Fall 2000

TeamWerk

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WERK THOROUGHBRED CONSULTANTS

It All Begins with the Mare

A good plan can make good on a small investment

by Jack Werk

Whether developing a broodmare band for racing or commercial purposes, there are certain principles you can apply to improve your chances for success. It is generally accepted that, with broodmares, the better their performance on the racetrack, the better their chances in the breeding shed. This is certainly the most expensive approach. Is it the most favorable?

Prominent breeders throughout the ages have pondered the importance of the racing class in broodmare prospects. I happen to agree with those who believe that a mare's pedigree is a far more significant indicator of her broodmare potential than her demonstrated racing class. While horses sometimes "outrun" their pedigrees, they seldom "outproduce" their pedigrees.

Tesio and Hancock

Federico Tesio, arguably the most successful breeder of thoroughbreds in history, believed that racing actually had an adverse effect on broodmares. In his book *"Breeding the Racehorse,"* Tesio said that "famous racing mares are frequently poor producers for the very reasons which made them famous: they have expended so much of their nervous energy in their races that they have little to pass on to their progeny." Tesio's theory is suspect at best, but his observation is correct. In 1990, I participated on a panel of breeders in Lexington, Kentucky. Moderator Gene McLean asked the panel, "In talking about conformation as opposed to pedigree, is one more important than the other, in your opinion?" Claiborne Farm's Seth Hancock answered, *"With broodmares, I think pedigree is definitely the most important. I would place conformation second, and race record third."*

Eclipse Award-winning Mares

A look at the Eclipse Award Handicap Female winners from 1982 to 1991 would appear to affirm the thoughts of Tesio and Hancock. Of the nine winners over the 10-year period (Bayakoa won twice), only two of them, Ambassador of Luck and Personal Ensign, went on to become stakes producers. Even more telling is the cumulative record of seven who didn't produce a SW—just 16 winners from 55 foals. Even if you include Ambassador of Luck and Personal Ensign in the totals, 30 winners from 70 foals and four SWs is very disappointing. And don't look to Kentucky Derby winners Genuine Risk and Winning Colors for support. Genuine Risk produced only two foals from the 11 years she was bred, and neither of them made it to the races. To date, Winning Colors has produced seven foals of racing age and has just two winners and no SWs. This is not to say that a top-class racing mare cannot become a good producer, only that she is likely to be overrated and overpriced.

In the 1992 series "Making of a Champion," which I wrote for *OwnerBreeder*, I presented my findings from a comprehensive analysis of the pedigrees of 118 Eclipse Award winners over the previous 15 years. I was surprised to find that unraced (16) and non-winning mares (14) produced 30 of the champions compared to 34 for stakes-winning mares. Particularly impressive when you consider that the stakes-producing mares have an advantage over unraced and non-winning mares because, on average, they are bred to better stallions.

Important Factors in a Broodmare

So, what is important? Even a dam that demonstrated very little racing class may be capable of being a good producer if she 1) is by a prepotent broodmare sire, 2) traces to a blue hen within four generations, 3) is closely inbred to a prepotent ancestor, 4) is a full sister to SWs, or 5) has first, second, and third dams with

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a concentration of blacktype. Of course, it goes without saying that once a mare has four or five foals of racing age, an evaluation of her produce record becomes more important than evaluating her pedigree.

Broodmares sires

First of all, I would never select or eliminate a broodmare based solely on her sire. But certain sires and sirelines do have a tendency to excel through female descendants, even when they fail as sires and sires of sires. Slew O' Gold is an excellent example. Even though Slew O' Gold sired 11 SWs (six of them G1 winners) from his first two crops, his next nine crops produced just 11 SWs, only one of them a G1 winner. Sporting a six-figure stud fee during his heyday, Slew O' Gold now stands for $7,500. While none of his sons has made his mark as a sire, his daughters are doing quite well. Slew O' Gold is the broodmare sire of six SWs in 2000, including G1 winner Early Pioneer and G2 winners Kona Gold and Conserve. In the early stages as a broodmare sire, Slew O' Gold has 13 unrestricted SWs lifetime compared to 24 as a sire. It will only be a year or two more before his daughters' SW production exceeds his own, a good sign for an up-and-coming broodmare sire. So far, his daughters have offered exceptional value in the sale ring. At last year's breeding stock sales, 21 Slew O' Gold mares (20 of them in foal) averaged just $42,483.

A look at Slew O' Gold's pedigree makes it easy to understand why he is a shoo-in as a broodmare sire. He is by Seattle Slew and out of a Buckpasser mare, both extraordinary broodmare sires themselves. His dam, Alluvial, is a granddaughter of "blue hen" Bourtai. He also has a pedigree and race record slanted toward stamina. And, finally, he has a pedigree free of Northern Dancer and Mr. Prospector. These and other factors can be key indicators of broodmare sire potential.

Table 1.

Handicap Female Winner	Foals	Winners	SWs
QUEENA (91)	5	1	0
BAYAKOA (89/90)	3	0	0
PERSONAL ENSIGN (88)	6	6	2
NORTH SIDER (87)	9	1	0
LADY'S SECRET (86)	8	3	0
LIFE'S MAGIC (85)	10	3	0
PRINCESS ROONEY (84)	8	4	0
AMBASSADOR OF LUCK (83)	9	8	2
APRIL RUN (82)	6	2	0
TOTALS	70	30	4

First Foals

One of the biggest misconceptions in the thoroughbred industry is that first foals are usually inferior—inherently small, late developers that will never quite measure up to their future siblings. I will not debate their size, but I can make a case for their racing ability. In a study he presented in *OwnerBreeder* in 1989, Joe Bagan surveyed the 686 graded SWs in North America for 1986, 1987 and 1988, as well as the 1,447 unrestricted SWs of 1986. It turns out that first foals were NOT inferior in terms of racing ability. In fact, first foals were the best! First foals accounted for 21.4% of all SWs in 1986 and 18.6% of the graded SWs from 1986 through 1988, ranking them NUMBER ONE in both categories. Seattle Slew and Spectacular Bid are two of a long, long list of great racehorses that were first foals. And remember, Slew and Bid were both produced from modest mares, as their $17,500 and $37,000 yearling sale prices reflected.

Splashing Girl

Miners Gamble, winner of two stakes in his last two starts, including the $100,000 Calder Turf Sprint Hcp., is a prime example of a successful racehorse from modest origins. His sire, Prospectors Gamble, stands in Kentucky for $7,500 and is a good value at this price, but he's certainly no Storm Cat or Seeking the Gold.

The real story is his dam, Splashing Girl. She is by underrated Florida stallion Bucksplasher, a son of sensational broodmare sire Buckpasser. Splashing Girl broke her maiden in five starts and earned $8,440. Not much to get excited about, other than that she is a full sister to SW Soaking Smoking. This otherwise minor detail places Splashing Girl in the category of successful producers whose only claim to fame going in is that they are full sisters to SWs.

While Splashing Girl's first two dams were able to produce only one SW between them, her third dam is the great mare Businesslike. What's more, Splashing Girl is inbred 4x3 to Businesslike! So, here's a mare that sold in the 1994 OBS winter mixed sale for $3,700. Bred to Prospectors Gamble the following season, she produced a colt who sold for $9,500 as a weanling and went on to win two stakes and earn over $200,000, and Miner's Gamble is still racing.

Breeding to Race with the Friedbergs

Joe and Carolyn Friedberg's success epitomizes what small breeders can attain with a relatively small investment and a good plan. In the 4/8/00 issue of the *Thoroughbred Times*, the Friedbergs were featured as one of the industry's top 12 breeders. They were in good company with names like the Phipps Stable, Swettenham Stud and Juddmonte Farms among the dozen. And they have managed this with a broodmare band that usually consists of five or six mares.

The Friedbergs started out like most owners, purchasing from the yearling sales without much success. They finally decided to buy and claim only fillies whose pedigrees made them broodmare prospects after their racing careers.

One of their big successes is a $15,000 claimer named Shared Reflections, whom they purchased privately for $16,000. Her first foal turned out to be Shires Ende, winner of four stakes, including the G3 Ashland Mile and Locust Grove Stakes at Churchill Downs, as well as an exciting second place finish in the G1 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Stakes at Keeneland. They hit another homerun with Shared Reflections by selling Shires Ende's full brother, Image, for $300,000. Offering him at auction as a yearling was a rare but understandable departure from their accustomed game plan, which is to race what they breed.

The Friedbergs claimed the Upper Nile mare Alberta Johnson for $17,000. Her second foal is Minor Wisdom, winner

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The VALUE . . .

HIDDEN LAKE
Champion
G1-$947,489
★★
$13,000 94KEESEP

HERITAGE OF GOLD
Go for Wand H.
G1-$1,951,387
★
$12,000 94KEESEP

GO FOR GIN
Kentucky Derby
G1-$1,380,866
★★★★
$150,000 92SARAUG

TOUCH GOLD
Belmont Stakes
G1-$1,679,907
★★★★
$375,000 95KEEJUL

CHEROKEE RUN
Champion
G1-$1,531,849
★★
$85,000 92OBSCRC

VICTORY GALLOP
Champion
G1-$3,005,895
★
$25,000 96KEESEP

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of the G3 Hawthorne Derby at three. Alberta's third foal is 3YO filly Sabathani, a full sister to Minor Wisdom and winner of the Canterbury Oaks this year.

They claimed the Lord Avie mare Sequentially for $20,000 and then went on to win two stakes with her. Sequentially returned with earnings approaching $300,000. Her first foal is a weanling filly by Polish Numbers.

They bought Tutu Pleasant, by Pleasant Colony, as a yearling for $22,000, with the view that if she raced it would be a bonus since her residual value as a broodmare made her well worth what they paid for her. Well, she didn't race but her first foal is Falasha, a two-year-old this year, already stakes placed and the first winner by her sire, Faltaat.

Conclusion

The key to the Friedberg's success is their plan of acquiring fillies who have "hidden" potential as broodmares. By selecting on the basis of the more subtle pedigree criteria, they can avoid high costs going in. They further reduce their costs by breeding to less fashionable stallions who are highly compatible with the given mare, based on consultation with WTC.

These are merely the highlights of the Friedberg story. They have proven that it's possible to have fun, achieve success, and even show a profit in this business. Of course, you will hear a lot of professionals tell you that breeding racehorses is the quickest way to lose your money, but that's partly because they want to sell you a weanling, yearling, or 2YO in training! If you are taking a long-term view and have confidence in your selection process, broodmare prospects and first- and second-year mares can offer you the best chance of obtaining future stakes winners and stakes producers on a basis that is economically sustainable.

Stallions $12,500 and Under

Stallions that offer good value if you're breeding to race

by Vincent P. D'Angelo

There are many important factors taken into consideration when breeders are searching for the right stallion. One factor that may be overlooked is the raw statistical evidence of the stallion's performance. On the commercial end of the sport, the new stallions entering stud are usually hotter than the multi-crop veteran who consistently, yet quietly, posts impressive numbers. From among these stalwarts I selected twelve that are priced at or below $12,500 and that represent good value if you're breeding to race.

Allen's Prospect

The perennial leader in Maryland, Allen's Prospect, stands at Country Life Farm and continues to lead the nation in winners with 79 through early August. His continuing success has raised his stud fee from $3,000 all the way up to $12,500. His progeny have earned over $2.5 million for five consecutive seasons and he appears on his way to his sixth consecutive season, with $1.8 million so far in 2000. He is the sire of 21 SWs (12 colts and 9 fillies), including three in 2000. His stakes winners win their stakes at an average distance of 7.0 furlongs. Seven of his stakes winners won stakes at two, and he has sired one stakes winner on turf. He is also showing promise as a broodmare sire with three stakes winners to date in that role, including G1 winner Hookedonthefeelin (Citidancer). His only graded stakes winner is G1-winning King of the Heap.

His stakes winners have come from several different broodmare sire lines, but four of his 21 stakes winners have been produced by Northern Dancer-line mares. Additionally, he has sired a pair of stakes winners with Bold Ruler-line mares, Buckpasser-line mares, Lord Gaylord-line mares, Never Bend-line mares and Olden Times-line mares. He is beautifully bred, by Mr. Prospector out of the mare Change Water, who is also the dam of top-producing Fall Aspen. He has carved out his niche in Maryland and continues to produce runners at a reasonable stud fee for a son of Mr. Prospector.

American Chance

Here is a stallion whose first few crops to race are doing remarkably well. A five-time SW from distances of 6.5 to 9 furlongs, including a score in the G2 Jersey Derby in 1992, American Chance covered his first book of mares in 1995 at Vinery in Midway, Kentucky. He completed his first five books at $5,000 before his stud fee rose to $12,500 for the year 2000 breeding season. Through two crops to race, American Chance has seven SWs (three colts and four fillies). Six of his stakes winners won their stakes at ages three and up, two of them won graded stakes, and none have won turf stakes to date. The average winning distance of his SWs is 7.7 furlongs. His most accomplished stakes winner to date is Lasting Chance, a three-time SW including the G3 British Columbia Breeders' Cup Stakes. His overall raw totals through the end of 1999 include 63 foals, 41 runners (65%) 26 winners (41%), 16 2yo winners (25%), and 7 SWs (11%). His percentage of 2yo winners and SWs is amazing given the relatively small books of mares he covered in his first two seasons. The Jockey Club estimates that he has at least 35 foals of 1998, and another 26 foals of 1999 and his foals born in 2000 will be from 54 mares covered in 1999.

American Chance is a son of Cure the Blues out of a Seattle Slew mare that descends from Exclusive, the dam of Exclusive Native. His second dam is Expressive Dance by Riva Ridge, who is also the second dam of Gold Tiara who just set a seven-furlong track record in Japan at 1:21 and change. American Chance is what could be called an American outcross as he is free of Raise a Native and Northern Dancer. Here is a chance to catch a rising star at $12,500.

Dixie Brass

Here is a sire that is on the rise. He began his career at Vinery in 1993 and stood his first two seasons there for $7,500. He dropped to $5,000 in 1995 and 1996, then went back up to $7,500 for 1997. In 1998, he moved to The Stallion Park in New York where he stood for two seasons at $7,500. This season, he moved to Silvernails Farm in Pine Plains, New York where he stands for $10,000.

He is the sire of 12 SWs including nine colts (75%) and three fillies (25%). The statistical breakdown includes five graded SWs, five SWs on turf, four juvenile SWs and no G1 winners to date. His best runners include dual G2 winner Dixie Dot Com, dual G3 winner Soldier Field and current winner of the G2 Prioress at Belmont, I'm Brassy.

He has sired his 12 SWs from a variety of broodmare sire lines totaling 10 in number. The only broodmare sire lines he has produced two SWs with are Mr. Prospector and Bold Ruler. It should not be a surprise that he has worked well with Mr. Prospector-line mares since his sire, Dixieland Band, has sired 12 of his 73 unrestricted SWs with Mr. Prospector-line mares.

While he was no match for Cure the Blues in the battle for New York's leading sire by progeny earnings in 1999, his $2.7 million in earnings trailed only Personal Flag and Distinctive

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About the data:

The WTC database consists of data for winners of unrestricted $25,000-plus-added stakes in North America and blacktype-qualifying foreign stakes worldwide. For the purposes of this article, the abbreviation, SW, stands for stakes winners, in accordance with the aforementioned parameters. Furthermore, our database includes the distance of the stakes race won, the racing surface, the grade, if any, the age of the stakes winner, and the geographic location of the stakes win. The database also includes the average winning distance of a sire's stakes winners which is based on his stakes winners ages three and up.

Additionally, last year's article "Sire's Sex Bias" by Roger Lyons reported that our database contains over 50,000 unrestricted stakes with an approximate breakdown of 60% won by colts and 40% won by fillies. Therefore, a stallion with 10 SWs consisting of six colts and four fillies would be the statistical norm.

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Pro, each with $2.9 million. This season, he is in second place to Cure the Blues with over $2.1 million in progeny earnings and 33rd overall, including six stakes winners. With Cure the Blues passing in 1999, Dixie Brass is set to lead the way in New York.

Fortunate Prospect

This grandson of Mr. Prospector is one of Florida's most consistent stallions. In 1999, his progeny earned over $3.3 million. That was good enough for 33rd on the overall sires list and trailed only Valid Appeal in Florida. He is the sire of 18 unrestricted SWs to date, including six graded stakes winners. His stakes winners are versatile winning their stakes at distances from 5 to 10 furlongs with an overall average distance of 7.8 furlongs and two stakes winners on turf. He can sire early maturing runners as six of his SWs won stakes at two. This season, he already has five juvenile winners, and his 34% lifetime 2yo winners is well above the norm for a ten-crop stallion.

He has sired five SWs with Bold Ruler-line mares, including a pair by Super Concorde and a pair from What a Pleasure-line mares. He has also sired three SWs with Ribot-line mares and two each with In Reality-line and Vaguely Noble-line mares. He stood his thirteenth season at stud in 2000, and he remains one of Florida's best stallions.

He stands at Farnsworth Farm in Ocala, Florida for $10,000.

Regal Classic

Regal Classic is a stakes-winning-son of Vice Regent who has posted very good numbers from seven crops to race. He had solid seasons in 1998 and 1999 with $3.3 million and $2.5 million in progeny earnings respectively. This season he has two stakes winners and earnings of over $1.7 million. He descends from a prolific female family with Sky Classic, Dance Smartly, Smart Strike, Hello Seattle and others in his immediate family tree.

He is a stallion who began his career at Windfields Farm in Ontario, Canada for a stud fee of $6,500 Canadian. His fee rose to $15,000 Canadian for the 1998 breeding season. He moved to Prestonwood Farm in Versailles, Kentucky for 1999 at $15,000 U.S., and when Prestonwood was sold to new owners and renamed Win Star Farm, Regal Classic stayed on and stood the 2000 season for $10,000.

Regal Classic has 15 SWs (nine fillies and six colts). Of those 15 stakes winners, six of them are graded SWs, including four G2 winners. His stakes winners win their stakes at an average distance of 7.9 furlongs, and three of them won stakes on turf. His best nicks? He already has five SW with Raise a Native-line mares and three with Bold Ruler-line mares! If his success in Canada is duplicated in Kentucky, his $10,000 stud fee will look like a steal.

Sefapiano

This son of Fappiano has received plenty of buzz since his relocation to Kentucky from his former home in Michigan. His numbers through three crops are outstanding. From only 30 foals, he sired 23 runners (77%), 21 winners (70%), 16 2yo winners (53%), and 7 SWs (23%). Sefapiano's sparkling debut with Michigan-bred mares earned him a move to Dixiana Farm in Lexington, Kentucky for the 2000 breeding season.

Two of his seven stakes winners are unrestricted SWs. Rose Center took an open company stakes race at Great Lakes Downs, while Upon a Thron is a dual-winner SW at Turfway Park. These fillies have won their open-company stakes races at distances of 6.5 and 8.0 furlongs. Sefapiano's unrestricted SWs have not scored in a graded event or turf race to date. Sefapiano's dam Sefa's Beauty was as tough as they come, and his overall pedigree is free of Northern Dancer, Bold Ruler, and Hail to Reason, giving him a variety of strains to blend with. His rising success led to a full book of 59 mares in 1999. Sefapiano will have to prove that his amazing success in a regional market deserved an opportunity in Kentucky, but, considering his reasonable stud fee of $5,000, he offers breeders a good shot at great value.

Slew City Slew

A dual G1 winner on the racetrack, he retired for stallion duty at Airdrie Stud in Midway, Kentucky for the 1990 breeding season. His progeny have won some very important races, including the San Vicente Stakes, Lexington Stakes, Stephen Foster H., Illinois Derby, Canadian Turf H., Marine S., and the Jersey Derby, all Grade 2 events. Unfortunately, his offspring have yet to garner a G1 win for the16 year-old son of Seattle Slew.

Slew City Slew is the sire of 18 SWs (14 colts and four fillies). Overall, his stakes winners are of good quality, including eight G2 winners and a G3 winner. His SWs aged three and up have won their stakes between 7 and 9 furlongs. He has sired six SWs on turf, and four of his 18 SWs won stakes at two. His bias towards colts is slightly better than three to one, but it is even clearer in view of the fact that nine of his graded stakes winners are colts. The emerging nick for this stallion is the Raise a Native broodmare sire line. Five of his 18 SWs are out of Raise a Native-line mares. Additionally, he has three SWs with Damascus-line mares. He is value priced at $5,000.

Stalwart

The 21-year-old son of Hoist the Flag has consistently produced durable runners throughout his fifteen crops. He is an excellent sire who stands at Airdrie Stud for $3,500. He sired the G1-winning juvenile filly Things Change in 1998, and his progeny earnings surpassed $25 million in 1999. The median earnings for his runners is an impressive $26,353. Stalwart has 29 SWs with an average stakes winner distance of an even 8.0 furlongs.His 29 SWs are comprised of 10 graded SWs and six turf winners.

The best nicks for Stalwart have been with Raise a Native-line mares and Northern Dancer-line mares. He has sired five unrestricted SWs with Raise a Native-line mares, and four SWs with Northern Dancer-line mares. He also has a pair of SWs with Roberto-line mares and Herbager-line mares. He is having increasing success as a broodmare sire with 13 unrestricted SWs to date in that role. With numbers like these, Stalwart is one breeders cannot afford to dismiss.

Tricky Creek

The 14 year-old son of Clever Trick is from the same crop as Easy Goer and Sunday Silence. He won stakes races at two,

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three and four and placed in a stakes at age five. He retired with over $873,000 in earnings. He is a recent addition to the stallion ranks of California after spending his previous stud duty at Wafare Farm in Kentucky. He stands at J.Z. Stock Farm in Hemet, California for $3,500.

Tricky Creek has 11 SWs (five colts and six fillies) with an average stakes-winning distance of 7.4 furlongs. Those 11 stakes winners account for nine victories at ages three and up, the distances of which ranged from 5 to 9 furlongs. He has four turf stakes winners, and five of his 11 stakes winners won stakes at age two. He has sired three of his stakes winners from Raise a Native-line mares, including two by sons of Mr. Prospector. He also sired a pair of stakes winners from Naskra-line mares and Hail to Reason-line mares. The speed and precocity that Clever Trick transmitted to his sons Phone Trick, Hadif, and Tricky Creek is also being passed on to the next generation.

Turkoman

Despite not siring a great number of big horses, Turkoman has quietly and consistently put up good numbers. He is the sire of 15 SWs (six colts and nine fillies). Turkoman was tried once on turf, but did not win, yet ten of his stakes winners won stakes on turf. However, 21 of Alydar's 66 unrestricted stakes winners won stakes on turf. The average stakes-winning distance of Turkoman's runners is 9.2 furlongs, and his lone G1 winner was turf specialist Turk Passer. He left Darby Dan Farm for California for the 1999 breeding season. He now stands for $3,500 at Circle H Ranch in Murietta.

Tough Knight

Tough Knight is a 16-year-old son of Knights Choice who stands at Roche Farm in Yakima Washington for $2,200. He is a top-ten Washington-based stallion. In 1999, his progeny earned over $588,000, including three overall SWs and $100k earner Knight Raider.

Tough Knight is the sire of 10 SWs (six colts and four fillies). Their statistical profile reveals a few interesting numbers. First, seven of the ten won their stakes at age two. Second, eight of the ten won their stakes at distances between 3.0 and 6.0 furlongs, as only Tough Tara (6.5f) and Tough to Crack (8.5f) won at longer distances. While routing is most likely not the way to go, we can say with reasonable certainty that his progeny will get you an early maturing runner that will give you a run for your money up to six furlongs.

Unreal Zeal

He has always been known for the precociousness of his progeny and his 36% juvenile winners attests to that. We find 18 SWs (ten colts, eight fillies) with an average stakes-winning distance of 7.4 furlongs. A closer look at that stat reveals that 16 of his stakes winners have not won beyond 7 furlongs. Two of his stakes winners have won stakes routing: First Shot, recent winner of the Rudy Baez S. at a mile, and Unreal Turn, who won four stakes in New Jersey and New York at 9 furlongs or longer, including the G3 Gallant Fox H. at 13 furlongs. While he can sire a route horse, the overwhelming majority of his superior runners were sprinters. He has two graded stakes winners and one turf stakes winner to date. Not surprisingly, 12 of the 18 stakes winners won stakes at age two.

He was a perennial contender on the leading juvenile chart and the Florida sires list. He is now 20 years old and moved to Horizon Farms in Illinois for the 2000 breeding season. With the reopening of Arlington Park, Illinois breeders will have a chance to get to a sire who can help them enjoy a summer of 2yo racing.

Unrestricted stakes winners statistics from the WTC Database

Sire	SWs	Colts	Fillies	Turf	2YO SWS	GSW	G1SW	Avg. Dist.
ALLEN'S PROSPECT	21	12	9	1	7	1	1	7.0
AMERICAN CHANCE	7	3	4	0	1	2	0	7.7
DIXIE BRASS	12	9	3	5	4	5	0	7.2
FORTUNATE PROSPECT	18	7	11	2	6	6	0	7.8
REGAL CLASSIC	15	6	9	3	3	6	0	7.9
SEFAPIANO	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	7.3
SLEW CITY SLEW	18	14	4	6	4	9	0	8.3
STALWART	29	18	11	6	3	10	1	8.0
TRICKY CREEK	11	6	5	4	5	0	0	7.4
TURKOMAN	15	6	9	10	5	5	1	9.2
TOUGH KNIGHT	10	6	4	0	7	0	0	5.8
UNREAL ZEAL	18	10	8	1	12	2	0	7.4

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The Better Half?

Fallacy and fact about female influence

by Roger Lyons

The most common misconception about WTC's approach to pedigree consulting is that "they don't consider the females." This perception is fostered, of course, by the success and popularity of the Werk Nick Rating, which evaluates the stakes record of any cross, based solely on the sire line of the stallion and the sire line of the mare. By definition, therefore, the Werk Nick Rating does not take females into account. The fact is, though, that the Werk Nick Rating is a relatively small part of the information resources that WTC brings to its consulting services. These resources, all together, do consider the whole pedigree and every one of its parts—including females.

But what does it mean to "consider the females"?

Females cannot and should not be treated the same as males, as if their role in the development of the breed were exactly like that of males. It is not, of course. If the roles of males and females were the same, then it would be possible to use valid statistical measures to reflect female-line nicks. Furthermore, compilations of "elite mares," "great matriarchs," *"reines de course,"* "foundation mares," and so forth would be something more than a hall of fame for females. Such lists would more closely approximate the function of *chefs de race*, which are typological touchstones in the history of the breed. Historically, the influence of females is treated separately from the influence of males because their respective roles in the development of the breed are so different as to make them incomparable.

Nor, on the other hand, should females be idealized or mythologized, after contemporary fashion, as if females were in some preternatural ways superior to males. This tendency is evident in the obsession with referencing females to their genetically remote taproot origins, as in the case of the Bruce Lowe female family numbering, as if the current female descendents were able to channel the values of their 19th-century ancestors. This would have to be done by some occult means since most of what gets passed along uniquely through direct female descent is subject to such frequent and more or less regular genetic mutation that contemporary dams have less in common with their taproots than with other contemporary dams.

Much less is known, statistically speaking, about females than about males. This knowledge gap makes females seem fair game for breeding gimmicks that could never be taken seriously if applied to males. If some juxtaposition of certain ancestors—understood only by its proponents—were effective in "upgrading female families" from useless breeding stock, then why would not such breeding techniques apply to sire-line development? It is surprising how many breeders would prefer to try unprecedented inbreeding to a female ancestor of moderate distinction over inbreeding to a truly superior male after a proven pattern. Some breeders embrace "linebreeding theory" that insists upon "balancing" a male ancestor with a female, regardless of the quality of the particular female strain. What all of these methods have in common is that they exploit the mystery that surrounds females, especially from the viewpoint of most men.

WTC's approach to the treatment of females differs from these doctrines, partly by virtue of our indifference to the superstition, nostalgia, dogma, propaganda, and metaphysics that animate them. WTC's approach is characterized by an interest in, and distinctive ability to discover, the facts.

Quality and quantity

Quantitatively, Thoroughbred males and females as groups contribute equally to the Thoroughbred population. This does not mean that their qualitative contributions are equal. Quite apart from the reproductive functions of males and females, the relative contributions of the sexes are also affected by the manner in which the breeding population is exploited. Certain populational conditions invite the inference that the contributions of males and females do differ qualitatively.

We know that the highest values of Thoroughbred performance are subject to a genetic economy, that high concentrations of these values are expressed and transmitted by only a relatively few individuals. Strictly on logical grounds, when you add the Nth most elite member of a population to a group previously consisting of the N-1 most elite members, then the overall quality of the elite group is diminished since the Nth member is, by definition, inferior to all other members of the group and, consequently, lowers the average for the group.

This logic also applies to the ancestors that contribute genetically to a given population. A sample of high-performing runners, accordingly, should represent a relatively small number of ancestors, compared with a sample of lower-performing runners. That is to say, the best individuals in the breed are accountable to a relatively small number of ancestors.

We can assume that the genetic quality of the males and the genetic quality of the females in the Thoroughbred population are equal, and we can assume that the males and females in the ancestries of the best runners are those very ancestors that contribute the best qualities. However, whether or not ancestors of one sex contribute more or fewer of these qualities than ancestors of the other sex depends on the relative numbers of individual male and female ancestors, respectively, that contribute to the best runners. The sex contributing through the fewer individual ancestors must contribute the higher proportion of favorable traits, and, conversely, the sex contributing through the larger number must contribute the higher proportion of unfavorable traits.

Populational inferiority of females

It would be easy to guess at the answers to populational questions, but to do so would be a poor substitute for actually doing the research. Not only can research reveal with precision how differently males and females contribute to the breed, but it also inevitably yields unexpected insights that could not come to light in any other way.

WTC has the advantage of its own in-house research facility, including sufficient database and programming resources to

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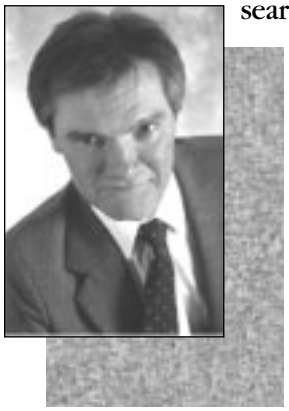
CompuSire Sets the Standard in Pedigree Software

While some competing pedigree software products trade on the names of great breeders of the distant past, CompuSire is adapted to the needs of today's breeders, with features suited to the structure and dynamics of today's Thoroughbred population This is not surprising to anyone who is familiar with the reputations of CompuSire's founders, Roger Lyons and Jack Werk, especially in the area of pedigree research.

Most pedigree software products come with all of the right buttons, one for each of the popular breeding topics, such as dosage, nicks, inbreeding, etc. What Lyons and Werk have learned over the years, however, is that pedigree research cannot be reduced to an ensemble of breeding topics. Good pedigree research is a process, not a checklist.



Therefore, the CompuSire software is something more than a collection of screen displays featuring rows of buttons with cryptic icons. Its features and program flow capture a research process through which the program guides the user. Within this design, Compusire provides answers to a wide range of the most important kinds of questions. It provides a distinctive approach to thinking about and evaluating pedigree.

Jack Werk is well known for creative research that challenges received breeding wisdom. He is also known for having popularized the Werk Nick Rating through his consulting company, Werk Thoroughbred Consultants. CompuSire's FirstCross module provides a method of evaluating crosses that is especially designed to optimize the advantages of hands-on research.

Roger Lyons is best known for research oriented toward evaluating breeding methods against population norms and employing systematic empirical methods in the discovery of important variables to the effectiveness of breeding methods. These discoveries figure prominently in shaping the design, detail, and selection of information provided by Compusire.

Lyons and Werk have combined their resources and expertise to provide the best pedigree software available anywhere.

The Better Half?

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undertake a wide range of populational studies.

What we did in this case was scan the five-generation ancestries of a series of 200-case samples taken from our database of 1) winners of unrestricted North American stakes with a purse of $25,000 or more and 2) winners of blacktype-qualifying foreign stakes. We compiled lists of all individual ancestors represented within five generations of the superior runners in each sample. We could then tell what proportion of the ancestors represented in each group were male and what proportion were female.

First of all, based on samples of 200, we found that, as a group, the winners of non-graded stakes represent approximately 40% more ancestors, within five generations, than the winners of G1 stakes. This confirms an inverse relationship between the number of ancestors that contribute to a population and the racing class of that population. A relatively small number of ancestors is responsible for the very best runners.

In samples of non-graded stakes winners, between 67.1% and 67.7% of the individual ancestors represented within five generations were female—roughly two-thirds. Obviously, females occupy half of the total pedigree space across these, or any, groups, but twice as many individual females are distributed across the female half of the five-generation pedigree space of superior runners as males are distributed across the male half.

Again, we are assuming that the population of males and the population of females are equal in quality, that the number of males of a certain quality is equal to the number of females of that same quality. Therefore, since more than twice as many females as males are represented in the ancestries of samples of high performers, it is obvious that the males are, by far, a more select group. On the whole, the males in the ancestry of the typical high performer are of substantially higher genetic quality than the females. This means that the males that are represented contribute, per capita, a greater proportion of the most favorable qualities than do females, and those males, per capita, contribute a lower proportion of the most unfavorable qualities.

We found only a very slight difference in the proportion of female ancestors between the non-graded and the G1 samples. The proportion of female ancestors represented among the ancestors of the G1 samples within five generations ranged from 64.2% to 65.8%. The female ancestors contributing to the most elite runners are probably slightly closer in quality to the males, but there can be no doubt, that, on the whole, the quality of the males is considerably greater than the quality of the females.

This fact does not absolutely disprove claims that females are in some relevant way inherently superior to males or that inbreeding should involve a female or that there might be some advantage to a build-up of available representatives of, say, family number three; but it certainly places the burden of empirical proof on those who claim such things. In every way that we know to be relevant to performance the males contributing to the best runners are superior to the females.

This fact seriously challenges the good sense of organizing breeding theory around female ancestors. Since, for populational reasons, the female ancestors that contribute to the best runners are, on the whole, genetically inferior to the males, it would seem obvious that most matings should exploit male influences in such a way as to compensate for the relatively lower quality of the female influences.

Fact = Knowledge - Power

The history of Thoroughbred breeding has traditionally been written from the perspectives and interests of the most powerful breeders. An underlying purpose of historical commentary on the great breeding stock is to celebrate those very breeders, to chronicle their racing and breeding accomplishments. To a greater extent than a casual observer might think, the measure of celebrity that is associated with female ancestors depends on the celebrity of their human connections—or the lack of it.

Because the influence of males is so immediately evident, it is nearly impossible for a truly important stallion to fall through the cracks of even the most sycophantic or conventional historical treatment. Historical assessments of females, however, are made on much more subjective grounds and are much more vulnerable to the pragmatics of power. Consequently, certain mares of great importance have been neglected because they were not associated with highly celebrated breeding operations.

The 1936 filly Throttle Wide (by Flying Heels *ex* Let Her Fly, by Pataud), for example, will not be found on any publicized list of elite mares or in accounts of the great foundation mares. Yet her descendents constitute a family that our research ranks number 10 in contemporary production of stakes winners worldwide.

Throttle Wide was bred by Jere Llewellyn Tarlton, who bred yearlings from a few mares on 40 acres known as Allendale Farm in Fayette County and sold them mostly at Saratoga. At age 77 Tarlton died in 1939 during Throttle Wide's long racing career. During the first eight years of her breeding career she had only four foals, among which was Miss Request, bred by B.F. Whitaker. Miss Request, by Requested, was a multiple winner of major handicaps. Apart from her first foal, by Balladier, Throttle Wide was not bred during this time to any truly major stallions.

The accomplishments of Miss Request attracted the attention of Dr. and Mrs. R. Smiser West, and this made all the difference in the fortunes of Throttle Wide and her descendents. They purchased Throttle Wide at auction in 1953 in foal to My Request and got four foals out of her during the next five years. After trying her once more with Requested, they bred her to Spy Song in 1956 and to Mr. Busher in 1957. From those matings came her last two foals, the fillies Nimble Feet and Fast Line, respectively. Neither of them were much as runners, but they were excellent producers, especially Fast Line. Largely through these two, Throttle Wide's line has flourished since the mid-1960s.

A family that is supported and promoted from one generation to the next by a breeding operation that is big enough and financially powerful enough to control the proliferation and distribution of the family is more likely to be recognized historically as a continuous female line than one that does not have those advantages. Probably because Throttle Wide was not connected with one of the highly celebrated breeders of her time, that historical perception of continuity—the recognition of her descendents as members of a female line all tracing to her—

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The Better Half?

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was not established and preserved. This did not prevent her descendents from producing with even more quality and consistency than other dams that were highly prized as descendents of one of the great matriarchs of the breed.

An important criterion for a good research methodology is that it succeed in separating knowledge from power. Rather than assuming that the most important females were those that happen to have been the foundation mares of powerful breeding operations, a good research methodology would identify the mares that have actually had the most influence, defined as a function of actual performance.

Most active families

In fact, our list of the most influential mares differs remarkably from any list of the most celebrated mares. To compile it, we surveyed the winners of unrestricted North American stakes and blacktype-qualifying foreign stakes, which were won by runners born in 1980 or later. We compiled a cumulative list of the names in the female lines of these runners going back to the sixth generation and, for each occurrence, recorded the generation in which the ancestor occurred.

From this list, we could derive how many of these runners were descended from each of the female ancestors represented, and we could calculate the average generational distance of each ancestor. The average generational distance is important because it is a variable to the number of stakes winners that might descend from a given female. For example, Big Hurry is an average of nearly five generations removed. Consequently, she has had a lot more opportunity to occur in the female lines of these runners than, say, Courtly Dee, who is an average of slightly more than two generations removed.

We adjusted for this by dividing the number of superior runners in whose female lines each female ancestor occurred by the average number of generations removed. Then we rank ordered the females on the resulting index. For example, we found that 52 stakes winners descend from Fast Line, who, on average, is 3.635 generations removed. Her index is 52 / 3.635, or 14.3. Therefore, Fast Line, a mare that has no place in popular breeding lore, ranks just above Rough Shod II, one of the more familiar names in Table 1.

All of these functions are shown in Table 1, which lists the top 30 females on the basis of the number of runners divided by the ancestor's average generational distance removed. Table 1 excludes females born prior to 1940. This leaves out Throttle Wide, who otherwise ranks tenth, along with La Troienne, number one, and her nearest rival, Escutcheon. One of the most common breeding mistakes stems from the belief that a broodmare from a failed branch of a family tracing to some celebrated foundation mare several generations removed can, by means of some cheap genealogical gimmick, recapture past glory. We encourage our clients to avoid this mistake.

Half of the names in Table 1 are not celebrated by inclusion on any published list of elite mares; yet, on the basis of contemporary stakes production, they all outrank a large proportion of the dams found on those lists.

Must these top-30 dams be considered in some sense "superior females"? Absolutely. However, if you are interested in "upgrading" a dam from one of these families (whatever that might mean), perhaps by "inbreeding to superior female families," then you had better take a look at the record before applying the popular theories.

There is not a single stakes winner on record with two strains of top-ranked Lea Lark within a distance equal to 5x5. Only two stakes winners have two strains of Bourtai. Of the 30 ancestors, only four—Striking, Almahmoud, Rough Shod II, and Grey Flight—have a record of inbreeding that would encourage crossing two strains. This list of 30 superior females includes only 13 that had two strains cross in the pedigree of any stakes winners at all, which means that 17 of them never did.

It is important to note that, in order to be useful as an object of inbreeding, an ancestor must descend through at least two highly viable strains that have opportunity to reconnect in subsequent generations. You cannot expect just any two strains to recombine successfully just because they are female, especially since, on the whole, the standard of superiority is much lower for females than for males.

Table 1.

Top 30 Ancestors (born after 1939) in female-line stakes production since 1980, ranked by number of stakes winners (adjusted for the average number of generations removed).

Mare	YOB	SWs	Avg. Gen.	SW/ Avg. Gen.
LEA LARK	45	85	4.635	18.3
BOURTAI	42	81	4.593	17.6
STRIKING	47	75	4.813	15.6
ALMAHMOUD	47	63	4.254	14.8
LADY BE GOOD	56	48	3.250	14.8
GOOD EXAMPLE	44	69	4.725	14.6
PORTAGE	52	58	3.983	14.6
JUDY-RAE	44	63	4.333	14.5
QUICK TOUCH	46	62	4.306	14.4
FAST LINE	58	52	3.635	14.3
ROUGH SHOD II	44	66	4.667	14.4
ALABLUE	45	60	4.250	14.1
SUNDAY EVENING	47	62	4.532	13.7
REPLY	51	60	4.483	13.4
COURTLY DEE	68	26	2.038	12.8
LEGENDRA	44	49	3.878	12.6
STOLEN HOUR	53	48	3.896	12.3
ENCHANTED EVE	49	48	3.958	12.1
QUEEN OF LIGHT	49	54	4.463	12.1
WOOD FIRE	47	54	4.537	11.9
BEAVER STREET	53	44	3.705	11.9
PAST EIGHT	45	50	4.220	11.8
AIMEE	57	40	3.425	11.7
BEST IN SHOW	65	35	3.000	11.7
SKYLARKING II	47	49	4.204	11.7
PELTING	58	38	3.263	11.6
FALL ASPEN	76	19	1.632	11.6
GREY FLIGHT	45	46	4.174	11.1
COSMAH	53	37	3.378	10.9
DANGEROUS DAME	51	47	4.298	10.9

All In The Family

Buyers beware of costly commercial ploy!

by Matt O'Neil

One look at Hip #22 (see opposite page) from the 1996 Keeneland July Yearling Sale makes the heart quicken. Here we have a yearling filly by Pleasant Colony, who has already sired two Graded SW's, including an Eclipse Champion, with her grandam (see pedigree next page).

It may seem logical to assume that this female family has an affinity with the Pleasant Colony sire line. But is that really the case? Should this filly be looked at in a more favorable light because of the success her second dam has had with the stallion that was chosen for her? Is she likely to achieve great things on the racetrack, like the relatives she was bred to emulate?

In an August 1993 article in the journal *Owner-Breeder*, Jack Werk first presented the results of research done concerning this so called "presumed dam-line nick". His study was based on results of the Keeneland July Sale in the years 1986 through 1990. He found 56 yearlings that were sold that were sired by a stallion, or son, that had previously produced a stakes-winner with the second dam.

The results of his study are shown in Table 1 in the "1986-1990" row. The average sale price of these yearlings exceeded both their composite sire averages and the overall Keeneland July average, so it was clear that buyers place a premium on this breeding. Unfortunately, the numbers also show that buyers did not get what they paid for. Even though the sires of these yearlings were getting 12.1% SWs, only 8.8% of these yearlings subsequently won stakes, and their average earnings figure is also quite low.

So what has happened since 1990? Have buyers continued to pay more for these yearlings? Have they performed better on the racetrack? The answer is indicated in the "1991-1996" row of Table 1 (5 year-olds of 2000):

While the average price for the 49 yearlings remained higher than their composite sire average, they did not outpace the overall Keeneland July average from 1991-1996. However, the on-track performance of these horses continued to disappoint in a major way.

The sires of these yearlings have produced nearly 11% SW's, but only three of the yearlings in this sample, or 6.1%, became stakes winners. Not only is this figure low in relation to what one would expect from their sires, but it is also very low in relation to the overall stakes performance of Keeneland July Sale graduates. According to the June 29, 2000 *TBH MarketWatch*, 12.1% of the yearlings sold at Keeneland July from 1980-1993 went on to win stakes.

The numbers for Grade 1-winning graduates are also telling. From 1980-1993 (according to *MarketWatch*) 2.9% of Keeneland July graduates subsequently won Grade 1 races. Only one yearling, 1987 Selima Stakes winner Minstrel's Lassie, earned a Grade 1 win from our sample.

A potential reason for the poor showing of these yearlings is stallion selection. It would be unfair to say that all 105 of our sample yearlings were bred to capitalize on a perceived dam-line nick. It is clear however, based on the dearth of SW's, that, by and large, the wrong stallions were mated with the dams of these yearlings. When stallions are chosen only for commercial appeal or to make a catalogue page look enticing, the results are less than desirable, clearly so in the case of the latter.

The fact that the composite sire averages of these babies are indeed lower than the overall 11-year Keeneland July average seems to support this as well. While there were plenty of the sample that were sired by top stallions, such as Nijinsky, Danzig, and Seattle Slew, there were others by the likes Smile, Dahar, Shadeed, Stalwart, and Star de Naskra.

Looking at it another way, even the yearlings sired by the top-tier stallions still underperformed, indicating that they were probably not the most compatible stallions available.

It seems clear that a commercial ploy took precedence over important considerations such as physical and aptitudinal compatibility between stallion and mare, the statistical affinities between the ancestries of sire and dam, and overall stallion quality. Had these factors been taken into account, these mares would probably have been bred to different stallions.

Table 1.

Price Versus Performance for Auction Yearlings Bred After Dam-Line Nicks

	Qualifying Yearlings	Average Price	Composite Sire Yearling Average	Overall Keeneland July Yearling Average	Average Earnings Yearling	# of SW's(%)
1986-1990	56	$344,408	$251,030	$313,383	$35,558	5 (8.8)
1991-1996	49	$224,979	$182,035	$263,380	$44,998	3 (6.1)
1986-1996	105	$252,028	$190,654	$286,109	$30,288	8 (7.6)

Meteor Stage produced two winners by Pleasant Colony. Will the same cross work for her daughter, Star Glimmer?

Consigned by Denali Stud (Craig Bandoroff),
Agent for Denali Stud and Partners II

Hip No. 22 | **Barn 12**

DARK BAY OR BROWN FILLY

Foaled March 28,1995

DARK BAY OR BROWN FILLY	Pleasant Colony	His Majesty	*Ribot
			Flower Bowl
		Sun Colony	Sunrise Flight
			*Colonia
	Star Glimmer (1990)	General Assembly	Secretariat
			Exclusive Dancer
		Meteor Stage	Stage Door Johnny
			Northern Meteor

By PLEASANT COLONY (1978). Champion 3-year-old colt, classic winner of $965,383, Kentucky Derby-**G1**, etc. Among the leading sires in England, Ireland and N.A., sire of 12 crops of racing age, 414 foals, 279 starters, 46 stakes winners, 210 winners of 949 races and earning $27,094,076 in N.A., including champions St. Jovite (Budweiser Irish Derby **[G1]**, etc.), Pleasant Tap **[G1]** ($2,721,169), Pleasant Stage **[G1]** ($844,272), Colonial U.S., and of Colonial Affair **[G1]** ($1,635,228), Sir Beaufort **[G1]**.

1st dam

STAR GLIMMER, by General Assembly. Dam of 1 other registered foal, 1 of racing age, a 2-year-old of 1996, which has not started.

2nd dam

METEOR STAGE, by Stage Door Johnny. Placed at 2, $5,017. Dam of —

PLEASANT STAGE (f. by Pleasant Colony). 2 wins at 2,$844,272, champion 2-year-old filly, Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies **[G1]**, Oak Leaf S. **[G2]**, 2nd Acorn S. **[G1]**, Kentucky Oaks **[G1],** 3rd C.C.A. Oaks **[G1].**

STAGE COLONY (c. by Pleasant Colony). 10 wins, 2 to 4,$327,908, Rutgers H. **[G3],** Fort Marcy H. **[G3]**, Royal Palm H. [L] (HIA, $30,000), etc.

FULL STAGE (c. by Full Partner). 8 wins, 2 to 4, $76,450, Copa Jorge Washington.

3rd dam

NORTHERN METEOR, by Northern Dancer. 4 wins at 2 and 3,$66,301 California Oaks. Dam of 4 winners, including —

A PHENOMENON. 6wins at 3,$380,982, Vosburgh S.-**G1**, Jerome H.-**G2**, Jim Dandy S.-**G3**, 2nd Metropolitan H.-**G1**, Tom Fool S.-**G2**, etc.

SEATTLE METEOR. 3 wins at 21 $3791053, Spinaway S. **[G1]**, Astoria S **[G3]**, 2nd Matron S. **[G1]**, Bonnie Miss S. **[G2]**, etc. Producer.

4th dam

PATELIN, by Cornish Prince. 5 wins to 3, $203,794, Selima S., etc. Sister to **Pontoise,** half-sister to **JAIKYL** ($227,792), **PONTIFEX**. Dam of —

MIDDLE STAGE. Winner at 2 and 3, $115,211, Athenia H.-**G3**, etc. Dam of **CENTER BOX** [L] ($113,704, dam of **PALACE LINE**, $185,559).

NORTHERN METEOR. Stakes winner, above.

Pleasant Line. 21 wins, $151,355, 2nd Boardwalk S. (ATL, $5,000), etc.

Last Bird. 2 wins. Dam of **ROANOKE [G1]** ($535,160), **Last Cause [G3], One Last Bird** (dam of **Bucking Bird** [L], $406,572; **One Last Colony).** Flying Buttress. 2 wins. Dam of **PILLASTER [G1]** ($397,884, sire), **CLASS PLAY** ($279,070), **LUTYENS** [Q] ($243,766), **LAMEROK** ($204,807).

Pat Us. Placed. Dam of **COLONIAL U.S.** ($203,495, champion), **SILVER FOX [G3]** (to 4, 1995, $213,560), **Southern Bar Girl [G2]** ($77,540).

Engagements: Breeders' Cup.

Foaled in Kentucky. (KTDF).