



PEDIGREE DYNAMICS

Marju a Source of Hope for Collingrove

Standing a shuttle sire who is already proven in the northern hemisphere is one advantage – standing a sire who is already proven himself in the USA, Europe *and* Asia is another leap forward.

Marju, which means ‘hope’ in Arabic, has no doubt fulfilled the hopes of his owner Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum to-date. Last year was his first trans-equatorial journey when he shuttled to New Zealand, serving 97 mares at Ra-Ora Stud. This year, he has been secured by Collingrove Stud in Victoria to stand at the attractive fee of \$15,000 plus GST.

From his base at Ireland’s Derrinstown Stud, Marju’s first runners hit the track in 1995, and since then he has churned out 95 stakes horses.

Most effective over a mile, winning the Group One St. James’ Palace Stakes and the Group 3 Newmarket Rowley Mile, Marju managed to stay a mile-and-a-half to run second to Generous in the Group One Epsom Derby.

A son of the Champion Sprinter and Champion Sire Last Tycoon, Marju was certainly very quick to prove his worth at stud, producing two Group One winners (and a Hong Kong Group One winner) in his first crop.

My Emma, winner of two Group One races in France and Ireland, is out of a mare by High Top. While this has no immediate reference to Australia, High Top’s great grandsire is **DANTE**, who is half brother to Last Tycoon’s second damsire, Sayajirao. Marju already carries a line to Dante (through a daughter, on his sixth remove). Last Tycoon reacts very well to mares carrying Dante. Apart from Marju, Last Tycoon’s Group One winners Tycoon Lil and Taipan also carry Dante.

Australasian-based sires with daughters of breeding age carrying Dante include **IMPOSING, CANNY LAD, KAAPSTAD, CITIDANCER, RUBITON, EUCLASE, RUSTIC AMBER, ARCHWAY** and **SHALFORD**.

His other European Group One winner, Sil Sila, is out of a **HABITAT** mare. Broodmare sires carrying Habitat include **BASSENTHWAITE, ARCH SCULPTOR, ASHABIT, RED TONY, LORD SEYMOUR, IMPERIAL SEAL** and **HABITUATE**.

Another of his top performers is Indigenous, who in 1998 was awarded the highest International Rating ever for a Hong Kong based horse (119) at the time. He has now won four Hong Kong Group One events. Regarded as a very tough horse, Indigenous has won over HK\$34 million. Interestingly, Indigenous is out of Sea Port, a half sister to Sea Anchor. Of course, Sea Anchor is best known to us as the sire of that good stallion and now excellent broodmare sire, **RED ANCHOR**. Sire of the dams of Align, Hire, Lease, Nevet and Red Ivory amongst others, mares by Red Anchor should be excellent with Marju. Not only does this mating go some way to emulating the pattern of Indigenous, but Red Anchor's sire (a part of the pedigree which is not common to that of Indigenous' dam) is Alcide, a son of Chenille. Marju traces directly to Chenille (his fifth dam) as well as carrying Round Table, who traces to the same taproot. In addition, Red Anchor traces to INFRA RED, who also happens to be the ancestress of Mill Reef, damsire of Last Tycoon.

Aside from utilising information on his existing stakes winners to help get the best from matings with Marju, we can also employ tried and true linebreeding techniques.

WESTERN SYMPHONY mares also have a lot to offer Marju. His sire Nijinsky II is from the same female family as Try My Best, as well as both being by Northern Dancer. Try My Best's damsire Buckpasser is a LA TROIENNE family member, as is Western Symphony's damsire, Cornish Prince. Last Tycoon's damsire Mill Reef is a half brother to Western Symphony's dam, Millicent.

Mares by **SIR TRISTRAM** and his sons also look exciting with Marju. Artaius, damsire of Marju, is bred on a Round Table / My Babu / Selene cross which is emulated by Sir Tristram's dam Isolt. This 'cluster' of genetic strength sets the scene for the inheritance of classic ability. The duplication of Round Table in this cross reinforces Marju's tail female line, which, through Chenille, traces to ALOE, third dam of Round Table. Similarly, the duplication of My Babu is reinforced by fellow LAVENDULA II family member, Turn-to on Sir Tristram's tail male line.

Another strong angle for reinforcement is the PRETTY POLLY family. Represented by Nearctic, Artaius and a duplication of Donatello II in Marju, there are many other individuals that appear in Australian broodmare pedigrees which can boost this even further. Those to look for include Colorado Kid, Persian Garden, The Cobbler, Don, Brigadier Gerard, Jungle Boy, Duccio, Great Nephew, Seventh Hussar, Indian Hemp, Romantic, Supreme Court, Arctic Explorer, Marsayas, Guersant, Huntercombe, Vienna, Luthier, St. Paddy and Pardao. Pretty Polly's full sister MIRANDA is the ancestress of Tehran, Sind, Foxbridge, Aloe, Foolish Pleasure and Gold Nib. **MAIZCAY, DIEU D'OR, COUNTY** and **CITIDANCER** are also direct descendants of this line.

Marju is a half brother to the multiple classic winner Salsabil and other stakes winners Song of Tara, Danse Royale and Flame of Athens. Marju's dam is a half sister to the dams of the Champion Irish 2 year-old Second Empire and Breeders Cup Turf champion Northern Spur.

Song of Tara (by Sadler's Wells) stands at Tobermory Stud, New South Wales and looks great value at \$5,000 plus GST. His oldest progeny are two-year-olds. Second Empire shuttles to Heytesbury Stud, Western Australia where in his inaugural season last year, he served 89 mares at a fee of \$8,000 plus GST.

