

Northeast/Mid-Atlantic

CONNECTICUT DELAWARE MAINE MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS NEW HAMPSHIRE
NEW JERSEY NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA RHODE ISLAND VERMONT VIRGINIA WEST VIRGINIA

Regional_0328

Smart Move



Rodney Eckenrode with Smarty Jones at the EquiStar stallion show in February

COURTESY OF EQUISTAR

EquiStar Farm home to Pennsylvania hero Smarty Jones

BY MARY LARUE

RODNEY ECKENRODE IS DETERMINED to weather the current political storm in Pennsylvania with EquiStar Farm, a Thoroughbred breeding and training facility he operates with his wife, Sharon. Known as the home of 2004 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner and 3-year-old champion male Smarty Jones, EquiStar has also become one of the state's top Thoroughbred stud farms.

The farm, near Annville, Pa., is currently home to five stallions, which, in

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STALLIONS 2020



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Top Five NA Third Crop Sire in 2020
#1 2YO Sire in NY in 2019
By rising sire of sires **SPEIGHTSTOWN**



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MG1 2YO by 2X HOY **CURLIN**
New for 2020 breeding season
Eclipse Award Finalist for Champion 2YO
Dftd 10 **G1** SWrs, incl. McKinzie (before DQ), Bolt d'Oro, Firenze Fire, etc.



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Average Beyer in the **90s (95 high)**
G3 in final start, earned **91 Beyer**
Out of a full sister to **DANEHILL**



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Sire of Grade I Breeders' Cup
Sprint winner **TRINNIBERG**,
Champion Sprinter. Avg. Earnings
Per starter \$57,116, nearly 16X fee

2020 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK

For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2020 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2020 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	CENTRAL BANKER (10, Speightstown), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$7,500	54/10	0/0	0/0	(Bankit, \$123,500)	\$759,351	153	4	1.43	1.22
2	FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$6,500	47/11	2/2	1/2	(Dot Matrix, \$114,000)	\$516,904	*1325	52	1.50	1.23
3	MISSION IMPAZIBLE (07, Unbridled's Song), Sequel Stallions New York	\$5,000	42/14	1/1	1/1	(Dream Bigger, \$70,350)	\$473,565	227	6	1.16	1.11
4	BIG BROWN (05, Boundary), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	61/15	0/0	0/0	(Big Mountain, \$38,885)	\$465,844	*806	26	1.04	1.47
5	BELLAMY ROAD (02, Concerto), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	57/16	0/0	0/0	(Young Bull, \$51,257)	\$359,914	*696	32	1.16	1.25
6	BUSTIN STONES (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$5,000	24/7	0/0	0/0	(Bustin to Please, \$53,830)	\$315,161	222	9	1.34	1.30
7	COURAGEOUS CAT (06, Storm Cat), Questroyal North	\$2,500	35/11	0/0	0/0	(Mickey T, \$29,550)	\$218,976	219	7	0.93	1.09
8	FROST GIANT (03, Giant's Causeway), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$2,500	27/6	0/0	0/0	(Dirty Bird, \$31,971)	\$204,914	*436	15	1.15	1.15
9	GIANT SURPRISE (09, Giant's Causeway), Rockridge Stud	\$4,000	17/5	0/0	0/0	(Sure Stitch, \$33,000)	\$139,837	110	2	1.36	1.21
10	MICROMANAGE (10, Medaglia d'Oro), Rockridge Stud	\$4,000	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Microscope, \$47,250)	\$108,637	48	0	0.66	1.33
11	TEUFLESBERG (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	9/2	0/0	0/0	(The Great Johanna, \$79,799)	\$97,931	156	4	1.21	1.06
12	MIDAS TOUCH (GB) (07, Galileo)	N/A	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Primo Touch, \$28,184)	\$95,402	*120	1	0.50	0.89
13	BANK HEIST (07, Maria's Mon), Kaz Hill Farm	\$5,000	15/1	0/0	0/0	(Tiz Kaz Now, \$22,550)	\$91,331	87	1	0.83	1.32
14	MAJESTIC CITY (09, City Zip), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$3,500	10/3	0/0	0/0	(The Important One, \$29,150)	\$83,292	41	0	0.70	1.03
15	STEPHANOATSEE (09, A.P. Indy), Sequel Stallions New York	Private	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Beg to Differ, \$40,200)	\$74,160	14	0	0.88	1.30

addition to Smarty Jones, include grade 1 winner Poseidon's Warrior and grade 1-placed, grade 2 winner Crown of Thorns, and recent additions Airoforce and Uncle Vinny.

With the late arrival of its two newest stallions—both graded stakes winners—Eckenrode scheduled a second stallion show at EquiStar this year for Feb. 9, and it quickly turned into a rally for the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred industry. Gov. Tom Wolf had made an announcement earlier that week that his proposed budget includes a plan to redirect money to college scholarships from Pennsylvania's Race Horse Development Trust Fund, which pays purses and breeder bonuses.

Many breeders in the state fear that could mean the worst for those in the Pennsylvania horse business.

"I grew up in this area, and I've always enjoyed Pennsylvania. I love the countryside," Eckenrode said. "Now that we're into

the Thoroughbreds, as luck would have it, with the Pennsylvania breeders' program it's a tremendous spot to be right now, as long as Gov. Wolf doesn't get in the way.

"The bonus program they offer is great. We've had mares ship in from South Dakota, Florida, Indiana, and Illinois. So people come from all over for the Pennsylvania program."

The Race Horse Development Trust Fund was created in 2017 in order to stabilize the state's racing industry, which was under constant threat of having necessary funds reallocated for other uses by the state government. In 2019 Pennsylvania was the only major state to show double-digit percentage growth in its foal crop between 2016-19.

"We are going to try to make (our stud fees) as appealing as we can for people to try and weather the storm and just entice people to keep breeding. It's really concerning. I know I can't make a living here

in Pennsylvania without the program in the Thoroughbred part of my business."

According to Eckenrode, people from all parts of the state visited the farm for the stallion show after he made some calls to industry officials.

"I called Brian Sanfratello (executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association) and Todd Mostoller (executive director of the Pennsylvania Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association) and I said, 'Listen, I'm having this stallion show. There's not a better place to rally the troops than the home of Smarty Jones.' Because when he was running, that was the point all the slot machine (proposals were) in legislation got approved.

"From Tuesday to Sunday, we all got together and worked our resources and we had between 400-500 people come through here—it was crazy. We had four different news channels here; we had reporters from all kinds of magazines; we had senators and legislators. I mean they were all here. Paul (O'Loughlin) was here from Northview, Glenn Brok was here from Diamond B, and Barb Wheeler (from WynOaks Farm)."

Located about four miles from Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, EquiStar is set on 60 acres and features several barns, pastures and paddocks, a round pen, an indoor arena, and an Equicizer for conditioning horses.

Eckenrode began showing pleasure horses and Arabians with his family in Lebanon, Pa., where he grew up. Halfway through his freshman year of high school, he had the opportunity to work on an Ara-



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EquiStar Farm is set on 60 acres about four miles from Penn National Race Course

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2020 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2020 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2020 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	WARRIOR'S REWARD (06, Medaglia d'Oro), WynOaks Farm	\$5,000	95/25	2/2	0/2	(Night Ops, \$273,400)	\$931,711	*566	18	1.04	1.34
2	JUMP START (99, A.P. Indy)	Died	90/25	0/0	0/0	(Its a Journey, \$55,910)	\$868,030	*1448	51	1.40	1.27
3	EL PADRINO (09, Pulpit)	Died, 2017	41/13	0/0	0/0	(Promised Storm, \$55,880)	\$498,906	177	3	1.35	1.27
4	FLASHBACK (10, Tapit), Diamond B Farm	\$3,500	50/11	0/0	0/0	(British Idiom, \$60,000)	\$484,917	201	1	1.10	1.30
5	POSEIDON'S WARRIOR (08, Speightstown), Equistar Training and Breeding	\$5,000	64/16	1/1	0/1	(Firenze Fire, \$150,000)	\$449,222	*210	2	0.94	1.12
6	BOISTEROUS (07, Distorted Humor), Diamond B Farm	\$3,000	30/9	0/0	0/0	(Sea of Liberty, \$63,360)	\$306,882	109	1	0.82	1.07
7	SMARTY JONES (01, Elusive Quality), Equistar Training and Breeding	\$3,500	33/7	0/0	0/0	(John Jones, \$49,827)	\$275,144	*807	27	1.38	1.71
8	DUBLIN (07, Afleet Alex)	N/A	25/8	0/0	0/0	(Awillaway, \$48,600)	\$268,791	177	3	1.10	1.15
9	ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin)	Pnsd	16/5	0/0	0/0	(Geebert, \$36,120)	\$170,129	*412	9	1.10	1.10
10	ICE BOX (07, Pulpit), Cabin Creek Farm	\$3,500	48/9	0/0	0/0	(Senor Blair, \$14,560)	\$157,807	296	2	0.63	0.99
11	DESERT PARTY (06, Street Cry), Godstone Farm	\$2,500	22/5	0/0	0/0	(Desert Lights, \$33,046)	\$153,981	248	6	0.96	1.32
12	UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN (07, Limehouse), Diamond B Farm	\$7,500	10/2	0/0	0/0	(Wait for it, \$58,160)	\$127,140	57	3	2.04	0.74
13	TALENT SEARCH (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm	\$2,500	20/1	0/0	0/0	(Final Shot, \$50,360)	\$118,197	*165	3	1.03	1.19
14	WEIGELIA (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm	Private	30/4	0/0	0/0	(Risque's Jewel, \$15,180)	\$116,318	*149	7	1.44	1.03
15	MEDALLIST (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA	\$2,000	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Flashy Kyem, \$40,250)	\$111,477	206	7	1.28	1.32

bian farm in Delaware, where he honed his horsemanship skills and learned about breeding horses.

"My interest in breeding started while I was in Delaware," he said. "At one point we were breeding more than 100 mares a year, and that's where I was exposed to the breeding side of it. Of course, with the Arabians we were allowed to do artificial insemination and shipped semen, so that was a big part of what we did there."

He met his wife in Delaware, and the two have been partners in the business since. The couple returned to Pennsylvania in 2003 and bought their farm the following year. Because they were close to

Penn National a natural progression into the Thoroughbred business began with a few lay-ups, and eventually they began training young horses that later ended up at the track.

"I think last year we bred somewhere between 40-50 (mares)," Eckenrode said. "We are gradually gathering a bigger pool of clientele to reach out to.

"The bug hit us," Eckenrode said. "We decided to get a few of our own to run. I joke that the racehorse thing is more addicting than drugs; it just doesn't hurt your body unless you fall off."

That "bug" has led to a small broodmare operation, a training program that

includes breaking young horses, and a stallion operation. Eckenrode stays busy throughout the year, breaking yearlings in the fall. Those yearlings typically head south to training centers at the beginning of the year after he has put a good foundation on them and teaches them "to be good citizens" with basic ground work and manners.

Eckenrode also continues to dabble with show and sport horses. He said he still has a handful of clients who have been with him since he was in high school.

"Smarty Jones is an approved Quarter Horse sire this year, so we will be doing some shipped semen on some Quarter Horses for him as well," he said.

Pennsylvania-bred Smarty Jones, a 19-year-old son of Elusive Quality, has been a Keystone State star on and off the track. He was a flagship for the state when he was campaigned by his breeder Pat Chapman's Someday Farm and trainer John Servis to six straight victories in 2004 that culminated with grade 1 wins in that year's Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes (G1). On his way to Triple Crown glory, he was run down in the stretch of the Belmont Stakes (G1) and beaten just a length by Marylou Whitney's Birdstone.

With eight wins from nine starts, Smarty Jones was retired to Three Chimneys Farm in Kentucky for the 2005



COURTESY OF EQUISTAR

The shedrow of one of the barns at EquiStar

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 2016 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through March 15, 2020. As supplied to BloodHorse by The Jockey Club Information Systems, Inc., earnings 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 \$25,300 or 50% of the 2018 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 53% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 85%. 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. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

Uptowncharlybrown!

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- 1** The leading sire in all of North America by AEI/CI Ratio:
2.06/0.77 – MOVING UP MARES
- 2** UTCB-sired runners combine to be second leading PA-breeder awards winner in 2019 with \$426,811, behind Northview PA
- 3** Average earnings of \$9,281 per start ranks him third in all of North America*, trailing only War Front (\$9,764) & Tapit (\$9,472)
UTCB Stud: TOP 1% owner standings for 3 consecutive years

#1 in the Mid-Atlantic in all these categories*
See and compare

Average Earnings per start & AEI/CI dwarfs all other Mid-Atlantic Stallions!*

Stallion	Stud Fee	#crops	wins/starts	AE/starter	AE/start	2019 AE/runner	AEI/CI
Uptowncharlybrown	\$7,500 \$5,000 PA mares	4	19%	\$86,839	\$9,281	\$49,346	2.06/0.77
<i>Jump Start</i>	<i>\$10,000</i> <i>deceased</i>	14	16%	\$87,385	\$4,532	\$32,100	1.40/1.28
Great Notion	\$7,500	12	17%	\$82,128	\$5,294	\$32,291	1.51/1.21
Warrior's Reward	\$5,000	6	14%	\$52,387	\$3,676	\$18,982	1.03/1.34
Friesan Fire	\$4,000	5	13%	\$64,743	\$4,042	\$26,603	1.19/1.25

*Through 1-30-20; stallions with 50 or more starters



\$7,500 LFSN
\$5,000
to PA-foaling mares

26% Stakes Horses

Sire of MSW

MIDTOWNCHARLYBROWN

\$489,048; GSW **DIXIE**

SERENADE \$313,350;

SW MIDNIGHTCHARLY

\$349,808; SP **Wait for It**

\$321,078; SP **Charlybrown's**

Rose \$152,168; SP **Lula's**

Roadrunner \$88,520.

Diamond B Farm

Glenn and Becky Brok

DiamondBFarmPA.com

Mohrsville, PA

Inquiries to Bob Hutt

732-241-6606

BobHutt99@aol.com

www.utcbstud.com

2020 LEADING SIRES IN MARYLAND



For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2020 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2020 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	FRIESAN FIRE (06, A.P. Indy), Country Life Farm	\$4,000	46/12	0/0	0/0	(Hell of Afire, \$61,860)	\$408,970	232	6	1.19	1.26
2	GREAT NOTION (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station	\$7,500	34/14	0/0	0/0	(Anna's Bandit, \$40,000)	\$390,692	377	22	1.51	1.21
3	BANDBOX (08, Tapit), Northview Stallion Station	\$2,500	20/9	1/1	1/1	(Artful Splatter, \$78,822)	\$286,445	82	2	1.21	1.26
4	SUPER NINETY NINE (10, Pulpit), Country Life Farm	\$3,000	25/7	0/0	0/0	(Little Miss Raelyn, \$52,472)	\$275,678	83	0	1.06	1.36
5	GOLDEN LAD (10, Medaglia d'Oro), Northview Stallion Station	\$5,000	18/3	0/0	0/0	(Cinnabunny, \$48,600)	\$236,877	106	2	1.51	1.30
6	STREET MAGICIAN (04, Street Cry), Legacy Farm Stallions Studg at Roland Farm	\$2,000	21/7	0/0	0/0	(Magical Luna, \$28,379)	\$185,238	142	4	1.10	1.27
7	BOURBON COURAGE (09, Lion Heart), Anchor & Hope Farm	\$5,000	15/4	0/0	0/0	(Double Shot, \$45,000)	\$180,832	73	1	1.09	1.15
8	SEVILLE (GER) (08, Galileo) Died		23/3	0/0	0/0	(O K Game On, \$39,840)	\$145,595	*201	2	0.57	1.26
9	PETIONVILLE (92, Seeking the Gold), Murmur Farm	\$4,000	15/3	0/0	0/0	(Graves Island, \$51,420)	\$114,854	*760	42	1.25	1.28
10	OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Shamrock Farm	\$2,500	13/4	0/0	0/0	(Flirtation Walk, \$16,470)	\$111,996	*572	21	1.33	1.12

breeding season with a first-year fee of \$100,000. He returned to Pennsylvania for the 2010 breeding season at Ghost Ridge Farm. He was later moved to Northview PA until 2015 when he was returned to Kentucky's Calumet Farm.

From 2015-18 Smarty Jones also shuttled to Uruguay, where he sired the country's champion 2-year-old filly Bamba Y Bamba. But upon completion of the Southern Hemisphere deal with Calumet Farm, Chapman decided it was time to bring him home to EquiStar.

"Several Pennsylvania breeders have been talking with me the past couple of years about bringing him back," Chapman said in September 2018. "Working with Calumet has been fabulous, but the Kentucky breeders really are not interested. Because so many people in Pennsylvania have been asking me about him, I thought now was the time to do it."

From 13 crops of racing age, Smarty Jones has sired 35 stakes winners, including grade 1 winner Centralintelligence, and

three champions. John Jones is the sire's leading earner for 2020 with a last out win Feb. 22 in a Laurel Park allowance optional claiming race following a second in the Jan. 18 Jennings Stakes at the Maryland track.

"Smarty Jones is doing fantastic. It's amazing—he acts like a 3-year-old," Eckenrode said. "He's just so useful and full of himself. He's a character. He's a great horse."

"'Smarty' is the most popular (of our stallions). To this day he still has the most amazing fan club you've ever seen in your life. The last few days, going to the mailbox it's been nothing but birthday cards for him. He still gets birthday cards, Christmas cards, and Christmas presents from people we've never even met. And Mrs. Chapman is such a wonderful lady. She's amazing for the sport, and she's just a great person herself."

The other star of the EquiStar barn is Poseidon's Warrior, a son of Speightstown. His son Firenze Fire earned grade 1 status in the Champagne Stakes as a 2-year-old and most recently won the Feb. 15 General

George Stakes (G3) at Laurel Park.

"We're real excited to have Poseidon's Warrior here," said Eckenrode.

"(Firenze Fire) is a really nice horse and just the hope of being able to reproduce some of those is exciting in itself."

"That's an interesting story with Firenze Fire—everybody told Ron Lombardi (of Mr. Amore Stables), 'Don't breed that mare (Firenze Fire's dam My Every Wish); don't breed that mare.' She only started a few times. I don't think she ever won a race—she only made (\$9,600). She was in Florida; Poseidon's Warrior was in Florida at the time, so that's when he decided to breed to him. And then pops out Firenze Fire, so you just don't know."

"We have a nice variety of horses. With 'Poseidon,' that horse just looks like a sprinter, he ran like a sprinter, and he offers a little speed-ball package."

Both Smarty Jones and Poseidon's Warrior, who has two stakes winners from four crops of racing age, are among the top 10 sires in Pennsylvania.

Grade 2 winner and 2009 Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) runner-up Crown of Thorns has been with EquiStar the longest. The 15-year-old son of Repent has been standing at EquiStar for three seasons and was the first stallion Eckenrode obtained.

"I was at one of the sales in Kentucky when I was introduced to Matt Lyons who used to work for Woodford (Thoroughbreds)," Eckenrode explained. "We got talking because there was a really good Crown of Thorns filly that ran at Presque Isle by the name of Crown and Sugar. I knew (Crown of Thorns) did well on the synthetic surface as well...I just thought it might be a nice horse we could get in on and offer the Pennsylvania breeders a



KIM PRATT

New stallion Airoforce being shown at the EquiStar stallion show

2020 LEADING SIRES IN WEST VIRGINIA



For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2020 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2020 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	FIBER SONDE (05, Unbridled's Song), Beau Ridge Farm	\$1,000	47/14	0/0	0/0	(Muad'dib, \$33,525)	\$375,315	275	12	1.34	0.80
2	WINDSOR CASTLE (98, Lord Carson), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$2,000	51/14	0/0	0/0	(Rush to the Castle, \$37,300)	\$369,568	387	15	1.00	1.00
3	DESPITE THE ODDS (06, Speightstown), Bybee Road Farm on Avonwood	\$1,500	33/13	0/0	0/0	(Always Talking, \$33,984)	\$322,113	79	0	0.99	1.22
4	CHARITABLE MAN (06, Lemon Drop Kid)	Died, 2016	50/12	0/0	0/0	(Longstorylucy, \$23,909)	\$293,575	189	2	0.84	1.04
5	LIMEHOUSE (01, Grand Slam), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,500	41/8	0/0	0/0	(Zehavi, \$17,525)	\$176,508	*474	23	1.13	1.12
6	DENIS OF CORK (05, Harlan's Holiday), Taylor Mountain Farm	\$750	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Im a Tricky One, \$20,575)	\$100,297	*140	6	0.72	1.01
7	EXCLUSIVE QUALITY (03, Elusive Quality)	Died, 2019	26/6	0/0	0/0	(Tomarie, \$23,460)	\$98,477	350	7	0.89	1.06
8	SWISS YODELER (94, Eastern Echo), O'Sullivan Farms	\$2,000	13/5	0/0	0/0	(Swiss Info, \$16,610)	\$87,283	788	15	0.96	1.02
9	MACHEN (08, Distorted Humor), Baird Racing Stable	Private	15/5	0/0	0/0	(True Purpose, \$17,715)	\$84,585	80	0	0.61	0.69



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Airoforce, by Colonel John, won at the grade 2 level at Keeneland in 2015

horse that could possibly run on all three surfaces in the state.

“Crown of Thorns, unfortunately, gets overlooked a lot because he has a more old-fashioned pedigree, but that horse really excels on the grass. His babies do extremely well on the synthetic and the turf, and he will still get you dirt runners.”

The newest additions, grade 2 winner and 2015 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1T) runner-up Airoforce (Colonel John—Chocolate Pop, by Cuvee) and grade 3 winner Uncle Vinny (Uncle Mo—Arealhotlover, by Untutttable), recently entered stud and have not yet had their first runners. Uncle Vinny's first 2-year-olds will race this year.

Eckenrode aims to give breeders in the state options through his stallion program and hopes to continue a successful breeding program in Pennsylvania for years to come.

Grade 2 Stakes Winner at 2 and 4

BLOFELD

Undefeated at 2

By leading sire
QUALITY ROAD

Earned \$745,420

UNDEFEATED in three starts at 2, winning a Saratoga maiden special and the **Grade 2 Futurity** (6 fur. in 1:09.49) and **Grade 2 Nashua S** (at 1 mile). Stakes-placed at 3. At 4, won the **Grade 2 Gulfstream Park H** going a mile, scoring a 103 Beyer.

From a sterling Ned Evans family that yields **Horses of the Year GUN RUNNER** and **SAINT LIAM**. The same venerable breeder responsible for his sire, **QUALITY ROAD**.

First foals are yearlings of 2020.

\$4,000 LFSN

Quality Road—Storm Minstrel, by Storm Cat
BC/MM nominated



Darlington, MD 21034
Mrs. E. Allen Murray Jr.
(410) 836-3491

murmurfarm@verizon.net • www.MurmurFarm.com

