

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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- PA-Bred entries/results
- Rules, regulations, forms

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Vicky Schowे
Asst. Exec. Sec.

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

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Pennsylvania is the perfect fit for stallions Frankie's Empire, Max Player and Fugitive

By Nikki Sherman

New stallions are on the move to Pennsylvania for 2026. Each of them packs a serious punch with a race record that included a trip on the Triple Crown trail and a stacked pedigree.

Five-year-old fresh retiree Frankie's Empire joins the stallion roster at WynOaks Farm in Delta, Pa., for \$2,500. Max Player moves to Mountain Springs Farm in Palmyra, Pa., for \$3,000. Joining him is Fugitive. All offer special consideration for Pennsylvania-foaling mares.

Frankie's Empire was a star from the get-go, winning first time out at Monmouth Park in June of his juvenile season. He finished third that summer in the \$200,000 Sapling Stakes while meeting future superstar Dornoch for the first time. He also captured allowance races at Delaware Park and Parx Racing, defeating several future stakes winners including Maximus Meridius and Twilight Dancer.

Poor northern weather that winter sent Frankie's Empire south to Florida where he immediately lit up the tote board at 14-1 in his sophomore debut, capturing the 7-furlong \$125,000 Swale Stakes at Gulfstream Park by 3½ lengths. He followed that up with a third in the \$400,000 Fountain of Youth Stakes-G2, just 2 lengths behind Dornoch in the 1½-mile test.

"He impressed (trainer) Michael Yates so much that he put him on the Derby trail," remembered owner Frank DeLuca. "He ran that huge race in the Fountain of Youth, just missing Dornoch – and honestly, if there was even a hint of a pace in that race, the story might have been different. We really thought we were on our way to the Kentucky Derby. And in the Florida Derby,



Frankie's Empire, a stakes winner at 3 in Florida, is a son of champion Classic Empire.

he was starting to make that big move on the turn when he took a bad step."

Despite that sudden derailment, Frankie's Empire came back to score a handicap win at Gulfstream that June. After a 10-month break, he returned in the Evangeline Mile Stakes in Louisiana this past April, rallying from last to finish third. He closed out his career with five wins and three thirds from 12 starts, along with \$300,900 in earnings.

DeLuca noted, "His career was short, but it was packed with big moments with the odds stacked against him since he was a baby. We were only able to afford him in the first place because he stepped on a stick as a baby. It went through his hoof and into his pastern, and a lot of the big owners and trainers looked at him but didn't want to take the risk of spending six-figure money on a horse with a question mark. Thankfully our agent, Brenda Zoppo, saw through that and got us a special horse. He just powered through and became a serious racehorse."

Frankie's Empire was always destined to be a family legend, as he is named after DeLuca's son Frankie. His three siblings tease their brother that the colt was only named after him because they are all girls.

"When (he arrived), the kids were lined up with carrots and peppermints, but my son claimed him right away. Now he tells anyone who will listen that his dad named 'the best horse' after him. The name really comes from the instant bond the two of them had the minute Frankie's Empire stepped off the trailer."

Frankie's Empire is sired by Breeders' Cup Juvenile champion Classic Empire, out of the stakes-placed Dixie Union mare Donna D. He is a half-brother to stakes winner Chaparella and stakes-placed Streetlady. Classic Empire also sired Pennsylvania-bred millionaire Angel of Empire, a Grade 1 winner with a third-place finish in the Kentucky Derby behind none other than Dornoch's older half-brother Mage.

DeLuca emphasized that the decision to stand Frankie's Empire as a stallion was multi-pronged. "He's balanced, super athletic and one of those horses who just moves right. He was the type who wanted to win no matter what the circumstances were. Nothing rattled him. One thing every trainer kept saying is how incredible his mind was. His great temperament made their lives easier, with his kindness and willingness to do the right thing, which is exactly what you want to pass down to foals.

When people look at him now as a stallion, I hope they see him as a fighter, a horse who had every excuse to fail, but instead kept showing up, kept climbing the ladder and kept proving people wrong. That's why we're so excited for people to meet him."

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Max Player joins the deep stallion roster at Mountain Springs Farm after two seasons in New Jersey. He's by the terrifically bred champion Honor Code, a son of A.P. Indy from the female family of Hall of Famer Serena's Song. His stakes-winning dam Fools in Love (Not For Love) is a half-sister to millionaire International Star, whose resume includes four graded stakes victories. Honor Code is the sire of the young stallion Honor A. P., who already boasts multiple stakes winners from just two crops to race, including Grade 2 winner



Max Player is a Grade 1-winning, classic-placed millionaire.

Margie's Intention and 2025 juvenile stakes winner Romeo, each million-dollar sales horses.

Max Player himself is a millionaire with career earnings of \$1,551,266. He broke his maiden at Parx Racing at 2 by daylight before a smashing sophomore debut in the \$250,000 Withers Stakes-G3 at Aqueduct where he ran off to win by 3 1/4 lengths. That was the topsy-turvy classic season of 2020 – in his second start of the year he finished third in the Belmont Stakes-G1, followed by a third in the Travers Stakes-G1, both behind Tiz the Law. He finished fifth of 15, just behind Honor A. P. in fourth, in the Kentucky Derby-G1 in September and fifth again (out of 11) in the Preakness-G1 in October. And he improved at 4. Max Player won on a fast track and in the slop, capturing the \$1 million Jockey Club Gold Cup-G1 and \$400,000 Suburban Handicap-G2, both historic New York handicap races run at 1 1/4 miles. In the latter, he defeated Dubai World Cup-G1 winner Mystic Guide by a hard-fought neck.

Owner George Hall noted, "Max Player was a durable racehorse and showed tremendous talent over his career. He was one of the only horses of his generation to compete in all three Triple Crown races. Considering his racing record, I think breeding to Max should be compelling for owners of mares in Pennsylvania."

Max Player brings with him a crop of yearlings foaled in New Jersey that Hall



in total awards through October! Our leaders, Warriors Reward and Uptowncharlybrown Stud, were fighting it out again in 2025.

We have over 300 breeders that have received an award in 2025. If you want to become part of our program or just want more information, give me a call at 610-444-1050.

Good Luck in the New Year and remember, PA is the only place to breed and race!!

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Our sixteenth annual Stallion Season Auction will be held from Jan. 12 to Jan. 18 on thoroughlybred.com. Please check out pbred.com for a current list of available seasons. Continue to check the list as it grows every day.

The first two of four PA-Bred 2yo Stakes to finish up 2025 were run at PARX Nov. 26. Congratulations to the Ed Bussinger-bred Divine Intentions, who led the field all the way around the oval and held on to win the \$100,000 Shamrock Rose Stakes. Congrats also goes out to Cash is King LLC and LC Racing LLC-bred Mailata, a gate-to-wire winner by 3 1/2 lengths

of the \$100,000 Nursery Stakes. Also on that day's card, Westerly Farm-bred Maximus Meridius won his second open-company black-type race of 2025 when he took home the Let's Give Thanks Stakes.

The last two stakes of 2025 for PA-Bred and Sired 2yos were scheduled on Dec. 30 at PARX. I'm happy to announce that there will be no registration fee for the Series in 2026. If your 2YO is a PA-Sired PA-Bred, you will be automatically registered and eligible to run.

Congratulations also goes out to the 18 breeders who surpassed the \$100,000 mark

New PA stallions continued



Fugitive comes to PA with first-crop runners in 2026.

is thoroughly impressed with. "They look tremendous and we are looking forward to those dropping in 2026."

Ironically, both Max Player and Frankie's Empire have owners with their own farms in New Jersey, but they have purposely chosen to offer their stallions in the Keystone State.

"Prior to deciding to move Max Player, I attended a luncheon organized by the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association and found everyone to be very enthusiastic about PA horse racing and breeding," said Hall. "They were very supportive about bringing Max Player over. I have always been a fan myself of Pennsylvania racing. Over the years, I have run horses at Presque Isle, Penn National and Parx. As a matter of fact, Max's first two races were at Parx. I find the breeding program to be exceptional and it made sense to stand Max in PA for the foreseeable future. I am excited to have Max in PA and look forward to rooting for his offspring all across the state."

Frank DeLuca wholeheartedly agrees. "The PA breeding program is incredibly strong. The bonuses, awards and support system make it one of the best places to stand a stallion or breed a mare. I have heard from many breeders in the state who say how helpful the (PHBA) has been with local breeders and reward people who invest in young horses. With a program that is generous and well-run, it was an easy decision to bring Frankie's Empire to PA."

Pennsylvania is also just plain sentimental for DeLuca, who credits owner Jack Armstrong and trainer Mark Fusco as mentors. "When we were just getting started as young owners back in 2003, PA was the place where everything clicked for us. It has always felt like home turf for us. It's where our roots are, where we

learned the ropes and where a lot of our best racing memories have come from. So between our history there, the strength of the program, the people we've trusted for over 20 years and the team at WynOaks, Pennsylvania just felt like the perfect fit.

Mountain Springs Stables is introducing Fugitive to its stallion roster for 2026, as the winning son of leading stallion Candy Ride (Arg) moves from West Virginia. The 9-year-old, out of the graded stakes-placed Elusive Quality mare Elusive Fate, is a half-brother to stakes winner Farsighted (Bernardini) from the female family of Grade 1 winner Gemologist.

Candy Ride is a true sire-of-sires, making Fugitive an intriguing option for breeders looking for an outcross at a bargain. Candy Ride is represented by current sires Gun Runner, Vekoma, Game Winner, Mastery and Unified and is well-known for dozens of Grade 1 winners including champion Shared Belief and 2025 Dubai World Cup winner Hit Show.

Fugitive was a six-figure sales yearling and 2-year-old who debuted at Gulfstream Park for Three Diamonds Farm and trainer Mike Maker. He ultimately broke his maiden by an emphatic 9 1/4 lengths in a Charles Town maiden special weight. Fugitive stands for private contract.

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PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through October 31, 2025

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Warriors Reward	594,112	179,533	773,645	Sylmar Farm Inc.	146,233	0	146,233
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	400,407	173,700	574,107	Peter Giangiulio	118,585	0	118,585
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	147,884	156,518	304,402	Y. Jerry Kolybabiuk	113,276	0	113,276
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	243,690	243,690	Kathleen Brady	109,917	0	109,917
Blackstone Farm LLC	228,696	0	228,696	Godstone Farm LLC	109,178	0	109,178
Arrowwood Farm Inc.	169,400	0	169,400	Joseph Imbesi	105,879	0	105,879
Glenn E. Brok LLC	101,932	64,645	166,578	Newell Thoroughbreds Ltd.	101,831	0	101,831
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	98,361	53,098	151,459	Richard N. Miller	82,988	17,725	100,712
Equivine Farm LLC	149,128	0	149,128	W M T Stables Inc.	98,917	0	98,917
Pewter Stable	115,456	31,702	147,158	Town and Country Farms Mgmt LLC	97,037	0	97,037

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	No. of Races	Award Total
Warrior's Reward	388	179,533	Winchill	149	31,702
Uptowncharlybrown	370	173,700	Well Spelled	68	30,658
Weigelia	260	150,586	Medallist	36	27,251
Hoppertunity	251	99,507	Pat On the Back	36	19,161
Social Inclusion	139	75,450	Red Vine	35	18,902
Uncle Lino	113	71,863	Boisterous	83	15,528
Peace and Justice	122	53,098	Emperor Tiberius	30	15,304
Rowayton	68	50,377	Talent Search	48	15,284
Jump Start	104	40,751	Il Villano	38	14,868
Eastwood	63	33,189	Flashback	32	13,715

LEADING HORSES

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

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Pa Bred Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Owner Bonus	Total
PACHELBEL*	Hoppertunity-Brilliant Sunshine	Newell Thoroughbreds Ltd.	15	14,850	95,831	23,958	53,008	187,647
COME PRIMA*	Well Spelled-My Sonata	Godstone Farm LLC	11	74,700	71,687	17,922	12,578	176,886
NATURE'S CANDY*	Uncle Lino-Easter Blossom	Y. Jerry Kolybabiuk	8	46,733	77,972	19,493	28,180	172,378
HOUGHTON SHUFFLE*	Medallist-Runs Like L	Melissa Houghton	7	67,620	50,240	12,560	16,000	146,420
CANDY REWARD*	Warrior's Reward-Unimaginable	Warriors Reward	6	44,100	74,160	18,540	7,500	144,300
SON OF THOR*	Rowayton-Charlybrown's Rose	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	6	0	62,048	15,512	44,320	121,880
CAROUSEL QUEEN*	Uptowncharlybrown-La Padrina	Dennis Johnson	10	66,825	42,810	10,703	0	120,338
SILHOUTTE COVE*	Warrior's Reward-Silhouette Island	Sylmar Farm Inc.	5	54,100	48,600	12,150	4,000	118,850
HARP'S HOT CORNER*	Weigelia-Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	8	1,000	66,792	16,698	32,160	116,650
NINETYPRCENTMADDIE*	Weigelia-Amblin Easy	LC Racing LLC	6	69,350	34,188	8,547	2,420	114,505
BIG BOYS ANSWER*	Uptowncharlybrown-Empires Answer	Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC	7	0	59,315	14,829	35,168	109,312
CARMELINA	Maximus Mischief-Complete St.	Lilith E. Boucher	4	59,400	29,520	0	13,200	102,120
JUMP A FOX*	Jump Start-Foxy A. G.	Peter Giangiulio	14	0	49,215	12,304	32,399	93,918
FAR MO POWER*	Uncle Lino-J. D. Safari	Peter Giangiulio	7	0	49,616	12,404	31,240	93,260
NINJA PRIZE*	Warrior's Reward-Lemon Strudel	Kathleen Brady	9	0	44,240	11,060	31,600	86,900
JOHN DUTTON*	Eastwood-Reconsider	Town and Country Farms Mgmt LLC	6	8,250	48,208	12,052	16,770	85,280
WILD VINE*	Red Vine-Praslin	Bobby R. Rankin Jr. Estate	4	26,950	32,648	8,162	15,620	83,380
SOCIALLY AWKWARD*	Social Inclusion-Bluegrass Smile	Blackstone Farm LLC	8	0	48,348	12,087	19,380	79,815
OKIE DEN DEN*	Uptowncharlybrown-Baety/Katy	Equivine Farm LLC	15	0	44,051	11,013	24,608	79,672
OHIO JOE	Jimmy Creed-Little B Rosson	Howard C. Schaeffer Jr.	8	44,100	19,824	0	15,720	79,644

*Denotes PA-sired