

Carrol Castille with Whispering Oaks stallion Iron Fist



# QUALITY SPEAKS **LOUDLY**

*Whispering Oaks is a jewel in Cajun Country*

BY GARY McMILLEN / PHOTOS BY MARSHALL BLEVINS

**TWENTY YEARS AGO** the land, untouched by plow or human hand, was in charge: an expanse of impenetrable brush tangled with thorns, palmetto, and brambles. Night creatures such as raccoons and possums crawled in the thick undergrowth. By day it was a dense forest home for snakes, rabbits, and squirrels.

*(continued on page 62)*

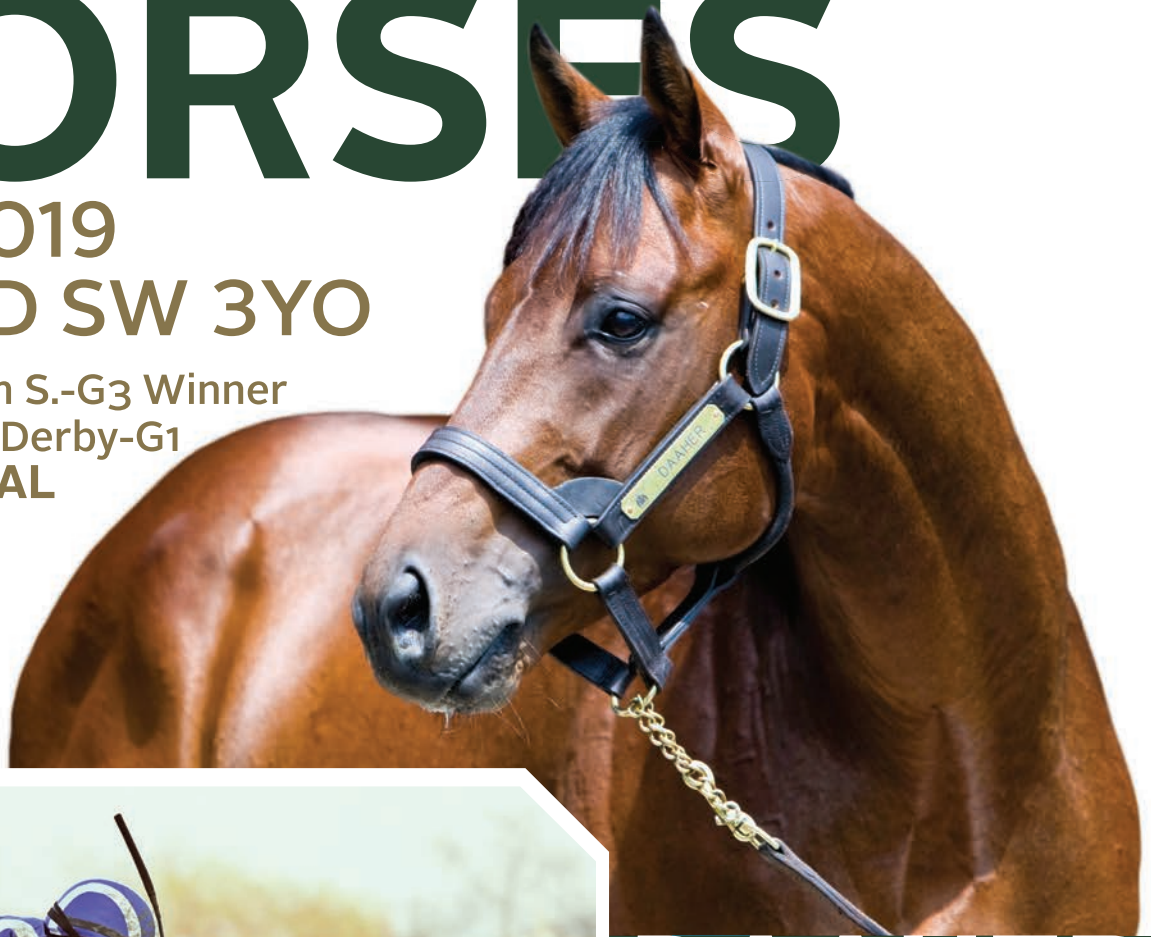
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of Graded SWs  
& 2nd Leading Sire

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**\$3,000 Live Foal**  
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Louisiana-Bred Programs

**HAIKAL** launched a devastating kick to take the Gotham S.-G3 for his second straight stakes victory defeating G1 winners Mind Control and Knicks Go and G2 winner Instagrاند.

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# YEAR AFTER YEAR

## STAR GUITAR

Quiet American – Minit Towinit,  
by Malagra

- From Four-Time Louisiana Horse of the Year to 2018 Louisiana Stallion of the Year
- #1 Sire by 2018 Louisiana-Bred Earnings!
- Sire of TEN Stakes Horses last year, incl. 2018 Champions **GIVEMEAMINIT** & **TESTING ONE TWO**
- 2019 Sire of FIVE Stakes Horses by early-April!
- Fee: \$6,500 Live Foal, 9-1 or \$7,500 LFSN



## CLEARLY NOW

Horse Greeley – Bend, by Arch

- Multiple Graded Stakes Winning Millionaire
- Won/Placed in 15 Stakes – TEN Graded Stakes
- Won every year from 2 to 7, winning his final start at Gulfstream at age 7 setting a New Track Record
- Retired sound with earnings of \$1,146,138 and a top Beyer of 113!
- Fee: \$2,000 Live Foal, 9-1 or \$2,500 LFSN



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Believe It  
Achieve It

# The Dominant Force For Louisiana-Bred Champions

## CUSTOM FOR CARLOS

More Than Ready – Meadow Oaks,  
by Meadowlake

- Two-Time Horse of the Year Sire With 2018 Champion **MONTE MAN** & 2017 Champion **BIG WORLD**
- #2 Sire by 2018 Louisiana-Bred Earnings!
- Grade 1 Sire with **BIG WORLD** and sire of TEN 2018 Stakes Horses, incl. **MONTE MAN**, winner of six straight Stakes at five
- Fee: \$3,000 Live Foal, 9-1 or \$3,500 LFSN



## HALF OURS

Unbridled's Song – Zing, by Storm Cat

- #1 Sire by 2018 Louisiana-Bred Winners!
- Sire of 2018 Champion Filly/Mare **OURS TO RUN**, four Stakes wins in 2018 & undefeated in two Stakes starts in 2019!
- Louisiana Stallion of the Year from 2014 to 2017!
- \$2.2 Million/Crop and \$51,00+/Runner!
- Fee: \$4,500 Live Foal, 9-1 or \$5,000 LFSN



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Half Ours  
Ole Rebel  
Star Guitar



## 2019 LEADING SIRES IN LOUISIANA



For daily updated sire lists  
visit BloodHorse.com

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands                   | 2019 Stud Fee | Rnrs/<br>Wnrs | BT<br>SWnrs/<br>Wns | Rstrct<br>SW/<br>BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)       | 2019<br>Earnings | Foals | Cumulative   |              |               |
|------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
|      |   |               |               |                     |                        |                                |                  |       | Stks<br>Wnrs | A-E<br>Index | Comp<br>Index |
| 1    | <b>GEMOLOGIST</b> (09, Tiznow), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne         | \$4,500       | 103/27        | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Hidden Ruler, \$109,800)      | <b>\$999,606</b> | *478  | 6            | 1.06         | 1.34          |
| 2    | <b>DAAHER</b> (04, Awesome Again), Circle H Farms                     | \$3,000       | 39/9          | 1/2                 | 0/1                    | (Haikal, \$322,500)            | <b>\$738,045</b> | 148   | 10           | 1.34         | 1.22          |
| 3    | <b>ASTROLOGY</b> (08, A.P. Indy), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne       | \$4,000       | 75/20         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Leah's Dream, \$90,979)       | <b>\$646,622</b> | *244  | 4            | 0.91         | 1.23          |
| 4    | <b>CUSTOM FOR CARLOS</b> (06, More Than Ready), Clear Creek Stud      | \$3,500       | 70/19         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Monte Man, \$61,400)          | <b>\$599,147</b> | 220   | 6            | 0.89         | 1.01          |
| 5    | <b>STAR GUITAR</b> (05, Quiet American), Clear Creek Stud             | \$7,500       | 54/13         | 1/1                 | 1/1                    | (Testing One Two, \$100,600)   | <b>\$595,902</b> | 117   | 8            | 1.19         | 1.10          |
| 6    | <b>HALF OURS</b> (03, Unbridled's Song), Clear Creek Stud             | \$5,000       | 68/12         | 1/2                 | 0/1                    | (Ours to Run, \$150,000)       | <b>\$513,493</b> | *460  | 20           | 0.98         | 1.14          |
| 7    | <b>GREELEY'S GALAXY</b> (02, Mr. Greeley)                             | Died, 2017    | 37/11         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Galaxy Thirtysix, \$41,500)   | <b>\$357,981</b> | 189   | 3            | 1.00         | 1.00          |
| 8    | <b>COUNTRY DAY</b> (06, Speightstown), Peach Lane Farms               | \$2,000       | 22/7          | 2/2                 | 0/2                    | (Break Even, \$138,600)        | <b>\$332,111</b> | 112   | 3            | 1.02         | 1.01          |
| 9    | <b>D'WILDCAT</b> (98, Forest Wildcat), Whispering Oaks Farm           | \$2,500       | 52/13         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (D'wildcat Indian, \$37,800)   | <b>\$327,801</b> | *490  | 16           | 1.25         | 1.21          |
| 10   | <b>LINE OF DAVID</b> (07, Lion Heart)                                 | Died, 2017    | 49/13         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Celese, \$99,850)             | <b>\$326,131</b> | *288  | 3            | 0.87         | 1.09          |
| 11   | <b>LION TAMER</b> (00, Will's Way)                                    | Pnsd          | 22/8          | 1/1                 | 1/1                    | (Win Lion Win, \$73,600)       | <b>\$303,766</b> | 149   | 3            | 0.74         | 1.02          |
| 12   | <b>FLASHPOINT</b> (08, Pomeroy), Le Mesa Stallions                    | \$1,500       | 30/12         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Flashy Brew, \$55,380)        | <b>\$301,744</b> | 82    | 0            | 0.57         | 0.78          |
| 13   | <b>MY PAL CHARLIE</b> (05, Indian Charlie), Elite Thoroughbreds       | \$2,500       | 43/11         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Lovely Charlie, \$51,000)     | <b>\$290,414</b> | 181   | 2            | 0.70         | 1.04          |
| 14   | <b>REDDING COLLIERY</b> (06, Mineshaft), Red River Farms              | Died, 2018    | 34/10         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Nippy Red, \$50,190)          | <b>\$281,401</b> | 89    | 1            | 0.71         | 1.33          |
| 15   | <b>RUN PRODUCTION</b> (00, Saint Ballado), Whispering Oaks Farm       | \$1,500       | 35/9          | 1/1                 | 1/1                    | (Wonder Run, \$88,200)         | <b>\$267,825</b> | 241   | 9            | 0.98         | 0.91          |
| 16   | <b>FOREFATHERS</b> (04, Gone West)                                    | N/A           | 30/4          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Whatelse Igot Todo, \$41,660) | <b>\$246,594</b> | 188   | 1            | 0.58         | 1.03          |
| 17   | <b>CLOSING ARGUMENT</b> (02, Successful Appeal), Whispering Oaks Farm | \$3,000       | 34/10         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Final Argument, \$29,925)     | <b>\$236,147</b> | *488  | 19           | 1.18         | 1.13          |
| 18   | <b>BIND</b> (08, Pulpit), Red River Farms                             | \$1,500       | 31/9          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Boston Bind, \$30,780)        | <b>\$223,158</b> | 72    | 1            | 0.66         | 1.00          |
| 19   | <b>GUILT TRIP</b> (09, Pulpit), Red River Farms                       | \$2,500       | 17/4          | 2/2                 | 2/2                    | (Fugitive Lady, \$78,220)      | <b>\$219,226</b> | 54    | 2            | 0.78         | 1.36          |
| 20   | <b>MASS MEDIA</b> (01, Touch Gold)                                    | N/A           | 35/9          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Yes Gorgeous, \$40,000)       | <b>\$217,880</b> | *237  | 5            | 1.01         | 1.02          |
| 21   | <b>COURT VISION</b> (05, Gulch), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne        | \$3,500       | 26/8          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Ryoan, \$35,050)              | <b>\$190,550</b> | *304  | 6            | 1.10         | 1.42          |
| 22   | <b>CALIBRACHOA</b> (07, Southern Image), Red River Farms              | \$2,000       | 21/6          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Calimambo, \$29,580)          | <b>\$170,854</b> | 43    | 0            | 0.63         | 1.32          |
| 23   | <b>INTERACTIF</b> (07, Broken Vow), Red River Farms                   | \$2,000       | 19/8          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Debriyn, \$21,210)            | <b>\$160,246</b> | 84    | 1            | 0.71         | 1.04          |
| 24   | <b>LEWIS MICHAEL</b> (03, Rahy), Circle H Farms                       | \$2,500       | 19/5          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Frost Or Frippery, \$39,960)  | <b>\$150,059</b> | 139   | 3            | 0.77         | 1.07          |
| 25   | <b>TIZ THE ONE</b> (07, Tiznow)                                       | N/A           | 28/4          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Typhoon Tycoon, \$26,760)     | <b>\$147,721</b> | 84    | 1            | 0.61         | 0.92          |
| 26   | <b>YANKEE GENTLEMAN</b> (99, Storm Cat) Le Mesa Stallions             | N/A           | 29/6          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Snapper Bite, \$35,180)       | <b>\$143,566</b> | *539  | 21           | 1.04         | 1.16          |
| 27   | <b>SAINT AFLEET</b> (01, Northern Afleet), Landlock Equine            | \$1,500       | 17/4          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Bending Saint, \$41,300)      | <b>\$143,040</b> | 107   | 3            | 0.65         | 0.86          |
| 28   | <b>TIME BANDIT</b> (96, Time for a Change), Averett Farm              | \$1,000       | 12/3          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Wild Bert, \$63,420)          | <b>\$140,185</b> | 296   | 4            | 0.85         | 0.88          |
| 29   | <b>TENPINS</b> (98, Smart Strike), Elite Thoroughbreds                | \$2,500       | 22/3          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Queeten, \$29,940)            | <b>\$125,431</b> | *386  | 8            | 0.85         | 1.01          |
| 30   | <b>LONE STAR SPECIAL</b> (05, Malabar Gold), Horse of Course          | \$2,500       | 7/5           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Crocodile Jacques, \$31,740)  | <b>\$114,775</b> | 73    | 3            | 1.33         | 1.05          |
| 31   | <b>RULER'S COURT</b> (01, Doneraile Court), Holly Hill Farm           | \$1,000       | 14/4          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Mr. Graceful, \$24,140)       | <b>\$99,350</b>  | 137   | 0            | 0.59         | 0.71          |
| 32   | <b>DUE DATE</b> (05, El Prado), Peach Lane Farms                      | \$2,000       | 22/2          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Pinch Assault, \$21,760)      | <b>\$95,817</b>  | 90    | 1            | 0.56         | 0.77          |
| 33   | <b>APRIORITY</b> (07, Grand Slam), Elite Thoroughbreds                | \$2,000       | 10/4          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Snowball, \$32,950)           | <b>\$93,865</b>  | 45    | 1            | 0.71         | 0.78          |
| 34   | <b>IDE</b> (93, Forty Niner)  | Pnsd          | 15/5          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Big Cane, \$34,480)           | <b>\$91,535</b>  | 590   | 15           | 1.04         | 1.04          |
| 35   | <b>HONEST MAN</b> (04, Unbridled's Song)                              | N/A           | 14/5          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Gg's Gracefulgabby, \$23,090) | <b>\$90,106</b>  | 68    | 0            | 0.40         | 1.21          |

(continued from page 58)

"When I was a kid, it was my place to hunt after school and in the summer," Carol Castille remembered. "The scrub trees were so close together you had to walk sideways."

From boyhood squirrel hunter to property owner—look at what Castille has accomplished with the land two decades later. The landscape image of the 145 acres of what is now Whispering Oaks Farm near Carencro, La., is the Taj Mahal of breeding farms in the state. Owned and operated by Castille, the farm is as clean, spacious, and tidy as a Walt Disney theme park. The farm could pass for a well-manicured golf course.

"I guess I lean toward being obsessive-compulsive," Castille admitted, "but I want things looking nice and clean. Things



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## 2019 LEADING SIRES IN OKLAHOMA



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| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands                    | 2019 Stud Fee | Rnrs/<br>Wnrs | BT<br>SWnrs/<br>Wns | Rstrct<br>SW/<br>BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)      | 2019<br>Earnings | Foals | Cumulative   |              |               |
|------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
|      |  |               |               |                     |                        |                               |                  |       | Stks<br>Wnrs | A-E<br>Index | Comp<br>Index |
| 1    | <b>SUCCESSFUL APPEAL</b> (96, Valid Appeal), Noble Equine Vet Services | Pnsd          | 58/18         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Roiland, \$52,800)           | <b>\$633,810</b> | *801  | 54           | 1.66         | 1.44          |
| 2    | <b>LIAISON</b> (09, Indian Charlie), Mighty Acres                      | \$2,500       | 69/18         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Tensas Talk, \$38,090)       | <b>\$392,412</b> | 212   | 3            | 0.85         | 1.20          |
| 3    | <b>WILBURN</b> (08, Bernardini), River Oaks Farms                      | \$2,500       | 78/22         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Ruby Sioux, \$29,350)        | <b>\$360,009</b> | *311  | 7            | 0.79         | 1.09          |
| 4    | <b>CALEB'S POSSE</b> (08, Posse), River Oaks Farms                     | \$2,000       | 31/13         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Caleb Can Dab, \$30,110)     | <b>\$254,327</b> | *103  | 2            | 1.08         | 1.18          |
| 5    | <b>AMERICAN LION</b> (07, Tiznow)                                      | N/A           | 34/11         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Relentless Lion, \$21,798)   | <b>\$220,582</b> | *188  | 1            | 0.72         | 1.04          |
| 6    | <b>POLLARD'S VISION</b> (01, Carson City), Mighty Acres                | \$2,500       | 26/10         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Eye Luv Lulu, \$56,213)      | <b>\$198,613</b> | *754  | 20           | 1.18         | 1.17          |
| 7    | <b>MAGNA GRADUATE</b> (02, Honor Grades), Brewster Ranch               | \$2,500       | 30/6          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Magna Man, \$73,720)         | <b>\$190,429</b> | *235  | 7            | 0.95         | 1.00          |
| 8    | <b>EUROEARS</b> (04, Langfuhr), Dunn Ranch                             | \$1,500       | 28/4          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Three Chords, \$51,650)      | <b>\$180,008</b> | 137   | 4            | 0.85         | 0.91          |
| 9    | <b>CACTUS RIDGE</b> (01, Hennessy)                                     | Pnsd          | 26/6          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Smack Ridge, \$26,580)       | <b>\$145,477</b> | *457  | 23           | 1.22         | 1.02          |
| 10   | <b>ORATORY</b> (02, Pulpit)  | Died, 2016    | 21/5          | 1/1                 | 1/1                    | (Shes Our Fastest, \$40,060)  | <b>\$144,689</b> | *224  | 6            | 1.11         | 1.13          |
| 11   | <b>LATENT HEAT</b> (03, Maria's Mon), River Oaks Farms                 | \$2,000       | 28/8          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Latent Revenge, \$35,600)    | <b>\$140,960</b> | *349  | 7            | 0.87         | 1.08          |
| 12   | <b>SPECIAL RATE</b> (00, Pulpit), River Oaks Farm                      | \$2,000       | 15/2          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (No Deal, \$78,938)           | <b>\$115,850</b> | 185   | 4            | 0.59         | 0.64          |
| 13   | <b>MR. NIGHTLINGER</b> (04, Indian Charlie)                            | Died          | 28/3          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Lakota Princess, \$15,900)   | <b>\$97,103</b>  | 185   | 4            | 0.61         | 0.86          |
| 14   | <b>KIPLING</b> (96, Gulch)   | Pnsd          | 27/3          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Dubdubwatson, \$32,484)      | <b>\$80,944</b>  | 361   | 9            | 0.97         | 0.88          |
| 15   | <b>THE VISUALISER</b> (03, Giant's Causeway), Mighty Acres             | \$1,500       | 10/3          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Welder, \$48,000)            | <b>\$73,178</b>  | 81    | 2            | 0.77         | 0.87          |
| 16   | <b>LIQUOR CABINET (IRE)</b> (01, Hennessy)                             | N/A           | 12/4          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Shut the Gate, \$11,647)     | <b>\$55,575</b>  | 91    | 1            | 0.57         | 0.84          |
| 17   | <b>MAIMONIDES</b> (05, Vindication), Silver Star Breeding Center       | \$1,500       | 8/2           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Jersey Street, \$15,295)     | <b>\$40,680</b>  | *106  | 1            | 0.74         | 1.90          |
| 18   | <b>CHITZO</b> (05, Forest Wildcat), River Oaks Farms                   | \$1,500       | 8/2           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Stella's Princess, \$12,180) | <b>\$35,890</b>  | 55    | 2            | 0.80         | 0.96          |
| 19   | <b>TACTICAL CAT</b> (96, Storm Cat), Raywood Farm                      | \$1,000       | 9/1           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Dazzling Okie, \$14,680)     | <b>\$35,747</b>  | 634   | 24           | 0.98         | 1.16          |
| 20   | <b>DOCTOR CHIT</b> (09, War Front), Royal Vista Ranches                | \$2,500       | 9/4           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Booneville Chapel, \$10,870) | <b>\$34,881</b>  | 41    | 0            | 0.44         | 0.69          |

need to be in their proper place and organized. It doesn't cost any extra money to be neat. It is something I instill in my people constantly."

A busy man with an open mind, frequent flyer Castille travels to yearling sales and visits farms in Florida, Kentucky, New York, and California in search of horses and ideas to improve his operation.

"We can't duplicate the big Kentucky farms," Castille explained, "but we are trying to imitate the best we can. You walk into a Bob Baffert, Steve Asmussen, or Todd Pletcher barn, and you see that nothing is out of place. All the major Kentucky farms are the same way. They are a showcase to the industry. I don't have the deep pockets that those big farms have, but I can do with what I've got."

Good help might be hard to recruit in other parts of the country, but Whispering Oaks is located in the mother lode of horsemen. The Cajun culture of southwest Louisiana has produced generations

of jockeys, trainers, exercise riders, and grooms whose lives revolve around horses.

"Working on a farm is not the most glamorous job," Castille said. "It's seven days a week mostly outside in the ele-

ments. Construction jobs or in the oil fields are paying better, so it's a challenge. You need to find the person with a passion to do this work.

"There is still a tight-knit group of



Whispering Oaks farm manager Phyllis Comeaux

### 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 2015 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through April 14, 2019. 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 2018 is \$23,755 or 50% of the 2018 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 15%; Singapore by 66%. 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.

horsemen connected to their roots,” Castille continued, “but the generation gap is closing. It has shrunk somewhat, but there are still some diehards.”

A stallion station and racing and breeding operation, Whispering Oaks makes a substantial contribution to the local job market. The racing operation has 20 employees on the payroll. There are seven full-time workers employed on the breeding side. The farm maintains two full-time veterinarians. The blacksmith has worked at Whispering Oaks for 10 years. Two night watchmen work in rotating shifts. Tired of the road/travel grind, trainer-in-residence Steve Flint is happy to stay home and break the babies and train all of the racehorses under the colors of Whispering Oaks.



Farm trainer Steve Flint, right, leads one to the training track

Castille scratches his itch in a different way. Like a water bug on the bayou, he is in constant motion. Solving technical problems, finding solutions, cleaning, washing, and operating equipment are within his comfort zone.

“My meditation is out there cutting

grass on the mower,” he said.

The popular term is “hands on.” Castille’s confidence with handling the stallions is remarkable to watch. It is obvious there is a depth of life experience in his touch.

“I grew up on the bush tracks around here,” Castille said. “Every Sunday was a routine. Church at 8 o’clock and then load the horses in a van (his father trained Quarter Horses) and the family would spend the day at the match races. I got to see Eddie Delahoussaye and Calvin Borel grow up around these parts.”

Castille’s background with horses is more “blue collar” lunch bucket than suede shoe operator, and his calloused hands show it.

“Look. I’ve done it all,” Castille said. “My first job after school was running a small breeding farm. I did all the breeding. Broke the yearlings and galloped the horses. In grade school it was the same old, same old. After class I went straight

## PUBLIC RELATIONS—CAJUN STYLE

Farm manager Phyllis Comeaux never met a stranger. Giving freely of her cordial warmth to clients and visitors, Comeaux offers a welcoming face to Whispering Oaks. Her expertise is oversight of the breeding operation, where she ensures accuracy in the matings. Given her knowledge of pedigree and history of the area, Comeaux names all of the Whispering Oaks babies. Competent with automation and regulations, she completes the foal registration process.

“Phyllis has been in the horse industry her whole life,” Castille remarked on the pivotal role Comeaux performs at Whispering Oaks. “With her, there was no learning curve. She understands the game, and she knows the people. She even knows their nicknames.”

Office work, breeding the mares, and paperwork are Comeaux’s routine. But the passion that ignites her enthusiasm is none of the above.

“What I love about this place and this position is meeting the people. Face to face and listening to their stories. I can’t wait to see what each day brings,” she said.



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## 2019 LEADING SIRES IN TEXAS

For daily updated sire lists  
visit [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com)

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands                  | 2019 Stud Fee | Rnrs/<br>Wnrs | BT<br>SWnrs/<br>Wns | Rstrct<br>SW/<br>BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)     | 2019 Earnings    | Cumulative |              |              |               |
|------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
|      |  |               |               |                     |                        |                              |                  | Foals      | Stks<br>Wnrs | A-E<br>Index | Comp<br>Index |
| 1    | <b>TOO MUCH BLING</b> (03, Rubiano), Valor Farm                      | \$6,500       | 43/17         | 1/1                 | 1/1                    | (Flying Bling, \$36,400)     | <b>\$325,885</b> | 265        | 27           | 1.09         | 1.05          |
| 2    | <b>MY GOLDEN SONG</b> (03, Unbridled's Song), Valor Farm             | \$5,000       | 33/11         | 2/2                 | 2/2                    | (Zarelda, \$48,940)          | <b>\$290,106</b> | 172        | 14           | 0.96         | 1.04          |
| 3    | <b>BEHINDATTHEBAR</b> (05, Forest Wildcat), John Tally Racing Stable | \$1,500       | 12/5          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (River Bobcat, \$14,140)     | <b>\$81,847</b>  | 104        | 0            | 0.53         | 0.80          |
| 4    | <b>MORO TAP</b> (10, Tapit), Double Infinity Ranch                   | \$3,500       | 11/3          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Moro Texas, \$25,200)       | <b>\$81,620</b>  | 48         | 0            | 0.53         | 0.92          |
| 5    | <b>CONGAREE</b> (98, Arazi), Valor Farm                              | \$3,000       | 12/3          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Runningwscissors, \$30,720) | <b>\$71,055</b>  | *399       | 13           | 1.21         | 1.37          |
| 6    | <b>STREET MOVE</b> (06, Street Cry)                                  | N/A           | 4/4           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Valentine Street, \$22,653) | <b>\$67,521</b>  | 11         | 0            | 0.83         | 1.34          |
| 7    | <b>UNCLE ABBIE</b> (97, Kingmambo), Key Ranch                        | \$2,000       | 8/4           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Whipum Naenae, \$18,510)    | <b>\$67,098</b>  | 256        | 7            | 0.65         | 0.63          |
| 8    | <b>GRASSHOPPER</b> (04, Dixie Union), Valor Farm                     | \$3,500       | 20/4          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Crickadee, \$20,460)        | <b>\$66,476</b>  | 128        | 3            | 0.75         | 0.91          |
| 9    | <b>LUNARPAL</b> (02, Successful Appeal)                              | N/A           | 8/1           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Lunar Heat, \$15,650)       | <b>\$51,954</b>  | 116        | 2            | 0.81         | 0.91          |
| 10   | <b>LITTLEEXPECTATIONS</b> (97, Valid Appeal), Asmussen Horse Center  | \$1,500       | 11/4          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (King Cloudy, \$13,866)      | <b>\$51,797</b>  | 218        | 5            | 0.74         | 0.96          |
| 11   | <b>EARLY FLYER</b> (98, Gilded Time), Valor Farm                     | \$2,500       | 18/2          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Rockin Royalty, \$13,117)   | <b>\$49,351</b>  | 306        | 16           | 0.74         | 0.91          |
| 12   | <b>GAFF</b> (02, Maria's Mon)  | N/A           | 7/2           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Momsabarmaid, \$15,720)     | <b>\$48,226</b>  | 96         | 0            | 0.59         | 0.99          |
| 13   | <b>DON GATO</b> (06, Storm Cat)                                      | N/A           | 5/3           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Gateau St Honore, \$22,440) | <b>\$46,052</b>  | 22         | 0            | 0.44         | 0.94          |
| 14   | <b>REVOLVING</b> (09, A.P. Indy), Double S Thoroughbreds             | \$1,000       | 14/2          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (High Flying Guy, \$17,000)  | <b>\$40,645</b>  | 41         | 0            | 0.66         | 1.39          |
| 15   | <b>UNBRIDLED'S HEART</b> (05, Unbridled's Song)<br>Died, 2015        |               | 7/2           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Cortuna, \$19,600)          | <b>\$39,297</b>  | 30         | 0            | 0.49         | 0.53          |

to the barn and cleaned stalls. There is not one small part of this industry that I have not put hands on."

**STALLION STATION**

"Every stallion has different quirks," Castille explained. "Some want to jump from different angles. It takes discipline to observe their habits. You get a stallion, and

they have developed some habits that we have to redirect. I handle all the stallions myself, and I make the corrections I think need to be made."

The stallion roster that Castille handles on a daily basis is impressive. Three of the top 20 stallions (Run Production, Closing Argument, and D'wildcat) in Louisiana stand at Whispering Oaks. Walking down

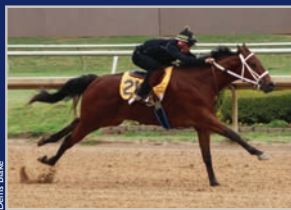
the stallion shed row, in and out of the stalls, Castille enjoys playing with his assembled team.

"We started breeding Run Production to a broader band of bloodlines, and his babies are starting to show some quality," Castille commented. "His babies stay sound and in the game for a long time. His temperament is so calm that a 10-year-old

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# 2019 LEADING SIRES IN ARKANSAS

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands          | 2019 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | BT SWnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)     | 2019 Earnings | Foals | Cumulative |           |            |
|------|--|---------------|------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|
|      |  |               |            |               |                  |                              |               |       | Stks Wnrs  | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | JONESBORO (02, Sefapiano), Lake Hamilton Equine Center       | \$500         | 17/4       | 1/1           | 1/1              | (Hoonani Road, \$167,400)    | \$263,684     | 84    | 3          | 0.77      | 0.77       |
| 2    | DOUBLE IRISH (11, Tapit), McDowell Farm                      | \$1,000       | 7/4        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Tapit Star, \$85,470)       | \$253,057     | 27    | 0          | 1.04      | 0.93       |
| 3    | PORTOBELLO ROAD (04, Storm Cat)                              | Died          | 24/7       | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Souixper Charger, \$50,820) | \$192,888     | 150   | 1          | 0.73      | 0.90       |
| 4    | PROM SHOES (04, Include), Anderson Farms                     | \$1,000       | 3/2        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Promising Shoes, \$108,666) | \$189,642     | 14    | 0          | 0.65      | 0.51       |
| 5    | HIGHTAIL (10, Mineshaft), Trophy Club Training Center        | \$2,500       | 7/2        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Mongolian Groom, \$105,340) | \$185,176     | 18    | 1          | 3.18      | 0.93       |
| 6    | LAURIE'S ROCKET (09, Bluegrass Cat), McDowell Farm           | \$1,000       | 5/2        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Another Rocket, \$70,800)   | \$134,965     | 22    | 0          | 2.54      | 1.21       |
| 7    | STORM AND A HALF (97, Storm Cat)                             | Died          | 15/3       | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Zippy Lou, \$56,310)        | \$117,344     | 455   | 20         | 0.76      | 0.93       |
| 8    | HAMAZING DESTINY (06, Salt Lake), Starfish Stallions         | \$1,500       | 13/1       | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Destinedtobestar, \$28,450) | \$89,262      | 37    | 0          | 0.44      | 0.91       |
| 9    | BRAHMS (97, Danzig), Arkansas State University Equine Center | \$1,000       | 18/3       | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Joan's Delight, \$24,100)   | \$88,130      | *687  | 13         | 1.05      | 1.12       |
| 10   | COMMANDER'S SHOES (03, Deputy Commander), Rafter R Ranch     | \$1,500       | 8/1        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Guska Mon Shoes, \$71,400)  | \$84,127      | 84    | 0          | 0.61      | 0.80       |
| 11   | ZARBYEV (84, Nureyev)  | Died, 2017    | 12/3       | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Zarb's Gift, \$27,660)      | \$65,820      | *376  | 13         | 1.03      | 0.82       |
| 12   | ORDAINED (08, Pulpit), Starfish Stallions                    | \$1,500       | 12/2       | 0/0           | 0/0              | (No Debate, \$27,000)        | \$63,927      | 48    | 1          | 0.59      | 0.86       |
| 13   | ICON IKE (09, Yes It's True), Starfish Stallions             | \$1,500       | 4/2        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Flamin Icon, \$18,629)      | \$46,416      | 13    | 0          | 0.66      | 0.68       |
| 14   | CINNAMON CREEK (95, Darn That Alarm)                         | Died, 2018    | 8/0        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Bogey, \$18,690)            | \$34,308      | 120   | 0          | 0.59      | 0.68       |
| 15   | CYBER SECRET (09, Broken Vow), Starfish Stallions            | \$1,500       | 3/1        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Elissas Secret, \$30,480)   | \$32,892      | 21    | 0          | 0.43      | 0.87       |



D'wildcat is a 'great horse to be around'

kid could handle him.”

D'wildcat is the oldest sire standing at Whispering Oaks.

“A great horse to be around—his hole card is that he consistently throws nice, very useful babies,” Castille said. “Year after year his foal rate remains high.”

Successful progeny of the son of Forest Wildcat include grade 2 winner D' Funnybone and stakes winners Authentecat and D'wild Ride.

The “celebrity” stallion at Whispering Oaks is the popular Closing Argument. The son of Successful Appeal—Mrs. Greeley, by Mr. Greeley, won the 2005 Holy Bull Stakes (G3) and finished third in the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G1) before run-

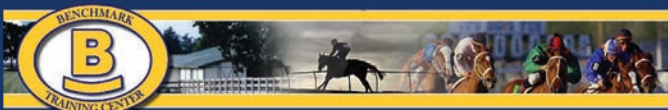
ning second at 71-1 in the Kentucky Derby (G1). In the breeding shed Closing Argument has demonstrated he has some tricks up his sleeve.

“For a router he throws a lot of speed, and he throws it early in their career,” Castille pointed out. “His babies are quick to mature as 2-year-olds. His pedigree shows he has speed that can carry. He can get you a solid miler or a 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ -mile horse for sure.”

If you want to look stallion Mobile Bay in the eye, you are going to need a stepladder. A Louisiana-bred, Mobile Bay (Lone Star Special—Tranquility Bay, by Out of Place) won the 2015 Super Derby (G2) and was twice named Louisiana horse of the year.

“He’s a giant,” Castille said, holding the

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## 2019 LEADING SIRES IN ARIZONA

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands                | 2019 Stud Fee | Rnrs/<br>Wnrs | BT<br>SWnrs/<br>Wns | Rstrct<br>SW/<br>BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)     | 2019<br>Earnings | Foals | Cumulative   |              |               |
|------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
|      |  |               |               |                     |                        |                              |                  |       | Stks<br>Wnrs | A-E<br>Index | Comp<br>Index |
| 1    | <b>ROCKY BAR</b> (98, In Excess), Triple AAA Ranch                 | Private       | 20/11         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Lil Milo, \$69,360)         | <b>\$179,926</b> | 184   | 9            | 0.79         | 0.78          |
| 2    | <b>TOP HIT</b> (98, Twining), Triple AAA Ranch                     | Private       | 26/10         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Raging Lady, \$25,879)      | <b>\$124,781</b> | 119   | 5            | 0.80         | 0.84          |
| 3    | <b>MARGIE'S WILDCAT</b> (01, Storm Cat), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm | Private       | 15/5          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Loud N Proud, \$28,018)     | <b>\$87,931</b>  | 142   | 1            | 0.63         | 0.80          |
| 4    | <b>EZ EFFORT</b> (09, In Excess), Fleming Thoroughbred Farm        | Private       | 12/4          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Fortified Effort, \$23,028) | <b>\$76,970</b>  | 39    | 1            | 0.72         | 1.03          |
| 5    | <b>EZ DREAMER</b> (05, In Excess), Triple AAA Ranch                | Private       | 17/6          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Dreamy Gal, \$13,785)       | <b>\$69,474</b>  | 54    | 1            | 0.55         | 0.85          |

## 2019 LEADING SIRES IN COLORADO

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands       | 2019 Stud Fee | Rnrs/<br>Wnrs | BT<br>SWnrs/<br>Wns | Rstrct<br>SW/<br>BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings) | 2019<br>Earnings | Foals | Cumulative   |              |               |
|------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
|      |   |               |               |                     |                        |                          |                  |       | Stks<br>Wnrs | A-E<br>Index | Comp<br>Index |
| 1    | <b>SAVE BIG MONEY</b> (03, Storm Cat), Winner-Maker Farms | \$1,000       | 21/3          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (She's Shiny, \$14,438)  | <b>\$50,221</b>  | 124   | 3            | 0.65         | 0.95          |
| 2    | <b>ZIP QUIK</b> (07, City Zip), Menoken Farm              | \$1,500       | 1/1           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Never Before, \$24,120) | <b>\$24,120</b>  | 34    | 0            | 0.32         | 0.76          |

lead shank above his shoulder. "Every bit of 17½ hands. He is going to cover a lot of mares."

Mobile Bay is owned by Irwin Olian's Tigertail Ranch and is standing his first season at stud at Whispering Oaks.

Iron Fist was one of Whispering Oaks' classic runners. A grade 3 winner, the son of Tapit—Successful Outlook, by Orientate, retired a millionaire and was pulled into the breeding operation. The gray was a win machine, delivering nine victories from 24 starts.

"Steve (trainer Asmussen) begged me to run him one more year," Castille said, "but I had to get him in the shed. Look at



Castille built Whispering Oaks from the ground up

him. Eager and playful. He's still sound as a dollar and would like to get out of the stall

and back to running if he could. His babies have lots of leg and body. His babies get up on their feet and stand up quick. I couldn't be happier with his babies. They are textbook. With a sire like him, we think we are headed in the right direction."

Comeaux gets attached to all the stallions but Mean Season holds a special spot in her heart.

"I love him, just love him," Comeaux said. "I think he is going to be special." The

son of Henny Hughes—Mean Imogene, by Silver Deputy, was trained by Bill Mott and is in his second season at Whispering Oaks.

On March 29, Castille retired One Liner and put him on the van to Whispering Oaks. A graded stakes-winning son of Into Mischief—Cayala, by Cherokee Run, the 5-year-old One Liner will stand for a stud fee of \$3,500. One Liner began his career in brilliant fashion by winning three races at three (Saratoga, Gulfstream Park, and Oaklawn Park) different tracks. The Oaklawn victory was in the grade 3 Southwest Stakes.

### TRAINING TRACK

The private 5½-furlong training track is the crown jewel of Whispering Oaks. Elevated above the adjoining property, the



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## 2019 LEADING SIRES IN NEW MEXICO

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands              | 2019 Stud Fee | Rnrs/<br>Wnrs | BT<br>SWnrs/<br>Wns | Rstrct<br>SW/<br>BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)     | 2019<br>Earnings | Foals | Cumulative<br>Stks<br>Wnrs | A-E<br>Index | Comp<br>Index |
|------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1    | MORNING LINE (07, Tiznow), A & A Ranch                           | Died, 2019    | 39/10         | 1/1                 | 0/1                    | (Stubbins, \$177,200)        | \$532,125        | *145  | 3                          | 0.99         | 1.24          |
| 2    | DIABOLICAL (03, Artax), A & A Ranch                              | \$4,000       | 45/14         | 1/1                 | 1/1                    | (Fast Gator, \$51,000)       | \$394,488        | 171   | 12                         | 0.94         | 0.92          |
| 3    | SOUTHWESTERN HEAT (04, Gone West)                                | Died, 2017    | 32/12         | 1/1                 | 1/1                    | (Sunscreen, \$85,500)        | \$322,909        | *121  | 5                          | 0.75         | 0.95          |
| 4    | ATTILA'S STORM (02, Forest Wildcat), A & A Ranch                 | \$4,000       | 59/14         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Go for a Stroll, \$29,400)  | \$315,745        | 282   | 17                         | 1.06         | 0.82          |
| 5    | MCKENNA'S JUSTICE (07, Medaglia d'Oro)                           | Died, 2017    | 13/7          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (McWend, \$123,055)          | \$245,828        | 26    | 0                          | 0.82         | 0.63          |
| 6    | ROLL HENNESSY ROLL (00, Hennessy), A & A Ranch                   | \$2,500       | 26/9          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Hollywood Henry, \$41,760)  | \$224,737        | 183   | 11                         | 0.94         | 0.95          |
| 7    | ABSTRACTION (10, Pulpit), Doubletree Farm                        | \$3,500       | 15/3          | 1/1                 | 0/1                    | (Hustle Up, \$119,000)       | \$214,140        | 57    | 1                          | 1.22         | 1.12          |
| 8    | QUINTON'S GOLD (97, Carson City), Graham Farms                   | Private       | 32/11         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Golden Band, \$25,171)      | \$183,597        | 157   | 10                         | 1.16         | 0.85          |
| 9    | THE WAY HOME (04, Giant's Causeway), Doubletree Farm             | \$2,500       | 26/10         | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Reback Home, \$22,826)      | \$128,620        | 127   | 5                          | 0.79         | 0.96          |
| 10   | INDIAN FIREWATER (07, Indian Charlie)                            | Died, 2017    | 31/6          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (I'm a Dancin Who, \$22,742) | \$102,111        | 85    | 2                          | 0.62         | 1.10          |
| 11   | MR. GOLD MOVER (08, Mr. Greeley)                                 | N/A           | 16/3          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Golden Canyon, \$14,705)    | \$79,484         | 60    | 2                          | 0.73         | 0.89          |
| 12   | SOURCE (98, Montbrook)   | N/A           | 2/1           | 1/1                 | 1/1                    | (Shining Source, \$72,350)   | \$73,652         | 51    | 1                          | 0.70         | 0.67          |
| 13   | FUSAICHI ZENON (JPN) (97, Sunday Silence), Weatherly Horse Farms | \$2,000       | 13/5          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Tef's Ordeal, \$12,280)     | \$73,621         | 123   | 4                          | 0.66         | 0.82          |
| 14   | DOMINIQUE'S CAT (97, Storm Cat), McKenna Thoroughbreds           | \$2,500       | 7/3           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Dom Right, \$30,845)        | \$65,634         | 117   | 2                          | 0.80         | 0.61          |
| 15   | STORM DANI (05, Storm Cat)                                       | N/A           | 5/2           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Ivan El Grande, \$52,329)   | \$62,442         | 27    | 0                          | 0.32         | 0.48          |

training track has excellent drainage and a deep eight-inch cushion. Long-range planning with soil experts, hours of time, effort, and a budget that didn't blink an eye are the background of the training track.

"We built it from the ground up," Castille explained. "We stripped away the top soil and got down to the clay base. We spread shells and came back with compaction clay, then cut lime into the base, a layer at a time until it was uniform all the way around. Then we let it set for about a month."

For the final touch it took three weeks to spread the top cushion. According to Castille, 265 truckloads of spillway sand from the old Evangeline Downs racetrack were delivered. Each truck carried 14 cubic yards of soil. That was Castille himself driving the bulldozer, scraper, top loader, and tractor that pulled the harrows.

"It all came together," Castille recalled. "Every chance I got I was out there on the harrows. I built it so I want to feel it."

Cajun ingenuity. Castille grew weary of the two to three hours a day that he drove a water truck over the training track.

"I was out there by myself, sometimes till 9 o'clock at night," Castille recalled. The solution was to bring in a golf course consultant to install an automatic sprinkler system with a timer. "Those guys could tell you how many ounces of water



Comeaux with One Liner

per square foot was needed to maintain consistent moisture levels."

A total commitment to quality and a network of trusted allies have been critical elements in the success of Whispering Oaks. Castille's relationship with Hall of Fame trainer Asmussen is woven into the fabric of the growth curve of the farm.

"Steve has been a tremendous friend, asset, and mentor to me," Castille said.

"We are friends first and foremost," Castille continued. "He calls a spade a spade. He is up front about what he thinks about a horse. And disciplined in the sales

ring as far as what he thinks a horse is worth. I don't feel that I have ever overpaid for any horse that he purchased for me. Steve taught me that pedigree follows athleticism. He knew that my long-term vision was to buy good fillies with the hope to run out their career and eventually to turn them out as broodmares to complement my stallions. You can call it my assembly line."

Recently nominated and elected to the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeder's Association, Castille has a watchful and concerned eye on the future.

"Working with guys such as Jake Delhomme, Brett Brinkman, Don Stemmans, and Roger Heitzmann, we are trying to bring Louisiana racing

back to the status it enjoyed 10 years ago," Castille said. "Louisiana was once one of the top breeding programs in the country. We lost some ground, and we have to gain that back. We are doing a lot of research and study, doing some comparisons to see what new ideas we can bring to the table. We want to bring more people back into the industry. It's the guy with two or three mares that we lost, and we have to find a way to bring him back to the game." **BA**

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