MATING ANALYSIS

You may submit your mare online at lanesend.com or call 859-873-7300 to discuss your matings with **CHANCE TIMM**, ctimm@lanesend.com, **JILL MCCULLY**, jillmac@lanesend.com or **LEVANA CAPRIA**, lcapria@lanesend.com.

LANE'S END

CONNECT

Curlin - Bullville Belle, by Holy Bull
2013 Dkb/br | 16.2 Hands

The best racehorses make the best sires, and the best sires make the best sires of sires. One of the two or three best racehorses of the early 21st century, Curlin has ranked among the leading North American sires each of the last four years, finishing second in 2016, despite markedly fewer foals than his rivals. With four Grade 1-winning sons already at stud he is bound to establish himself as a successful sire of sires.

What makes Connect special among Curlin's best sons is the absence of the ubiquitous Northern Dancer in the pedigree of his dam Bullville Belle and Bullville Belle's sire, the great Holy Bull. The absence of Northern Dancer's name on the bottom side of the pedigree makes him a perfect outcross for the plethora of mares in the population which are inbred to Northern Dancer. The presence of Holy Bull's sire, Great Above, offers breeders a specific focus for reinforcing some of the most important names in the current breeding lexicon.

Great Above was by Minnesota Mac, a son of Rough'n Tumble, and out of Champion sprinter Ta Wee, a daughter of Aspidistra, the dam of Rough'n Tumble's great son Dr. Fager. While Dr. Fager did not live long enough to establish a male line, his daughter Killaloe is dam of the great line-founding sire Fappiano. That means that mares by Fappiano's Champion son Unbridled or with Unbridled close up on the female side of the pedigree would be particularly good mates for Connect, especially since Unbridled's fourth dam is Aspidistra. Likewise, mares by Quiet American, who is by Fappiano and inbred 3x2 to Dr. Fager, should work particularly well with Connect.
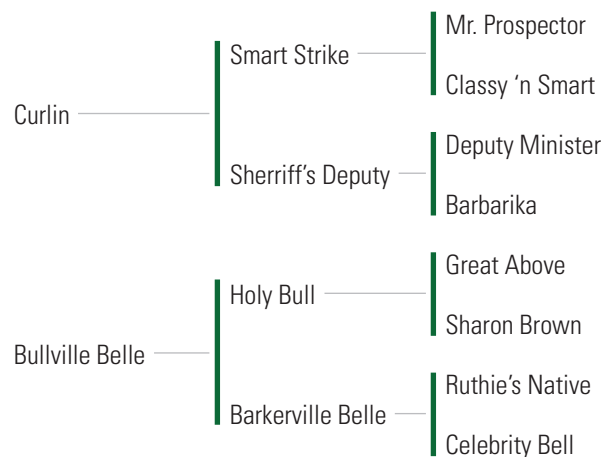
Unbridled and Quiet American mares are aging out of the breeding population but mares by Unbridled's sons Unbridled's Song and Empire Maker and their sons should also work well with Connect. Those horses also reinforce the other powerful influence in Great Above's pedigree, Intentionally, the sire of Ta Wee. Intentionally's great son In Reality was out of the Champion Rough'n Tumble mare My Dear Girl and was critical to Unbridled's success as a sire. Empire Maker should be especially effective since he is inbred to In Reality.

Most of those pedigrees will also bring in extra crosses of Northern Dancer to supplement the one cross of that all-time great sire in the pedigree of Curlin, Connect's sire. More than 80% of current American Thoroughbreds now carry at least two crosses of Northern Dancer, with many carrying three or more. It will not be at all difficult to find mares with Northern Dancer inbreeding to strengthen that pervasive influence in the pedigrees of Connect's foals.

It would also be wise to breed mares from sire lines that have worked particularly well with Curlin. His classic-winning son Exaggerator and Champion daughter Stellar Wind are both out of mares by Seattle Slew line sires. He has sired two other graded stakes winners from mares of that male line, and several others have Seattle Slew elsewhere on the bottom side.

Curlin has also sired two Grade 1 winners out of mares from the male line of Deputy Minister, Curlin's broodmare sire, including Travers winner Keen Ice, who is inbred 3x3 to Deputy Minister. All of Culin's graded stakes winners have at least one cross of Northern Dancer on the bottom side.

Curlin is a grandson of Mr. Prospector, so it is not surprising that Mr. Prospector is less prevalent in the pedigrees of his best offspring (four of 13 GSWs), but Mr. Prospector will be a generation further back in the offspring of Connect and additional crosses of Mr. Prospector in his mates should be welcomed.

2018 STUD FEE: $20,000 LFSN

		Smart Strike	Mr. Prospector
	Curlin		Classy 'n Smart
		Sherriff's Deputy	Deputy Minister
			Barbarika
		Holy Bull	Great Above
	Bullville Belle		Sharon Brown
		Barkerville Belle	Ruthie's Native
			Celebrity Bell