

ZAFONIC'S FUTURE LOOKING SCENIC

by Jane Henning

As one sun sets another rises the tragic demise of Arrowfield's exciting stallion End Sweep in recent months had left a big opening in their 2002 line-up. Although announced relatively late in the season, this has been admirably filled by the proven sire, Zafonic who will no doubt still manage to attract a good book of mares.

A European Champion Two Year old in 1992, three of his four wins at this age were at Group One level. He followed up with the title of European Champion Three Year Old. His career at stud has been equally illustrious, with one in four of his runners earning black type - a very impressive strike rate and recently clocked up his 25th stakes winner.

In Australia, he is most familiar to us as the sire of Xaar, Darley's young stallion whose oldest progeny are now yearlings. Xaar emulated his sire by being named European Champion at both Two and Three Years and being from one of the best families in the modern stud book – the TORPENHOW family. This line includes such sires as Nijinsky II, The Minstrel, Masterclass, El Gran Senor, Try My Best and more locally, Spinning World, Hurricane Sky, Umatilla and Redoute's Choice.

Zafonic is restricted to a book of 120 mares, and hopefully they will include some by the following stallions.

Zafonic's sire Gone West is a member of the ALOPE family. This line includes Known Fact, Round Table, Doutelle, Foxlaw, Alcide, Atan, Above Suspicion, Mukddaam, Song of Tara, Parthia, Prince Bright and Knight Commander.

While Known Fact is his closest sire relation, Round Table is probably the best known and in Australia, most easily accessed. **SIR TRISTRAM** daughters and granddaughters

look fantastic with Zafonic. Not only does he contribute Round Table (his damsire), but his sire Sir Ivor is by Sir Gaylord, a half brother to Secretariat, damsire of Gone West. Xaar is bred on this cross, having Sir Ivor as his damsire as well.

While we're on the subject of emulating Xaar's pedigree, we can try what his breeders did so well – line breeding to TORPENHOW. With The Minstrel present in Zafonic and Xaar's dam tracing directly to Torpenhow, he has two significant doses of this prepotent line. As I mentioned earlier, this line includes such sires as Nijinsky II (sire of Australian based stallions with broodmare daughters – Yeats, Western Symphony and Royal Academy), Masterclass, El Gran Senor (sire of Al Hareb), Try My Best (sire of Last Tycoon) and more locally, Hurricane Sky, Umatilla, Spinning World and Redoute's Choice. The latter two do not yet have daughters of breeding age.

While any of these individuals should be an asset in a mare when mated to Zafonic, some look exceptional. **HURRICANE SKY** is one such stallion. Not only is his second dam a full sister to the dam of Xaar (tracing to Torpenhow), his dam's sire is Nijinsky II. This mating therefore provides three avenues to Torpenhow. In addition, Hurricane Sky's grandsire Bletchingly is out of a Relic mare. Relic is closely related to Raise a Native, Zafonic's great-grandsire.

Hurricane Sky's half brother Umatilla has a lot to offer through the dam, but the duplication of Mr. Prospector (not known for his soundness) through two sons 3m x 4m in this cross rates him less compatible than Hurricane Sky.

Another interesting cross from this line is **MASTERCLASS**, a successful New Zealand based sire. A half brother to Xaar, he is by The Minstrel, his daughters create sex balanced inbreeding to The Minstrel 3f x 3m – a pattern for speed injection – whilst also adding Torpenhow via the tail female line. **PALACE MUSIC** is another son of The Minstrel.

Zafonic has worked very well with Sadler's Wells mares, having produced three stakes winners on this cross. **BARATHEA**, a son of Sadler's Wells with daughters of breeding age here, also creates a great cross, carrying Secretariat's half brother Sir Gaylord via his damsire, Habitat. Zafonic's Group One winning son, Count Dubois is out of a mare carrying Habitat.

Mares by Sadler's Wells' son **SCENIC** look particularly appealing, as his dam Idyllic is bred on a Bold Ruler / Tom Fool / Raise a Native combination, a cross also carried by Zafonic's sire, Gone West. As a bonus, Tom Fool and Raise a Native are represented in Scenic by daughters, creating a desirable 'sex balanced' duplication when meeting with sons of these two influences in Gone West.

Of special interest is that another of Zafonic's top stakes winners, the Group 2 winner and Group One placed Endless Summer, is out of a full sister to Scenic!

Daughters of **QUEST FOR FAME**, whose damsire Green Dancer is by Nijinsky II, have a great chance with Zafonic. Zafonic has teamed up with Rainbow Quest as damsire to produce the stakes winner Zarfoot in Europe. A close relation of Scenic (their dams are half sisters), Rainbow Quest offers Raise a Native through a daughter, while his sire Blushing Groom emulates the Nasrullah / Tudor Minstrel cross present in Gone West's dam.