

Bill Oppenheim, July 16-War Front, Galileo Top Apex Sires



From the desk of...

BILL OPPENHEIM

WAR FRONT, GALILEO TOP APEX SIRES

At the end of 2006, a total of 1,156 sires which stood or had stood in North America, Europe, and Japan qualified for APEX ratings, meaning, basically, that they had 10 or more 3-year-olds in the last year covered (in that case, foals of 2003 and 3-year-olds of 2006). By midyear 2014--The Jockey Club Information Systems (TJCIS) ran the data on July 8--the number of sires which qualified was down to a record low of 821. By that measure, there has been a 30% decline in the viable 'commercial' stallion population since



Galileo
Coolmore.com

2006.

There are actually 17 different APEX ratings, as veteran readers will know (but may not be able to recite by heart), but the 'signature tune' is the A Runner Index. Here's a very brief recapitulation. To calculate APEX ratings, we collect all the runners by all qualifying sires (10+ 3-year-olds of the final year covered) for each year, in each of five racing jurisdictions covering three regions. The three regions are: North America (USA and Canada); Europe (GB/Ireland, France and Germany); and Japan. For each jurisdiction, for each of the last seven years, we find the top 2% of earners, which are designated 'A Runners'; the next 2% (B Runners); and the next 4% (C Runners). Combined, they are designated ABC Runners (top 8%). We then simply add up the totals from all five jurisdictions for all seven years (or however many the relevant sire has had runners, if fewer than seven).



War Front
ClaiborneFarm.com

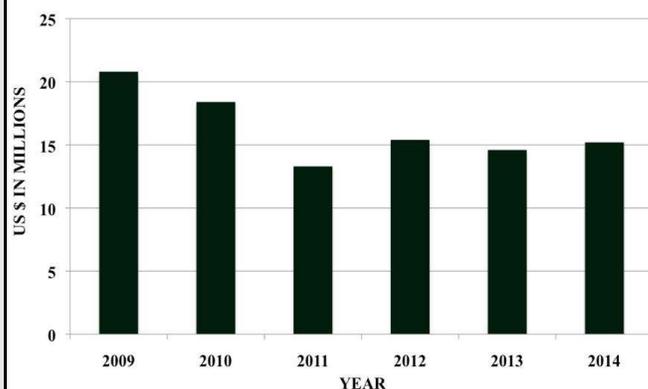
The seven-year limit prevents us from assuming once-great sires are still operating at their peak levels: Gone West and Green Desert were examples of once-great sires whose success rates halved toward the end of their careers. Most importantly, though, the APEX ratings measure "the frequency with which" sires prove capable of producing high-level (ABC Runners) or top-level (A Runners) racehorses. The figures aren't skewed by one huge earner, as an average-earnings index can be; African Story (GB) (Pivotal)'s \$6-million payday in the G1 Dubai World Cup counted him as just another A Runner in this system.

Weekly Sales Ticker by Bill Oppenheim

"Fasig's July yearling sale Monday yielded steady results: one fewer yearling sold compared to last year, gross up 4%, average up 5%. Two sires who sold well: Harlan's Holiday, 4 averaged \$207,500; Scat Daddy, 8 averaged \$112,000. The growth market is in the Racing Age sales: Fasig's version was up 45% in gross Monday; last week Tattersalls' July Sale (mostly racing age) had 92% sell of those which went through the ring, and the gross was up 20%".

— Bill Oppenheim

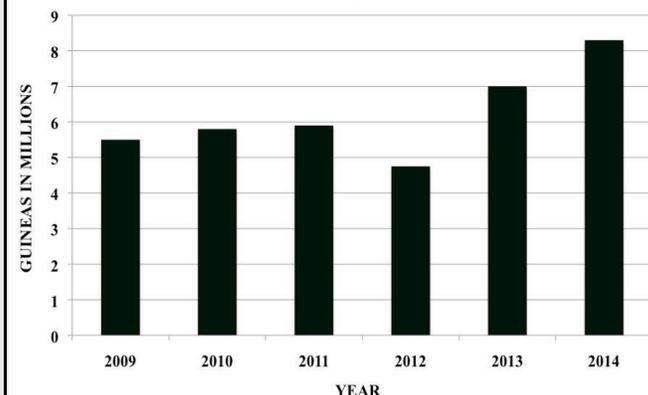
FASIG-TIPTON KY JULY SALE



FASIG-TIPTON KY YEARLING SALE

YEAR	CAT	RING	SOLD	%W/D	%S/R	%S/C	GROSS	AVG
2014	265	240	162	9.4%	67.5%	61.1%	\$15,253,000	\$94,154
2013	258	222	163	14.0%	73.4%	63.2%	\$14,635,000	\$89,785
2012	338	283	189	16.3%	66.8%	55.9%	\$15,364,000	\$81,291
2011	303	261	191	13.9%	73.2%	63.0%	\$13,349,000	\$69,890
2010	407	341	243	16.2%	71.3%	59.7%	\$18,414,500	\$75,780
2009	494	424	268	14.2%	63.2%	54.3%	\$20,828,000	\$77,716

TATTERSALLS JULY HIT SALE



TATTERSALLS JULY SALE (IN GUINEAS)

YEAR	CAT	RING	SOLD	%W/D	%S/R	%S/C	GROSS	AVG
2014	765	544	500	28.9%	91.9%	65.4%	8,342,700	16,685
2013	737	499	436	32.3%	87.4%	59.2%	6,970,300	15,987
2012	682	450	402	34.0%	89.3%	58.9%	4,745,400	11,804
2011	753	528	457	29.9%	86.6%	60.7%	5,910,800	12,934
2010	818	595	475	27.3%	79.8%	58.1%	5,835,000	12,284
2009	732	503	438	31.3%	87.1%	59.8%	5,546,700	12,664

Data compiled by Brianne Stanley

438 SIREs - 200+ RUNNERS		2014 Midyear APEX							
SBSIREs with 2.00+ A INDEX									
			1st	TOT	A	ABC			
SIRE	YR	HSSIRE	Foals	ST	Rhrs	A	Index	ABC	Index
WARFRONT	2002	DANZIG	2008	KY	457	40	4.38	85	2.32
GALILEO	1998	SADLER'S WELLS	2008	IRE	1725	144	4.17	328	2.38
A.P. INDY	1989	SEATTLE SLEW	1994	Retired	905	65	3.59	174	2.4
SFBIGHTSTOWN	1998	GONEWEST	2006	KY	1238	85	3.45	244	2.47
MONSUN	1990	KONIGSSTUHL	1997	Dead	667	45	3.37	106	1.99
GHOSTZAPPER	2000	AWESOME AGAIN	2007	KY	685	41	3.23	122	2.4
UNUSUAL HEAT	1990	NUREYEV	1999	CA	889	55	3.20	164	2.39
MEDAGLIAD'ORO	1999	EL PRADO	2006	KY	1174	75	3.19	189	2.01
DANSILI	1996	DANEHILL	2002	GB	1374	87	3.17	211	1.92
DESERT GOD	1991	FAPPIANO	1994	NM	331	21	3.17	48	1.81
DUBAWI	2002	DUBAI MILLENNIUM	2007	GB	800	49	3.06	130	2.08
MONTJEU	1996	SADLER'S WELLS	2002	Dead	1358	81	2.98	203	1.87
NIIGON	2001	UNBRIDLED	2008	Dead	209	12	2.87	39	2.38
DYNAFORMER	1985	ROBERTO	1991	Dead	1081	62	2.87	171	1.98
PHILANTHROPIST	2001	KRISS	2008	S.Africa	238	13	2.79	37	1.98
ENGLISH CHANNEL	2002	SMART STRIKE	2009	KY	380	21	2.76	54	1.78
SMART STRIKE	1992	MR. PROSPECTOR	1998	KY	1645	89	2.71	239	1.82
GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	1997	STORMCAT	2002	KY	2017	108	2.68	321	1.99
TARIT	2001	PULPIT	2006	KY	1318	70	2.66	208	1.97
CANDY RIDE	1999	RIDE THE RAILS	2006	KY	1036	55	2.65	155	1.87
MIDNIGHT LITE	2003	REAL QUIET	2010	KY	228	12	2.68	32	1.75
OASIS DREAM	2000	GREEN DESERT	2005	GB	1452	76	2.62	229	1.97
BERNARDINI	2003	A.P. INDY	2008	KY	668	35	2.62	86	1.61
UNBRIDLED'S SONG	1998	UNBRIDLED	1998	Dead	1266	66	2.61	189	1.87
SELKIRK	1988	SHARPEN UP	1994	Dead	732	38	2.60	88	1.5
TEOFILO	2004	GALILEO	2009	IRE	509	26	2.55	68	1.67
KITTEN'S JOY	2001	EL PRADO	2007	KY	992	50	2.52	131	1.65
LEMON DROP KID	1996	KINGMAMBO	2002	KY	1273	64	2.51	205	2.01
MINESHAFT	1999	A.P. INDY	2005	KY	819	41	2.50	119	1.82
FIRST SAMURAI	2003	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	2008	KY	501	25	2.50	68	1.7
TIZNOW	1997	CEES TIZZY	2008	KY	1345	67	2.49	177	1.64
SHAWARDAL	2002	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	2006	IRE	897	44	2.45	139	1.94
PULPIT	1994	A.P. INDY	1999	Dead	1138	54	2.37	170	1.87
DANEHILL DANCER	1998	DANEHILL	1998	Retired	1620	75	2.31	223	1.72
AWESOME AGAIN	1994	DEPUTY MINISTER	2000	KY	1053	49	2.30	164	1.99
SMARTY JONES	2001	ELUSIVE QUALITY	2006	PA	678	31	2.29	104	1.92
FURIM	2002	DYNAFORMER	2009	Dead	242	11	2.27	20	1.08
DISCREET CAT	2003	FORESTRY	2009	KY	446	20	2.24	50	1.4
EMPIRE MAKER	2000	UNBRIDLED	2005	JP	1108	49	2.21	179	2.02
DISTORTED HUMOR	1999	FORTY NINER	2000	KY	1563	68	2.18	278	2.22
FRELD	1998	STORMCAT	2008	NY	870	38	2.18	129	1.85
SKY MESA	2000	PULPIT	2005	KY	988	43	2.18	143	1.81
DARK ANGEL	2005	ACCLAMATION	2009	IRE	370	16	2.16	52	1.76
NEW APPROACH	2005	GALILEO	2010	GB	294	10	2.14	28	1.5
INDIAN CHARLIE	1995	IN EXCESS	2000	Dead	1155	49	2.12	172	1.86
HARDSPUN	2004	DANZIG	2009	JP	546	23	2.11	92	2.11
LEROI DES ANIMALS	2000	CANDY STRIPES	2007	GB	385	16	2.08	52	1.69
QTY ZIP	1998	CARSON CITY	2003	KY	1331	55	2.07	195	1.88
MAJUB MOON	1997	A.P. INDY	2001	KY	1721	71	2.06	232	1.69
STORMY ATLANTIC	1994	STORMCAT	2000	KY	1721	71	2.06	210	1.53
PIVOTAL	1999	POLAR FALCON	1998	GB	1413	58	2.05	216	1.91
WARCHANT	1997	DANZIG	2002	KY	768	31	2.02	95	1.95
AZAMOUR	2001	NIGHT SHIFT	2006	Dead	450	18	2.00	50	1.39

The A Runner Index is a simple compilation: the average for all qualifying sires is 2% of the runners, so 2.00% A Runners equals an A Runner Index of 1.00. The elite of the elite these days can still top 4.00 A Runner Index, which is 8.00% of their runners. At the end of 2013, the young upstart **War Front** (Danzig) dethroned nine-time APEX Champion Sire **A.P. Indy** (Seattle Slew), with the consensus World number one, **Galileo (Ire)** (Sadler's Wells), taking second spot, and A.P. Indy third. Midway through 2014 the top three retain their positions, in that order: of the 438 sires which had 200+ year-starters (a horse is counted as a 'year-starter' every year it runs, up to seven), Claiborne's War Front is the number one APEX sire, with an A Runner Index of 4.38% (8.76% of year-starters 2008-2014). That's based on his having 40 A Runners from 457 year-starters since 2008 (or, in his case, 2010, since that's when he had his first runners). Coolmore's Galileo is nearly the world's most prolific as well as its best sire: he's had 1725 year-starters since 2008--nearly four times the number War Front's had. Galileo has had 144 A Runners since 2008, miles ahead of any other North American or European sire (**Giant's Causeway** {Storm Cat}, also a Coolmore sire, is a distant second, with 108), which means Galileo has an A Runner Index of 4.17 (8.34% of Runners). The former Lane's End sire and nine-time APEX champion A.P. Indy remains in third (3.59).

We specify North American and European sires (at least originally) in this context because we do also compile and publish APEX ratings for Japanese sires. These lists are invariably dominated by Yoshida family stallions, of which two in particular, **Deep Impact** and **King Kamehameha**, are the stand-outs. King Kamehameha is the sire of 150 A Runners since 2008--even more than Galileo--and ranks second in Japan with a 3.06 A Runner Index (6.12% of year-starters). Deep Impact, meanwhile, whose oldest foals are just six this year, has sired 119 A Runners and is the leading sire anywhere by A Runner Index, with 4.49 (8.98% of runners). But because Japanese racing is very focused in Japan, in spite of their good record when they ship, it's more appropriate to consider Japanese sires separately from North American and European stallions.

Through July 8, and covering racing from the beginning of 2008, there are 30 NA/EU sires with 200+ year-starters and A Runner indexes of 2.50 (5.00%) and above. They're a mixture, as you might expect, of old, new, and 'slots' sires. Horses like **Monsun** (3.37) and **Dynaformer** (2.87) still rank high (5th and 13th respectively), not to mention **Unusual Heat** (3.20), who was claimed for \$62,500, but has been the leading sire in California, along with In Excess (Ire), for a decade. Slots state New Mexico provides the now-retired **Desert God** (3.17), a son of Fappiano who still ranks in a tie for ninth by A Runner Index; while two former Ontario sires, **Niigon** (2.87, died in 2012) and **Philanthropist** (2.79, sold to South Africa), by Unbridled and Kris S. respectively, rank equal 13th and 15th.

Otherwise there are a lot of names you know from both progeny earnings and previous APEX lists: European sires **Dansili** (3.17), **Dubawi** (3.06), and (deceased) **Montjeu** (Sadler's Wells) (2.98) rank 9th, 11th, and 12th.

F2006 North American sires **Speightstown** (3.45), **Medaglia d'Oro** (3.19), **Tapit** (2.66), and **Candy Ride** (2.65) are all in the top twenty. Adena Springs's F2007 **Ghostzapper** (3.23) stumbled at the start of his stud career and now stands for a fraction of where he started, but has climbed back up to achieve a ranking of 6th among the 438 NA/EU sires with 200 or more 2008-2014 year-starters.

Among younger sires, Lane's End's **English Channel** (2.76) is the highest-rated F2009 sire (first 5-year-olds 2014), ranking 16th, one spot ahead of his veteran sire, also at Lane's End, **Smart Strike** (2.71). Darley's **Teofilo** (2.55), Richland Hills' deceased son of Dynaformer, **Purim** (2.27); Darley's **Discreet Cat** (2.24) and **Hard Spun** (2.11) also figure among the top 50 sires overall by A Runner Index. Among F2010 sires (1st 4-year-olds 2014) - and remembering that a good few of those may not yet have 200 year-starters and thus do not yet qualify for this list--Hill 'n' Dale's **Midnight Lute** (2.63) is top-rated, ranking 21st. Darley's **New Approach** (2.14) is the only other F2010 Top 50 qualifier at this stage.

We are working away at the formatting and will let you know as soon as we have posted the full details for all 821 sires on the *TDN* website; and we'll look at some other "Leaders Lists" and younger (F2010 and F2011) sires in next week's column.

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