,945</b>	134	1	0.86	1.15
14	<b>TREASURE BEACH (GB)</b> (08, Galileo), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$7,500	91/31	1/1	0/1	(Treasure for Gold, \$94,850)	<b>\$1,315,088</b>	*231	1	1.00	1.41
15	<b>FIELD COMMISSION</b> (05, Service Stripe), Solera Farm	\$2,500	53/28	1/1	0/1	(Drafted, \$154,638)	<b>\$1,259,688</b>	108	1	0.85	0.95
16	<b>EXCLUSIVE QUALITY</b> (03, Elusive Quality), Journeyman Stallions	\$1,500	81/37	0/0	0/0	(Qualify, \$80,647)	<b>\$1,062,153</b>	331	7	0.91	1.06
17	<b>GREATNESS</b> (99, Mr. Prospector)	N/A	38/27	0/0	0/0	(Red Shelby, \$70,110)	<b>\$911,134</b>	*260	7	1.30	1.00
18	<b>J P'S GUSTO</b> (08, Successful Appeal), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000	40/20	1/1	0/1	(La Key, \$106,110)	<b>\$901,591</b>	86	2	0.96	1.09
19	<b>IN SUMMATION</b> (03, Put It Back), Ocala Stud	\$2,500	62/26	1/1	1/1	(Calculator, \$88,080)	<b>\$870,291</b>	*225	5	0.92	1.32
20	<b>FLASHSTORM</b> (04, Storm Cat), Northwest Stud	\$2,500	36/20	0/0	0/0	(Cinderela El Crome, \$117,410)	<b>\$730,978</b>	93	3	0.95	0.96
21	<b>RATTLESNAKE BRIDGE</b> (08, Tapit), Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	51/21	0/0	0/0	(Showit, \$75,025)	<b>\$622,461</b>	86	0	0.48	1.07
22	<b>¶ UNCAPTURED</b> (10, Lion Heart), Ocala Stud	\$6,000	26/8	3/3	1/3	(Catherinethegreat, \$138,939)	<b>\$584,829</b>	66	3	0.95	1.21
23	<b>BACKTALK</b> (07, Smarty Jones)	N/A	30/13	1/1	1/1	(Starcloud, \$140,665)	<b>\$568,221</b>	56	2	1.07	0.74
24	<b>¶ HE'S HAD ENOUGH</b> (10, Tapit), Woodford Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	44/13	0/0	0/0	(Elgin Escape, \$51,250)	<b>\$546,392</b>	73	0	0.55	1.46
25	<b>WINSLOW HOMER</b> (07, Unbridled's Song), Journeyman Stallions	\$2,500	27/15	0/0	0/0	(Blazing Brooke, \$97,800)	<b>\$540,205</b>	56	0	0.77	1.06
26	<b>TELLING</b> (04, A.P. Indy)	N/A	25/16	0/0	0/0	(Telling You Twice, \$54,035)	<b>\$465,308</b>	49	0	0.66	1.26
27	<b>¶ DRILL</b> (09, Lawyer Ron), Get Away Farm	\$4,500	26/10	1/2	1/1	(Drillit, \$175,500)	<b>\$456,048</b>	45	1	0.91	1.10
28	<b>BROOKS 'N DOWN</b> (05, Montbrook)	N/A	10/6	1/2	0/1	(Garter and Tie, \$273,570)	<b>\$442,480</b>	25	1	1.52	2.40
29	<b>HEAR NO EVIL</b> (00, Carson City), Ocala Stud	\$2,500	28/10	1/1	0/1	(Brighton Lane, \$93,760)	<b>\$423,127</b>	123	8	1.48	1.44
30	<b>WROTE (IRE)</b> (09, High Chaparral)	N/A	26/10	0/0	0/0	(Vincero, \$95,550)	<b>\$402,069</b>	*40	0	0.54	0.91

lers purchased the unraced Elusive Quality mare Slew's Quality for \$35,000 from Warrendale Sales, agent for Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings; and the one-time winner Flirting With Fate in foal to Eurosilver for \$28,000 from the consignment of Taylor Made Sales Agency, agent.

"I look for a very strong pedigree," said Lori Fackler, "and, if they're in foal, I'm looking for a first- or second-year sire. Or else something that's really proven

and has been a racehorse."

Slew's Quality filled the bill of having a sturdy pedigree, being a half sister to grade 3 winner Slew the Red (by Red Ransom), grade 3-placed winner Grenadia (by Thunder Gulch), and stakes-placed winner Rich City Girl (by Carson City). She is also a great-granddaughter of Great Lady M., whose daughter Lady's Secret took the 1986 Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1). Slew's Quality has produced five winners,

none more accomplished than Shamrock Rose, who took the Filly & Mare Sprint as a 3-year-old and has blue sky stretching in front of her.

"You never know when they're babies, other than she always did everything right that she was supposed to do," Lori Fackler said of Shamrock Rose. "She was athletic, very easy to break and train, and was well-mannered to be around. She had no issues. Nothing seems to bother her. You can see



Stars of the show: The Facklers with their grade 1-producing broodmares Flirting With Fate (left) and Slew's Quality



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# NEOLITHIC

By Harlan's Holiday - Swingit (Victory Gallop)

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CHAD B. HARMON

Mar Futurity (G1), FrontRunner Stakes (G1), and El Camino Real Derby (G3).

Unlike Shamrock Rose, Dance With Fate wasn't as well-mannered at the farm.

"He stood out for taking other foals by the neck and moving them around," said Fackler. "We had to take him out early, and I even threatened to geld him. He had a big presence; he was a character."

Dance With Fate was named champion Florida-bred 2-year-old.

Although that fateful November sale was 11 years ago, the Facklers still have Flirting With Fate and Slew's Quality in their pasture. Flirting With Fate has a "gorgeous Frosted yearling," according to Fackler, and is in foal to champion Classic Empire.

"People can't believe we still have both of the grade 1 producers we bought at that sale," said Fackler. "We keep improving who we breed them to, so hopefully we'll have some more champions."

"Our specialty is the 2-year-old sales," Fackler stated. "If we can, we sell them then. Once in a while we'll race them, but our goal with every one of them is the 2-year-old sales. We were very happy with the price we got for Shamrock Rose."

that when you look at her in the paddock before a race. Within two weeks she was in two graded stakes with huge crowds and it didn't bother her a bit. At that level the mental aspect is so important."

Shamrock Rose had won the Lexus Raven Run Stakes (G2) at Keeneland just two weeks before scoring in the Breeders' Cup.

Best A Luck sits about 30 miles northwest of Ocala. Besides breaking and training about 10 of their own youngsters annually, the Facklers also handle between 30 and 50 client horses a year, giving steady work to a five-eighths-mile training track they co-own. No surprise for a Florida operation, Best A Luck points its produce toward the 2-year-old auctions in the Sunshine State.

It parted with Shamrock Rose for \$120,000 from its consignment at the 2017 Ocala Breeders' Sales' April auction of 2-year-olds in training. Penny and Manfred Conrad bought her in the name of their Conrad Farms and have reaped four straight victories from the filly, who has banked \$917,687. Shamrock Rose also took the Malvern Rose Stakes at Presque Isle Downs and the La Lorgnette Stakes at Woodbine as a sophomore, and she also scored in the Ontario Debutante Stakes and finished second in the Mazarine

Stakes (G3) at Woodbine as a 2-year-old.

Interestingly, Dance With Fate fetched the exact same \$120,000 amount at the 2013 edition of the OBS April sale when Best A Luck consigned him and Joe Ciaglia Jr. purchased him. The son of Two Step Salsa won three times from nine starts and earned \$680,050 before dying after a training accident at Del Mar in July of his 3-year-old season. In addition to winning the Blue Grass, he had also run second in the Del



MARK MAHAN

Dances With Fate scores in the 2014 Blue Grass at Keeneland

#### 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 December 31, 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.

**ALL-TIME LEADING FLORIDA 2-YEAR-OLD SIRE**  
**#1 SECOND-CROP SIRE & 2-YEAR-OLD SIRE STANDING OUTSIDE KY**

# BRETHREN

Distorted Humor - Supercharger, by A.P. Indy



**2018 LEADING 2YO SIRES**

#	Stallion	'19 Stud Fee / Farm	Current 2YOs	Rnrs	Wnrs	BT SWrs	BT SHs	'18 Earnings
1	<b>Into Mischief</b> Harlan's Holiday, 2005	\$150,000 Spendthrift Farm, KY	159	81	32	5	9	\$2,510,777
2	<b>Candy Ride (ARG)</b> Ride the Rails, 1999	\$80,000 Lane's End, KY	120	37	11	3	6	\$2,465,726
3	<b>Scat Daddy</b> Johannesburg, 2004	Died 2015 KY	160	79	35	4	9	\$2,201,517
4	<b>Cross Traffic</b> Unbridled's Song, 2009	\$25,000 Spendthrift Farm, KY	91	47	18	5	8	\$2,115,603
5	<b>Violence</b> Medaglia d'Oro, 2010	\$40,000 Hill 'n' Dale Farms, KY	123	57	28	4	8	\$1,823,142
6	<b>Quality Road</b> Elusive Quality, 2006	\$150,000 Lane's End, KY	116	47	18	5	7	\$1,700,148
7	<b>BRETHREN</b> Distorted Humor, 2008	<b>\$7,500</b> Arindel Farm, FL	<b>64</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$1,520,553</b>
8	<b>Paynter</b> Awesome Again, 2009	\$12,500 WinStar Farm LLC, KY	123	55	21	2	3	\$1,441,603
9	<b>Flatter</b> A.P. Indy, 1999	\$40,000 Claiborne Farm, KY	81	46	15	6	9	\$1,440,198
10	<b>Goldencents</b> Into Mischief, 2010	\$20,000 Spendthrift Farm, KY	121	71	29	2	6	\$1,396,758
11	<b>City Zip</b> Carson City, 1998	Died 2017 KY	85	37	12	2	4	\$1,377,432
12	<b>Take Charge Indy</b> A.P. Indy, 2009	N/A KOR	103	55	27	1	3	\$1,289,361
13	<b>Tapit</b> Pulpit, 2001	\$225,000 Gainesway, KY	109	41	18	1	3	\$1,286,357
14	<b>Curlin</b> Smart Strike, 2004	\$175,000 Hill 'n' Dale Farms, KY	131	49	16	2	6	\$1,267,780
15	<b>Uncle Mo</b> Indian Charlie, 2008	\$125,000 Ashford Stud, KY	159	51	15	3	7	\$1,263,588

**In 2018, BRETHREN outranked his sire DISTORTED HUMOR and other perennial Leading Sires TAPIT, CURLIN, FLATTER, UNCLE MO, etc. by both 2-year-old progeny earnings and number of winners (with only 64 2-year-olds).**

Also Standing in 2019:

**WAIT**

By DISTORTED HUMOR

Out of WAIT A WHILE (Maria's Mon)  
 Eclipse Award 2006 Champion 3yo Filly  
 (G1, \$2,181,917)



**ARINDEL**

She added, however, that the Frosted yearling could be headed to the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select yearling sale this summer along with an Uncle Mo yearling.

The Facklers sent Slew's Quality to Florida stallion First Dude to produce Shamrock Rose, who became the grade 1 winner (Hollywood Gold Cup Handicap) and dual classic-placed stallion's first grade 1 victor.

"We gravitate toward sires who are showing they can get some speed because at the 2-year-old sales it all comes down to that work on the grounds," said Fackler. "You don't have to be the fastest, but you don't want to be slow, either, because that makes a huge difference in how you sell them. So if we find a stallion who was a little quicker or more precocious as a 2-year-old, that will often help.

"It doesn't do us as much good to find a two-turn specialist who was a late bloomer in their 3- or 4-year-old season. We look at that speed and precociousness for our program."

Slew's Quality has a 3-year-old colt by Bandbox named Quality Pitch who was a \$55,000 purchase at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale of 2-year-olds in Timonium, Md.; and a 2-year-old colt by Stay Thirsty.

"He's been in training since last autumn and is slated to go to the OBS April sale," Fackler said of the Stay Thirsty colt. "He looks great, and we've certainly got a nice update in the catalog with what Shamrock Rose has done. The mare (Slew's Quality)



**Slew's Quality is in foal to Hard Spun and is scheduled to deliver this month or early February**

is in foal to Hard Spun and is due in late January or early February."

Fackler hasn't determined whom Slew's Quality or Flirting With Fate will be bred back to this year.

Although the Facklers didn't make it up to Churchill Downs for Shamrock Rose's Breeders' Cup victory, Lori vowed to make it to Santa Anita for this year's World Championships should the filly continue to progress as a 4-year-old.

"We watched the Breeders' Cup from the farm, and it was very exciting," she noted. "For as small an operation as we are, it's great to have two grade 1 winners."

Although the youngsters eventually come to Best A Luck for their early lessons,

the Facklers take advantage of several state incentive programs and normally have their mares foal up north. Shamrock Rose, for example, is a Pennsylvania-bred, having been foaled at Horseshoe Valley Equine Center near Annville, Pa.

"The mares that go to Kentucky do come back here, although some are rotated through Maryland and Pennsylvania," Fackler said. "They have a really strong breeding program in Pennsylvania now, and we move our mares among Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. In September we start working with the yearlings and breaking them. We have found it's best for us to point for the April 2-year-old sale at OBS. Everybody is at that sale, so if you have a top-notch horse it tends to do better there than at the March sale."

Having grown up on a horse farm, Fackler really had no choice but to make her living working around them, and certainly has no regrets.

"It's very exciting when everything comes together," she said. "We enjoy the horses, and we love living on the farm and watching them play in the paddocks. It's great to see them as they grow, and we try to figure out who is going to be the next big horse.

"For us, with the small number of mares we have, to have two grade 1 producers is unbelievable. And it's made it really exciting and rewarding to have bred a 2-year-old champion and now a Breeders' Cup champion, and there's still a lot more to come from Shamrock Rose, I believe." **BH**



**The Facklers' 'specialty' is preparing youngsters for the 2-year-old sales**

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