

# Foreign Flavor

## Antonacci Family Looks Overseas To Breed The Next Great Trotter

By Jay Hochstetler

The science of Standardbred breeding selection can be as complex or simple as one chooses to make it. For some, selecting a sire for a certain broodmare is a matter of picking the popular sire or one with appealing stats. Other breeders dive into the pedigrees to search for magic crosses or the correct duplication of select sires. Another train of thought is to breed mares with certain physical qualities to sires that will make up for their physical limitations. The theories may vary, but none are groundbreaking in terms of strategy.

The Antonacci family has decided to enter a rare frontier in American Standardbred breeding. The broodmare band of Lindy Farms has taken on a notable European flavor in recent years, and it is certainly not by accident.

“There are too many horses in America with similar blood around the U.S.,” says Frank Antonacci, who operates Lindy Farms of Connecticut with his brother, Gerald. “We have correct sires over here. They produce clean and easy to train horses. I think if you incorporate mares with French and Italian blood, you can get a better horse.”

“We believe it will be healthy to the breed to bring in Franco-American pedigree to improve the breed. We believe this is where the next great trotter will come

from,” adds Antonacci’s eldest son, trainer Frank M. Antonacci.

The success of European trotters in America can certainly not be ignored, especially after 2014. Sebastian K had one of the most memorable seasons in recent years for an older trotter. Although Swedish-bred, Sebastian K’s sire is the largely French pedigreed Korean, who does have some American blood on his maternal side. Commander Crowe, who took home late-season honors with his Breeders Crown victory, also carries French blood through his sire Buvetier d’Aunou, although his dam is by Mack Lobell and out of a daughter by Speedy Somolli. Several horses in the not too distant past like Varenne and Tamla Celeber have also left huge marks on the American trotting scene and are the product of mixing both American and European bloodlines.

The Antonacci family’s dive into crossing bloodlines between continents has been done in full measure. The storied racing family has pegged elite broodmares and European stallions for their strategy, which has already yielded success.

Lindy Farms bred the filly Delicious, who earned \$254,244 in two racing seasons before she was exported to Sweden, where she has continued to win for Brixton Medical. The daughter of Cantab Hall is out of the Italian mare, Ipsara

LB, a daughter of the Italian sire Lemon Dra, who gained fame when he was kidnapped and never seen again.

One of Lindy’s first foals by the French stallion Love You, Nashville Lindy, won a late closer at The Red Mile and is in foal to Muscle Hill.

In 2014, Lindy bred four broodmares to European stallions using frozen semen, with two mares in foal.

Frank M. Antonacci is particularly excited about True Diva carrying a foal by Love You. True Diva, who earned \$204,651, showed early speed by taking a mark of 1:55.3 as a 2 year old. With eight foals of racing age, she is the dam of \$330,337 earner and 2013 American National champion Lindy’s Tru Grit (see accompanying story) as well as \$221,409 earner Airzoom Lindy 3, 1:53.1f and The Bosses Lindy 2, 1:57 (\$124,875). She has a yearling filly by Crazyed and a 2014 foal (colt) by Cantab Hall.

“True Diva seems to hit with everything so I’m really excited about that foal,” he said.

True Diva is also a sister to the accomplished racing colt and sire Lindy Lane. Also of note, going back in Lindy Lane’s maternal line is 1950 Horse of the Year Proximity (she is the fifth dam of Lindiliana, the dam of Lindy Lane).



Gerard Forni Photo

### LOVE YOU

Coktail Jet (FR)	Quouky Williams (FR)	Fakir Du Vivier (FR)	Sabi Pas (FR)	Carioca II (FR)-Infante II (FR)
	Armbro Glamour (CA)	Dolly Williams (FR)	Ua Uka (FR)	Kerjacques (FR)-Flicka (FR)
Guilty of Love (FR)	And Arifant (FR)	Super Bowl (US)	Pacha Grandchamp (FR)	Fandango (FR)-Atalante De Grandchamp (FR)
		Speedy Sug (US)	Quassia Williams (FR)	Ogaden (FR)-Tanagra (FR)
Amour d’Aunou (FR)	Infante d’Aunou (FR)	Pillow Talk (US)	Star’s Pride (US)	Worthy Boy (US)-Stardrift (US)
		Speedy Somolli (US)	Niky des Etangs (FR)	Rodney (US)-Bewitch (US)
Nesmile (FR)	Speedy Somolli (US)	Speedy Count (US)	Speedster (US)-Countess Song (US)	Speedster (US)-Countess Song (US)
		Sug (US)	Hickory Smoke (US)-Cassin Hanover (US)	Hickory Smoke (US)-Cassin Hanover (US)
Amours du Mesnil (FR)	Nesmile (FR)	Quick Song (US)	Victory Song (US)-Lucile Spencer (US)	Victory Song (US)-Lucile Spencer (US)
		Odile de Sassy (FR)	Gi (FR)-Herodiade de Grandchamp (FR)	Gi (FR)-Herodiade de Grandchamp (FR)
Amours du Mesnil (FR)	Nesmile (FR)	Oscana (FR)	Quinio (FR)-Houbara (FR)	Quinio (FR)-Houbara (FR)
		Speedy Crown (US)	Gutemberg A. (FR)-Habanera de Grand. (FR)	Gutemberg A. (FR)-Habanera de Grand. (FR)
Amours du Mesnil (FR)	Nesmile (FR)	Somolli (US)	Speedy Scot (US)-Missile Toe (US)	Speedy Scot (US)-Missile Toe (US)
		Caprior (FR)	Star’s Pride (US)-Laurita Hanover (US)	Star’s Pride (US)-Laurita Hanover (US)
Amours du Mesnil (FR)	Nesmile (FR)	Amours du Mesnil (FR)	Feu Follet X (FR)-Ninia (FR)	Feu Follet X (FR)-Ninia (FR)
		Amours du Mesnil (FR)	L’as du Mesnil (FR)-Pin Up du Mesnil (FR)	L’as du Mesnil (FR)-Pin Up du Mesnil (FR)



Valley Victory	Baltic Speed	Speedy Somolli	Speedy Crown Somolli
		Sugar Frosting	Carlisle Karen's Choice
Valley Victoria		Bonefish	Nevele Pride Exciting Speed
		Victorious Lou	Noble Victory Lou Sidney
TRUE DIVA		Speedy Scot	Speedster Scotch Love
		Missile Toe	Florican Worth A Plenty
Lindiliana	Speedy Crown	Texas	Super Bowl Elma
		Victoria Regina	Speedy Rodney Victory Prize
	Petroliaanna		

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Love You was campaigned by French horseman Jean-Pierre Dubois, considered to be the modern-day pioneer of mixing French and American bloodlines. Dubois has had plenty of success with this strategy, most notably with Coktail Jet, Buvetier d'Aunou and Love You.

Love You is a son of Coktail Jet with both American and Italian (Sharif di Iesolo) blood in his maternal line. In 56 lifetime starts Love You tallied 22 wins with 1,416,537 euros earned (about \$1,639,670 in today's currency) and a lifetime mark of 1:53. Like most French horses, Love You's fame did not come until after his 3-year-old season. He won the Criterium Continental at age four and the Prix des Ducs de Normandie at ages five and six.

Highscore Kemp, a world champion on the track and now famous as a sister to Hambletonian champion Trixton, was also bred to Love You, but she is barren. The daughter of Muscles Yankee set a world record of 1:51.4 at DuQuoin in 2009. She has already produced the 2014 yearling The Perfect Lindy, who sold for \$320,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale.

Another blue-blooded Lindy mare bred to Love You was Peace A Pie, the dam of Pizza Dolce, but she came up barren.

Love You is not the only sire the Antonaccis are experimenting with from overseas. One of the European broodmares purchased by the Antonaccis, Nicolette, is in foal to two-time Prix d'Amerique winner Ready Cash.

Along with breeding to French sires, Lindy Farms has added several broodmares hailing from European bloodlines to its

## LUCK FINALLY CHANGES FOR LINDY'S TRU GRIT

Less than a year ago, Lindy's Tru Grit was training down after a highly successful 3-year-old campaign under the direction of trainer Frank M. Antonacci. Owned by Lindy Racing Stable and Robert Rudolph, he routinely outperformed stablemate Master Of Law while prepping for his 4-year-old season. However, luck was not on the side of the son of Cantab Hall.

"He was training back super, but then he got deathly ill for about two and a half months. We were not sure he would survive it. He had lung abscesses and pneumonia," said 31-year-old Antonacci.

The serious illness clearly held back Lindy's Tru Grit in 2014 as he managed only \$20,206 in 12 starts. He scored two victories, but both of those wins came in the final weeks of December.

Those two December wins were an unofficial beginning of a comeback for Lindy's Tru Grit. After a seventh-place finish on Dec. 12, a race in which he broke stride after leading most of the race, new trainer Julie Miller decided to add trotting hobbles. Antonacci believes the additional equipment, along with some more prudent driving tactics, has made all the difference.

"Hobbles were a huge help, but he needed to get some good trips. He got torched in a few starts by drivers sending him down the road," Antonacci explained. "He has the ability to leave, but he is much better with cover like when he won the American National as a 3 year old."

Lindy's Tru Grit's recent form has been remarkable, capped off by his new lifetime mark of 1:52.1 in the \$30,000 B-1/A-1/FFA Handicap trot on a frigid night at the Meadowlands on Jan. 9 and a second-place finish in the same class on Jan. 16 after starting from post 9.

After a year of hardships, the three-race winning streak and rise in conditioned ranks has Antonacci believing his colt can finally reach the Grand Circuit level that he has always believed he could attain. Lindy's Tru Grit was unlucky in his Grand Circuit attempts in 2014 after getting stuck behind faltering horses in the American National and Dayton Trotting Derby.

"I think he's a free-for-all, Grand Circuit type of trotter. He beat some of those horses as a 3 year old when he was healthy. He just trotted in 1:52.1 in 23 degree weather. This is certainly a tough thing to predict, but we are going to treat him like he is that caliber of horse," Antonacci said.

Lindy's Tru Grit has now banked \$330,337 despite never earning a dollar as a 2 year old.

Antonacci had faith in the colt's talent. "He always had talent. He battled soreness so I just stopped with him," said Antonacci.

Antonacci is thrilled that luck has been on the horse's side in recent weeks. "After the horrible luck between bad trips and sickness, I'm happy to see it. Andy and Julie Miller have done a great job with him as well," he added.—By Jay Hochstetler



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—Frank M. Antonacci on Lindy's Tru Grit

band. Ivory Lindy, the dam of Lindy's Jersey Boy 4, 1:52.4f (\$268,247), is by Buvetier d'Aunou, a son of Royal Prestige. The foreign group also includes Italienne Girl, Dana Boko, Love N Lindy, Pearl Axe, and Nashville Lindy, all with a mixture of French and American blood.

"We are of the opinion that if we breed like everyone else, we will stay on the same bell curve as everyone," said the younger Antonacci. "If we incorporate foreign blood, we can produce better horses."

The Antonacci family got their first international taste while campaigning Moni Maker in Europe, which included her victory in the 1999 Prix d'Amerique. Another influence is what they have seen with Thoroughbreds. The family has had experience in the Thoroughbred world with their ownership in No Nay Never, a star with notable wins in North America and Europe.

The elder Antonacci agrees that the idea to breed to bring sires and dams from outside North America into their breeding strategy stems from their experiences with Europe in both breeds. "We have a long relationship with European trainers and owners so it made sense. It's done quite often with Thoroughbreds as well," he said.

"We want to create more international flavor," the younger Antonacci added. "We've seen plenty of foreign horses coming to the U.S. and succeeding. We are hoping our breeding stock will appeal to the foreign buyers with this strategy as well."



Claes Karrstand Photo

# LINDY FARMS TROTTING BROODMARES

## Mare (Sire-Dam-SOD)

## In Foal To

A Touch Of Lindy (Credit Winner-Touch Of Moni-Valley Victory)	Cantab Hall
Absinthe (Crazed-Drinks Like A Fish-Muscles Yankee)	Maiden
Alcarine (Revenue-CC Jennifer P-Garland Lobell)	Barren
All Our Moni (Self Possessed-Moni Maker-Speedy Crown)	Muscle Hill
Bellini Lindy (Credit Winner-Rum Boogie-Valley Victory)	Cantab Hall
Benedicta Jet (Donerail-Sandy's Sister-Super Bowl)	Barren
Birthright (Credit Winner-Fabulous Kemp-Yankee Glide)	Barren
Can't Have My Moni (Cantab Hall-Moni Maker-Speedy Crown)	Muscle Hill
Dana Boko (Infinitif-II Faut Le Dire-Kaisy Dream)	Cantab Hall
Dreamgirl Lindy (Credit Winner-Winter Dreams-Lindy Lane)	Explosive Matter
Gift Card (Credit Winner-Mary Lou Hall-Mr. Lavec)	Explosive Matter
Giza (Dream Vacation-Giulietta Ambrosio-Valley Victory)	Lucky Chucky
Godiva Lindy (Andover Hall-Peace A Pie-Valley Victory)	Lucky Chucky
Highscore Kemp (Muscles Yankee-Emilie Cas El-Garland Lobell)	Barren
It's Alright Ma (Chocolatier-Mom's Millionaire-Pine Chip)	Barren
Italienne Girl (In Dix Huit-Ita Di Jesolo-Lemon Dra)	Cantab Hall
Ivory Lindy (Buvetier d'Aunou-Meadowbranch Music-Supergill)	Muscle Hill
Kinda Crazy Lindy (Crazed-Possessed By Lindy-Self Possessed)	Lucky Chucky
Let's Do The Lindy (Self Possessed-Lindy's Kick Back-Super Bowl)	Crazed
Lindy Of My Dreams (Angus-Dream On Lindy-Malabar Man)	Explosive Matter
Lindy's Crazy Dolly (Crazed-My Dolly's Dream-Pine Chip)	Maiden
Lindy's Gone Crazy (Crazed-My Dolly-Valley Victory)	Lucky Chucky
Lindy's Leading Lady (Credit Winner-True Diva-Valley Victory)	Cantab Hall
Lindy's Lullaby (Cantab Hall-Nashville Lindy-Love You)	Maiden
Lindy's Madonna (Donato Hanover-True Diva-Valley Victory)	Barren
Lindy's RN (Muscles Yankee-Male Nurse-SJ's Photo)	Cantab Hall
Lindy's Showgirl (Deweycheatumnhowe-Lindy's Heiress-Conway Hall)	Cantab Hall
Live Moni (Conway Hall-Moni Maker-Speedy Crown)	Explosive Matter
Love Lockdown (Cantab Hall-Celtic Contessa-King Conch)	Lucky Chucky
Love N Lindy (Varenne-Lindy Loves Candy-Angus Hall)	Cantab Hall
Love To Lindy (Kadabra-Benedicta Jet-Donerail)	Explosive Matter
Lunar Dream OM (Muscles Yankee-Crown Dream-Speedy Crown)	Credit Winner
Mimosa Lindy (Andover Hall-Rumn Boogie-Valley Victory)	Crazed
Mom's Millionaire (Pine Chip-Gracious Lobell-Speedy Crown)	Donato Hanover
My Dolly's Dream (Pine Chip-My Dolly-Valley Victory)	Donato Hanover
My Lady Lindy (Conway Hall-True Diva-Valley Victory)	Credit Winner
Nashville Lindy (Love You-Meadowbranch Music-Supergill)	Barren
<b>Nicolette IT (Love You-Dentelle-Cezio Josselyn)</b>	<b>Ready Cash</b>
Nothing But Moni (Credit Winner-Moni Maker-Speedy Crown)	Cantab Hall
Peace A Pie (Valley Victory-Armbró Eclair-Speedy Crown)	Barren
Pearl Axe (Love You-Griffe Du Chef-Muscles Yankee)	Barren
Possessed By Lindy (Self Possessed-Lady Starlet-Joie de Vie)	Credit Winner
Reven Eleven (Revenue-Toss Up-Supergill)	Explosive Matter
Rum Boogie (Valley Victory-Margarita Miss-Crowning Point)	Cantab Hall
Snowblind Lindy (Conway Hall-Winter Dreams-Lindy Lane)	Barren
Teachmehowtolindy (Deweycheatumnhowe-Live Moni-Conway Hall)	Barren
The Lindy Label (Credit Winner-My Dolly-Valley Victory)	Barren
To Lindy's Credit (Credit Winner-My Dolly-Valley Victory)	Barren
Tough Girl Lindy (Crazed-Ivory Lindy-Buvetier d'Aunou)	Lucky Chucky
Touch Of Moni (Valley Victory-Moni Maker-Speedy Crown)	Barren
<b>True Diva (Valley Victory-Lindiliana-Speedy Crown)</b>	<b>Love You</b>
Universal Success (Andover Hall-Continentalvictory-Valley Victory)	Explosive Matter
Ya Ya Lindy (Conway Hall-Nana's Best-Valley Victory)	Crazed

Indy De Vive (FR)	Viking's Way (FR)	Mickey Viking (US)	Bonefish (US)
	Tekiflore (FR)	Josubie (FR)	Misty Sister (US)
		Kepi Vert (FR)	Quito (FR)
<b>READY CASH</b>		Vesubie III (FR)	
		Chambon P. (FR)	
		Audience (FR)	
Kidea (FR)	Morgafflore (FR)	Florestan (FR)	
		Dourga II (FR)	
		Quito de Talonay (FR)	Florestan (FR)
Doceanide Du Lilas (FR)	Extreme Dream (FR)	Dent Blanche (FR)	
		Tahitiennne (FR)	Kimberland (US)
		Workaholic (US)	Oligiste (FR)
Oceanide (FR)		Speedy Crown (US)	
		Ah So (US)	
		Eole Grandchamp (FR)	
		Tornese Glory (FR)	

<http://www.lindyfarms.com/>