

Tiger Ridge^(USA)

Karel Miedema's Pedigree Evaluation

Storm Cat - Weekend Surprise by Secretariat

Every year in June, English trainers prepare their best for the feast of racing that is Royal Ascot. It is not for the faint of heart, as any chinks in the armour of racing ability are mercilessly exposed.

Tiger Ridge' first ever runner at the Royal meeting came through with flying colours, when 2yo Stike The Tiger beat twenty-one opponents in the 2009 Windsor Castle Stakes.

Tiger Ridge comes from a female line which has produced topclass performers for many generations, several of those successful as sires. South Africa has been well served by the family, even if some of the sires were much more successful than others. The important thing is that their descendants are around for the future. Locally, sires from the female line include Al Mufti (and sons Captain Al, Victory Moon), Wolfhound, Sportsworld, Plugged Nickle

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Tiger Ridge include

1. Mares with Seattle Slew (and others with La Troienne female line descendants, notably Buckpasser (Northern Guest, Al Mufti, etc), Bimelech/Better Self), Argosy
2. Mares with Mr Prospector (notably Goldkeeper, Lecture)
3. Mares with My Babu/Damascus
4. Mares with Hail to Reason through Roberto (Al Mufti/Captain Al), through Halo (notably Machiavellian), through Bold Reason (Sadler's Wells - Fort Wood/Dynasty)
5. Mares with Storm Bird equivalents Nijinsky (notably Dancing Champ), The Minstrel
6. Mares with Uvira's bottom-female line descendants (Al Mufti, Sportsworld, Plugged Nickle, Francis U., etc)
7. Mares with Bold Bidder (Auction Ring, Del Sarto)
8. Mares with Fair Star (Cordoba)
9. Mares with Graustark/His Majesty (Danehill, Caesour)

A useful starting point to evaluate the female line is the mare Uvira, by Umidwar (Blandford). Uvira is kinbred 2x1 Uganda x Lady Lawless. Purchased in 1939 as yearling for 510 guineas, she was unbeaten at three, winning the Irish Oaks. Subsequently sent to America, she raced there without success. Her influence is extended through her daughter Missy Baba, by My Babu, and kinbred 4x3x3x3 Coeur a Coeur x Lavendula x Uganda x Lady Lawless - all bottom-female line mares in the four grandparents of Missy Baba.

Missy wasn't much good as a racer, but she made up for that in the breeding-shed. Her son Raja Baba was US Champion Sire in 1980. Another son, Master Bold, the leading sire in Argentina. A third son Sauce Boat, who left some legacy as a broodmare sire. And daughters Gay Missile and Toll Booth. The latter produced US Champion Sprinter Plugged Nickle, who failed spectacularly as a sire in the US before coming to South Africa where he had some success, notably with the female line of Horse Chestnut.

It was left to Gay Missile to carry on the female line influence. A stakes winner of 10 races from 40 starts in three seasons of racing, Gay Missile is

kinbred three ways: 3x3 Source Sucree x Perfume (both daughters of Lavendula), 3x2 Source Sucree x Uvira, and 5x5 Assignment x Rambling Rose (third dam of Somethingroyal to grandam of Lady Lawless).

Gay Missile produced Gr1 winning sire-son Gay Mecene, and two daughters, Gallanta (dam of Sportsworld) and Lassie Dear.

A stakes winner of five races from 25 starts, Lassie Dear is relevant to us as the dam of SA-sires Al Mufti and Wolfhound, and of the dams of Lemon Drop Kid, of Houston Connection, and of A.P.Indy, Summer Squall and Tiger Ridge. The latter trio is out of the mare Weekend Surprise, voted Champion Broodmare in the US in 1992.

Lassie Dear is kinbred 4x4 la Troienne x Lady Lawless (or in more detail, 5x5x5x4x3(4) Mahubah x Annette K. x Helene de Troie x Source Sucree x Uvira (Lady Lawless)).

Weekend Surprise is by Secretariat, half brother to Lassie Dear's damsire Sir Gaylord - both sons of Somethingroyal. We saw earlier how Lassie Dear's dam Gay Missile is kinbred 5x5 Assignment x Rambling Rose (third dam of Somethingroyal to grandam of Lady Lawless). Secretariat adds another line of Assignment to keep the bottom-female line connections intact.

The effect was trebled when Weekend Surprise was mated to Storm Cat, whose dam is by Secretariat, to get Tiger Ridge. Or so it seems. What we are after is bottom female line connections, and Secretariat is not Storm Cat's bottom female line. Luckily, things work out. Storm Cat's dam is kinbred 5x3 Assignment x First Rose, Storm Cat is kinbred 4x4 Solar Display x First Rose. The dams of Solar Display and First Rose are both kin to Lady Lawless from Tiger Ridge's bottom female line, giving 6x6x6 Dark Display x Rare Bloom x Lady Lawless. In addition

Tiger Ridge is kinbred 4x3 Bolero Rose x Buckpasser - Bolero Rose daughter of First Rose, Buckpasser sire of Lassie Dear.

Returning to Tiger Ridge's successful half brothers A.P. Indy and Summer Squall. A.P. Indy is by Seattle Slew, and kinbred 2x1 My Charmer x Weekend Surprise (My Charmer has a double of Buckpasser's female line, going to La Troienne). Summer Squall is a son of Storm Cat's sire Storm Bird, which makes him 3-parts related to Tiger Ridge. Summer Squall is kinbred 5x6 Dark Display x Lady Lawless.

Where From Here

The kin-breeding 'rule' of matching bottom-female line elements of sire and dam suggests sticking to lines that have shown up already. La Troienne, Source Sucree (Lavendula), War Admiral stand out - leading to Buckpasser, Seattle Slew, Turn To/ Hail to Reason. Then there's Storm Cat's female line, which also belongs to Goldkeeper and Royal Academy.

Tiger Ridge's grandam Lassie Dear is best known as dam of SA's successful sire, damsire and sire-of-sires Al Mufti, a son of Roberto (Hail to Reason again). What worked with Al Mufti ought to work with Tiger Ridge. The same goes for others from the female line, Sportsworld and Plugged Nickle.

One of Tiger Ridge's best runners in the USA is Gr2/Gr3 placed Bashert. He's kinbred 2x2 Weekend Surprise x Caught A Pass (his grandam). Caught A Pass is by Pass Catcher (grandson of Turn To) out of Iron Spur. The latter is by Iron Ruler, grandson of Uvira, out of Handy Penny, whose third dam is Imperatrice (grandam of Secretariat). Finally, Bashert's dam is by a son of Damascus. Coincidences never end.

WILGERBOSDRIFT STUD

Jehan Malherbe - Tel: 021 510 1455 • email: jehan@aro.co.za