

WEEKEND PEDIGREE
PERSPECTIVES
by Alan Porter

MY BOSTON GAL

(f, 2, Boston Harbor--Western League, by Forty Niner)

The "Japan Syndrome"--whereby a horse starts to get good winners immediately following his exportation or death--has been a feature of this industry for as long as I can remember. This past weekend it was back with a vengeance for the juvenile graded-stakes competition at Churchill Downs. The GII Kentucky Jockey Club S. saw Soto, whose sire Dehere now shuttles between Japan and Arrowfield Stud in Australia, take his record to three-for-three. In the GII Golden Rod S., the highly touted My Boston Gal remained undefeated while scoring an impressive 3¼-length triumph.

My Boston Gal is a member of the second crop Boston Harbor, who now stands at the JBBA Shizunai Stallion Station. Boston Harbor was a member of the sixth crop sired by Seattle Slew's two-year-old champion Capote. After taking a maiden at Churchill Downs and the GIII Bashford Manor S., Boston Harbor was beaten 10½ lengths into second in the GIII Sanford S. by the lightning fast Kelly Kip. As the distances stretched, however, Boston Harbor reasserted himself as the leader of his division, taking in succession the Ellis Park Juvenile S., GII Kentucky Cup Juvenile S., GII Breeders' Futurity and the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Having won six of seven starts at two, Boston Harbor was seen in action only once more, finishing off the board in his only start at three.

Retired to stud at Overbrook Farm, Boston Harbor was the choice of many judges to end 2001 as leading freshman sire, and in that light his final position on the list as 14th was a disappointment of considerable proportions. Tolerance for deferred satisfaction is not a major feature of the North American Thoroughbred industry or, for that matter, the culture at large, and with the certainty that breeders would stay away in droves in the coming year, Boston Harbor was heading East before 2001 was even over.

Twelve months later Boston Harbor's record looks considerably better. Although he's only been represented by four stakes winners to date, the two black-type scorers from his first crop include MGSW Boston Common. Among the 14 winners in his second crop are not only My Boston Gal, but also the GIII Cowdin S. winner Boston Bull and Bham, a promising second in the GII Remsen S.

A \$95,000 Keeneland September yearling, My Boston Gal is not only sired by a stallion who was standing at Overbrook Farm, but she was also bred by that farm, from a family which has done yeoman service for Overbrook. My Boston Gal's granddam Cinegita arrived as part of the package which also brought Storm Cat's dam Terlingua

into the W.T. Young broodmare band. Like Terlingua a daughter of Secretariat, Cinegita was a winner of three of seven starts, including the GIII Railbird S. at Hollywood Park. Cinegita's and Terlingua's early stud careers followed parallel paths as both began their stud careers in 1981 with visits to Lyphard, followed the next year by liaisons with Storm Bird. By odd coincidence, neither Lyphard foal ever made it to the races, while both Storm Birds became major winners. Of course, Terlingua's 1983 colt was Storm Cat, the horse who has turned out to be the cornerstone of the Overbrook Farm operation. Cinegita's 1983 Storm Bird foal was the filly Storm Star, who raced in England and in four starts won the G3 Cherry Hinton S., as well as finishing second against colts in the G2 Gimcrack S. At stud, Storm Star has produced the GIII Best Turn S. winner Dodge (by Mr. Prospector) and the Hawthorne Juvenile S. victor Captain Starbuck (Cure the Blues). Cinegita produced only one other stakes winner, the Mr. Prospector filly Syourinomegami, who was a two-time graded stakes winner in Japan, but she has three other daughters who are stakes producers. The best known of these is Starlet Storm, a sister to Storm Star, who won her only two starts. Just like her dam, Starlet Storm hit pay dirt with her second foal, Flanders.

A daughter of Seeking the Gold, Flanders was four-for-five as a juvenile, clinching the two-year-old filly title by winning the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies despite suffering a career-ending injury in the course of the race. Flanders has made a flying start to her stud career, producing as her first foal the champion three-year-old filly Surfside. Windmill Point, a sister to Storm Star and Starlet Storm, went winless in three starts, but is already dam of stakes winner Stormy Temper (Conquistador Cielo).

My Boston Gal's dam Western League, a daughter of Forty Niner, was a \$52,000 RNA as a yearling and didn't even make it to the races. Once again, the second foal success motif is present, as My Boston Gal is the second produce of Western League, the first being the Tabasco Cat filly Itama, a winner at three in France this year. Since she is by a grandson of Seattle Slew out of a mare by a son of Mr. Prospector, My Boston Gal is bred on similar lines to Surfside. She is also a product of the Seattle Slew/Mr. Prospector cross, which has been good for the Seattle Slew line in general and nothing less than spectacular for Boston Harbor's sire Capote. Capote has sired at least 11 stakes winners out of Mr. Prospector-line mares, including Grade I winners Agincourt and Capote Belle, and graded-stakes winners She's Tops, True Flare, Acceptable and Madison's Charm. If we surmise that the reason for the Seattle Slew's success with Mr. Prospector is the fact that they both stem from the powerful family of Frizette (doubled in the granddam of Seattle Slew), it might be significant that Capote's broodmare sire Bald Eagle is out of a mare by Tiger, a Frizette descendent who is closely related to Mr. Prospector's third dam Miss Dogwood.



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