



West Virginia

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

May 2021

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association Awards-2020

The drive to be successful is a personality attribute that stimulates us to overcome physical adversity, risk financial calamity and examine the boundaries of rational tolerance. As a group, horsemen, particularly breeders, seem to comprehensively possess this DNA trait. Prolonged days and sleepless nights are accepted as a trade off in the pursuit of excellence. This year, the WVTBA consulted with other associations and on recommendations made sweeping changes in administrative policies and judging criteria, hoping to avert the appearance of partisanship.

Due to the continuing saga of the Coronavirus, masks and temperature checks were the backstretch norm, but even with pandemic restrictions exceptional equine performances prevailed.

WEST VIRGINIA HORSE OF THE YEAR AND 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY OF THE YEAR: STAR OF NIGHT

Under the guidance of trainer Jeff Runco, Star of Night has become a local racing sensation and, as her name implies, campaigns exclusively under the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races virtuoso lights.

Chauvinists may take exception to a 3-year-old filly winning the title of Horse of the Year, but under new voting guidelines Star of Night justifiably earned her lofty status. The multiple stakes winner has won at a carousel of distances from 6½ furlongs to 1½ miles.



2020 WV Horse of the Year Star of Night Coady Photography

Save for one narrow defeat to her gifted older rival Bridging the Gap, Star of Night would have recorded an unblemished record in 2020. She won the Sylvia Bishop Memorial, West Virginia Tourism Office Breeders Classic and My Sister Pearl Stakes in a lightly-raced campaign of seven starts that saw her on the track from January to December.

This filly's potential appears to be unlimited for owner Huntertown Farm and breeder Heinz Steinmann. Only time will tell if the daughter of Creative Cause and the Malibu Moon mare Splendiferous Moon is a transcendent talent able to sustain her seismic gender gap displacement.

TWO-YEAR-OLD FILLY OF THE YEAR: SHUTUPN'KISSME

With five starts in 2020, the bay daughter of Fiber Sonde—Kiss On

Command, by Langfuhr, could best be described in a single word—efficient. Winner of the Eleanor Casey Memorial in front-running fashion, she was also runner-up in the Rachel's Turn Stakes and West Virginia Triple Crown Nutrition Breeders Classic. Those races resulted in a 50/50 split with her arch-rival That Kenney Kid.

Owned, bred and trained by John McKee, Shutupn'kissme helped her sire once again dominant local racing's newsworthiness.

TWO-YEAR-OLD COLT/ GELDING OF THE YEAR: YOUTHINKTHATSFUNNY

A combination of speed and strength, this youngster was a unanimous choice in his division by way of commanding scores in the West Virginia Vincent Moscarelli Memorial Breeders Classic and West

Virginia Futurity. Never worse than third in five races, the son of Fiber Sonde out of Humored, by Distorted Humor, was also second-best in the Henry Mercer Memorial to the highly-regarded Hopping Henry.

The talented winner of over \$103,000 is the property of John McKee, who also fortuitously trains and bred the gray/roan gelding.

THREE-YEAR-OLD COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR: FANCY CONCHO

In recent years Grams Racing Stable has been blessed to take to the field of battle with title-holders Runnin'toluvya, Moonlit Song and Loving Touch. So it was no surprise when Fancy Concho strolled home in the West Virginia Lottery Breeders Classic, virtually assuring his coronation in the 3-year-old male division and continuing the mosaic for success for the husband and wife team.

The son of Fiber Sonde—Shes Pretty Fancy, by My Boy Adam, was a model of consistency (five wins, four seconds in nine starts in 2020) and a testament to the Grams handcrafted program of breeding-nurturing-racing.

OLDER FILLY/MARE OF THE YEAR: ANNA'S BANDIT

After Anna's Bandit's banner year in 2019, it wasn't inconceivable that a mild letdown was realistic for the daughter of Great Notion. With only four starts, the 6-year-old mare owned by No Guts No Glory Farm still managed to do enough to warrant her name atop the female leader board. In her first graded stakes attempt she finished third in the Grade 3 Barbara Fritchie Stakes at Laurel, and after a dominating win in the Original Gold Stakes, where she left the likes of Bridging the Gap, Grace Elizabeth and B's Wild Cork in her wake, plus a controversial half-length loss in the Geisha Stakes at Laurel Park and a third in Delaware Park's Dashing

Beauty Stakes she confirmed she still governs as West Virginia's premier distaff runner.

Trained and bred by John Robb out of Onearmedbandit, by No Armistice, Anna's Bandit has bankrolled \$782,655 in an illustrious 36-start career.

OLDER COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR: DR. FEELGOOD

Easily one of the most debatable categories in this year's balloting discussion. When final results were tabulated, the swayback son of Fiber Sond, out of Happy Numbers, by Polish Numbers, prevailed by a narrow margin over Penguin Power and Runnin'toluvya.

Bred by Francis Daniel III and owned by Jill Daniel, the master of the one-turn dash at Charles Town holds the staggering distinction of never tasting defeat sprinting 4½ furlongs. Dr. Feelgood recorded wins in the It's Only Money Stakes, and West Virginia Dash for Cash on Breeders Classics night, while going 5-for-5 on the year.

The beloved 'Panda' as referred to by barn employees was superbly handled by trainer Crystal Pickett.

WEST VIRGINIA-SIRED HORSE OF THE YEAR: BRIDGING THE GAP

This was a new category added in hopes of rewarding horses that compete on a consistent basis in West Virginia, but were previously omitted due to being foaled or raised in a different locale. In 11 starts at 4, the daughter of Fiber Sonde finished first or second nine times. Commencing in August, she undeniably ingrained the attributes inherent to her sire, reeling off four consecutive wins which included the Sadie Hawkins Stakes and West Virginia Cavada Breeders Classic.

Owned and trained by John McKee, the gray/roan mare out of Seetsang, by Fusaichi Pegasus, was bred in Kentucky by Don Cain.

BROODMARE OF THE YEAR: HAPPY NUMBERS

SIRE OF THE YEAR: FIBER SONDE

BREEDER OF THE YEAR: BEAU RIDGE FARM (JOHN & CYNDY MCKEE)

Benefits of Owning a WV-Bred and/or -Sired racehorse

Some of the best incentives in the nation:

- A minimum of three accredited races are written every day at Charles Town exclusively for registered WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- West Virginia has the only program in the country that permits horses to win state-bred races that do not count against the horse's lifetime open conditions.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes almost \$5 million to breeders, owners, and sire owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses based the horse's annual earnings at Charles Town and Mountaineer Park racetracks.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost \$1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- \$800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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