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MILLION-DOLLAR FILLY TOPS

BARRETTS OPENER A filly by Mr. Prospector out of the multiple stakes-winner In My Cap (Vice Regent) topped vesterday's opening session of the Barretts March Sale of Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training at Hinds Pavilion in Pomona, California, bringing a record bid of \$1 million. The bay was consigned by M. W. Miller, III, agent, and purchased by John Ferguson Bloodstock, agent for Aaron Jones. "We thought we'd have to spend a little more or a little less, but that was pretty close to what we expected," said Jones of his seven-figure filly. A half-sister to stakes-placed Bright Feather (Fappiano) and In On The Secret (Secretariat), she will be trained by Neil Drysdale, B. Wayne Hughes went to \$900,000 to get the highest-priced colt at the session, purchasing a son of Storm Cat, the first foal out of the graded-stakes winner La Spia (Capote). Consigned by Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, the dark bay will be handled by trainer George Vogel. "Mr. Hughes likes horses with pedigree," said Vogel. "The colt is by a good sire, and I thought he was gorgeous. He breezed well. We'll give him a break and then bring him to Hollywood or Santa Anita." The second highest bid for a colt yesterday was \$635,00 for a son of Gone West out of the unraced mare Holiday Snow (Storm Bird). Consigned by Kindergarten Farm, agent, the dark bay was bought by Prince Ahmed Salman's The Thoroughbred Corp. "We really love Gone West, and Richard (Mulhall) and Wayne (Lukas) both liked him--and that's basically what it takes for us to purchase a horse," said The Prince, "Now you'll have to ask Wayne what he's going to name him. I'm out of names." A total of 91 two-year-olds sold Tuesday for \$19,839,000, up 1.5 percent from the opening session a year ago when 96 hips brought in \$19,530,000. The 1997 average, \$218,011, was up 7 percent from last year's figure of \$203,438. The sale concludes tonight at 7:00 p.m.

STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5:

3-14 \$75/75,000 Gulfstream Park Breeders' Cup Sprint Championship-GIII, GP, 3γο/up, 7f (\$100)



- 3-15 \$100,000 Baldwin S.-GIII, SA, 3yo, 6.5fT (\$50)
- 3-16 \$250,000 San Felipe-GII, SA, 8.5f (\$100)
- 3-16 \$200.000 Orchid H.-GII, GP, 3vo/up, f/m, 12fT
- (\$250)

<u> Hip#</u>	<u>SIRE</u>	DAM	PRICE
139	Storm Cat		\$900,000
		25,000 yrl '96 KEEJ	
C		Hartley/De Renzo Th ased by B. Wayne Hu	
110	Gone West		
	Consigned	by Kindergarten Far by The Thoroughbr	m, Agent
198	Copelan	Patooie	\$575,000
	•	COPELAN TOO	
Cons		k Casse, Agent for N	
	Purcha	sed by Buzz Chace,	Agent
100	Meadowlak		\$500,000
		45,000 yrl '96 KEES	
		by Cecil & Ojia Stew	
		y Robert B. & Beverl	
118		Ire) In Neon	\$500,000
		by Kirkwood Stable	
	Purchased	d by The Thoroughbi	red Corp.
BARI	RETTS TUE	SDAYTOP SIX F	TILLIES
Hip#		DAM	PRICE
	Mr. Prospect		\$1,000,00
	(\$38	85,000 yrl '96 KEEJ	
	Consigne	d by M. W. Miller, II	II, Agent
		by John Ferguson B	
		~,	nooustook
142	Purchased Danzig	Life At The Top (G	B) \$900,000
142	Purchased Danzig (\$32	Life At The Top (G 20,000 yrl '96 FTSA	B) \$900,000 UG)
142	Purchased Danzig (\$32 Consigned	Life At The Top (G 20,000 yrl '96 FTSA by Jerry Bailey Sales	B) \$900,000 UG) s Agency,
142	Purchased Danzig (\$32 Consigned Agent	Life At The Top (G 20,000 yrl '96 FTSA by Jerry Bailey Sales for Bailey-Ellenberg	B) \$900,000 UG) s Agency, Select
	Purchased Danzig (\$32 Consigned Agent Purc	Life At The Top (G 20,000 yrl '96 FTSA by Jerry Bailey Sales for Bailey-Ellenberg hased by Demi O'By	B) \$900,000 UG) s Agency, Select yrne
	Purchased Danzig (\$32 Consigned Agent Purc Storm Cat	Life At The Top (G 20,000 yrl '96 FTSA by Jerry Bailey Sales for Bailey-Ellenberg hased by Demi O'By Inca Legacy	B) \$900,000 UG) s Agency, Select /rne \$725,000
115	Purchased Danzig (\$32 Consigned Agent Purc Storm Cat (\$29	Life At The Top (G 20,000 yrl '96 FTSA by Jerry Bailey Sales for Bailey-Ellenberg chased by Demi O'By Inca Legacy 95,000 yrl '96 KEEJ	B) \$900,000 UG) s Agency, Select yrne \$725,000 UL)
115	Purchased Danzig (\$32 Consigned Agent Purc Storm Cat (\$29 gned by H. T	Life At The Top (G 20,000 yrl '96 FTSA by Jerry Bailey Sales for Bailey-Ellenberg chased by Demi O'By Inca Legacy 95,000 yrl '96 KEEJ . Show Stables (Jen	B) \$900,000 UG) s Agency, Select yrne \$725,000 UL) kkins Bros.), Ager
115 Consi	Purchased Danzig (\$32 Consigned Agent Purc Storm Cat (\$29 gned by H. T Purchase	Life At The Top (G 20,000 yrl '96 FTSA by Jerry Bailey Sales for Bailey-Ellenberg chased by Demi O'By Inca Legacy 95,000 yrl '96 KEEJ . Show Stables (Jen ed by John C. Kimme	B) \$900,000 UG) s Agency, Select /rne \$725,000 UL) ikins Bros.), Ager el, Agent
115 Consi 140	Purchased Danzig (\$32 Consigned Agent Purc Storm Cat (\$29 gned by H. T Purchase Deputy Minis	Life At The Top (G 20,000 yrl '96 FTSA by Jerry Bailey Sales for Bailey-Ellenberg chased by Demi O'By Inca Legacy 95,000 yrl '96 KEEJ . Show Stables (Jen	B) \$900,000 UG) s s Agency, Select yrne \$725,000 UL) shins Bros.), Agent el, Agent \$550,000

- Purchased by B. Wayne Hughes 101 Capote Great Lady Sharon \$400,000 (\$175,000 yrl '96 KEESEP) Consigned by Cecil & Ojia Stewart, Agent Purchased by Narvick International, Inc.
- **149 Crafty Prospector Maggie J. Jones** \$400,000 Consigned by Jerry Bailey Sales Agency, Agent for Bailey-Ellenberg Select Purchased by Hiroshi Fujita



News cont.

'AMERICA'S DAY' SET FOR LABOR DAY Labor Day, Monday, September 1 will be designated as "America's Day at the Races" by racetracks across the country in a promotion designed to bring both new and longtime fans out to the track. Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association President Drew Couto revealed details of the day in an announcement made vesterday during a press conference at Arlington International Race Course, "America's Day at the Races was conceived as a fan day to award those who come every day and support the game and to attract new fans who know very little about it," said Couto. Already committed to the project are Monmouth Park, Arlington, and Del Mar, but Couto said he expected many more tracks across the country to participate. The group outlined 11 events they were suggesting as a blueprint for the day, but said they looked forward to hearing individual tracks' suggestions for participation. Suggested activities for the day include: tents and exhibits from local merchants, a contest where children can name a yearling brought to the paddock by an owner, `Meet the Stars' events where jockeys, trainers and owners will sign autographs and take pictures with fans, a parade of breeds prior to the day's card, a coast-tocoast \$1 Pick Three with a 10-percent takeout, and "Hey, I Own A Horse," where 10 fans will be selected to co-own a horse for a day. "It's a national holiday for horse racing and horse lovers," said Del Mar's Director of Corporate Development and Simulcasting Patrick Stubbs. "We have tried to take many elements you would find occurring throughout a meet and focus them on one day to educate and inform our new fans who are perhaps intimidated or know little about the sport."

♦ FLORIDA ♦

Local News: Gulfstream

GII Fountain of Youth winner **Pulpit** (A.P. Indy) worked four furlongs yesterday morning in :47 4/5 at Gulfstream Park, galloping out five furlongs in 1:01 1/5.

Local News: Hialeah

GIII Nashua S. winner Jules (Forty Niner) worked seven furlongs yesterday morning at Hialeah and was caught by trainer Alan Goldberg in 1:26 1/5, galloping out a mile in 1:39 and covering the last three-eighths in :36. "He worked great, came back fine and we hope we're going in the right direction," said Goldberg, who added he planned for the three-year-old colt to make his next start near the end of the current Gulfstream meeting in a 1 1/16th-mile allowance.



Yesterday's Results:

6th-PHA, \$14,000, Msw, 3yo, f, a1m 70yds, 1:44 3/5, ft.

+ NORTHERN KITTEN (f, 3, Northern Prospect--I'm No Pussycat, by Valdez), bet down to 8-5 in her career debut, had a head in front after the first quarter and then left the field in the dust, opening up by four after a half and eight after three-quarters; she left her backers purring with an eye-opening 17 1/2-length score. The winner is a 1/2 to Sovereign Kitty (Sovereign Dancer), MGSW & MGISP, \$458,704. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$8,400.

O/B-Arthur I Appleton (FI). T-R W Camac.

Local News: Canada

The Ontario Jockey Club and the Candian Broadcasting Corporation have announced an agreement for 1997 that covers four of the OJC's biggest stakes races at Woodbine, and includes a standardbred race for the first time. The CBC, which has aired horse racing since 1979, will televise the GIC Queen's Plate June 29, the \$500,000 Woodbine Million September 20 and the \$1 million Canadian International October 19, as well as the \$1 million North America Cup for pacers June 14.



Local News: California

California Governor Pete Wilson signed Senate Bill 20 on Monday, changing the basis of California-bred owners purse premiums on qualified open races from 20 percent of the total purse to 20 percent of the winner's share. The change goes into effect with today's races at Santa Anita and Bay Meadows. The California Thoroughbred Breeders Association, which administers the purse bonuses as part of the state's breeding incentive program, requested passage of the emergency legislation to clear up language in last year's Senate Bill 1371. Results in the two months since that bill took effect indicated it would take an extra \$130,000 to \$150,000 a month to pay the owner premiums on total purses rather than the winner's share, which had been the original intent of the CTBA. "Even with this necessary change, the bonuses will be significant and we expect owners and trainers will recognize the success Cal-breds are having in these open races and continue to take advantage of the opportunity to earn the substantial premiums that are still available," said Doug Burge, assistant manager of CTBA.



Australia's

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♦ FOREIGN

Stakes Results:

VATC FUTURITY S.-G1, \$235,257, Caulfield, Australia, 3-1, 3yo/up, 7fT, 1:23.07, gd.

- 1--MOUAWAD (NZ), 118, c, 3, Zabeel (NZ)--Eight Carat (GB), by Pieces Of Eight 2nd. O-Easter Syndicate; B-Cambridge Stud, NZ; T-Clarrie Conners; J-G L Cooksley; \$152,917. *1/2 to Diamond Lover (Aus) (Sticks and Stones), G1SW-NZ; Kaapstad (NZ) (Sir Tristram), G1SW-Aus; Marquise (NZ) (Gold and Ivory), G1SW-NZ & MGSW-Aus; and full to Octagonal (NZ), Horse of the Year & Ch. 3yo & Ch. 2yo-Aus, MG1SW-Aus.
- 2--Shame (Aus), 122, f, 4, Scenic (Ire)--Shamayil, by Spectacular Bid. O-Woodlands Stud; B-Baramul Stud, NSW; \$47,051.
- 3--**Cut Up Rough (Aus)**, 127, g, 6, Blazing Sword (Aus) --Highball (Aus), by Star Of The North. O-G Lechte; B-D J Love; \$21,173.
- Margins: 1 1/4, 1, 1 1/2.

Also: Zuccherino (Aus), Delsole (Aus), Star Dancer (NZ).

STC TOOHEYS CANTERBURY GUINEAS-G1, \$235,257, Rosehill, Australia, 3yo, 9fT, 1:47.99, gd.

- 1--INTERGAZE (AUS), 122, c, 3, Integra (Aus)--Tempergaze, by Temperence Hill. O-L Lee, R McDowell, L Andreazza, P Chin & W Manikas; B-Middlebrook Lodge, NSW; T-Rod Craig; J-C Carmody; \$159,975.
- 2--Might And Power (NZ), 122, g, 3, Zabeel (NZ)--Benediction (Ire), by Day Is Done (Ire). O-N Moraitis; B-Windsor Park Stud, NZ; \$42,346.
- 3--Great Command (NZ), 122, g, 3, Marscay (Aus)--Tisolde (NZ), by Tights. O-R R McAnulty, J Chan, H J Chan, S M Luo & K S Wong; B-Waikato Stud Holdings Ltd, NZ; \$18,821.

Margins: 1 1/4, 2 1/4, NK.

Also ran: West Point (Aus), He's A Dane (Aus), Flak Jacket (Aus), California (Aus), Ebony Grosve (NZ), Star Covet (Aus), Le Gardn Moose (Aus), Don Tristram (NZ), Babu's Boy (Aus), King Ivor (Aus), Kiwi Hero (NZ).

FOALING NEWS:

BREEZY STORIES, 19, Damascus--New Tune (New Providence)

Foal born 2-19-97, a filly by Tabasco Cat.

Will be bred back to Hennessy.

Owned by Wakefield Farm.

Boarded at Woodstock Farm in Midway, Ky.

Accomplishments: Dam of Desert Stormer (Storm Cat), GISW, \$862,950.

FUNONTHERUN Winner of Sunday's \$201,800 San Rafael S. (G2) is one of 24 stakes winners by champion

RUNAWAY GROOM

VATC I.O.O.F.OAKLEIGH PLATE-G1, \$176,443, Caul-

- field, Australia, 3-1, 5f 110ydsT, 1:02.74, gd.
- 1--SPARTACUS (AUS), 120, c, 3, Snippets (Aus)--Pazzihi (Aus), by Manihi (Aus). O-K J Weight, G W Liddell, M E Smart, D W A Muir, R J Hance & R G Hore-Lacy; B-N Whitta, VIC; T-R Hore-Lacy; J-D Beadman; \$114,688. *1/2 to Mavournae (Aus), (Cerreto {Ire}), GSW-Aus.
- 2--Rock You (NZ), 110, c, 3, Oregon--Gay Antoinette (Aus), by Biscay (Aus). O-K Leong & F Lap; B-Fairdale Stud,NZ; \$35,289.

3--Clang (Aus), 114, c, 3, Bellotto--Sudden Impulse (Aus), by Luskin Star (Aus). O/B-Woodlands Stud, NSW; \$15,880.

Margins: 1 1/4, 1 1/4, short HD.

Also ran: Another Excuse (Aus), Cangronde (Aus), Ruffles (Aus), Royal Discard (Aus), Prince Marauding (Aus), Street Talk (Aus), Moss Rocket (Aus), Always A Chance (Aus), Blazing Reality (Aus).

AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS IN AUSTRALIA:

Istidaad, h, 5, Chief's Crown--Mazzei Mood, by Roberto. Caulfield, 3-2, St. George S.-G2, 4yo/up, 9fT, \$63,715 to winner. O-Sheikh Hamdan al Maktoum; B-Shadwell Farm Inc & Shadwell Estate Co Ltd; T-Peter Hayes. *G1SP-Eng.

Secret Savings, h, 6, Seeking The Gold--Jurisdictional, by Damascus. Newcastle, 2-27, Daewoo Newmarket H.-G3, 4yo/up, 7fT, \$51,482 to winner. B-Ogden Mills Phipps; T-Gai Waterhouse.

AMERICAN BRED WINNER IN ENGLAND:

Ki Chi Saga, g, 5, Miswaki--Cedilla, by Caro (Ire). Lingfield, 3-4, Wordsworth Limited S., 3yo/up, 8f (All-weather), \$4,000 to winner. O-D Knight; B-Green Ireland Properties Ltd; T-M Madgwick.

AMERICAN-BRED WINNER IN FRANCE:

Alamo Bay, c, 4, Nureyev--Albertine (Fr) (GSP-Fr), by Irish River (Fr). Maisons-Laffitte, 3-4, Prix Volandry, 4yo/up, 8fT, \$13,956 to winner. O-D Wildenstein; B-Allez France Stables, Ltd; T-Andre Fabre. *1/2 to Arcangues (Sagace {Fr}), Hwt. Older Horse-Fr at 7-9.5f, G1SW-Fr, GISW-U.S., \$1,979,631; and Agathe (Manila), GSW & MG1SP-Fr, \$247,740.

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a + will denote winners who are first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.



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$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{B} \bullet \mathbf{R} \bullet \mathbf{E} \bullet \mathbf{E} \bullet \mathbf{D} \bullet \mathbf{E} \bullet \mathbf{R} \bullet \mathbf{S} \\ & \mathbf{E} \, \mathbf{D} \, \mathbf{I} \, \mathbf{T} \, \mathbf{I} \, \mathbf{O} \, \mathbf{N} \end{array}$

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

1st-SPT, \$23,000, (S), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11 1/5, ft. KENNETH (c, 4, Mari's Book--Kona Lady {SP}, by Hula Chief) Lifetime Record: 16-4-3-4, \$71,735. O-Asiel Stable. B-Dr. Richard W. Radke (IL). T-R P Hazelton.

9th-PHA, \$16,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 1/5, sy. SNOW MAJESTY (f, 4, Frosty The Snowman--Gallant Linda {SP}, by Gallant Knave) Lifetime Record: 22-6-1-5, \$61,425. O-D & A Thoroughbreds. B-Arthur I Appleton (FL). T-Faustino F Ramos. *Won on a DQ.

10th-PHA, **\$15,000**, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:25 1/5, sy. **ELITE ONE (f, 4, Afleet--Fawncy One, by Clever Trick)** Lifetime Record: 20-4-2-6, **\$31,639**. O-Plumstead Stables. B-John H. Peace (KY). T-Robert J Seeger.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

- Dynamic Dyna, f, 3, Dynaformer--Easily Shook, by Solar City. SPT, (S), 3-4, 6f, 1:14 2/5. B-Elliott James R (II). *\$10,000 yrl '95 KEESEP; \$27,000 2yo 1996 ILLAPR.
- + Northern Kitten, f, 3, Northern Prospect--I'm No Pussycat, by Valdez. PHA, 3-4, a1m70yds, 1:44 3/5. B-Appleton Arthur I (FI). *1/2 to Sovereign Kitty (Sovereign Dancer), MGSW & MGISP, \$458,704.
- Mounsey Blackjack, c, 4, Dawn Quixote--Fair Image, by Reflected Glory. SPT, 3-4, 6f, 1:12 1/5. B-Book A L (FI).

FOALING NEWS:

GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN, 17, Majestic Light--Amberalero (Count Amber) Foal born 2-19-97, a colt by Wild Gale. Will be bred back to Woodman.

Owned by Glencrest Farm.

Boarded at Glencrest Farm in Midway, Ky.

Accomplishments: Dam of Mahogany Hall (Woodman), GISW, \$694,913.

NASKRA'S RETURN, 11, Naskra--Lover's Moon (Roberto)

Foal born 2-19-97, a filly by Thunder Gulch. Will be bred back to Pleasant Colony. Owned by Maple Leaf Farm. Boarded at Maple Leaf Farm in Nottingham, Pa. Accomplishments: MGSW of \$271,642.



SIPHON (BRZ) (h, 6, Itajara {Brz}--Ebrea {Brz}, by Kublai Khan {Arg})

One of the fascinating things about observing the Thoroughbred pedigree is that the names change, but the same patterns appear in notable performers throughout the world. This was brought home again by the result of Sunday's GI Santa Anita H. The race ended up as a benefit for trainer Richard Mandella and his team of South American stars, who captured the first three places--Brazilians Siphon and Sandpit taking first and second, ahead of the Argentine Gentlemen.

The names in the first few generations of Siphon's pedigree will mean little to most in the Northern Hemisphere, although his sire, Itajara, has the reputation of being the best horse ever foaled in Brazil, and his paternal grandsire, Felicio, won the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud and was by Shantung (Fr) (by the French Derby winner Sicambre {Fr}) from the immediate family of Northern Dancer's sire, Nearctic. While the names in the pedigree may be unfamiliar, the pattern pedigree is certainly not. In fact, the feeling it gives is just like hearing a well-known song sung in a foreign language.

The pattern we are talking about is inbreeding to genetic relatives. We have long thought that inbreeding to genetic relatives is generally conducive to superior results (given that the individuals utilized are themselves superior) and have sought to practice it whenever the opportunity arose. There are a range of what seem to be functional genetic relatives, and these relationships vary in degree from as close as brother and sister and three-quarters brother and sister to those which are far less tightly defined, such as the Spring Run and Flaming Page which appear in every combination of Nijinsky II and Blushing Groom (Spring Run is by Menow out of a Bull Dog mare; Flaming Page is by a grandson of Bull Dog out of a Menow mare). The thing is, whether it be one instance close up, such as the 2x1 cross to three-parts sisters found in the pedigree of Quiet American, or several crosses further back, as we are now finding with the legion of good performers with multiple crosses of relatives by War Admiral out of daughters of La Troienne (such as Busanda, Busher, Mr. Busher, Striking, Searching, Blue Eved Momo), observation strongly suggests that shrewd inbreeding to genetic relatives has a greater potential than inbreeding to ancestors through unrelated individuals.



BAILEY-ELLENBERG SELECT graduate TROPICOOL, one of the favorites for the \$4 million Dubai World Cup, set a TRACK RECORD for 1 1/8-miles Feb. 27 while winning the Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al Maktoum Challenge (Round 2) at Nad Al Sheba Racecourse in Dubai.

Weekend Pedigree Perspectives cont.

The reasons why this should be are a little speculative, but we can offer one seemingly logical explanation. We are generally working on the assumption that at least one of the genetic relatives was a notable runner or producer. By closely duplicating the background of that notable performer or producer, there should be an increased opportunity for similar beneficial gene groupings to be transmitted from both sides of the pedigree and then to recombine in the foal.

Anyway, enough of the theory, what of Siphon's pedigree? Well, he has three-quarters related sisters 3x3. His sire, Itajara, is a grandson of the mare Irish Song (by Maki--Udaipur {Dragon Blanc}). Look at the tail-female line and one also finds that Siphon's dam, Ebrea, is a granddaughter of Eridan (by Maki--Urisca {Dragon Blanc}).

Oddly enough, when one looks at Maki's pedigree, one has the feeling that some very intentional inbreeding to relatives took place here. He has two crosses of a horse called Orme (GB), who was by Ormonde out of a mare named Angelica (GB). He also has five crosses of Angelica's brother St. Simon. Since Ormonde and St. Simon were generally reckoned to be the best runners of the 19th century, this represents a real commitment to linebreeding to the best possible strains. Maki is also inbred 4x4 to a horse named Radium and his three-parts sister Atbara. The Maki/Dragon Blanc cross brought about a double of Radium's son, Clarissimus.

In successful matings involving inbreeding to genetic relatives, we often find further strains of the background of the genetic relatives, and Siphon, with his double of the Maki/Dragon Blanc cross, is no exception. Dragon Blanc, the broodmare sire of the threequarters relatives Irish Song and Eridan, is a son of French champion Brantome. In the six-cross pedigree of Siphon one also finds a daughter of Brantome and a daughter of Brantome's genetic relative Donatello II (Brantome was by Blandford out of a mare by Clarissimus; Donatello II by a son of Blandford out of a mare by Clarissimus).

We have covered the pedigrees of Siphon's Big 'Cap victims Sandpit and Gentlemen before, but while on the subject of genetic relatives, it is interesting to note that Sandpit, like Siphon, is strongly linebred to Brantome/Donatello II, and that Gentlemen's sire is by a son of Northern Dancer out of a mare by a son of Graustark, while his maternal grandsire is by a son of Northern Dancer out of a mare by Graustark.

PEDIGREE SHORTS...

The weekend provided another illustration of the potential to upgrade relatively uncommercial pedigrees by inbreeding to genetic relatives. This was **Unite's Big Red (c, 3, Unite--Tropical Royalty, by Bold Tropic {SAf}**), a decisive winner of Sunday's GIII Palm Beach S. at Gulfstream. A son of the unraced Raise a Native stallion Unite, Unite's Big Red has the three-quarters genetic relatives Sweet Tooth (dam of Alydar and Our Mims) and Plum Bold 3x3 in his pedigree.

It looks as if the offspring of the Irish-based Lycius (Mr. Prospector--Lypatia {Lyphard}) are ideally suited to North American racing. Sunday, Hello (Ire) (c, 3, Lycius--Itqan, by Sadler's Wells), already a stakes-winner twice this year, finished third in the GII San Rafael S., while Media Nox (GB) (f, 4, Lycius--Sky Love, by Nijinsky II) won the GII Buena Vista. Both are out of mares by sons of Northern Dancer, and are inbred 4x3 to that horse.

We are intrigued by the pedigree of the GI Gulfstream Park H. hero Mt. Sassafras (h, 5, Mt. Livermore--Charming Sassafras, by Sassafras {Fr}). The 1996 Canadian Horse of the Year owes much of his pedigree--especially the key connections--to the current Aga Khan and his grandfather, the late Aga Khan. Mt. Livermore's sire Blushing Groom was sold by the Aga Khan in utero, but was bought back as a foal, and carried the Aga Khan's colors throughout his career. In turn, Blushing Groom was a grandson of the late Aga Khan's stallion Nasrullah. If we trace Mt. Sassafras's female line, we come to his fifth dam Ninevah, who owns a decidedly Aga Khan pedigree, as she was by Palestine (GB) out of the Aga Khan mare Naishapur II. This pedigree represents true classic breeding as Palestine won the British 2,000 Guineas and Naishapur finished second in the Oaks. It also represents a very clever pedigree with the excellent tap-root mare Uganda (Fr) 3x3 and brothers Fairway (GB) and Pharos (GB) 3x3.

This pedigree gains increased importance when compared with the family of Mt. Sassafras' grandsire, Blushing Groom (Fr). His granddam, Aimee (GB), is by Tudor Minstrel out of a mare by Umidwar (GB) (a son of the mare Uganda {Fr}). Ninevah's grandsire, Fair Trial is very closely related to Tudor Minstrel, and her granddam, Udaipur (GB), is a sister to Uganda (Fr), making Aimee (GB) and Ninevah very close relatives. Compare Blushing Groom (Fr) and Ninevah's granddaughter, Winter Grey, and we find that the three-parts brothers Nasrullah, Royal Charger and Hyperion are added to the mix. This collection of genetic relatives along the male and female is very much an Aga Khan pattern, and Mt. Sassafras' pedigree is a clever one of which either Aga Khan would be proud.

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TWO WINNERS IN FOUR DAYS! Feb. 26 – Famous Digger wins at Santa Anita March 1 - Peace Quest wins at Gulfstream QUEST FOR FAME \$10,000 LF