



BIG RED REVISITED

by Rommy Faversham

Man o' War's race and sire record speaks for itself. But there are still a few issues worth rehashing.

This year's North American breeding season will be the one hundred year anniversary of the great Man o'War's initial season at stud.

Based on a majority of professional polls, it marks the centennial of the twentieth century's greatest American racehorse embarking on his new highly scrutinized commission, that of siring an abundance of superior runners and producers who reveal, generation by generation, a profound shaping of the breed.

All 145 sires listed in Blueblood's STALLION 2020 carry the blood of Man o'War, which would suggest he has become virtually ubiquitous throughout Australia and, by extension, most of the racing world.

Known to the uninitediated as Man o' War, 'Big Red' or just 'Red' to insiders, was perfection in motion. And yet, the lone but glaring blemish on his race record seems to have always deserved a better explanation.

It was Wednesday, August 13, 1919 in the \$5,000 Sanford Memorial Stakes for juveniles going six furlongs at Saratoga Race Course when the brightest of all racing stars, sent off as the heavy 11/20 favorite, failed to reel in an 8/1 third choice ironically named Upset. It was a stupefying event that only grew in consequence with each breathtaking performance Red went on to provide.

At the time, all the blame fell upon Man o' War's jockey, Johnny Loftus for a truly horrendous ride. Suspicion of race fixing

Table 1 is a catalogue of Man o' War's best offspring. It illustrates the large majority out of mares carrying the aforementioned target ancestors.

Table 1 - MAN O' WAR'S BEST OFFSPRING

Runner	Earnings; primary accomplishments	Target ancestor
WAR ADMIRAL	>\$273K; Horse of Year at 3; Triple Crown	Sundridge
CRUSADER	>\$203K; Horse of the Year at 3, Belmont S.	Star Shoot/Migraine
MARS	>\$128K; Travers S., Saranac H., Saratoga H.	Star Shoot
CLYDE VAN DUSEN	>\$122K; Kentucky Derby, Ky. Jockey Club S.	Star Shoot
BATEAU	>\$120K; Champion filly at 3 & 4, Whitney H.	Ecouen / t/f-Fairy Gold
SCAPA FLOW	>\$93K; 2YO Champion colt, Futurity S.	Hamburg
WAR RELIC	>\$ 89,495; Narragansett Special, Mass. H.	Friar Rock
GENIE	>\$84K; Dwyer S., Bowie H., 2nd Belmont S.	Star Shoot
AMERICAN FLAG	>\$82K; 3YO Champion colt, Belmont S.	Roi Herode
EDITH CAVELL	>\$69K; Champion 3YO filly, Pimlico Cup (2X)	mare: Mannie Gray 3X4
WAR GLORY	>\$55K ; Lawrence Realization S., Maryland H.	Sundridge
WAR BEAUTY	>\$42K; Selima S., Matron H., 2nd Arl. Lassie S.	Roi Herode
MARINE	>\$43K; Miller S., Saratoga H., 2nd Whitney H.	Sundridge
WAR EAGLE	>\$42K; Miami Cup H., 2nd Latonia Derby	- - -
STAR SHADOW	>\$39K; 2nd San Antonio H., 2nd San Carlos H.	mare: Sylvabelle 3X2
WAR HERO	>\$38K; Travers S., Saratoga Cup, Huron H.	Orme
IRONSIDES	>\$37K; Manhattan H., Broadway H.	Hamburg/mare: Mannie Gray 4X4
IDENTIFY	>\$36K; Toboggan H., Rockingham Park H.	Orme
SALAMINA	>\$36K; Alabama S., Ladies H., Gallant Fox H.	Roi Herode
FAIRY MANHURST	>\$34K; L. Realization, 2nd Jockey Club Gold Cup	Roi Herode
BROADSIDE	>\$32K; Independence H., Ben Ali S.	- - -
MATEY	>\$31K; Pimlico Futurity, 2nd Whitney H.	Hamburg
MAID AT ARMS	>\$29K; co-Champion 3YO filly, Alabama S.	Orme
BATTLESHIP	>\$29K; U.S./Eng. Grand National Steeplechase H.	- - -
SON O' BATTLE	>\$27K; Toronto Cup Hcp.	Roi Herode / t/f/-St. M.
BOATSWAIN	>\$26K; Withers S., 3rd Preakness S.	Roi Herode
ANNAPOLIS	>\$ 25K; 2nd Wood Memorial, Ardsley H.	- - -
ANCHORS AWEIGH	>\$24K; Autumn Days S., Ardsley H., Chesapeake S.	- - -
DORIMAR	>\$24K; Saratoga Cup, Evening H., 2nd Diana H.	- - -
TAPS	>\$24K; Matron S., Schuylerville S.	mare: Sylvabelle 3X2
REGAL LILY	>\$ 23K; Alabama S., Gazelle S.	Roi Herode
DREADNAUGHT	>\$22K; Matron S.	- - -
BATTLE COLORS	>\$20K; Will Rogers H., 2nd Maryland H.	Sundridge
WAR HAZARD	>\$20K; Alabama S., 2nd New England Oaks	Star Shoot
HOSTILITY	>\$19K; Acorn S., 2nd Coaching Club Amer. Oaks	Orme
JEAN BART	>\$18K; Huron S., 3rd Preakness S.	Ecouen / t/f-Fairy Gold
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE	>\$18K; co-Champion 3YO filly	mare: Mannie Gray 3X4
HARD TACK	>\$16K; Saranac H., Knickerbocker H.	- - -
WAND	>\$13K; Matron S.	Roi Herode
FRILETTE	>\$12K; Beldame H., 2nd C.C.A Oaks, Gazelle S.	Hamburg
WAR KILT	>\$13K; Demoiselle S.	Friar Rock
VALKYR	>\$13K; 2nd Alabama S., 3rd C.C.A. Oaks	Hamburg
CORVETTE	>\$12K; Gazelle H., 2nd Test S., 3rd Beldame H.	Roi Herode / t/f-St. M.
JOLLY TAR	>\$8K; 2nd Travers S., 3rd JC Gold Cup	Hamburg
JUDY O' GRADY	>\$8K; 2nd Jockey Club Gold Cup, Selima S.	- - -
IRONCLAD	>\$6K; Jerome H., 2nd Toboggan H., Swift S.	- - -
SPEED BOAT	>\$6K; Test S., Adirondack H.	Friar Rock
WAR REGALIA	>\$5K; Diana H.	Roi Herode

t/f = tail-female line

St. M.= St. Marguerite

- - - = no female family inbreeding

was in the air for a while but by the time Man o' War's monumental three-year old season had been witnessed newspapers and their readers were already engrossed in what was to be an even bigger fix, the infamous Black Sox scandal in which eight baseball players on the Chicago White Sox conspired with gamblers to throw the 1919 World Series to the underdog Cincinnati Reds.

When it came to sports fixes in post-Great War America, no one was bigger than 'The Fixer', infamous crime figure Arnold Rothstein who quickly became a central character in big league baseball's all-time greatest case of wrongdoing only to walk away untouched.

The definitive biographies of Rothstein (2003) and Man o' War (2006), by David Pietrusza and Dorothy Ours respectively, have helped in providing valuable new clues into the very questionable relationships Arnold Rothstein enjoyed with a number of major players in Red's fateful race. These were a series of important liaisons that included both Johnny Loftus and Upset's rider, William Knapp, long known as "Burglar Bill".

Louis Feustel, Big Red's trainer decided to wait 43 years to share his take on things. "Loftus got paid by racketeers to throw the race. But there was no way to prove it. No horse alive could beat Big Red in a fair race", he was quoted.

Red's doting owner, Sam Riddle originally maintained support for his rider following the shocking loss, but all that changed after a private investigational briefing at the Jockey Club. In the years to follow, whenever showing house guests paintings of the great chestnut with Loftus up, he is said to have huffed at some point, "the greatest regret of my life is that I can't have that - that creature on his back painted out".

Red flags were certainly raised as Loftus and Knapp saw their jockeys' licenses revoked before the start of the 1920 season, never to be re-instituted again. No official explanation was ever given and despite all of their accomplishments as riders, neither man would gain admission into American Racing's Hall of Fame until well after his own death.

As to Rothstein's whereabouts, he certainly figures to have been in town for the 1919 Sanford Memorial, having opened his own luxurious casino, The Brook, in Saratoga Springs earlier that season.

It was a sign of the times but certainly not the industry's desired narrative. Highly probable yet publicly unproven, Red's perfect race record looked to be a victim of the fix, engineered by no less than The Fixer. In the meantime, hardly any of this received the attention it deserved.

But then, it has always been Big Red's career as a sire that has provoked the majority of his controversies.

The fact is, despite his remarkable success, no owner-breeder in the history of the American turf has ever absorbed as much public criticism for his management of a prominent stallion as did Samuel Riddle. In dozens of published accounts over the course of decades, Riddle's handling of Man o' War's stud career has been vigorously questioned in some quarters and condemned in others. ▶▶

The criticisms have always seemed to revolve around three key issues: 1) the smallish size of Man o' War's annual book of mares, 2) the assertions that he was maintained as a virtually private stallion, and 3) the allegations that the broodmares chosen for him were not worthy.

Even as early as 1932, The Thoroughbred Record reacted, "Man o' War has for several years been subjected to unwarranted slander from loose-tongued "experts who list him under the "head" failure as a sire. This is the veriest of hogwash. We have the thought that perhaps too much was expected of him. Perhaps too much was expected of him by persons who have no knowledge of the workings of nature to beget a covey of Super Horses".

Renowned Thoroughbred historian Abram S. Hewitt, who knew Riddle personally, saved a great deal of his most biting commentary for him. In his 1977 book *Sire Lines* Hewitt wrote, "records show that [Man o' War's] mates, by and large, were rubbish. Both their racing records and produce records were badly subnormal, and it is hard to say what Riddle was thinking of, if anything at all." Making sure nobody missed him the first time, Hewitt continued the attack in his 1982 opus, *The Great Breeders and their Methods*, by concluding, "Riddle had one of the worst collections of mares it would have been possible to put together!"

Kent Hollingsworth wrote in *Blood-Horse's* Silver Anniversary Edition, "Man o' War had little or no help from his mates and credit for his high percentage of stakes winners is all his. One can only speculate what Man o' War's record would have been had he been afforded the opportunity of being mated to better mares."

Even Walter Farley's warm and fuzzy semi-fictional Man o' War from 1962, a very popular book quite complimentary of Riddle as the horse's owner, questioned his subsequent mating decisions.

As a result of all of this, many internet web sites dedicated to Man o' War continue to share similar commentary, even though none of them provide any evidence to support the premise.

This long spell of rather personal accusations may have been initiated by simple jealousy. After all, it was not Riddle's genius that bred such an incredible creature. That honor belonged to legendary horseman and premier racing authority, August Belmont II. Riddle is reported to have also needed some rare urging from his wife Elizabeth as well as trainer Feustel, to land the chestnut colt at the 1918 Saratoga Yearling sales with a winning bid of five thousand dollars. Even for a man of Riddle's means, it was as life-changing as it comes.

The Man o' War Stallion Formula

Actually, the means by which broodmares were selected as Big Red's mating partners during his earliest years at stud were nothing short of extraordinary. Riddle began by hiring Elizabeth Daingerfield as his farm manager. One of America's foremost horsewomen, she was the daughter of Major Foxhall Daingerfield

MAN O' WAR, Chestnut colt, 1917

FAIR PLAY Ch 1905	Hastings	Spendthrift	Australian	West Australian	7a
			Aerolite	Emilia	11
		Cinderella	Tomahawk	Lexington	12a
			Manna	Florine	A3
				1 King Tom	3n
	Fairy Gold	Bend Or	Doncaster	Mincemeat	3j
			Rouge Rose	Brown Bread	16a
		Dame Masham		Tartlet	21a
			Galliard	1 Stockwell	3n
			Pauline	Marigold	5e
MAHUBAH B 1910	Rock Sand	Sainfoin	Springfield	Thormanby	4f
			Sanda	Ellen Horne	1j
		Roquebrune		Galopin	3i
			St Simon	Mavis	13
			St Marguerite	Hermit	5d
	Merry Token	Merry Hampton	Hampton	Lady Masham	9e
			Doll Tearsheet	St Albans	2u
		Mizpah	Macgregor	Viridis	12c
			Underhand Mare	Wenlock	4d
				Sandal	2g

and the niece of James R. Keene who together built Castleton Stud into the nation's foremost thoroughbred nursery both before and after the turn of the twentieth century. Castleton became home to the greatest runners and sires of its period including the great Domino, his sons Commando and Colin, as well as the foundation stallion Ben Brush and his heirs.

When it came to choosing Big Red's original collection of European broodmares, Elizabeth Daingerfield followed the fortuitous judgement of her father by commissioning the well-known English bloodstock agent and author William Allison. Almost thirty years earlier at the 1891 and 1892 Tattersalls December sales, Allison picked out a collection of mares for Castleton who would go on to found the subsequent families of many of America's predominant sire lines, including Peter Pan and his sons Pennant and Black Toney, as well as Sweep and Broomstick.

Then in 1902 and 1903, for the account of August Belmont II, Allison secured Fairy Gold, the subsequent dam of Red's sire Fair Play and Merry Token, Man o' War's eventual grandam. By the time Red entered stud, William Allison, a provocative London turf writer was already responsible for much of the development of all three great American sire lines of the early twentieth century: Domino, Ben Brush and Fair Play - an awesome body of work. Allison also became a polarizing figure for his championing of C. Bruce Lowe's "Figure System", editing and publishing the controversial breeding theories after the author's death.

The broodmares selected by Allison for Samuel Riddle and his favored nephew-in-law Walter Jeffords were an eclectic band of English, Irish and French-breds, most of them purchased at the 1920 Tattersalls December sales. A few had superior runners within their immediate family but none had any history of racing ability. What

they did all seem to have in common were pedigrees featuring ancestors carrying family strains complementary to those of Man o' War.

As such, Allison's mares when imported to Lexington, Kentucky and bred to their intended stallion would create a series of female family inbreeding patterns that had already appeared in the pedigrees of very prominent European horses.

Allison selected several mares by the French sire ROI HERODE whose third dam was Rouge Rose (GB), dam of Bend Or, Fair Play's broodmare sire. Inbreeding to Rouge Rose had already been noted within the pedigree of England's 1913 undefeated juvenile champion and breed-shaping sire, The Tetrarch.

The English agent also procured a daughter of the rather obscure French sire ECOUEN who descended from the family of Fair Play, both sharing a common fifth dam, the influential matriarch Maid of Masham.

Another of Allison's "target ancestors" was the foundation sire SUNDRIDGE (GB) whose dam, Sierra (GB) was a full sister to Sainfoin (GB), sire of Man o' War's broodmare sire Rock Sand (GB).

Allison acquired several other prospective broodmares with family ties to Man o' War along their TAIL-FEMALE LINE. These included the aforementioned Fairy Gold as well as St. Marguerite, the grandam of Rock Sand.

Meanwhile, back in Kentucky, Elizabeth Daingerfield was assembling a domestic set of broodmares, utilizing the same type of criteria as William Allison. Her acquisitions came almost exclusively from the paddocks of John P. Madden and Harry Payne Whitney, arguably the nation's foremost commercial and private breeders, respectively.

Daingerfield's collection included several daughters of STAR SHOOT, a former English import who became a five-time leading American

sire while standing at John Madden's Hamburg Place. Star Shoot's fourth dam was Maid of Masham from whom, as previously noted, Fair Play descended.

Madden's legendary farm would bear the name of the sensational two-year old he sold for a record amount (\$50,001) granting his nursery's original purchase. The colt, HAMBURG, would eventually come into the possession of the Whitney family for whom he became a leading sire. Hamburg's broodmare sire Fellowcraft was a full brother to Spendthrift, Man o' War's paternal great grandsire, rendering him another suitable target ancestor.

Another of Red's target ancestors identified by Daingerfield was the leading English sire ORME whose blood had become accessible in the U.S. Orme's dam, Angelica, was a full sister to Rock Sand's broodmare sire, St. Simon.

MIGRAINE was an undistinguished sire with no known stakes winners who, nevertheless, met the desired standard as a half-brother to Big Red's paternal grandsire Hastings.

A half-brother to Fair Play, 1916 Belmont Stakes winner and useful sire FRIAR ROCK was another whose blood fit the bill.

Finally, Daingerfield acquired several other Madden and Whitney-bred broodmare prospects who were CLOSELY INBRED TO MANNIE GRAY (dam of Domino) AND SYLVABELLE (grandam of Broomstick). These individuals did not carry target ancestors per se, but did convey important inbreeding patterns to the families of two of the most influential sires of the era.

As with Allison, Daingerfield's choices did not show any preference for mares with better race and/or produce records, even though Riddle and Jeffords were both certainly capable of affording them.

A review of mares bred to Man o' War by outside breeders showed a majority with pedigrees carrying these same target ancestors. Clearly, the strategy was intentional and no coincidence.

Of course, the relatively limited number of available broodmares who carried at least one of Red's target ancestors made breeding him to mares without his targets unavoidable. As such, 110 or 29% of his total foals were out of mares who did not carry any.

Also, for a number of different reasons, the so-called best conventional broodmare candidates, as determined by racing ability and/or stakes producer status, were often never available to Man o' War. First of all, most of the best American race mares and producers of the 1920s and 30s were owned by private farms who had their own prominent stallions to support. Other mares were unavailable simply due to their distance from Kentucky. Another group had pedigrees unacceptable for Big Red as their union created undesirably close inbreeding patterns, particularly involving Fair Play.

One of the most influential farms of the period, with female champions and their producers galore, Idle Hour Farm was owned by Col. Edward R. Bradley who never allowed a single



A soldier inspects big red who is help by his faithful groom Will Harbut

mare of his to be bred to Big Red. A heavy gambler especially on his own runners, Bradley considered Fair Play blood too hot-blooded and unreliable for his purposes. As a result, blue hens as good as the supreme matriarch La Troienne never had a chance to foal a son or daughter of Man o' War.

Man o' War was bred to five different two and/or three-year old filly champions. Most of the others were too far away, committed to their own farms' stallions or had an unfeasible pedigree.

The notion that Riddle and Jeffords were averse to sharing Man o' War's blood with outside breeders is just not correct. When Red was retired at three, Riddle told the Thoroughbred Record, "he was in trust for the American people as an invaluable instrument for the improvement of the breed". Nonetheless, it was exceedingly difficult to own one of the relatively small number of outside mares to be bred to Red. And yet, outside breeders accounted for 42% of Man o' War's stakes winners. They also accounted for 43% of the total foals bred during Red's phenomenal first five years at stud, when he sired an amazing 30% stakes winners.

In a 2000 interview, former chairman of the Jockey Club Ogden Phipps bristled, "nobody who ever had a nicely bred mare got to breed to Man o' War". This was an odd statement considering his own mother Gladys Mills Phipps of famed Wheatley Stable owned and bred 1939 Acorn Stakes winner Hostility by Man o' War having sent him her full sister to Sir Gallahad III, a French classic winner who became a three-time leading sire in the U.S. Whatever the slight, Phipps did hit the jackpot later on when he bred to Red's best son, Riddle's War Admiral and got a cluster of gems including Busanda, dam of the great Buckpasser.

In the end, the formulaic approach initiated by Allison and Daingerfield accounted for 71% of Red's foals and, not unexpectedly, resulted in remarkable breed-shaping success. Of the 271 foals with target ancestors, 53 or 19.6% were stakes winners. Conversely, Man o' War's 110 foals without target ancestors yielded 13 or 11.8% stakes winners. A difference of 66%.

Sam Riddle did set an annual limit of twenty-five broodmares for his franchise. Unsuccessful gestations brought the surviving foal count down to around seventeen. Compared to the other highly regarded sires of the period, this was an above average amount. Broomstick and Fair Play averaged only eleven and thirteen live foals, respectively. Star Shoot and Sir Gallahad III were at the high end, averaging 28 and 24 live foals per year. And still, Riddle, continues to suffer endless criticism for supplying Man o' War with a decidedly undersized book.

Not upping Big Red's foal crop size really only hurt the horse statistically. What seemed to be of prime concern to Riddle and Jeffords was maintaining the value of Man o' War blood by controlling its spread through only his better progeny as much as possible. Frequent gelding of Red's lesser colts kept the cheaper male line blood at a minimum. Retaining his best sons to stand beside their sire at Riddle's Faraway Farm provided breeders with some in-house alternatives when not able to get to Man o' War himself. The formula gained further credence as Man o' War's target ancestors became very prominent in the dams of his sons' best offspring as well.

Riddle was a spry sixty-year old when Big Red entered stud. He and his nephew were undoubtedly looking forward to a very bright future. Surely, one of their concerns was to avoid getting beat in the big races by 'their own' ►►

blood'. This, they were able to do all the way up to November 1st, 1938 and America's "Race of the Century" when Red's best son, Riddle's Triple Crown winner War Admiral was soundly beaten by Red's paternal grandson, a former claiming horse, Seabiscuit, by Hard Tack.

Riddle later acknowledged his mistakes, admitting he "fell for the bait". His love of 'Cup' racing meant competing in events run at 1 3/4 and two miles in the late summer. This only served to dull War Admiral's tactical speed. The two could have met on no less than five different occasions earlier on but as America's premier turf writer John Hervey put it, "The Admiral was ready for the post and the older horse declined the combat". The long-forgotten series of delays by the Seabiscuit camp clearly helped to achieve one of the most famous victories in American history.

In 1928, Man o' War takes home the sire title if former juvenile champion and highly rated four-year old handicapper Scapa Flow had not suffered a fatal breakdown in the Brooklyn Handicap while in contention at the furlong pole. At the time, he was one of the best handicap horses in the country.

In 1929, Man o' War collects the sire title if his Kentucky Derby-winning son Clyde Van Dusen does not get nailed on the wire in the Latonia Derby after badly swerving in deep stretch, opening up the rail for a 68-to-one longshot.

In 1932, Man o' War's talented son, Boatswain received a bum ride in the Preakness Stakes, losing by a head and a nose. Hervey wrote, "[Boatswain] had the lead all the way until the last few strides and could hardly have lost had Hanford not made the error of swinging too wide with him when he turned for home." After

Hamburg. Owned and bred by leading breeder C.V. Whitney, the 1941 sophomore Sky Raider was much the best in his first two starts but got injured in his third, never to race again.

Man o' War's success as a broodmare sire has been even more dramatically under-appreciated. He never won a single broodmare sire title, ranking second on ten occasions and in the top ten a total of 22 times. Dominating the title during this period was the aforementioned Sir Gallahad III, a record twelve-time broodmare sire champion, eight of those with Man o' War as a very close runner-up. As Table 2 shows, Sir Gallahad's outperformance of Man o' War was by sheer numbers alone. Each stallion's average annual foal count, Sir Gallahad III at 24 and Big Red about 17, resulted in the former having almost a hundred more producing daughters and almost a thousand more maternal grandchildren than Red. In terms of quality, however, Red's daughters were 8.9% / 6.6% or 35% more likely than Sir Gallahad mares to foal a stakes winner. As things turned out, it would have only taken a few more nice producers and Big Red could have been the most celebrated broodmare sire in twentieth century America. As it was, a quarter (25%) of Man o' War's male offspring became stakes winners, while almost half (48%) of his daughters became stakes winners and/or the dams of stakes winners.

Acknowledged for his extraordinary intelligence, Big Red was one of the only known horses who enjoyed eating oranges.

For the past one hundred years, or approximately nine equine generations, Man o'War has been America's most potent source of class and stamina. His influence initially gravitated toward the most prestigious events run in New York state. His blood has served as an invaluable counterbalance to all of America's speed lines, particularly those with origins from Phalaris.

By the 1980s, studies published in the *Thoroughbred Times* showed that the prevalence and concentration of Man o' War's blood was significantly higher in populations made up of multiple Grade or Group 1 winners than in random control groups.

In the U.S., Big Red has become the most popular among currently endangered sire lines. With turn-of-the-century savior Tiznow still not revealing a bonified torch carrier, the question is becoming, will the male line of Man o' War survive into the second half of the twenty-first century?

Perhaps, the greatest praise for Big Red came from *The Thoroughbred Record's* Neil Newman better known to his readers as 'Roamer', who actually put to pen, "despite a lukewarm feeling for Man o' War personally, and irrespective of the antipathy with which I have always regarded his connections, I am nevertheless forced to admit he was a super horse in all that the term implies." **BB**

Table 2 - BROODMARE SIRE COMPARISONS

	Man o' War	Sir Gallahad III
producing daughters / stakes-winning producers	177 / 113 (63.8%)	276 / 164 (59.4%)
foals / stakes winners	1,387 / 124 (8.9%)	2,349 / 156 (6.6%)

Even by his owner's biggest critics, Man o' War's performance at stud was characterized, as somewhere between superb and phenomenal. He was the sire of 381 named foals over twenty-two crops. For a long time, the official count on the number of his stakes winners was 64, but most recently Man o' War researcher Rosana Rivera has reported on two others, Roan Antelope and Drafted, who became stakes winners after their importation to Puerto Rico. The former was a particularly interesting individual, a rare grey son of Man o' War who won 63 of 147 races on the Caribbean island. His local claim to fame: at twelve, he became the oldest stakes winner in Puerto Rican history. This lifts Red's percentage of stakes winners to a very robust 17.2%.

An English pedigree with only an American tail-male line, Man o' War figures to have been particularly hindered by the repressive Jersey Act of 1913 barring his progeny from otherwise receptive markets in England and Ireland. His only producing son outside the U.S. was Tsukitoma (Jpn; 1932), a foundation stallion in Japan who sired six classic winners (on turf) while ranking among the top five Japanese sires every year between 1946 and 1953 and a champion broodmare sire four times

Man o'War earned only one sire title, in 1926, when he set a world record with his progeny earnings. He was second on the sires' list three times and was among the top twenty a total of thirteen times. A closer look, however, suggests that only a handful of jockey errors or terrible racing luck was the difference in capturing up to five more sire titles.

In 1925, Man o'War wins the sire title had his juvenile son and future American Hall of Famer Crusader not encountered severe early traffic trouble in the ultra-rich Pimlico Futurity. The *Daily Racing Form* reported, "crowded back going into the first turn, easily fastest at the end".

beating the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner convincingly in the Withers Stakes, Boatswain was made "the ruling choice" for the American Derby. Unfortunately, the colt arrived by train in Chicago dead lame, never to race again. Boatswain's bad luck would cost his sire a title and, given the ultimate mediocrity of the crop, a good shot at a championship for the star-crossed three-year old colt.

In 1937, Man o' War was denied yet another sire title when Rosemont caught Seabiscuit on the wire in the \$136,800 Santa Anita Handicap. The race was featured in the 2003 hit film *Seabiscuit* and included the post-race confession by Seabiscuit's rider Red Pollard that he could not see out of his right eye and therefore never saw the well-known closer until it was too late. The film's screenplay was based on a best-selling non-fiction, both of which played it fast and loose with many of the actual details whenever they were inconsistent with the desired narrative. Those who have seen the movie or read the book know that the likeness of War Admiral's owner, Sam Riddle was 'for dramatic purposes' saddled with the role of a poorly casted villain.

There are no consolation prizes. Nonetheless, these five instances show where an antagonistic turn cost Big Red a sire title.

Big Red should also be credited with at least one more three-year old championship as his son, War Glory, a three-quarter brother to War Admiral, clearly had a better sophomore year (1933) than Head Play, beating him both times they met. Top turf writers agreed. Prior to 1936, U.S. champions were chosen in a very unofficial and arbitrary fashion. Three-year old colts were, by far, Man o' War's best expression.

The list of 'ones that got away' was led by Sky Raider, a rare black son of Man o' War out of two and three-year old champion filly Top Flight whose pedigree featured the target