



PEDIGREE DYNAMICS

Full Speed Ahead for Strategic Matings

The commencement of two-year-old racing is a time of eager anticipation and some nervousness, particularly for the connections of first season sires.

A large representation of dual hemisphere stallions with progeny now debuting seems to have engendered particularly strong interest this season.

The Breeder's Plate was won by Mistegic, a son of the colonial-bred freshman stallion, Strategic. And while first blood for the fillies was drawn by the Anabaa filly Donna Natalia in the Gimcrack, second prize went to the Strategic filly Fair Embrace.

Standing at the Woodlands Stud's Cootamundra operation, Strategic stands at a fee of \$7,000 (plus GST). He is by the outstanding sprinter, Zeditave, who won nine races as a two-year-old and a further five in his second year of racing, capturing a total of five Group One events. Zeditave has produced many precocious juveniles, including this year's Magic Millions winner, Assertive Lad.

Strategic is out of Sudden Impulse, a daughter of two Golden Slipper winners, Luskin Star and Sweet Embrace, the latter also being by the inaugural Golden Slipper winner, Todman.

Sudden Impulse is inbred to Star Kingdom 3m x 3m. Statistically, this pattern appears to be much more successful for broodmares and stallions than for racehorses, and Sudden Impulse is a great example of this phenomenon. The winner of three minor races, she has gone on to produce three stakes winners. Apart from the Group One winner Strategic, she is dam of Clang, the Group Two Silver Slipper winner, and Destruct, the Listed AJC Breeder's Classic winner.

Strategic won five of his eight juvenile starts, rating Equal Third Top Two-Year-Old in Australasia, before earning the same position the following season as Three-Year-Old Sprinter.

It is no wonder, based on Strategic's background, that he has started his freshman year with a bang. Not only has Mistegic won and placed in stakes races at his first two starts, several other Strategics have shown ability in two-year-old trials.

Strategic has covered 100-plus mares in his first three years, and I would imagine that this year's book will be bigger than ever.

So, what broodmare sires look like giving matings with Strategic the best outcomes?

Liaisons with daughters of **KENMARE** look promising. His second damsire is Nearula, who is out of a half sister to Todman. A son of Nasrullah, Nearula was a

two-year-old stakes winner in England, winning the Two Thousand Guineas as a three-year-old. Nearula only served three seasons at stud before an untimely death. (Incidentally, another source of Nearula in Australia is Red Gauntlet, whose female descendants should also look interesting with Strategic.)

A direct descendant of ELLEN HORNE, Kenmare has worked well with other members of this line, the best example being his success with mares by fellow ELLEN HORNE family member, Twig Moss. Strategic's sire Zeditave is also from this line.

Broodmares by **SCENIC** produce some nice patterns with Strategic. Zeditave and Scenic's second dam Where You Lead both carry a Raise a Native / Mossborough cross, with both ancestors being 'sex balanced', or present through both a son and a daughter. Scenic's great grandsire Nearctic works really well with Star Kingdom, both being bred on a Hyperion / Tracery nick. With two lines to Star Kingdom in Strategic, this pattern has an even greater chance of success.

QUEST FOR FAME is by Rainbow Quest, who, like Scenic, is a grandson of Where You Lead. Therefore the duplication of the Raise a Native / Mossborough cross is also present in a mating with mares by Quest For Fame. The ill-fated Unworldly, like Quest For Fame's best son Dracula, has Kaoru Star in her dam. Strategic also carries Kaoru Star.

DANEHILL mares could take advantage of a different aspect of Strategic's pedigree. His damsire His Majesty traces to the elite mare BOUDOIR II. Linebreeding to this matriarch is created in this mating, as Zeditave is out of a mare by Crowned Prince, another descendant of Boudoir. (Prince Echo mares would sex balance Crowned Prince.) Like Scenic, Danehill also contributes Nearctic to reinforce the duplication of Star Kingdom.