

Find Your Champion
at the Lexington Sale



Jake Blue Chip (hip #178),
Art Major colt out of multiple stakes winner,
Sprig Hanover (\$438,458).



Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Big Numbers for Big Horses on Opening Night at Lexington

By Bill Finley and Lucas Marquardt

LEXINGTON, Ky—As has been the case at so many standardbred yearling sales of late the cream rose to the top last night at Lexington and the less desirable horses went for the proverbial ham sandwich. It was a mixed bag last night at Lexington, some very good, some not so good. The end result was that the numbers were nearly identical to those from a year ago.



Sale topper Custom Fit went to Jimmy Takter for \$475,000

They sold 105 horses last night for a gross of \$9,064,000 and an average of \$86,324. That was down \$30 per horse, a negligible number.

The Cancelliere Brothers and Jimmy Takter did their best to keep the numbers up as they walked away with the two stars of the sale. Takter bought sale topper Custom Fit for \$475,000, no doubt hoping that the full brother to Father Patrick turns out to be another Father Patrick. Team Cancelliere won the bidding war on Mr Lucky Luke, paying \$450,000 for the half brother to Hambletonian winner Muscle Massive.

"We were very pleased," said sales manager Randy Manges. "I would say this is about what we expected. The horses that brought the high numbers were the ones we thought would bring the high numbers."

It figured that Takter would go after Custom Fit since he trained his brothers Pastor Stephen and Father Patrick and the latter looks like he's on a path to superstardom.

"To us, he was the number-one horse in the sale," Takter said. "The way he moved, the way he looked, I just had to take him home. He was tough to fault. His brothers are very nice horses. We paid \$65,000, I think, for Pastor Stephen, and \$105,000 for Father Patrick last year, and I thought I'd

have to go [higher than I did] for a horse like this. There are a lot of European players here, and they want a horse like that. It's tough to find a really nice trotting colt like this.

"He's actually a little taller than 'Patrick' at this stage--he's a bigger horse. He was, according to my man Perry Soderberg, by far the best-moving horse in the sale. I just loved the horse; he could be a serious horse, like his brothers."

You can always count on the Cancelliere Brothers to make waves when they show up at the sales and that's exactly what they did with Hip 57, Mr. Lucky Luke, who is from the first crop of Lucky Chucky. When Tom and John Cancelliere really want something they rarely come away empty handed and it looked like they were intent on taking this one home.

"He's a beautiful horse," John Cancelliere said. "He looks just like Lucky Chucky, and what could be better than to bring him to the place where Lucky Chucky trained? He's going to Magical Acres and that's pretty cool. He's a beautiful animal with a great pedigree."

Cancelliere said he had a chance to buy into Lucky Chucky and turned it down, which is among the reasons he wanted this horse.

(continued on next page)

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