

Legends Racing Stable makes buying debut

THOROUGHBRED Legends Racing Stable, the new partnership whose horses will be trained by Bob Baffert and Racing Hall of Famers D. Wayne Lukas and Nick Zito, made its buying debut at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings with nine purchases for a total of \$3,275,000.

Only John Ferguson, primary bloodstock agent for Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum's Dar-

ley operation, spent more.

Kentucky horseman Olin Gentry has spearheaded the new partnership along with prominent industry figure Thomas Gaines, bloodstock agent Omar Trevino, and investment banker Tripp Hardy.

Members of Legends Racing were often seen huddling up near the back auction ring at the Humphrey S. Finney Pavilion, where they did most or all of their bidding.

"It felt great," Gentry said. "We're very pleased with what we did. We're really excited about it, and we couldn't be happier with the horses we came away with.

"We worked together really well and agreed on the horses, which isn't a surprise. None of us are strangers. We've bought and sold horses to each other over the years."

Legends Racing's most expensive purchase was a \$700,000 colt by Rock Hard Ten out of stakes winner Tapstress, by Desert Wine. Consigned by Gainesway, agent, the colt is a half brother to Grade 3 winner Discreet Hero.

"We all liked the Rock Hard Ten colt a lot," Gentry said. "He looked like a real two-turn type that had enough quality to be a two-year-old as well as a good three-year-old."

Fasig-Tipton Co. President Walt



Photo by Z



Shigeki Kikikawa photo



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Robertson said it was gratifying to see the Legends operation make its buying debut at Saratoga.

"When you amass that kind of trainer talent and then buy the sharp horses they bought, this could end up being something pretty spectacular," Robertson said. "They bought some very nice horses, and the world knows those three guys can get the job done."

Gentry said he expects Legends Racing to be active at the Keeneland September yearling sale. Gentry said he could not discuss the partnership's client list or budget, citing Securities and Exchange Commission rules and advice from his attorney.

The horses Legends Racing purchased were shipped to Gaines-Gentry Thoroughbreds in Lexington, where they will remain until this fall when the trainers choose where they want their horses to be broken.

—Pete Denk

Initial buys

Thoroughbred Legends Racing Stable purchases at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings on August 4-5 in Saratoga Springs, New York:

- \$700,000, c, by Rock Hard Ten—Tapstress, by Desert Wine. {Gainesway, agent}
- \$475,000, f, by Songandaprayer—Irene's Talkin, by At the Threshold. {Four Star Sales, agent for Glencrest Farm}
- \$410,000, c, by Fusaichi Pegasus—Big and Beautiful, by Capote. {Eaton Sales, agent}
- \$335,000, c, by Malibu Moon—Carson's Vanity, by Carson City. {Dromoland Farm, agent}
- \$325,000, c, by Eddington—Appealing Jewel, by Saint Balado. {Gainesway, agent}
- \$325,000, c, by Malibu Moon—Goes Around, by Wild Again. {Gainesway, agent for Spendthrift Farm}
- \$280,000, c, by Mr. Greeley—Potential Pleasure, by Unbridled. {Legacy Bloodstock, agent for J & J Mamakos and Venture I}
- \$225,000, c, by Afleet Alex—Restored Hope, by He's Bad. {Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services, agent for BAN Partnership}
- \$200,000 f, by Silver Deputy—Literary Light, by Ide. {Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services, agent for Mueller Farm}

TERRIFIC TRIO

Racing Hall of Fame trainers D. Wayne Lukas (top) and Nick Zito (middle) and three-time Eclipse Award-winning conditioner Bob Baffert join forces to lead Thoroughbred Legends Racing Stable that ends Saratoga sale as second-leading buyer with nine yearlings purchased for a total of \$3,275,000