



Less Mr. Prospector influence in pedigrees of Breeders' Cup winners

by Rommy Faversham

This year's winners of the Breeders' Cup World Championships provided fewer new pedigrees to contemplate since three of them, Zenyatta, Conduit (Ire), and Goldikova (Ire), were returning winners from a season ago, while another, Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic (G1) heroine Life Is Sweet, is a full sister to 2004 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) winner Sweet Catomine.

Last year, eight of the 14 Breeders' Cup winners descended from the Mr. Prospector sire line. This year, only two were of that stirp.

This year's leading male line was Northern Dancer's with six—three winners each through his son Danzig and grandson Storm Cat.

Further back, all 14 winners trace in tail-male to the great early 20th century stallion Phalaris.

As for the winners' tail-female lines, as is the norm, relationships were far more uncommon with 12 of the winners tracing back to completely different families.

The closest matriarch common to two of the winners would be Paraffin (1870), the taproot mare of Capt. Kaziemierz Bobinski's and Lt. Col. Stefan Count Zamoyski's family 1-I. She is the tenth dam of Sentient Jet Filly and Mare Sprint (G1) winner Informed Decision and the 14th dam of Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) winner Conduit.

Under the category of recognizable patterns, it turned out to be another good Breeders' Cup for the few runners whose pedigrees featured a pair of full brothers.

Informed Decision's family tree features a 5x2 cross of *Ribot's influential sons Graustark and His Majesty. The filly's fourth paternal sire, Majestic Light, is a close relative.

Vale of York (Ire), who won the Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), is the first major winner with a pedigree demonstrating the rarer striking cross of the champion European miler Kris and his brother English champion two-year-old male Diesis (GB), each appearing in the third generation.

One well-practiced pattern, especially among American-breds, is the cross of Seattle Slew over Mr. Prospector. These two breedshapers, each a descendant of the key matriarch Myrtlewood, appear in the pedigrees of Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) winner She Be Wild (3x3) as well as Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint winner California Flag (2x3). The Seattle Slew-Mr. Prospector nick also can be found in the pedigrees of previous Breeders' Cup winners Folklore and Tempera.

When Conduit returned to capture the Breeders' Cup Turf, he joined High Chaparral (Ire) as the race's only two-time winners.



Benoit & Associates photo

CONDUIT



Benoit & Associates photo

ZENYATTA

2009 Breeders' Cup winners

Race	Winner
Breeders' Cup Classic (G1)	Zenyatta
Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Turf (G1)	Conduit (Ire)
Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1)	Furthest Land
TVG Breeders' Cup Mile (G1)	Goldikova (Ire)
Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1)	Vale of York (Ire)
Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1)	Dancing in Silks
Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint	California Flag
Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G2)	Pounced
Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic (G1)	Life Is Sweet
Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint (G1)	Informed Decision
Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1)	Midday (GB)
Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1)	She Be Wild
Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf	Tapitsfly
Breeders' Cup Marathon	Man of Iron

This is particularly interesting since their pedigrees feature a reverse cross of the other.

Conduit is by the Darshaan stallion Dalakhani out of a Sadler's Wells mare. His predecessor High Chaparral is by Sadler's Wells out of a Darshaan mare. Each of these pairings creates inbreeding to the blue hen Lalun. Islington (Ire), winner of the 2003 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1) is another by Sadler's Wells out of a daughter of Darshaan.

Classic queen Zenyatta's sire line and broodmare sire line, that of Mr. Prospector over Roberto, brings together their similarly bred dams, the Nashua mares Gold Digger and Bramalea, respectively. This pattern has appeared in the pedigrees of previous Breeders' Cup winners Johar, Midshipman, and Maram. Conversely, 1993 Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) winner Hollywood Wildcat illustrates the reverse cross of Roberto over Mr. Prospector.

Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G2) winner Pounced is by Rahy out of a Storm Cat mare. Rahy, a sire well known for his affinity with Northern Dancer-line mares, also is the sire of 2001 Breeders' Cup Turf winner Fantastic Light.

Back-to-back Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) winner Goldikova features the valuable cross of Danzig over Blushing Groom (Fr). Recent top-class runners sporting this successful combination include 2008 Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1) winner Forever Together.

Goldikova also figures to have benefited from a highly accomplished female family as her dam was a full sister to a Group 1 winner and her next three dams all were of Group 1 caliber.

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