



PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Faversham

Aruna's pedigree supports Ladies' Classic start

Making her first start on a synthetic surface, Aruna rallied through the stretch to chalk up an impressive half-length victory in the Juddmonte Spinster Stakes (G1) on October 9 at Keeneland Race Course.

Sent off as the 2.40-to-1 favorite, the four-year-old Mr. Greeley filly completed the 1½-mile race in 1:47.88.

Aruna's lifetime record improved to six wins from 12 lifetime starts, including graded stakes victories in the 2010 Mrs. Revere Stakes (G2) at Churchill Downs and 2011 Edward P. Evans All Along Stakes (G3) at Colonial Downs.

The Spinster score guarantees Aruna of a starting berth in the Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic (G1), also at 1½ miles, through the Breeders' Cup Challenge "Win and You're In" series.

This leads to a very interesting decision for her connections, because all of Aruna's previous races had been on grass, normally suggesting the Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1) would be her most likely upcoming target.

Among the concerns, however, Aruna has never run successfully beyond 1½ miles, a quarter-mile shorter than the Filly and Mare Turf.

Another consideration is the potential field for the Ladies' Classic, which does not, in relative terms, appear to be quite as deep in talent as that of the Filly and Mare Turf.

Of course, after capturing this year's Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) with Animal Kingdom, Aruna's trainer, Graham Motion, would be no stranger to winning a Churchill Downs 'classic' with a horse making a debut on dirt.

Aruna and her first two dams were bred in Kentucky by her owners, Flaxman Holdings Ltd., the operating title in America for the family of late Greek shipping tycoon Stavros Niarchos.

She is one of three winners from four starters out of multiple graded stakes winner Surya.

Best at age four, Surya, by 1990 Kentucky Derby winner Unbridled, was a dedicated turf runner whose only start on a main track was a romp in the slop at Saratoga Race Course, taking



ARUNA
Keeneland/Coady Photography

Aruna, dk. b. or br. f., 2007

Mr. Greeley 92 1220 fls, 57 SWs SI 1.59 DI=4.85	Gone West 84 6 wins, \$682,251, SW 1256 fls, 98 SWs SI 2.41 DI=4.52	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46	
	Long Legend 78 4 wins, \$24,293 16 fls, 2 SWs DI=4.87	Secrettame 78 15 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.17	Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46 Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52	
		Reviewer 66 173 fls, 19 SWs SI 3.23 DI=3.57	Secretariat 70	Secretariat 70	Tim Tam 55 *Mixed Marriage 52
Surya 98 5 fls, 1 SW DI=2.26	Unbridled 87 8 wins, \$5,086,255 Champion 566 fls, 49 SWs SI 3.72 DI=1.70	Lianga 71 10 fls, 1 SW DI=4.60	Tamerett 62	*Nasrullah 40 Miss Disco 44 Hasty Road 51 Flitabout 45	
		Fappiano 77 410 fls, 48 SWs SI 4.79 DI=4.78	Broadway 59	Native Dancer 50 Noors Image 53	
	Gana Facil 81 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.50	Dancer's Image 65	Sailor 52 Olympia Dell 53	Leven Ones 61	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
	Wild Planet 91 3 wins, \$56,693, SW 10 fls, 1 SW DI=1.60	Nureyev 77 786 fls, 137 SWs SI 4.73 DI=2.83	Mr. Prospector 70	Killaloe 70	Dr. Fager 64 Grand Splendor 62 =Wild Risk (Fr) 40 =Anguar (Fr) 50
	Ivory Wings 78 8 fls, 1 SW DI=2.06	Northern Dancer 61	*Le Fabuleux 61	Charedi 76	In Reality 64 Magic 69
		Special 69	Sir Ivor 65	Kittiwake 68	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57 *Forli 63 Thong 64
				Sir Gayford 59 Attica 53 *Sea-Bird 62 Ole Liz 63	

the 1½-mile Ballston Spa Breeders' Cup Handicap by 9/4 lengths in 2002. Also that season, she annexed Hollywood Park's Royal Heroine Stakes (G3) and Dahlia Handicap (G2), at a mile and 1/16 miles, respectively.

Aruna's stakes-winning grandam, Wild Planet, was a daughter of Nureyev, a son of Northern Dancer who was Niarchos' first great horse. The "Golden Greek", as he was known, went to \$1.3-million in 1978 to secure the Keeneland July yearling sale topper and subsequent breed shaper.

As for the overall racing class of Aruna's family, she has the rare distinction of being the seventh consecutive generation in tail-female line to become a stakes winner. This goes back to her sixth dam, the Foundation Mare Islay Mist.

Our subject's fourth dam, Grade 2 winner Kittiwake, is the dam of six-time Grade 1 winner Miss Oceana, French Group 1 winner Kitwood, and multiple graded stakes winner Larida.

Overall, this is a clan with a balance of dirt and turf runners.

Hailing from Mr. Greeley's 11th crop, Aruna is one of her sire's three offspring to win a Grade or Group 1 race last week-end as Western Aristocrat took the Jamaica Handicap (G1) at Belmont Park and Crusade scored in the Emaar Middle Park Stakes (Eng-G1) at Newmarket.

Mr. Greeley, who was euthanized last November due to complications of laminitis, has been a valuable source of two-year olds, sprinters, and milers. With an average winning distance of 6.85 furlongs, his progeny have never been known to excel at distances much beyond nine furlongs.

All of this makes Aruna's upcoming breeze on Churchill Downs' main track very important.

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