



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Sunriver glistens on grass in Bowling Green Handicap

by Rommy Faversham

The recent conversion to grass racing for the well-connected but slumping Sunriver appears to have made a world of difference for the four-year-old Saint Ballado colt.

On the Belmont Park inner turf course on July 15, Sunriver led every step of the way to easily capture the 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ -mile Bowling Green Handicap (G2), a second consecutive open victory since trainer Todd Pletcher moved him to the grass.

As a sophomore, Sunriver won the Peter Pan Stakes (G2) and was third in the Florida Derby (G1) and Belmont Stakes (G1) before suffering a season-



Adam Coglianese/NYRA photo

SUNRIVER

ending ankle injury during a sixth-place finish in the Jim Dandy Stakes (G2) in July.

Sunriver returned this season with two disappointing efforts on dirt, prior to the switch in surface.

His career mark stands at five wins in thirteen career starts with earnings of \$526,400. Sunriver is being targeted for the Arlington Million Stakes (G1) on August 11 at Arlington Park.

Owned and bred in Kentucky by Aaron and Marie Jones, Sunriver is the third graded stakes winning full sibling sired by Saint Ballado out of the stakes-winning Mari's Book mare Goulash.

Sunriver is a full brother to 2006 Native Diver Handicap (G3) winner Saint Stephen and '04 champion filly and '05 champion older mare Ashado, who might rate only a shade below a few of the other candidates worthy of induction into Racing's Hall of Fame from the particularly deep contemporary female division.

For good measure, Ashado was purchased following her retirement for \$9-million, which established a world record for a broodmare prospect sold at public auction.

Goulash is a half sister to recent multiple Grade 3 winner Quite a Bride, by Stormy Atlantic.

Sunriver hails from the tenth and final crop of the prominent Halo stallion Saint Ballado, who was euthanized in October 2002 following complications from spinal surgery.

A multiple graded stakes winning full brother to champions Devil's Bag and Glorious Song, Saint Ballado was sold as a yearling for \$90,000,

Sunriver, Dk. b. or br. c., 2003

Saint Ballado 89 701 fls, 70 SWS SI 2.48 DI=1.42	Halo 69 9 wins, \$259,553, SW 724 fls, 63 SWS SI 3.40 DI=2.14	Hail to Reason 58 308 fls, 43 SWS SI 4.40 DI=3.18	*Turn-to 51	*Royal Charger 42 *Source Sucee 40
	Ballade 72 2 wins, \$12,670 13 fls, 4 SWS DI=0.41	*Cosmah 53 15 fls, 4 SWS DI=1.36	Notthirdchance 48	Blue Swords 40 Galla Colors 43
Goulash 93 6 fls, 3 SWS DI=2.29		Mari's Book 78 3 wins, \$48,326, Spl 402 fls, 24 SWS SI 1.37 DI=3.00	Cosmah Bomb 44	*Pharamond II 25 Banish Fear 32
	Wise Bride 87 Unplaced 10 fls, 2 SWS DI=2.53	Northern Dancer 61 635 fls, 147 SWS SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Almahmoud 47	*Mahmoud 33 Arbitrator 37
Blushing Groom (Fr) 74 512 fls, 92 SWS SI 4.76 DI=1.52		Mari Her 70 13 fls, 0 SWS DI=2.08	=Vandale (Fr) 43	=Plassy (GB) 32 =Vanille (Fr) 29
	Red God 54	Blush Swapsco 65 10 fls, 2 SWS DI=1.31	=Flagette (Fr) 51	=Escamillo (Fr) 39 =Fidgette (Fr) 39
Runaway Bride (GB) 62		Nearctic 54	Cohoes 54	*Mahmoud 33 Belle of Troy 47
	Smarten 76	Natalma 57	Soaring 60	Swaps 52 *Skylarking II 47
Rock Talk 64		Maribeau 62	Hem and Haw 61	=Nearco (Ity) 35 *Lady Angela 44
	Softly 70	Double Jay 44 Royal Fan 51	Hardly 77	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
Cyane 59		Smartaire 62		*Ribot 52 Cosmah 53
	Smartaire 62	Smarten 76		Double Jay 44 Royal Fan 51
Rock Talk 64		Rock Talk 64		*Nasrullah 40 Spring Run 48
	Softly 70	Softly 70		=Wild Risk (Fr) 40 =Aimee (GB) 57

mainly due to his crooked forelegs. He is the sire of 26 graded or group stakes winners.

Like most proven Halo-line sires, Saint Ballado has done particularly well with mares carrying strains of Northern Dancer and other members of this tribe. In this case, our subjects' broodmare sire, Mari's Book, provides two such complementary strains.

Inbreeding to the great matriarch Almahmoud and her daughters, Cosmah and Natalma, continues to be the most successful female family inbreeding pattern in the world today. Sure seems to have worked here.

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