

Tale of the Cat Augurs Well for Mosayter

by Jane Henning

In the past couple of years, the deaths of leading Western Australian sires Metal Storm, Serheed, Chanteclair, Dauberval, Laranto, Don't Say Halo and Fimiston, the retirement of Old Spice and the recent decline of fertility in Tribu have resulted in a disastrous thinning of the sire ranks in that state.

An exciting new sire who will help to make amends however, has already been announced for 2004.

Mosayter is a son of Storm Cat, who carries the distinction of having the highest stud fee in the world at around US\$500,000. Bred and raced by Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum, he is out of Bashayer, a stakes placed sister to three stakes performers and half sister to a further five stakes winners, including Champion Sire Nashwan and fellow sires Unfuwain, Alwasmi and Mukddaam. Another half relation is Nayef, a four-time Group One winner in England and Dubai. Mukddaam, who stood in Victoria, is the sire of smart Western Australian stakes winning mare, Suspicion and of the Qld Oaks winner, Mon Mekki.

Bashayer has had four foals for four winners, including Thaminah, her 2003 two year old filly by Danzig, who prompted journos to declare her a 'hopeful for the 1000 Guineas Trial' after her first up win.

This family is riddled with black type, Mosayter's granddam being Height Of Fashion and great granddam, Highclere, both of whom were in the top two fillies of their two year old and three year old seasons respectively.

In his five starts in England, Mosayter obviously showed his connections enough in his two wins over 1600 metres to merit him being sent to the US to continue his career. Once there however, a fetlock injury which would not settle resulted in his connections reluctantly retiring the handsome bay.

The new owners of this royally bred stallion are Kath Fleming, Jill Lewis and Leigh Dawson. Kath has enjoyed success standing the Kenmare sire Tribu, while the other two partners are successful small breeders.

Mosayter will stand at Sally Oakes' Fairfield Stud, North Dandalup for a fee of \$4,000 plus GST. Sally is one of Western Australia's best known breeders, having in recent times stood sires such as Chanteclair, Ron Bon and currently old campaigner Zabaleta and last year's first season sire, Fighting Falcon.

Mosayter's name means "dominator" in Arabic, and it is hoped that he will live up to that moniker in the breeding barn. A very positive feature of Mosayter's pedigree is his similarity with Coolmore's highly promising sire, Tale of the Cat.

By Storm Cat out of a Mr. Prospector mare, Tale of the Cat's sixth dam is the prepotent matriarch, FEOLA. Mosayter emulates the Storm Cat / Mr. Prospector / Feola combination in exactly the same positions. It would be fair to analyse the way that Tale of the Cat is working to try to predict how Mosayter will click with the gene pool of mares available to him in Western Australia.

Tale of the Cat is working very well with Sir Tristram, which is of no surprise when you examine this cross. Analysis shows that of ten foals out of Sir Tristram mares, there have been six runners for five winners and one stakes winner. Another stakes winner is from a mare by Sir Tristram's sire Sir Gaylord's sireline.

Sir Tristram offers his grandsire Sir Gaylord to compliment his half brother Secretariat, who appears in Tale of the Cat's pedigree as damsire to Storm Cat. He is out of a mare by Round Table, who is a grandson of Feola.

With regards to Mosayter, **Sir Tristram** line mares are even more appealing on paper, as both My Babu and Turn-to in Sir Tristram's pedigree trace to MARCHETTA, who appears in Mosayter's pedigree as ancestor of both Bustino (his second damsire) and Borealis (his fourth damsire).

Sir Tristram sires which have stood in W.A. include **Dynamo, Sir Lustrious, Lost Kingdom, Another Sir** and **Admiral Lincoln**.

Centaine has been another favourite of Tale of the Cat's, having produced four runners for three winners, including a stakes winner. This augurs well for the **Century** line for Mosayter, who should particularly appreciate MARCHETTA family member My Babu, grandsire of Century. **Euclase** is a son of Century now resident in W.A., while **Martec** is another who has daughters in that state.

Kenmare sires have had terrific success in W.A., and as he also carries My Babu, it's likely his daughters will also be well received by Mosayter.

Tale of the Cat has had a great strike rate with Affirmed mares also, having had three foals for as many runners and winners, one a stakes performer. Affirmed is the sire of successful W.A. based sire **Pricelessly**, making his daughters look desirable for Mosayter.

Other sire lines which have worked very well with Tale of the Cat are the Native Dancer – Raise a Native line and the Nearctic – Northern Dancer line. Of course, this opens up the opportunity for the daughters of countless other W.A. based stallions such as **Serheed, Protos, Bletchley Park, Dauberval, Scenic, Dr. Johnson** and **Citidancer**.

It's worth noting that Mosayter's dam is a sibling or half sibling to stakes winners by Northern Dancer, Blushing Groom, Danzig, Gulch and Mr. Prospector.

Let's not forget the Star Kingdom line! Having stood in New Zealand, Tale of the Cat has had limited exposure to this line, however four foals from this cross have resulted in three runners, two winners including a stakes winner. The Star Kingdom line is rife in W.A., so it is suffice to say that there will be plenty of mares by damsires such as **Jevington, Black Kite, Old Spice** etc to keep Mosayter happy.

While Tale of the Cat will probably not have met up with girls from this background, the **Haulpak** line should also work well with Mosayter. A grandson of a Round Table, he will reinforce Mosayter's tail female line.

It remains to be seen if Mosayter can perform with as much promise as Tale of the Cat is showing as a sire, however it's obvious that Western Australian mares will be giving him every chance to step into the shoes of some of that state's recent losses.