



PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Faversham

Pedigree perspectives from the Breeders' Cup World Championships

The results from the 2011 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Churchill Downs provided valuable, if not fortuitous, confirmation of the most basic of conventional wisdom as it pertains to a Thoroughbred's pedigree—the value of the sire line.

Indeed, the only breeding axiom one needed to consider when handicapping the Breeders' Cup was the acknowledgment of the Mr. Prospector sire line's domination of dirt racing. That was countered by the male line of Sadler's Wells,



STEPHANIE'S KITTEN

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which continues to hold sway on grass.

Specifically, the nine Breeders' Cup races on the dirt included 98 total starters, 25 carrying the Mr. Prospector tail-male line. These 25 accounted for six victories, another six finished in the top three.

In effect, about one-quarter of the Breeders' Cup fields on dirt were made up of Mr. Prospector-line runners, who captured two-thirds of the events.

A \$2 win ticket on all 25 representatives of the Mr. Prospector sire line produced \$150—a nifty return on investment of 300%, or a tripling of one's funds.

Correspondingly, the six Breeders' Cup races on turf as-

sembled 75 total starters, 15 of which carried the Sadler's Wells male line. Those 15 scored four victories, and another three hit the board.

Consequently, tail-male descendants of Sadler's Wells made up one-fifth of the starters in Breeders' Cup grass races and won two-thirds of those races.

A \$2 win ticket on all 15 representatives of the Sadler's Wells male line generated \$112.60—a return on investment exceeding 375%.

Simplicity, it seems, was at a premium. Along these lines, Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1) winner Wrote (Ire), by the Sadler's Wells stallion High Chaparral (Ire),



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Reed Palmer/Churchill Downs photo

enjoys a particularly interesting pedigree as his fourth dam, the Forli mare Special, also serves as Sadler's Wells influential grandam.

Inbreeding to this oft-noted family, all tracing to key matriarch *Rough Shod II, also is observed in the pedigrees of Kitten's Joy, sire of Juvenile Fillies Turf (G2) winner Stephanie's Kitten and Kivi, dam of Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G2) winner Regally Ready.

As for the bottom half, the most successful tail-female line in Breeders' Cup history continues to be that of *La Troienne. She is the seventh dam of Juvenile Fillies Turf winner Stephanie's Kitten and the eighth dam of Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1) winner Perfect Shirl. This lifts the number of Breeders' Cup winners from her great American family (#1-s) to eight.

Another ancestress to distinguish herself in last weekend's Breeders' Cup was the Count Fleet mare Fleet Flight (1953), who served as the fifth dam of both Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile Sprint winner Secret Circle and Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) winner St Nicholas Abbey (Ire).

Perhaps as it should be, the pedigrees of this year's Breeders' Cup winners reaffirm the importance of who your Thoroughbreds' parents are.

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Sire lines of Breeders' Cup winners

Sire line	2011 Victories	28-year totals (%)
Nearctic	5	80 (34.5%)
*Sickle	7	56 (24.1%)
*Nasrullah	2	46 (19.8%)
*Turn-to	1	20 (8.6%)
*Ribot	0	9 (3.9%)
*Australian	0	7 (3.0%)
*Teddy	0	6 (2.6%)
*Princequillo	0	4 (1.7%)
*Pharamond II	0	2 (0.8%)
*Eclipse	0	2 (0.8%)
Other	0	6 (2.6%)

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