

# Phoroughbreo NEWSLETTER

February 2016 pabred.com

#### **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:
   Nov. 1 prior to year foaling or
   within 14 days of arrival in state

#### **VISIT PABRED.COM**

- Racing and breeding news
- PA-Bred entries/results
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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Brian N. Sanfratello

Executive Secretary

execsec@pabred.com

Dorothy B. Weber Asst. Exec. Sec., CIO/CTO

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E Kennett Square, PA 19348 610-444-1050 phone www.pabred.com

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# PA-Bred Alphabet Soup pensioned at Old Friends

By Nikki Sherman

On a beautiful fall afternoon in central Kentucky, just a few days before the 19th anniversary of his most brilliant race, one of the greatest Pennsylvania-breds of all time stepped off his personal van, prancing and snorting as he took in the rolling hills of his new and final home. The stallion's nearly-blinding white coat glistened even underneath an overcast sky as he strutted past a small group of tourists who were lucky enough to be present Oct. 26 for the arrival of Breeders' Cup Classic winner Alphabet Soup at Old Friends in Georgetown.

Alphabet Soup was a true rags-to-riches story for all of his connections. In 1988, Roy Lerman's Southeast Associates bought his dam, the multiple graded stakes winner Illiterate.

Two years later the daughter of Arts and Letters was bred to Eclipse Award champion turf horse Cozzene. The resulting foal was a roan colt that was twice a buy-back at public auction, both times for under \$30,000. Alphabet Soup would blast that figure out of the water by the time he retired from racing, with career earnings just a few thousand shy of \$3 million.

Purchased privately as an unraced 2-yearold by owner Georgia B. Ridder, it took time for Alphabet Soup to find his best stride. Based in California, he did not debut until the spring of his sophomore season and broke his maiden at Hollywood Park in his third start after a failed attempt on turf. However, that maiden victory was a preview of the gutsy heart that Alphabet Soup would be remembered for, as he battled eventual stakes winner Exalto to the wire in a long stretch drive before prevailing by a hard-fought head.

Three unsuccessful attempts in allowance company followed before Alphabet Soup finally won again. That allowance score came at Del Mar, and marked the first time he was matched up with rider Chris McCarron. It was a good combination, as the duo took two straight allowances.



Alphabet Soup made his stakes debut in the Grade 3 Volante Handicap Oct. 23, 1994, at Santa Anita. Unfortunately, McCarron was unavailable, having chosen to ride graded stakes winner Numerous. Alphabet Soup's trainer David Hofmans made the decision to reunite the colt with jockey Chris Antley, who had been aboard earlier in the year. Antley and Alphabet Soup finished a solid second, missing by a neck and well ahead of Numerous and McCarron.

After a fifth-place finish that November in the Grade 3 Lazaro S. Barrera Handicap, with McCarron aboard, at Hollywood Park, Alphabet Soup went to the sidelines until the following July.

It turns out that the break from racing and time to grow up was exactly what the handsome roan needed. Alphabet Soup would finish up the remaining 14 races of his career with a stellar record of seven wins, two seconds and four thirds, a record which would have been even bet-

ter had he not been disqualified after finishing first in the 1996 Goodwood Breeders' Cup Handicap-G2.

Apparently Alphabet Soup liked to be ridden by Chrises: he ran his best races while piloted by McCarron or Antley. The latter won the Grade 3 Native Diver and Grade 2 San Pasqual and San Antonio Handicaps over a six-week span, plus the Pat O'Brien Handicap-G3. McCarron piloted him to victory in the Del Mar Budweiser Breeders' Cup Handicap-G2 (his first graded win), Harry F. "Bud" Brubaker Handicap (his first stakes win), and the most exciting race of his career, the 1996 Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 at Woodbine.

That year's Breeders' Cup Classic was one of the most thrilling in the history of the event. The overwhelming favorite was defending champion Cigar, who had captured the imagination of the world with his 16-race win streak, one that included an incredible victory in the first running of the Dubai World Cup. Also entered were Strub Stakes-G1 and Pacific Classic-G1 winner Dare and Go, Meadowlands Cup-G1 winner Dramatic Gold, Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Editor's Note, Preakness Stakes-G1 winner Louis Quatorze,

Whitney Handicap-G1 winner Mahogany Hall, and Travers Stakes-G1 winner Will's Way, as well as future Canadian champion Mt. Sassafras and eventual Grade 1 winners Formal Gold and Atticus.

With such a deep group of competitors, Alphabet Soup was bumped down to eighth choice by the time the field of 13 jumped out of the starting gate. Atticus set the early pace, with Alphabet Soup just a few lengths back near Louis Quatorze and Mt. Sassafras. As they hit the stretch, Mt. Sassafras, Alphabet Soup, Cigar and Louis Quatorze were engaged in a furious battle, throwing their hearts into every stride. Each grabbed the lead in turn, heads bobbing alternately in front as noses reached out for the wire. The clock stopped in track record time of 2:01 for 11/4 miles. After what felt like an eternity, the photo revealed Alphabet Soup as the winner by a nose over Louis Quatorze, with Cigar a mere head back in third. Mt. Sassafras finished fourth a halflength back at odds of over 100-1.

After the Breeders' Cup, Frank Stronach bought into Alphabet Soup. The colt raced once more, finishing second in the San Antonio Handicap-G2 in February 1997 before joining Stronach's stallion barn at Adena Springs Farm in Kentucky.

Alphabet Soup was successful as a sire both regionally and internationally. From 15 crops of racing age, he is the sire of 483 winners, nearly 50 stakes winners, and his progeny have earned nearly \$41 million. Leading his offspring is millionaire Our New Recruit, winner of the 2004 Dubai Golden Shaheen-G1 and named champion sprinter in the U.A.E.

Being by the excellent turf sire Cozzene and out of an Arts and Letters mare, Alphabet Soup was able to sire racehorses that could run on a multitude of surfaces and distances. In addition to Our New Recruit, other main track sprinters include Grade 1 winner Alphabet Kisses, Grade 3 winner Watchem Smokey and Abbondanza, Beautiful Bets, Lady Echo, Prince Alphie and Tempus Fugit. His additional graded stakes winning dirt horses are Canadian champion Phantom Light as well as M B Sea and Mark One.

His leading offspring on turf are Matriarch Stakes-G1 winner Egg Drop, Grade 2 winner

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# A few words from the Executive Secretary

As we begin a new year I would like to thank all the breeders, owners and trainers who continue to support the PA-Bred program as 2015 was another fantastic year.

Over \$30 million was paid in Breeders Awards, Restricted Races and Owner Bonuses. We've also averaged over 450 Restricted Races in the past three years and let's not





forget about
"PA Day at the
Races" where \$850,000 was paid out at
PARX in one day!

A shout out is in order to Favorite Tale, owner/breeder Paul Conaway and trainer Lupe Preciado, who after dealing with a quarantine and shipping to various destinations finally arrived at Keeneland. Finishing third in the Breeder's Cup Sprint from the 14 hole was an unbelievable feat. We all know who had the best horse in that race.

Things continue to look great for 2016, so start planning your next champion by going to pabred.com and downloading your 2016 Stallion and Boarding Farm Directory or just call us for a free copy. There isn't a better place to breed and race than Pennsylvania.

# Contact **Information:**

State Horse Racing Commission Harrisburg. PA • 717-787-1942

**Parx Racing** Bensalem, PA • 215-639-9000

**Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course** Grantville, PA • 717-469-2211

Presque Isle Downs & Casino Erie. PA • 866-374-3386

Pennsylvania HBPA Grantville. PA • 717-469-2970

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Bensalem, PA • 215-638-2012

## 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

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.

## 2016 PA-Bred Stakes Schedule

ALL BREEDING FUND STAKES WILL INCLUDE A 25% PA-SIRED BONUS FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD. Proposed 2016 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., April 30 **\$100,000 Lyman H**, 3 & up, 7 fur.

Parx

**\$100,000 Foxy J. G. S**, 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 fur.

\$100.000 Lyphard S. 3 & up. fillies & mares. 11/16 mi., turf Sat., May 28

Penn

Sat., June 11 **\$100,000 Danzig S**, 3YO, 6 fur.

Penn

**\$100,000 New Start S**, 3YO fillies, 6 fur.

Sun., July 10, **\$100,000 Leematt S**, 3 & up, 1 mi.

PID

**\$100,000 Northern Fling S**, 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mi.

Sat., July 23, \$100,000 Crowd Pleaser S, 3YO, 11/16 mi., turf

Parx

**\$100,000 Power by Far S**, 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 fur., turf

Sat., Aug. 6. \$100.000 Robellino S. 3 & up. 11/6 mi.. turf

Penn

Sun., Aug. 7, **\$100,000 Malvern Rose S**, 3YO fillies, 1 mi.

PID

Sat., Sept. 3 **\$100.000 Banio Picker Sprint S.** 3 & up 6 fur.

Parx

\$100,000 Roanoke S, 3 & up, 11/16 mi.

**\$100,000 Marshall Jenney H**, 3 & up, 5 fur., turf

\$100,000 Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial S, 3 & up, fillies & mares, 6 fur.

PA Day At Races \$100,000 Mrs. Penny S, 3 & up, fillies & mares, 11/16 mi., turf

Sun., Sept. 4, \$100,000 Mark McDermott S, 2YO, 6 fur.

PID

Sun., Sept. 18, \$100,000 Mrs. Henry D. Paxson Memorial S, 2YO fillies, 6 fur.

PID

Sat., Sept. 24. **\$100.000 Alphabet Soup H**. 3 & up. 11/16 mi., turf

Parx

Sat., Oct. 8 \$100,000 Plum Pretty S, 3 & up, fillies & mares, 11/16 mi.

Parx

Wed., Nov. 23, \$100,000 Blue Mountain Juvenile Fillies S, 2YO fillies, 6 fur.

Penn

Sat., Dec. 3. **\$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery S**, 2YO, 7 fur.

Parx

Total: \$2,200,000

# **PA-Bred Fund Statistics:** Top Earners

(January 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015, rounded to dollars)

## **LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS**

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Owner	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Owner	Total
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	759	322,914	0	323,673	Charles A. Cuprill	116,887	38,134	0	155,021
Michael W. Jester	148,043	110,676	0	258,719	Arrowwood Farm Inc.	138,831	0	0	138,831
William J. Solomon VMD	85,110	128,459	0	213,568	Sylmar Farm Inc.	122,660	0	0	122,660
Pewter Stable	162,552	42,833	0	205,384	Charlton Bloodstock Agency Inc.	102,462	0	0	102,462
Barlar LLC	139,940	51,484	0	191,424	Kenneth L. Ramsey	30,368	64,009	0	94,377
Thomas G. McClay	188,933	0	0	188,933	Estate of Joseph W. Holman Jr.	94,192	0	0	94,192
Xanthus Farms Inc.	167,491	11,788	0	179,279	Ashwell Stables Inc.	91,415	0	0	91,415
George Strawbridge Jr.	139,791	24,641	0	164,432	Godstone Farm LP	81,927	4,664	0	86,590
The Elkstone Group LLC	151,307	0	10,500	161,807	Patricia L. Chapman	24,961	57,853	0	82,813
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	108,688	52,233	0	160,921	Charles C.D. McGill	82,657	0	0	82,657

#### **LEADING STALLIONS**

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	297	146,478	Activist	Judith M. Barrett	127	39,405
Fairbanks	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	265	89,405	Southern Success	Barbara A. Rickline	50	31,405
Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	153	71,459	Eurosilver	Dromoland Farm Inc.	95	30,891
Talent Search	Kenneth L. Ramsey	118	63,783	Toccet	Castleton Lyons Inc.	107	30,570
Cat Thief	Michael W. Jester	228	58,700	Real Quiet	Michael W. Jester	110	29,679
Smarty Jones	Patricia L. Chapman	106	57,853	Lite the Fuse	William J. Solomon VMD	127	28,042
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	123	52,233	Partner's Hero	Peter Giangiulio	112	27,581
E Dubai	Barlar LLC	105	51,484	Rimrod	George Strawbridge Jr.	107	24,641
Ecclesiastic	Walmac Farm LLC	179	49,531	Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	133	24,576
Congressionalhonor	Pewter Stable	101	42,833	Andiron	Tea Party Stable Inc.	62	24,121

#### **LEADING HORSES**

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder, Stallion and Owner Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	PA-Bred Restricted Purse	PA-Bred Stakes Purse	Total Breeder Award	Total Stallion Award	Total Owner Award	Total Owner Bonus	Total Fund Amount
R Frosty One *	Southern Success - I'm the Mary	Gayle B. Gerth Trust	9	0	105,000	68,416	22,805	0	14,360	210,581
Discreet Senorita	Discreet Cat - Senorita Louisa	Dun Roamin Farm Inc.	10	0	60,000	58,624	0	0	50,320	168,944
Bound *	Jump Start - China Sky	Barlar LLC	6	0	82,500	48,956	16,319	0	12,960	160,734
Page McKenney *	Eavesdropper - Winning Grace	James E. Bryant	3	0	65,000	41,415	13,805	5,680	0	125,900
Kiss the Daddy	Scat Daddy - Kiss the Breeze	The Elkstone Group LLC	13	0	45,000	35,138	0	0	32,940	113,078
Pink Princess *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	10	0	0	54,059	18,020	0	38,453	110,532
Uncle Dave	Langfuhr - Party Queen	Nelson E. Clemmens	6	0	60,000	31,640	0	0	18,400	110,040
Power of Snunner *	Power by Far - Snunner	James M. Courtney	4	0	60,000	31,380	10,460	0	0	101,840
Balk	Street Boss - Countingoncarolynn	The Elkstone Group LLC	7	21,600	45,000	27,703	0	6,000	0	100,303
Imply *	E Dubai - Allude	Barlar LLC	4	0	49,500	29,457	9,819	0	10,080	98,856
Grasshoppin *	Cat Thief - Sweetheart Sami	Michael W. Jester	10	0	17,750	41,142	13,714	0	21,840	94,446
This Ain't No Bull	Holy Bull - Disco Darlin'	Classic Thoroughbred XVIII L	LC 4	0	60,000	21,840	0	0	12,200	94,040

# Alphabet Soup continued from page 2

Leprechaun Kid and Grade 3 winners Fugitive Angel and Silver Whistle. His son Alpha Bettor was a Canadian champion with multiple graded wins over Woodbine's synthetic surface. Alphabet Soup even boasts a Grade 1-winning steeplechaser: Italian Wedding captured the prestigious New York Turf Writers Cup in 2013 at Saratoga.

Alphabet Soup has truly "done it all"—winning one of the most prestigious races in the world over one of the most talented racehorses of all time and then becoming a sire of champions worldwide, on every surface. In his final breeding season in 2015 he covered 25 mares, and when it was decided to retire him from the breeding shed, Frank

Stronach made the decision to send him to a place where he could be appreciated by any fan who wished to visit.

Now 25, Alphabet Soup has stepped into the next phase of his life at Old Friends. Without a doubt, there will be many asking to see the handsome Pennsylvania-bred Breeders' Cup champion in the future.