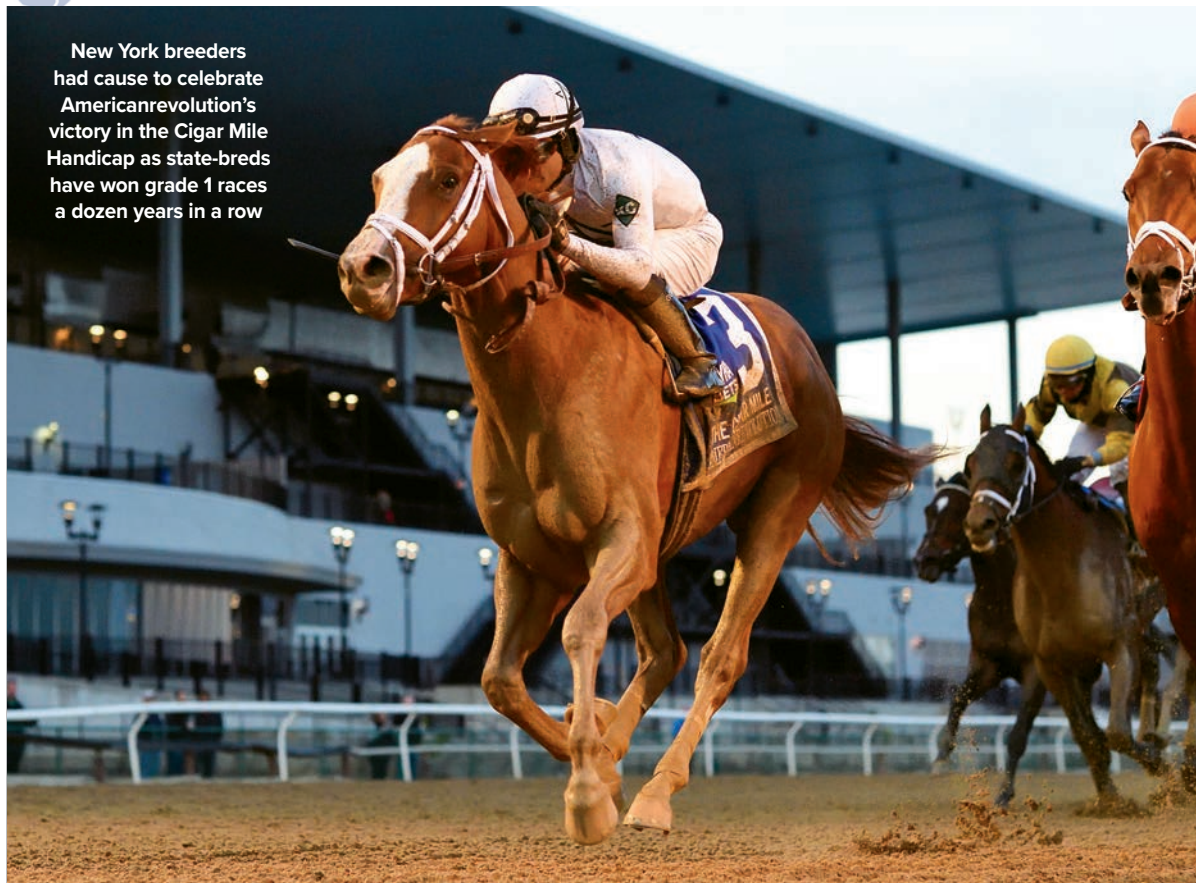


# NORTHEAST

CONNECTICUT MAINE MASSACHUSETTS NEW HAMPSHIRE  
NEW YORK RHODE ISLAND VERMONT

New York breeders had cause to celebrate Americanrevolution's victory in the Cigar Mile Handicap as state-breds have won grade 1 races a dozen years in a row



## Back on Track

### NEW YORK-BRED PROGRAM SEES SALES RECORDS, TOP RUNNERS IN 2021

By TOM PEDULLA

**F**ROM THE SALES RING to the racetrack, New York's breeding program demonstrated its resilience following a year of silence because of the pandemic.

Fasig-Tipton's New York-bred yearling sale at Saratoga, which was not held in 2020, returned in 2021 to set records and hit what Fasig-Tipton president Boyd Browning described as the "sales superfecta." On the track, fans returning to venues across the country saw New York-breds strut their stuff, with rising star Americanrevolution extending the program's streak of grade 1 winners to 12 consecutive

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ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH 2021

In a blink of  
an eye ...

**KILLYBEGS CAPTAIN**  
won the Grade III  
Frank J. De Francis  
Memorial Dash  
just **15 100ths**  
of a second off  
the Laurel Park  
track record for  
**6 furlongs.**

**1:08.10**  
G1PL/GSW

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**E-SPEED FIGURES: 110 / 109 / 108 / 107 / 106 / 105**

# KILLYBEGS CAPTAIN

By Champion Sire **MIZZEN MAST** / Al Maha, by **HOLY BULL**

— FIRST FOALS ARRIVE IN 2022 —

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NEW YORK THOROUGHBRED BREEDING & DEVELOPMENT FUND



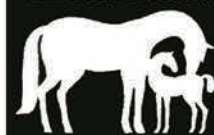
**KILLYBEGS CAPTAIN** competed against some  
of the best horses in the county including:  
Champion Male Sprinter **MITOLE**,  
G1 millionaires **FIRENZE FIRE**, **IMPERIAL HINT**,  
**PROMISES FULFILLED**, etc.

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# 2021 LEADING SIRES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2021 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2021 Earnings	Foals	BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Silk Broker (96, Pentelicus)	N/A	2/2	0/0	0/0	(Tropical Joy, \$17,914)	\$32,409	34	3	0.63	0.46
2	Dr. Rockett (99, Regal Classic)	Died, 2018	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Casper Joe, \$30,572)	\$31,202	13	0	0.53	0.62
3	Indian Ocean (02, Stormy Atlantic), Briar Hill Farm	\$1,000	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Zeena's Rush, \$8,532)	\$16,383	*266	6	0.75	1.18
4	De Roode (03, Dixieland Band)	N/A	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Rusty De, \$2,694)	\$4,064	10	0	0.27	0.60

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

years when he prevailed in the Dec. 4 Cigar Mile Handicap Presented by NYRA Bets (G1) at Aqueduct Racetrack.

Prominent trainer and breeder H. James Bond, who with wife, Tina, operates Song Hill Thoroughbreds in Mechanicville, said there's a feeling of momentum in the state.

"I think it's a fantastic year coming off of COVID," Bond said. "The yearling sales are very strong for New York-breds, and we are seeing a lot of people buying broodmares to bring back to New York."

Apprehension about the market after a year like no other quickly dissolved during the two-day Fasig-Tipton sale of New York-breds in mid-August in Saratoga Springs. There were increases in average, median, and gross while RNA was down—the "sales superfecta," as Browning so colorfully described it.

How well did the sale go? Gross soared 14.6% to a record \$18,566,500 for 203 yearlings. The previous high had been \$18,492,000 for 172 yearlings in 2018. The total was well above the \$16.2 million paid for 186 yearlings two years ago.

The \$91,461 average marked a 5% increase over \$87,097 in 2019 and ranked second all-time to the \$107,512 standard set in 2018. Median jumped 16.7% to \$70,000 and trailed only the high-water mark of \$76,000 in 2018.



***"TO RETURN WITH SUCH ROBUST NUMBERS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE THAT EVERYONE WANTS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE INCENTIVES WE HAVE HERE IN NEW YORK THAT ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO FOAL AND RACE HORSES IN THE STATE."***

—NEW YORK THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAJJA THOMPSON

RNA rate fell to 21.3%, third lowest in sale history as more than 200 horses were sold for the first time.

Browning attributed the sales re-

sults to the improved horses being bred in the state.

"The most significant factor is the improved quality of the horses in the program," said Browning. "You've got better sire power, better mare power. You've certainly seen an improvement in the quality of the breeding and prepping operations in New York."

The bounce-back year thrilled Najja Thompson, executive director of New York Thoroughbred Breeders. He said the strong program in place fueled market confidence and helped facilitate the quick rebound.

"To return with such robust numbers is a great example that everyone wants to get involved with the incentives we have here in New York that encourage people to foal and race horses in the state," Thompson said.

Tracy Egan, executive director of the New York Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund, also liked what she saw. She also would like to see even more done at sales to encourage the New York program.

"Our breeders wish there was another venue or another day at that sale to sell their New York-sired horses," she said. "We are trying to address their concerns."

Undoubtedly, hefty purses for New York-breds and progeny of New York-based stallions are contributing to demand. The New York

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# 2021 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK

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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)	2021 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Central Banker (10, Speightstown), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$6,000	102/54	3/5	2/3	(Bank Sting, \$321,300)	\$4,155,215	229	7	1.40	1.20
2	Big Brown (05, Boundary), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$5,000	109/58	3/4	2/3	(Somelikeithotbrown, \$498,000)	\$3,217,117	*844	28	1.04	1.41
3	Freud (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York	\$5,000	90/41	4/6	1/4	(Dakota Gold, \$385,000)	\$2,820,025	*1382	58	1.45	1.20
4	Bustin Stones (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm	\$2,500	59/32	2/2	1/2	(Time Limit, \$256,420)	\$1,986,615	254	11	1.32	1.24
5	Bellamy Road (02, Concerto), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	Pnsd	93/45	1/1	1/1	(Young Bull, \$135,340)	\$1,932,522	*726	32	1.11	1.22
6	War Dancer (10, War Front), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$7,500	72/22	1/1	1/1	(Step Dancer, \$153,700)	\$1,869,228	123	1	0.92	1.17
7	Mission Impazible (07, Unbridled's Song), Sequel Stallions New York	\$2,500	90/33	1/1	1/1	(Espresso Shot, \$114,520)	\$1,606,596	279	7	1.02	1.18
8	Effinex (11, Mineshaft)	Died, 2017	39/18	2/2	2/2	(Byhubbyhellomoney, \$218,050)	\$1,104,321	56	2	0.87	0.95
9	Courageous Cat (06, Storm Cat), Questroyal North	\$2,500	52/25	1/1	1/1	(Our Last Buck, \$120,500)	\$991,070	228	8	0.87	1.04
10	Majestic City (09, City Zip), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions	\$2,500	39/16	1/1	1/1	(The Important One, \$220,675)	\$828,408	80	1	0.66	1.01
11	Honorable Dillon (10, Tapit)	N/A	28/13	1/1	1/1	(Awesome Debate, \$214,774)	\$764,299	114	1	0.62	1.06
12	Micromanage (10, Medaglia d'Oro), Rockridge Stud	Pnsd	42/17	0/0	0/0	(Takeittocomittee, \$84,375)	\$725,954	73	0	0.70	1.23
13	Giant Surprise (09, Giant's Causeway), Rockridge Stud	Pnsd	34/18	1/1	1/1	(Groovy Surprise, \$103,500)	\$708,146	128	3	1.21	1.21
14	Teuflesberg (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	38/15	0/0	0/0	(Writer's Regret, \$97,458)	\$660,705	179	4	1.11	1.05
15	Slumber (GB) (08, Cacique), Rockridge Stud	Private	13/6	2/2	0/2	(Fluffy Socks, \$240,000)	\$587,362	20	2	1.82	0.78
16	Bank Heist (07, Maria's Mon), Kaz Hill Farm	\$1,000	30/16	0/0	0/0	(Gongheifatchoy, \$66,280)	\$491,038	97	1	0.75	1.24
17	Soaring Empire (07, Empire Maker)	Died, 2018	20/9	0/0	0/0	(Reason to Soar, \$82,565)	\$460,348	78	0	0.86	1.08
18	Golden Ticket (09, Speightstown)	Pnsd	26/8	0/0	0/0	(Lady's Golden Guy, \$95,605)	\$378,963	51	0	0.44	0.78
19	Zivo (09, True Direction)	Pnsd	13/10	0/0	0/0	(Mani Pedi, \$68,830)	\$327,081	31	0	0.62	0.78
20	Encaustic (04, Broad Brush), Foggy Bottom Farm	Private	13/8	0/0	0/0	(Smart Broad, \$48,650)	\$280,238	57	0	0.51	1.03
21	Union Jackson (12, Curlin), Sequel Stallions New York	\$2,500	17/5	0/0	0/0	(Unique Unions, \$98,500)	\$254,295	43	0	0.57	1.75
22	Al Khali (06, Medaglia d'Oro), Keane Stud	\$2,500	6/5	0/0	0/0	(Big Al's Gal, \$77,910)	\$192,829	12	0	0.94	1.10
23	A Shin Forward (05, Forest Wildcat), Rockridge Stud	\$2,500	10/5	0/0	0/0	(Ryuno Center, \$38,166)	\$90,350	40	0	0.55	0.83
24	Dr Large (06, A.P. Indy), Oriskany Creek Farm	\$2,500	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Smooth Operation, \$36,660)	\$77,785	37	1	0.50	0.70
25	Here's Zealous (97, Dehere)	N/A	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Madame Rose, \$51,153)	\$74,549	197	1	1.00	0.88
26	Make Reservations (07, Tapit), Majestic View Farms International	Private	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Tapit Happy John, \$43,770)	\$72,910	8	0	0.47	0.31
27	Sir Whimsey (04, Jump Start)	N/A	1/1	1/1	1/1	(Mad for Fame, \$61,618)	\$61,618	15	2	1.24	1.82
28	Beautyinthepulpit (08, Pulpit), Buckridge Farm	\$2,500	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Straight Skinny, \$42,632)	\$54,750	22	0	0.34	0.84
29	Wildcat Brief (06, Forest Wildcat)	N/A	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Wildcat Cura, \$25,522)	\$49,614	19	0	0.61	0.69
30	Superestrella (08, Storm Cat), Irish Hill Century Farm	Private	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Butter Lou, \$46,750)	\$48,314	11	0	0.37	0.69

\* includes Southern Hemisphere foals



A bounce-back year at the Fasig-Tipton sale of New York-breds in mid-August helped ease concerns

Stallion Stakes Series, which culminated in the \$500,000 Great White Way for 2-year-olds by nominated state stallions and \$500,000 Fifth Avenue for juvenile fillies in the program Dec. 18 at Aqueduct, has been a boon.

“There are areas in the country where they say the awards are higher, but none of them are based on the kind of purses we have here in New York,” said Joe McMahon. He and his wife, Anne, have operated McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds for 51 years. Through October, McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds led in New York breeder awards with \$283,194.

Rounding out the top five breeders on that list through October are Sequel Thoroughbreds/Sequel Stallions New York, Chester and Mary Broman, Stonewall Farm, and Dr. Jerry Bilinski.

While there are opportunities throughout the racing season for New York-breds, buyers also know they don't need to keep their dreams in check. There are plenty of recent examples of New York-breds that have excelled at the highest level. Buyers enjoy chasing the next big New York-bred, such as Tiz the Law—the 2020 Belmont Stakes Presented by NYRA Bets (G1) and Runhappy Travers Stakes (G1) winner.

Americanrevolution appears poised to carry the banner in 2022 after closing his 3-year-old campaign with the Cigar victory. Bred by Fred Hertrich III and John Fielding, Americanrevolution was purchased for \$275,000 by WinStar Farm's buying arm, Maverick Racing, and China Horse Club at the 2019 preferred Saratoga New York-bred sale.

Racing Hall of Fame trainer Todd Pletcher used state-bred stakes races to develop Americanrevolution gradually while building his bankroll to \$944,535. A son of Constitution, he closed his season with a flourish, finishing third in the Pennsylvania Derby (G1), strolling home by 11¾-lengths over other state-breds in the \$300,000 Empire Classic, and then overtak-



Above, Geno, in the Great White Way, and, below, Yo Cuz, in the Fifth Avenue, captured lucrative divisions of the New York Stallion Stakes Series Dec. 18 at Aqueduct



ing stablemate Following Sea in deep stretch in the Cigar.

Pletcher saddled Constitution to victory in the 2014 Besilu Florida Derby (G1). After retiring from racing, Constitution found fast success as a stal-

lion at WinStar Farm near Versailles, Ky. With Tiz the Law finishing as his top earner in each of his first two seasons, Constitution would rank second on the 2019 freshman sires list and top the 2020 second-crop sires list.



Boyd Browning Jr.

While the readiness of New York breeders to send resident mares to Kentucky sires such as Constitution has delivered some top runners that publicize New York-breds, some horsemen believe the program could be tweaked to encourage additional breeding activity in the Empire State.

Currently, mares continuously in residence in New York State from within 120 days of their most recent cover in the year of conception through foaling the following year have no breed-back requirements. The mares maintain their residency status and can be covered each season by a stallion located anywhere in the world.

The program also has a category for non-resident mares. Their foals can be registered as New York-breds if the mare foals in New York, remains in the state for a continuous period of at least 90 days, and is bred back to a registered New York stallion before leaving

the state. McMahon thinks the current policies are making it difficult for New York-based stallions to succeed.

“The mares left here in New York for the stallion farms are not the best mares,” McMahon said. “It’s very difficult to keep a stallion going and to keep him successful. It’s hard to keep good mares underneath your stallions in these regional programs. But we’ve got to come up with ways or our stallion business will disappear.”

Since November 2020, in-foal mares purchased for \$50,000 or more can become resident mares when transferred to New York within 15 days of the transaction.

“We will continually look at all avenues to attract more mares, and quality mares, to the state so we can boost our foal crop and get stallions in the state to show how good they are,” Thompson said.

McMahon is finding a way with 12-year-old Central Banker, a son of



Tracy Egan

champion sprinter Speightstown who easily finished as the state’s leading stallion in 2021.

While there is some debate about details of the New York-bred program, there is unity on what New York racing and breeding mean for the state, and there’s awareness of how money from added gaming has helped spur this success story. Recent legislation that could remove that financial support showcased that solidarity.

Through the group We Are New York Horse Racing, industry entities presented a united front in opposition of the legislation introduced by Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, a Democrat from Manhattan, that would take \$230 million from racetrack-based video lottery terminal revenues and apply it to public education and other areas.

While states have needs, support of racing and breeding programs has delivered benefits that have become increasingly important for the industry to promote. Those benefits typically start with jobs—a point made by New York Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association president Joe Appelbaum at a recent hearing that seemed to find traction with lawmakers.

“There has been an implication that our purse supplement is some sort of welfare program. Nothing could be further from the truth,” Appelbaum said. “It’s a jobs development program.”

According to Thompson, New York racing is responsible for approximately 19,000 jobs. Its annual economic impact on the state is estimated at \$3.3 billion—quite a return on the VLT money.

Last but hardly least, strides continue to be made in Thoroughbred aftercare. Egan said more than \$100,000 will go to aftercare programs this year, raising the total to more than \$1 million for the past 10 years under her watch.

“We have to walk the walk in terms of supporting our athletes when they need to have second careers,” she said. **BH**