

May 2015
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PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**
April 30 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile report:**
Oct. 15 prior to year foaling or
within 15 days of arrival in state

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Patience, research and dedication key to Hartwells' success

By Barbara Luna

When Pennsylvania breeder William J. Hartwell shares the history of his 40-year-old breeding operation, his story sounds more like a tribute to his Uncle Jack Dougherty, Bobby Camac, John Servis and Ramon Preciado than it does to his own dedication and investment.

Hartwell and his wife of 55 years, Frances, have been avid students of conditioning and pedigrees since they purchased their Buckingham, Pa., farm in 1974 when their mare Reigning T. V. was in the midst of a 77-start, 10-win racing career.

"From the time I was 10 years old, my Uncle Jack, who was a trainer, brought me to his farm in Norristown, and then when I was older to the track at Bowie," said Hartwell. "Reigning T. V. was my first horse, a claim from the original Garden State Park when I was 30 years old. Uncle Jack trained her after he encouraged me to buy her, and she became our foundation mare and was the reason Frances and I bought our farm."

That was over 40 years ago, and the husband-wife team can recite every pedigree, name, and race record of their homebreds since then.

Reigning T. V. was pensioned on the Hartwell's farm until she died at 33 (in 2003). Two of her daughters, stakes mares Flagnlinda, 24, and Richard's Lady J., 28, also



became stakes producers and are living their years of retirement with the Hartwells.

"I have three generations retired out there," said Hartwell. "That also includes Little Daisy Brown, out of our other foundation mare, Hail to Fortune. She is now 21 years old, and is the dam of stakes winner Disco T."

Flagnlinda (by Shimatoree) is the dam of stakes-placed Golddigger Beware, who in turn produced Golddigger's Boy. A son of Jump Start, Golddigger's Boy won the Don Levine Memorial Handicap against open company, the Lyman Handicap twice and Docent Stakes, was graded stakes-placed, and earned \$585,985.

Disco T, by Disco Rico, was multiple stakes-placed and won seven of 22 starts and \$356,808. Both were trained by Ramon Preciado.

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The purchase of their farm on Holicong Road was the beginning of years of study for Frances, who plans all of the breeding for the couple's mares. She has read everything she can find on pedigrees and classic breeding from the early 20th century's most important Thoroughbred breeders like Federico Tesio, Alfred Vanderbilt and Harry Payne Whitney.

Although Frances admits to being scared to death handling the horses on the farm, she is not fearful of investing top dollar for stud fees for their small herd. She has depended on generations of wisdom to choose the appropriate stallions, increasing the quality of breeding every year.

"We used to spend \$500 on a stud fee," she said, remembering Woody's Wish, the first foal out of Hail to Fortune. He was

by New Jersey stallion Miteas Well Laff and went on to become a multiple stakes winner with 11 wins from 51 starts and earning \$150,381. "But we have done well enough to put the money back into better breeding."

"I just listen to the oldtimers," she said. "They tell me to breed speed to speed. 'Don't breed a miler to a horse with speed, and don't breed a plodder to a plodder.' I spend a lot of time picking out three potential stallions, using "nicks" that I find for each of our three mares. Then my husband helps make the final choice."

In the past few years, the Hartwells have foaled mares bred to English Channel, Mineshaft, 2010 Kentucky Derby winner and leading second-crop stallion Super

Saver, and prominent sprinter Munnings, a son of Speightstown.

A search on the internet reveals little about her husband, the man who owns Hartwell Warehouse Inc., a multimillion-dollar business which distributes steel to companies around the world.

"I like to lay as low as possible," said Hartwell, who has never named his 38-acre property. "You can find it by looking for the red mailbox with two boulders by the driveway," he said. "But it is perfect for our operation. We have three barns, two for the horses and one for equipment, and plenty of room to rotate our fields."

Hartwell is hands-on at the farm, getting up at 5 a.m. to feed and check every horse before heading to Morrisville and his main office. During the day, a group

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A few words from the Executive Secretary



I'm excited to tell you we are developing a new section of our website that will be dedicated to you, the breeder. This section will be called "Vicky's List," named after our boards' website chair Vicky Schowe. You will be able to send pictures of new foals, special events like stakes wins or just anything you would like to share with other breeders. Send your postings to pabreeder@gmail.com and we will get them up as soon as we

can. For foal photos, include the foal year, pedigree, breeder name and photo credit. Also, please remember if the picture you are using has a copyright, send the written permission along with the photo.

This year's Iroquois Banquet will again be at Penn National Race Course on May 30 beginning with cocktails at 5 p.m. Come out and help us honor our PA-Bred Stakes and Award Winners. It's a great opportunity to share your ideas with the leading breeders in Pennsylvania, meet our board members or just come out to have an evening of fun.

Penn National will be hosting one of its biggest race nights of the year featuring the \$500,000 Penn Mile for 3-year-olds and three other open stakes. We will also be featuring the \$75,000 Lyphard Stakes for 3 and up on the turf at a mile and a sixteenth. What a night!

Have a great spring and hope to see you on May 30.

/Brian Sanfratello

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THE PA-BRED PREMIUM EARN MORE!



JOIN THE PHBA

Whether you are currently a breeder or an owner, or if you are just considering getting involved in this exciting industry, there are many reasons to join the PHBA. The PHBA is devoted to those involved in Pennsylvania's Thoroughbred breeding industry. A not-for-profit organization founded in 1948, we provide a number of services to members, including informational assistance, educational opportunities and a variety of social events.

The goal of the organization is to advocate on behalf of the state's breeding industry. We are mandated by statute as administrator of the Pennsylvania Breeding Fund program, and as official registrar of the Pennsylvania-Bred roster of eligible program participants.

Working with industry leaders over the years, PHBA has achieved several goals that have brought reform and benefits to breeders, owners, race tracks and the public. The PHBA is vital to everyone involved in breeding throughout Pennsylvania. Your support and participation can help Pennsylvania's breeding industry continue to grow and prosper.

2015 PA-Bred Stakes Schedule

ALL BREEDING FUND STAKES WILL INCLUDE A 25% PA-SIRED BONUS FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD.

Proposed 2015 schedule—dates and conditions for all the PA-Bred Stakes are subject to change. Please contact the Racing Offices for the most current schedules.

Sat., May 2 Parx	\$75,000 Lyman H , 3 & up, 7 fur.
	\$75,000 Foxy J. G. S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 fur.
Sat., May 30 Penn	\$75,000 Lyphard S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Fri., June 12 Penn	\$75,000 Danzig S , 3YO, 6 fur.
	\$75,000 New Start S , 3YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sun., July 12, PID	\$75,000 Leematt S , 3 & up, 1 mi.
	\$75,000 Northern Fling S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mi.
Sat., July 25, Parx	\$75,000 Crowd Pleaser S , 3YO, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
	\$75,000 Power by Far S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 fur., turf
Sun., Aug. 9, PID	\$75,000 Malvern Rose S , 3YO fillies, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
Sat., Aug. 22, Penn	\$75,000 Robellino S , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Sat., Sept. 5 Parx	\$75,000 Banjo Picker Sprint S , 3 & up, 6 fur.
	\$75,000 Roanoke S , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
	\$75,000 Marshall Jenney H , 3 & up, 5 fur., turf
	\$75,000 Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial S , 3YO fillies, 7 fur.
	\$100,000 Mrs. Penny S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Sun., Sept. 6, PID	\$75,000 Mark McDermott S , 2YO, 6 fur.
Sat., Sept. 19, Parx	\$100,000 Alphabet Soup H , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Sun., Sept. 20, PID	\$75,000 Mrs. Henry D. Paxson S , 2YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sat., Oct. 10 Parx	\$75,000 Plum Pretty S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
Wed., Nov. 25, Penn	\$75,000 Blue Mountain Juvenile Fillies S , 2YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sat., Dec. 5, Parx	\$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery S , 2YO, 7 fur.

Total: \$1,725,000

of young women from Delaware Valley College take over the farm work. “We have had about 40 great girls on our farm through the years,” he said. “They have been so loyal and really love our horses. Their dedication takes so much pressure off of us—they never miss a day.”

Foaling season is like a second job for Hartwell as he is on constant watch, with cameras set up inside his barn. “I foal every mare myself,” he said. “And I love it. You may not believe in God but you will if you see a mare produce a foal.”

Hartwell foaled three mares this season, and says just like racehorses needing a break from training, every mare earns a year off from breeding after she produces three consecutive foals.

“The mares deserve a break in their schedules, too,” he said. “We have been doing very well that way. I understand that farms in Kentucky that have bred to top stallions with expensive mares cannot do that economically and must continue to breed year after year, but since I breed to race, not to sell, I can do it my way.”

The Hartwells’ combined talents earned them over \$360,000 in Pennsylvania breeders’ awards in the last six years, their best year in 2010 when their breeders’ awards topped \$93,000, according to statistics published by the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association. That was the year of Jemilyn, a daughter of Good and Tough out of Twenty Four Carat. Trained by Preciado, she won seven of 18 starts lifetime, including the PHBA Distaff and Foxy J. G. Stakes in 2010. She retired the following year, winning the Foxy J. G. for the second time in her last career start.

Jemilyn, named for three of the Hartwells’ grandchildren—Julian, Emily and Evelyn—accounted for \$188,000 in PA-bred stakes purses, breeders’ awards and bonuses in 2010.

“We had a bad year last year,” said Hartwell of their over \$40,000 in breeders’ awards. “But we can last through that. I have enough money that I don’t have to

push my horses to pay their way. That is what hurts the industry, when owners don’t have money and have to run their horses to pay their board.”

A former member of the HBPA at Philadelphia Park for 20 years under the presidency of Larry Riviello, Hartwell admits to being a bit outspoken when it comes to the politics of racing. He remembers the changes that occurred to racing during the advent of simulcasting and the beginning of the work toward securing casino revenue for the horsemen.

“I speak my mind,” he said. “The horses have to come first in this industry.” That belief he holds true, as he learned from men he believes were the best in their field and in whom he placed the care of his homebreds.

Hartwell learned to follow the lead of his trainers, the first of whom was his mother’s brother, Jack Dougherty, who he calls a great horseman. Like his uncle, he believes in racing his horses infrequently, happy to get 12 to 14 races a year from them, and is not willing to race them on an off track.

“Uncle Jack used to say that the best thing for a horse was Dr. Green,” he said. “He believed racehorses should be taken home and turned out in a grassy field for a few months. Then they’d come back like tigers.”

Popular trainer Bobby Camac, who was as close as a brother to him, took over the Hartwell stable after Dougherty retired. Camac’s success included training all three of Hartwell’s current pensioners.

“He was the same age as me and at the time of his death was ready to drop the size of his training stable to just his and my horses. I moved the horses to John Servis then, and around 2005, to Ramon Preciado, who I have been with now for nearly 10 years.”

Servis conditioned Golddigger Beware to six wins and \$164,209.

“Ramon learned under Camac and other good trainers when he first came to

the United States and before he went out on his own,” Hartwell said. “He ran Bobby’s shedrow and still speaks of him often. I like Ramon because he takes good care of his horses—the proof is in the pudding. I don’t like my horses pushed too hard. My success is as much Ramon’s story as it is mine.”

This year brings another group of homebreds whose spring and summer campaigns at Parx are eagerly awaited by the Hartwells.

Three 2-year-old fillies are currently galloping at Sinatra Thoroughbreds at Berkley Training Center in Darlington, Md., and include a daughter of Super Saver out of Golddigger Beware named Digger’s Jigger.

Also rejoining Preciado’s Parx division is Digger’s Jigger’s year-older half-sister Miss Holicong (by First Samurai). Late last year Miss Holicong won back-to-back races at Parx and had been competing against tough turf company at Gulfstream Park this past winter.

“We couldn’t get any dirt races to go for her in Florida,” said Hartwell. “So we tried her on the grass, but she was running against fillies who were Breeders’ Cup runners last year, and it was very competitive.”

Flagnlinda’s final foal, Flagndini, was favored in last year’s Pennsylvania Nursery after winning first time out, but finished eighth behind the well-regarded Nasa that day on an off track which he did not like, said Hartwell. In his second start at 3, the son of Bandini won wire-to-wire in allowance company at Penn National in March.

Just as three generations of Hartwell horses have become a major force on the mid-Atlantic racing scene, the Hartwells’ own family has been involved, too, from their four children to 11 grandchildren. Their oldest son Bill lives on the farm, and Jessica Flagler, their granddaughter, has been helping on the farm on weekends, and many times part of the family is in attendance at the races.