



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Criticism continues family's success in The Very One Stakes

by Rommy Faversham

Front-running Criticism (GB) was the beneficiary of her own pedestrian pace as she burst clear of her rivals at the head of the stretch en route to an impressive 2½-length victory in the \$100,000 The Very One Stakes (G3) on February 22.



Bob Coglianese photo

Sent off as the 2-to-1 favorite, the five-year-old Darley homebred Machiavellian mare covered 1⅓ miles in 2:15.23 on firm turf at Gulfstream Park. Remarkably, Criticism became the third member of her immediate family to capture The Very One during the past decade.

CRITICISM

Bred in England and unraced at two, Criticism won four of her 12 starts as a three-year-old in France, where she was a listed stakes winner and group placed. Her two starts at age four last year in the United States include her most recent outing, a one-length victory in the Long Island Handicap (G3) on November 1 at Aqueduct.

The improving bay mare has won six races from 15 lifetime starts and has bankrolled \$355,367.

The bottom half of Criticism's pedigree is particularly rich in staying influences. Her dam, the multiple graded stakes-winning Caerleon mare Innuendo (Ire), annexed the 2001 The Very One Handicap. A year later, Innuendo's half sister Moon Queen (Ire), by Sadler's Wells, came home on top in the same race.

Criticism's talented grandam Infamy (Ire), by 1978 Epsom Derby (Eng-G1) winner Shirley Heights, was a European highweight at age four when she crossed the Atlantic to beat males in the 1988 Rothmans International Stakes (Can-G1) at 1½ miles.

The tribe is anchored by Criticism's fourth dam, Sunbittern. She is the matriarch of at least 22 graded and group stakes winners, including 1990 Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) winner and sire In The Wings (GB) as well as the European classic winners High-Rise (Ire), Dubawi, Virginia Waters, and Zomaradah (GB).

Criticism hails from the 13th and penultimate crop of Machiavel-

Criticism (GB), b, m, 2004				
Machiavellian 87 735 fls, 76 SWs SI 2.19 DI=3.62	Mr. Prospector 70 7 wins, \$112,171, SW 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61 838 fls, 78 SWs SI 3.14 DI=1.57	Native Dancer 50	Polynesian 42 Geisha 43
		Gold Digger 62 12 fls, 3 SWs DI=2.23	Raise You 46	Case Ace 34 Lady Glory 34
	Coup de Folie 82 4 wins, \$67,570, SW 12 fls, 5 SWs DI=2.61	Halo 69 724 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.40 DI=2.14	Nashua 52	*Nasrullah 40 Segula 42
		Raise the Standard 78 12 fls, 1 SW DI=1.76	Sequence 46	Count Fleet 40 Miss Dogwood 39
Innuendo (Ire) 95 5 fls, 1 SW DI=0.64	Caerleon 80 4 wins, \$379,327 Champion 992 fls, 128 SWs SI 2.80 DI=0.79	Nijinsky II 67 851 fls, 155 SWs SI 5.77 DI=3.00	Hail to Reason 58	*Turn-to 51 Nothridchance 48
		Foreseer 69 13 fls, 4 SWs DI=0.77	Cosmah 53	Cosmic Bomb 44 Almahmoud 47
	Infamy (Ire) 84 7 wins, \$746,640 Champion 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=0.87	=Shirley Heights (GB) 75 694 fls, 64 SWs SI 2.24 DI=1.30	Hoist the Flag 68	Tom Rolfe 62 Wavy Navy 54
		=Seriema (Ire) 75 11 fls, 1 SW DI=1.43	Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
		Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57	
		Flaming Page 59	Bull Page 47 Flaring Top 47	
		Round Table 54	*Princequillo 40 *Knight's Daughter 41	
		Regal Gleam 64	Hail to Reason 58 Miz Carol 53	
		Mill Reef 68	Never Bend 60 Milan Mill 62	
		=Hardiemma (GB) 69	=Hardicanute (GB) 62 =Grand Cross (GB) 52	
		=Petingo (GB) 65	=Petition (GB) 44 *Alcazar II 57	
		=Sunbittern (GB) 70	=Sea Hawk II (Fr) 63 =Pantoufle (GB) 64	

lian, Mr. Prospector's most productive son to stand in Europe. Standing at Dalham Hall Stud in Newmarket, he died from complications of laminitis in June 2004 at age 17.

Machiavellian always has enjoyed a strong affinity with Northern Dancer-line mares, and it does not seem a coincidence that the maternal half of his pedigree features two complementary strains of Almahmoud—one via his grandam, Raise the Standard, Northern Dancer's half sister. As it stands, Northern Dancer has appeared along the broodmare sire line in 48 of Machiavellian's 76 stakes winners.

All of this should help to explain why the Machiavellian approach to Innuendo can lead to Criticism, if not a return to Infamy.

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