

Bill Oppenheim-January 15, Three More Top 50's



From the desk of...

BILL OPPENHEIM

THREE MORE TOP 50'S

Last week we looked at the top 50 sires with 200+ year-starters ('runners') 2008-2014 by the signature APEX A Runner Index ([click here](#)). This week we'd like to look at three more Top 50's, as well as sires with first foals 2010 (4-year-olds of 2014) and 2011



Ghostzapper

Adena Springs photo

(3-year-olds of 2014). As we mentioned last week, when you look at the quantity of A Runners since 2008, Coolmore's **Galileo** is really in a class of his own, with 149 A Runners (keep in mind one horse can be counted as a separate A Runner each year it reaches the relevant A Runner earnings threshold) ([click here](#)). Coolmore's Kentucky arm, Ashford, stands **Giant's Causeway** (114), who is

nearly as far clear of the third-ranking sire of 2008-2014 A Runners, Juddmonte's **Dansili** (90). WinStar's **Speightstown** and Lane's End's **Smart Strike** are tied for fourth, with 89 each. The top 10 is rounded out by: Coolmore's **Montjeu** (died 2012, 85); a three-way tie among Darley's **Medaglia d'Oro**, Juddmonte's **Oasis Dream**, and Coolmore's now-retired **Danehill Dancer**, each with 78; and Gainesway's 2014 Leading North American sire, **Tapit** (76).

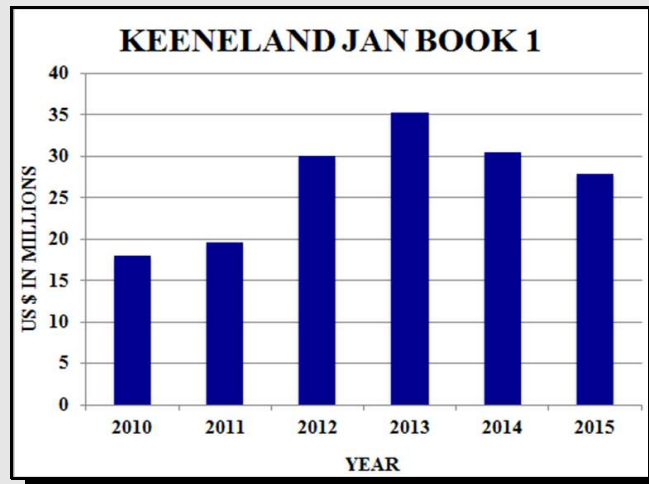
The ABC Index is a calculation based on a sire's percentage of A, B, and C Runners combined, divided by the population's average of 8%. Fifteen sires with 200 or more year-starters 2008-2014 returned ABC Indexes of 2.00 or higher; 2.00 equals 16% of runners.

The former Ontario sire, **Niigon**, a son of Unbridled who died in 2012, actually registers the highest ABC Index among this group, at 2.70, which equals 21.60% of his runners ([click here](#)). Adena Springs' **Ghostzapper** is the leading active sire by ABC Index; his rating of 2.48 means that 19.84% of his runners achieve ABC status--in other words, just under 20%. He is the narrow 'active' leader over **Speightstown** (2.45, or 19.60% of runners). **A.P. Indy** (2.43) is number four, with **Galileo** (2.39) number five; that's 19.12% of 1,822 runners--we'll come back to that. California's **Unusual Heat** (2.31) ranks sixth, ahead of **War Front** (2.30%, or 18.40% of runners); Adena Springs North's **Silent Name** (2.25); Lane's End's leading third-crop sire of 2014, **Curlin** (2.21); and another ex-Canadian sire, South Africa's Drakensburg Stud's **Philanthropist** (2.19). The fact that three of the top 10 sires by this measurement stand or stood in Ontario is testimony to the strength, at least up until now, of their long season with good purses, due to slots and a synthetic surface.

Among sires with under 200 year-starters 2008-2014, the top three sires by ABC Runner Index are: New York's Keane Stud's **Frost Giant** (2.55); France's Haras de Colleville's **Kendargent** (2.36); and Kentucky's Spendthrift Farm's **Into Mischief** (2.35).

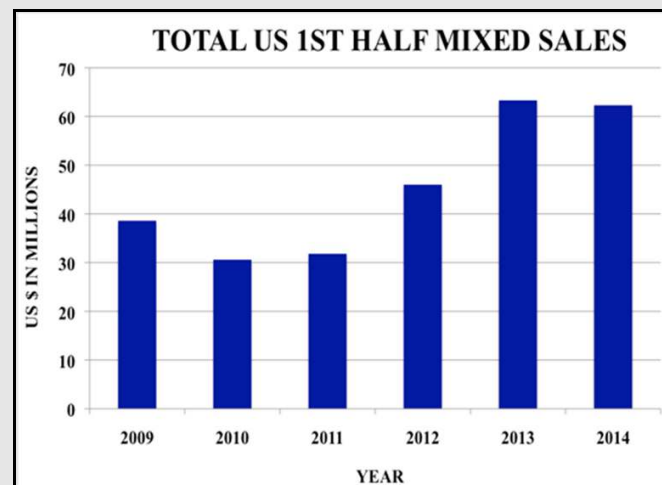
Weekly Sales Ticker by Bill Oppenheim

"With the RNA rate leaping by 9%, from 20% to 29%, for the Keeneland January Book 1 gross to drop by 9% isn't surprising. The 2% gain in average suggests the market remains essentially stable. Usually a significant jump in not-solds in a stable market indicates consignors and their principals are either more confident, or not as scared, or both. Having said that, it seemed buyers were paying full retail, and that was certainly the case at the \$200,000+ level, no doubt due to a continuing shortage in the availability of top pedigrees."
- Bill Oppenheim



KEENELAND JANUARY BOOK 1

YEAR	CAT	RING	SOLD	%W/D	%S/R	%S/C	GROSS	AVG
2015	804	638	452	20.6%	70.9%	56.2%	\$27,798,400	\$61,501
2014	791	639	508	19.2%	79.5%	64.2%	\$30,509,100	\$60,057
2013	767	604	449	21.3%	74.3%	58.5%	\$35,345,100	\$78,720
2012	780	619	487	20.6%	78.7%	62.4%	\$30,115,300	\$61,838
2011	726	560	392	22.9%	70.0%	54.0%	\$19,600,200	\$50,001
2010	734	552	406	24.8%	73.6%	55.3%	\$17,993,800	\$44,320



TOTAL US 1ST HALF MIXED SALES

YEAR	CAT	RING	SOLD	%W/D	%S/R	%S/C	GROSS	AVG
2014	3,303	2,685	2,120	18.7%	79.0%	64.2%	\$62,906,600	\$29,673
2013	2,973	2,385	1,791	19.8%	75.1%	60.2%	\$63,360,300	\$35,377
2012	2,692	2,170	1,670	19.4%	77.0%	62.0%	\$46,012,300	\$27,552
2011	3,079	2,441	1,769	20.7%	72.5%	57.5%	\$31,809,450	\$17,982
2010	3,077	2,487	1,737	19.2%	69.8%	56.5%	\$30,589,700	\$17,611
2009	3,612	2,712	2,089	24.9%	77.0%	57.8%	\$38,578,400	\$18,467

Data compiled by Brianne Stanley

Not entirely surprisingly, **Galileo** (348) and **Giant's Causeway** (335) are clear leaders by the number of ABC Runners ([click here](#)); 348 is just under 50 ABC Runners a year, 335 equals nearly 48 a year. WinStar's **Distorted Humor** (276) and **Speightstown** (250) come next, ahead of **Smart Strike** (242), **Oasis Dream** (240), Spendthrift's **Malibu Moon** (238), **Danehill Dancer** (231), England's Cheveley Park Stud's veteran **Pivotal** (219), and a tie for 10th between **Tapit** and **Dansili** (217 each, an average of 31 ABC Runners a year).

Into Mischief, Pioneerof the Nile Top Younger Sires...

The impact of the 2008 world financial crisis really showed up in the Thoroughbred business in the reduction in number of sires which qualified for APEX ratings between the 'sire crop' which retired in 2009 (first foals 2010), of which there were 89, and the sires which retired in 2010 (first foals 2011), of which there were just 65--a fall of 25% to what must be the lowest number (65) in at least the last 30 years.



Into Mischief
Spendthrift photo

One sire in each crop finished the 2014 season with an A Runner Index over 4.00, which equates to 8% of runners. Among the F2010 sires ('third-crop sires' of 2010), Spendthrift's **Into Mischief** has registered an A Runner Index of 4.51, or 9.02% of runners ([click here](#)); if he sustains anything like that ratio as his crop sizes quadruple, he will be a very serious sire.

Among F2011 sires the standout is WinStar's **Pioneerof The Nile**, with a 4.24 A Runner Index (8.48% of runners). Historically, sires which score 4.00 are the truly elite 'World Top 12' sires.

Besides **Into Mischief**, the others among the top five F2010 sires by A Runner Index are: **Frost Giant** and Hill 'n' Dale's **Midnight Lute**, tied with 2.69 A Indexes; Lane's End's **War Pass** (2.33), who unfortunately sired just two crops before dying; and Darby Dan's son of City Zip, **Run Away And Hide** (2.11). **Frost Giant** (2.55) is of course the leading F2010 sire by ABC Index, ahead of: **Into Mischief** (2.35); **Curlin** (2.21); **Midnight Lute** (1.83); and **War Pass** (1.74) ([click here](#)).



Midnight Lute
Hill 'n' Dale photo

Midnight Lute (14) is the top F2010 sire by number of A Runners ([click here](#)), followed by **Into Mischief** and **Curlin** (tied with 12); former Spendthrift (now South Korean) stallion **Tiz Wonderful** (10); and Coolmore Ashford's **Majestic Warrior** and Darley GB's **New Approach** (nine each).

Curlin is the runaway leader by number of ABC Runners, with 57 ([click here](#)); **Midnight Lute** (38), **Majestic Warrior** (36), **Tiz Wonderful** (33), and **New Approach** (32) round out the top five in that category.

Among the 65 F2011 sires, **Pioneerof The Nile** is the dominant name: number one by A Runner Index (4.24) ([click here](#)) and number of A Runners (10) ([click here](#));




Pioneerof the Nile
Louise Reinagel

tied for first with Coolmore's **Mastercraftsman** by number of ABC Runners (18 each) ([click here](#)); and narrowly edged by California's Vessels Farm's **Square Eddie** (1.92 to 1.91) by ABC Runner Index ([click here](#)). Adena Springs North's **Giant's Gizmo** (2.94) and **Square Eddie** (2.88) are two-three by A Runner Index,

followed by Florida's Getaway Farm's **Two Step Salsa** (2.31) and Ireland's Gilltown Stud's **Sea The Stars** (2.30). **Sea The Stars** is also second to **Pioneerof The Nile**, with seven A Runners, and a narrow third, behind **Pioneerof The Nile** and **Mastercraftsman**, with 17 ABC Runners. France's top second-crop sire, Haras de la Cauviniere's **Le Havre**, is also among the top five by number of A Runners (5) and ABC Runners (14), and ranks sixth by A Runner Index (2.03).

[Click here](#) for the complete alphabetical tables of 89 F2010 North American and European sires and [here](#) for the 65 F2011 sires.

[t f](#) [CLICK HERE TO SHARE THIS STORY](#)  **Bill Oppenheim** may be contacted at bopp@erb.com (please cc TDN management at suefinley@thoroughbreddailynews.com). Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/biloppenheim.

Top 10 by ABC Runner Index, Under 200 Year-Starters 2008-2014

SIRE	HIS SIRE	ABC Index
FROST GIANT	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	2.55
KENDARGENT	KENDOR	2.36
INTO MISCHIEF	HARLAN'S HOLIDAY	2.35
VRONSKY	DANZIG	1.96
SQUARE EDDIE	SMART STRIKE	1.92
PIONEEROF THE NILE	EMPIRE MAKER	1.91
QUINTON'S GOLD	CARSON CITY	1.79
IDIOT PROOF	BENCHMARK	1.79
WAR PASS	CHEROKEE RUN	1.74
SOLDIER HOLLOW	IN THE WINGS	1.74

2015 APEX RATINGS

Top 50 by Number of A Runners, 200+ Year-Starters
2008-2014 NA-EU Sires

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>Rnrs</u>	<u>A's</u>
GALILEO	SADLER'S WELLS	1822	149
GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	STORM CAT	2099	114
DANSILI	DANEHILL	1427	90
SPEIGHTSTOWN	GONE WEST	1276	89
SMART STRIKE	MR. PROSPECTOR	1703	89
MONTJEU	SADLER'S WELLS	1405	85
MEDAGLIA D'ORO	EL PRADO	1250	78
OASIS DREAM	GREEN DESERT	1513	78
DANEHILL DANCER	DANEHILL	1670	78
TAPIT	PULPIT	1418	76

2015 APEX RATINGS

Top 50 by ABC Runner Index, 200+ Year-Starters 2008-2014

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>ABC Index</u>
NIIGON	UNBRIDLED	2.70
GHOSTZAPPER	AWESOME AGAIN	2.48
SPEIGHTSTOWN	GONE WEST	2.45
A.P. INDY	SEATTLE SLEW	2.43
GALILEO	SADLER'S WELLS	2.39
UNUSUAL HEAT	NUREYEV	2.31
WAR FRONT	DANZIG	2.30
SILENT NAME	SUNDAY SILENCE	2.25
CURLIN	SMART STRIKE	2.21
PHILANTHROPIST	KRIS S.	2.19
DISTORTED HUMOR	FORTY NINER	2.13

2015 APEX RATINGS

Top 50 by Number of ABC Runners, 200+ Year-Starters 2008-2014

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>ABC's</u>
GALILEO	SADLER'S WELLS	348
GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	STORM CAT	335
DISTORTED HUMOR	FORTY NINER	276
SPEIGHTSTOWN	GONE WEST	250
SMART STRIKE	MR. PROSPECTOR	242
OASIS DREAM	GREEN DESERT	240
MALIBU MOON	A.P. INDY	238
DANEHILL DANCER	DANEHILL	231
PIVOTAL	POLAR FALCON	223
TAPIT	PULPIT	219

F2010 SIRE

Top 10 by A Runner Index

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>A Index</u>
INTO MISCHIEF	HARLAN'S HOLIDAY	4.51
FROST GIANT	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	2.69
MIDNIGHT LUTE	REAL QUIET	2.69
WAR PASS	CHEROKEE RUN	2.33
RUN AWAY AND HIDE	CITY ZIP	2.11
STREET HERO	STREET CRY	2.02
LITERATO	KENDOR	2.00
HORSE GREELEY	MR. GREELEY	1.96
CURLIN	SMART STRIKE	1.86
TIZ WONDERFUL	TIZNOW	1.79
SPRING AT LAST	SILVER DEPUTY	1.79

F2010 SIRE

Top 10 by ABC Runner Index

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>ABC Index</u>
FROST GIANT	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	2.55
INTO MISCHIEF	HARLAN'S HOLIDAY	2.35
CURLIN	SMART STRIKE	2.21
MIDNIGHT LUTE	REAL QUIET	1.83
WAR PASS	CHEROKEE RUN	1.74
FIRST DEFENCE	UNBRIDLED'S SONG	1.61
BIG BROWN	BOUNDARY	1.58
SAGEBURG	JOHANNESBURG	1.56
HEATSEEKER	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	1.52
RUN AWAY AND HIDE	CITY ZIP	1.50

F2010 SIRE

Top 10 by Number of A Runners

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>A's</u>
MIDNIGHT LUTE	REAL QUIET	14
INTO MISCHIEF	HARLAN'S HOLIDAY	12
CURLIN	SMART STRIKE	12
TIZ WONDERFUL	TIZNOW	10
NEW APPROACH	GALILEO	9
MAJESTIC WARRIOR	A.P. INDY	9
SPRING AT LAST	SILVER DEPUTY	7
BIG BROWN	BOUNDARY	7
4 Tied with 6		

F2010 SIRE

Top 10 by Number of ABC Runners

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>ABC's</u>
CURLIN	SMART STRIKE	57
MIDNIGHT LUTE	REAL QUIET	38
MAJESTIC WARRIOR	A.P. INDY	36
TIZ WONDERFUL	TIZNOW	33
NEW APPROACH	GALILEO	32
BIG BROWN	BOUNDARY	31
HENRYTHENAVIGATOR	KINGMAMBO	30

F2011 SIRE
Top 10 by A Runner Index

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>A Index</u>
PIONEEROF THE NILE	EMPIRE MAKER	4.24
GIANT GIZMO	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	2.94
SQUARE EDDIE	SMART STRIKE	2.88
TWO STEP SALSA	PETIONVILLE	2.31
SEA THE STARS	CAPE CROSS	2.30
LE HAVRE	NOVERRE	2.03
ARCHIPENKO	KINGMAMBO	1.96
LEONNATUS ANTEAS	STORMY ATLANTIC	1.85
CHAMPS ELYSEES	DANEHILL	1.83
MAIMONIDES	VINDICATION	1.52

F2011 SIRE
Top 10 by ABC Runner Index

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>ABC Index</u>
SQUARE EDDIE	SMART STRIKE	1.92
PIONEEROF THE NILE	EMPIRE MAKER	1.91
IDIOT PROOF	BENCHMARK	1.79
GRAZEN	BENCHMARK	1.63
GIANT GIZMO	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	1.47
LE HAVRE	NOVERRE	1.42
SEA THE STARS	CAPE CROSS	1.40
LEONNATUS ANTEAS	STORMY ATLANTIC	1.39
OLD FASHIONED	UNBRIDLED'S SONG	1.36
CREACHADOIR	KING'S BEST	1.36

F2011 SIRE
Top 10 by Number of A Runners

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>A's</u>
PIONEEROF THE NILE	EMPIRE MAKER	10
SEA THE STARS	CAPE CROSS	7
LE HAVRE	NOVERRE	5
GIANT GIZMO	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	4
CHAMPS ELYSEES	DANEHILL	4
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	DANEHILL DANCER	4
SQUARE EDDIE	SMART STRIKE	3
TWO STEP SALSA	PETIONVILLE	3
OLD FASHIONED	UNBRIDLED'S SONG	3
DANDY MAN	MOZART	3

F2011 SIRE
Top 10 by Number of ABC Runners

<u>SIRE</u>	<u>HIS SIRE</u>	<u>ABC's</u>
PIONEEROF THE NILE	EMPIRE MAKER	18
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	DANEHILL DANCER	18
SEA THE STARS	CAPE CROSS	17
LE HAVRE	NOVERRE	14
COLONEL JOHN	TIZNOW	12
OLD FASHIONED	UNBRIDLED'S SONG	11
DANDY MAN	MOZART	11
CHAMPS ELYSEES	DANEHILL	10