

ATTILA'S STORM RUNNERS RULE RUIDOSO

By Eric Mitchell

A & A Ranch had its most successful single day of racing for its sire Attila's Storm July 31 at Ruidoso Downs.

The grade III-winning son of Forest Wildcat had three winners and five stakes-placed runners in five non-listed stakes for New Mexico-breds—two of the races have black-type status.

In two races—\$50,000 Road Runner Handicap and \$50,000 Lincoln Handicap—Attila's Storm's progeny finished 1-2.

"He's been getting a good number of mares and producing solid horses," said Fred Alexander, who owns A & A Ranch with his wife, Linda. They have been standing Attila's Storm for the sire's owner R.D. Hubbard since 2012. For the 2013-15 breeding seasons, Attila's Storm has averaged 70 mares annually compared with 39 in 2012 and 31 in 2011.

"His horses have good minds, they're well-balanced, and they're versatile," Alexander said. "We could not ask for anything more."

Three-year-old gelding Stormin the Jewels won the black-type Road Runner wire-to-wire by 1 3/4 lengths over Hit a Lick. Stormin the Jewels was bred by Cynthia Dick and is owned by J & SM, while Hit a Lick made his stakes debut for owner Dale Taylor. Hit a Lick was bred by Spence.

In the non-black-type Lincoln Handicap, 4-year-old filly Stormy Day won three-quarters of a length

over Tilla Cat. Stormy Day is a Hubbard homebred, trained by Bart Hone. She is black-type stakes-placed, as a third-place finisher last year in the New Mexico Classic Cup Oaks Championship Stakes. Tilla Cat was bred by Robert and Del Rae Driggers and is owned by a partnership including Dale Taylor, Lee R. Lewis, Joe Dee Brooks, Scott Bryant, and Derrol Hubbard.

Hush's Storm, a 6-year-old gelding, was the third stakes winner for Attila's Storm. The gelding won the non-black-type \$50,000 Land of Enchantment Handicap. He was bred by JEH Stallion Station, which launched Attila's Storm's stud career and stood him through 2011. Hush's Storm is owned Dale Taylor, Carey Taylor, Joe Dee Brooks, and Jon Hogg.

The other stakes-placed Attila's Storm runners were Hubbard homebred Another Brother and Storming Back, who were second and third, respectively, in the black-type Mountain Top New Mexico Bred Thoroughbred Futurity. Storming Back is a homebred racing for Dale Taylor. Hubbard also bred and raced Thermal who finished second in the non-black-type Sierra Blanca Handicap.

Attila's Storm now leads the New Mexico sire list with \$683,092 in progeny earnings. Last year he ranked a close second with \$1,320,345 in progeny earnings, about \$118,000 behind top sire Diabolical, who also stands at A & A Ranch. Attila's Storm had five black-type stakes winners in 2015 to Diabolical's four. Among 169 lifetime foals of racing age, Attila's Storm has sired 13 black-type stakes winners (8%) through July 31. He stood this year for \$4,000. **BH**



Son of Attila's Storm, Stormin the Jewels winning his 2016 debut in the Road Runner at Ruidoso Downs