

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

PRIX MORNAY CASINOS BARRIERE-G1, €250,000, Deauville, 8-31, 2yo, c/f, 6fT, 1:14, gd/sf.

1--#**▲WHIPPER, 126, c, 2, by Miesque's Son**

1st Dam: Myth To Reality (Fr) (MSW & GSP-Fr, \$114,752), by Sadler's Wells

2nd Dam: Millieme (Ire), by Mill Reef

3rd Dam: Hardiemma (GB), by Hardicanute (GB) (\$4,000 wnl '01 KEENOV). O-E Zaccour; B-Flaxman Holdings Ltd; T-Robert Collet; J-Sebastien Maillot; €142,850. Lifetime Record: 5 starts, 2 wins, 3 places, €168,550. * 1/2 to Assos (Alleged), SW & GSP-Fr, \$122,072.

Click for the racingpost.co.uk chart or the [free brisnet.com](http://free.brisnet.com) catalogue-style pedigree.

As many people have learned to their cost, running a large breeding operation can be tremendously expensive--to the extent that even the wealthiest of owners sometimes have to try to balance the books by selling on the open market.

But how do these powerful owner-breeders obtain a realistic price for their stock? Various ploys have been tried in attempts to persuade would-be buyers that the animals on offer aren't simply substandard rejects. For example, some have tried selling all their colts one year and all their fillies the next year, which works well in the marketplace, but leaves an unbalanced racing operation.

Perhaps the best way for an owner-breeder to stimulate interest in their horses at the sales is simply to sell some youngsters which develop into very good winners. This approach takes time, but it is going to pay dividends for the Niarchos family, who operate Flaxman Holdings in the U.S.

Buyers were perhaps too suspicious at Keeneland in 1989 when Flaxman Holdings offered a well-bred Woodman colt, which apparently failed to reach his modest reserve. Named Hector Protector, he carried the Niarchos colors to victory in five Group 1 contests, including a Classic.

Buyers were also somewhat underwhelmed when a

well-bred Sadler's Wells colt was part of the 1996 Deauville consignment from the Niarchoses' Haras du Fresnay-le-Buffard. After he had failed to reach his reserve, a half-share was sold privately and the colt--Dream Well--proceeded to win both the G1 French Derby and G1 Irish Derby in the Niarchos colors.

Surely, the Niarchos yearlings will never again be seen simply as rejects now that the family has sold another Classic winner, in this year's G1 Epsom Derby winner Kris Kin. After that victory, the Fresnay-le-Buffard manager Tim Richardson explained, "Obviously, we would love to have him running in our own colours, but we do have a policy of selling certain yearlings. The horse was raised in America and was a nice yearling, but our budget for the year is based on selling a certain number, and that helps pay for the whole operation."

The Flaxman breeding operation was again in outstanding form on Sunday, when two of its alumni--Aldebaran and Whipper--scored Grade I victories. While Aldebaran's win was widely expected, virtually no one anticipated Whipper's success at odds of over 25-1 in the Prix Morny. Remarkably, this well-connected colt by Miesque's Son was sold for only \$4,000 as a weanling, as part of the Lane's End consignment.

Whipper's lack of popularity at the sales in 2001 no doubt owed quite a lot to his sire, who attracted only 15 mares the following spring in his sixth and last season at Three Chimneys Farm. Miesque's Son has since been transferred to Lakeview Thoroughbred Farm in California, where his powerful bloodlines may be better appreciated.

Like Aldebaran, Miesque's Son was sired by Mr. Prospector from one of the Niarchos family's very best broodmares. In fact, his dam Miesque must be considered one of the best mares of recent times. Although this magnificent daughter of Nureyev could finish only third in the Prix Morny on her stakes debut, she suffered only three more defeats during a 16-race career which yielded 10 Group wins, including Classics in Britain and France and two runnings of the GI Breeders' Cup Mile.

Miesque has since proved similarly effective as a broodmare. When her very promising A.P. Indy colt Mingun won the G3 Meld S. in July, he became her fifth stakes winner and fourth at Group level. The

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predecessors include two Classic winners in Kingmambo (G1 French 2000 Guineas) and East of the Moon (G1 French 1000 Guineas and Oaks) and Kingmambo's brother Miesque's Son.

Miesque's Son had a distinctly unusual record as a racehorse, with physical problems and injury limiting him to only four starts before the age of four. He won none of them, but finally realised his potential at four, when he won the G3 Prix de Ris-Orangis over six furlongs and finished second in two Group 1 events, with one defeat being by only a head in the Prix de la Foret.

Whether this record justified an initial fee of \$20,000 when he retired is open to question, but he attracted 63 mares in his first season in '97. Although his fee fell slightly in his second season, so did his book (to 55 mares), and it was a similar story in his third year (fee \$15,000, book 42 mares). By his fourth year his fee had been halved to \$10,000 and this year it was only \$4,000.

Clearly, Miesque's Son hasn't enjoyed anything like the same degree of success that has made Kingmambo one of the most respected stallions in Kentucky. His best representative prior to Whipper was his second-crop son Miesque's Approval, who is a Grade III winner on turf, and he has also done well with Private Son, who failed by only a neck to beat Cetewayo in last year's GIII Stars and Stripes Breeders' Cup Turf H.

Kingmambo, of course, initially made his name as a sire through his exceptional Japanese son El Condor Pasa, who put up such a good effort against Montjeu in the 1999 Arc. One striking aspect of El Condor Pasa's pedigree was that his sire was out of a mare by Nureyev, while his dam Saddlers Gal was by Nureyev's three-parts brother Sadler's Wells. The Niarchos team took the hint and sent Sadler's Wells' talented daughter Myth to Reality to Miesque's Son in 2000, with Whipper being the result. With two Group 1 winners bred to this pattern, the Nureyev/Sadler's Wells cross clearly merits further exploration.

Whipper may have commanded little respect in the sales ring, but he has some very impressive bloodlines. His second dam, Millieme, was a sister to Shirley Heights, a winner of the Derby and Irish Derby who developed into a very good stallion. Millieme was also a half-sister to Bempton, a very good broodmare who ranks as the second dam of the champion middle-distance horse Pentire.

It bodes well for Whipper's prospects that there is plenty of stamina in his family, to balance the speed of Miesque's Son. Myth to Reality gained two of her three stakes wins over a mile and a half and her brother, Casamasa, stayed even better, being Group-placed at up to 1 7/8 miles. As Myth to Reality's mating to Kingmambo resulted in Indigo Myth, a talented performer at around a mile and a quarter in France, Whipper should have no stamina problems when the distances lengthen in France's next few Group 1 events for two-year-olds.