

Wildcat Heir paces freshman sire ranks from Florida

Freshman sire Wildcat Heir got off to a quick start about as soon as possible this spring, registering his first winner on April 1, and he has kept on going with 14 more winners through August 26.

Wildcat Heir topped the freshman sire standings with four more winners than Roman Ruler, and he was the leader with \$427,049 in progeny earnings through August 27.

The nine-year-old Grade 1 winner by Forest Wildcat out of Penniless Heiress, by Pentelicus, covered 173 mares in his initial season in 2006 that produced 122 registered foals.

Wildcat Heir remained popular with books of 177 mares in 2007 and about 130 mares in '09, standing for \$6,500 at Brent and Crystal Fernung's Journeyman Stud in Ocala.

"Right from the start when we first started to get babies from him, they all kind of had that fast-looking body to them, and they matured quickly," Brent Fernung said. "I've broken a half dozen of them, and they're all a pleasure to train."

Bred and raced by Everett Novak's New Farm, Wildcat Heir was the first stallion in Florida for the Taylor Made/WinStar Farm venture, and he has rewarded Novak's decision to retain an interest in his breeding career and to support him with broodmares.

A full brother to Grade 3 winner Forest Heiress and stakes winner Forest Heir, Wildcat Heir was a debut winner for trainer Ben Perkins Jr. in 2002, and he closed the season with a second-place finish to Whywhywhy in the Sanford Stakes (G2). As a four-year-old, Wildcat Heir won the 2004 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash Stakes (G1) at Pimlico Race Course.



Cindy Mikell photo

Heirs running wild Progeny of Wildcat Heir include 15 winners, tops among all freshman sires through August 27. He also is the leading freshman sire by progeny earnings

Always Wildcatin', who won a 4½-furlong maiden special weight race by 3¼ lengths on June 11 at Woodbine and finished third in the Colin Stakes there on July 18.

Fernung said no decision has been made on Wildcat Heir's stud fee for 2010.

"Obviously he's a popular horse down here, and the thing that catches me about him is that he's had maiden special weight winners at Santa Anita [Park], Hollywood Park, Del Mar, Calder [Race Course], Woodbine, Arlington Park, and Monmouth Park," Fernung said. "They're winning everywhere. Now we just need to get some stakes winners, and that will largely determine the stud fee, whether or not he comes up with a big horse from that first crop."—Jeff Lowe

Leading freshman sires by winners

Stallion	Sire	Winners	Starters
Wildcat Heir	Forest Wildcat	15	31
Roman Ruler	Fusaichi Pegasus	11	33
Kitten's Joy	El Prado (Ire)	9	26
Pollard's Vision	Carson City	9	24
Proud Accolade	Yes It's True	9	20
Consolidator	Storm Cat	9	38
Limehouse	Grand Slam	8	24
Offlee Wild	Wild Again	7	17
Value Plus	Unbridled's Song	7	21

Statistics through August 26

"Grade 1 stakes winners that look like him and have as much pedigree as him are rare down here," Fernung said. "He has the entire package: pedigree, looks, and ability. Historically, we've given up one thing or the other down here."

"Physically, he's just about the perfect specimen. He's 16 hands tall and he's got just incredible balance to him, with a good head and great neck. Just everything about this horse fits together, and he's putting that same kind of balance and musculature on his babies."

Wildcat Heir's leading runner is