

Unlikely Heroes

How is it that a maternal family loaded with pacers can suddenly come up with the two hottest trotters on the planet?

I'm talking about the family of Ab by Abdallah Pilot and her descendants Walner and his half brother Tetrick Wania. Walner has a millionaire in his first crop and led all sires in the fall sales in sales average. Tetrick Wania is the toast of Sweden and his homeland Finland after winning the biggest two year old race in Scandinavia.

The family of Ab is one of the top 20 maternal families in terms of 2:00 speed or faster but is a family dominated by pacers with ten winners over a million in earnings and 257 in total with over \$100,000, twice as many as the trotters who include just two million dollar plus winners.

There are three branches to the Ab family tree spreading out from her great granddaughter Kata Bonner through her three daughters Hollywood Nimble, Hollywood Maggie and Hollywood Kate, all three by Joe Dodge.

The above statistics are for the branch responsible for our two unlikely heroes, a branch with the over 6,000 descendents of Hollywood Nimble, two thirds of which are pacers.

Hollywood Maggie, on the other hand, is almost exclusively a family branch of trotters including some very special ones. Among her notables are eight millionaires from various countries. Alf Palema in Sweden descends from a daughter of Hollywood Maggie while Cr Kay Susie has another of Maggie's daughters for a grandam. Both of these great horses are by Speedy Somolli and both have struggled to pass along their excellence to their own descendants.

New Zealand trotter I Can Doosit is one of the best downunder with almost \$1.4 million and he was by Muscles Yankee. Sweden is responsible for The Bad Boy by Speedy Somolli, Jetstile and Cokstile by French sire Cocktail Jet and Mind Your Value W F. Italy has El Mago Pellini and Tinak Mo, also from Maggie's branch. Hollywood Kate has a much smaller family with just two earning over \$100K, one of each gait.

The millionaire pacers in the Ab family include Forrest Skipper, Sandbetweenburtoes, Always B Miki, Yagonnakissmeornot, Hana Hanover, Sapphire City and Jeremys Gambit, all descendants of Hollywood Nimble.

So how did this maternal family evolve to arrive at Random Destiny the dam of Walner and Tetrick Wania? It is an evolution that is typical of other great broodmares that have the benefit of a buildup of important maternal influences.

Ab is the first recognized standardbred on a maternal line that actually goes back to an English thoroughbred mare. Her maternal traces to X-factor sources include daughters of both Bartletts Childers and Flying Childers.

Like many other families Ab gets off to a slow start with single foals for three generations to get to Kata Bonner. Her daughters by Joe Dodge picked up the traces to the brothers Childers from the maternal lines of Joe Dodge and the stage was set for family expansion as all three developed extensive branches.

Hollyrood Nimble was bred to Peter The Brewer and her daughter resulting called Hollyrood Portia picked up the Childers connection again. The next generation was the critical one as Volomite produced the next daughter in line called Portia Mite. This is the first maternal contact with the x-factor mare Miss Russell through the inbred mare Oniska. She was bred then to Darnley and doubled up on Oniska to produce Harlequin born in 1949. Her daughter by Dale Hanover produced the first \$100k winner in the maternal line, a gelding called Flash by Florlis.

Successive generations introduced the other x-factor mares to the line with Adioo, Hatteras, Kathleen and two more infusions of Oniska bringing the line to Walners second dam Front Porch Swing. It was her granddam who brought the line to Canada when bought by Kawartha Farm in Ontario in foal to Speedster. Front Porch Swing was unraced but had two full siblings that each earned over \$100,000, another milestone for the family. She had twelve foals with two by Ken Warkentin, a colt and the filly named Random Destiny. As a filly she had a secret weapon since Ken Warkentin was the first to introduce the maternal trace to the great mare Margaret Parrish thus completing the build up of all the x-factor traces to Miss Russell, the Queen among Queens. She also became the richest money earner in her direct maternal line making almost \$700,000 in her racing career in Ontario. Not bad for a \$22,000 purchase.

Despite her excellent race career her first two foals were sold for modest prices in Lexington with her second foal, Walner, bringing just \$90,000. The decision was made by owner, Riina Rekila of Finland, to export her to Sweden. There she came up barren then foaled a colt by Muscle Hill that raced briefly at three. Her next foal by Muscle Hill, despite the success of Walner in setting a world record at two, was retained by his breeder for \$85,000 at the Lexington sale. That would appear to have been a brilliant move since the colt, Tetrick Wania, foaled in Finland, has since been sold reportedly for three million Euro based on his impressive two year old success.

An unlikely end but a testament to the power of maternal connections. The pedigree is typical of the best by Muscle Hill being a TB pattern by a Speedster line sire and from a mare inbred to the Speedster line plus having Super Bowl maternally.

For more on the maternal lines of the Standardbred you can read Queen Among Queens available on the pedigreematching.com website.

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