



Another Star for Hill 'n' Dale...

Seven hips into Tuesday's second session at October, Hill 'n' Dale Sales sold the sale's top-priced colt, a \$500,000 Distorted Humor yearling. Seven hips into Wednesday's finale, John Sikura's operation sold the auction's top-priced filly, an \$800,000 Smart Strike miss.

The symmetry worked well for Hill 'n' Dale, which has jumped from strength-to-strength at the sales this year. At Fasig's Saratoga Sale, it sold one of the two horses



Hip 760

Fasig-Tipton photo

that brought seven figures, a \$1 million Distorted Humor-Cascading filly. A few weeks later at Keeneland September, Hill 'n' Dale sold four seven-figure lots at Keeneland September, including the \$2.2

million Indian Charlie half-sister to Take Charge Lady and the \$1.7 million Medaglia d'Oro half-brother to Super Saver. Yesterday's score, meanwhile, was noteworthy in that it was care of a family that John and his brother Glenn have curated for years.

"We spent a lot of years and money trying to obtain significant mares, those pedigrees that are really special, and to sell horses from those families to people like [Borges Torrealba] here, to Live Oak in Saratoga, to Mandy Pope at Keeneland, it's very rewarding," said Sikura. "It's a great market for the unique offerings."

While yesterday's Smart Strike filly had a pedigree that would have fit in any select auction in the world, Sikura said the game plan was always to bring her to the October Sale.

"She was a late foal and I had nominated her to September, but I never had any intention of selling her there," he said. "If she had made a big step forward, we might have sold her there, but I think she needed the time. And this sale has become more than just a clearing house--it's a place to sell really good horses. We were well rewarded for bringing her here. We sold the high colt and the high filly here, so



John Sikura (left) and Doug Cauthen

Fasig-Tipton photo

it's been a great sale for us, and a great year for us."



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F-T OCTOBER YEARLING SALE

<u>SESSION TOTALS</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Catalogued	378	417
No. Offered	332	359
No. Sold	287	289
RNAs	45	70
% RNAs	13.6%	19.5%
No. \$200K+	4	2
High Price	\$800,000	\$350,000
Gross	\$10,524,600	\$7,772,500
Average (% change)	\$36,671 (+36.4%)	\$26,894
Median (% change)	\$19,000 (+58.3%)	\$12,000
<u>CUMULATIVE</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Catalogued	1130	1254
No. Offered	976	1094
No. Sold	818	880
RNAs	158	214
% RNAs	16.2%	19.5%
No. \$200K+	15	6
High Price	\$800,000	\$440,000
Gross	\$27,908,000	\$22,991,600
Average (% change)	\$34,117 (+30.6%)	\$26,127
Median (% change)	\$17,000 (+33.3%)	\$12,750

Perretti Secures Eight Belles Kin for \$370,000...

The Florida-based horseman J.J. Crupi bought Wednesday's third-dearest horse, an eye-catching filly by Unbridled's Song, on behalf of Perretti Farms for \$370,000. Gainesway consigned the daughter of Miss Abita (Dixie Union) as [hip 986](#), and the farm's Brian Graves was celebrating a smart pinhook, having purchased the filly for \$190,000 last year at Keeneland November.

The filly is a close relative to the brilliant Eight Belles, another by Unbridled's Song. Her dam Miss Abita is a three-parts sister to SW Away (Dixieland Band), dam of the ill-fated GI Kentucky Derby runner-up. It's also the family of the good sire Belong to Me (Danzig).

"This filly just had everything in the right place," said Crupi. "She just acted with so much class, and she looks like a runner. And you can get a runner by Unbridled's Song."

Bill Perretti's Perretti Farms, for over two decades one of the leading operations in Standardbred racing, has been making its presence felt on the Thoroughbred scene in recent months. It's very first Thoroughbred, Forty Tales (Tale of the Cat), won a trio of graded stakes this summer, including the GII Woody Stephens S. and GII Amsterdam S. The man who sold him the horse was none other than J.J. Crupi.

"I've known Bill for 35 years," said Crupi from the rear walking ring yesterday. "I used to fool with the Standardbreds years ago. Bill's 86, and he just loves it. I've got two other 2-year-olds I broke for him. Todd [Pletcher] ran one and he ran second; Carl Domino ran one, and he ran second, too. Both in New York maiden specials. So Bill's on a roll. He thinks it's easy!" Cont. p14

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Fasig-Tipton October cont.

And Perretti's just getting started. "I spent \$1.9 million for him at [Keeneland September], and at Saratoga we probably spent \$800,000. He's rolling."

The Unbridled's Song filly was Perretti's first buy at October.

Perretti will skip the Breeders' Cup with Forty Tales, though Crupi himself is well-represented. He broke the GI Spinaway S. heroine Sweet Reason (Street Season), and pinhooked the GI FrontRunner S. upsetter Bond Holder (Mineshaft). He also broke last year's GI Turf winner Little Mike (Spanish Steps), recent hero of the GI Joe Hirsch Turf Classic at Belmont.

For more on Perretti Farms, read Bill Finley's profile that ran during KEESSEP [here](#).

Casse, Nardellis Team Up on Another Medaglia...

Trainer Mark Casse has enjoyed success buying Medaglia d'Oro yearlings from the Kim and Rodney Nardelli at Fasig-Tipton. Three years ago, at the Saratoga Sale, he acquired the filly Funny Proposition from the husband-and-wife duo for \$275,000, and earlier this year soundly upset champion Royal Delta (Empire Maker) with the 4-year-old in the GII Fleur de Lis at Churchill.

Casse went back to the well yesterday at October, going to \$440,000 to purchase the sale's third-highest-priced yearling, a colt by the Darley sire from the good producer Listen Now (Storm Bird). The May 12-foaled gray was consigned by the Nardellis, who bred him in partnership with Susan Bunning and Michael Spirito, as [hip 924](#). Casse deputized his brother Justin to handle the bidding duties on behalf of an undisclosed client.

"This colt has a stallion's pedigree," said Justin Casse.

"He's a half to four stakes horses from a strong mare, and he was the complete package physically. He's very strong and well-balanced. He might not be as stretchy as a lot of the Medaglias, but when you look at him, all the parts are there, and you know he's going to grow up and be a nice horse. Even though he's nowhere near what a pinhooker would pay, he's the kind of horse a pinhooker would love. He looks like he could be precocious."

Of the price, he added,

"We were about at our limit. There wasn't a whole lot of meat left on the bone."



Rodney Nardelli Fasig-Tipton photo

The Nardellis have enjoyed success with the colt's dam Listen Now for over 15 years now. They purchased the Whitham homebred as an unraced 2-year-old broodmare prospect in 1996, the same year Listen Now's half-sister Listening (Night Shift) won the GI Hollywood Oaks. The pedigree would enjoy big updates in the coming years, as another half, Beautiful Noise (Sunny's Halo), won the GII Santa Ana H. in 2001, and a third sister, Solar Echo (Spinning World), became a multiple Grade I performer.

In the meantime, Listen Now was doing her part to fill her page with black-type. Her foals included the 2002 GII Amsterdam S. winner Listen Here (Gulch), whom the Nardellis raced, and the SW Indy Bird (A.P. Indy). She's also the dam of the GSP Listen (Chester House) and SP Parade the Flag (Distorted Humor). Listen Now was also a good sales producer for the Nardellis, giving them their best-ever result at auction, an Unbridled's Song filly who sold for \$600,000 in 2004.

"She's a good mare that's taken us a lot of places," said Rodney Nardelli.

Listen Now, now 19, did not have a foal this spring, but is back in foal to Midnight Lute.

Nardelli reported her Medaglia d'Oro colt had been catalogued for September, but grabbed a quarter in his near fore just before the sale and was a late scratch.

"We had to take care of that, and it healed up perfect," said Nardelli. "We were happy to take him here; we always like to do business with Fasig-Tipton. They always get the buyers here, and it's a great market."

The Nardellis are located not far from Lexington. "We're based between Georgetown and Midway," said Nardelli. "We have 250 acres and do horses and Angus [cattle]--a little bit of everything."

They have bred or co-bred, among others, the Grade I stakes winner Mona de Momma (Speightstown).



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