



PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Faversham

Crossing English Channel nets Queen's Plate winner

Leading at every point of call, Strait of Dover scored his fourth victory in a row to capture the 153rd running of the Queen's Plate Stakes by 1¼ lengths in track record time at Woodbine on June 24.

The first leg of the Canadian Triple Crown, the Queen's Plate represents North America's oldest continuously run stakes, beginning in 1860.

Strait of Dover traveled the 1¼-mile classic for Canadian-bred three-year olds in 2:01.99, besting the previous record of 2:02.08 for Woodbine's synthetic Polytrack surface set by Pachattack in 2010.

Unbeaten at three, the British Columbia-homebred was coming off a 6½-length romp in Woodbine's Marine Stakes on May 12.

With a career mark of four wins from seven starts and a bankroll of \$764,028, Strait of Dover will bypass the Triple Crown's second leg, the Prince of Wales Stakes at Fort Erie on July 15, and instead prepare for the third and final leg, the Breeders' Stakes at 1½ miles on turf at Woodbine on August 5.

Strait of Dover's owners, Wally and Terry Leong's Canyon Farms, also bred the dark bay or brown colt, having acquired his dam, Bahrain Star, by Danzig, for \$27,000 at the 2002 Keeneland November breeding stock sale.

Bahrain Star was in foal to Smart Strike during the time of her purchase, and the resultant foal, our subject's older three-quarter sister, was named Starlite Strike. Starlite Strike won the 2006 Northlands Oaks at Northlands Park and the 2007 BC Cup Distaff Handicap at Hastings Park and placed in five other stakes races at Hastings.

In all, Bahrain Star produced six winners from 11 starters, with her two stakes winners coming from the Smart Strike line.

Strait of Dover's second dam, multiple winner Antigua Rose (GB), was the product of a pair of champions, Mill Reef and Rose Bowl, all three owned and/or bred by the distinguished horseman Paul Mellon.



STRAIT OF DOVER
Michael Burns/WEG photo

Strait of Dover, dk. b. or br., c., 2009

English Channel 02 146 fls, 4 SWs SI 1.80 DI=2.64	Smart Strike 92 6 wins, \$337,376, SW 1047 fls, 84 SWs SI 2.77 DI=3.38	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
		Classy 'n Smart 81 9 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.29	Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46
	Belva 98 Unraced 7 fls, 1 SW DI=1.57	Theatrical (Ire) 82 1020 fls, 84 SWs SI 2.88 DI=1.35	Smarten 76	Cyane 59 Smartaire 62
		Committed 80 10 fls, 3 SWs DI=6.00	No Class 74	Nodouble 65 Classy Quillo 69
Bahrain Star 91 12 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.59	Danzig 77 3 wins, \$32,400 1074 fls, 202 SWs SI 5.30 DI=4.71	Northern Dancer 61 636 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nureyev 77	Northern Dancer 61 Special 69
		Pas de Nom 68 11 fls, 0 SWs DI=11.00	Tree of Knowledge (Ire) 77	Sassafras (Fr) 67 Sensibility 71
	Antigua Rose (GB) 85 3 wins, \$25,805 6 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.97	Mill Reef 68 379 fls, 62 SWs SI 5.01 DI=3.73	Hagley 67	Olden Times 58 Teo Pepi 61
		Rose Bowl 72 10 fls, 4 SWs DI=10.33	Minstinguette 75	Boldnesian 63 Royal Warrant 55
			Nearctic 54	=Nearco (Itly) 35 *Lady Angela 44
			Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
			Admiral's Voyage 59	Crafty Admiral 48 Olympia Lou 52
			*Petitioner 52	=Petition (GB) 44 =Steady Aim (GB) 43
			Never Bend 60	*Nasrullah 40 Lalun 52
			Milan Mill 62	*Princiquillo 40 Virginia Water 53
			Habitat 66	Sir Gaylord 59 Little Hut 52
			*Roseliere 65	*Misti 58 =Peace Rose (Fr) 59

Rose Bowl, Strait of Dover's third dam, outran super filly Allez France as well as top-flight males in the 1975 Champion Stakes (Eng-G1) at age three and was later named 1976 champion older mare in England.

Another classic winner, Strait of Dover's fourth dam *Rose-liere was France's 1968 champion three-year old filly after taking the Prix de Diane (French Oaks) and Prix Vermeille.

This year's Queen's Plate winner hails from the first crop of English Channel, who stands at Lane's End Farm in Versailles, Kentucky, along with his sire, Smart Strike, who led the 2007 North American general sire list, and that one's most celebrated son, two-time Horse of the Year Curlin.

English Channel's racing career culminated in similar fashion to his broodmare sire Theatrical (Ire). Both collected the Eclipse Award for champion turf male at the age of five after taking the Breeder's Cup Turf (G1).

As such, it would not be a stretch to suspect that, like his damsire, English Channel's offspring will tend to get better as they get older.

As for the right blend, English Channel's first important winner follows a pedigree pattern that already has come up big.

The cross of Smart Strike with Danzig-line broodmares has yielded Canadian Horse of the Year Soaring Free, two-time champion Lookin At Lucky, and Grade 1 winner Shadow Cast.

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



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