

Southwest

ARIZONA ARKANSAS COLORADO KANSAS LOUISIANA
MISSOURI NEW MEXICO OKLAHOMA TEXAS

Oaks Trail



Untapable breaks from the rail
in the 2014 Fair Grounds Oaks

HODGES PHOTOGRAPHY/JAMIE HERNANDEZ

The road to the Kentucky Oaks of late runs through Fair Grounds

BY EVAN HAMMONDS

THE YEAR 2020 was definitely one to expect the unexpected. The insular world of Thoroughbred breeding and racing was no exception: Breeding sheds remained open through its season during the late winter and spring while most other businesses shut down, and racing was able to continue as most other sports came to a halt during the spring and summer.

And, to top it off, the 2020 Longines Kentucky Oaks (G1)—run

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As a 3-year-old, he won the Tamarac Stakes at Gulfstream Park by more than eight lengths and then rolled to a 4 ½-length win in the Grade 3 Pat Day Mile Stakes at Churchill Downs, earning a 102 Beyer for a blazing time of 1:34.18.

Ranked #6 in North America for all first-crop sires, **COMPETITIVE EDGE** has total progeny earnings of nearly \$3.8 million through late December. His first two crops include 12 stakes horses, among them are Saratoga stakes winners **FIERCE LADY** and **MY ITALIAN RABBI**, Grade 2- and Grade 3-placed **Reagan's Edge** and Grade 3-placed **Edgeway**.

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2020 LEADING SIRES IN LOUISIANA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2020 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	GEMOLOGIST (09, Tiznow), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne	\$4,000	213/102	3/4	1/3	(Horologist, \$345,334)	\$3,963,914	*648	14	1.08	1.28
2	COURT VISION (05, Gulch), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne	\$2,500	106/43	1/1	1/1	(Court Return, \$206,875)	\$2,037,903	*370	8	1.13	1.33
3	STAR GUITAR (05, Quiet American), Clear Creek Stud	\$7,500	87/48	1/1	1/1	(Guitar Tribute, \$96,360)	\$1,618,955	156	9	1.11	1.04
4	HALF OURS (03, Unbridled's Song), Clear Creek Stud	\$3,000	100/41	1/1	1/1	(Our Lost Love, \$157,183)	\$1,384,667	*521	22	0.93	1.09
5	DAAHER (04, Awesome Again), Circle H Farms	\$3,000	62/37	0/0	0/0	(Gypsy Janie, \$99,132)	\$1,358,768	174	11	1.25	1.18
6	CUSTOM FOR CARLOS (06, More Than Ready), Clear Creek Stud	\$2,500	113/36	1/2	1/1	(Monte Man, \$169,512)	\$1,282,249	276	6	0.77	1.02
7	ASTROLOGY (08, A.P. Indy), Acadiana Equine@Copper Crowne	\$2,500	96/39	1/1	1/1	(Big Time, \$92,704)	\$1,244,748	*295	5	0.83	1.15
8	COUNTRY DAY (06, Speightstown), Peach Lane Farms	\$2,500	63/36	1/1	0/1	(Vintage Hollywood, \$126,098)	\$1,228,905	123	3	1.04	0.99
9	BIND (08, Pulpit), Red River Farms	\$1,500	51/22	2/4	2/2	(Mirabeau, \$105,350)	\$861,485	100	3	0.73	1.10
10	SECRET CIRCLE (09, Eddington), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	36/22	0/0	0/0	(Our Secret Agent, \$131,958)	\$802,831	58	0	1.05	0.96
11	MY PAL CHARLIE (05, Indian Charlie), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	49/19	0/0	0/0	(Palvera, \$74,000)	\$645,051	205	2	0.67	0.99
12	APRIORITY (07, Grand Slam), Elite Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	31/18	1/2	1/1	(Snowball, \$104,800)	\$633,368	70	2	0.80	0.74
13	GREELEY'S GALAXY (02, Mr. Greeley)	Died, 2017	59/14	1/2	1/1	(Mariah's Galaxy, \$121,000)	\$610,564	202	3	0.91	0.99
14	FLASHPOINT (08, Pomeroy), Le Mesa Stallions	\$1,500	50/21	0/0	0/0	(Impressed, \$56,724)	\$583,866	93	0	0.66	0.74
15	GUILT TRIP (09, Pulpit), Red River Farms	\$2,000	42/17	0/0	0/0	(Freedomfi, \$54,625)	\$541,246	80	2	0.65	1.29
16	REDDING COLLIERY (06, Mineshaft)	Died, 2018	39/15	0/0	0/0	(My Pepper Ann, \$52,005)	\$528,179	101	1	0.75	1.23
17	D'WILDCAT (98, Forest Wildcat), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$2,500	57/19	0/0	0/0	(She's Gone d'Wild, \$48,672)	\$513,166	*502	16	1.19	1.17
18	CLOSING ARGUMENT (02, Successful Appeal), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$3,000	40/13	0/0	0/0	(Quikfast N Hurry, \$101,600)	\$449,616	*505	19	1.13	1.09
19	LEWIS MICHAEL (03, Rahy), Circle H Farms	\$2,500	29/9	0/0	0/0	(Frost Or Frillery, \$167,350)	\$447,867	168	4	0.78	1.02
20	MASS MEDIA (01, Touch Gold)	N/A	34/14	0/0	0/0	(Kris T., \$66,145)	\$404,291	*241	5	0.97	1.03
21	RUN PRODUCTION (00, Saint Ballado), Whispering Oaks Farm	\$1,500	31/14	0/0	0/0	(Man Camp, \$78,580)	\$352,078	252	10	0.94	0.87
22	DUE DATE (05, El Prado), Peach Lane Farms	\$2,000	27/12	0/0	0/0	(Pinch Assault, \$45,360)	\$308,635	94	2	0.57	0.82
23	PEPPERED CAT (00, Tabasco Cat), Clear Creek Stud	\$2,500	33/17	0/0	0/0	(Lotsa Pepper, \$48,030)	\$299,780	113	1	0.75	0.61
24	CALIBRACHOA (07, Southern Image), Red River Farms	\$2,000	18/8	1/1	1/1	(Southern Beauty, \$56,044)	\$278,264	47	1	0.67	1.28
25	INTERACTIF (07, Broken Vow), Red River Farms	\$2,000	31/10	0/0	0/0	(Averys Miss, \$42,268)	\$257,349	93	1	0.63	0.96
26	TIZ THE ONE (07, Tiznow)	N/A	23/7	0/0	0/0	(Tiz One Fee, \$50,360)	\$238,649	84	1	0.58	0.88
27	YANKEE GENTLEMAN (99, Storm Cat), Le Mesa Stallions	\$2,500	26/8	0/0	0/0	(Yankee Seven, \$44,095)	\$225,987	*545	21	1.01	1.14
28	TENPINS (98, Smart Strike)	N/A	25/8	0/0	0/0	(Tenpins Tempo, \$57,219)	\$220,014	*397	8	0.83	0.99
29	RULER'S COURT (01, Doneraile Court), Holly Hill Farm	\$1,000	14/6	0/0	0/0	(Big Boy Dave Rex, \$51,140)	\$213,645	142	0	0.62	0.68
30	NOWNOWNOW (05, Whywhywhy), Holly Hill Farm	Private	17/8	0/0	0/0	(Lil Ashley B., \$49,725)	\$209,770	44	0	0.39	0.68
31	GOLD TRIBUTE (94, Mr. Prospector)	N/A	14/7	0/0	0/0	(Gilded Apple, \$37,240)	\$190,528	*502	14	0.94	1.03
32	SABERCAT (09, Bluegrass Cat), Averett Farm	\$3,500	15/7	0/0	0/0	(Saber Cut, \$81,760)	\$186,075	37	0	0.53	0.75
33	TIME BANDIT (96, Time for a Change), Averett Farm	\$1,000	21/7	0/0	0/0	(War Bandit, \$34,625)	\$178,393	308	4	0.83	0.86
34	FOREFATHERS (04, Gone West)	N/A	27/9	0/0	0/0	(Zenucci, \$35,060)	\$166,942	193	1	0.55	1.00
35	AWESOME BET (08, Awesome Again), Peach Lane Farms	\$1,500	9/3	1/1	1/1	(Net a Bear, \$76,810)	\$159,911	17	1	1.16	0.85

in September instead of May—was won by a 3-year-old filly who did not prep at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots. Shedares-the-devil pulled off the upset in this year's Labor Day weekend Kentucky Oaks, defeating favorite Swiss Skydiver...who earlier in the year had run third in the Fair Grounds' Rachel Alexandra Stakes Presented by Fasig-Tipton (G2).

A non-Louisiana-based runner winning Churchill Downs' big dance for fillies seemingly hasn't happened much over the last 15 years. During that span... well, 16 years...eight winners of the Kentucky Oaks had made an earlier start in their sophomore campaign at the New Orleans track.

The list includes Kentucky Oaks winners Summerly (2005), Proud Spell (2008), Rachel Alexandra (2009), Believe You Can (2012), Untapable (2014), Lovely Maria (2015), Monomoy Girl (2018), and Serengeti Empress (2019).

Hall of Famers—and Kentucky Oaks winners—Rachel Alexandra and Silverbulletday (1999) now have their names

tied to races at Fair Grounds that are part of a three-race series to prepare fillies for the “run for the lilies” on the First Friday in May (will be April 30 in 2021) at Churchill Downs.

What makes Fair Grounds a runaway for



Trainer Larry Jones has won three Kentucky Oaks with fillies that prepped at Fair Grounds

runaway success for one of the premier races for 3-year-old fillies in the United States?

“A common denominator among the fillies discussed here is the winning trainers race at the Fair Grounds and stable here. That's not a coincidence,” said Tom Amoss, trainer of Serengeti Empress. The daughter of Alternation won the 2019 Kentucky Oaks off a victory in the Rachel Alexandra Stakes but had been unplaced in the Twin-Spires.com Fair Grounds Oaks (G2).

“Fair Grounds has long had a history for being a good track to winter at,” Amoss said. “And winter is a key word because a lot of tracks get hit with harsh weather during the winter and it's difficult to train on a consistent basis, but the Fair Grounds has really done well with its racetrack during the winter. It's ideally where you want to be.

“Also, if you put any credence into longevity of racehorses as they mature and get older and track surfaces—and I certainly do—that's one of the big attractions of coming down to the Fair Grounds with your young horses that are 2 in November

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2021 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	JUSTIN PHILLIP (08, First Samurai)	N/A	110/58	2/2	1/2	(Just Might, \$168,275)	\$1,945,729	201	7	1.02	1.08
2	MORNING LINE (07, Tiznow)	Died, 2019	88/34	2/2	1/2	(Rowdy Yates, \$146,158)	\$1,612,456	*182	7	1.07	1.17
3	ATTILA'S STORM (02, Forest Wildcat), A & A Ranch	\$4,000	91/50	4/4	4/4	(Aisle Runner, \$153,133)	\$1,424,900	312	22	1.02	0.80
4	SOUTHWESTERN HEAT (04, Gone West)	Died, 2017	36/15	1/1	1/1	(Wheredoesthecashgo, \$92,943)	\$475,502	*121	6	0.74	0.94
5	ABSTRACTION (10, Pulpit), Doubletree Farm	\$3,500	44/22	0/0	0/0	(Evacuee, \$57,643)	\$436,836	79	1	0.78	0.96
6	INDIAN FIREWATER (07, Indian Charlie)	Died, 2017	44/19	1/1	1/1	(Comic Hot Toddy, \$78,364)	\$432,519	105	4	0.61	1.03
7	SHAME ON CHARLIE (04, Indian Charlie), Ernest Riggs Farm	Private	17/10	1/1	1/1	(Effort N Results, \$136,560)	\$415,042	35	5	1.24	0.60
8	QUINTON'S GOLD (97, Carson City)	N/A	33/15	0/0	0/0	(Orogrande, \$52,905)	\$377,888	162	10	1.08	0.82
9	READ THE FOOTNOTES (01, Smoke Glacken)	N/A	32/11	0/0	0/0	(Casino Queen, \$48,847)	\$365,935	*355	19	1.22	1.11
10	DIABOLICAL (03, Artax), A & A Ranch	\$4,000	38/16	0/0	0/0	(Next Affair, \$49,375)	\$310,631	177	12	0.89	0.92
11	LAUGH TRACK (09, Distorted Humor)	N/A	39/11	0/0	0/0	(Ima Saint Too, \$35,896)	\$255,435	89	1	0.41	0.99
12	MARKING (12, Bernardini), A & A Ranch	\$3,500	13/4	1/1	1/1	(Delbert Too, \$122,535)	\$236,336	29	1	0.94	1.14
13	RIGHT RIGGER (06, Unbridled's Song), Hunter Creek Farms	\$3,500	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Rig Time, \$170,000)	\$201,164	25	4	1.52	0.52
14	FUSAICHI ZENON (JPN) (97, Sunday Silence)	N/A	18/12	0/0	0/0	(Strawberry Whisky, \$25,520)	\$166,885	125	4	0.62	0.80
15	MR. GOLD MOVER (08, Mr. Greeley), Bar Y Equine	\$1,500	23/8	0/0	0/0	(Peggy B Fast, \$30,373)	\$163,745	70	2	0.63	0.85
16	ROLL HENNESSY ROLL (00, Hennessy), A & A Ranch	\$2,500	26/8	0/0	0/0	(Let It Roll, \$28,785)	\$152,992	186	12	0.90	0.93
17	STELLAR RAIN (08, Storm Cat), TNL Farm	\$1,200	12/5	0/0	0/0	(Susans Violette, \$60,000)	\$146,890	34	1	0.77	0.88
18	MR. TRIESTE (01, Old Trieste), McKenna Thoroughbreds	\$1,500	10/6	0/0	0/0	(Jet N G, \$46,325)	\$127,957	56	1	0.64	0.77
19	DOME (98, Storm Cat)	N/A	12/4	1/1	1/1	(Thunder Dome, \$102,200)	\$126,396	262	7	0.70	0.79
20	MONTEREY JAZZ (04, Thunderello)	N/A	21/5	0/0	0/0	(Ancient Land, \$70,625)	\$124,845	47	1	0.43	0.63
21	MCKENNA'S JUSTICE (07, Medaglia d'Oro)	Died, 2017	15/6	0/0	0/0	(McGlorious, \$42,800)	\$114,590	27	0	0.73	0.61
22	SONG OF NAVARONE (04, Sultry Song)	N/A	16/2	0/0	0/0	(Blazing Navarone, \$60,000)	\$99,294	44	1	0.77	0.71
23	DELHOMME (10, Dixie Union)	N/A	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Deleterious, \$27,416)	\$97,945	21	0	0.66	0.97
24	EXCESSIVE PASSION (07, Vronsky)	N/A	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Chary Ride, \$68,460)	\$79,937	15	0	0.54	0.60
25	SILVER WAGON (01, Wagon Limit), Hunter Creek Farms	\$2,500	18/5	0/0	0/0	(Devon's Choice, \$17,170)	\$79,299	104	1	0.65	1.09
26	CHIPSHOT (08, Peace Rules), Doubletree Farm	\$2,500	6/2	1/1	1/1	(Line Call, \$42,950)	\$67,617	10	1	0.33	0.47
27	UNBRIDLED TRUST (04, Unbridled's Song), Hourigan Horse Farm	\$1,200	8/4	0/0	0/0	(Hennessy's Squirt, \$25,910)	\$61,541	22	0	0.42	0.75
28	SLEW'S POT OF GOLD (99, Slew's Royalty)	N/A	6/2	0/0	0/0	(Blue Bees, \$31,666)	\$61,305	19	1	0.67	0.74
29	SOURCE (98, Montbrook)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Shining Source, \$45,230)	\$54,479	51	1	0.73	0.64
30	MUSAITER (10, Medaglia d'Oro), Bar Y Equine	\$300	13/3	0/0	0/0	(Rational d'Oro, \$20,550)	\$54,391	36	0	0.20	0.66

and train into 3-year-olds as you work toward the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks.”

Amoss, a Louisiana native who took out his trainer's license in 1987, was named to the Fair Grounds Hall of Fame in 1998.

“It's a great place to get horses ready. The weather is usually good; it's not too hot and darn sure it isn't too cold, and they have a really good surface,” said trainer Larry Jones. “I think it keeps your horses sound. It's just a great place to prep them.”

Jones should know. He's won three Kentucky Oaks with fillies that wintered in New Orleans.

Fair Grounds staple Wayne Catalano, a top trainer who hasn't won the Kentucky Oaks but has run second, is succinct in his answer.

“You have a good surface, a good program, and a good selection of races,” he said. “And you have good weather. Those are a lot of good things to get us to develop

a young horse. You have to have somewhere to run them, and you have a great series at Fair Grounds. You can train up to a race in good fashion without having a break in between with weather. It always helps when you don't have to have an interruption in training.”

All three of Jones' wins came with fillies raced by Airdrie Stud's Breton C. Jones and all wintered at Fair Grounds. Jones and Jones won with Proud Spell, Believe You Can, and Lovely Maria.

“All of my Oaks winners have prepped there, with Proud Spell using that as her 'get ready.' Even Lovely Maria, even though we didn't run in the Fair Grounds Oaks, but we had run her in the Rachel Alexandra, and she did prep there all winter,” Jones said. “It's a great, great spot, and it's a combination of things that help you get a filly ready.

“It's a track that drains well. You can have a real muddy track one afternoon and

have a real nice track to train on the next morning,” he continued. “It handles a lot of water, so weather doesn't usually keep you from getting your preps in when you want to, and they do have a good series to get a horse ready for that. They have three very good races that lead you to that area (the Kentucky Oaks).

“The competition gets your horses fit, but it's not so stiff a competition where you have to run your eyeballs out every race that they are in. You can come out of there with a little bit left in your tank.”

The three-race series at Fair Grounds starts with the one-mile, 70-yard Silverbulletday Stakes that is traditionally run in late January. It is followed by the Rachel Alexandra Stakes (this year Presented by Fasig-Tipton at 1 1/16 miles in mid February, followed by the Fair Grounds Oaks, also at 1 1/16 miles, run traditionally on the meet's closing day.

This year the Silverbulletday is slated



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2020 LEADING SIRE IN OKLAHOMA



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1	FLAT OUT (06, Flatter), Mighty Acres	\$3,000	212/106	5/7	3/5	(Flat Out Speed, \$230,262)	\$4,373,107	404	9	1.08	1.15
2	SUCCESSFUL APPEAL (96, Valid Appeal)	Pnsd	98/49	0/0	0/0	(Jeannie's Beepbeep, \$133,088)	\$1,887,990	*831	56	1.61	1.40
3	LIAISON (09, Indian Charlie), Mighty Acres	\$2,500	151/61	1/1	0/1	(Bronx Beauty, \$150,850)	\$1,743,645	293	3	0.72	1.16
4	WILBURN (08, Bernardini), River Oaks Farms	\$2,500	89/35	1/2	1/1	(Circus Rings, \$162,690)	\$1,049,479	*335	9	0.76	1.08
5	CALEB'S POSSE (08, Posse), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	48/27	2/3	0/2	(Honor Way, \$271,500)	\$1,045,435	*118	3	1.12	1.12
6	ATREIDES (11, Medaglia d'Oro), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	62/35	1/1	1/1	(Lookin At Justice, \$82,078)	\$1,017,657	111	3	0.87	1.34
7	POLLARD'S VISION (01, Carson City)	Pnsd	61/20	1/1	1/1	(Visionary Ruler, \$88,069)	\$870,628	*783	21	1.15	1.15
8	SHAKIN IT UP (10, Midnight Lute), Caines Stallion Station	\$1,000	67/29	0/0	0/0	(Bray, \$92,525)	\$813,698	*142	1	0.70	1.08
9	EUROEARS (04, Langfuhr), WestWin Farms	\$1,500	61/25	1/1	1/1	(Three Chords, \$85,590)	\$791,135	175	5	0.81	0.82
10	ORATORY (02, Pulpit)	Died, 2016	26/15	1/2	1/1	(Redatory, \$135,878)	\$514,442	*226	7	1.09	1.11
11	MAGNA GRADUATE (02, Honor Grades), Brewster Ranch	\$2,500	39/15	1/2	1/1	(She's All Wolfe, \$185,094)	\$503,461	*250	9	0.91	0.99
12	LATENT HEAT (03, Maria's Mon), River Oaks Farms	\$2,000	36/17	1/1	1/1	(Northern Playboy, \$78,000)	\$485,554	*368	8	0.85	1.07
13	MR. NIGHTLINGER (04, Indian Charlie)	Died, 2017	41/15	0/0	0/0	(Do You Believe, \$48,341)	\$411,882	200	4	0.59	0.83
14	THE VISUALISER (03, Giant's Causeway), Kirten Farms	\$1,000	19/8	1/4	1/1	(Welder, \$230,649)	\$387,525	87	2	0.85	0.84
15	BACKSTABBER (06, Elusive Quality), M. Gerald Ball	\$1,000	12/5	1/2	1/1	(Quality Rocket, \$172,442)	\$307,763	19	1	0.93	0.40
16	KIPLING (96, Gulch)	Died, 2019	24/10	0/0	0/0	(Gospel Abe, \$40,758)	\$243,445	364	9	0.94	0.87
17	DOCTOR CHIT (09, War Front), Royal Vista Ranches	\$2,500	21/8	0/0	0/0	(Sedaris, \$56,234)	\$239,497	50	0	0.47	0.72
18	SPECIAL RATE (00, Pulpit), River Oaks Farm	\$2,000	20/9	0/0	0/0	(No Deal, \$60,614)	\$234,758	193	4	0.59	0.64
19	BLUESKIESNRAINBOWS (09, English Channel), Sunlight Farm	\$2,500	13/5	0/0	0/0	(Redskiesatnight, \$91,785)	\$214,334	24	0	0.73	1.32
20	CHITZO (05, Forest Wildcat), River Oaks Farms	\$1,500	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Pretty Britches, \$69,340)	\$146,570	61	2	0.77	0.89

for Jan. 16, followed by the Feb. 13 Rachel Alexandra and the March 20 Fair Grounds Oaks. That gives horsemen six weeks to prepare for the Kentucky Oaks. The first two legs of the series can also springboard a filly to Keeneland's Central Bank Ashland Stakes (G1), traditionally run the first weekend in April to put four weeks between their last race and the Kentucky Oaks.

Adding to a bit of historical confusion, the current Rachel Alexandra was originally named the Davona Dale Stakes, but renamed for Silverbulletday in 2001. After Rachel Alexandra's historic Horse of the Year run in 2009, the race was re-named in her honor. The Silverbulletday name appears in the track's first race of the filly series.

Regardless of the name of the stakes, the quality of horses competing at Fair Grounds throughout the meet is also a factor in sorting the wheat from the chaff during the early part of the 3-year-old season.

"They have a very good series here that leads to the Kentucky Oaks. A three-race, two-turn series that finishes up with the Fair Grounds Oaks gives you ample time between that and the Kentucky Oaks;



Louisiana native Tom Amoss won the 2019 Rachel Alexandra and Oaks with Serengeti Empress

I think that plays into it as well," Amoss added. "The Oaks usually draws a very good field of horses. When you look at those races and the stables that are down here with their good horses—whether they be colts or fillies—you are getting a representation of some of the best fillies in the country."

Jones' run began in 2008 with Proud Spell, who shipped to Fair Grounds after running second to eventual 2-year-old filly champion Indian Blessing in the 2007 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) at Monmouth Park. She ran into Indian Blessing again in the Feb. 9 Silverbulletday (now the Rachel Alexandra) and was second by a length in a seven-horse field. Proud Spell turned the tables in the Fair Grounds Oaks.

"I think the Fair Grounds Oaks was a four-horse field, and we were facing the champion 2-year-old filly in the country in Indian Blessing," Jones recalled. "She beat us in the first race, which was our first race off the Breeders' Cup, so we were coming in off a pretty good layoff. But that was

Special Note For Sire Lists:

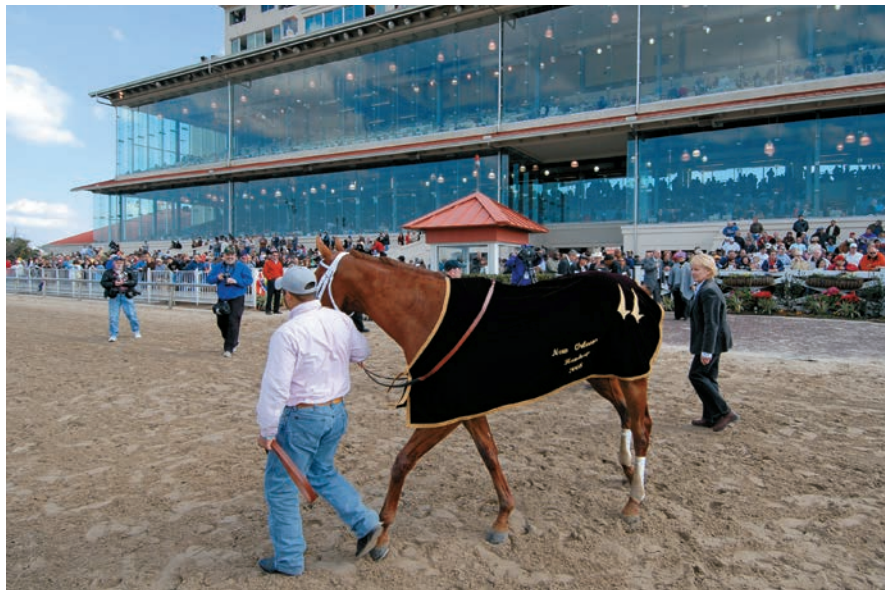
For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the selected region (stallions that have died or been exported prior to the 2015 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available Northern Hemisphere statistics through December 20, 2020. As supplied to *The Blood-Horse* 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 2019 is \$25,300 or 53% of the 2019 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 N.H.-foaled black-type stakes winners worldwide. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners include all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

by design; we wanted to have three preps in her before the (Kentucky) Oaks. The timing was good, and we also went to the Ashland at Keeneland (and finished third). At that time there was enough time...we could do them all."

And Proud Spell did it all, winning the Kentucky Oaks, Delaware Oaks (G2), and Alabama Stakes (G1) at Saratoga on her way to an Eclipse Award as champion 3-year-old filly.

Believe You Can also had a good break before embarking on a run at Fair Grounds. After a sixth-place performance in the Oct. 30, 2011, Pocahontas Stakes (G2) at Churchill, she drew off to win the Silverbulletday Jan. 21, 2012. After a disappointing fourth in the Feb. 25 Rachel Alexandra, she was a head winner over Summer Applause in the Fair Grounds Oaks. That set the table for a 13-1 victory over Broadway's Alibi in the Kentucky Oaks under Rosie Napravnik.

With Lovely Maria in 2015, Jones got



Proud Spell after winning the 2008 Fair Grounds Oaks

a pair of starts into her at Fair Grounds, winning an allowance optional claiming race in late January before running second to stablemate I'm a Chatterbox in the Feb. 21 Rachel Alexandra. I'm a Chatterbox stayed in New Orleans to win the

Fair Grounds Oaks while Lovely Maria shipped to Kentucky to take the Ashland as the 9-5 favorite. The daughter of Majesticperfection went on to add the Oaks as a 6-1 shot under veteran rider Kerwin Clark; I'm a Chatterbox finished third.



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(Nominated to the Breeders' Cup)

2020 LEADING SIRES IN ARKANSAS



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2020 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	COIL (08, Point Given), Charter Oak Farm	\$1,250	45/29	1/1	1/1	(Principe Carlo, \$121,780)	\$1,006,533	161	1	0.78	1.14
2	MARK VALESKI (09, Proud Citizen), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,500	37/16	1/1	1/1	(Network Effect, \$221,160)	\$834,180	71	2	1.04	1.19
3	HAMAZING DESTINY (06, Salt Lake), Starfish Stallions	\$1,500	19/12	0/0	0/0	(Hamazing Vision, \$101,768)	\$562,517	42	0	0.88	0.90
4	DOUBLE IRISH (11, Tapit), McDowell Farm	\$1,000	15/7	1/1	1/1	(Sekani, \$126,775)	\$417,520	33	1	1.14	1.07
5	EXHI (07, Maria's Mon), Big Oaks Farm	Private	29/13	0/0	0/0	(Golden Pearl, \$41,785)	\$293,493	91	1	0.61	1.17
6	CYBER SECRET (09, Broken Vow), Horseplay Racing	\$1,500	13/6	1/2	1/1	(Dont Tell Noobody, \$192,180)	\$278,743	35	1	0.97	0.82
7	PORTOBELLO ROAD (04, Storm Cat)	Died	22/12	0/0	0/0	(Souixper Charger, \$65,930)	\$274,637	150	1	0.71	0.88
8	JONESBORO (02, Sefapiano), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$500	17/9	0/0	0/0	(Chicken Hawk, \$39,651)	\$243,874	89	3	0.79	0.75
9	LAURIE'S ROCKET (09, Bluegrass Cat), Witt Racing Stables	\$2,500	17/7	0/0	0/0	(Proud Victoria, \$62,850)	\$242,420	46	0	0.84	1.16
10	BRAHMS (97, Danzig), Arkansas State University Equine Center	\$1,000	25/11	0/0	0/0	(Sir Brahms, \$44,020)	\$225,836	*700	13	1.03	1.11
11	ORDAINED (08, Pulpit), Starfish Stallions	\$1,500	17/4	0/0	0/0	(Sunday Sermon, \$60,903)	\$178,959	55	1	0.53	0.86
12	COMMANDER'S SHOES (03, Deputy Commander)	N/A	23/7	0/0	0/0	(Babadook, \$29,393)	\$148,516	92	0	0.56	0.82
13	MOONSHINE MULLIN (08, Albert the Great), Lake Hamilton Equine Center	\$1,000	14/1	0/0	0/0	(Moonshine Miss, \$23,172)	\$104,328	31	0	0.31	0.74
14	POMATINI (05, Lemon Drop Kid)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Prospector Fever, \$96,263)	\$102,653	28	0	0.40	0.25
15	MACHO ROCKET (09, Macho Uno), Arkansas State University Equine Center	\$1,000	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Macho Rocco, \$30,060)	\$83,576	41	0	0.52	0.86

While Jones has won three Oaks, he's yet to win the Kentucky Derby but has run second twice with Hard Spun and Eight Belles. He agrees on the spacing of races for the success of Fair Grounds toward the Oaks but is befuddled by the lack of wins registered by colts coming out of Fair Grounds for the Derby.

"The timing is very good, for fillies; maybe the colts need to race a little more often than that, but I don't know...apparently I do not have the formula on winning the Derby, seeing how second is the best I can do there," he said. "It's just a great place to get a horse ready."

Amoss' run through Fair Grounds to the Oaks with Serengeti Empress was arduous, to say the least.

She finished her 2-year-old campaign with a seventh-place finish behind cham-



Dr. Joel Politi and rider James Graham with Serengeti Empress at Fair Grounds in 2019

pion Jaywalk in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1).

"It didn't work out the way we wanted it to. But we said, 'Hey, let's get her some time

off,' and we did," Amoss said. "We sent her to Ocala (Fla.) where the weather's good, and then we brought her back to New Orleans to get her going. Our initial goal was, of course, the Fair Grounds Oaks. We felt we could get her ready for a prep before then and that would give us two starts before the Kentucky Oaks, so we were set up to do that. She won the (Feb. 16) Rachel Alexandra off the bench—November to February—then we came back in the Fair Grounds Oaks.

"That particular day, I could tell something was wrong at the three-eighths pole. She was eased (finishing seventh at 3-10). She was not brought back to be unsaddled but was positioned about 150 yards past the wire. I remember vividly running there thinking she had hurt herself, and when I got there I saw that she had bled. She had bled externally and bled through Lasix, which can really put you behind the eight ball if you want to come back quickly, which is what we wanted to do in the Kentucky Oaks.

"It also was at a time when racing was under a harsher microscope than it perhaps is now, with the breakdowns that had occurred out in California. Everyone was looking at horse racing in a real critical perspective," he continued. "When the decision was made to run her in the Oaks, we did all we could to keep everyone who had an interest up to speed on her progress and how she was doing on social media, specifically Twitter.

"Even with that, we received a great deal of criticism for entering her in the Oaks, specifically from PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), which



Believe You Can win the Oaks double in 2012

2020 LEADING SIRES IN TEXAS

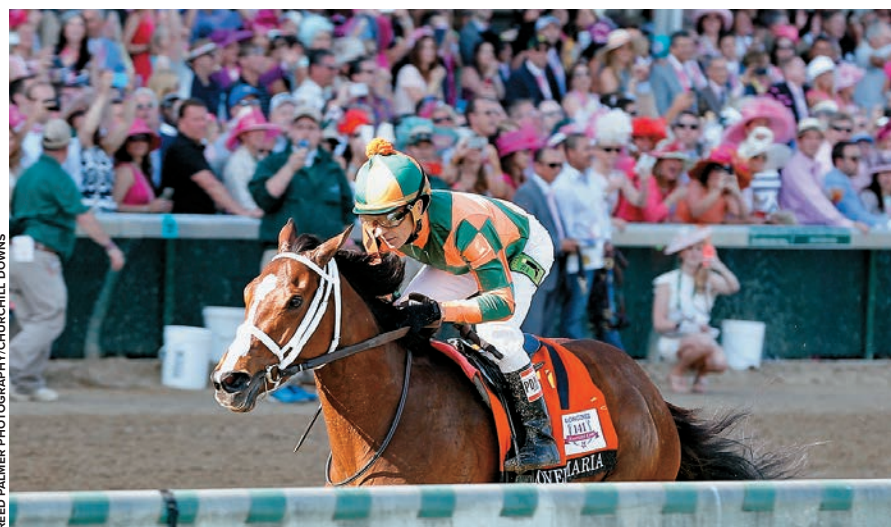
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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wns	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2020 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wns	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	COMPETITIVE EDGE (12, Super Saver), Valor Farm	\$5,000	99/49	0/0	0/0	(Reagan's Edge, \$143,120)	\$2,303,353	*193	4	1.21	1.28
2	TOO MUCH BLING (03, Rubiano), Valor Farm	\$5,000	99/38	1/1	1/1	(Direct Dial, \$122,210)	\$1,446,336	312	28	1.01	1.02
3	MY GOLDEN SONG (03, Unbridled's Song), Valor Farm	\$4,000	49/27	1/1	0/1	(Sunlit Song, \$126,383)	\$936,315	175	15	0.92	1.00
4	AIKENITE (07, Yes It's True)	N/A	33/18	0/0	0/0	(Hotfoot, \$55,025)	\$538,302	68	0	0.89	1.15
5	REDEEMED (08, Include), Century Acres Farm	\$2,000	37/11	0/0	0/0	(Our Man Luke, \$102,413)	\$480,618	103	0	0.94	1.07
6	EARLY FLYER (98, Gilded Time), Valor Farm	\$2,000	33/10	2/2	2/2	(Wonders of Hislove, \$88,069)	\$388,546	317	19	0.73	0.88
7	CONGAREE (98, Arazi)	Died, 2020	27/6	0/0	0/0	(Runningwscissors, \$116,698)	\$277,427	*412	13	1.17	1.33
8	MORO TAP (10, Tapit)	N/A	34/8	0/0	0/0	(Ruby Does Sparkle, \$40,405)	\$263,986	*75	1	0.54	0.83
9	GRASSHOPPER (04, Dixie Union)	N/A	23/8	0/0	0/0	(Great Affection, \$67,515)	\$233,112	144	3	0.69	0.86
10	LUNARPAL (02, Successful Appeal)	N/A	6/4	0/0	0/0	(Grizabella, \$111,225)	\$170,152	119	2	0.85	0.90
11	THE HUNK (07, Speightstown), Eureka Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Star of the North, \$80,800)	\$142,043	24	0	0.40	0.98
12	CROSSBOW (08, Bernardini), Valor Farm	\$1,500	16/3	0/0	0/0	(Crosstime, \$41,801)	\$138,421	42	2	0.47	1.02
13	STREET MOVE (06, Street Cry)	N/A	4/4	0/0	0/0	(Kingsville, \$37,810)	\$118,111	12	0	1.02	1.37
14	LIGHT UP THE SCORE (08, Even the Score), EZ Thoroughbred Station	\$500	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Miss Photo, \$37,624)	\$107,813	6	0	0.72	1.50
15	KEEP UP (07, Unbridled's Song), Eureka Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	16/6	0/0	0/0	(Ucantkeepup, \$30,072)	\$103,585	38	0	0.55	1.43

called me out and called her out for participating in the Kentucky Oaks off that race and sent a letter to Churchill Downs. I can promise you those were about three or four sleepless nights before that race. That was tough for me. But like everything in life, if you have something great happen—and winning the Kentucky Oaks is probably the greatest thing that has happened to me on a professional level—all is forgiven.”

Dr. Joel Politi's Serengeti Empress won the Oaks, and went on to win two additional graded stakes and placed in five other grade 1 tests.

While she's the latest Fair Grounds-to-Kentucky-Oaks winner, she won't be the last. **BH**



2015 Kentucky Oaks winner Lovely Maria prepped in New Orleans

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