

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

Sunday, Nakayama, Japan

ARIMA KINEN-G1-JPN, ¥342,000,000, 12-22,

Nakayama, 3yo/up, 2500m, 2:32.6, yl.

SYMBOLI KRIS S., 121, c, 3, by Kris S.

1st Dam: Tee Kay (GSW, \$240,379), by Gold Meridian

2nd Dam: Tri Argo, by Tri Jet

3rd Dam: Hail Proudly, by Francis S.

O-Symboli Stud; B-Takahiro Wada (Ky); T-K Fujisawa;

J-O Peslier; ¥180,000,000. Lifetime Record:

11-6-2-3.

When Tee Kay, a Grade III-winning daughter of Gold Meridian, came under the hammer at Keeneland just over four years ago, she was almost bound to attract the attention of Japanese buyers, simply because she was in foal to one of Roberto's best stallion sons.

At the time, the leading sires' list in Japan featured Sunday Silence, the country's main flag-bearer for the Hail To Reason male line, in his customary position at the head of the table, with Roberto's sons Brian's Time and Real Shadai in third and sixth positions.

Sure enough, the winning bid of \$300,000 came from Narvick International, acting on behalf of Takahiro Wada, of the Symboli Stud. Tee Kay has quickly proved to be an inspired purchase because the Kris S. colt she was carrying has developed into arguably the best middle-distance horse in Japan.

In addition to finishing second in the Japanese Derby (behind another grandson of Roberto) and a very close third in the Japan Cup, Symboli Kris S. has taken two of Japan's most prestigious all-aged events, the Tenno Sho over 1¼ miles and now the Arima Kinen over 1 9/16 miles. The Arima Kinen victory must have been especially pleasing to Takahiro Wada, because his father Tomohiro won this prize with Speed Symboli (1969 and 1970) and Symboli Rudolf (1984 and 1985).

Although Symboli Kris S. was foaled in Kentucky, where his dam visited Kingmambo in 1999, he represents a triumph for the Florida industry. Tee Kay's sire, Gold Meridian, had been a talented performer, good enough to win a Listed race over 1¼ miles in Ireland, but he owed his place at Warnerton Farm more to his bloodlines: he was by the great Seattle Slew out of Queen Louie, a champion in Canada.

Tee Kay's broodmare sire, Tri Jet, was one of the most successful stallions in Florida, once finishing as high as 11th on the general sires' list, and his lengthy list of stakes winners included Tee Kay's dam Tri Argo and Tri Argo's

very tough brother Triocala, who earned an Experimental Free Handicap weight of 115 after winning five times as a juvenile. Triocala gained most of his 14 wins over six furlongs, but his victory in the Count Fleet H. came over 1 1/8 miles, the same distance as Tri Argo's win in the Wistful H. on turf.

Tee Kay was a pretty good turf performer, too. Her juvenile efforts, including a second in the Gill Selima S., earned an Experimental weight of 108, and she progressed to take the Gill Martha Washington S. over 1 1/16 miles at three and the Lady Baltimore S. over 1 1/8 miles at four.

Florida can also take pride in Kris S.'s achievements, even though this accomplished stallion, who was bred in Florida, was moved to Kentucky in the summer of 1993, after displaying great potential during his years as a Meadowbrook Farms stallion.

It is hard to imagine now that Kris S. struggled for support in the early stages of his stallion career, siring an average of 23 named foals in his first four crops. No doubt this was partly because people had forgotten the promise he showed in winning the Bradbury S. by the time he covered his first mares nearly two years later, after a long absence from the track. That effort had earned a rating of 116 on the Racing Form Free Handicap and it is fair to assume that he would have achieved much more, had this very big colt not bowed a tendon in the San Felipe H. Kris S. underlined how much he deserved greater opportunities soon after his arrival at Prestonwood Farm, when he increased his number of Breeders' Cup winners to three with Brocco's Juvenile victory and Hollywood Wildcat's success in the Distaff. Since then he has added another success with Soaring Softly in the 1999 Filly and Mare Turf, while Hollywood Wildcat is the dam of War Chant, hero of the Mile in 2000.

Thanks to Kudos and Symboli Kris S., Kris S. now has 13 Group 1 winners to his credit in the major racing countries, which is an extremely good record for a horse who had to make it the hard way. You have to wonder whether such a rags-to-riches story is still possible in today's industry. With so many high-profile stallions covering very large numbers of mares, is there room any more for horses like Kris S., who were prevented from showing their full potential on the track?

I would much rather see three young horses being given the chance of covering 50 mares each than one ultra-fashionable freshman sire covering 150, but a 50-mare book isn't considered economic by most of today's top farms. I fear that this means that some potentially good stallions, especially those lacking a really fashionable pedigree, are never going to be given a chance to prove their worth. It is going to be our loss, with the range of available bloodlines destined to become narrower. Perhaps breeders will one day have to look to Japan to restore some of the bloodlines we are neglecting.

“It has been a long time since the United States had a great crop of three-year-olds, but the one born in 1997 far surpassed any other of the last 20 years... it included more individual runners of undeniably top-class ability than any crop since that of 1978, led by Affirmed and Alydar... the brightest star among the Classic-eligible colts was **FUSAICHI PEGASUS**”

JOHN P. SPARKMAN, BLOODSTOCK REVIEW 2000.

ASHFORD STUD