

Pedigree Analysis - Kristen Manning

The modern thoroughbred's pedigree is a fascinating blend of international influences and nowhere is this more apparent than in the breeding of the dual Gr.1 winning sprinter Brave Smash.

Whilst at first glance his breeding appears to be almost totally Japanese, further study shows that there is exceptional depth to his pedigree, inclusive of influences currently thriving in this part of the world.

Northern Dancer is always the starting point and Brave Smash carries three strains, two of those via Northern Taste to whom he is line-bred 4 X 4, the other via Nice Dancer, dam sire of Brave Smash's dam sire, the Japan Cup hero Tokai Teio, conqueror of Naturalism.

Meanwhile Brave Smash is a member of the Halo sire line and Halo's famed grandam Almahmoud is also the grandam of Northern Dancer; hence the success of the Northern Dancer/Halo (and reverse) cross, one which has produced a massive 7136 stakes winners (noting that stats are available only for five generations so there are more beyond that). And several of those are champions including Winx.

The Almahmoud family is one you can never have too much of and the mighty Danehill is another member, his third dam Natalma (Almahmoud's daughter) also being the third dam of Northern Dancer. Halo and Danehill combined have produced 818 stakes winners and this is a cross that has fared exceptionally well in Australia, producing the likes of the multiple Gr.1 winners More Joyous, Santa Ana Lane, Sebring, Bivouac, Helmet, Pride Of Dubai and many more.

Brave Smash is a stallion made for Danehill whose classy dam sire His Majesty is a great grandson of the influential matriarch Boudoir II - Brave Smash's eighth dam; and line-breeding to the family of a well related stallion is a proven method of producing high class performers.

There are other Boudoir II strains in Australia; namely Crowned Prince (dam sire of Zeditave and Alannon, sire of Falvelon), Majestic Prince, Graustark and Whiskey Road.

Meanwhile Brave Smash is bred to relish strains of Danehill's prolific sire Danzig as he boasts multiple strains of the prolific Gibside Fairy family from which Danzig hails - Pall Mall, Sicambre, Rockefeller, Chateau Bouscaut, Vilmorin and Kampala. It is well worth noting that two great local influences are also Gibside Fairy descendants - Bletchingly and Invincible Spirit.

The latter is of the course sire of I Am Invincible whose daughters match up very nicely with Brave Smash. Firstly the Gr.1 miler Kris (dam sire of Invincible Spirit and of Brave Smash's grandsire Neo Universe) is duplicated, noting that of the 26 runners by I Am Invincible and his son Brazen Beau line-bred to Kris, 20 are winners including the Gr.1 gallopers Media Sensation and I Am A Star.

And secondly I Am Invincible is out of mare by Canny Lad who boasts strong Mumtaz Begum influence as does Brave Smash with his multiple strains of her son Nasrullah and grandson Royal Charger. Canny Lad is also the dam sire of Danehill's great son Redoute's Choice whose second dam sire Nijinsky II has quite a bit in common with Sunday Silence - and those two stallions have combined in the pedigrees of 295 stakes winners.

Daughters and granddaughters of Redoute's Choice's son Snitzel are a very exciting match for Brave Smash with his fifth dam Scotch Verdict being the third dam of Real Shadai, Brave Smash's second dam sire. Snitzel has well and truly proven the value of this cross with his Golden Slipper winner Estijaab and another three of his stakes winners (from just 50 runners) line-bred to Scotch Verdict.

Charge Forward mares are also of interest in regards to this family with his second dam sire Valid Appeal (who also appears in the Queensland based Danehill line stallions Wanted and Instinction) being a son of the five times Group winner Desert Trial, Real Shadai's grandam.

Back to Danehill and Fastnet Rock line mares are another good option for Brave Smash. The pair are bred on the same Northern Dancer/Crimson Satan cross and Fastnet Rock's dam sire Royal Academy is by Nijinsky II. Meanwhile his second dam sire Marauding is by Sir Tristram, member of the prolific Selene/Gondolette family which strongly influences Brave Smash's pedigree via Schiavoni, Hyperion, Pharamond II and Chamossaire. Choisir (whose sire Danehill Dancer is out of a mare bred on the same Sharpen Up/Caro cross as Tosen Phantom) line mares are of interest here as he also has plenty of Gondolette.

Fastnet Rock's son Smart Missile is another of particular interest with his second dam sire Fappiano being a son of the excellent broodmare Killaloe whose stakes winning daughter Jedina is the fourth dam of Brave Smash's sire Tosen Phantom.

Other strains of Fappiano's champion sire Mr Prospector are also worth seeking as his prolific ancestress Frizette is also ancestress of Tosen Smash's great grandsire Partholon - as well as of Seattle Slew, Shecky Greene, Elusive Quality, Darshaan and Lomond, dam sire of Danehill's son Exceed And Excel.

Fappiano can also be found in Bernardini, as the dam sire of Husson and Northern Meteor whose sire Encosta de Lago is out of a mare by Selene's descendant Star Way. Northern Meteor's son Zoustar also matches up well, being out of a mare by Redoute's Choice.

Fappiano also appears in Australian pedigrees via his son Unbridled and one such pedigree of great interest is Puissance de Lune, son of the multiple Gr.1 winner Shamardal whose fourth dam Boulevard is the third dam of Brave Smash's grandsire Neo Universe. This is a wonderful family to line-breed to and another way to do so is via Street Cry, Boulevard's Dubai Cup winning great grandson. And as a bonus Street Cry is a son of Machiavellian, member of that great Natalma/Northern Dancer family.

Street Cry's son Street Boss is one of special note with his multiple Gr.1 winning dam sire Ogygian being a descendant of the classy race and broodmare Grand Splendor, dam of Killaloe. She is in turn a descendant of the great Plucky Liege who is a strong influence in Brave Smash's pedigree, also appearing via her sons Sir Gallahad III, Bull Dog, Admiral Drake and Bois Roussel. Each of these stallions make their mark on local pedigrees.

Brave Smash also boasts multiple strains of the influential matriarch Quiver, ancestress of Wild Risk, Palestine (of whom Brave Smash carries three strains), Balloch and the legendary Sunday Silence. The latter two are descendants of Quiver's prolific 1000 Guineas winning great granddaughter Cinna who has well and truly made her mark in this part of the world and again this brings Danehill back into the fray - as his dam sire His Majesty has as his second dam sire Cinna's most influential son Beau Pere, three times leading Australian sire and three times champion New Zealand sire.

Other Cinna descendants include the terrific Queenslander Show A Heart (whose sire Brave Warrior is bred on a Bletchingly/Nijinsky II cross), Sky Chase (by Star Way), Clay Hero (out of a Bletchingly mare) and Vice Regal. And Quiver is also ancestress of Right Royal to whom the emerging broodmare sire General Nediym (whose sire Nediym is a Mumtaz Begum descendant) is line-bred.

Another family which strongly influences Brave Smash's pedigree is that which has Livie II as its ancestress... he has Free France, Hillary, Flares (twice) and Maravedis. Also from this family are two stallions prevalent in Australian pedigrees - Lyphard and Success Express.

Brave Smash's closest line-breeding is his 4 X 4 cross of Japan's legendary stallion Northern Taste who hails from the same branch of the great Pretty Polly family as Northern Dancer's sire Nearctic. And there is even more Pretty Polly in him... Donatello II, Only For Life, Orthodox and Atlantis. It is a case of the more the better for this family - therefore it is worth seeking strains of Radjhasi, Half Hennessy, Catbird, Luthier, Daumier, Artaius (second dam sire of Invincible Spirit), Brigadier Gerard, Fantastic Light, Maizcay, Count Rendered, Supreme Court, St Paddy, Great Nephew, Seventh Hussar, Arctic Explorer, Your Song, Lord Seymour and Revoque.

Strains of Blushing Groom, Mill Reef, Red Anchor and Western Symphony are also worth seeking for Brave Smash who boasts two strains of this prolific Black Ray family - Khaled and Jacopo. As are strains of Vice Regent and Viceregal, grandsons of the terrific mare Victoriana whose son Victoria Park is the dam sire of Northern Taste.

Another mare worthy of duplication is Doubly Sure whose Sussex Stakes winning son Kris is Neo Universe's dam sire. He combines well (24 stakes winners) with his dual Gr.1 winning full brother Diesis.

The Schiaparelli family influence is also worth tapping into, her grandson Shantung being the second dam sire of Neo Universe. She is also ancestress of Last Tycoon (grandsire of Written Tycoon), Roi Dagobert (appears in Starspangledbanner), Celtic Swing, Assert (second dam sire of Reset), Polar Falcon (great grandsire of Under The Louvre), Sassafra (third dam sire of Toronado), Hotel Grand and Outback Prince.

Another great family in Brave Smash is the Aloe clan of which Atan, grandsire of Neo Universe's dam sire Kris is a member. Plenty of that in Australian mares via Round Table (dam sire of Sir Tristram), Gone West, Known Fact, Tell (sire of Pompeii Court), Doutelle, Aureole, Tale Of The Cat, Johannesburg, Kingstone and Alcide.

With Brave Smash's pedigree full of so many influences who fare well in Australia, he is an exciting prospect for the local broodmare population.