



Pedigree perspectives from the Breeders' Cup World Championships

by Rommy Faversham

Pedigrees of the 14 winners from last week's 2010 Breeders' Cup World Championships provided another useful survey of the order and nuance expressed within the family trees of our best contemporary runners.

The biggest winner among current stallions was Claiborne Farms' Arch, who sired Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Blame and also is the broodmare sire of Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) sensation Uncle Mo.

Another interesting progenitor who appears in a pair of Breeders' Cup-winning pedigrees for the first time is the Affirmed mare Affirmatively. She is grandam to both Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) winner Dangerous Midge and Awesome of Course, sire of Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) winner Awesome Feather.

As for Dangerous Midge, he is the sixth Breeders' Cup winner to descend in tail-female line to the great matriarch *La Troienne, his sixth dam. No other broodmare from the 20th century is the matrilineal source of more than four.

Depending on how one measures it, *La Troienne could be considered the most influential female ancestor in Breeders' Cup history.

Two of this year's winners, Unrivaled Belle and Chamberlain Bridge, represent a third consecutive generation of Breeders' Cup winners.

Chamberlain Bridge, who captured the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1), is by 2000 Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) winner War Chant, whose dam, Hollywood Wildcat, won the 1993 Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1).

Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic (G1) winner Unrivaled Belle is by 1995 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) winner Unbridled's Song, son of 1990 Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Unbridled.

There is yet to be an example of four con-

secutive generations of Breeders' Cup winners.

Unbeaten Uncle Mo made it look all too easy in the Juvenile as he clinched champion two-year old male honors. The question now becomes: Will he be returning to Churchill Downs next May with the benefit of a Kentucky Derby (G1)-friendly pedigree? Alas, the answer looks to be indeterminate.

Uncle Mo's sire, Indian Charlie—who was third as the favorite in the 1998 Kentucky Derby—predominantly has been known for sprinters and milers. This is evidenced by the average winning distance amongst his offspring of 6.58 furlongs.

On the bottom half, Uncle Mo's multiple stakes-placed dam, Playa Maya, scored in her debut at age three in a one-mile maiden special weight race at Churchill Downs. She went on to take three of six lifetime starts, also showing ability on grass and in the slop at distances up to 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles.

In terms of class, Uncle Mo's female family has been a relatively moderate one, with only one other U.S. graded stakes winner under his first five dams. More positive elements include the sires of his first three dams, Arch, Dixieland Band, and Cyane—all potential conveyors of stamina.

As far as classic aspirations are concerned, Uncle Mo's overall pedigree does not, at this point, really appear to help or hinder his cause. Of course, as the eye can see, this is a colt with his own set of assets from which to draw upon.

Finally, it is one of the ironies of the Classic that the great, previously unbeaten racemare Zenyatta, by a grandson of Mr. Prospector out of a granddaughter of Roberto, suffered her climactic upset to Blame, a colt by a grandson of Roberto out of a granddaughter of Mr. Prospector. Indeed, a reversal of cross as well as fortune.

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UNCLE MO

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Sire lines of Breeders' Cup winners

| Sire line | 2010 | 27-year totals (%) |
|---------------|------|--------------------|
| Nearctic | 5 | 75 (33.6%) |
| *Sickle | 1 | 49 (22.0%) |
| Nasrullah | 3 | 44 (19.7%) |
| *Turn-to | 3 | 19 (8.5%) |
| *Ribot | 1 | 9 (4.0%) |
| *Australian | 0 | 7 (3.1%) |
| *Teddy | 0 | 6 (2.7%) |
| *Princequillo | 0 | 4 (1.8%) |
| *Pharamond II | 1 | 2 (0.9%) |
| *Eclipse | 0 | 2 (0.9%) |
| Other | 0 | 6 (2.7%) |