

Andrew Caulfield, January 15, 2013-Csaba



PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

HAL'S HOPE S.-GIII, \$100,000, GPX, 1-13, 4yo/up, 1m, 1:35 3/5, ft.

1--**CSABA**, 121, c, 4, by [Kitten's Joy](#)

1st Dam: **High Chant**, by **War Chant**

2nd Dam: **Highfalutin**, by **Silver Deputy**

3rd Dam: **Constant Change**, by **High Echelon**

O-Bruce Hollander & Cary Shapoff; B-Kenneth L & Sarah K Ramsey (KY); T-Philip A Gleaves; J-Luis Saez. \$60,000. Lifetime Record: 17-8-1-3,

\$372,525. **Werk Nick Rating: A + +**. [Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.](#)

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While television commercials are a necessary evil, occasionally an advertisement comes along which makes an impact either with its camera work or music or--more likely--its humor and wit. The problem with these popular commercials is that the very qualities which make them stand out can sometimes draw attention away from the central message. I don't think I am alone in often finding myself unable to name the product being promoted by my favorite ads.

I don't think there is any danger of the message becoming lost with one of my current favorites among the stallion advertisements in the *TDN*, namely the series promoting Ramsey Farm's Kitten's Joy (El Prado {Ire}). We have had "Here's the DIRT on Kitten's Joy," "More DIRT on Kitten's Joy" and then, in yesterday's issue, we had "Csaba, by Kitten's Joy, hits Pay DIRT in the Grade III Hal's Hope." Looks like the Ramseys are trying to tell us something!

This type of campaign is necessary when everyone nowadays seems so keen to pigeonhole stallions as either dirt or turf. Kitten's Joy, inevitably, is classified primarily as a turf sire. After all, he became a champion turf performer during his racing career, before developing into a leading sire of turf runners in 2011 and 2012.

Unfortunately, this rush to compartmentalize today's stallions ignores the fact that many of the distinguished North American stallions of the past 50 years or so were adept at siring top performers on both surfaces. Take Kitten's Joy's pedigree as an example. He is inbred 3x5 to Northern Dancer (Nearctic), 5x4 to Hail To Reason (Turn-to), 4x5 to Tom Fool (Menow) and 6x5x5 to Turn-to (Royal Charger).

Although Northern Dancer's name became synonymous with exceptional success on European turf, the Windfields star spent most of his 18-race career on the main track and was good enough to win the Flamingo S., Blue Grass S., Florida Derby, Kentucky Derby and Preakness. (Incidentally, Northern Dancer's record acts as a reminder of how sound he was, even though his career was ended by a bowed tendon. Foaled as late as May 27, he raced nine times as a juvenile and packed in a total of 17 starts before his actual third birthday.)

Northern Dancer was celebrated mainly for his feat of becoming champion sire on four occasions in Britain and Ireland, with his record resulting in an exodus of his progeny to Europe's leading trainers. Don't forget, though, that he also became champion sire in North America or that he sired champion stallions in North America. Clearly he was able to sire shining stars both on dirt and turf and Kitten's Joy's inbreeding acts as a reminder of this. One of his lines to Northern Dancer comes via Sadler's Wells, the other via Fanfreluche, winner of the Alabama S. and numerous other good races on dirt.

Hail To Reason's stallion career also showed versatility. This colt, whose trainer Hirsch Jacobs famously said that he "thought it better to let him wear out than rust away," endured a juvenile career of 18 races before the machine wore out. With his dirt background, Hail To Reason went on to take the title of champion sire in North America, as did his son Halo, and he sired winners of all three legs of the Triple Crown.

Hail To Reason's proficiency as a sire of dirt performers didn't stop him making his mark in Europe with the likes of Trillion, Hippodamia and Roberto and this line's descendants have continued to flourish on turf, thanks primarily to the descendants of Roberto and Halo. Kitten's Joy owes one of his lines to Hail To Reason to Roberto and the other to Bold Reason, who won important races on both surfaces.

Kitten's Joy's pedigree also features three lines to Hail To Reason's sire Turn-to, who--despite being conceived and foaled in Ireland--developed into one of America's best dirt juveniles of 1953. Turn-to's legacy also included such distinguished dirt performers as First Landing, Best Turn and Sir Gaylord. Kitten's Joy's sire, El Prado, owes his two lines of Turn-to to Hail To Reason and Sir Gaylord.

It is worth adding that every one of the 30 horses in the first four generations of Kitten's Joy's pedigree was bred in either the U.S. or Canada. So why wouldn't he be capable of siring a fair proportion of quality dirt runners, especially when he is only half of the equation?

His sire El Prado (Ire) (Sadler's Wells) was a Group 1 turf winner produced by two Irish Classic winners, but that didn't stop him siring dirt performers of the caliber of Medaglia d'Oro and Borrego. Kitten's Joy's 2012 stakes winners on dirt included Politicallycorrect and Empire Builder, both of whom have dams by sons of Storm Cat, and the progressive Csaba.

Politicallycorrect's dam Exceedexpectations did her winning on dirt, while Csaba's dam High Chant gained two of her three wins over the main track. As the broodmare sires of these dirt stakes winners include the top turf winners Giant's Causeway and War Chant, the message seems to be that no one should assume that turf is the automatic route to take with Kitten's Joy's progeny. We already know that they can excel on synthetic tracks, as four of his 15 stakes winners in 2011 won on the all-weather. Three of the four--Stephanie's Kitten, Holiday For Kitten and Derby Kitten--scored at graded level.

Csaba has now won four consecutive stakes races on dirt and we can surely expect to see future crops by Kitten's Joy coming up with high-class winners on all surfaces. As the advertisement which appeared as page 2 of the [January 12 TDN](#) shows, Kitten's Joy has earned the respect of a broad spectrum of breeders, ranging from Claiborne Farm to the Aga Khan. It is going to be fascinating to see what heights his \$50,000 crops manage to scale.

CSABA, c, 2009

Kitten's Joy	El Prado (Ire)	Sadler's Wells	Northern Dancer
			Fairy Bridge
	Kitten's First	Lady Capulet	Sir Ivor
			Cap and Bells
		Lear Fan	Roberto
		That's My Hon	Wac
High Chant 12-3-0-0 5FIs, 1GSW	War Chant	Danzig	Northern Dancer
			Pas De Nom
	Hollywood Wildcat	Kris S.	
		Miss Wildcatter	
	Highfalutin 35-9-9-2 6FIs	Silver Deputy	Deputy Minister
			Silver Valley
		Constant Change 6FIs, 1GSW	High Echelon
		Never Scheme	