

WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

Saturday, Santa Anita

SANTA YSABEL S.-GIII, \$109,200, SAX, 1-7, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m, 1:44 3/5, ft.

1--@#ITTY BITTY PRETTY, 118, f, 3, by [El Corredor](#)

1st Dam: Topsy Girl (MSW & MGSP, \$285,817), by Raise a Cup

2nd Dam: Astrology Miss, by Cornish Prince

3rd Dam: Good Call, by Case Ace

(\$75,000 yrl '04 FTSAUG; \$40,000 2yo '05

BESMAY). O-STD Racing Stable & Jason Wood;

B-Liberation Farm & Oratis Thoroughbreds (KY);

T-Doug F O'Neill; J-P A Valenzuela; \$65,520.

Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-2, \$127,909. *Fourth SW for sophomore sire (by Mr. Greeley).

Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or the [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made](#).

One of the current concerns for some pedigree pundits is the degree of inbreeding to Northern Dancer and Raise a Native (and his son Mr. Prospector) in the North American Thoroughbred, and particularly its long-term effect.

These concerns, however, betray a certain lack of historical perspective. In fact, if we go all the way back to the 1800s, there were concerns about the breed being overwhelmed by the two dominant influences of the day, Eclipse and Herod (daughters of Eclipse were frequently bred to Herod, and vice versa, with the same being true for their sons). Moving on to 1935, when Friedrich Becker published *The Breed of Racehorse: Its Developments and Transformations*, he expressed great concern about the effects of inbreeding, particularly to St. Simon, the greatest stallion of the late 19th and early



El Corredor
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20th centuries. Needless to say, Becker's fears proved groundless, and while St. Simon's male line is now in a perilous state, it flourished for the better part of a century after St. Simon's heyday, producing Princequillo and Ribot, among others.

History also shows some other things regarding inbreeding and time. Lines diversify over generations, and as strains recede further back in pedigrees, their duplication ceases to be an emotive issue. How many modern breeders care that all but a tiny percentage of modern Thoroughbreds trace back in male line to Eclipse, and that well over 90 percent of those are from the Phalaris male line?

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Porter cont.

Incidentally, with regard to the potential damage done to the breed by inbreeding, and particularly to the names mentioned in the first paragraph: we can note that virtually all of Phalaris' most import offspring-- including the male line founding Fairway, Pharos, Sickle and Pharamond II--were inbred 4x3 to St. Simon. Meanwhile, Sir Hercules, one of the links in the chain between Eclipse and Phalaris, had Eclipse 4x4, and Herod 4x5x5x6 (the modern equivalent, perhaps having Mr. Prospector 4x4 and Northern Dancer 4x5x5x6). Of course the major inbreeding targets of the day don't only recede in the male line, but throughout the pedigree. In a few years time it will be nothing for a horse to have five crosses of Northern Dancer within seven generations (and he is already starting to appear that far back some current matings), just as today we find a similar incidence of Nearco and Nasrullah. Even if we look at sires like the newly retired Limehouse (Mr. Prospector 3x3, Northern Dancer 4x3) or Roman Ruler (Mr. Prospector 2x4, Northern Dancer 4x5), one could breed a mare by a son of, say Storm Cat, and have Northern Dancer at 5x4x5 (Limehouse) or 5x6x5 (Roman Ruler), neither of which would be regarded by most breeders as a particularly worrying proposition. The second factor is that strains come along which are compatible outcrosses for the dominant influences of the day, and in turn they flourish.

Looking at the present day, there have, of course already been several Group- or Grade I-siring stallions with a double of Northern Dancer, but the Mr. Prospector double has only had its first serious test in the last few months. This is in the shape of El Corredor, the first Grade I-winning colt to carry Mr. Prospector inbreeding. By Mr. Greeley (and grandson of Mr. Prospector) out of a mare by Silver Deputy (dam by Mr. Prospector), El Corredor owns Mr. Prospector 3x4 (and also a strain of Northern Dancer). **Cont. p10**

ITTY BITTY PRETTY, f, 2003

El Corredor	Mr. Greeley	Gone West	Mr. Prospector Secrettame
		Long Legend	Reviewer Liang
	Silvery Swan	Silver Deputy	Deputy Minister Silver Valley
		Sociable Duck	Quack Unsociable
Tipsy Girl MSW & MGSP, 44-8-6-11, \$285,817 12Fls, 1GSW, 3SP	Raise a Cup	Raise a Native	Native Dancer Raise You
		Spring Sunshine	Nashua Real Delight
	Astrology Miss 4-0-0-0, \$0 14Fls, 1SW	Cornish Prince	Bold Ruler Teleran
		Good Call 5Fls, 2SW	Case Ace Hi Fling

Porter cont.

A winner of one of two starts at two, El Corredor emerged victorious from four of five second season outings, including wins in the GII Del Mar Breeders' Cup H. and GI Cigar Mile. His only defeat at three came when second to Fusaichi Pegasus in the GII Jerome H. El Corredor started just three times at four, but captured a second renewal of the GII Del Mar Breeders' Cup H. and GII Pat O'Brien H. At the end of his career, El Corredor retired to stand at Hill 'n' Dale Farms, Lexington, Kentucky at a fee of \$20,000 (which has moved to \$30,000 for 2006).

As the first major stallion prospect with inbreeding to Mr. Prospector, one can be sure that El Corredor's progress has been carefully watched by the pedigree community, and that progress has been pretty spectacular. From his first 37 runners, El Corredor has been represented by 17 winners and six black-type horses, including the GI Frizette S. and GII Spinaway S. winner Adieu; El Viento, a multiple stakes winner in Puerto Rico; the Hill Rise S. victor Objective, and most recently, Itty Bitty Pretty, who took last weekend's GIII Santa Ysabel S.

Itty Bitty Pretty is the first stakes winner for her dam, Topsy Girl, but Topsy Girl has bred eight other winners from nine starters, including the stakes-placed Easy Action, Subito and Canaan Land, all by sons or grandsons of Mr. Prospector. She's also granddam of the stakes-placed Fresh Tracks, who is by El Corredor's broodmare sire, Silver Deputy. Topsy Girl was talented runner in her own right, winning eight races and \$285,817. She gained stakes victories in the Majorette H. and Breeders' Cup Weekend Delight S., and among her six stakes placings was a second in the GIII Honey Bee H., and thirds in the GIII Shirley Jones H. and GIII Brown & Williamson H.



Itty Bitty Pretty
Benoit Photo

Topsy Girl was the only black-type winner for her dam, the Cornish Prince mare Astrology Miss, although one of Topsy Girl's half-sisters, Remarkably, is ancestress of several minor stakes winners. Topsy Girl's granddam, Good Call, recorded stakes victories in the Beverly, Correction and Yo Tambien H., and bred the Barbara Fritchie H. winner and good broodmare Call Card.

In view of El Corredor's inbreeding to Mr. Prospector, the mating which produced Itty Bitty Pretty was an intriguing and rather daring one. Rather than being an outcross for El Corredor's dominant strain, Itty Bitty Pretty's broodmare sire, Raise a Cup, is by Raise a Native, out of a mare by Nashua, and so is actually a three-quarters relative to Mr. Prospector. Thus Itty Bitty Pretty has the three-parts relatives Mr. Prospector/Raise a Cup 4x5x2. **Cont. p11**

Porter cont.

That isn't the end of the story, either. Itty Bitty Pretty's third dam, Good Call, is by Case Ace out of a mare by American Flag, and this is an identical pattern to the one which produced Raise You, the dam of Raise a Native, so Raise You/Good Call appear 6x7x4x3. Obviously, intensifying the strains behind El Corredor's inbreeding has done no harm in this case.

None of El Corredor's other stakes winners are quite as intensely inbred, but Objective is out of a mare by Katowice, a grandson of Northern Dancer, out of a half-sister to Mr. Prospector, so has Northern Dancer 6x4, and Gold Digger 5x6x4. Meanwhile Adieu and El Viento have multiple crosses of another horse to whom inbreeding was once a concern, Bold Ruler.

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