SOUTHEAST

ALABAMA FLORIDA GEORGIA MISSISSIPPI NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA TENNESSEE



Winning Formula

HANDS-ON, HARD-WORKING CONSIGNOR PAUL SHARP TICKING ALL THE BOXES

By CYNTHIA MCFARLAND

ASSION ONLY TAKES you so far.

But combine that passion with hard work, talent, and opportunity, and the sky's the limit.

Paul Sharp learned this firsthand. One horse at a time.

In 2023, Sharp was seventh on the list of leading consignors for 2023 North America sales, having sold 45 2-year-olds for a gross of \$5,597,000, and an average of \$124,378.

Among Sharp's top selling horses in 2023 were a \$800,000 Mendelssohn filly sold to Speedway Stables at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May; and the \$750,000 Justify colt at Ocala Breeders' Sales' Spring Sale purchased by Mick Wallace, agent for Gandharvi Stable.

ALL SIRES LISTS ARE THROUGH DEC. 31

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For daily updated sire lists

2023 LEADING SIRES IN ALABAMA

Т				ВТ	Rstrct			Cumulative			
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2023 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	SWnrs/ Wns	SW/	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2023 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Mosquito (08, Yes It's True)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Foolish Steve, \$42,870)	\$42,870	3	0	1.07	0.27
2	Indy (01, A.P. Indy)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Red Baider Xpress, \$9,800)	\$9.800	22	0	0.53	1.53

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

Despite making headlines with high-priced juveniles and pinhooking weanlings with gold-plated pedigrees, Sharp remains the down-to-earth, hands-on horseman every step of the way.

It's been quite the ride for the boy from southeastern Idaho born into a family of wheat and barley farmers. His first exposure to horses came on the cattle ranch of his great uncle, Duane Jones, a veterinarian.

Paul had just turned 13 in 1974 when his mother remarried, and the family moved to north central Florida where his stepfather had family near Williston.

"When you move to a new place and make friends, you gravitate to people with similar interests. A lot of my friends were doing junior rodeo," recalled Sharp. "We

were at a practice bull riding in Bell, Fla., when Joe and Betty King came up to me and said, 'If you ever want a job, come by the farm.'"

The farm was Howard Sams' Waldemar Farms in Williston where Joe King was manager. The farm produced Foolish Pleasure, who became the 1974 champion 2-year-old male and 1975 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner.

In the late '8os, the farm was purchased by Gil and Marilyn Campbell, who made it Stonehedge Farm South, and hired Joe King's son, Larry King, to manage it.

Hoping for a job, Sharp took the Kings at their word. At 15, he was hired as a farm hand.

"I did everything from cleaning stalls to maintenance to galloping



Sharp's farm features a five-furlong irrigated dirt track with a three-stall starting gate

horses and working the sales. I worked in the breeding shed and with the vet, so I got a well-rounded introduction to the business. It was a full-on education," said Sharp.

"I was so gung-ho. I like to work and being outdoors and around livestock was me all the way. The riding and training was the thing I enjoyed most. One thing led to another; I never really looked back."

Sharp rode to and from Kentucky in the back of a horse van to work his first sale for Waldemar Farms' consignment at Keeneland Select in July 1977.

When he graduated from Williston High School in 1979, there was no doubt in Sharp's mind that he was going to make a living with horses.

He started from the ground up. Literally.

"Larry King is a top horseman; he taught me how to trim horses," said Sharp of his time at Waldemar Farms.

Sharp started college, thinking he might become a veterinarian, but when he didn't see a way to finance that education, he found a more immediate solution.

"Louie Rogers, the blacksmith at Waldemar, told me, 'If you go to shoeing school, I'll put you to work,' so I went to Oklahoma Farrier College," said Sharp, who was 19 when he enrolled in the two-month program.

He returned to Williston and Rogers did as he'd promised.

"He is a good man and set me on my way. I worked for him about three years and picked up some shoeing accounts of my own along the

way," said Sharp. "Wayne Fesmire of Texhoma Farm who stood Concorde Bound was my first big account and allowed me to go out on my own."

Breaking and training remained the end goal. Initially, Sharp planned to work as a farrier for 10 years and then make the switch. It ended up taking twice that long.

He worked as a blacksmith for 20 years. For the last five years he'd spend half the day training and the other half shoeing.

Sharp owned a 13-acre operation in Morriston before buying his current farm. When he purchased the 90-acre property in 1990, it was raw land.

"I knew this land growing up here," he said. "There's a lake behind it and springs where we used to swim. I'm very fortunate to have got it. We built it bit by bit, one piece at a time."



(Into Mischief - Un Blessed, by Mineshaft)

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Chess Chief is by the all-conquering Into Mischief.

His dam, by a Horse of the Year out of a grade one winning mare, is from the stellar Souring family that has produced no less than 23 grade one sires including Saint Ballado, Rahy and Singspiel. What's more, Chess Chief is inbred to this fabulous family.

ALAN PORTER- Pedigree Consultants



				ВТ	Rstrct				Cumulative		
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2023 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	SWnrs/ Wns	SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2023 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Khozan (12, Distorted Humor), Journeyman Stallions	\$6,500	188/104	6/10	3/6	(Foggy Night, \$378,800)	\$6,236,271	*345	15	1.24	1.17
2	Jess's Dream (12, Curlin), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	108/54	4/7	2/4	(Intrepid Daydream, \$272,350)	\$3,277,995	*199	7	0.93	1.39
3	First Dude (07, Stephen Got Even), Double Diamond Farm	\$7,500	91/43	3/4	0/3	(Maryquitecontrary, \$379,025)	\$2,987,097	493	16	1.09	1.11
4	Brethren (08, Distorted Humor), Arindel Farm	\$4,000	107/55	3/4	1/3	(Clapton, \$530,560)	\$2,858,446	280	12	1.16	1.38
5	Adios Charlie (08, Indian Charlie), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	96/42	3/3	2/3	(Bouncer, \$171,675)	\$2,222,805	370	12	1.20	1.13
6	Social Inclusion (11, Pioneerof the Nile), Briardale Farm	Private	57/31	3/4	1/3	(Gordian Knot, \$178,160)	\$1,995,702	110	5	1.09	0.98
7	Cajun Breeze (08, Congrats), Stonehedge Farm South	\$5,000	67/36	2/4	0/2	(Dean Delivers, \$257,560)	\$1,828,476	115	7	1.15	1.19
8	Valiant Minister (13, Candy Ride), Bridlewood Farm	\$5,000	42/24	1/3	0/1	(Bentornato, \$311,830)	\$1,447,327	79	2	1.04	0.97
9	Neolithic (13, Harlan's Holiday), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$5,000	58/32	1/1	0/1	(Poiema, \$104,818)	\$1,422,736	99	3	0.96	0.89
10	Gone Astray (06, Dixie Union), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$2,500	63/26	0/0	0/0	(Richiesonaroll, \$122,900)	\$1,042,235	*348	10	0.89	1.03
11	Greenpointcrusader (13, Bernardini), Ocala Stud	\$3,500	35/25	1/1	1/1	(Mia's Crusade, \$162,750)	\$1,037,330	61	1	0.78	1.08
12	Awesome Slew (13, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	48/26	0/0	0/0	(Awesome Pic, \$84,285)	\$948,282	73	1	0.97	1.41
13	Noble Bird (11, Birdstone), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	50/23	0/0	0/0	(Classic Car Wash, \$179,645)	\$910,295	80	2	0.70	1.17
14	Big Drama (06, Montbrook)	Died, 2021	37/14	1/1	1/1	(Drama Chorus, \$112,020)	\$852,890	300	5	0.87	1.14
15	Bahamian Squall (09, Gone West), Double Diamond Farm	\$3,000	45/18	1/1	0/1	(Spirit Wind, \$164,550)	\$837,158	101	2	0.76	0.81
16	Field Commission (05, Service Stripe)	Died, 2020	37/14	1/1	1/1	(Mish, \$180,585)	\$801,731	196	3	0.82	0.95
17	Chitu (11, Henny Hughes), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000	46/20	0/0	0/0	(Cruzin Man, \$118,040)	\$795,561	148	1	0.62	0.83
18	Awesome of Course (00, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$2,000	30/18	0/0	0/0	(Little Demon, \$134,876)	\$779,775	*283	12	1.22	1.22
19	Tunwoo (15, Medaglia d'Oro), Bridlewood Farm	\$4,000	7/5	1/2	0/1	(Time Passage, \$261,255)	\$423,454	18	1	1.53	1.01
20	¶ St Patrick's Day (15, Pioneerof the Nile), Journeyman Stallions	\$3,500	30/8	0/0	0/0	(Fiona's Magic, \$87,400)	\$413,247	66	0	0.64	1.00

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals





Bloodstock agent Liz Crow first became acquainted with Sharp in 2014, after she bought Allied Air Raid, a horse consigned by him as a 2-year-old and who later became a stakes winner and a multiple graded stakes-placed performer

He launched his business as Paul Sharp Stables but named the farm Willow Creek Ranch after the stream winding through his family's Idaho farm.

Rodeoing though high school, Sharp competed in all three rough stock events (saddle bronc, bareback, and bull riding). After going into business for himself, he dropped the rough stock in hopes of avoiding injury and began team roping, primarily as a header.

He still keeps good working horses on the farm, including his pony horses.

SALES LAUNCH

Sharp sold his first horse at OBS in 1982, a weanling he'd bred. His first juvenile consignment was at OBS in 1988.

His first pinhook to become a multiple

"WE ATTACK THE SALES AS A TEAM IN EVERYTHING WE DO WHEN WE BUY YEARLINGS TO PINHOOK AND TO RACE. (SHARP) IS WITH ME THROUGH THAT PROCESS."

-BLOODSTOCK AGENT LIZ CROW

graded stakes winner was Feline Story, who earned \$435,065. Sharp bought the Tale of the Cat filly for \$23,000

at the 2002 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale and sold her for \$140,000 at the 2003 OBS March Selected Sale of 2-Year-Olds in Training.

Black Seventeen was another early pinhook success story who became a multiple graded stakes winner of \$598,077. Sharp bought the Floridabred colt for \$50,000 at the 2005 OBS Selected Sale of Yearlings and sold him for \$150,000 at the 2006 February OBS Selected Sale of 2-Year-Olds in Training.

"With both these horses, I took on a partner so I could buy some better yearlings," recalled Sharp.

Recent graded stakes winners consigned by Paul Sharp Stables include Faiza (\$672,000 in earnings); Secret Spice (\$548,510); Elm Drive



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FASTEST SONS OF TAPIT... The distaff side of his pedigree is
no less impressive: he is out of grade one winning sprinter
Aubby K, and first three dams are all stakes winners.

ALAN PORTER- Pedigree Consultants



2023 LEADING SIRES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

				ВТ	Rstrct		Cumula			lative	itive	
Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2023 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	SWnrs/ Wns	SW/	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2023 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index	
1	Done Talking (09, Broken Vow), Elloree Training Center	\$1,500	24/14	0/0	0/0	(Haint Blue, \$77,320)	\$496,288	50	0	1.01	0.95	
2	Straight Talking (06, Dixieland Band)	N/A	4/2	1/1	0/1	(Swayin to and Fro, \$170,000)	\$257,450	30	1	1.03	0.91	
3	Wicked Rich (06, Yes It's True)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Canoochee, \$36,678)	\$92,281	22	0	0.82	1.16	

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals

(\$536,640); Straight No Chaser (\$245,800); and Delight (\$256,520), to mention only a few.

HOMEGROWN

Through the years, Sharp built his operation to be the efficient training facility he'd always hoped to own.

The farm has five barns for a total of 154 stalls. At the heart of the facility is a fivefurlong irrigated dirt track with a three-horse True Center starting gate.

"We've grown to a good size operation. I've had to learn to be a good manager. Those

weren't the things I wanted to do, but I had to. The training part of it—going to the barn, buying new horses—all that keeps me going," said Sharp.

"In the very beginning I was just selling my own horses and for the occasional client or two. Twelve horses a year would be a big number," he said. "It grew slowly to 40-to-50 horses a year in the early 2000s when I finally quit shoeing."

For the last decade, he's consistently sold around 50 2-year-olds each year. Some are client horses and about half are his pinhooks.

He also breaks and trains for race clients. During the busiest time of year, there are about 125 horses on the farm.

Many people would say patience is what sets Sharp apart.

"You don't last long doing what we do if you're not good at it. Everyone has their 'thing.' I guess mine would be that I believe in taking my time and being patient. If a horse is not ready to do something, you're just backing up," said Sharp. "Giving a horse enough time to develop pays off in the end."

Sharp says he's been very fortunate



Two-time Breeders' Cup Distaff winner and champion Monomoy Girl received her pre-racetrack training under Sharp's guidance

with his staff, most of whom have been with him a long time.

"Isidro Centeno is my assistant and farm manager and has been with me 23 vears. He's a great horseman and comes from a family of horsemen. He became an American citizen about 12 years ago, and we're proud of that accomplishment. He's integral to our operation," said Sharp.

His other assistant, Salvadore Tapia, has been with Sharp for 10 years.

Another key employee is Skylar Munden who's been with him for 10 years as both a rider and working the sales.

"I don't ask anyone to do anything I haven't done myself or wouldn't do. It helps that I've been in their situation myself," said Sharp. "It's a grind at the sale. It's hard work for everybody. We're determined to do the best we can, and I think the results speak for themselves."

His wife, Sarah, is the one responsible for putting together their sales staff.

"She worked the sales herself, so she knows what it takes to have good sales staff," he said. "Sarah is as much part of this as I am. She's here watching the horses train, and she organizes the sales, keeps me organized, and is an extremely good horsewoman in her own right. Her strength is attention to detail."

Sarah has a son, Cole Boyle, who is the same age as Savanna, 23, Paul's daughter with his first wife, Mindy Sharp, a veterinarian in Ocala.

"I love being a father; that's one of the best things in the world," said Sharp.

STRENGTH IN **PARTNERSHIPS**

"Partnerships have been very good to us, from in-

dividual partners to the pinhooking partnership we've had with Liz Crow for the last eight years," said Sharp of their Crow-Sharp pinhook venture. "Liz has been a godsend to me. We hit it off and it's been good."

"Good" is putting it mildly.

Since Crow and Sharp teamed up, horses that have come through their program include two-time Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) winner, 2020 Eclipse Award champion older dirt female, and 2018 Eclipse Award champion 3-year-old filly Monomoy Girl (\$4,776,818); Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) winner and 2019 Eclipse Award champion 2-yearold filly British Idiom (\$1,442,139); two-time Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (G1) winner and two-time Eclipse Award champion female sprinter Goodnight Olive (\$2,196,200); Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1T) winner Aunt Pearl (\$661,604); and Jack Christopher (\$1,216,400), among others.

Lexington-based bloodstock agent Crow has been principal partner in BSW/Crow Bloodstock since 2015. She is co-founder with partner Bradley



(Bodemeister - Pied a Terre, by City Zip)

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Sharp (back row center with cowboy hat) says the job of running his operation is made easier because several of his key staff have worked alongside him for many years

Weisbord of ELiTE Sales, which they launched in 2017.

Crow was looking for the right person in Florida to develop a sales connection with when she met Sharp in 2014.

"I purchased Allied Air Raid from Paul at the 2014 OBS June sale for \$50,000," recalled Crow. "He was so honest about the horse and what he thought he'd bring. It's rare to run into someone like this."

Allied Air Raid became a multiple graded stakes-placed stakes winner of \$352,200, and everything about buying the horse from Sharp made a positive impression on Crow.

"I approached him at the July sale in 2016 and asked if he'd consider doing some pinhooking with me. Thankfully, he said, 'Yes,' "said Crow. "We attack the sales as a team in everything we do when we buy yearlings to pinhook and to race. He's with me through that process. We have a team of short listers, but we come together to make the final decision on what we're going to buy," she said. "He breaks all our horses for Bradley and myself and our clients we buy for at the sales. He's broken all our good horses."

Crow's opinion of Sharp has only grown since they partnered together.

"There's really not a question you can ask him about a horse that he doesn't know the answer. He's humble but he has as much or more experience as anyone doing this. He's got such a calm demeanor and horses really respond to that. He's one of the best horsemen I've ever been around and one of the best people," said Crow, adding that Sharp is her daughter's godfather.

In 2023, Crow and Sharp launched a new division of their Crow-Sharp pinhook venture. They bought quality weanlings (seven at the sales and one privately) to pinhook as yearlings. The goal is to sell at Saratoga and Keeneland.

"We're always looking for new avenues and streams of income. When you pinhook yearlings to 2-year-olds, you only get one payday a year, so we were looking for another source of income," explained Sharp.

"The focus on the market has become the top 25% where you have the chance to hit those home runs. We wanted to take advantage of the yearling market and the strength at the top of it," he said. "We bought some very nice weanlings and hopefully, we'll be rewarded for it."

Among their 2023 weanling purchases was a \$525,000 Justify filly at the Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale, from the family of champion male sprinter Mitole (\$3,104,910) and Hot Rod Charlie, a multiple graded stakes winner of \$5,676,720. Additional purchases at the same sale included

weanling fillies by Justify, Munnings, and Girvin.

"Sarah Sharp is an important part of the weanling buying team," added Crow.

AWAY FROM THE SALES

When the 2-year-old sale season ends, Sharp makes it a point to do something totally unrelated.

"We manage to get away for a couple weeks every year, usually right after OBS June. I like to go back out west, see the mountains, and just take a break," said Sharp. "The summer of 2022, I climbed the Grand Teton. That was on my bucket list; I decided to do it the year I turned 60. I trained for it for a year."

Come September, he's ready for those all-consuming days at Keeneland, sourcing yearlings.

"I love going to the sales. It takes a lot of energy and focus, but there's nothing I like better than looking at young horses and looking toward the future for them," said Sharp.

"When you're in the industry like I am, it's a lifestyle. You give up a lot to participate at this level. It's all we do," he said. "You meet people, develop friendships, and they become your family, so to speak. All those relationships, that's the best part of this, besides the horses."



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Into Mischief / Un Blessed, by Mineshaft

Curlin's Honor

Curlin / Franscat, by Stormin Fever

DoppelgangerInto Mischief / Twice the Lady, by Quiet American

Gone Astrav

Dixie Union / Illicit, by Mr. Prospector

Gunnevera

Dialed In / Unbridled Rage, by Unbridled

Leinster

Majestic Warrior / Vassar, by Royal Academy

Magic on Tap

Tapit / Aubby K, by Street Sense

Neolithic

Harlan's Holiday / Swingit, by Victory Gallop

No Never No More

Scat Daddy / Whosetheclownnow, by Tiznow

Simplification

Not This Time / Simply Confection, by Candy Ride

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(Justify - Diva Delite, by Repent)

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ALAN PORTER- Pedigree Consultants



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Winner of Grade 2 Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth Stakes
Winner of the Mucho Macho Man Stakes

A graded and multiple stakes winner, and also grade one placed, Simplification is by the outstanding young stallion, Not This Time, the leading North American sire and son of multiple Leading Sire Giant's Causeway. Simplification is out of a multiple stakes producing and stakes placed Candy Ride mare...)

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