



Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sales Analysis

The Saratoga Sale Where history & success go hand in hand

Buyers look for many things when searching for yearlings, but mainly they want value and results. Simply put, **the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale of Selected Yearlings offers both and the success of the sale's graduates prove it year in and year out with unmatched success.**

The Saratoga Sale is the best and most proven place to purchase future stakes winners. According to statistics published by The Blood-Horse's MarketWatch for North America's yearling sales from 2007 to 2009, graduates of the Saratoga Sale helped make it the leading major yearling sale by:

- > Percentage of Grade 1 Winners;
- > Percentage of Graded Stakes Winners;
- > Percentage of Stakes Winners;
- > Percentage of Earners of More than \$50,000; and
- > Average Earnings.

A total of 424 yearlings were sold during that period from 2007 to 2009 mentioned above and 7.1% of those graduates are stakes winners, with more than half of those 30 stakes winners becoming group and/or graded stakes winners.



Saratoga, which commemorates its 150th year of racing this season, is a place that knows a thing or two about celebrating. Buyers of yearlings at the Saratoga Sale are equally good at celebrating and considering some of the top-flight racehorses they've bought over the years—backed up with statistics that prove the Saratoga Sale is the best of the best boutique yearling markets in North America—they've got plenty of license to believe more merriments are immediately at hand.

The statistics go further to emphasize Saratoga's strength in the global marketplace, considering that 58% of the yearling sold were winners and a remarkable 66% of that group were repeat winners.

The Saratoga Sale is the place to buy for an even more important reason: **Value.**

According to *MarketWatch*, "the average earnings index of runners from these two premier sales has been about equal, 1.96 for Fasig-Tipton Saratoga and 1.95 for Keeneland September, but given the higher average price at Keeneland September's select sessions, Fasig-Tipton's event has been the better-value sale."

Best of the best

Classic-winning colts are synonymous with Saratoga, from the likes of **Man o' War** and **Kauai King** from days gone by to **Conquistador**

Cielo, **Foolish Pleasure**, **Danzig Connection** and **Go For Gin** in the 1980s and 1990s, to more recent winners **Da'Tara**, **Monarchs** and **Union Rags**.

Females are not to be outdone and Saratoga Sale graduates annually rank among the best distaffers worldwide.

Case in point on the female side is the success in the Grade 1 Acorn Stakes.

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The Blood-Horse MarketWatch

The Acorn, run around one turn at the demanding one-mile distance at Belmont Park, has been dominated by Saratoga Sale graduates. Whether it was the 1988 running, which featured a one-two finish by Saratoga graduates **Aptostar** and **Topicount** in 1988, or **Open Mind** in 1989, **Sky Beauty** in 1993, **Jersey Girl** in 1998, or **Bushfire** in 2006, the Acorn is simply a race for Saratoga graduates.

Another Acorn winner was added to the list May 27 when **Midnight Lucky**, a \$220,000 graduate of the 2011 Saratoga Sale, handily defeated eventual Mother Goose S.-G1 winner Close Hatches for her third win from four starts. Midnight Lucky's





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dominating victory, combined with Close Hatches easy tally over highly regarded Dreaming of Julia, arguably puts this year's Acorn winner at the top of the 3-year-old filly division.

Midnight Lucky is just one of several exciting 3-year-olds this season who graduated from the Saratoga Sale, along with Black Onyx, who won the Spiral Stakes-G3, and Freedom Child, who scored in the Peter Pan Stakes-G2, both earning spots in the spring classics.



Funny Proposition, a \$275,000 graduate of the 2010 Saratoga Sale, thrust herself into the conversation as one of if not the best older females in training when she kicked away from two-time champion Royal Delta to win the Fleur De Lis H.-G2 by four lengths June 15 at Churchill Downs.

Other recent Saratoga Sale graduates with stakes victories in 2013 include **Guilt Trip**, winner of the Strub S.-G2, **Imposing Grace**, winner of the Arlington Matron S.-G3, **Hidinginplain-sight** and **Treasured Up**. **Cross Traffic**, knocking on the door after being beaten a nose in both the Metropolitan H.-G1 and Westchester S.-G3, is yet another high-class graduate of the Saratoga Sale.

All-time greats

While many of racing's legends performed just across the street at Saratoga Race Course, many more of the world's greatest stars got their first public appearances when they sold at the Saratoga Sale.

In addition to the legendary classic winners mentioned above, the Saratoga Sale can boast such top-tier graduates and breed-shaping stallions as **Bull Lea**, **Danzig**, **Hoist the Flag**, **Miswaki**, **Raise a Native**, **Saratoga Six** and **Unbridled's Song**. Top producers were also sold at Saratoga. Among the top producers sold through the years are **Natalma**, dam of arguably the most successful sire of all time in **Northern Dancer**; and **Obeah**, a multiple Grade 1 winner herself and the dam of two-time champion Go for Wand.

Other leading graduates include a pair of Breeders' Cup Classic winners who also earned Horses of the Year titles in **Black Tie Affair** (Ire), an earner of more than \$3.3-million; and Saint Liam, an earner of more than \$4.4-million.

The list goes on and on and includes such major Grade 1 winners as: **Mom's Command**, Hall of Famer and winner of New York Triple Tiara; **Fit to Fight**, winner of the New York handicap triple crown; **Honest Pleasure**, classic placed winner of the Travers-G1 and several other G1 stakes; **Sharp Cat**, 7-time G1 winner and earner of more than \$2-million; **Ten Most Wanted**, classic-placed winner of the Travers-G1 and more than \$1.7-million; **Vindication**, undefeated champion 2-year-old; **Northern Taste**, 11-time leading sire in Japan; and **Corinthian**, winner of Metropolitan H.-G1 and inaugural Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile.