



**Elliott Walden**  
*Horsephotos*

*Following Wednesday's announcement that Vinery Kentucky's five remaining stallions, including leading sires **More Than Ready** and **Congrats**, were headed to WinStar Farm for the 2013 breeding season, TDN's Steve Sherack caught up with WinStar President and CEO Elliott Walden for a quick Q&A session.*

*TDN: At a time when most farms continue to scale back or simply tread water, WinStar Farm continues to expand its roster with high-profile acquisitions like Pauls Mill stallions **Artie Schiller** and **Bellamy Road**, **Harlan's Holiday** and last year's Derby and Preakness runner-up **Bodemeister**. Discuss WinStar's strategy and vision for the future.*

**EW:** That's Kenny Troutt's vision--he's been a visionary his entire life. He doesn't do anything halfway and he recognizes that this is another opportunity to grow when everyone else remains static or retreating a little bit.

**TDN:** *What was most appealing about this group of five stallions that helped make this deal happen?*

**EW:** We've been trying to acquire proven stallions, and it's worked very well for us so far with Harlan's Holiday, Bellamy Road and Artie Schiller. The main attraction here for us was to try and put something together that could continue to grow our already solid proven stallion market. Congrats and More Than Ready do that, as does **Pure Prize**, who is solid at his level. You throw in **Kodiak Kowboy** and **Street Hero**, and you have a chance to have one of the young horses step up, too.

**TDN:** *Did WinStar's existing relationship with Vinery standing Bluegrass Cat and Rule in New York help facilitate this deal at all? Explain how it all came together.*

**EW:** It did. I've been in communication with Tom Ludt for a while now with Bluegrass Cat and Rule standing at Vinery in New York. When they announced that the farm was going to be sold, we looked at adding some of their stallions as a possibility.

I reached out to Tom and said that if there was any way possible that we could help them in this transition period that we would be more than willing to listen. We then remained quiet until Tom reached out to us and said that they were ready to have some discussions about it. We sat down and got serious about a month ago, and it really didn't materialize at that time, but Mr. Zayat decided to go ahead and move **Pioneer of the Nile** and **Maimonides** to WinStar. Tom Simon and Tom Ludt were gracious enough to allow that happen and things heated up in the past week or so on the others.

**TDN:** *Does any of these new stallions help fill a void on the WinStar roster for any specific sire-line/crosses that you were looking to add?*

**EW:** More Than Ready is a horse that has had 110+ stakes winners and descends from the Halo line, which we didn't have yet. He's a world-class sire and his name is recognized in every country in the world that races horses, so that was very appealing. He also probably has his best book of mares in America in utero right now, as well as foals, which are yearlings now, because of his two Breeders' Cup winners in 2010.



**More Than Ready's Pluck wins the 2010 BC Juvenile Turf**  
*Horsephotos*

**TDN:** *Congrats has gotten off to a quick start at stud, already siring three Grade I winners. What did you find appealing about him?*

**EW:** We believe in Congrats. He's a young horse that enjoyed immediate success in Florida and was later moved to Kentucky--he has a very bright future. We're only going to have him for one year at WinStar. John Sykes is a majority shareholder, and he's going to be moved to Woodford Thoroughbreds in Kentucky for the 2014 season. We're excited to stand him for 2013 though and have a breeding right in him.

**TDN:** *Will More Than Ready continue to shuttle to the Southern Hemisphere?*

**EW:** At this time every anticipation is that More Than Ready and Pure Prize will go on and shuttle in 2013.

**TDN Q & A cont.**

**TDN:** *WinStar has already accomplished so much in the short period of time since its inception, breeding dual Classic winner Funny Cide, winning the Kentucky Derby with Super Saver, annexing the Dubai World Cup with Well Armed and also winning the Belmont S. and Breeders' Cup Classic with Drosselmeyer. You touched earlier on Kenny Troutt's vision, but what are some goals for WinStar going forward?*

**EW:** His goals have always focused on trying to make the farm a sustainable entity. He's very serious about trying to make the farm pay for itself and every opportunity and every decision that we make is geared towards that. We feel that our growing stallion roster gives us that opportunity. Racing is something that also feeds our stallion barn and we hope to continue adding to our roster with horses like Gemologist, Super Saver and Drosselmeyer. Our main goal that we focus on is our stallion operation and everything else that we do ties into that.



**Kenny Troutt**  
*winstarfarm.com*