

An International Pedigree Meets Margaret Parrish

Andorra is a small country on the border of France and Spain where the residents speak five different languages, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan and English.

An Dorra, the trotter, is even more diverse, not in language but in her pedigree which combines bloodlines from North America, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany, France and Russia with the Russian influence by way of a maternal line to a 5th dam of the Orlov breed.

Her pedigree, in fact, goes back to the origins of horse racing in Finland where the Orlov trotter once was the racehorse of choice dating back to the first organized races held in 1817. One hundred and fifty years later the Orlov mare Primula arrived in Finland and was to produce Prima Nord when bred to a Denmark born standardbred stallion named Orly du Nord. He was by a North American stallion and from a Danish maternal line going back to the imported American mare Lady Fox 1928 and the maternal family of Silvertail 1853 by American Star, an important maternal influence.

But there is another, even more important, maternal connection in Orly du Nord through his second dam An Charlotte by Ziggity, another American sire import to Denmark, whose dam is by a son of the great x-factor mare Margaret Parrish. Add to this the fact that his maternal line traces to a daughter of Nutwood, son of the Queen Among Queens, Miss Russell, and you have a solid x-factor base to build on.

The next generation produced nothing special being bred to the Swedish sire Hanuman Smith and producing a daughter Nora N. She in turn was bred to Gus Lobell and produced An Noora, a filly that added a double to the important x-factor mare Hatteras to the mix.

The Finnish stallion Jexpress Dahlia finally brought in the key ingredients to this series of mixed marriages. His dam is by Shatterway whose dam combines both Hatteras and Margaret Parrish. The result of this doubling up of maternal strength was An Amanda, the dam of An Dorra..

An Amanda produces nine foals with eight winners and she saved the best for last with her 2017 foal An Dorra. While a mare with such strong maternal influences can clearly succeed with both colts and fillies as she has shown, it is the fillies that are her top three money earners and none more so than An Dorra whose sire is the Swedish star Maharajah. His top five fillies are all from mares with the Margaret Parrish trace and the top three, including An Dorra are from mares that carry a double trace. You only need to look at the maternal line of Maharajah to see why. His dam is also a carrier of Margaret Parrish through her sire Giant Chill.

84-year-old Reino Palomäki bred and trained the now 4-year-old filly who has 22 starts with stats 13-6-1 and earnings over 200,000 euro.

Perhaps the most interesting part of this story is the link between the origins of trotting in Finland and the history of the maternal line which has been in the same family with respect to ownership for five generations.

An Dorra's fifth dam that is pure Orlov was bred by a very rich industrial magnate Pekka Herlin, the owner of the international company Kone Oy . He exported cattle and got Russian trotters in exchange. The Finnish president Kekkonen was given a stallion and two mares as presents and therefore the Finnish horse organizations had to let warmblood trotters enter races in Finland. Herlin's two sons,

Antti and Ilkka are owners of his business empire now. Pekka Korpi, one of the leading trainers in Finland, and Ilkka Herlin have some 50 horses together but it seems they might have let the best one slip away.

An Dorra began this season in an Open fillies and mares class, raced outside the leader the whole way and was third in a very tight finish. Performances such as this could lead to a Derby win this year. Just another champion for the Queen Among Queens.