



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Successful sire, strong female family anchor Notional's family tree

By Rommy Faversham

Fitted with blinkers for the first time, sophomore colt Notional left nothing to the imagination as he rolled to an impressive four-length victory in the one-mile \$150,000 San Rafael Stakes (G2) on Saturday at Santa Anita Park.

The victory was the first stakes triumph for the cleverly bred bay colt by In Excess (Ire) and his second win from four career starts.

Notional first turned heads in October, when he debuted at the Oak Tree meet at Santa Anita with a resounding 2½-length sprint victory. After finishing a disappointing third as the 1.30-to-1 choice in the Hollywood Prevue Stakes (G3), he was sixth behind Stormello—beaten by 2½ lengths—in the Hollywood Futurity (G1) on December 16.



Benoit & Associates photo

NOTIONAL

Notional was purchased for \$235,000 at the 2006 Barretts Equine Ltd. March sale of selected two-year-olds in training. He was bred by Vessels Stallion Farm in Bonsall, California, where his sire, the Siberian Express stallion In Excess, stands for a private fee.

One of California's leading sires, In Excess has sired 47 stakes winners and 11 graded stakes winners from his first 12 crops. His 2006 stakes winners include California Cup Classic Handicap winner Texcess and Hollywood Starlet Stakes (G1) heroine Romance Is Diane.

In Excess also is the sire of Indian Charlie, winner of the 1998 Santa Anita Derby (G1). Indian Charlie placed third as the favorite in that year's Kentucky Derby (G1).

Notional is one of two winners out of the winning French Deputy

Upcoming stakes

Saturday

PALOS VERDES H. (G2), SA, \$150,000, 6f, 4&up.
FIRST LADY H. (G3), GP, \$100,000, 6f, 4&upf&m.
AQUEDUCT H. (G3), Aqu, \$100,000, 8.5f, 3&up.
La Senora H., Sun, \$125,000, 6f, 3yof.
What a Summer S., Lrl, \$100,000, 6f, 4&upf&m.
Fire Plug S., Lrl, \$100,000, 6f, 4&up.
Truly Bound H., FG, \$75,000, 8.5f, 4&upf&m.
Gentilly S., FG, \$75,000, 8.5fT, 3yo.

Sunday

SAN MARCOS S. (G2), SA, \$150,000, 10fT, 4&up.

Wednesday

Tuzla H., SA, \$75,000, 8fT, 4&upf&m.

Notional, b. c., 2004

In Excess (Ire) 87 691 fls, 47 SWs SI 2.66 DI=5.00	Siberian Express 81 3 wins, \$159,587, SW 307 fls, 12 SWs SI 1.08 DI=2.05	Caro (Ire) 67 599 fls, 78 SWs SI 3.70 DI=1.26	=Fortino II (Fr) 59	=Grey Sovereign (GB) 48 =Ranavallo III (Fr) 54
	=Kantado (Ire) 76 1 win, \$5,011 13 fls, 1 SW DI=7.00	Indian Call 66 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.44	=Chambord (GB) 55	=Chamosaire (GB) 42 =Life Hill (GB) 40
		=Saulingo (GB) 70 300 fls, 6 SWs SI 0.48 DI=27.00	Warfare 57	Determine 51 War Whisk 42
Truly Blessed 97 3 fls, 1 SW DI=2.67	French Deputy 92 4 wins, \$195,200, SW 588 fls, 30 SWs SI 1.76 DI=8.00	=Vi (GB) 60 12 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.57	=Sing Sing (GB) 57	=Hard Sauce (GB) 48 =L-S-D (GB) 46
		Deputy Minister 79 1118 fls, 87 SWs SI 3.35 DI=3.67	=Saulisa (GB) 63	=Gold Bridge (Fr) 29 =Queen of the Meadows (GB) 38
	Love Bunny 78 1 win, \$7,150 13 fls, 1 SW DI=2.00	Mitterand 81 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.44	=Vilmorin (GB) 43	=Turkhan (GB) 37 =Lapwing (GB) 43
		Lady Tramp 65 6 fls, 0 SWs DI=2.00	Vice Regent 67	Bunty's Flight 53 Shakney 64
			Mint Copy 70	Speak John 58 Blue Moon 48
			Hold Your Peace 69	Bold Ruler 54 Fortunate Isle 59
			Laredo Lass 71	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
			Raise a Native 61	Shut Out 39 Good Example 44
			Exclusive 53	=Sideral (Arg) 48 =Ternura (Arg) 47
			*Sensitivo 57	*Hafiz 52 Manzana 48
			La Morlaye 58	

mare Truly Blessed. His grandam, Love Bunny, produced Helen D., dam of Lovellon (Arg), a three-year-old champion filly in her native Argentina who later captured the Santa Maria Handicap (G1).

Quite remarkably, Notional's third dam, 1967 Alcibiades Stakes winner Lady Tramp, also is a half sister to Indian Call, the dam of 1984 Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French Two Thousand Guineas) (Fr-G1) winner Siberian Express, Notional's paternal grandsire. The result is a most unique female family inbreeding pattern—4x4 to Notional's fourth dam, La Morlaye.

This type of reinforcement of the tail-female line, as I described when profiling recent Remsen Stakes (G2) winner Nobiz Like Shobiz, has long been a valuable strategy in the breeding of Thoroughbreds.

In this case, La Morlaye—unplaced in just one start—represents one of the successful branches of the #13-c family, which traces back to Notional's seventh dam, the great matriarch and Racing Hall of Famer Myrtlewood.

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

Upcoming events

January 22—National Thoroughbred Racing Association's Eclipse Award ceremony, Beverly Wilshire Four Seasons, Beverly Hills, California. Call: (859) 223-5444. Website: www.ntra.com