STALLION PROFILE by David Bay

STAR TURN

STAR TURN has all the attributes breeders and yearling buyers love, he is strong and handsome, was a brilliant sprinter and has a pedigree laced with speed. You can be sure that plenty of good judges will be keen to secure one of his first crop yearlings at the sales in 2020.

YEARLING buyers looking for a ready made two-year-old type are sure to take a good look at the first crop youngsters by Vinery’s young sire Star Turn at sales in 2020. The powerfully built sprinter won early as a two-year-old and then took on the best sprinters at three and has a sire and dam who also excelled over short courses.

There are more than 100 foals from the first crop of Star Turn (Star Witness-Golden Delicious by Made of Gold (USA)) and breeders who have them say they take after Dad, so they are sure to catch the eye in the sale ring. Star Turn, a chestnut with three white socks and a blaze who stands a tick over 16 hands, was such a handsome yearling he cost that very good judge Alan Bell $400,000 at the Magic Millions on the Gold Coast, making him the most expensive yearling by his sire in 2015. Consider what a big accolade that is as Bells previous sale ring buys number champion sprinter Schillaci along with Deep Field and Grand Armee. The former veterinarian, Gr.1 trainer, businessman, Racing NSW chairman and Racing Hall of Fame inductee has raced more than 30 Gr.1 winners and knows a thing or two about spotting a good horse.

After Star Turn’s win in the San Domenico Stakes-Gr.3 (1100m) he told reporters, “They don’t go any better than that, he’s definitely Gr.1 class”. He was just as positive when he spotted the colt at the sales. “If you’re looking for the quintessential two-year-old, he just has a great look about him.”

A Gr.2 winner and four-times Gr.1 placed in a career of just 12 starts, Star Turn was the first son of Widden Stud’s boom young sire Star Witness
at Walmac Farm, well away from the other stallions. His 289
brother Fairy King (USA) and also to Perugino (sire of Testa Rossa). Nureyev sons who have left Gr.1 winners in this part of the world include champion miler and shuttle Spinning World (USA) (sire of Thorn Park). Gr.1 winner Good Journey (both, like champion sire Redoute's Choice, descendants of Best in Show) and Arc winner Peintre Celebre (USA).

Inbreeding to Nureyev's family (tracing to Rough Shod, family 5h) has been particularly successful (Northern Meteor a case in point) and oft-repeated and, given that Star Turn stands at Vinery, which is also home to now-retired Testa Rossa, it would be no surprise to see the latter's daughters clicking with Star Turn. Remember that dual Gr.1 winner

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(Starcraft-Leone Chiara by Lion Hunter)

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Global Glamour (Special 5mxSf) is by Star Turn from a Testa Rossa daughter, as is Listed winner Lycurgus, while Listed winner Lord Balmoral is from a daughter of Zabeel (dam by Nureyev).

Star Turn is from Gr.3 winner Leone Chiara, a daughter of the Gr.1 placed sprinter Lion Hunter, a son of nine-times Champion Australian Sire Danehill and the imported Pure of Heart (IRE) (Godswalk (USA)) and both Lion Hunter's parents were Gr.1-winning sprinters. Lion Hunter is inbred to speed influence Native Dancer and his second dam, the juvenile winner Chiara, is by Last Tycoon, a crack sprinter in England who went to the US to claim the Breeders' Cup Mile-Gr.1 before a stellar stud career.

Daughters of his grandson Written Tycoon look a good bet with Star Turn. Etiole d'Or, third dam of Star Witness, is by Diplomatic Star (USA) (by the Nashua son Diplomat Way), whose dam Ritmar (Star Kingdom (IRE)), won the Lightning Stakes before her export to the US. Another of her sons, Taipan II (USA) (Bold Ruler) stood with success in NZ.

Star Turn carries another line of another exported Star Kingdom champion, as his tough-as-teak dam Golden Delicious is by Made of Gold, a Prix de la Salamandre-Gr.1 runner-up, by Green Forest, a grandson of Cox Plate winner Novohome, a brother to the first Golden Slipper winner Todman (whose descendants should work with Star Turn). Novohome rose from obscurity at stud in Arkansas to eventually become one of the best sires in the US, a legacy carried on by his son Nodouble, a champion handicapper who was leading sire in the US in 1981 and whose sire sons include Queensland hero Semipalatinsk (USA). That horse is the sire of the second dam of Spirit of Boom, a dual Gr.1 winner and leading sire for Eureka Stud and a horse who carries Thatch, a brother to Special. 4mxSf. As Spirit of Boom’s dam is by a son of Danzelli his daughters look ready made for Star Turn.

Made of Gold (ex Vindaria by Roi Doboldt), who won the Royal Lodge Stakes-Gr.2 at Royal Ascot as a juvenile, sired the winners of more than $22m (17SW) and he is the dam sire of winners of more than $24m (10SW), most notably international sprint champion and now sire success Starspangledbanner (by Choisir, a sire who has shown great affinity with mares carrying Todman and Novohome and another whose daughters should suit Star Turn). Golden Delicious won 13 races (1000m-1200m) to Gr.3 level including the WATC Prince of Wales Stakes and is a daughter of the multiple winner Barossa Gourmet, by tough Canadian stakes winner Pre Empitive Strike (CAN) (Blushing Groom-Queen Maud by Nearctic) and from Marry Me Maria (My Heart (IRE)-Regal Waters by Above Water (IRE)), winner of seven races (1100m-1000m) and dam of three winners. Her sire My Heart (IRE), a grandson of Nasrullah, won eight races and is best remembered as the sire of Golden Slipper-Gr.1 heroine Hartshill.

Star Turn’s fifth dam, Queen of Egypt (Nilo (GB)-Pagan Queen by Talking), won four races and left eight winners including stakes placed Blue Nile (who founded a very strong branch of this family) and Royal Biscay (sire) and is a half-sister to Pomplilia, dam of Golden Slipper winner and sire Pago Pago. Queen of Egypt's descendants include the Gr.1 winners Ancient Song (Canny Lad) and Preferment (Zabeel). This is family 10.

Alan Bell raced the handsome Star Turn (later joined by Vinery) from the stables of John, Michael and Wayne Hawkies and the youngster came to hand early. He placed third on debut in the Kirkham (1000m) at Randwick on October 10 of his juvenile season before winning the Pierro Plate (1100m in 1:04.87) there two weeks later, beating Medalle by three lengths. Given a break, the colt won a Warwick Farm trial on January 25, 2016 before heading to Melbourne where he was beaten a short neck by Flying Artie when second in the Blue Diamond Prelude-Gr.3 (1100m) at Caulfield on February 13. He was then fifth (of 16) in the Blue Diamond-Gr.1 behind Extreme Choice on February 27.

Star Turn won a Roschell trial on March 14 and was then sixth (of 16) behind Capitalist in the Golden Slipper-Gr.1 on March 19, beaten just 3.2 lengths after being 10th at the 400m. Two trial wins in July and August saw him well primed for his first start at three and he accounted for Tango Rain and Kentucky Miss in winning the San Domenico-Gr.3 (1100m) at Rosehill on August 13, 2016 after sitting second most of the journey for regular rider Tommy Berry on a surface rated soft (7) and with the handicapper who was leading sire in the US in 1981 and whose sire sons include Queensland hero Semipalatinsk (USA). That horse is the sire of the second dam of Star Witness, is by Diplomatic Star (USA) (by the tough Prince of Wales Stakes and is a daughter of the nine-times Champion Australian Sire Danehill (who founded a very strong branch of this family) and is a half-sister (who founded a very strong branch of this family) and is a half-sister eight winners including stakes placed Blue Nile (who founded a very strong branch of this family) and Royal Biscay (sire) and is a half-sister to Pomplilia, dam of Golden Slipper winner and sire Pago Pago. Queen of Egypt's descendants include the Gr.1 winners Ancient Song (Canny Lad) and Preferment (Zabeel). This is family 10.

“...it is not easy for the three-year-olds to beat the older horses so early in the season,” Wayne Hawkies said. “These are boys taking on men, so it was a good effort.”

Star Turn tried to lead all the way down the Flemington straight in the Coolmore (Ascot Vale) Stakes-Gr.1 (1200m) on October 29 and was beaten just 1.35 lengths by Flying Artie and Astern in 1:08.98. It was the first of his four Gr.1 thirds. He was next out on February 18, 2017 when narrowly beaten by Terravista and Speith in the VRC Lightning-Gr.1 (1000m). He again took on the older sprinters on March 11 when third to Redkirk Warrior (GB) and Voodoo Lad in the VRC Newmarket-Gr.1 (1200m), beaten 2.1 lengths after being in the lead most of the way and on March 24 when third to Silent Sedition and Hellbent in the William Reid-Gr.1 (1200m) at Moonee Valley on March 24, beaten 1.35 lengths. That was his final start and he retired with three wins, two seconds and five thirds in 12 starts for earnings of $877,300.

“We had been tracking him since his first win as an early two-year-old at Randwick, but it was his three-year-old campaign that impressed us the most,” Vinery’s Peter Orton said after the stud had bought into the talented colt during his racing career. “He has pedigree, performance and physique, all essential qualities we look for in a stallion and Vinery’s partners have given him great support, sending some really nice mares in his first season and in subsequent seasons.”

Broodmare owners have been really impressed as well, sending some high-class mares to Star Turn and then rating the foals “the best on the farm”. His fee in his first three seasons was $22,000, which could mean a big pay day for his supporters come sale time. The young sire has been turning heads since he was a yearling and now his first crop, which had weanlings sell up to $90,000 in 2019, is set to do the same in 2020 and he’s sure to be a freshman sire star.