

# BREEDING

## Pedigree Analysis



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## CRACKING THE 'CODE'

**A**.P. Indy is one of the rare horses who have never let anyone down: in the sales ring (a \$2.9 million yearling), on the track (Horse of the Year at 3), and as a stallion (sire of 154 stakes winners and a two-time leading sire in 2003, 2006). When A.P. Indy was pensioned from stud duty in April 2011, his final crop was hitting the ground and included a colt to be named Honor Code, who is setting an exclamation point on the end of his sire's already great stud career.

Honor Code was bred by Frank and Mattie Justice's Dell Ridge Farm and out of the Storm Cat mare Serena's Cat. After Frank Justice died in February 2012, Lane's End bought an interest in the yearling, which now races in the name of Lane's End Racing and Dell Ridge Farm.

Honor Code is a big, brawny horse who stands out in a crowd, his dark coat punctuated with an oversized star on his face and four white feet. When he debuted at Saratoga on a very wet track at the end of August, he closed from far back in last place to win impressively. In his second start he closed again, coming up a neck short of Havana in the one-mile

Foxwoods Champagne Stakes (gr. I) at Belmont Park.

Skipping the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I), Honor Code made his third start Nov. 30 in the nine-furlong Remsen Stakes (gr. II) at Aqueduct. This time he ran closer to the pace and took command in the stretch, until Cairo Prince drove past him. Proving his courage as well as his talent, Honor Code battled back and pushed his nose in front at the wire, in the process pegging himself as one of the favorites for next year's classic races.

No son of A.P. Indy has won the Kentucky Derby (gr. I), but Bernardini won the 2006 Preakness Stakes (gr. I) and A.P. Indy's daughter Rags to Riches followed in her sire's footsteps as a winner of the 2007 Belmont Stakes (gr. I). This year's Derby was won by Orb, a grandson of A.P. Indy through Malibu Moon, so the bloodline is strong, especially going a classic distance. This is the male line of Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew, after all.

Honor Code is bred on the A.P. Indy/Storm Cat cross, a combination that results in inbreeding to another Triple Crown winner, Secretariat, in this case

3x4; and linebreeding 5x4x5 to Secretariat's sire Bold Ruler, who was doubled up pretty closely (4x3) in A.P. Indy. Multiple returns of Secretariat have been a pretty successful strategy in today's gene pool, full of A.P. Indy, Storm Cat, and Gone West, all out of Secretariat mares, and who seem to mix well in a round-robin of combinations.

This Storm Cat cross returns a key element in the mating that produced A.P. Indy's top-class older half brother Summer Squall. He was a son of Storm Cat's sire Storm Bird out of A.P. Indy's dam, Weekend Surprise (by Secretariat).

Surprisingly, only three other graded/group winners have been bred on the direct cross of A.P. Indy with Storm Cat daughters (Love and Pride, Jump Start, and Altesse), although his sons and grandsons have worked gangbusters with Storm Cat daughters and granddaughters. A few grade I examples include Turbulent Descent (Congrats/Forestry), It's Tricky (Mineshaft/Tale of the Cat), Princess of Sylmar (Majestic Warrior/Catienus), Eden's Moon (Malibu Moon/Giant's Causeway), Sky Mesa (Pulpit/Storm Cat), and Hansen (Tapit/Sir Cat).

Because A.P. Indy was mated to only the best mares, Honor Code's dam, Serena's Cat, brings a lot to the table in her own right. Winner of the Klassy Briefcase Stakes on turf at Monmouth Park, she is a daughter of Serena's Tune, a stakes winner on dirt and turf. Serena's Tune was pure royalty, from one of the last crops by Mr. Prospector, and the first foal out of the great racemare and champion Serena's Song, by Rahy. Serena's Tune also produced the Irish group III winner Vocalised, by Vindication, like A.P. Indy, another champion son of Seattle Slew.

Honor Code is the second foal out of Serena's Cat, whose first is a nice colt by Unbridled's Song named Noble Tune, winner of the 2012 Pilgrim Stakes (gr. IIIT) at 2 and the American Turf Stakes (gr. IIT) this year at 3.

After Honor Code's win in the Remsen, trainer Shug McGaughey sent him off to take care of a touchy situation, because like his sire, A.P. Indy (and uncle Summer Squall and several other members of this family), Honor Code is a ridgling. A.P. Indy had his undescended testicle removed after his debut race at Del Mar as a 2-year-old, and Honor Code will undergo a similar procedure to clear the way for a trouble-free winter preparing for his classic bid by way of the Florida preps. **BH**



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