

***Iron Maidens Thoroughbreds***  
***Do the fastest milers make the best stallions?***  
***January 4, 2010***

A one-turn mile dirt race can be a true test of a quality horse, yet milers have pedigrees as diverse as snowflakes. Some are sprinters who can carry their speed a few extra furlongs. Others are better at classic distances, but have enough speed to win at a mile, while the remainders are middle distance horses, which in America, includes races in the 8.5 to 9F category.

It's said that milers make the best sires. So it would be logical to assume that the top-rated milers in terms of Beyer Speed Figures would also be first-rate stallions. However, not all of the stallions who earned top ratings are true milers, they just happened to be top-notch runners. Below are the best one mile Beyer Speed Figure (BSF) earners and how they performed in the breeding shed:

**Swept Overboard** (End Sweep - Sheer Ice, by Cutlass) BSF: 122 (Met Mile, 2002) also won: San Miguel Stakes (G3) Hollywood Turf Express (G3), Ancient Title Breeders' Cup Handicap (G1), Bing Crosby Handicap (G2), Bay Meadows Breeders' Cup Spring (G3). Swept Overboard was a sprinter who could carry his speed. He went to stud in Japan, 2003. So far, has sired only one blacktype winner, Urban Street (Group 3).

**Holy Bull** (Great Above - Sharon Brown, by Al Hattab) BSF: 122 (Met Mile, 1994) also won: Futurity (G1), Haskell Invitational (G1), Florida Derby (G1), Woodward (G1), Travers (G1), Bluegrass (G2), Dwyer (G2), Hutcheson Stakes (G2). Horse of the Year & Champion Three-Year-Old Colt, 1994. Hall Of Fame Inductee, 2001. Holy Bull won graded stakes races from 7F to 10F. He does not carry the bloodlines of today's modern popular sires Northern Dancer, Mr. Prospector, or Bold Ruler. He has become a solid sire. Stud fee: \$10,000 - Sire of 14 crops, 12 to race. 1 Champion (Macho Uno, 2000 Juvenile) 1 Kentucky Derby winner (Giacomo), 14 graded stakes winners, 41 stakes winners, 42 stakes placers.



*Holy Bull Photo: Darley America*

**Ghostzapper** (Awesome Again - Baby Zip, by Relaunch) BSF: 122 (Met Mile, 2005), Also won: Vosburgh S. (G1), Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), Woodward S. (G1), Tom Fool H. (G2), Philip H Iselin H. (G3), 2004 Champion Older Male and Horse of the Year. Won graded stakes races from 6.5F to 10F. Like his sires, Ghostzapper's offspring are taking time to develop. Stud fee: \$30,000 - Sire of 3 crops, 1 to race. #21 on First Crop Sire List for money won and winners. One stakes runner/winner.

**Congaree** (Arazi - Mari's Sheba, by Mari's Book) BSF: 120 (Cigar Mile, 2003) Also won: Swaps S. (G1), Wood Memorial (G2), Del Mar Breeders' Cup H. (G2), Lone Star Park H. (G3), Carter H. (G1), Hollywood Gold Cup H. (G1), Cigar Mile H. (G1) (twice), San Antonio H. (G2), San Pasqual H. (G2). Ran the fastest mile in North America in 2002 in the Cigar Mile. Won graded stakes races from 7F to 10F. Stud fee: \$7,500. Sire of

4 crops, 2 to race, 2 graded stakes winners, 5 stakes winners, 5 stakes placers. #12 on Second Crop sire list (winners), #6 on NY Sire list (winners).

**French Deputy** (Deputy Minister - Mitterand, by Hold Your Peace) Stud Fee \$38,500 (AUS) (BSF: 119 (Jerome, 1995) Sent to Japan 2002. He has sired 10 Graded stakes winners including U.S. runners Left Bank, Mayo on the Side, House Party, Kurofune (champion miler, Japan), and Nobo Jack. He has over 40 non-graded stakes runners/winners and is listed #15 on the International Sire list.



*Commentator*

**Commentator** (Distorted Humor - Outsource, by Storm Bird) BSF: 119 (Optional Claimer, 2008) Also won: Perryville S., Whitney H. (G1) (twice), Mugatea Stakes, Richmond Runner Stakes, Richter Scale Sprint (G2), Massachusetts Handicap, Kashatreya Stakes - Gelding, Resides at Old Friends in Georgetown KY.

**Wagon Limit** (Conquistador Cielo - Darlin Lindy, by Coxs Ridge) BSF: 118 (Westchester, 1998), also won Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) Stud fee: \$2,500. Is #30 on the Florida Sires List (winners). One Graded stakes winner, Wagon Limit, eight non-graded blacktype runners/winners.

**Left Bank** (French Deputy - Marshesseaux, by Dr. Blum) BSF: 118 (Cigar Mile, 2001) Also won: Won Discovery H. (G3), Vosburgh S. (G1) Whitney H. (G1), Tom Fool H. (G2), Bold Ruler H. (G3). Deceased

**Bribon** (Mark of Esteem - Rowat Arazi, by Arazi) BSF: 118 (Optional Claimer, 2008) Also won: Metropolitan Handicap (G1), Westchester Stakes (G3). Gelding.

**Wild Rush** (Wild Again - Rose Park, by Plugged Nickle) BSF: 118 (Met Mile, 1998) Also won Carter Handicap (G1), Illinois Derby (G2), Remington Derby (G3). Sent to Japan after standing 5 years in US. Has sired five US Graded stakes winners, 32 non-graded blacktype runners/winners.

**Yankee Victor** (Saint Ballado - Highest Carol, by Caro) BSF: 116 (Allowance, 2000) Also won Met Mile (G1), Lexington Stakes (G2), Westchester Handicap (G3), Crème Fraiche Handicap (G3), Queens County Handicap (G3). Won from 8F to 9F. Stood initially in US (2001), then was sent to Korea in 2006. No graded stakes winners, 21 non-graded blacktype runners/winners.

**Dream Scheme** (Danzig - Dream Deal, by Sharpen Up) BSF: 116 (Churchill Downs Distaff, 1998) Mare. Five offspring, three to race, two winners. No blacktype.

**Discreet Cat** (Forestry - Pretty Discreet, by Private Account) BSF: 116 (Cigar Mile, 2006) also won Jerome Handicap (G1), UAE Derby (Gr. 2). Won from 8F to 9F. Stud fee: \$20,000. Entered stud in 2008.

**Pico Central** (Spend A Buck - Sheila Purple, by Purple Mountain) BSF: 116 (Met Mile, 2004) Also won GP.Major Suckow(G1,T), GP.Estado do Rio de Janeiro (G1,T), Carter Handicap (G1), Vosburgh Stakes (G1), San Carlos Handicap (G2) Brazil Champion Horse of the Year, 2003. Won from 6F to 8FHAs one strain of Bold Ruler, no Northern Dancer or Mr. Prospector. Inbred to War Admiral 5S x 5D. Sent to

Korea in 2007. One US non-graded blacktype runner/winner.

**Gygistar** (Prospectors Music - Starr Country, by Ogygian) BSF: 115 (Westchester, 2005) also won King's Bishop Stakes (G1), Dwyer Stakes (G2), Riva Ridge Breeders' Cup Stakes (G2), Westchester Handicap (G3) (twice). Won from 5.5F to 8F. Gelding, retired to Spring Hill Farm.

**There's Zealous** (Broad Brush - Zealous Connection, by Unreal Zeal) BSF: 115 (Cigar Stakes, 2002) Gelding.

**Fusaichi Pegasus** (Mr. Prospector - Angel Fever, by Danzig) BSF: 115 (Jerome, 2000), also won Wood Memorial Stakes (G2), San Felipe Stakes (G2), Jerome Handicap (G3) Kentucky Derby (G1). Won from 8F to 10F. Only son of Mr. Prospector to win the Derby. Stud fee: \$15,000 - 8 crops, 6 to race, 1 champion, 16 graded stakes winners, 44 stakes winners, 74 stakes placers. Shuttles to Australia.



**Cigar** (Palace Music - Solar Slew, by Seattle Slew) BSF: 115 (NYRA Mile, 1994) also won Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1), Dubai World Cup (Gr.1), Donn Handicap (G1) (twice), Massachusetts Handicap (G2) (twice), Woodward Stakes (G1) (twice), Oaklawn Handicap (G1), Gulfstream Park Handicap (G1), Hollywood Gold Cup (G1), Pimlico Special (G1). Won from 8F to 10F. Horse of the Year (1995 & 1996), Eclipse Older Male Horse (1995 & 1996), National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame (2002), Racehorse of the Decade of the 1990s. Fertility issues, no progeny. Resides at the Kentucky Horse Park's Hall of Champions.

**High Finance** (Talk is Money - Margay, by Conquistador Cielo) BSF: 115 (Optional Claimer, 2007) Won 2007 Tom Fool Breeders' Cup Handicap (G-2). Won from 5F to 8F. No progeny.

**Bowman's Band** (Dixieland Band - Hometown Queen, by Pleasant Colony) BSF: 115 (Met Mile, 2004) also won Meadowlands Breeders' Cup (G2). Won from 8F to 9F. Deceased. Entered stud in 2005 at Maryland Stallion Station and in 2007 Moved to Lane's End in Versailles, KY where he stood for a \$6,000 fee. To date, sire of four non-graded blacktype runners/winners. Euthanized in 2008 following complications from colic surgery.

As one can see from the horses listed above, winners of one mile races don't fit into any specific category, rather, each horse was capable of winning graded stakes as either a sprinter or route horse. Also, only sires with progeny can be counted, leaving only half of the original list. This does not leave a large enough group of sires to determine overall if a miler with gaudy speed figures in turn will make exceptional stallion, although of the ten on the list, three (almost 1/3) have sired champions, which would be considered average.