

## WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES *by Alan Porter*

### Saturday, Suffolk Downs

**MASSACHUSETTS H.-GII**, \$500,000, SUF, 6-1,  
3yo/up, 1 1/8m, 1:50 2/5, ft.

1--**MACHO UNO**, 117, c, 4, by [Holy Bull](#)

1st Dam: **Primal Force (Broodmare of the Year)**,  
by **Blushing Groom (Fr)**

2nd Dam: **Prime Prospect**, by **Mr. Prospector**

3rd Dam: **Square Generation**, by **Olden Times**

O/B-Stronach Stables (KY); T-Joseph Orseno; J-G L  
Stevens; \$300,000. Lifetime Record: Ch. 2yo Colt,  
GISW, 10-6-1-2, \$1,659,803. \* 1/2 to Awesome  
Again (Deputy Minister), MGISW, \$4,374,589.

It seems strange to be talking about a horse who was a champion juvenile the season before last as only beginning to fulfil his potential, but that might be true of Macho Uno, winner this weekend of the GII Massachusetts H.

In fact a review of Macho Uno's Beyer Speed Figures prior to the Mass Cap reveals a record of almost constant improvement, and despite some long gaps in his record, the colt has never run a bad race. In fact in 10 starts, his only finish outside the first three was in last year's GI Breeders' Cup Classic, where he came home in fourth, beaten 4½ lengths by the winner Tiznow.

Although he has only faced the starter 10 times, Macho Uno was actually in action as early as the July of his two-year-old career, when he proved forward enough to win a 5½-furlong maiden event at Saratoga. Next time out, he closed strongly to take third, a neck behind dead-heaters City Zip and Yonaguska, in the GI Hopeful S. On his final two outings of the year, Macho Uno nailed down championship honors with a seven-length stroll in the GI Grey Breeders' Cup S. and then despite running very greenly in the stretch, holding off Point Given by a nose in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

At the time, Macho Uno seemed a prime candidate for the following season's classics, but a weakness behind--especially in his ankles--caused by immaturity, led trainer Joe Orseno and owner Frank Stronach to decide to give the colt time to develop. Returning in a seven-furlong allowance contest at Saratoga in July, Macho Uno lost by a nose, a repeat of his erratic stretch run in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile costing him victory.

Benefitting from the experience, a more professional Macho Uno defeated subsequent GI Breeders' Cup Distaff heroine Unbridled Elaine in the GIII Pennsylvania Derby. A close third to the formidable front-runner Western Pride in the GII Ohio Derby and the fourth in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic ended the season. This

year, Macho Uno had started only once prior to the Mass Cap, defeating subsequent GIII National Jockey Club S. and GII Hawthorne Gold Cup winner Hail the Chief in an allowance race at Gulfstream Park, running a career best Beyer in the process.

Macho Uno is a member of the third crop sired by Holy Bull. A truly great racehorse, Holy Bull earned honors as champion and Horse of the Year at three. The powerful grey won 13 of the 15 races which he completed, including the GI Futurity S., GI Travers S., GI Metropolitan H., GI Haskell Invitational H., GI Woodward S. and GI Florida Derby. Like several other outstanding runners of recent years, among them Skip Away, Silver Charm and Tiznow, Holy Bull presented breeders with something a dilemma when he retired to stud, as his superlative talent was allied to a less than commercial pedigree.

Holy Bull's first crop contained only 42 foals, due to a late retirement following his career-ending injury suffered in the GI Donn H., but five of these became stakes winners, including the GI Frizette S. victress Confessional and other graded stakes winners Crash Course and Hollywood Picture. Five more stakes winners appeared from Holy Bull's second crop, headlined by graded stakes winner Turnofthecentury. Macho Uno and Thunder Blitz, winner of the GIII Flamingo S. and fourth in the GI Kentucky Derby, are from his third crop.

**Porter cont.**

There are some surprises in Holy Bull's stud career. He is a son of the sprinter Great Above, a horse with a Tartan Farm pedigree which closely resembles that of the mighty Dr. Fager (he's by Minnesota Mac, a son of Dr. Fager's sire Rough 'n Tumble out of Dr. Fager's half-sister champion Ta Wee). Normally breeding back the Tartan strains respond well to reinforcement, but adding Dr. Fager, In Reality, Rough 'n Tumble and Aspidistra hasn't worked well here. In addition, Holy Bull has sired plenty of horses who stay quite well by American standards, and several who have a penchant for turf. Although we can note that he appears to have often been used to put speed into staying bred mares, it may also be that as a sire, Holy Bull has influenced by the pedigree of his dam Sharon Brown, whose grandsires are the staying turf horses The Axe II and Grey Dawn II.

If Holy Bull's origins were not from the cutting edge of fashion, the same can't be said of Macho Uno's dam, Broodmare of the Year Primal Force. Bred by Mr. and Mrs. Bertram R. Firestone, Primal Force demonstrated extreme speed winning four of her first six starts by a total margin of nearly 30 lengths. Injured after winning a seven-furlong Belmont Park allowance race in 1:22.0 on the last of those outings, Primal Force started only twice more, and never recaptured her previous form.

Purchased by Stronach for \$95,000 at the 1992 Keeneland January Sales, Primal Force began her stud career by producing the winning Alwuhush filly, All Primed. Primal Force's second foal is Deputy Minister's son, Awesome Again. Awesome Again showed good form at three, when he won the GII Jim Dandy S. and Queen's Plate and finished third in the GI Travers S., but was much better at four. At that age he went undefeated through a six-race season which included victories in the GI Whitney H. and GI Breeders' Cup Classic. Primal Force's next two foals were an unraced colt by Holy Bull and Macho Uno, and she has since produced a three-year-old filly by Siphon, a two-year-old filly by Touch Gold and a yearling filly by El Prado.

Primal Force is by Blushing Groom out of the stakes-winning Mr. Prospector mare, Prime Prospect, also granddam of the GIII Bashford Manor S. winner Miss Ra He Ra (by Blushing Groom's son Rahy). Her granddam Square Generation, a stakes-winning daughter of Olden Times, is ancestress of numerous stakes winners, including the champion older mare North Sider and the promising young sire Storm Creek (out of a three-quarters sister to Primal Force's dam).

Macho Uno's six-cross pedigree is quite an outcross, but Primal Force does offer some reinforcement for prominent strains in Holy Bull's dam, Sharon Brown. Earlier we mentioned that Sharon Brown's grandsires are The Axe II and Grey Dawn II. The Axe II is by Mahmoud out of a daughter of a Blue Larkspur mare, and the same pattern is found in Grey Dawn II's dam. When we look at Primal Force we see that she is inbred 3x5 to Nasrullah (out of a three-quarters sister to Mahmoud) and has Blue Larkspur's relative, Relic. In addition, Sharon Brown's sire Al Hattab is out of a mare by the brilliant English sprinter Abernant, and through Blushing Groom, Primal Force has Abernant's close relative Tudor Minstrel.