



One of the stallion barns at Darley's Jonabell Farm in Kentucky, which will soon be at capacity given the racecourse success of Darley and Godolphin in the US

An imposing force

Sid Fernando takes a look at the burgeoning presence of Darley and Godolphin in the United States, where Sheikh Mohammed's bloodstock and racing interests are thriving, highlighted by a successful Breeders' Cup.

THE 14 Breeders' Cup races, held over two days in late October at Santa Anita and beamed live to a worldwide audience, put Darley's imprimatur on Mr. Prospector's legacy front and centre in the United States as a force to be reckoned with for years to come.

The exclamation mark to the championship event was Raven's Pass' emphatic Breeders' Cup Classic victory, which was symbolic for several reasons. Racing under the green silks of Princess Haya of Jordan, the wife of Darley principal Sheikh Mohammed, Raven's Pass was sired by Darley USA resident Elusive

Quality, a grandson of Mr. Prospector; he was one of the horses included in the recent Darley purchase of Stonerside Farm and its holdings; he tracked and dramatically swooped past reigning American hero Curlin at the top of the stretch; and he had too much not to hold off longtime arch rival Henrythenavigator, owned by Darley's main competitor, Coolmore.

Darley USA, the North American stallion division of Darley, was established in 2001 when Sheikh Mohammed purchased the 790-acre Jonabell Farm from the Bell family as his entrée into the stallion business in Kentucky. With Jimmy

Bell staying on as CEO of the Jonabell operation and Dan Pride named the COO, Darley USA inherited the management of two current residents, Cherokee Run and Holy Bull, and added from there to a roster that will number 16 stallions in 2009. Some of the horses, including Elusive Quality and Quiet American, came to Darley USA via Gainsborough Stud after the death of Gainsborough owner Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Mohammed's brother. Others were added to the roster from the Darley and Godolphin racing stables or purchased as stallion prospects.

Half of the 16 stallions at Darley USA descend from the Mr. Prospector sire

line, which also was responsible for an astounding eight of the 14 Breeders' Cup winners this year, including Raven's Pass. The latter's sire is a top-class son of the Mr. Prospector horse Gone West. The notable non-winners at the Breeders' Cup from the Mr. Prospector line were the two whom Raven's Pass had behind him: Kingmambo's Henrythenavigator and Smart Strike's Curlin, the leading North American money earner of all time.

Darley USA was represented by two other stallions with Breeders' Cup winners, both also from the Mr. Prospector line. E Dubai, by Mr. Prospector from Words Of War, a Lord At War own sister to the dam of Raven's Pass, was responsible for Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (LR) winner Desert Code, who held off Godolphin's Diabolical in the race.

And Street Cry, by the Mr. Prospector stallion Machiavellian from Irish Oaks winner Helen Street, by Troy, got the undefeated Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic (G1) winner Zenyatta, as well as Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) third, Street Boss, and the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) third Street Hero. With seven Group/Grade 1 winners to his credit from only three crops of racing age, including a Kentucky Derby winner, Street Cry has emerged as the best young stallion in America and the heir-apparent to Mr. Prospector.

It's partnering with the Mr. Prospector sire line, which goes so well in America, has been an obvious reason for the success of Darley USA, which will stand Street Cry for \$150,000 in 2009 and Elusive Quality for \$75,000. In contrast, only four of Coolmore's thirteen US-based horses for 2009 are from the Mr. Prospector line, and one of them is the newly-retired Henrythenavigator, standing at \$65,000.

"The decisions on which horses to stand here have been made by consensus," says Charlie Boden, stallion nominations manager for Darley USA. "John [Ferguson], Jimmy [Bell], Dan [Pride] and more recently myself have been involved in decisions. I have a very confident sales staff."

Olly Tait, the managing director of Darley Australia who was recently named COO for Darley USA as a replacement for Pride, now COO at the Dubai-controlled Fasig-Tipton sale company, says, "We expect strong demand for our stallions in 2009 as we have a great roster of horses that are well-priced. The current economic climate will obviously have an effect on the industry. The stud fees that we have set for 2009 are reflective of the challenges that will most likely face the industry over the next few years."

DARLEY USA STUD FEES

Stallion	Fee
Street Cry (Machiavellian)	\$150,000
Elusive Quality (Gone West)	\$75,000
Bernardini (A.P. Indy)	\$75,000
Street Sense (Street Cry)	\$60,000
Hard Spun (Danzig)	\$40,000
Any Given Saturday (Distorted Humor)	\$30,000
Henry Hughes (Hennessy)	\$30,000
Street Boss (Street Cry)	\$25,000
Discreet Cat (Forestry)	\$25,000
Cherokee Run (Runaway Groom)	\$25,000
Consolidator (Storm Cat)	\$15,000
E Dubai (Mr. Prospector)	\$15,000
Rockport Harbor (Unbridled's Song)	\$15,000
Quiet American (Fappiano)	\$15,000
Holy Bull (Great Above)	\$10,000
Offlee Wild (Wild Again)	\$7,500

Boden notes that all 2009 stud fees for Darley USA stallions, except the three that sired Breeders' Cup winners, have been reduced from 2008. "If calls and applications are any indication, however, business has not fallen off at all," Boden says. "In fact, our applications are up ten percent to date over last year."

Darley USA can boast one fact that no other stud farm in North America can: It stands four active sires of Kentucky Derby winners - Street Cry, Elusive Quality, Quiet American and Holy Bull.

"We've added eight stalls to the stallion complex in the last six months," says Boden, "so we're certainly poised for expansion." Many future stallion prospects for Darley USA will undoubtedly come from those flying the maroon and white silks of Darley or the royal blue of Godolphin's racing operation.

Darley Stable and Godolphin

Darley Stable has three trainers in America: Tom Albertrani, a one-time Godolphin assistant to Saeed bin Suroor the trainer of Bernardini; Kieran McLaughlin, trainer of Invasor and Henry Hughes and others for the Maktoum family; and Eoin Harty, based in California and the trainer of current juvenile Grade 2 winner Desert Party, purchased for \$2.1 million at a two-year-old sale earlier this year.

The Godolphin operation in America is handled by bin Suroor's New York-based assistant, Rick Mettee, who completed his fourth season for Godolphin in 2008.

Mettee, who assisted in 25 wins for Godolphin this season and handled Grade 1 winners Music Note and Cocoa Beach, oversees a staff of 15 at Saratoga and Belmont in the summer and Belmont in the autumn. "We basically have a stable of about 12 to 18 horses throughout the year," he says. "We were at about 15 for most of the fall, and now we're winding down and are down to about six horses. This year we won't be going down to Florida to Payson Park for the winter, so the horses who are going to Dubai are assembling in Kentucky right now. I'll be joining them in Dubai by the middle of December."

Godolphin's bin Suroor handles the classic contenders, who will prepare for the UAE Derby (G2) in Dubai. The best of the draft headed for Dubai include Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner and ex-Bob Baffert-trained Midshipman, who along with Raven's Pass was acquired by Darley in the Stonerside transaction. Others include Vineyard Haven, multiple Grade 1 winner of the Champagne and Hopeful Stakes who was purchased privately by Godolphin from trainer Bobby Frankel and partners; Jose Adan, first past the post in all three starts but disqualified to second in a Grade 3 and purchased privately from Chicago trainer and breeder Wayne Catalano; City Style, another ex-Stonerside colt and a listed stakes winner on turf in Louisiana who also ran fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf.

Then there are the Darley-raced and McLaughlin-trained Saratoga maiden winner Regal Ransom; Coronet Of A Baron, second to Midshipman in the Grade 1 Del Mar Futurity and third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf; and the Harty-trained Desert Party, winner of the Grade 2 Sanford Stakes.

It's interesting to note that six of the seven colts listed here are by Mr. Prospector-line horses, and the classic target for each is the UAE Derby in late March, once considered outlandish as a prep for the Kentucky Derby (G1). In 2001, the second and third-place finishers in the UAE Derby were Street Cry and Lido Palace, and next year both will have sons on a Classic campaign being prepared in Dubai.

Mettee says that the Godolphin string will be back in New York in April and was hopeful that one of these colts or some others still developing will step up as Kentucky Derby contenders. "They haven't stopped buying, either," Mettee says about Godolphin. "They are still looking at some colts."

HORSES TO WATCH: GODOLPHIN CLASSIC CONTENDERS

Horse	Best Performance	Sire	Sire Line
Midshipman	Won Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1)	Unbridled's Song	Fappiano
Vineyard Haven	Won Champagne Stakes (G1)	Lido Palace	Forty Niner
Jose Adan	2nd Arlington-Washington BC Futurity (G3)	Crypto Star	Fappiano
City Style	Won Sunday Silence Stakes (L)	City Zip	Carson City
Regal Ranson	Won Maiden at Saratoga	Distorted Humor	Forty Niner
Coronet Of A Baron	2nd Del Mar Futurity (G1)	Pure Prize	Storm Cat
Desert Party	Won Sanford Stakes (G2)	Street Cry	Mr. Prospector

Good will hunting

When Godolphin or Darley comes calling, it's difficult to say No, as Bobby Frankel found with Vineyard Haven, his Lido Palace colt whose only loss of the year came to Darley's Street Cry colt Desert Party in the Grade 2 Sanford Stakes. "I had an offer I couldn't refuse," Frankel told Daily Racing Form. "That's why I sold."

A few years ago Elizabeth Valando also received some Darley offers that most wouldn't have refused, but she did. The final offer, reported in the press at \$17 million at the time but never confirmed by Valando, was for her then two-year-old star, Nobiz Like Shobiz. "The newspaper reported it, but I never would divulge the price," she says. "I felt it was not the right thing to do."

Valando said Bell and Pride called frequently, but there were no hard feelings when she rejected the offers. "I never knew them before, but I got to know them, particularly Dan Pride, and I started to do business with them. Jack Werk suggested that I breed Nobiz's dam to Bernardini, so I called them and Jimmy Bell said his book was full and everything had to go through John Ferguson and Sheikh Mohammed, but I got a call the very next day that she was in."

Since then Valando has bred mares to Street Cry, Hard Spun and E Dubai. "I admire the Sheikh very much," she says. "They've been wonderful to do business with, and they conduct things in a classy manner. And you don't have to pay your stud fee until the foals stand and nurse."

Valando breeds to race, but many commercial breeders have found that it pays to breed to Darley USA stallions, too, because Darley and its associates buy several sales horses sired by Darley or Maktoum-owned stallions.

Breeders' Cup triumphs

Aside from Raven's Pass's Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) victory, which was a triumph for Darley USA resident Elusive Quality, the Princess Haya-owned Donativum won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. And Like Raven's Pass with Henrythenavigator, Donativum had the Coolmore colt Westphalia safely held in second, with Darley's \$550,000 two-year-old in training purchase Coronet Of A Baron third and its ex-Stonerside colt City Style fourth.

Midshipman, also from Stonerside, won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) for Darley, but the third-place finisher, the

Street Cry Grade 1 winner Street Hero, appears to be a classic threat next season.

Street Cry's Zenyatta was a brilliant winner of the Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic (G1), at the expense of Godolphin's multiple Grade 1 winners Cocoa Beach, second, and Music Note, third.

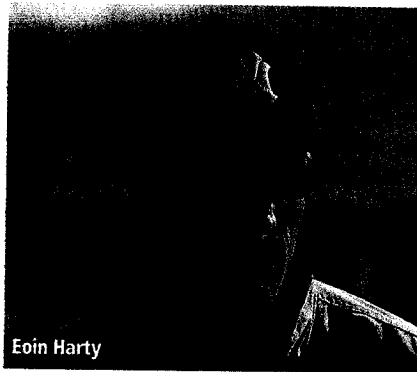
In the Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1), Street Boss (by Street Cry), a 2008 Grade 1 winner, finished third behind repeat winner Midnight Lute, a grandson of Darley USA's Quiet American, being by Kentucky Derby winner Real Quiet.

The Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (LR) resulted in a surprise victory for Desert Code, a son of Darley America's E Dubai, who out-finished Godolphin's Diabolical.

In the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (LR), the Darley-bred Rebellion finished second to Albertus Maximus.

And in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (LR), Maram won the narrowest of decisions from the Coolmore-connected Storm Cat filly Heart Shaped. Maram's sire was the late Sahm, a son of Mr. Prospector who stood at Shadwell at a fee of \$5,000 and died there in 2007.

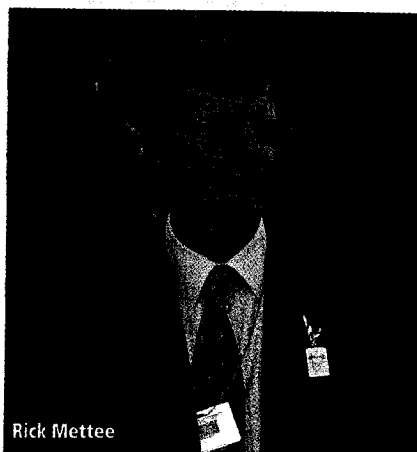
All told, the Breeders' Cup was a glorious two days of racing for Darley and its American-based stallions, especially for the two flagship horses, Street Cry and Elusive Quality, who have admirably carried on where Mr. Prospector left off. ■



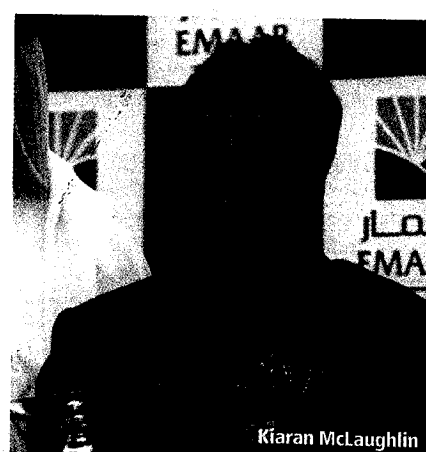
Eoin Harty



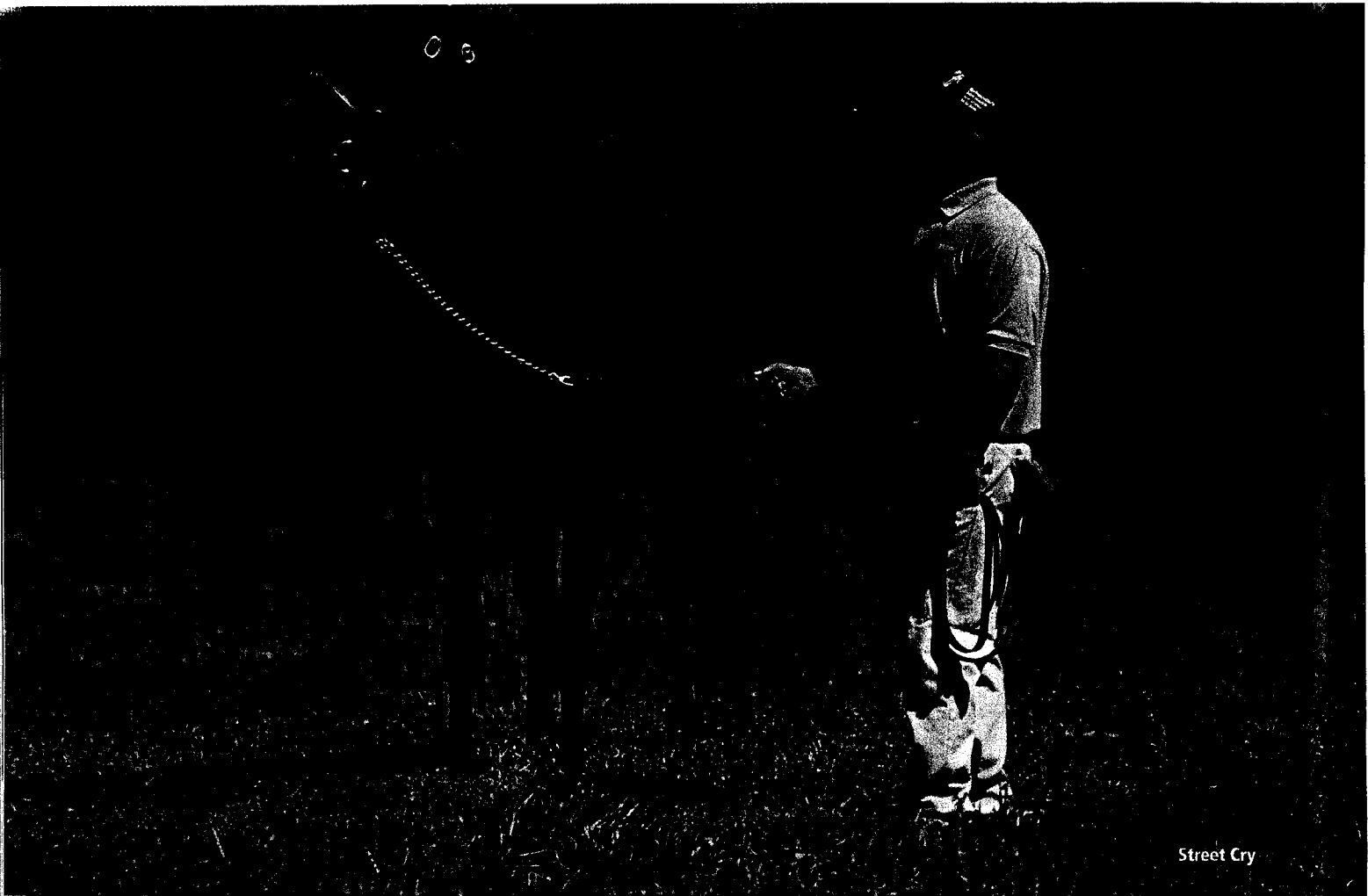
Tom Albertrani



Rick Mettee



Kieran McLaughlin



Street Cry

The word on the street

Sid Fernando examines the progeny of boom Darley America sire, Street Cry, and finds that even the notoriously less marketable fourth-crop are selling like hotcakes

WITH HIS third crop at the races this year, Darley USA's Street Cry has emerged as one of the best and most versatile young stallions in the world. From his first crop he sired Street Sense, winner of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) at two and the Kentucky Derby (G1) at three and, so far, the only horse to land the prestigious double. This first crop now also includes both the top-class filly and undefeated multiple-Grade 1 winner Zenyatta, who was scintillating in the Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic (G1), as well as one of the best American sprinters of 2008, Grade 1

winner Street Boss, who was third in the Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1).

Street Cry is also represented this year by current two-year-old Grade 1 winner Street Hero, third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), and by Australian star and Group 1 winner Whobegotyou. To date, he has sired seven Group/Grade 1 winners. They include high-class performers in all age groups that act on dirt, turf, and synthetic surfaces over various distances and different continents, including North America, South America (Group 1 classic winner Tomcito), Australia, and Europe (Group 1 winner Majestic Roi).

With such an exciting start to his career, Street Cry has also become a commercial success at the yearling sales. His yearling average and median have gone up with each succeeding crop instead of declining each year, as is the norm for most stallions.

In 2005, the stallion's first-crop yearlings averaged \$104,899, with a \$57,000 median; in 2006, with his first crop at the races, his second-crop yearlings averaged \$139,000, with a \$92,500 median; and in 2007, after siring a Derby winner, his yearlings averaged \$166,007, with a \$120,000 median.

Street Cry, who stood for \$100,000 in 2008, had his fourth crop of yearlings at the sales this year. In the spring of 2006, before his first two-year-olds ran, his fourth crop was conceived at \$30,000 in what is universally acknowledged as the toughest year for a stallion to attract a significant cluster of quality commercial mares.

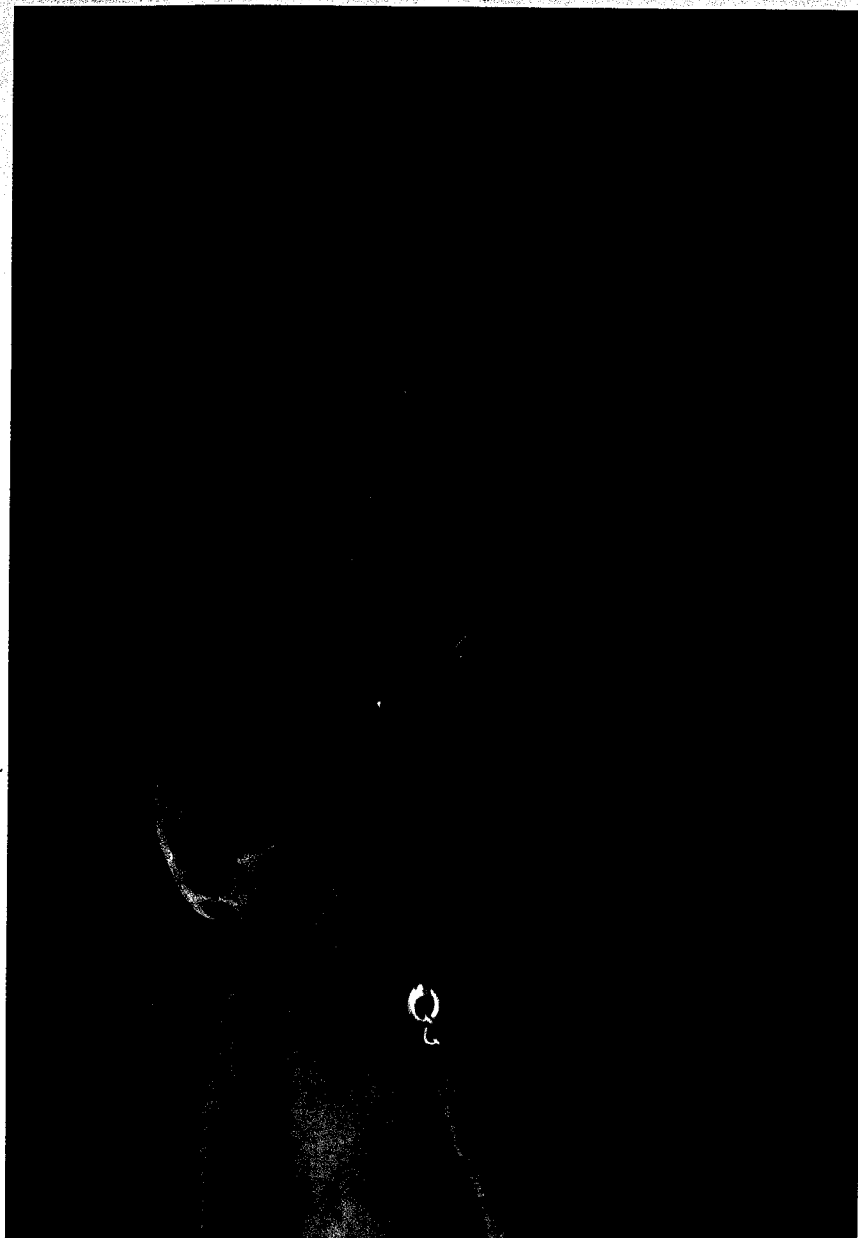
“With such an exciting start to his career, Street Cry has also become a commercial success at the yearling sales”

Indeed, six Street Cry yearlings sold from Books 1 to 3 at the 2008 Keeneland September sale are specifically noted here because they were produced from possibly the least commercial mares from his fourth crop. Yet even they were profitable because of Street Cry’s burgeoning reputation.

These six yearlings – Hip Nos. 695, 1242, 1271, 1303, 1612, and 1657 – were produced from mares by unfashionable or obscure sires: Best of Luck (2), Fit to Fight, Deputy Commander, Lil’s Lad, and St. Jovite. None of these mares had decent race records or earnings: four of them won only one race, several were low-level sellers, one was unraced, and the other was unplaced (24 lengths behind the winner) in her only start. The highest earner of this group made less than \$20,000. None had ‘live’ pedigrees with current Stakes winners in the first dam, although several descended from solid enough older families. And most weren’t sales stars. One made only \$1,000 as a two-year-old, and two sold for \$6,000 and \$23,000 as in-foal mares.

However, relying primarily on the wide-spread appeal of the young Darley sire, Street Cry’s fourth-crop yearlings averaged a sparkling \$146,020 in 2008, with a median of \$110,000, figures only slightly below his third-crop numbers.

What’s particularly astounding is that this group of six yearlings noted here outperformed Street Cry’s overall 2008



Dual Grade 1 winner Street Boss, a four-year-old son of Street Cry and one of the year’s leading sprinters has been retired for stallion duty at Darley’s Jonabell Farm in Kentucky in 2009

figures, averaging \$188,000 a horse, with individual prices of \$400,000, \$190,000, \$125,000, \$140,000, \$200,000, and \$75,000.

At least four of these yearlings were purchased by savvy judges: Richard O’Gorman Bloodstock (2), Scanlon Training Center, and John Ferguson – all of whom had experience and success with Street Cry yearlings previously.

Newmarket-based bloodstock agent Dick O’Gorman picked up hip Nos. 695 and 1242, for an undisclosed client for \$400,000 and \$190,000, respectively. Both were bred on a foal share with Darley. Hip No. 695 was

produced from the six-year-old Best of Luck mare Cannons Crown, a half-sister to a restricted Ohio-bred Stakes winner who in turn has produced two Ohio-bred Stakes winners. The second dam produced two Stakes-placed runners, although the third dam did not produce a Stakes winner. Cannons Crown sold for \$1,000 as a two-year-old and her only win from five starts came in a \$3,500 maiden seller at Thistledown, a small racetrack in Ohio. Yet her Street Cry first foal made \$270,000 as a weanling last year before O’Gorman landed him for \$400,000 at Keeneland.

Likewise Hip No. 1242 was produced from the six-year-old Fit to Fight mare Just a Knockout (presumably she lived up to her name), a half-sister to another restricted Ohio-bred Stakes winner who also has produced an Ohio-bred Stakes winner. She had a little better page than Cannons Crown, but was a better racehorse, winning a maiden at Thistledown from 10 starts for earnings of \$16,825. Her Street Cry colt, also a first foal, fetched \$190,000.

"The sire is doing well everywhere. He's the most promising young-generation sire in America," said O'Gorman from Newmarket recently. "And both were nice individuals." O'Gorman has purchased several Street Cry yearlings at auction, most notably the Washington Singer Stakes (LR) winner Cry of Freedom, bought for Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed from last year's Tattersalls October sale for 90,000gns.

Scanlon Training Center purchased Hip No. 1303 for \$140,000. Also a foal share with Darley, this colt

was produced from the seven-year-old Deputy Commander mare Not Offensive, winner of a \$20,000 maiden seller from seven starts with earnings of \$19,080. A half-sister to two minor Stakes-placed runners, Not Offensive comes from the family of German group winner Sulaafah. This colt will probably be resold as a two-year-old. Earlier this year at the Fasig-Tipton February sale, David Scanlon, a prominent pinhooker, sold the current Street Cry Grade 2 juvenile Stakes winner Desert Party to John Ferguson for \$2,100,000.

Ferguson, Sheikh Mohammed's Bloodstock representative, has probably purchased more offspring of Street Cry than anyone else, and he was the buyer of Hip No. 1612, a colt from the nine-year-old St. Jovite mare Heavenly Aura. The latter, bred by St. Jovite's owner and breeder Virginia Kraft Payson, was inbred 2x3 to St. Jovite's dam, Northern Sunset. Otherwise, she was unremarkable, unplaced in one start with no black type in the first dam, meaning the yearling had two blank

dams. Before she was bred to Street Cry, she brought \$23,000 at Keeneland November, in foal to Jump Start. Her Street Cry colt was also a foal share with Darley and made \$200,000.

Street Cry already has established that he can get Grade/Group 1 winners from across the auction spectrum: Peruvian Group 1 classic winner Tomcito – also Grade 1 placed in North America – sold for \$7,500, his cheapest yearling in 2006; English Group 1 winner Majestic Roi made 25,000gns in 2005; Zenyatta sold for only \$60,000 in 2005; and Street Boss went for a healthy \$300,000, also in 2005.

Given the commercial assumption that a sire's fourth crop is his weakest, it will be interesting to follow the developments of these particular yearlings, but one thing that appears to be certain is that Street Cry is past the point of no return and will find several top horses in this crop. ■

S. H. Fernando is the former Bloodstock Editor of Daily Racing Form.



photo: racingfotos.com

Group 1 winner Majestic Roi at full stretch – he made 25,000gns at auction in 2005