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David Scanlon and his wife, Blair King, took a major leap last year in their quest to expand their multifaceted operation by buying the training center formerly owned by Eddie and Angela Woods

Making Moves

**DAVID SCANLON AND WIFE BLAIR KING BUY
LEGENDARY FLORIDA TRAINING CENTER**

By ALICIA HUGHES

HE DOESN'T SIT WITH IT very often because horsemen rarely—if ever—pause long enough to admire the trajectory of their own ascent, but every square inch of David Scanlon's daily routine now serves as a reminder for how far he has exceeded his initial career objective.

More than 200 horses fill the stalls and paddocks and pens of the 240-acre crown jewel training center he and his wife, Blair King, purchased last summer, a procurement that came about due to fate and diligence colliding at just the right moment. Not only are the quantity of the proteges in his care at

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2025 LEADING SIRES IN ALABAMA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2025 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Conan (07, Royal Empire)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Channelfortynine, \$85,570)	\$85,570	5	0	0.84	0.72

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire



Above, Eddie Woods (with wife Angela) was a longtime and hugely successful consignor who retired in 2025; Top right, Rags to Riches received her early lessons under David Scanlon before heading to the track to become a classic winner and champion; Bottom right, one of Scanlon's earliest pinhooking home runs came when he bought a yearling by grade 1 winner Archarcharch (pictured) for \$30,000 and sold the horse as a 2-year-old for \$200,000

a career-high level, but the quality is bursting at the seams as well, a result of elite-level clients trusting the Ohio native to put a proper and tailored foundation into their regally bred prospects.

As the son of one of the most respected horsemen within the commercial marketplace, Scanlon had his own beneficial foundation embedded in him early on. And as he has known since he first began working alongside his father, the late trainer and pinhooker Robert Scanlon, pedigree guarantees absolutely nothing in terms of achievement within the temperamental climate of the Thoroughbred industry.

The intangibles, the ability to spot what isn't obvious and pivot to the correct course of action, is what ultimately breeds success in his ranks. That he now has stewardship over grounds that have been synonymous with launching equine talent into the highest echelons is itself a testament to Scanlon's aptitude in taking potential and turning it into tangible results.

"I started with 30 horses. And I think when I started with those 30 horses, I was just trying to survive," Scanlon said. "That first year I was like, 'Please let me just pay the bills.' One of my first pinhooks ... we bought an Archarcharch for \$30,000 and sold

it for \$200,000 and I was like 'Oh my gosh, I can go another year.'

"I don't even think I had these huge goals at that point. It was almost like the goal was just to make it to the next year."

Two decades since he picked up the mantle of carrying the family business forward following his father's untimely death in 2005 due to cancer, David Scanlon has settled into a reality that has inspired a fresh round of goal setting for the veteran consignor, pinhooker, and all-around horseman. This past summer saw Scanlon and King purchase the Ocala, Fla.-based training center previously owned by

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2025 LEADING SIRES IN FLORIDA



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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2025 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Khozan (12, Distorted Humor), Ocala Stud	\$6,000	216/121	4/6	2/4	(Jasper Robusto, \$577,433)	\$6,176,871	*464	19	1.11	1.12
2	Neolithic (13, Harlan's Holiday), Pleasant Acres Stallions	\$5,000	91/53	5/6	0/5	(Neoequos, \$352,150)	\$3,494,053	179	9	1.15	0.90
3	Adios Charlie (08, Indian Charlie), Ocala Stud	\$3,000	91/58	4/7	0/4	(Tank, \$254,795)	\$3,210,099	441	17	1.16	1.09
4	Awesome Slew (13, Awesome Again), Ocala Stud	\$4,000	69/45	1/1	0/1	(R Disaster, \$481,800)	\$2,585,426	121	3	1.08	1.26
5	Valiant Minister (13, Candy Ride), Bridlewood Farm	\$3,500	52/33	1/2	0/1	(Bentornato, \$1,190,350)	\$2,410,830	136	3	1.29	0.98
6	Cajun Breeze (08, Congrats), Stonehedge Farm South	\$5,000	88/51	1/1	1/1	(Fourth and Central, \$112,182)	\$2,330,875	182	9	1.05	1.13
7	Win Win Win (16, Hat Trick), Ocala Stud	\$8,500	60/36	2/2	1/2	(Win With Faith, \$120,300)	\$2,226,911	86	3	1.18	1.17
8	Social Inclusion (11, Pioneerof the Nile), Briardale Farm	Private	57/33	0/0	0/0	(Socially Awkward, \$129,883)	\$1,852,941	142	6	1.12	0.99
9	Jess's Dream (12, Curlin)	Died, 2024	71/36	0/0	0/0	(Gran Andrews, \$99,371)	\$1,635,074	*229	8	0.93	1.32
10	St Patrick's Day (15, Pioneerof the Nile)	N/A	49/26	1/4	0/1	(Mythical, \$540,750)	\$1,529,941	107	2	0.85	0.96
11	Brethren (08, Distorted Humor), Arindel Farm	\$4,000	67/34	1/1	0/1	(Evolution, \$121,807)	\$1,469,856	312	13	1.11	1.32
12	First Dude (07, Stephen Got Even), Double Diamond Farm	\$7,500	50/24	0/0	0/0	(Impacto, \$150,575)	\$1,337,588	519	16	1.06	1.08
13	Bodexpress (16, Bodemeister)	N/A	42/18	2/2	1/2	(Express Kid, \$236,902)	\$1,022,510	77	3	0.75	0.79
14	Rogueish (16, Into Mischief), Solera Farm	\$3,500	20/11	2/2	0/2	(Rouki, \$116,090)	\$647,828	47	2	1.01	0.90
15	Gunnevera (14, Dialed In)	N/A	52/18	0/0	0/0	(Theo's Thunder, \$54,220)	\$603,809	*79	0	0.36	0.85
16	Gone Astray (06, Dixie Union)	N/A	34/21	0/0	0/0	(Travel Happy, \$93,960)	\$554,376	*369	11	0.87	1.01
17	Bahamian Squall (09, Gone West), Double Diamond Farm	\$3,000	31/9	0/0	0/0	(Bahamian Moon, \$142,990)	\$527,092	110	2	0.76	0.93
18	¶ Uncle Chuck (17, Uncle Mo)	Died, 2024	30/11	0/0	0/0	(Trelawny, \$79,638)	\$520,240	*75	0	0.56	1.05
19	Chitu (11, Henny Hughes)	N/A	23/11	0/0	0/0	(Secret Empire, \$117,040)	\$462,099	153	1	0.63	0.90
20	Big Drama (06, Montbrook)	Died, 2021	18/10	1/1	0/1	(Drama Chorus, \$89,300)	\$367,919	300	5	0.86	1.12
21	¶ Chance It (17, Currency Swap), Journeyman Stallions	\$2,000	14/4	0/0	0/0	(Dare Greatly, \$110,900)	\$356,834	23	0	0.80	1.31
22	Tunwoo (15, Medaglia d'Oro), Bridlewood Farm	\$2,000	14/7	0/0	0/0	(Amazing Woo, \$76,570)	\$341,284	32	1	0.93	1.16
23	Seeking the Soul (13, Perfect Soul)	Died, 2025	21/7	0/0	0/0	(Ms Kendrick B., \$40,450)	\$295,715	36	0	0.46	1.22
24	Bullet Gone Astray (13, Gone Astray)	N/A	6/3	0/0	0/0	(First Shot Fired, \$57,350)	\$138,654	13	0	0.47	0.62
25	Young Brian (13, Hard Spun)	N/A	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Sally's Surprise, \$70,205)	\$118,359	21	0	0.74	1.00
26	Gary D (07, Successful Appeal), Ming Farms	\$1,500	4/2	1/1	1/1	(Ninja Star, \$76,525)	\$100,780	17	2	1.12	1.11
27	Iqbaal (06, Medaglia d'Oro)	N/A	8/3	0/0	0/0	(Bledsoe, \$30,303)	\$93,766	46	0	0.78	1.01
28	Backtalk (07, Smarty Jones)	N/A	5/3	0/0	0/0	(Miggi, \$42,778)	\$72,159	74	2	0.86	0.75
29	Flashstorm (04, Storm Cat)	N/A	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Centavo, \$40,348)	\$55,648	130	3	0.86	0.86
30	Black Stash (10, Bernardini)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Denying, \$28,215)	\$55,365	9	0	0.48	0.33
31	Wagon Limit (94, Conquistador Cielo)	N/A	1/1	0/0	0/0	(So Well, \$49,670)	\$49,670	203	7	1.30	1.05
32	Katz My Song (08, Unbridled's Song), Champagne Farm	Private	11/1	0/0	0/0	(Lil Rainwater, \$21,682)	\$49,516	107	0	0.24	0.61
33	Greatness (99, Mr. Prospector)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Dr White, \$22,568)	\$42,093	*270	8	1.28	0.99
34	Global Response (09, A.P. Indy)	N/A	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Spanish Delight, \$19,300)	\$38,622	41	0	0.44	0.76
35	Bismarck Tullio (13, Curlin)	N/A	4/1	0/0	0/0	(Bijah Again, \$21,930)	\$34,040	14	0	0.37	0.64
36	Fury Kapcori (10, Tiznow)	Died, 2021	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Child Proof, \$13,527)	\$29,393	82	3	0.65	1.19
37	Rattlesnake Bridge (08, Tapit)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Baja Boogie, \$24,102)	\$26,013	159	0	0.51	0.92
38	Tapitgold (11, Tapit)	Died, 2025	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Kenric, \$6,975)	\$16,326	23	0	0.42	1.11
39	¶ Three Rules (14, Gone Astray)	N/A	6/0	0/0	0/0	(Soul Stealer, \$7,300)	\$15,360	10	0	0.08	1.12
40	In Summation (03, Put It Back)	Died, 2022	2/0	0/0	0/0	(Burn It All, \$6,160)	\$6,952	*246	5	0.84	1.20

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire

the legendary Eddie Woods and his wife, Angela, when Woods retired after offering his final consignment at the 2025 Ocala Breeders' Sales April 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale.

Having the means and opportunity to obtain one of the most renowned training facilities in the sport would be a stroke of fortune under any circumstance. That the chance landed at Scanlon's feet when it did was the culmination of a freakish amount of positive karma converging.

After years of leasing Oak Ridge Training Center in Morriston, Scanlon looked at the rate at which his operation was growing—and how the financial payments would compare to that of a mortgage—and began formulating a five-year plan to purchase a property that would better serve his illustrious client base that includes Godolphin,

“I STARTED WITH 30 HORSES. AND I THINK WHEN I STARTED WITH THOSE 30 HORSES, I WAS JUST TRYING TO SURVIVE. THAT FIRST YEAR I WAS LIKE, ‘PLEASE LET ME JUST PAY THE BILLS.’ ONE OF MY FIRST PINHOOKS ... WE BOUGHT AN ARCHARCHARCH FOR \$30,000 AND SOLD IT FOR \$200,000 AND I WAS LIKE ‘OH MY GOSH, I CAN GO ANOTHER YEAR.’ ”

—DAVID SCANLON

Coolmore, Calumet, Don Alberto, and Qatar Racing. When he and King began seriously scouting properties on the market, however, nothing they saw quite offered what was needed to keep pace with the standards they set for themselves and the ambitions they held for the future.

“We visited a couple places, and they were nice, but we just hadn’t found a place that would let us grow,” Scanlon said. “Most of the places we found, the stall numbers were where we would have to stay the same or cut back, or they did have the stall numbers but they were huge amounts of land and would be too big.”

The ideal setup was one Scanlon had already seen firsthand—namely, the palatial operation Woods established that had produced such champions as Big Brown, Lady Eli, Citizen Bull,

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Scanlon and King's new property has allowed them to grow their business significantly

and National Treasure. With its 41 paddocks, multiple round pens, six barns, 196 stalls, mile track, and a 7-furlong turf course, Woods' training center was designed by a horseman with the needs of the equine athlete centered first. The wrench in the scenario was the fact it was initially under contract with a developer.

Just when Scanlon had resigned himself to having to manifest a new dream home, the volatile nature of the real estate world shifted in his favor. When Woods' deal with the developer fell through, he let his comrade know they needed to talk.

"We had seen Eddie's place, but we never thought it would actually happen or anything," Scanlon said. "We just thought, 'Ah, he's got a deal on his place. That ship has sailed.' And then one day, things just went a little south. We saw each other at OBS, and I mentioned, 'Anytime you want to have a conversation...'" and it just went from there. By the grace of God, it just seemed like it all set up.

"He was ready to retire, and we were really needing a place. It was literally the perfect setup for us. It was set up by a pinhooker for another pinhooker. It was like it was meant to be. Owning a farm was in our five-year plan, and it just kind of happened in year three."

The purchase of Woods' training center may have been a straightforward business agreement, but the responsibility that came with taking over the property was something Scanlon



It's only appropriate a rainbow should appear at the entrance of the training center since the cloverleaf is the official logo of the couple's training and sales operation

viewed as a privilege rather than a mere transaction. A pioneer of the juvenile sales market, Woods was heralded not just for his perennial position as one of the leading consignors of 2-year-olds in North America, but for the deft way he was able to bring horses along during a most crucial point of their development.

In that vein, when the farm officially changed hands, it was as much a passing of the torch as it was finalizing a contract.

"When you're going through the barns, you just look at everything and it's kind of like hallowed grounds," Scanlon said. "You get in here and you see somebody's life work ... and

you do feel a real stewardship and responsibility."

INDIVIDUALIZED APPROACH

Just as game recognizes game, horsemanship recognizes similar ilk. Having learned tried and true lessons from the brilliant teacher that was his father, Scanlon has carved his own distinguished path by sticking to the basic principle of letting horses be horses while making sure his program adjusts to the individual instead of the other way around.

His relationships with Coolmore and Godolphin date back to when they were clients of the elder Scanlon but the list of graduates that have been honed by his trainings read like a who's who of some of the top runners in recent decades. Shortly after his father died, Scanlon had a big, chestnut filly come into his care, carrying with her expectations that mirrored her size. A seven-figure Keeneland September Yearling Sale purchase for Coolmore, the daughter of A.P. Indy was as talented as she was headstrong but needed the right kind of handling to make sure she lived up to the billing her bloodlines commanded.

In 2007, the future champion named Rags to Riches became a billboard of sorts for what Scanlon's program was capable of when she put herself into racing's annals by defeating eventual two-time Horse of the Year and Hall of Famer Curlin in that year's Belmont Stakes (G1). The litany of high-profile performers has continued in parade-like fashion with Darley's

2025 LEADING SIRES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2026 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2025 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative BT SWs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	Done Talking (09, Broken Vow)	N/A	22/9	0/0	0/0	(Miss Fussy Pants, \$69,577)	\$397,388	62	0	0.94	0.86

* includes Southern Hemisphere foals; ¶ Indicates a first-crop sire



Graded stakes winner **Paladin**, an exciting 3-year-old prospect, is a graduate of Scanlon's training program

homebred champion Bernardini, 2024 champion 3-year-old male Sierra Leone, and grade 1 winner Speaker's Corner among the many beneficiaries of Scanlon's skillset.

"He learned very well from his dad and picked up a lot of his horsemanship skills that he had and brought

them to the present day," Michael Banahan, director of bloodstock for Godolphin USA, said of Scanlon. "We've seen what he's done pinhooking and at the 2-year-old sales and the success he's had with that and what he's done with our horses. He's had between 10 and 15 of our yearlings

turning 2-year-olds down there over the years each year ... and he has always provided us with horses that have done very well after we've sent them down to him to go forward to the trainers.

"He has a balancing act to play obviously with the horses he is getting ready for the 2-year-old sales and what is happening with our horses, but he understands our philosophies of what we're trying to do," Banahan continued. "He takes his time with them. He makes sure that when the horse is ready, he will move forward. And if they're not capable of doing what he is asking them to do at that stage, he knows when to give them a break and step back a little bit and give them the time they need, whether it is just time off or some extra veterinary care that is needed. But he's a good judge of identifying the times when we need to step on the gas and go forward or give the horse a chance to develop and catch up with their body. I think just general

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- ♦ Hip 100 - Filly, *Nyquist* - *Liam's Lookout*, by *Liam's Map*
- ♦ Hip 114 - Colt, *Nyquist* - *Lookin Dynamic*, by *Lookin At Lucky*
- ♦ Hip 143 - Colt, *Practical Joke* - *Market Rumor*, by *Afleet Alex*
- ♦ Hip 240 - Filly, *Jack Christopher* - *Party of Interest*, by *Bernardini*
- ♦ Hip 269 - Filly, *Yaupon* - *Pretty Paper*, by *Practical Joke*

- ♦ Hip 285 - Filly, *Tiz the Law* - *Queen of Diamonds*, by *Uncle Mo*
- ♦ Hip 288 - Colt, *Wootton Bassett* (GB) - *Queen's Speech*, by *American Pharoah*
- ♦ Hip 361 - Colt, *Happy Saver* - *Sing Lady Sing*, by *Scat Daddy*
- ♦ Hip 383 - Colt, *Oscar Performance* - *Spartina*, by *Ghostzapper*
- ♦ Hip 439 - Colt, *Jackie's Warrior* - *Tessie Flip*, by *Grand Slam*
- ♦ Hip 776 - Colt, *Nyquist* - *Fragrance*, by *Malibu Moon*



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SCANLON
Training & Sales



An example of Scanlon's eye for talent is having sourced Army Mule as a \$35,000 yearling and pinhooking the colt the following year for \$825,000. The colt had a brief racing career but was a grade 1 winner

out there and be horses and let them get their turnout time—turnout is essential to us. You can't baby them, but you've got to learn to really listen to them and see when one is telling you."

INCREASING THE FOOTPRINT

It's difficult to have moments of reflection when one is conditioned to always look forward. As the whirlwind of moving into his future settles down, Scanlon is already in the process of setting the longterm plans for his continued growth into motion.

In addition to obtaining Woods' former training center, Scanlon has also gained multiple clients that were referred his way. His pinhooking business has always been more on the boutique end of the equation but with the space and resources at his disposal, he is looking to bolster those numbers as well.

"We've experienced tremendous growth, going from like 135 horses to over 200 horses now. We not only brought our clients, but we picked up clients from Eddie and Angela as well," he said. "Our breaking business is really good, so we just know we want to keep that really solid, and then we're hoping now to start to expand our pinhooking business a little more. We don't do the huge numbers some of the guys do, and we would like to expand our pinhooking business as the years go on. We'll probably also do some weanlings here and there. We want to be well rounded."

The last couple decades have in fact been a showcase of the versatility of Scanlon's talents. They put him in position to grab one of the most coveted brass rings in his industry, setting him on a course now to see how much further he can surpass his loftiest hopes.

"It is truly just like a divine thing how nice it is to be here. Every morning you come here, and it's just meant for horses. Eddie and Angela just did a super job," Scanlon said. "He designed this place, and, you know you can tell the horses are happy here. We're hoping we can have half the success that Eddie and Angela had. Blair and I would be really happy." **BH**

horsemanship would be to the core of what Dave brings to the table."

Scanlon's ability to coax bubbling ability to the surface is matched by his knack for spotting glimmers of potential and turning them into gemstones. One of his biggest early pinhooks was purchasing future grade 1 winner Army Mule for \$35,000 as a yearling in 2015 before selling the son of Friesan Fire for \$825,000 at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale.

When the 2024 Kentucky Derby (G1) went to post, the racing industry got to see all facets of Scanlon's operation represented in the starting gate. In addition to having training graduate Sierra Leone fall a nostril short of victory that day, Blue Grass Stakes (G1) runner-up Just a Touch—whom Scanlon pinhooked for \$300,000 at the 2023 OBS April Sale—was also in the 20-horse lineup.

Forgive Scanlon too if he already has hopes of getting hit with bit of déjà vu when the first Saturday of May rolls around in 2026. Paladin, who, like Sierra Leone, is a son of Gun Runner purchased for seven-figures by a group headed by Coolmore representatives at The Saratoga Sale, Fasig-Tipton's select yearling sale, flaunted the lessons Scanlon instilled when he

captured the Remsen Stakes (G2) in December to stamp himself an early classic contender.

"You know, the core of what we do is still the same. It's putting a horse first. And every horse is different, so even though you try to set a routine, you still have to treat every horse individually," Scanlon said. "We're lucky. Now, you know, we've got a barn full of seven-figure horses, but you can't wrap them in bubble wrap. You have to still let them go



Scanlon says, "Owning a farm was in our five-year plan, and it just kind of happened in year three."

TOP: COGLIANESE PHOTOS; BOTTOM: COURTESY OF DAVID SCANLON