



PEDIGREE DYNAMICS

Shot of Thunder Set to Roll

Last start Gr1 Toorak Handicap winner Shot Of Thunder has been retired to stud at Glenlogan Park, Queensland where he will join Show A Heart & Blu Tusmani (sire of Murphy's Blu Boy) and fellow Group One winning new-comers Falvelon and King Of Danes.

A son of Coolmore's sire Thunder Gulch, Shot of Thunder is a product of his first Australian crop.

Although initially based in Western Australia, Shot of Thunder had his first start in the Maribyrnong Trial Stakes, the first in a series of trips which made him a familiar traveller on the Nullarbor. He ran fourth as favourite, having won two trials 'at home' in good style.

After a spell, he won his next two starts in Perth and again presented himself on the eastern seaboard for a crack at the bigger money, his best effort being fourth in the VATC Sire's Produce.

Shot of Thunder continued this 'shuttle' and running at the highest level, didn't win a stakes race until his 18th start when he took out the WATC Belmont Guineas. This was the first of a hat trick of wins, the third being the Belmont Classic, both Listed races. With a couple of let-ups in between, this campaign also netted a third in the Group 1 Toorak Handicap, a fifth in the Group 1 WATC Railway Stakes and a third in the Group 1 WATC Fruit n' Veg Stakes.

Resuming as a five year old in his new Sydney base, this campaign netted him second placings in the Group 2 STC Shannon Stakes and the Group 3 AJC Tramway Hcp. Then, starting as 15/4 favourite, Shot of Thunder saluted in the Group 1 Toorak Handicap defeating fellow Gr1 winners Scenic Peak, Umrum and Pernod, an achievement that sealed his future as a commercial stallion.

With his stud career planned to commence in the 2003 season, his connections recently decided to retire him during his final preparation after a small injury was to set it back by several weeks.

From the Mr. Prospector sireline, Shot of Thunder is out of the Group 1 AJC Oaks winning mare My Brilliant Star, a daughter of the Nijinsky II stallion Copper Kingdom.

My Brilliant Star was one of seven stakes winners for Copper Kingdom, the others being Aunty Mary (Gr.2 AJC Villiers Stakes and Gr.3 Hardy Brothers Classic), Foreign Interest (Gr.3 BATC Doomben Stakes), Premier Copper, Hurley Town, Call Me Bidy and Lady Nijinsky.

It is as a broodmare sire, however, that Copper Kingdom is showing his real talent. Apart from Shot of Thunder, he is damsire to stakes winners Sudurka, Port Kingdom, Hasta La Quista and Celebrity Princess as well as stakes placegetters which include Hibernian Prince, Bound to Play and Casual Bay. He is also second damsire to the recent Group 2 winner, Private Steer. That's not bad for a stallion with only forty broodmare daughters currently registered with the Australian Stud Book.

His strengths lie in several areas and on examination, it is not hard to see why he's working. In the case of Shot of Thunder, Copper Kingdom's sire Nijinsky II has palled up with his old mate Storm Bird, damsire of Thunder Gulch. These two have a long association which would have a lot to do with their 'commonality', as the Americans like to call it. Both are bred on a Northern Dancer / Bull Page cross. Thunder Gulch's daughter Spain (USA Champion 3yo Filly) is also bred on this nick, as is Coolmore's multiple Group One winning sire, High Yield and many other top line stakes winners.

They can't take all the credit for Shot of Thunder however, as there is some clever line breeding in other quadrants of the pedigree. Gulch carries Rasper II, a son of Red Sunset. He meets up with his half sister Crepuscule in My Brilliant Star's dam's pedigree - she is the dam of Crepello, sire of Aussie-based stallion, Crepone (third damsire of Shot of Thunder). Further back, Bull Page's grandsire Bull Dog appears four times in Shot of Thunder's pedigree, backed up by seven appearances of his brother Sir Gallahad III.

Getting back to Copper Kingdom, it is his affinity with Danzig that is of interest when looking for mates for Shot of Thunder. The reasons why this cross has already produced stakes winners Hasta La Quista (by Ignatius), Sudurka (by Perugino) and Private Steer (by Danehill Dancer)

as well as stakes placed Mahkota (by Danehill) from very few commercial daughters, is readily explained.

Firstly, Danzig is bred on a Northern Dancer / Admiral's Voyage cross, which Copper Kingdom perfectly mirrors.

Secondly, they share a common tail female line.

Several years back now I wrote an article on the relationship between Danzig, Bletchingly and Rockefeller (it is on my website). All trace to LADY SUSAN (7) and to-date the combination of any two of these has been responsible for several stars world-wide, including Kingston Town, Erhaab, Danehill Dancer, Johan Cruyff, Telesto, Redoute's Choice and Sunline, as well as many, many other stakes winners. Copper Kingdom also hails from this line, however he descends from a branch which diverges at an earlier point, the foundation mare GIBSIDE FAIRY.

Suffice to say, the presence of Copper Kingdom in Shot of Thunder's pedigree will prove the perfect exploitation for the proliferation of Danzig line mares hungry for an outcross. It doesn't hurt that Shot of Thunder's sireline also loves Danzig or that Thunder Gulch's damsire Storm Bird has also worked well with Danzig (ie Mujahid, Yell).

Bring on the Danzig Girls!