

ALAMOSA – Pedigree Analysis

By John Richardson

It is always exciting when a Group One winning son of a proven great sire like O'Reilly retires to stud, and especially so when that horse has succeeded at elite level on both sides of the Tasman. And such is ALAMOSA, who is syndicated to commence his stud career in the spring.

ALAMOSA, rated second top juvenile of his 2YO season, stepped up to be rated Champion New Zealand 3YO of 2007-2008. His three first season wins included the Group One ARC Diamond Stakes, and at three years he won six times including the G1 WRC Thorndon Mile, G1 Otaki Maori RC WFA Stakes (new track record 1600 m.), Avondale Guineas, Hawkes Bay Guineas and WRC Wellington Stakes with a second in the G1 NZ Two Thousand Guineas. The following year in Australia he recorded his fourth Group One victory in the G1 MRC Toorak H. and was second in the G1 MRC C.F. Orr Stakes and third in the G1 MRC Futurity Stakes.

He is by O'Reilly out of Lodore Mystic, by Centaine, a winning full sister to Group Two winning Perfect World and to stakes placed Cent from Heaven, the dam of Eloa (by Volksraad), winner of the G3 Hawkes Bay RC Highview Stakes. His grandam is Logical Miss, by Sound Reason, the half sister to Initial Approach (Grosvenor), both being out of the Oncidium mare Ciquita, a half sister to New Zealand Derby winner Mansingh and the G2 winner and dual Oaks placegetter With Respect.

Champion Sire O'Reilly is one of those horses, like Sir Tristram before him, that is quite difficult to mate badly, such is the range of diverse reasons in the pedigree chart that are available to be used to advantage. Nevertheless O'Reilly does seem to have achieved special affinity to mares by a handful of sires, specifically Sound Reason, Centaine, Grosvenor, Crested Wave, Zephyr Bay and Imposing. Between them they feature in all eleven of his Group One and Two winners and in six of the 10 at Group Three level. These "super mating" sires with O'Reilly are often seen in conjunction with one another, and such is the case with Alamosa, being out of a Centaine mare from a daughter of Sound Reason.

O'Reilly is bred on a reverse cross between Mill Reef and Pompeii Court's sire the Hollywood Derby winner Tell (bred on a balanced cross of the superior mare Knight's Daughter). This is, of course, the time honoured 'nick' between Nasrullah and Princequillo, and in both cases there are further build ups in sex balance of Nasrullah and his sire Nearco in each quartile of O'Reilly's chart. There is also a spare line of Nearco's dam Nogara through another son Niccolo Dell'Arca and a balanced double of that horse's sire Coronach.

Lodore Mystic, the dam of Alamosa, is linebred in balance 4 x 5 to Star Kingdom, the only balanced double that she possesses in six generations. Mated with O'Reilly to produce Alamosa, it is to be noted that Bold Reason, the sire of Sound Reason, is half brother to Mill Reef's sire Never Bend. The combination of these two sons of the Kentucky Oaks winner Lalun, who descends from the Carbine mare Sunshot, has proved to be exceptionally powerful. Grandsire Centaine's great grandsire is the English Two Thousand Guineas winner My Babu, and he also appears as damsire of Damascus himself the damsire of Pompeii Court. This provides an important balanced double for Alamosa supplemented by another to Nasrullah's three quarter sibling Royal Charger also through Pompeii Court and Sound Reason. There are also balanced doubles to Hyperion, Fairway, Nearco and Nasrullah.

So what do we need to look for in potential mates for Alamosa?

It would be nice to breed back to the 'engine room' of O'Reilly, the Nasrullah / Princequillo nick, especially if with a female, and it would be an asset to be able to add Never Bend or Bold Reason once more, this time through a daughter. A female line of Northern Dancer would provide sex balance for the great ancestor.

Other potential 'needs' might be sons of Buckpasser, Mill Reef, Damascus, Pakistan II, Todman, New Providence and Oncidium – all quite difficult to find. Females sought will include daughters of Alcide, Hail to Reason, Wilkes, Palestine and Round Table, which may prove a bit easier.

Generally speaking mares carrying Sir Tristram, Sadler's Wells or Fairy King are likely to prove suitable, as might any from a Star Kingdom sire line. I also noted for a variety of reasons based on the above the following sires that will suit Alamosa, although the list is by no means exhaustive. They are Bertolini, Black Minnaloushe, Cape Cross, City on a Hill, Felix The Cat, Frenchpark, Generous, Germano, His Royal Highness, Istidaad, Jahafil, Kaapstad, Pentire, Postponed, Rainbow Myth, Sandtrap, Seasoned Star, Shinko King, The Commander, Volksraad and Yamanin Vital.

The potential is certainly there, with bloodlines to excite, racecourse performance at the top level at 2, 3 and 4 years, good looks and an equable temperament. Now all that is required is mating to the correct mares and you will have a very good chance of breeding a very good horse.