

BRIGHTHILL FARM

... Patapan and Perfectly Ready

Brighthill Farm is perfectly poised for an enormous 2009 breeding season.

Not only is Nick and Anne-Marie King's central Waikato-based operation eagerly awaiting the arrival of the first crop of foals from the group winning Italian sprinting sensation, Patapan (Stravinsky x Pappa Reale), who joined the stallion roster last year, but success at the recent National Weanling and Broodmare Sale with the first progeny of Perfectly Ready (More Than Ready x Elle Duccio) has given them confidence heading into the National Yearling Sales at Karaka next year.

With 15 weanlings sold, more than any other sire represented, Perfectly Ready stole the show averaging \$25,117 with his filly by Axislass fetching \$56,000 from the Curraghmore Stud draft, the third highest lot of the sale.

"Having 15 in the sale he was going to be well-tested. We were quite conservative going into it given the financial situation but they sold well above our expectations. The job was to have the types that met the market and Perfectly

Ready certainly did that. They were highly sought after and the feedback from breeders, owners and trainers is extremely positive," explains King.

One of only three sons of boom sire More Than Ready (Southern Halo x Woodman) standing at stud, the news just keeps getting better for Perfectly Ready. More Than Ready has become somewhat of a revelation since retiring to stud in 2001. He has sired back to back Golden Slipper and Magic Millions winners (Sebring and Augusta Proud in 2008 and Phelan Ready 2009), firmly establishing himself as the Champion Two Year Old sire in Australasia. His stud fee for this coming season was recently announced at \$148,500.

Perfectly Ready was himself a group winner as a two-year-old. He won the Group 3 MRC Blue Diamond Prelude, before finishing third in the Group 1 MRC Blue Diamond. He trained on winning group races at both three and four in Australia, the only sire standing in New Zealand to have achieved the same feat.



Patapan



Adding to the appeal his dam Elle Duccio (by Danehill) is a half-sister to the Group 1 Golden Slipper winner Belle De Jour, from James and Annie Sarten's legendary Belle family developed over the latter half of last century.

"He was a very good two-year-old, from the best two-year-old sire; this bodes well for the future. There was a lot of enthusiasm out there and that tends to follow through to the yearling sales," says King.

Given his credentials there is every expectation he'll produce two-year-old winners, and on type, King is confident they'll deliver on the track.

"If we can get his progeny through the yearling sales and into the right hands, the rest will be up to him as a sire to achieve the results on the track," he adds.

Perfectly Ready has had strong support from breeders. He served 132 in his first season and 149 last year and he is already half booked for this coming season. He stands at Brighthill Farm under a partnership arrangement with original owners Vinery Stud and Sheik Mohammed bin Kalifa al Maktoum; a number of other studs and astute breeders have shares here in New Zealand.

The 2009 season will also mark the much anticipated arrival of the first crop of foals from 16-time race-winner Patapan. By champion sire Stravinsky, from the Indian Ridge mare Pappa Reale, herself a champion on the track in Italy, Patapan is appealing to breeders as he combines performance with potent bloodlines which cross well with local and international bloodlines.

Patapan offers breeders an exciting speed option; he won all 16 races including six as a two-year-old from 1000-1200m. His half-brother Per Incanto (by Street Cry) was Italian Champion Three Year Old Sprinter of the Year in 2007.

He is also a magnificent type of animal, something King focuses on when choosing prospective sires.

"As a lot of yearlings sold in New Zealand are sold to trainers and agents spending other people's money, type is really essential."

Last season Patapan served 94 mares which was terrific considering he arrived just two weeks before the season commenced.

"We were thrilled with the support he received," says King.

Despite the economic climate Brighthill Farm has kept its fees the same as last year, going against the trend of other studs nationwide. Perfectly Ready will stand for \$12,000+gst and Patapan will remain at his introductory fee of \$4000+gst.

While they're fully aware of how tough it is for breeders in the current climate, King says it has always been their philosophy to set the stallion's service fees at a sharp price they can retain for (if at all possible) the first three years.

"Before we started Brighthill Farm we were breeders so we know what it's like to be on the other side of the fence, and we believe it's fairer to breeders this way, rather than slashing prices in their third year," explains King. "We believe both stallions' service fees are already very sharp."

Roll on next season!