



Pico Central making sure late sire Spend a Buck not forgotten

by **Rommy Faversham**

Pico Central (Brz) moved one step closer to an Eclipse Award as champion sprinter with a commanding four-length score on October 2 in the \$490,000 Vosburgh Stakes (G1) at six furlongs at Belmont Park. If selected, he would become the first United States champion for his late sire, Spend a Buck.



Adam Coglianese/NVRA photo

Pico Central, a five-year-old Brazilian-bred, had already captured the one-mile Metropolitan Handicap (G1) and seven-furlong Carter Handicap (G1) before taking the Vosburgh. Last year in Brazil, Pico Central was voted champion sprinter, and overall he has nine wins from 14 starts with earnings of \$1,148,145.

Spend a Buck, the 1985 Horse of the Year and Kentucky Derby (G1) winner, never lived up to expectations over the course of his 16 years at stud in the United States. After nine seasons at Lane's End in Versailles, Kentucky, he was transferred in 1994, first to Texas for four years, followed by three seasons in Louisiana. The best of his progeny from when he was based in the United States was 1996 Santa Anita Oaks (G1) and Del Mar Invitational Oaks (G1) winner Antespend.

Spend a Buck's best service at stud came in 1997 and '98, when he was shuttled to Brazil for that country's breeding season. Remarkably, those two crops have included Brazilian champions Pico Central, Investor's Dream (Brz), and Irish Lover (Brz), and Hard Buck (Brz), winner of the Gulfstream Park Breeders' Cup Handicap (G1) earlier this year.

By 2002, Spend a Buck had developed a rep-

Pico Central (Brz), dkbb. h., 1999

Spend a Buck 82 650 fls, 33 SWs SI 1.36 DI=2.20	Buckaroo 75 5 wins, \$138,604, SW 523 fls, 29 SWs SI 2.03 DI=1.33	Buckpasser 63 313 fls, 35 SWs SI 4.32 DI=1.34	Tom Fool 49
		Stepping High 69 17 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.93	Busanda 47
	Belle de Jour 73 1 win, \$3,163 14 fls, 1 SW DI=3.40	Speak John 58 349 fls, 24 SWs SI 1.64 DI=0.76	No Robbery 60
		Battle Dress 66 11 fls, 1 SW DI=3.25	*Bebop II 57
=Sheila Purple (Brz) 90 5 fls, 1 SW DI=2.73	Purple Mountain 82 11 wins, \$695,122, SW 253 fls, 17 SWs SI 1.08 DI=2.31	*Grey Dawn II 62 746 fls, 73 SWs SI 2.12 DI=0.47	Prince John 53
		Aldonza 69 9 fls, 2 SWs DI=4.33	*Nuit de Folies 47
	=Ecoule (Brz) 77 Unraced 6 fls, 1 SW DI=2.64	Tumble Lark 67 463 fls, 28 SWs SI 0.92 DI=2.65	Jaipur 59
		=Mystere (Arg) 66 5 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.00	Armorial 55
			*Herbager 56
			Polamia 55
			Bold Bidder 62
			Petite Rouge 61
			T. V. Lark 57
			Tumbling 53
			=Imbrogio (Arg) 55
			=Melusine (Arg) 59

utation for himself in Brazil and was imported permanently to stand at Haras Bage do Sul in Sao Paulo. Unfortunately, in November of that year, the star-crossed stallion died of anaphylactic shock, a reaction to penicillin. He will be represented by a final crop of Brazilian-bred juveniles next year.

Pico Central is one of three winners from the unplaced Purple Mountain mare Sheila Purple, a half sister to Brazilian Group 3 winner Real Balafre.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>.

Looking ahead

Sales

Today-October 14—Ocala Breeders' Sales Co. fall mixed sale at Ocala Breeders' Sales complex

Today-October 16—Tattersalls Ltd. October yearling sale part two in Newmarket, Suffolk, England