

FASIG-TIPTON JULY

SELECTED YEARLING SALE
Monday & Tuesday, July 20-21 • 10 a.m.



COMMENTATOR
2002 Fasig-Tipton July Graduate
Horsephotos

F-T JULY LAUNCHES YEARLING SEASON

The 2009 yearling season officially kicks off Monday with Fasig-Tipton's July Sale at the Newtown Paddocks in Lexington, Kentucky. With just under 500 yearlings cataloged for the two-day sale, as compared to 568 in 2008, officials are hopeful that the increased focus on quality will bolster the bottom line. "We made the decision to raise the bar in terms of the quality of horses in the sale, particularly trying to eliminate the horses off the bottom end," explained Fasig-Tipton President Boyd Browning Jr. "We anticipated that the market was likely to be more selective in 2009 than it had been in 2008, and we made the conscious decision to ensure that the yearlings we accept to the July sale fit, both in terms of pedigree and conformation. The overall demand might be slightly lower this year, so we wanted to have a slightly reduced supply in July."

Earlier this decade, Fasig-Tipton had tinkered around with the number of yearlings being offered in July with varying success. While final figures showed increases with scaled-back catalogs in 2004 and 2006, corresponding numbers dipped in 2005 and 2007 when catalog size was increased. Heralding the impending economic crisis, numbers dropped again in 2008.

"We're trying to eliminate the yo-yo effect in the July sale marketplace," said Browning Jr. "We're trying to be a little more consistent in the approach that we take with the selection and the number of horses that we catalog. We are very pleased with the horses that we have put together and we think the overall quality this year is higher than in years past. That should help balance things out."

JULY'S GOLDEN BOY

In history, only a select few horses have made it to the GI Belmont S. following wins in the GI Kentucky Derby and GI Preakness S., with a chance to sweep racing's Triple Crown. Of those, even fewer--11 to be exact--have swept the cherished Triple. Only one of them has ever been offered and sold at public auction. That honor resides with 1977 Triple Crown hero Seattle Slew. Bred by Ben Castleman at White Horse



Karen and Mickey Taylor & Seattle Slew
Tony Leonard Photo

Acres (currently Cobra Farm), Seattle Slew was the only yearling offered by Castleman at the fledgling Fasig-Tipton July Sale in 1975. In the market for an early developing two-year-old to win Sunland Park's Riley Allison Futurity, one of the richest juvenile races at the time, Karen and Mickey Taylor came upon a colt in the July catalog that looked like he had the potential to fit the bill.

"Mickey looked at the whole catalog before he went to that year's sale," recalled Karen. "He dog-eared hip 128, a colt by Bold Reasoning out of My Charmer."

Winner of the Withers S. and Jersey Derby and runner-up in the Metropolitan H., Bold Reasoning, who also set a track record for six furlongs at Belmont Park at four, retired to Claiborne Farm in 1972. His first foal crop, which included Seattle Slew, were newly turned yearlings in the spring of 1975. Bold Reasoning was injured in a breeding shed accident that April. Euthanized after developing complications, he only produced three crops prior to his death. Seattle Slew was the first foal produced by 1972 Fair Grounds Oaks winner My Charmer (Poker), who was also bred by Castleman.

"We liked Bold Reasoning because he was a relatively new sire, and the colt was a first foal out of the mare, and we really like first foals," Karen continued. "We bought four yearlings in total at Fasig-Tipton that year, and two of them were by Bold Reasoning. We liked him as a sire. He was a big horse, but he had tremendous speed, being by Boldnesian, who was by Bold Ruler. We thought the colt would have plenty of speed from his sire."



Seattle Slew with Angel Cordero Jr.
Horsephotos

While the dark bay appeared to have plenty of potential on paper, the Taylors didn't shy away from the fact that both the colt's sire and dam were, at that time, still unproven. When it came to selecting young horses, the Taylors opted to focus on the physical element over the pedigree. **Cont. p2**



Fasig-Tipton Grad Seattle Slew cont.

And what was the Taylors's impression the first time they saw hip 128 led out for inspection?

"The first time we met him, he didn't just walk out of his stall, he burst out with energy and fire," recalled



Slew in '74 with Paul Mallory
Tony Leonard Photo

Karen. "He had pizzazz, he was on his toes and he gave you this eye, that he had until the day he died, that would stop you in your tracks. Everybody noticed his eye. They always talk about the 'eye of eagles' in a horse, and Slew had it. He had an eye that just could look into your soul."

While the youngster had plenty of personality and charisma, certain aspects of his physical appearance caused many to look elsewhere. But not the Taylors.

"He was well muscled, but he also had a very straight hind leg and, since Mickey was into Quarter Horses, that didn't deter us," explained Karen.

Mickey added, "His straight leg probably turned off 90 percent of the people, because at that time, people thought a straight leg was just for sprinters. He was a big reason that many changed their philosophy about those types of horses. In fact, A.P. Indy [by Seattle Slew] also has a very straight hind leg, and he went on to win the Belmont S., too."

But despite Slew's conformational shortcomings, Karen was instantly sold on the big, awkward colt.

"I liked him because he had short cannon bones and short pasterns," Karen explained. "He turned out slightly in his right front, but he walked straight through it and had a terrific stride, so that didn't bother us. I just fell in love with him the first time I saw him."

Paul Mallory, farm manager of White Horse, was charged with looking after the single-horse consignment and was given every indication early that the Taylors were the farm's best chance at getting the yearling sold.

"When we went to see Slew, Paul told us we were the only people who came back to look at him again," said Karen. "In fact, we must have gone back five times. We had to go back several times, because he would always dance around and was on his toes, and we wanted to go back and get a better look."

In only its second year, the July Sale had already been responsible for selling its first Kentucky Derby winner in Bold Forbes. However, at the time Seattle Slew was being offered in the summer of 1975, the Irish Castle colt was still racing in Puerto Rico and was a year away from winning the Run for the Roses.

Mickey recalled, with vivid clarity, the moment Seattle Slew walked into the Fasig-Tipton pavilion the afternoon of July 19, 1975.

Cont. p3

Fasig-Tipton July 20-21

**AWESOME
AGAIN**

Colts: 287, 305

Fillies: 312

EL PRADO

Fillies: 298, 352

GHOSTZAPPER

Colts: 65, 122

Fillies: 94

**MACHO
UNO**

Colts: 284

Fillies: 358

TOUCHGOLD

Colts: 404, 421

Fillies: 220, 339, 344, 438



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Fasig-Tipton Grad Seattle Slew cont.

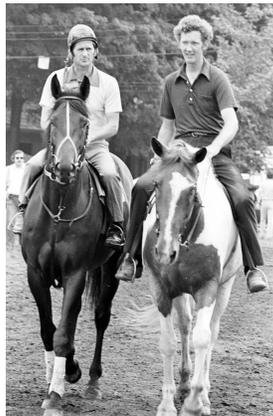
On that occasion, Fasig-Tipton's John Finney was the announcer, while Ralph Retler served as the auctioneer.

"We were sitting on the left side of the pavilion, in about the eighth or ninth row, on fold-out chairs," Mickey remarked. "There was only one other bidder--we could have been bidding against the reserve or the owner. I bid \$15,500, then there was another bid from the other side, and I went to \$16,500. To tell you the truth, I was probably going to stop at \$15,500, but Karen gave me the elbow."

Karen quickly interjected, "I gave him *two* elbows. I was pretty determined to get him."

After landing the colt for \$17,500, the Taylors purchased a few more at public sales later that season. They secured 11 yearlings in total that year. The most expensive was a colt by Speak John, later named Big John Taylor, who was purchased for \$27,000. The bay went on to annex the GII Massachusetts H. and GIII Roseben H. in 1978.

After securing Seattle Slew, the Taylors initially kept the strapping colt in Kentucky before sending him to Paula Turner at Andor Farm in Monkton, Maryland. It wouldn't be long before the baby would start to show glimmers of bigger things to come.



Slew with Mike Kennedy and trainer Billy Turner
Horsephotos

"We sent seven of our earlier two-year-olds to [trainer] Billy Turner at Belmont Park," explained Mickey. "Sometime in July [1976], they were going to work Slew out of the gate. Billy had the others horses breezing go really slow, but when he worked him out of the gate, Slew went in :44 flat. The clockers just couldn't believe it and turned it in as :49. I clocked him myself, so I was sure how fast he

went. It was just unbelievable. At that point, we knew we bought ourselves a fast horse."

Mickey added, "We were going to run him in the latter part of the Saratoga meet and [jockey Jean] Cruguet came by to work him. Slew worked in 1:08 2/5. It was faster than older horses ran six furlongs that afternoon. I was in Washington at the time and, after that work, everyone was trying to run me down to make an offer on the horse."

After having purchased the colt for a bargain price of \$17,500 only a year earlier, did Micky find himself tempted, even in the slightest, to part with Seattle Slew?

"I never listened to the offers, I just told them he wasn't for sale," assured Mickey, adding, "Slew went on to be a tremendous racehorse and a tremendous sire. He became a sire of sires. He is the most complete Thoroughbred that has ever been, or will probably ever be. You just can't put a price on that."

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July
Catalog Update!



Hip #259's full sister, **Southern Truth**, not only broke her maiden as a 2YO on June 5th, she broke the track record at Monmouth in the process!

(Click for [chart](#) and [video](#).)

Look for Hip #259 (*Yes It's True - Uncontrollable, by Wild Again*) at Fasig-Tipton this July!

Also selling: Hip #315 **TAPIT** filly out of half-sister to **TASHA'S MIRACLE** (G3).

Candy Land

PINHOOK PROSPECTS - TOP 4 BY PRICE

(Outs not included)

Hip	Price (\$)	Sale
<u>029</u>	\$220,000	KEENOV
c, <u>Henny Hughes</u> -- <i>Tacticmove</i> , by <i>Deputy Minister</i> Purchased by Stoney Lane Farm '08 Consignor: Taylor Made Sales Agency		
<u>047</u>	\$150,000	FTKNOV
c, <u>Bernardini</u> -- <i>Western League</i> , by <i>Forty Niner</i> Purchased by David M. Miller DVM '08 Consignor: William S. Reightler, agent		
<u>275</u>	\$150,000	KEENOV
c, <u>Tiznow</u> -- <i>Zadkiel</i> , by <i>Saint Ballado</i> Purchased by Woodland Farm '08 Consignor: Eaton Sales, agent		
<u>374</u>	\$150,000	KEENOV
c, <u>Giant's Causeway</u> -- <i>Getaway Girl</i> , by <i>Silver Deputy</i> Purchased by Olin B. Gentry, agent '08 Consignor: Indian Creek (Dave C. Parrish Jr.)		

FASIG-TIPTON JULY SELECT PREVIEW...

by Christina Bossinakis