

# FIRST PRIZE DASH

## BROODMARE OF THE YEAR

A FULL SISTER TO ALL-TIME LEADING SIRE First Down Dash, reigning champion broodmare First Prize Dash made a name for *herself* in 2006. Bred and owned by Weetona Stanley, a resident of Madill, Oklahoma, and the widow of A.F. "Sonny" Stanley Jr., the 19-year-old daughter of world champion Dash For Cash was represented by two Grade 1 winners, and her six starters combined to earn \$830,399 in 2006.

First Prize Dash also became the first mare in Quarter Horse racing history to produce two Grade 1 futurity winners during the same meet, as two of her foals – who happen to be twins – accomplished the feat at Remington Park.

Sonny Stanley and his brother-in-law, Marvin Barnes, needed a place to stand Lady Bug's Moon, so in 1970 they founded the Lady Bug Stallion Station. At that time, Lady Bug's Moon was an unproven sire, but he won the '68 Kansas Futurity against a field that included eventual champions Jet Deck Junior and Top Bug. Between his race record and his pedigree – he was a half brother to champion Top Ladybug – Stanley and Barnes felt he had the potential to be a top sire.

"First Prize Dash being voted champion broodmare is a dream come true – a 40-year dream come true," said Stanley's son, Fred. "When our family started our breeding program in the 1960s, we ate a lot of baloney sandwiches because horses cost money to feed, take care of and train, and there was so little money to be made."

In addition to producing Remington Park Futurity (G1)



COURTESY OF SPEEDHORSE

winner First Prize Robin and Heritage Place Futurity (G1) winner First Carolina, First Prize Dash is also the dam of First Prize Perry, a Mr Jess Perry colt who ran second in the Texas Classic Futurity (G1). Blues Girl Too, the sport's champion 2-year-old filly last year, is also a part of the Casco Rose line, as the winner of the 2006 Los Alamitos Two Million Futurity (G1) is a great-granddaughter of Rose Bug.

Racing in 1990-91, First Prize Dash banked \$77,465 from five wins in 11 starts, and she ran fourth behind champions See Me Gone and Refrigerator in the '91 All American Derby (G1). She has five 2005 foals expected to race this year, including a pair of full sisters to First Prize Robin, First Carolina and First Prize Perry.

Now 80, Weetona Stanley is still actively involved in the running of her breeding operation.

"Mother still lives on the ranch in Madill," Stanley said. "Our mares are foaled out at Royal Vista Equine in Purcell, but when the babies are 3 days old, they're brought back to the ranch. She still has the responsibility of watching the mares and foals as they develop on the ranch, and she sounds the alarm to one of her three sons – Stan, Steve or me – if anything should happen to go wrong.

"We've had so many opportunities to sell our mares, and we've had a lot of offers from people wanting to buy First Prize Dash specifically," he added. "Our little airport here at Madill has been worn out by Lear jets, flying in and out with agents trying to get our family to sell, and we just wouldn't do it. It wasn't because we didn't need the money. This has been our life. Dad had no other source of income other than ranching.

"But he always told us that if you're going to have a future in the racing industry, if you're going to be a breeder, you can either have your horses or you can have the money. Dad elected to have the horses."

BY MICHAEL CUSORTELLI

### First Prize Dash chestnut mare 1988

**Owner:** Weetona Stanley

**Breeder:** A. F. Stanley Jr. and L. D. Burbank

#### AQHA PEDIGREE

	ROCKET BAR (TB)
	ROCKET WRANGLER
	GO GALLA GO
DASH FOR CASH	TO MARKET
FIND A BUYER (TB)	HIDE AND SEEK
<b>FIRST PRIZE DASH</b>	JET DECK
	GALLANT JET
	LEO JEWEL
FIRST PRIZE ROSE	LADY BUG'S MOON
	ROSE BUG
	CASCO ROSE