

# Grayson sire lists aim to highlight soundness

In a step toward providing sire lists that could highlight aspects of soundness and durability, the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation ranked stallions based on average number of starts per starter and percentage of starters from named foals.

The lists, which were completed with the help of Jockey Club Information Systems, were one of the ideas for improving soundness in the Thoroughbred that emerged from the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit held in October in Lexington.

"I think these numbers just give owners and breeders one more

Black Tie Affair (Ire) (26.04 starts), who stands for \$7,500 at O'Sullivan Farms in West Virginia.

Other active North American stallions high on the starts-per-starter list include **Tricky Creek (\$2,500, Running Horse Farm, New Mexico)**, Formal Dinner (\$5,000, Hidden Point Farm, Florida),



**TRICKY CREEK**

## Leading sires by percentage of starters from foals

Sire	Named foals	Starters	% Starters/foals
Timeless Times	265	234	88.30
Bag	329	288	87.54
Free At Last	286	250	87.41
Norquestor	339	293	86.43
Petardia	309	267	86.41
Petionville	248	214	86.29
Tricky Creek	322	275	85.40
Hadif	334	283	84.73
Shining Steel (GB)	279	236	84.59
Royal Applause (GB)	330	279	84.55

Source: Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation

these tables is that I think they could be a better source for owners and breeders below the top echelon."

Bowen said. "A lot of these stallions are in the stud fee range of a couple thousand dollars up to \$5,000. I think they could be especially useful for the person who breeds to race."

On the list of stallions based on percentage of starters from foals, Free At Last, number three on the list overall, is the top ranked active North American stallion at 87.41%.

Free At Last stands for \$2,000 at El Dorado Farms in Washington.

Crestwood Farm in Lexington boasts two of North America's leading active stallions in this category with Petionville, who stands for \$15,000, and Storm Boot, who stands for \$12,500. Other top-ranked active North American stallions on the list include Caller I.D., who will stand at Three Way Farm in Illinois in 2007, and Texas-based stalwart Valid Expectations, who stands for \$17,500 at Lane's End Texas.

The lists were limited to stallions born in 1986 or later that had at least one starter in North America in 2006. Stallions also were required to have at least 200 foals of racing age.

For the foal crop of 2000, Thoroughbreds have averaged 16.5 career starts, while in 1995 that figure was 20.94 and in '75 it was 30.19. The current average percentage of starters from foals for the breed is 69%. -Frank Angst

## Lifetime starts per starter

Sire	Starters	Starts	Starts/ starter
Shining Steel (GB)	236	6.913	29.29
Norquestor	293	8.567	29.24
Black Tie Affair (Ire)	378	9.845	26.04
Strike the Gold	212	5.462	25.76
Line In The Sand	395	10.081	25.52
End Sweep	338	8.489	25.12
Chromite	214	5.299	24.76
Tricky Creek	275	6.760	24.58
Formal Dinner	329	8.014	24.36
Twining	266	6.466	24.31

Source: Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation

thing to think about in making their decisions," said Ed Bowen, president of the foundation.

Bowen readily acknowledges that the lists are not definitive in terms of soundness and durability. He said a committee currently is brainstorming for ideas in shaping future lists and highlighting additional statistics that could point to stallions that promote soundness and durability. Still, he said the current lists could prove helpful.

"Maybe if someone has their decision down to a couple of stallions, they might see something here that helps them make their decision." Bowen said.

Many of the stallions on the lists are inactive or stand in other countries. Shining Steel (GB) ranks first with 29.29 starts per starter but stood last season in Turkey. The top-ranked active stallion on this list is

Roanoke (\$1,250, Three Way Horse Farm, Illinois), Robyn Dancer (\$2,500, Shady Lane Farm, Louisiana), and Colony Light (\$2,500, Rising Hill Farm, Florida).

"Even for stallions who are no longer active, I think the list might help people as they look for broodmares and see these stallions in the pedigree." Bowen said.

Is It True, who stands at Walmac Farm for \$5,000, is the top-ranked active Kentucky stallion. He ranks 44th on the overall list.

In presenting the tables in its newsletter, the foundation explains that breeding decisions negatively affect some stallions. A well-bred filly, for instance, might retire at the first sign of any problem while a horse with a less-fashionable pedigree is more likely to continue running after setbacks.

"One thing that's interesting on

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