



TAKING STOCK

What a year Unbridled's Song has been having, he is number two on the *bloodhorse.com* General Sire List (behind only Distorted Humor, already sire of 143 runners, 32 winners, and the earners of over \$1 million in the first seven weeks of the year), with six stakes winners (three graded), and the earners of over \$875,000. Giant's Causeway is third, by the way, followed by Unusual Heat (everybody's heard of him now), Grand Slam (126 runners, 30 winners), A.P. Indy, Elusive Quality (first post-Smartly three-year-olds 2009), Stormy Atlantic, Lemon Drop Kid, and Tiznow--some familiar names, even so early in the year. But back to Unbridled's Song, who looks poised to have that 'career year' which would finally propel him firmly into the World Top 12.

His six stakes winners this year include four 'olders,' the latest of which was last Friday's GIII Sabin S. winner One Caroline. But it's his three-year-olds who are generating so much excitement. He already has four three-year-old stakes horses at Fair Grounds and Oaklawn, including GIII Southwest S. one-two Old Fashioned and Silver City. GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner and two-year-old champion Midshipman is out in Dubai, but last week saw two "TDN Rising Star"s by Unbridled's Song in action. Last Thursday Dunkirk, the \$3.7-million sale-topping 2007 yearling, took his record to two-for-two in a nine-furlong Gulfstream allowance. Despite being carried into the middle of the racetrack on the first turn, he recovered to post an easy, near five-length win, recording a Beyer figure of 98 while stopping the clock in 1:50 flat in a performance that just screamed Florida Derby. Then, on Saturday, Zayat Stables' \$700,000 two-year-old purchase Zensational ran a Beyer 104 when breaking his maiden at Santa Anita, going six furlongs in 1:08:3/5. At the risk of uttering the most obvious cliché, of the century so far, it could all be coming up roses for Unbridled's Song this year. It's not like he hasn't been knocking on the door. Interestingly, another son of Unbridled, Chester House's half-brother Empire Maker, could be making his bid for stardom this year, too. He's the sire of Pioneer of the Nile, last year's GI CashCall Futurity and this year's GII Robert S. Lewis S. winner.

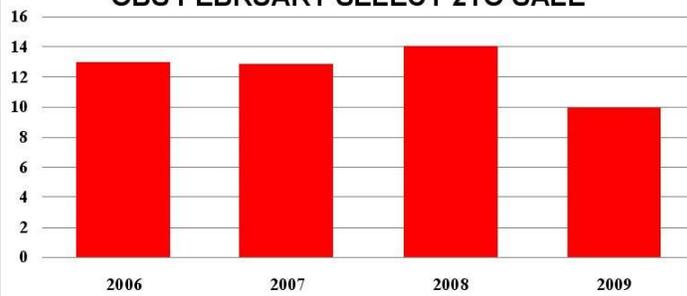
The Fappiano theme continues with a glance at the second-crop sire list, currently headed by Candy Ride, unbeaten on the racecourse and sire already of four 2009 stakes winners, three of them graded. A son of the Argentinean-based stallion Ride the Rails, by Fappiano's normally atypical son Cryptoclearance, Candy Ride has jumped off almost \$200,000 in 2009 progeny earnings ahead of leading 2008 freshman sire Tapit (by Pulpit out of an Unbridled mare).

Weekly Sales Ticker by Bill Oppenheim

"Having achieved records for gross and average last year, the only real question for the first two-year-old sale of the season was how far it would fall. That it was down 29 percent in gross and 34 percent in average is actually relatively good news, since it is the first like-for-like sale of the last few months. If the two-year-old market as a whole is down a third from last year, it will qualify as a great result, considering the mixed sales have been down 50 percent. Next up: Fasig's flagship Calder sale on March 3, which grossed \$35-million (down from \$43-million in 2007) last year. Referring to the bottom graph, the 2007 Arqana February Sale received a big boost from the Haras de Saint-Pair dispersal."

—Bill Oppenheim

OBS FEBRUARY SELECT 2YO SALE



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YEAR	CAT	RING	SOLD	% S/C	GROSS	AVG
2009	200	154	95	47.5%	\$9,925,700	\$104,481
2008	172	124	89	51.7%	\$14,030,000	\$157,640
2007	192	137	96	50.0%	\$12,831,000	\$133,656
2006	207	158	93	44.9%	\$12,967,000	\$139,430

Data compiled by Brianne Stanley

ARQANA FEBRUARY MIXED SALE

