Guineas hero Camelot a bona fide Triple Crown threat

Sadler's Wells' consummate son, the late, great runner and stallion Montjeu (Ire), was complimented by his first English Two Thousand Guineas (Eng-G1) winner last Saturday as undefeated Camelot found his best stride in time to capture the classic over the Rowley Mile at Newmarket Racecourse.

It was a memorable sixth English Guineas victory for trainer



Aidan O'Brien and the first with his able son Joseph in the irons. Remarkably, all six of O'Brien's wins have come in his three-year olds' seasonal debuts.

Camelot's juvenile season consisted of two authoritative performances in onemile tests, the second

coming at Doncaster in the Racing Post Trophy Stakes (Eng-G1) on October 22.

Pedigree-wise, the Guineas would appear to be the toughest of the three classics for Camelot to win. No surprise then, British bookmakers have made him the odds-on favorite for the 1½-mile Investec Derby (Eng-G1) on June 2. More interestingly, Camelot is posted at odds of 3-to-1 to become the first horse since the legendary Nijinsky II in 1970 to complete England's Triple Crown by winning the nearly 1½-mile Ladbrokes St. Leger Stakes (Eng-G1) at Doncaster in September.

Bred by Sheikh Abdulla bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Camelot was the highest-priced Montjeu yearling in 2010 when purchased by the Coolmore partnership of Derrick Smith, Michael Tabor and Susan Magnier for 525,000 guineas (\$875,936) at the Tattersalls October yearling sale.

He is the second winner from as many starters out of the multiple stakes-winning Kingmambo mare Tarfah.

Unraced at two, Tarfah won five of her eight lifetime starts from age three to five, including Newmarket's 1½-mile VCBET Dahlia Stakes (Eng-G3).

Further back, Camelot's family, both immediate and extended, has enjoyed a relatively unremarkable amount of success.

Most notably, his fourth dam, One Over Parr, by Reform, won the 1975 Cheshire Oaks (Eng-G3) and Yorkshire Oaks (Eng-G3), a year after her full sister, Polygamy, captured the Epsom Oaks (Eng-G1).

In terms of history and legend, Camelot's tail female line does, rather fittingly, trace to one of the most amazing female Thoroughbreds of all time.

His 17th dam is none other than Hungarian supermare Kincsem, who became a household name in the late 1870s throughout Europe when she won a stunning 54 races without suffering a single defeat.

Prior to his untimely death from septicaemia in late March, Montjeu was one of Europe's most successful classic sires, a title challenged only by fellow Coolmore elite sire Galileo (Ire).

Camelot, b. c., 2009				
Montjeu (Ire) 96 1225 fls, 112 SWs SI 3.15 DI=0.89	Sadler's Wells 81 6 wins, \$713,690 Champion 2191 fls, 326 SWs SI 3.84 DI=2.82	Northern Dancer 61 636 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nearctic 54	=Nearco (Ity) 35 *Lady Angela 44
			Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
		Fairy Bridge 75 9 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.29	Bold Reason 68	Hail to Reason 58 Lalun 52
			Special 69	*Forli 63 Thong 64
	=Floripedes (Fr) 85 2 wins, \$95,930 Champion 10 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.00	=Top Ville (Ire) 76 423 fls, 43 SWs SI 2.16 DI=0.94	=High Top (GB) 69	=Derring-Do (GB) 61 =Camenae (GB) 61
			*Sega Ville 68	=Charlottesville (GB) 57 =La Sega (Fr) 59
		=Toute Cy (Fr) 79 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.57	=Tennyson (Fr) 70	*Val de Loir 59 =Tidra (Fr) 64
			=Adele Toumignon (Ire) 71	=Zeddaan (GB) 65 =Alvorada (Fr) 60
Tarfah 01 2 fls, 1 SW DI=1.30	Kingmambo 90 5 wins, \$1,466,278,SW 894 fls, 92 SWs SI 2.93 DI=2.72	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
			Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46
		Miesque 84 14 fls, 5 SWs DI=1.16	Nureyev 77	Northern Dancer 61 Special 69
			Pasadoble 79	Prove Out 69 *Santa Quilla 70
	Fickle (GB) 96 2 wins, \$29,722, SW 5 fls, 1 SW DI=1.67	Danehill 86 2406 fls, 354 SWs SI 3.60 DI=1.89	Danzig 77	Northern Dancer 61 Pas de Nom 68
			Razyana 81	His Majesty 68 Spring Adieu 74
		=Fade (GB) 88 10 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.50	=Persepolis (Fr) 79	=Kalamoun (GB) 70 Perlita (Fr) 72
			=One Over Parr (GB) 72	=Reform (GB) 64 =Seventh Bride (GB) 66

Montjeu's tally of three Derby winners and two St. Leger winners puts his progeny aiming to go long in good stead.

Crossing a son of Sadlers Wells with a Kingmambo broodmare is actually the reversal of one of Europe's most effective ongoing affinities, one that appears in the pedigrees of a growing list of top runners, including Henrythenavigator and Divine Proportions.

More benefits derive from a double dose of the Rough Shod family, in this case her granddaughter Special.

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