

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

HOLY BULL S.-GIII, \$100,000, GPX, 1-17, 3yo,
1 1/16m, 1:43, ft.

1--@**SECOND OF JUNE**, 122, c, 3, by [Louis Quatorze](#)

1st Dam: **Whow (MSW, \$171,096)**, by **Spectacular Bid**

2nd Dam: **Hooplah**, by **Hillary**

3rd Dam: **Beadah**, by ***Djeddah**

(\$7,500 2yo '03 OBSJAN). O-Barbara Cesare;
B-Lambholm & E Felcher (FL); T-William J Cesare; J-C
H Velasquez; \$60,000. Lifetime Record: 6-4-1-0,
\$174,800. *3/4 to Jack Flash (Sovereign Dancer),
GSP, \$261,000. [Click for the brisnet.com chart.](#)

If I were asked to cite an example of pedigree sometimes proving more important than performance, Sovereign Dancer would have to be high on my list.

After four starts in the U.S. had yielded less than \$3,000, this royally bred son of Northern Dancer partly redeemed himself as a four-year-old in France, where he won two of his 10 starts and earned black type by finishing second at Group 3 level in the French Provinces. While this represented a marked improvement, form of this standard would not, on average, be enough to earn a trip to Florida and a place at Ocala Stud.

There was nothing average, though, about Sovereign Dancer's bloodlines: his dam, the stakes-winning Bold Princess, was one of six foals sired by the great Bold Ruler from the remarkably successful Grey Flight. In other words, Bold Princess was a sister to the dual-champion sire What A Pleasure, as well as being a half sister to Misty Morn, the champion racemare who produced the champion two-year-olds Successor and Bold Lad to Bold Ruler.

Breeders hardly rushed to use Sovereign Dancer, who had only 18 named foals in his first crop, but four of those 18 became stakes winners and one of them--the quirky Gate Dancer--was good enough to win the 1984 Preakness and Super Derby.

Remarkably, Gate Dancer proved to be no flash in the pan. Sovereign Dancer's 1987 crop--the last he sired in

Florida before his transfer to Lane's End Farm--produced the champion turf horse Itsallgreetome and Priolo, who collected two of France's most competitive mile races, the Jacques le Marois and the Prix du Moulin. Then, in his penultimate crop, Sovereign Dancer came up with Louis Quatorze, who matched Gate Dancer's achievements of winning the Preakness and finishing second in the Breeders' Cup Classic.

When Louis Quatorze retired to Ashford Stud in 1998, the jury was still out over Sovereign Dancer's merit as a sire of sires. Gate Dancer hadn't set an encouraging precedent, siring nothing better than a handful of Grade III winners despite an opening fee of \$25,000. On the other hand, the Grade II winner Leo Castelli got off to a fine start in 1991, with four juvenile stakes winners among his first runners, but his long-term prospects were hindered by his having spent his third and fourth seasons in Russia.

I was inclined to think that the best indicator to Louis Quatorze's prospects was going to be Priolo, because there were similarities between their pedigrees. Priolo had the distinction of being inbred 3x4 to both Bold Ruler and Grey Flight, through the sisters Bold Princess and Pleasant Flight, whereas the inbreeding in Louis Quatorze's pedigree included 3x4 to Bold Ruler and 3x5 to Grey Flight, through Bold Princess and Bold Lad. Priolo has three lines of Nasrullah, compared to Louis Quatorze's four.

The fact that Priolo is now available at a fee of only 4,500 euros tells us that he hasn't been a runaway success, and he is now in France after starting his career in Ireland. However, his achievement of coming up with a Group 1 winner in four of his first five crops means that Priolo can't be described as a failure--especially as one of those Group 1 winners was Sendawar, an excellent miler whose first foals race this year. The problem with Priolo is that his seven group winners represent less than two percent of his racing-age offspring.

It looks as though history is repeating itself with Louis Quatorze. The fact that he has been sold to stand at a fee of \$6,000 at Murmur Farm in Maryland after six seasons at Ashford tells its own story. I should add that he attracted only 34 mares in 2003, having covered 179 in 2002 and 162 in 2001.

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That bumper book of 179 mares coincided with some high-class efforts by Louis Quatorze's son Repent. After being ranked third behind Johannesburg and Siphonic among the two-year-old males of 2001, Repent looked to be en route to Churchill Downs after his wins in the GIII Risen Star S. and GII Louisiana Derby, but an ankle chip incurred in the Illinois Derby ended that particular dream. Although Repent later did well to finish second in the Travers, he spent last year on the sidelines and will soon be covering his first mares in Florida.

With nothing of note emerging from his second crop, which numbered only 41 named foals, Louis Quatorze was in trouble by the start of the 2003 covering season, but he has now come up with another possible Derby contender in Second of June, who gave weight and a beating to Silver Wagon in the GIII Holy Bull S.

If Second of June continues to progress, Louis Quatorze's new owners, Mr. and Mrs. E. Allen Murray Jr, could have struck gold once more, just as they did with Our Emblem. With Louis Quatorze's large crops of 2002 and 2003 probably representing his best chance so far, his record could look a lot better by the end of this year.

Louis Quatorze's popularity was at a low ebb when Second of June--then called Gaudy--came up for sale at the OBS Winter Mixed Sale a year ago. This no doubt contributed to the colt selling for only \$7,500, but another factor may well have been the youngster's very late foaling date, which gave him his new name. I would normally have considered a June birthday to be quite a handicap, but it hasn't stopped Second of June winning four of his six starts. It's surely reasonable to expect him to continue improving when most of his rivals have stopped.

Second of June's purchase price certainly didn't reflect the quality of his pedigree. When his dam, Whow, a daughter of Spectacular Bid, visited Sovereign Dancer in 1993, she produced Jack Flash, a \$195,000 yearling who went on to be second in the GIII Jim Beam S. Whow herself collected a couple of stakes victories over 8.5 furlongs to become one of five stakes winners out of the Hollywood Oaks winner Hooplah. The others included Afifa (GI Vanity H.) and Auction Ring, a very fast English colt who sired some good winners. Hooplah also produced Passing My Way, an unraced daughter of Pass the Glass who became the dam of Phone Chatter (GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies), so this family is certainly no stranger to success at the top level.