

STABLE TOUR

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2020 FASIG-TIPTON Selected Yearlings SHOWCASE

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With Jim Bond

The Bonds do things family style. Not always when it comes to meals per se – although the boys frequently grab a bite together with their significant others on a free night during the Saratoga meet.

The Bond Racing Stable and its breeding operation Song Hill Thoroughbreds feature a member of the family in every facet – father Jim, mother Tina and sons Ryan and Kevin. Jim handles the training, the veteran conditioner gears up for the Saratoga season close to home and consistently produces positive results. Tina handles most of the business while the sons keep things humming at the barn and on the farm.

Jim Bond has victories in Saratoga's two signature events – the Travers in 1996 with Will's Way and the Whitney in 1997 with Will's Way and in 2011 with Tizway. He's off to another strong start past the halfway point of the 2020 meet. The barn had seven wins from 25 starters through Friday, a good enough start that he jokes helps keep him off the couch at home. He's quick to credit the team at the farm in nearby Stillwater and at his private barn on Gridley Street.

"Both boys are good. I'm so blessed," Bond said. "I get nervous because of our business, the game itself. I see the same passion that I had at that age, and even more. I was still really wet behind the ears but they are so good. I'm so fortunate."

"The good thing is they both went to college, four great years of college. Ryan, the youngest, he has a finance degree. His mother kept saying, 'Why are you doing this? Can you look at our finances?' But they love it, work hard and do a great job."

The Bond operation leans heavily toward New York-breds, many bred by Song Hill and running in the family's blue and white colors. They've brought on some partners on those horses, a new twist to the operation that Jim Bond said helps spread the risk and bring in new blood to the game.

"I love raising horses and hopefully having them last for a few years," he said. "We have a lot of partnerships that are liking what we're doing. They're starting to jump in for a lot of 10-percent pieces, stuff like that. It's helping with the risk for

us, and that's fantastic because you can own too many, which we do. Saying that though, you don't know for two or three years, after you breed them, do you like them or not? And you have two rabbits you're feeding behind them.

"And it doesn't matter if they're by Tapit or by Jimmy, they all eat. And they all eat the same. The shoeing is the same usually. Costs as much to feed a good one as a bad one. The sooner we can find out, do the right thing, make them a riding horse or whatever, we try to do that. And every horse we breed, those horses have an index card with their foaling papers and if they need a home at any time."

The Bonds put the practice to the test when they arranged to repurchase Orino, a multiple winner for the family from 2013-16 who wound up in the claiming ranks and eventually in California. After the now 10-year-old son of Raffle's Majesty returned to New York he started training to become the operation's top pony, taking over for the now semi-retired Grade 1 winner Pleasant Breeze.

"Miguel Gutierrez (NYRA's lead outrider) helped us get Orino perfect, like he did with Pleasant Breeze," Bond said. "Pleasant Breeze is 26 now and he's kind of a babysitter for an Arrogate filly (whose mother died shortly after foaling this spring). The old man is raising an Arrogate filly. She's a beautiful filly and he's proud."

Bond talked about his Saratoga group with The Special's Tom Law after training late Tuesday morning.



Tod Marks
Daring Disguise gave the Bond barn a Saratoga win Wednesday.

Prioritize: William Clifton's Grade 2-placed 5-year-old son of Tizway won a 9-furlong optional claimer on the main track July 25. The \$45,000 yearling has earned \$247,100 in 13 starts. "He's getting better. The trainer was not very intelligent, he had him on the turf for two years. Finally put him on the dirt and it looks like he's a pretty nice horse. He was a good grass horse but he's a really, really good dirt horse. We're looking for a dream spot for him, you'll probably see him before the end of the meet and not sure how big we're going to go, or how small. It might depend on how many horses are left here toward the end because a lot of horses will probably be pulling out to go to Churchill."

Are you hinting at the Woodward? "Yes. It's a mile-and-a-quarter and the way he ran the other day it looks like he'll get the distance. A lot of horses won't get the distance. We have to look at it, we'll nominate and see if it's smart or not-so-smart. He ran a great race the other day, showed his determination and he just seems to be climbing. His numbers are just getting better and better. Tizway was a pretty good horse at 5. Maybe he's following his daddy's footsteps."

Graetz: Homebred Tizway filly for Bond Racing Stable broke her maiden for \$40,000 at Belmont in June and finished third in an allowance here last Saturday. "She's a filly I kind of like. She's from a really nice Pulpit mare we have, and I like this filly and she'll come back at the meet and do very well. Luis Saez rides her and I thought she was up a little closer than I would have liked. We were on the outer instead of on the inner and I think on the outer it's very hard to stay wire-to-wire basically and she was 21 and change on the front end. She won the time before kind of 2 off of it."

Rinaldi: A graduate of the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Fall Mixed Sale in 2016, the son of Posse won two New York Stallion Series Stakes last summer for Bond Racing Stable. The 4-year-old gelding won an optional claimer July 30. In the money in five of his six, his only off-the-board-finish came in the Grade 3 Saranac Stakes last summer where he finished fourth. "One of the stable stars. Last September he stepped on something on the main track coming back from Oklahoma and we were scared to death we were going to lose him. He went to Rood and Riddle and Dr. Kathryn Dern saved his life without exaggeration. We had to do the fusion where they just keep flushing and flushing the coffin joint. We got him back, gave him the rest of the year off and started him again this spring. We had him ready for the beginning of April and then the world shut down. He got a bad start at Belmont, he was on the outside on the dogleg going a mile and a sixteenth and I think the gate was

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set up wrong that day. The gate, they moved it two or three times before the race and Saez said the gate wasn't in the right place. The horse was heading toward the hedge instead of seeing daylight, so he broke out terrible. It cost him, he got beat a length. He ran a winning race off the bench, but didn't win. So I decided to just try and win the allowance race and he was impressive here a few weeks ago. We did nominate to the Fourstardave, I think that's very ambitious so the West Point most likely is where we'll show up. Or there's another allowance-starter spot that he's eligible for, too. And there's a spot at Kentucky Downs, too, that I might even venture to. It's non-winners of a sweepstake. That's \$400,000, so we have to look at it at least. He's kind of a one-banjo monkey. He goes to the front, that's his game. Catch me if you can and if you go with him it will cost you the race, too. He's a very nice horse."

Giacosa: Bred by Song Hill and Roderick Towle, the daughter of Tizway broke her maiden this summer at Belmont and carried her form to Saratoga, winning a New York-bred allowance last Friday by 2 lengths. "Very exciting 3-year-old filly. She's from that great family and the dam, Smart Engagement, gave us Tizelle, too. Just runners. Everything in that family wins within the first two starts of their life. She was very impressive the other day. She drew a bad post and was really wide first start here. She went off like 35, 40-1 and I'm looking at this and saying 'What am I missing?' She ran fourth, ran so wide the other day, poor thing. I ran her back and she's 8-5. Tyler Gaffalione rode a tremendous race, saved ground inside and when she saw daylight she exploded. She's a good miler. Seems to me a lot of the Tizways are awesome milers. They explode at the mile, or at least the ones I have. I have nothing picked out for her, might just wait until the fall and find a 3-year-old stakes and get some black type, or try to."


Cerretalto: Another homebred for Bond, the 6-year-old son of Tizway earned his seventh victory in an optional claimer here July 24. With two other placings in his 17 starts, the veteran gelding has earned \$300,633. "My sprinter. He's hard on me. He has a lot of stop time as I call it. I need to take care of him and usually when I take care of him he takes really good care of us. He's just a good horse. He's got issues. Doesn't run often but when he does show up he's pretty strong. He doesn't like Belmont, I've learned to keep him off Belmont. That big track, a little sandy and he doesn't handle it very well. So I avoid it and that's his off time. We might come back, there's a non-winners of a sweepstake going three quarters on the 20th (Tale Of The Cat Stakes). We may be there with him, we'll see how he trains."

Zealous: A \$150,000 yearling purchase, the son of Tiznow won a starter here last year and came back to win a \$35,000 claimer July 31. He has won or been in the money in 10 of his 15 starts. "He's getting to be a Saratoga horse. He won here last year going seven-eighths. Another horse I have to take my time and pick my spots with. We ran him the other day and he was boxed in a little bit, Saez pushed him through and he got up in the final yards to win for us. He's owned by Mr. Clifton. I don't need to say much more about Mr. Clifton, he's been with us a long time and just one of the nicest owners you could train for. I believe we've been together 27, 28 years. Lucky me. I met him through Rudlein Stable, Mr. Rudder and him were in business together with Equix Biomechanics. That was the pioneer years, when everybody was trying to find a niche. They were on the ground floor of it. It's helped us. I've picked out (and given good scores) over the last 20 some years to seven Horses of the Year. Looking at 1,500 yearlings per year. As Mr. Clifton says, 'When Jim gives them a 9 you go beg, borrow and steal to try and buy them.' We were the underbidder on Bricks And Mortar, underbidder on Arrogate, underbidder on Favorite Trick. Everything now is on the iPad and at the end of the day I send my scores to Mr. Clifton. Fortunately I don't look back, because shoulda, coulda, woulda, you've got to move forward. Mr. Clifton is very analytical. He's on Duke's board of directors and he always keeps everything I say and everything I write down and send to him. A horse will come up in a major race and he'll say, 'kid, you gave that horse a hell of a score.' I'll tell him, 'good, why didn't we buy it boss?' But anyway, he makes me better. He fills me with a lot of information, some of it is with Equix, there's other things, numbers, sheets. Thank God for Mr. Clifton."

Evaluator: R and H Stable's gelded son of Overanalyze started his career on the turf before making his way to the Kentucky Derby trail in 2018, finishing seventh in that year's Grade 2 Wood Memorial at Aqueduct. A \$30,000 graduate from the Fasig-Tipton New York-bred sale, he's since made the switch back to turf and finished third behind stablemate Rinaldi July 30. "He's a horse I've always liked. Got a little sick on us this spring. Just about Covid time, he got sick about 9:30 at night in the barn at Belmont. We rushed a truck in there because they didn't have the plasma at the Ruffian Center that I think is needed when a horse is this bad. It works. This was different. He ate up his dinner then all of a sudden it was like a fire hose. A horse can get very weak and go downhill in a short amount of time. You need to react quickly. We got him to Rood and Riddle, Dr. Dern again, she was at the race the other day for Rinaldi and him because she took care of both horses. She got to get her picture taken. Too bad she didn't get it with this horse because he's a nice horse. He ran a very sneaky big race the

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other day to Rinaldi. Unfortunately, I had to put them in the same race. I didn't want to. That horse deserved to come off the bench and win first time. Tyler rode him great. There is a spot for him in the book that I'll come back in. He worked this morning. He's got a great future."

Gallina: Bond Stable's homebred 2-year-old is out of the Smart Strike mare Smart Engagement, making her a half-sister to stablemate Giacosa. "She's a beautiful Mineshaft filly. She's just poetic. Everything about her, she's big and gorgeous. She's kind of early, she's a February baby so I think you'll see her this fall."

Tassi: New York-bred 2-year-old filly by Fed Biz out of the Tiznow mare Tiz A Texan. Clifton bought Tiz A Texan for \$170,000 as a 2-year-old but she never raced. The Bonds purchased her and added her to the Song Hill broodmare band. "Her mother is a sister to the dam of McKinzie. Not a bad little horse. She's been training lights out for us, just shows me a ton of talent and I'm excited about her. The family is taking off. The mother was a 2-year-old purchase (for Clifton) and unfortunately one day she was going to the track, reared in the air, lost her footing and hit her head. It was a very bad blow, we could never race her. I always thought she was something. Now she has a Goldencents yearling and an Air Force Blue foal beside her. Her foals are gorgeous. She's Tiznow and he's proving to be a really great broodmare sire, of course with our possible

Derby winner from New York. I think I'm in the right church there, I just hope I'm in the pews in the front."

Damilano: Two-year-old Tizway out of the Anees mare Beesanees, New York-bred colt is a half-brother to stakes winner Bee Noteworthy, who won a New York Stallion Series Stakes for Bond in 2017. "We just got his name. He's got a lovely way of going. Very athletic, big, gorgeous. He might be OK. Our names are all Italian wines or Italian regions. All of the horses names, my wife and I work hard at it. Cerratalto, a lot of people don't realize it, that's a 100-rated wine that is approximately \$600 and some change for a bottle. He lived up to that name. We tried some California reds, Opus One, and others, over the years, but they didn't live up to it. So we went to Italian wines and being that the Mrs. is Italian it's pretty A-OK."

Bolgheri: A 2-year-old full brother to stablemate Graetz, the colt's second dam is a half-sister to multiple graded stakes winner Caress. "He might be the head of the list. Needless to say a great family. Unfortunately he's an April foal so I'm going to be very cautious with him and not do a whole lot early."

Sori: Unraced full sister to stablemate Cerratalto is the sixth named foal that Bond's Song Hill Thoroughbreds has bred out of the Dixie Brass mare Riserva. She's already on Tina Bond's short list. "That's the princess. Named for a very expensive bottle of wine. She's from our great mare Riserva and she's a full to Cerratalto. She will be retained for our broodmare band at the end. Her mother is 18 now, had a Lookin At Lucky this year so we're excited about that. But this filly, that's my wife's pride and joy. She gets a lot of attention."



Trainer Jim Bond owns victories in two of Saratoga's signature races, the Whitney and the Travers.

Tod Marks

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