



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Da' Tara's Belmont win represents a blast from the past

By Rommy Faversham

In the aftermath of the stunning outcome in the Belmont Stakes (G1) on June 7, New York Governor David Paterson proved himself particularly well versed as he presented the race's trophy to the connections of front-running victor Da' Tara.



Adam Cogliandro/NYRA photo

The Empire State's chief executive began his remarks by commenting on his own turf-related lineage, specifically a great-grandfather who was responsible for shoeing Upset, the only horse to ever defeat Man o' War, arguably America's all-time greatest racehorse.

Paterson made clear that it was his belief Man o' War remained the standard by which all other Thoroughbreds should be judged.

DA' TARA

It is remarkable, then, for the first time in a long time, Belmont winner Da' Tara inherited his Y chromosome from "Big Red" and his breed-shaping sire Fair Play before him.

The male-line triumvirate of Fair Play, Ben Brush, and Domino dominated the pedigrees of many of America's top runners during the first 40-plus years of the 20th century.

From 1920 to '37, the Fair Play sire line accounted for eight of the 18 Belmont Stakes winners (see accompanying chart). Over the next seven decades, however, there were none.

Finally, the Tiznow colt Da' Tara, a ninth generation tail-male descendant of Fair Play, becomes his legendary top strain's first American classic winner in 71 years.

A century earlier in the 1908 Belmont Stakes, undefeated champion Colin held off Fair Play by a head through a driving rainstorm.

Man o' War's 1920 Belmont victory was close to a coronation, as he outdistanced one opponent in effortless fashion while establishing a North American record for 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ miles.

The Fair Play sire line

Horse (Foaled)

Fair Play (1905)
 Chatterton (1919)
FAIRENO (1929)
MAD PLAY (1921)
CHANCE SHOT (1924)
PEACE CHANCE (1931)
MAN O' WAR (1917)
AMERICAN FLAG (1922)
CRUSADER (1923)
WAR ADMIRAL (1934)
 War Relic (1938)
 Intent (1948)
 Intentionally (1956)
 In Reality (1964)
 Relaunch (1976)
 Cee's Tizzy (1987)
 Tiznow (1997)
DA' TARA (2005)

Belmont Stakes winners in boldface

Da' Tara, dk. b. or br., c. 2005

Tiznow 97 328 fls, 12 SWs SI 2.39 DI=1.86	Cee's Tizzy 87 3 wins, \$173,150, Spl 630 fls, 34 SWs SI 2.08 DI=2.20	Relaunch 76 725 fls, 89 SWs SI 3.05 DI=3.00	In Reality 64 Foggy Note 65	Intentionally 56 My Dear Girl 57 The Axe II 58 Silver Song 57
		Tizly 81 11 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.35	Lyphard 69 *Tizna 69	Northern Dancer 61 Goofed 60 =Trevieres (Fr) 56 =Noris (Chi) 58
	Cee's Song 86 1 win, \$82,225 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=1.50	Seattle Song 81 332 fls, 23 SWs SI 1.85 DI=2.05	Seattle Slew 74 Incantation 65	Nice Dancer 69 Sleep Lonely 70
Torcheria 93 7 fls, 1 SW DI=2.33	Pirate's Bounty 75 4 wins, \$95,984, SW 864 fls, 63 SWs SI 1.56 DI=1.88	Hoist the Flag 68 246 fls, 51 SWs SI 5.38 DI=0.58	Tom Rolfe 62 Wavy Navy 54	*Ribot 52 Pocahontas 55 War Admiral 34 *Triumph 47
		Bad Seed 69 10 fls, 1 SW DI=2.71	Steward 59 *Rich and Rare II 55	Nashua 52 Sherry Jen 51 =Rocketella (GB) 41 =Palmy Days (GB) 48
	Kaylem Ho 78 9 wins, \$140,384, SW 16 fls, 3 SWs DI=7.00	Salem 68 194 fls, 11 SWs SI 1.18 DI=4.71	Cyane 59 Witching Hour 60	*Turn-to 51 Your Game 48 Thinking Cap 52 Enchanted Eve 49
	Kay Ho 73 13 fls, 1 SW DI=1.93	Quid Pro Quo 66 Cloud Ho 68	Swaps 52 Cherokee Rose 51 Cohoos 54 Cloud High 63	

Now, after a 71-year hiatus, the surviving line of Fair Play is represented by its latest classic winner.

The chronically attenuated male line of Plaudit was afforded similar redemption in 2005 when the Holy Bull colt Giacomo scored a major upset in the Kentucky Derby (G1), halting his line's 107-year drought in the classics.

Hopefully, the ongoing avalanche of Phalaris blood will never be afforded the opportunity to completely extinguish the few remaining great American sire lines, including Fair Play and his prodigal son Man o' War.

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

Upcoming stakes

Saturday

STEPHEN FOSTER H. (G1), CD, \$750,000, 9f, 3&up.
OGDEN PHIPPS H. (G1), Bel, \$300,000, 8.5f, 3&upf&m.
FLEUR DE LIS H. (G2), CD, \$300,000, 9f, 3&upf&m.
JEFFERSON CUP S. (G2), CD, \$200,000, 9fT, 3yo.
REGRET S. (G3), CD, \$200,000, 9fT, 3yof.
NORTHERN DANCER S. (G3), CD, \$175,000, 8.5f, 3yo.
EATONTOWN S. (G3), Mth, \$150,000, 8.5fT, 3&upf&m.
EARLY TIMES MINT JULEP H. (G3), CD, \$150,000, 8.5fT, 3&upf&m.
OBEAH S. (G3), Del, \$150,000, 9f, 3&upf&m.
Jostle S., Pha, \$200,000, 6.5f, 3yof.
Susan's Girl S., Del, \$175,000, 8.5f, 3yof.
Ballade S., WO, \$122,800, 6f, 3&upf&m.
Alberta Derby, StP, \$122,662, 8.5f, 3yo.
Ponche H., Crc, \$100,000, 6f, 3&up.
U Can Do It H., Crc, \$100,000, 6.5f, 3&upf&m.
Alphabet Soup H., Pha, \$75,000, 8.5fT, 3&up.
Round Table H., Hol, \$75,000, 14fT, 3&up.
Oakland S., GG, \$75,000, 6f, 3&up.