

CONNECTICUT

DELAWARE

MAINE

MARYLAND

MASSACHUSETTS

NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEW JERSEY

NEW YORK

PENNSYLVANIA

RHODE ISLAND

VERMONT

VIRGINIA

WEST VIRGINIA

Hale to the Chief

BY TERRY CONWAY / PHOTOS BY JEFFREY SNYDER

Georganne Hale carves out a memorable career in Maryland

Georganne Hale never considered herself a pioneer. Mainly, she was too busy carving out a career in the racing industry that has spanned the past 25 years.

When Hale was named racing secretary for the Maryland Jockey Club in 2000, she became the top female racing official in the United States. Five years later, she quietly added the integral role of director of racing at Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park.

In a nutshell, a racing secretary supervises a platoon of race officials and employees at the track, writes all the races for the meet, and oversees the race draws. Equally as important, the racing secretary listens to horsemen's individual wants and balances them against what is good for the overall racing program.

It's a tough job, especially when tempers flare.

"Georganne knows how to work those guys," said Charlise Cantey, a retired Mary-

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As racing secretary for the Maryland Jockey Club, Georganne Hale has a myriad of duties



According to Chick Lang, Hale has 'worked nearly every job at the track'

land trainer and television analyst. "She has a great sense of humor that enables her to cajole even the most recalcitrant trainers to do what needs to be done. But she is also tough; no one is running over her."

Known for her photographic memory

and cacophonous laugh, Hale possesses a base of knowledge as deep as it is varied.

"During her career, she has worked nearly every job at the track," said Chick Lang, the former longtime general manager at Pimlico. "She is respected for her ability and as a person. Great energy, great

2008 New York Sires By Winners

| Sire | Rnrs | Wnrs |
|----------------------|------|------|
| Regal Classic..... | 45 | 21 |
| Chief Seattle..... | 79 | 20 |
| Golden Missile..... | 80 | 18 |
| Artax..... | 67 | 17 |
| Eltish..... | 52 | 17 |
| Disco Rico..... | 33 | 14 |
| Phone Trick..... | 45 | 13 |
| Prime Timber..... | 38 | 13 |
| Gold Fever..... | 37 | 13 |
| Millennium Wind..... | 48 | 12 |
| Outofthebox..... | 48 | 12 |
| King Cugat..... | 37 | 12 |
| Wheelaway..... | 44 | 11 |
| Freud..... | 36 | 10 |
| A. P. Jet..... | 44 | 9 |
| Rizzi..... | 32 | 9 |
| Jade Hunter..... | 40 | 8 |
| Gold Token..... | 27 | 8 |
| Smooth Jazz..... | 24 | 8 |
| Hook and Ladder..... | 21 | 7 |

recall, and a willingness to do whatever it takes. This is her life. Male or female, there is no better racing secretary in the industry."

Once a year, Hale steps into the spotlight when the Preakness Stakes (gr. I) media show rolls into the ESPNZone at the Inner

2008 Leading Sires in New York

State sire lists updated daily online. Go to <http://breeding.bloodhorse.com/sirelists.asp>

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| Rank | Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing | 2008 Stud Fee | Rnrs/Wnrs | Stakes Wnrs/Wns | Rstret SW/BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings) | 2008 Earnings | Cumulative | | | |
|------|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | Foals | Stks Wnrs | *A-E Index | *Comp Index |
| 1 | CHIEF SEATTLE (97, Seattle Slew), Empire Stud | \$5,000 | 79/20 | 1/2 | 0/1 | (Bold Chieftain, \$87,250) | \$485,721 | *290 | 9 | 1.27 | 1.41 |
| 2 | HOOK AND LADDER (97, Dixieland Band), Sequel Stallions New York | \$10,000 | 21/7 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Big Truck, \$219,500) | \$467,635 | 90 | 2 | 1.77 | 1.64 |
| 3 | ELTISH (92, Cox's Ridge), Keane Stud Operations | \$3,500 | 52/17 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Shes All Eltish, \$148,480) | \$452,271 | 229 | 11 | 1.23 | 1.45 |
| 4 | GOLDEN MISSILE (95, A.P. Indy), Milfer Farm | \$7,500 | 80/18 | 2/2 | 0/2 | (Miss Missile, \$44,500) | \$447,058 | 374 | 8 | 1.19 | 1.96 |
| 5 | SMOOTH JAZZ (99, Storm Boot), Buckridge Farm | \$3,000 | 24/8 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Smooth Air, \$320,000) | \$446,797 | 60 | 1 | 1.47 | 1.17 |
| 6 | REGAL CLASSIC (85, Vice Regent), McMahon of Saratoga | Pnsd | 45/21 | 1/1 | 1/1 | (Regal Prince, \$56,400) | \$425,143 | *935 | 43 | 1.45 | 1.58 |
| 7 | ARTAX (95, Marquetry), Fever Stallions | \$3,500 | 67/17 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Diabolical, \$130,000) | \$402,058 | 337 | 6 | 1.15 | 1.48 |
| 8 | DISCO RICO (97, Citidancer), Keane Stud Operations | \$4,000 | 33/14 | 2/3 | 1/2 | (Dance Gal Dance, \$80,940) | \$364,205 | 118 | 6 | 1.61 | 1.21 |
| 9 | FREUD (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York | \$10,000 | 36/10 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Oedipus O'Neal, \$45,900) | \$357,042 | 173 | 4 | 1.65 | 1.39 |
| 10 | WHEELAWAY (97, Unbridled), McMahon of Saratoga | \$6,000 | 44/11 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Margies Smile, \$41,330) | \$344,799 | 161 | 1 | 0.85 | 1.28 |
| 11 | GOLD TOKEN (93, Mr. Prospector) | Died, 2006 | 27/8 | 1/1 | 1/1 | (Gold and Roses, \$70,245) | \$301,052 | *237 | 6 | 1.43 | 1.14 |
| 12 | PRIME TIMBER (96, Sultry Song), Sez Who Thoroughbreds North | \$3,000 | 38/13 | 2/2 | 0/2 | (Soufriere, \$37,000) | \$286,872 | 116 | 4 | 1.29 | 1.47 |
| 13 | PHONE TRICK (82, Clever Trick) | Died, 2005 | 45/13 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Strummer, \$72,000) | \$275,612 | *1110 | 52 | 1.54 | 1.54 |
| 14 | A. P. JET (89, Fappiano), Sugar Maple Farm | \$5,000 | 44/9 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Reyana's Jet, \$52,776) | \$258,566 | 417 | 12 | 1.18 | 1.35 |
| 15 | GOLD FEVER (93, Forty Niner), Questroyal at Metropolitan Stud | \$3,500 | 37/13 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Lieutenant Danz, \$39,505) | \$248,037 | *405 | 8 | 1.27 | 1.40 |
| 16 | AMERICAN CHANCE (89, Cure the Blues) | Died, 2004 | 36/6 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Chanced, \$34,150) | \$221,621 | *408 | 29 | 1.48 | 1.31 |
| 17 | MILLENNIUM WIND (98, Cryptoclearance), Highcliff Farm | \$5,000 | 48/12 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Millennium Maddie, \$40,200) | \$215,817 | *168 | 1 | 0.58 | 1.48 |
| 18 | KING CUGAT (97, Kingmambo), Questroyal at Liberty Stud | \$3,500 | 37/12 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Airplay Lady, \$39,683) | \$210,193 | *291 | 6 | 1.36 | 1.21 |
| 19 | OUTOFtheBOX (98, Montbrook), Sez Who Thoroughbreds North | \$2,500 | 48/12 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Gold and Blue Box, \$28,550) | \$200,217 | 164 | 1 | 0.67 | 1.56 |
| 20 | TALK IS MONEY (98, Deputy Minister), Highcliff Farm | \$5,000 | 32/6 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Talkorfree, \$72,350) | \$198,060 | 139 | 3 | 0.83 | 2.03 |
| 21 | JADE HUNTER (84, Mr. Prospector), Questroyal at Liberty Stud | \$5,000 | 40/8 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Chip Hunter, \$46,800) | \$194,408 | *905 | 42 | 1.45 | 1.67 |
| 22 | WESTERN EXPRESSION (96, Gone West), Highcliff Farm | \$5,000 | 30/6 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (I Lost My Choo, \$75,900) | \$189,763 | 210 | 3 | 1.25 | 1.31 |
| 23 | RIZZI (91, Afleet), Sez Who Thoroughbreds North | \$2,000 | 32/9 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Rizzi's Twist, \$37,500) | \$186,915 | *351 | 16 | 1.28 | 1.30 |
| 24 | PERFORMING MAGIC (97, Gone West), Sugar Maple Farm | \$5,000 | 9/3 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Astoria Sweetheart, \$42,000) | \$113,134 | 38 | 0 | 0.87 | 1.22 |
| 25 | WELL NOTED (95, Notebook), Monhill Farm | \$3,000 | 12/4 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Munro Bank, \$38,300) | \$113,043 | *48 | 0 | 0.68 | 1.19 |
| 26 | BADGE (96, Air Forbes Won), Foggy Bottom Farm | \$4,000 | 5/2 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Heathersdaddybaby, \$58,260) | \$107,127 | 57 | 0 | 1.22 | 0.70 |
| 27 | PERSONAL FLAG (83, Private Account) | Died, 2005 | 22/4 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Dr. D. F. C., \$38,000) | \$105,981 | *659 | 36 | 1.43 | 1.51 |
| 28 | RAFFIE'S MAJESTY (95, Cormorant), Sugar Maple Farm | \$3,000 | 14/3 | 1/1 | 1/1 | (Joe's Majesty, \$38,320) | \$104,924 | 92 | 5 | 1.66 | 1.15 |
| 29 | KEY CONTENDER (88, Fit to Fight), Highcliff Farm | \$3,500 | 8/4 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Weathered, \$51,140) | \$100,497 | 216 | 2 | 1.13 | 1.22 |
| 30 | CARRY MY COLORS (96, Roanoke) | N/A | 4/2 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Aly's Colors, \$50,876) | \$100,232 | 41 | 0 | 0.93 | 0.38 |

*A-E and COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. The Comparable Index indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.

2008 Leading Sires in Pennsylvania

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|------|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | Foals | Sks Wnrs | *A-E Index | *Comp Index |
| 1 | BUDDHA (99, Unbridled's Song), Pin Oak Lane Farm | \$5,000 | 87/26 | 1/1 | 1/1 | (Miss Buddhaful, \$100,817) | \$629,618 | *331 | 3 | 0.68 | 1.62 |
| 2 | SIPHON (BRZ) (91, Itajara), Pin Oak Lane Farm | \$5,000 | 50/17 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Z Fortune, \$129,000) | \$530,426 | *470 | 13 | 1.01 | 1.71 |
| 3 | PARTNER'S HERO (94, Danzig), Castle Rock Farm | \$2,500 | 65/20 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Our Partner, \$33,600) | \$435,639 | 317 | 13 | 1.31 | 1.48 |
| 4 | SNOW RIDGE (98, Tabasco Cat), Regal Heir Farms | \$5,000 | 39/17 | 1/1 | 1/1 | (Snow Mon, \$43,630) | \$382,104 | 144 | 3 | 1.15 | 1.40 |
| 5 | SERVICE STRIPE (91, Deputy Minister), Pin Oak Lane Farm | \$3,500 | 55/19 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Chaplain Charlie, \$42,378) | \$366,088 | 289 | 13 | 1.37 | 1.18 |
| 6 | WHEATON (90, Alydar) Died, 2006 | | 41/12 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (What's Your Point, \$80,120) | \$363,794 | 305 | 12 | 1.26 | 1.05 |
| 7 | DELAWARE TOWNSHIP (96, Notebook), Land of Believe Farm | \$4,000 | 49/12 | 1/1 | 1/1 | (Electrify, \$45,000) | \$329,142 | 161 | 4 | 1.32 | 1.29 |
| 8 | LITE THE FUZE (91, Buckaroo), Pin Oak Lane Farm | \$3,500 | 44/15 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Ferocious Won, \$41,420) | \$318,389 | 403 | 22 | 1.39 | 1.25 |
| 9 | ALBERT THE GREAT (97, Go for Gin), Pin Oak Lane Farm | \$4,000 | 49/15 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Go On Sophie, \$33,462) | \$294,669 | *190 | 3 | 1.33 | 1.25 |
| 10 | REAL QUIET (95, Quiet American), Penn Ridge Farm | \$10,000 | 60/14 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Real Property, \$50,780) | \$287,987 | *402 | 10 | 1.22 | 1.32 |
| 11 | FLYING CHEVRON (92, Carson City), Woodvale Farm | | 18/8 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Peach Flambe, \$109,750) | \$263,646 | 147 | 6 | 1.25 | 1.23 |
| 12 | CHANGEINTHEWEATHER (99, Gone West), Xanthus Farms | \$3,500 | 25/10 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Latewinterstorm, \$42,392) | \$214,364 | 62 | 1 | 0.82 | 1.40 |
| 13 | WILL'S WAY (93, Easy Goer), Pin Oak Lane Farm | | 19/7 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Phil's Blue Way, \$50,728) | \$193,866 | 175 | 5 | 1.17 | 1.14 |
| 14 | BANKER'S GOLD (94, Forty Niner), Pin Oak Lane Farm | \$3,500 | 52/10 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Charming Banker, \$17,886) | \$181,081 | 351 | 10 | 0.98 | 1.41 |
| 15 | POWER BY FAR (95, Power of Mind), Castle Rock Farm | \$3,000 | 18/4 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Speedy Justin, \$38,856) | \$177,976 | 63 | 1 | 1.35 | 1.32 |
| 16 | PATTON (91, Lord At War), Castle Rock Farm | \$2,500 | 24/5 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (One Cookie Edna, \$25,200) | \$122,891 | 380 | 13 | 0.95 | 1.16 |
| 17 | COASTAL STORM (99, Storm Cat), Pin Oak Lane Farm | \$2,500 | 13/3 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Stormy Empress, \$33,696) | \$121,093 | 98 | 2 | 1.05 | 0.90 |
| 18 | QUARRY (94, Forty Niner), Xanthus Farms | \$2,000 | 13/3 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Gold Stones, \$56,200) | \$119,412 | 69 | 1 | 0.83 | 0.92 |
| 19 | DUSTY SCREEN (88, Silent Screen) Pnsd | | 11/3 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Lumpy Proof, \$38,440) | \$88,715 | 116 | 0 | 0.77 | 0.82 |
| 20 | LORD AT LAW (89, Lord Carlos), Woodvale Farm | \$500 | 8/2 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Elector, \$25,470) | \$62,606 | 60 | 1 | 1.03 | 0.80 |
| 21 | SPECIAL TIMES (98, Seeking the Gold), Godstone Farm | \$2,500 | 4/3 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Our Time, \$29,520) | \$56,684 | 17 | 0 | 0.88 | 0.97 |
| 22 | AWAD (90, Caveat) Pnsd | | 13/3 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Back Off, \$18,300) | \$53,887 | 148 | 2 | 0.63 | 1.06 |
| 23 | MY FAVORITE GRUB (93, Grub), Fox Tale Stud | \$1,000 | 3/1 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Favorite Valay, \$43,454) | \$45,662 | 24 | 1 | 1.05 | 1.20 |
| 24 | BRUSHED ON (95, Broad Brush) Died, 2003 | | 10/3 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Elva's Rose, \$13,270) | \$45,055 | 50 | 0 | 1.07 | 0.85 |
| 25 | PONCHE (89, Two Punch) Died, 2006 | | 12/3 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Sail Olivia, \$15,120) | \$44,721 | 125 | 5 | 1.03 | 1.11 |
| 26 | FASTNESS (IRE) (90, Rousillon), Fox Tale Stud | \$3,500 | 10/3 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Trafalgar, \$12,095) | \$40,084 | 175 | 3 | 0.92 | 1.13 |
| 27 | ACTIVIST (94, Wild Again), Godstone Farm | | N/A | 11/1 | 0/0 | (Don't try this at home, \$17,820) | \$39,435 | 69 | 2 | 1.09 | 0.71 |
| 28 | CONTEMPLATE (99, Gone West), DMS Farms | | N/A | 4/3 | 0/0 | (Dance to Glory, \$15,997) | \$37,413 | 9 | 0 | 0.41 | 0.72 |
| 29 | BEAUTIFUL INDY (99, A.P. Indy), Godstone Farm | \$3,000 | 5/1 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Love It Hot, \$26,400) | \$35,539 | 15 | 0 | 0.65 | 1.49 |
| 30 | TEKKEN (IRE) (94, Nureyev), Lojeski Farms | \$1,500 | 4/1 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Tekken's Blue Moon, \$20,160) | \$35,390 | 11 | 0 | 1.83 | 1.00 |
| 31 | COUNT ON STEVE (95, A.P. Indy), Woodvale Farm | | 8/1 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Curiosa, \$12,756) | \$32,255 | 27 | 0 | 0.48 | 0.83 |
| 32 | OCEAN SPLASH (89, Clever Trick), Victoria Stables | | 7/1 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Sunshineintherain, \$16,712) | \$32,204 | 35 | 0 | 0.84 | 0.90 |
| 33 | TURN WEST (91, Gone West), Mountain Springs Racing Stable | | N/A | 7/2 | 0/0 | (Smartys Buddy, \$13,218) | \$30,911 | 63 | 0 | 0.82 | 0.84 |
| 34 | DIGAMIST (85, Blushing Groom), Xanthus Farms | \$1,500 | 8/1 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Mistacall, \$13,604) | \$30,595 | *315 | 4 | 0.76 | 0.92 |
| 35 | SILVER MAGISTRATE (96, Silver Deputy), Champagne Stud | | N/A | 2/1 | 0/0 | (Cicada Time, \$30,336) | \$30,336 | 11 | 0 | 0.55 | 0.29 |

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Hale supervises a large staff at Laurel and Pimlico

Harbor in Baltimore. In between Kenny Mayne and Randy Moss debunking the "tight turns" myth as well as the "Preakness favors speed" lore, Hale is seated at the front dais helping determine the post-position draw.

"Nothing better than shaking those pills," Hale laughed. "Everybody is waiting and waiting for their turn to come up. It's really a lot of fun. It's the high point each year with all those talented horses in town, and the hordes of press and publicity we get. It makes all the hard work throughout the rest of the year worthwhile."

Named for her grandfather and grandmother, Hale first climbed on a horse at age 4. Her father, Bobby, managed Taylor's Purchase Farm, a 300-acre spread near Sparks, Md., about 10 miles north of Timonium, starting in the late 1960s. Broodmares, hunters, ponies, and young horses in training were all around during Hale's formative years.

"My brother and I rode horses all day or crisscrossed the farm exploring it with our Jack Russell and German Shepherd," Hale recalled. "We would walk to our neigh-

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|------|---|---------------|------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | Foals | Stks Wnrs | *A-E Index | *Comp Index |
| 1 | CRAFTY FRIEND (93, Crafty Prospector), Walnford Stud | \$6,000 | 45/14 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Ever a Friend, \$180,000) | \$413,618 | 289 | 8 | 1.05 | 1.22 |
| 2 | UNBRIDLED JET (96, Unbridled), Sleeter Farm | \$4,000 | 37/7 | 1/2 | 0/1 | (Jet Away Jane, \$88,700) | \$189,594 | *200 | 6 | 1.14 | 1.20 |
| 3 | DEFRERE (92, Deputy Minister), Walnford Stud | \$6,000 | 33/7 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (De Fearless One, \$20,570) | \$141,191 | *399 | 18 | 1.33 | 1.27 |
| 4 | DEPUTY WARLOCK (97, Silver Deputy), Tee-N-Jay Farm | \$2,500 | 4/2 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Deputyville, \$53,960) | \$67,800 | 28 | 0 | 1.15 | 1.24 |
| 5 | PRIVATE INTERVIEW (92, Nureyev), Colonial Farms | \$2,500 | 14/6 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Sapid, \$13,820) | \$65,173 | 180 | 3 | 1.18 | 1.32 |

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Hale began working at Pimlico in 1984

bors' farms and stay out all day. It was a much simpler life back then."

Jeanne Vance and Laddie Dance owned the farm and turned it into a highly regarded Thoroughbred nursery. Early on, the couple purchased a pair of mares, Guest Room and Twice Cited, who were stakes winners for trainer Lucien Lauren in New York. The pair became the farm's foundation broodmares. As time moved forward, the Dances concentrated on picking up yearlings at prominent sales and getting them to the track.

LEMON DROP KID

In 1997, Vance and Dance purchased Lemon Drop Kid as a yearling. Two years later, the colt played the spoiler to Charismatic's Triple Crown run, winning the Belmont Stakes (gr. I), and then taking the Travers Stakes (gr. I). In 2000, Lemon Drop Kid captured several major grade I races and earned champion older male honors.

"It was very exciting to see him training," Hale recalled. "He was a big, gorgeous horse who would just stand there, head straight, ears forward. You could tell he was a little cocky. He knew he was a tal-

ented racehorse. The only race I saw him in was the Pimlico Special (gr. I), where he came in third."

Lemon Drop Kid stands at Lane's End Farm near Versailles, Ky. His first two crops of foals yielded 14 stakes winners, including the filly Lemons Forever, the longshot winner of the 2006 Kentucky Oaks (gr. I). In all he has sired 23 stakes winners, including 2008 added-money winners Candy Bell and Cosmonaut.

"They put so much money into the sport, they deserved a horse like him," Hale related. "He looks like he is siring some nice fillies and some good turf horses."

As a teenager, Hale worked weekends at Audrey Riker's farm in nearby Monkton taking care of Riker's Thoroughbreds, and enjoyed the fringe benefits of riding the show horses or foxhunting during the winter months.

After graduating from high school, Hale galloped horses at Pimlico for trainer Katherine Voss, then took nursing classes at Towson State.

"I don't know why I thought I could be a nurse," Hale said with a chuckle. "After two years, I was gone, back to exercising

horses full-time, but I was intrigued as far as working on the front side of racing. Katie (Voss) spoke with the racing secretary, Larry Abundy, about getting me a job. I've been there (in the front office) ever since."

CLIMBING THE LADDER

Her first post was as the assistant racehorse identifier at Pimlico in 1984. Duties included organizing the foal paperwork and administering the Coggins test. When her boss was away, Hale filled in.

"First you check the identifying tattoo to make sure it matches up with what is on file," Hale related. "When they come into the paddock to be saddled, you scan the horse's body—the markings, colors, and any other characteristics—to be sure they are the same as what the owner's paperwork says.

"There were some occasional mix-ups. If you had two horses come off a farm and they looked identical, they could get mixed up when they were first tattooed. It's very rare that someone was trying to deceive you."

Hale gradually worked her way up the front-office ladder at Maryland's three tracks—Pimlico, Laurel, and, until it closed, Bowie. As a placing judge, Hale studied all the photos of the finish of a race to determine the correct order of placement. Then, as a patrol judge, she watched for any irregularities on the track and reported incidents to the stewards.

In the late 1980s Hale assumed the position of paddock judge and timer, making sure horses were saddled in a timely manner, and watched that each horse was outfitted with the correct saddle towel, number, equipment, and the assigned jockey.

"It was exciting to be able to do every job and get a feel for the workings of the inner racetrack," Hale remembered. "From time to time, people would mention I was the first woman in the position, but it didn't really matter to me. I certainly learned a lot, and I'm glad I did it."

So, was it the "old boys club?" "It really was, especially with Larry," she said with a big laugh. "To a lot of people, it was shocking for him to hire a girl.

2008 Leading Sires in Maryland

State sire lists updated daily online.
Go to <http://breeding.bloodhorse.com/sirelists.asp>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in Maryland (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through April 2, 2008. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

| Rank | Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing | 2008 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | Stakes Wnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings) | 2008 Earnings | Cumulative | | | |
|------|--|---------------|------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | Foals | Stks Wnrs | *A-E Index | *Comp Index |
| 1 | NOT FOR LOVE (90, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station | \$25,000 | 98/32 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Love Co, \$72,180) | \$861,751 | 606 | 43 | 1.84 | 1.51 |
| 2 | LION HEARTED (96, Storm Cat), Northview Stallion Station | \$3,500 | 62/21 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Control System, \$97,990) | \$628,856 | 283 | 8 | 1.34 | 1.37 |
| 3 | OUTFLANKER (94, Danzig), Maryland Stallion Station | \$4,000 | 72/23 | 1/1 | 0/1 | (Marina Ballerina, \$40,500) | \$582,794 | 350 | 14 | 1.39 | 1.19 |
| 4 | TWO PUNCH (83, Mr. Prospector), Northview Stallion Station | N/A | 67/17 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Southern Man, \$45,260) | \$505,750 | *905 | 50 | 1.53 | 1.48 |
| 5 | LOUIS QUATORZE (93, Sovereign Dancer), Murmur Farm | \$7,500 | 68/21 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Regal Solo, \$40,540) | \$440,159 | *734 | 16 | 1.25 | 1.50 |
| 6 | ALLEN'S PROSPECT (82, Mr. Prospector) | Died, 2003 | 60/16 | 1/1 | 1/1 | (All Giving, \$72,520) | \$332,400 | 1049 | 69 | 1.31 | 1.35 |
| 7 | EASTERN ECHO (88, Damascus) | Died, 2004 | 36/14 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Fancy Diamond, \$30,000) | \$222,038 | *521 | 26 | 1.22 | 1.45 |
| 8 | JAZZ CLUB (95, Dixieland Band), Maryland Stallion Station | \$2,500 | 26/9 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Leave It to Cleve, \$46,562) | \$188,161 | 128 | 0 | 0.89 | 1.17 |
| 9 | YARROW BRAE (95, Deputy Minister), Murmur Farm | \$3,000 | 29/7 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Sheik Shalom, \$26,010) | \$165,150 | 206 | 7 | 1.23 | 1.04 |
| 10 | ROCK SLIDE (98, A.P. Indy), Maryland Stallion Station | \$7,500 | 11/3 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Lesly's Back, \$61,320) | \$153,040 | 69 | 0 | 0.97 | 1.37 |

*A-E and COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. The Comparable Index indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.

2008 Leading Sires in West Virginia

State sire lists updated daily online.
Go to <http://breeding.bloodhorse.com/sirelists.asp>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in West Virginia (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through April 2, 2008. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

| Rank | Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing | 2008 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | Stakes Wnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings) | 2008 Earnings | Cumulative | | | |
|------|--|---------------|------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | Foals | Stks Wnrs | *A-E Index | *Comp Index |
| 1 | HOUSEBUSTER (87, Mt. Livermore) | Died, 2005 | 46/16 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Big Patti, \$48,270) | \$271,935 | *714 | 30 | 1.43 | 1.70 |
| 2 | PRIZED (86, Kris S.), O'Sullivan Farms | N/A | 35/10 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Brass Hat, \$45,000) | \$226,130 | *629 | 23 | 1.40 | 1.46 |
| 3 | LUFTIKUS (96, Meadowlake), Taylor Mountain Farm | \$2,500 | 42/10 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Youbeyoun'i'llbeme, \$25,650) | \$216,869 | 124 | 4 | 1.13 | 1.02 |
| 4 | KOKAND (85, Mr. Prospector), Blue Spruce Farm | \$2,500 | 39/12 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Kokand's Capp, \$19,800) | \$197,252 | 438 | 10 | 1.02 | 0.93 |
| 5 | MEADOW MONSTER (91, Meadowlake), O'Sullivan Farms | \$3,000 | 32/6 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Run Itsmonster, \$46,956) | \$185,631 | 282 | 7 | 1.05 | 1.16 |
| 6 | WAY WEST (FR) (90, Gone West) | Died, 2006 | 26/8 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Color Parade, \$35,100) | \$175,220 | *324 | 6 | 1.01 | 0.86 |
| 7 | MAKIN (90, Danzig), O'Sullivan Farms | N/A | 33/11 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Makinmoon, \$32,400) | \$160,976 | 174 | 3 | 0.88 | 0.76 |
| 8 | PROSPECT BAY (92, Crafty Prospector), Naylee Farm | \$1,500 | 23/8 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Prospective Kiss, \$38,600) | \$135,453 | 247 | 7 | 1.02 | 1.63 |
| 9 | FAMILY CALLING (94, Mr. Prospector), O'Sullivan Farms | \$2,500 | 40/8 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Inca Is Calling, \$29,310) | \$131,836 | 250 | 6 | 0.72 | 1.19 |
| 10 | EASTOVER COURT (91, Seattle Slew) | Died, 2004 | 28/5 | 0/0 | 0/0 | (Caber's Cutie, \$20,870) | \$108,560 | 168 | 6 | 1.23 | 0.98 |

*A-E and COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. The Comparable Index indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.



A primary responsibility of Hale's is writing the condition book for the two tracks

But all the guys were polite. Honestly, I enjoyed working in the office with a bunch of men. There was only one other woman in the office, and that continued for quite a while, at least in Maryland it did."

BY THE BOOK

After spending eight years as the assistant racing secretary, Hale was appointed racing secretary for Pimlico and Laurel. One of her primary tasks is to write a condition book each month. The "industry bible" lets horsemen know what races will be run on a certain day at a specific distance, what the purse will be, and if the race will feature claiming, allowance, handicap, or stakes races.

"Since our two tracks run all year long, I usually give the horses 15 or 16 days to come back to race," she said. "At Pimlico, I'll start writing 2-year-old races in late April."

Keeping on top of the backstretch's inventory is necessary to see what type of races trainers are searching for. A sizable slice of her day is spent on the phone, cajoling trainers to race at the Maryland tracks.

"A lot of the tracks around us have slots, so their purses are a lot more attractive,"

she said. "When Delaware Park and Monmouth open, it's a real problem. And who could have ever imagined we would be playing second fiddle to Penn National?"

Hale has been front-and-center for a series of mind-bending incidents at the Preakness Stakes. In 1998, the power shut down after a car slammed into a nearby transformer, and the following year, there was the scene of a psychotic fan throwing a roundhouse punch at the sprinter Artax in deep stretch. Three years ago, it was the frightening sight of Afleet Alex being cut off at the top of the stretch, but miraculously staying on his feet. In 2006, it was Barbaro's breakdown.

"This stuff never seems to happen at other tracks," Hale observed. "Maybe we have a black cloud over us. But we get through it and keep on trucking."

TAKING COMMAND

Still, Hale's worst nightmare was the equine herpes outbreak during the 2005-06 winter meet. It paralyzed Pimlico and Laurel Park, shutting down barns, and had Hale scrambling to fill racing cards.

An upper respiratory infection, herpes can, in the worst cases, affect a horse's ability to walk, let alone run. It spreads like wildfire from barn to barn.

"Four horses died and another 20 had the fever and paralysis in the hind end,"

"(Preakness) is the high point each year with all those talented horses in town and the hordes of press we get."

GEORGANNE HALE

Hale recalled. "Many more horses couldn't leave the track to race because they were quarantined. Financially, it hurt the track, all the owners and the trainers."

Quarantined horses are allowed to work out if they are not sick, but only after the track has been cleared. They can't race until the quarantine is rescinded.

Cantey praised Hale for being honest and direct about the initial horses that came down with the virus, and for acting quickly and responsibly.

"It was an outbreak that can easily get out of control," Cantey noted. "Through it all, she was steady at the helm."

The ordeal was a wake-up call for everybody.

"The trainers and their barn workers understand now they need to be very careful," Hale said. "Sanitize everything. Don't bring horses straight off a farm and put them in with your other horses. A lot

more trainers started vaccinations."

For Hale and all of the employees of Maryland's racetracks, their future could hinge on a referendum to legalize slot machine gambling that goes to voters in November. Magna Entertainment, the parent company that owns the two tracks, has lost money for the past five years, including \$114 million last year. Magna has yet to decide whether to financially support the pro-slots campaign since a license at Laurel would not be guaranteed.

"Morale isn't very good; the trainers, the patrons—everybody is down," Hale admitted. "More and more farms are selling to developers; stallions are headed to Pennsylvania. It's very sad, but you can't blame them. The feed men, the hay men, this is affecting so many people beyond the tracks."

One piece of recent good news is that the Pimlico Special has been reinstated after a one-year hiatus, though the purse has been cut from \$500,000 to \$250,000.

When Hale hears from associates at the surrounding slots-fueled tracks complaining the focus is not on racing, she just shakes her head.

"I would like to be mistreated like that," Hale said with a small laugh, "to have the chance to use the slots revenue for my purses. It would mean so much to all the people in Maryland who truly love horses and racing." 🐾

Northeast/Mid-Atlantic REGIONAL NEWS

COMPILED BY AMANDA H. DUCKWORTH

MHBA REWARDS HEROS REWARD

Heros Reward collected four honors from the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, including the title of 2007 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year. The Partner's Hero gelding was also named champion older male, sprinter, and turf runner in the annual poll conducted by the MHBA.

During his 5-year-old season, Heros Reward won two stakes and finished second in two more for owners Robert Haynes' Rob Ry Farm and Jayne Marie Slys. His biggest victory came in the Nearctic Stakes (Can-IIT) last October.

Heros Reward also won the Baltimore City Turf Sprint Stakes on the Preakness undercard and placed in the Scotts Highlander Stakes (Can-IIIT) and Turf Monster Handicap. For the year, he had five wins and four seconds from 10 starts and earned \$515,826.

Gretchen Mobberley bred Heros Reward at her Summer Hill Farm near West Friendship, Md., and the gelding made his first five starts for her. Trainer Dale Capuano claimed Heros Reward for \$20,000 in April 2006 at Laurel Park and eventually switched him to the turf.

Heros Reward is out of the winning Caveat mare Lifes Passage. Mobberley purchased Lifes Passage privately from her breeder, Jim Ryan's Ryehill Farm, during her racing career. The 16-year-old mare has a yearling Dance With Ravens colt and is being bred to Langfuhr for 2009.

The Maryland-bred steeplechase champion, Good Night Shirt, was also recognized with an Eclipse Award earlier this year for his achievements. In 2007, the Concern gelding won the Iroquois Hurdle, Lonesome Glory Hurdle, and Marion du

Pont Scott Colonial Cup Hurdle Stakes (all NSA-I).

Owned by Harold A. Via Jr., Good Night Shirt earned \$314,163 last year, the most ever for a steeplechaser in a single year. Dr. Tom and Chris Bowman bred and raised the champion at their Roland Farm near Chestertown, Md. Good Night Shirt's dam, the Two Punch mare Hot Story, has a juvenile Polish Miner colt named Under Shirt and is in foal to Waquoit.

Other divisional champions included: Ready's Image, 2-year-old male; Ask the Moon, 2-year-old filly; Steve's Double, champion 3-year-old male; Moon Catcher, 3-year-old filly; and Silmaril, older female.

Voting for the 2007 champions were the MHBA board of directors, MHBA members, *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* editors Lucy Acton and Cindy Deubler, Maryland Jockey Club racing secretary Georganne Hale, and communications director Mike Gathagan, as well as nine Maryland racing writers.

IROQUOIS AWARDS BANQUET MOVED

The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association will hold its 29th annual Iroquois Awards dinner May 30 at the Hollywood Casino at Penn National. It is the first time the banquet will be held at the casino, which replaces The Hotel Hershey as the home of the event.

The evening honors the top Pennsylvania breeders of 2007, with divisional championship presentations, and for the first time, recognition of the state's Horse of the Year, won by Hard Spun. Breeders of all Pennsylvania-bred stakes winners in 2007 will receive etched crystal bowls commemorating their achievements. 🐾