



Belmont Monarch

BY DAVID SCHMITZ

What is it about the 1½-mile Belmont Stakes (gr. I) that makes for such upsets and surprises? In 2008 Da' Tara, a maiden winner sent off at 38-1, upset Big Brown's Triple Crown bid. The following year Summer Bird, another maiden winner, captured the Belmont. In 2010 Drosselmeyer, whose biggest prior score had been in an allowance event, took the race.

Ruler On Ice's pedigree shows that Mr. Prospector continues to exert an influence in the Belmont

This year's Belmont followed a similar pattern as George and Lori Hall's maiden winner and 24-1 longshot Ruler On Ice upended Preakness Stakes (gr. I) winner Shackleford and Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I) winner Animal Kingdom, who finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

Ruler On Ice's sire line offers several clues to the gelding's mastery at the 1½-mile distance. Ruler On Ice's sire, Roman Ruler, proved solid enough to win graded stakes around two turns at 2 and 3. Plus, Roman Ruler's sire, Fusaichi Pegasus, a \$4 million Keeneland July sale yearling, won the Kentucky Derby (at 1¼ miles) and finished second in the Preakness Stakes (at 1⅓ miles).

And then there's Ruler On Ice's great-grand sire, Mr. Prospector. Despite winning only as far as seven furlongs and being by the speed-favoring sire Raise a Native, Mr. Prospector has exerted a profound influence in the Belmont.

Ruler On Ice is the 15th Belmont winner descending in male line from Mr. Prospector, who sired just one Belmont winner, 1982 winner Conquistador Cielo, who caught a sloppy track he relished. Ironically, Conquistador Cielo, whose 14-length Belmont score is the co-fifth longest winning margin in the history of the race, failed to sire a Belmont winner. The other 14 winners trace though nine of Mr. Prospector's sons. Summer Bird, the subsequent champion 3-year-old male of 2009, and Drosselmeyer are two of the 14.

Ruler On Ice, who is the first Belmont winner by Mr. Prospector's grandson Roman Ruler, came from his sire's second crop. New Jersey pedigree consultant Rob Whiteley planned the matings that produced both Roman Ruler and Ruler On Ice as well as Roman Ruler's dam, Silvery Swan.

Roman Ruler was bred in Kentucky by Whiteley's Liberation Farm in partnership

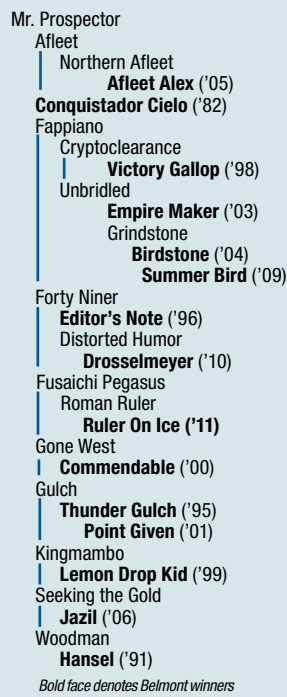
with Phil Needham and Bill Betz' Needham/Betz Farm and John Magnier and partners' Ashford Stud. Liberation and Jim and Pam Robinson's Brandywine Farm are the breeders of Ruler On Ice, who was foaled at Brandywine near Paris, Ky., and is out of the stakes-winning Saratoga Six mare Champagne Glow.

"I'm a major proponent of mating mares to stallions with physical considerations in order to maximize athleticism," Whiteley said. "I start with the physical mating first and then go to pedigree consideration. In the case of (Roman Ruler and Champagne Glow), they fit well together—type to type, frame to frame. Both were extremely athletic and had great depth in their families by way of their inbreeding patterns."

Roman Ruler is inbred 2x4 to Mr. Prospector, whose sire, Raise a Native, also appears in Champagne Glow's pedigree. Raise a Native is Champagne Glow's great-grand sire.

"I was one of the first to recognize the potential of inbreeding to Raise a Native," Whiteley said. "It was taboo when I got in the horse business. I also like the Bold Ruler cross (4x4) in Champagne

MALE LINE CHART



In siring a Belmont Stakes winner, Roman Ruler adds versatility to his résumé

LEE THOMAS

Glow's pedigree.”

Ruler On Ice, who also is inbred 5x5 to Northern Dancer, is a half brother to grade I winner Champagne d'Oro. Bred by Liberation and raced by Southern Equine Stable alone and in partnership, Champagne d'Oro won last year's Bet-fair TVG Acorn Stakes (gr. I) on the Belmont Stakes undercard and the Test Stakes (gr. I) at Saratoga.

Strong Family

Roman Ruler was a hot item when he went through the 2003 Keeneland September yearling sale. He not only was from the first crop of a Kentucky Derby winner but was a half brother to grade I winner El Corredor and grade III winner Silver Tornado. Consigned by Needham-Betz-Hanley, agents, Roman Ruler was purchased for \$500,000 by David J. Shimmon.

Roman Ruler raced for Shimmon and William Bianco's Fog City Stable. Trained by Bob Baffert, Roman Ruler won the 2004 Del Mar Futurity (gr. II) and the Norfolk Stakes (gr. II) in succession before finishing fifth as the 2-1 favorite in the Bessemer Trust Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I).

Hindered by a quarter crack since his 2-year-old days, Roman Ruler began his 3-year-old season badly beaten in the San Felipe Stakes (gr. II) in March and was off until July. He returned to win the Dwyer Stakes (gr. II) at Belmont and then took the Haskell Invitational Handicap (gr. I) at Monmouth Park. He raced twice more, finishing third behind Flower Alley and Bellamy Road in the Travers Stakes (gr. I) at Saratoga and second in the Goodwood Breeders' Cup Handicap (gr. II) at Oak Tree, before being retired. During his career he won or placed in eight of 10 races and earned \$1,220,800.

Roman Ruler entered stud for a fee of \$30,000 in 2006 alongside El Corredor at John Sikura's Hill 'n' Dale Farms near Lexington. Roman Ruler proved highly popular. His first crop yielded 148 named foals.

Roman Ruler ranked second on both the 2009 first-crop sires' list and the sires of 2-year-olds list by progeny earnings, with more than \$1.9 million. He was represented by 29 juvenile winners, including Home-

boykris, winner of the 2009 Champagne Stakes (gr. I) at Belmont Park, and grade III winner Rule, who earned nearly \$600,000 that year. In 2010 Roman Ruler ranked fifth on the second-crop list, with progeny earnings of more than \$2.85 million.

“He's shown now he can get a classic winner,” Sikura said. “Roman Ruler was a colt of tremendous ability who had some foot problems that abbreviated his career. But he's a grade I winner and a handsome horse, and his dam is an outstanding producer.

“I first thought he was a stallion that injected speed, but now I see his runners can go a distance of ground. He was a brilliant 2-year-old himself, but now he's got a 1½-mile classic winner, so now I have to say he's also versatile.”

Sikura, who owns the dam of Belmont Stakes third-place finisher Brilliant Speed, figures Roman Ruler will cover about 50 mares this year. “We're in a market where breeders take very little risk,” he said. “They want certainty, and a classic win-

ner is a great endorsement for your horse. He's got some big crops behind him to represent him.”

Roman Ruler, who has shuttled to Argentina, has sired six stakes winners, including Mexican grade I winner Zacatlan.

Alydar's Granddaughter

Ruler On Ice's female family also sports plenty of strength. Ruler On Ice's first three dams are stakes winners/stakes producers.

Champagne Glow, whose grandsire Alydar engaged in heroic battles with Affirmed in all three 1978 Triple Crown events but came away empty-handed, won the 1990 Schuylkill Stakes and finished second in that year's Frizette Stakes (gr. I) to subsequent champion Meadow Star.

Ruler On Ice's second dam, Champagne Ginny, scored her biggest win in the Boiling Springs Stakes (gr. IIIT). She not only produced Champagne Glow but also Italian champion Jurado, grade I winner Grand Canyon, and listed stakes winner Track Dance. Ruler On Ice's third dam,

RULER ON ICE	<p>ROMAN RULER, 2002 Bred by Needham/Betz Thoroughbreds, Liberation Farm & Ashford Stud Raced 2 yrs, 5 s, SW, \$1,220,800 263 f, 6 SW, 1.58 AEI</p>	<p>FUSAICHI PEGASUS, 1997 Bred by Arthur B. Hancock III & Stonerside Raced 2 yrs, 9 s, SW \$1,994,400 1,379 f, 60 SW, 1.47 AEI</p>	<p>MR. PROSPECTOR, 1970 Bred by Leslie Combs Raced 2yrs, 14s, SW, \$112,171 1,178 f, 181 SW, 3.98 AEI</p>	<p>RAISE A NATIVE, 1961 Bred by Happy Hill Farm Raced 1 yr, 4 s, SW, \$45,955</p>	<p>NATIVE DANCER</p>
			<p>ANGEL FEVER, 1990 Bred by Loblolly Stable Raced 1 yr, 2 s, wnr, \$25,665 7 f, 4 r, 3 w, 1 SW</p>	<p>GOLD DIGGER, 1962, Bred by Brownell Combs II & Leslie Combs Raced 3 yrs, 35 s, SW, \$127,255</p>	<p>NASHUA</p>
		<p>SILVER SWAN, 1994 Bred by Foxfield Unraced 8 f, 7 r, 6 w, 3 SW</p>	<p>SILVER DEPUTY, 1985 Bred by International Thoroughbred Breeders Raced 1 yr, 2 s, SW, \$41,820 1,023 f, 84 SW, 1.90 AEI</p>	<p>DANZIG, 1977, Bred by Derry Meeting Farm & W.S. Farish III Raced 2 yrs, 3 s, wnr, \$32,400</p>	<p>NORTHERN DANCER</p>
			<p>SOCIABLE DUCK, 1982 Bred by Bwamazon Farm Raced 2 yrs, 6 s, wnr, \$37,156 11 f, 9 r, 8 w, 2 SW</p>	<p>ROWDY ANGEL, 1979 Bred by Trust, Black Gates Nursery Raced 2 yrs, 13 s, pl, \$16,395</p>	<p>PAS DE NOM</p>
			<p>ALYDAR, 1975 Bred by Calumet Farm Raced 3 yrs, 26 s, SW, \$957,195 689 f, 77 SW, 5.07 AEI</p>	<p>DEPUTY MINISTER, 1979 Bred by Centurion Farms Raced 3 yrs, 22 s, SW, \$696,964</p>	<p>HALO</p>
	<p>CHAMPAGNE GLOW, 1988 Bred by Lin-Drake Farm and Eaton Farms Raced 3 yrs, 17 s, SW, \$128,250 12 f, 11 r, 10 w, 2 SW</p>	<p>SARATOGA SIX, 1982 Bred by Eaton Farms & Red Bull Stable Raced 1 yr, 4 s, SW, \$304,940 663 f, 40 SW, 1.41 AEI</p>	<p>SILVER VALLEY, 1979 Bred by A.F. Torretta Raced 2 yrs, 20 s, SW, \$105,731</p>	<p>MR. PROSPECTOR</p>	
			<p>PRICELESS FAME, 1975 Bred by Eaton Farms & Red Bull Stable Raced 1 yr, 6s, wnr, \$9,700 11 f, 7 r, 5 w, 2 SW</p>	<p>QUACK, 1969 Bred by Bwamazon Farm Raced 3 yrs, 23 s, SW, \$514,400</p>	<p>SEVEN VALLEYS</p>
		<p>CHAMPAGNE GINNY, 1977 Bred by Frank E. Mackle Raced 3 yrs, 37 s, SW, \$181,981 6 f, 5 r, 5 w, 4 SW</p>	<p>L'ENJOLEUR, 1972 Bred by J. Louis Levesque Raced 2 yrs, 30 s, SW, \$546,079 598 f, 35 SW, 1.55 AEI</p>	<p>UNSOCIALE, 1969 Bred by Bwamazon Farm Raced 3 yrs, 12 s, wnr, \$13,680</p>	<p>T.V. LARK</p>
				<p>IRISH CASTLE, 1967 Bred by Wheatley Stable Raced 3 yrs, 18 s, SW, \$106,702</p>	<p>QUILLON</p>
				<p>COMELY NELL, 1962 Bred by Calumet Farm Unraced</p>	<p>NEVER BEND</p>
<p>SEMINOLE GIRL, 1972 Bred by Frank E. Mackle Race d 3 yrs, 11 s, SW, \$25,590 9 f, 9 r, 7 w, 2 SW</p>	<p>CHIEFTAIN, 1961 Bred by Raymond R. Guest Raced 3 yrs, 36 s, SW, \$405,256</p>	<p>BUCKPASSER, 1963 Bred by Ogden Phipps Raced 3 yrs, 31 s, SW, \$1,462,014</p>	<p>VASSAR GRAD</p>		
		<p>FANFRELUCHE, 1967 Bred by J. Louis Levesque Raced 2 yrs, 21 s, SW, \$238,688</p>	<p>ON-AND-ON</p>		
		<p>UNIFIED, 1959 Bred by Fred W. Hooper Raced 1 yr, 1 s</p>	<p>PLUM CAKE</p>		
Bred by Liberation Farm and Brandywine Farm in Kentucky; foaled April 2, 2008				<p>CASTLE FORBES</p>	<p>COMMODORE M.</p>
				<p>NELLIE L.</p>	<p>TOM FOOL</p>
				<p>BUSANDA</p>	<p>BUSANDA</p>
				<p>NORTHERN DANCER</p>	<p>NORTHERN DANCER</p>
				<p>CIBOULETTE</p>	<p>CIBOULETTE</p>
				<p>BOLD RULER</p>	<p>BOLD RULER</p>
				<p>POCAHONTAS</p>	<p>POCAHONTAS</p>
				<p>OLYMPIA</p>	<p>OLYMPIA</p>
				<p>TULIFINNY</p>	<p>TULIFINNY</p>

Seminole Girl, also was a multiple stakes producer.

Whiteley, a fan of Grand Canyon during the colt's brief racing days in 1989, bred Roman Ruler to Champagne Glow to capitalize on the cross of Mr. Prospector and Champagne Ginny. Grand Canyon, a multiple grade I winner at 2, was sired by Mr. Prospector's son Fappiano.

Saratoga Six, the broodmare sire of Ruler On Ice, is the maternal grandsire of more than 80 stakes winners. The cross of Mr. Prospector and his sons and grandsons with the daughters of Saratoga Six has produced nine stakes winners (7.4%) from starters.

Brandywine Home

Ruler On Ice isn't the only starter from this year's Belmont foaled at Brandywine. Prime Cut, who finished 11th, was born and raised on the farm. He was bred by Stuart McPhee.

The Robinsons and Liberation Farm are the breeders of additional 2011 stakes winners Street Storm and Vision in Gold, the



Champagne Glow has been bred back to Roman Ruler

latter of whom won this year's Santa Maria Handicap (gr. II) and ran third in the Santa Margarita Invitational Stakes (gr. I).

The Robinsons and Whiteley work as a team, with the latter tending to breeding matters. Pam handles the horses on a day-to-day basis. Jim is in charge of the breeding shed runs and handles many of the farm chores. Both handle the foaling.

"This is what we love to do," Pam Rob-

inson said. "It's a large mom-and-pop operation. We handle about 140 mares in foal."

Ruler On Ice was consigned by Brandywine to the 2009 Keeneland September yearling sale, where the Halls bought him for \$100,000.

Champagne Glow, who is 23, has produced a dozen named foals, 10 of which are winners, including stakes-place Lost On Champagne in addition to Champagne d'Oro and Ruler On Ice.

"She doesn't think she's an older mare," Pam Robinson said. "She acts like she's 10 and thinks she's a spring chicken. She's extremely intelligent and does things on her own terms."

Champagne Glow's yearling A.P. Warrior filly was bought as a weanling for \$100,000 by Susan Casner, wife of former WinStar Farm owner Bill Casner, at last year's Keeneland November breeding stock sale from Brandywine, agent.

Champagne Glow did not get in foal in 2010 and came up empty from a mating to Roman Ruler earlier this year. She was bred to him again a couple of days before the Belmont. **Q**

RULER ON ICE'S RACE RECORD AND FAMILY NOTES

BELMONT STAKES (gr. I), Belmont Park, June 11, \$1,000,000 guaranteed, value of race \$1,000,000, 3-year-olds, 126 pounds, 12 furlongs, 2:30.88 (track record, 2:24), track sloppy.

RULER ON ICE (ch g), **B+**\$600,000
 Roman Ruler—Champagne Glow, by Saratoga Six
 B—Liberation Farm and Brandywine Farm, Ky.; O—George and Lori Hall;
 T—Kelly J. Breen

Stay Thirsty (dkb/br c), **A+**\$200,000
 Bernardini—Marozia, by Storm Bird
 B—John D. and John Darren Gunther, Ky.; O—Repole Stable

Brilliant Speed (dkb/br c), **A++**\$110,000
 Dynaformer—Speed Succeeds, by Gone West
 B—Live Oak Stud, Fla.; O—Live Oak Plantation

Margins: ¾, 1½, 5¼. Others: Nehro (\$60,000), Shackelford (\$30,000), Animal Kingdom, Mucho Macho Man, Santiva, Monzon, Master of Hounds, Prime Cut, Isn't He Perfect. Winning jockey, Jose Valdivia Jr

RULER ON ICE'S RACE AND (STAKES) RECORD

Year	Age	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earned
2010	at 2	2	1	0	0	\$23,300
2011	at 3	5	2(1)	2(1)	1(1)	\$743,200
	Lifetime	7	3(1)	2(1)	1(1)	\$766,500

Sire: **ROMAN RULER**, dkb/br, 2002. Raced 2 yrs, 10 sts, 5 wins, \$1,220,800. Won Haskell Invitational H (gr. I), Norfolk S (gr. II), Best Pal S (gr. II), Dwyer S (gr. II); 2nd Goodwood Breeders' Cup H (gr. II), Del Mar Futurity (gr. II); 3rd Travers S (gr. I).

Lifetime: 3 crops, 263 foals, 173 mrs (66%), 108 wnrs (41%), 37 2yo wnrs (14%), 6 sw (2%), 1.58 AEI, 2.08 CI, 158 sale yrlds, avg \$46,290, 0.9 TNA.

In 2011: 2 sw, 35 2yos, 1 2yo mr, 1 2yo wrn.

1st dam: **CHAMPAGNE GLOW**, ch, 1988. Bred by Lin-Drake Farm and Eaton Farms (Fla.). Raced 3 yrs, 17 sts, 3 wins, \$128,250. Won Schuylkill S; 2nd Frizette S (gr. I). Dam of 12 named foals, 11 mrs, 10 wnrs, 2 sw. (\$260,000, 1989 keesep yrld; \$150,000, 1997 keenov, Summer Squall; \$70,000, 1999 keenov, Favorite Trick).

1993: Glowing Tru, b g, by Capote. Raced 5 yrs, 50 sts, 14 wins, \$203,769. (\$105,000 keejul yrld; \$17,000 ftmrv 2yo).

1994: Embassy Ball, b g, by Deputy Minister. Unraced. (\$160,000 keesep yrld).

1995: Ch c, by A.P. Indy.

1996: Night Talk, dkb/br f, by Kris S. Raced 1 yr, 2 sts, 1 win, \$22,500. Dam of 6 foals, 5 mrs, 4 wnrs.

1997: Indy Fever, ch c, by A.P. Indy. Raced 4 yrs, 15 sts, 1 win, \$23,400. (\$320,000 keesep yrld).

1998: Tyson's Squall, ch g, by Summer Squall. Raced 4 yrs, 46 sts, 3 wins, \$19,194. (\$25,000 keesep yrld).

1999: Phoneforchampagne, ch c, by Phone Trick. Raced 4 yrs, 38 sts, 6 wins, \$179,105. Sire. (\$40,000 keesep yrld; \$31,000 obsarp 2yo).

2000: My Favorite Rose, b f, by Favorite Trick. Raced 2 yrs, 3 sts, 0 wins, \$1,785. Dam of 4 foals, 3 mrs, 1 wrn.

2001: Barren.

2002: Bye Bye Crafty, ch c, by Crafty Prospector. Raced 4 yrs, 22 sts, 4 wins, \$102,815. (\$22,000 ftkjul yrld).

2003: Nickles and Dimes, b c, by Silver Deputy. Raced 2 yrs, 8 sts, 1 win, \$28,370. (\$170,000 ftkjul yrld).

2004: **Lost On Champagne**, ch f, by Orientate. Raced 3 yrs, 10 sts, 1 win, \$26,962. 3rd Cinderella S. (\$15,000 keesep yrld).

2005: Barren.

2006: Barren.

2007: **CHAMPAGNE D'ORO**, b f, by Medaglia d'Oro. Raced 3 yrs, 16 sts, 3 wins, \$572,465. Won Test S (gr. I), Belfair TVG Acorn S (gr. I); 2nd Prioress S (gr. I), Fair Grounds Oaks (gr. II); 3rd Cinderella S. (\$210,000 keesep yrld).

2008: **RULER ON ICE**, ch g, by Roman Ruler. (\$100,000 keesep yrld).

At 3: Won Belmont S (gr. I); 2nd Federico Tesio S; 3rd Sunland Derby (gr. III).

2010: B f, by A. P. Warrior. (\$130,000 keenov wmlg).

Inbreeding: 5SX5D Northern Dancer; 4SX4D Raise a Native.

Nicking: **ROMAN RULER w/SARATOGA SIX** mares: 2 foals, 2 str, 1 wrn (50%), 1 2yo wrn (50%), 1 SW (50%), 1 GSW (50%)

Broodmare sire: **SARATOGA SIX**, b, 1982-2006. Sire of 234 dams of 1,332 foals, 981 mrs (74%), 707 wnrs (53%), 190 2yo wnrs (14%), 1.38 AEI, 1.45 CI; 81 sw.

2nd dam: **CHAMPAGNE GINNY**, b, 1977-1989. Bred by Frank E. Mackle Jr. (Fla.). Raced 3 yrs, 37 sts, 8 wins, \$181,981. Won Boiling Springs S (gr. III), Kentucky Cardinal H, Nellie Bly S (T); 2nd Dearly Precious H (T), La Prevoyante H (T), Miss Woodford S, Pocahontas S, Violet H (T), Orange Blossom H (R); 3rd Bonnie Miss S, Suwannee River H (T). Dam of **JURADO** (c, Alleged; \$423,737, Champion miler in Italy. Won Premio Vittorio di Capua, It-I, Premio Emilio Turati, It-II, Premio Cascine, It-III, Premio Botticelli, Premio Cino del Duca, Premio Po, Premio Sirmione, Premio dei Proprietari Memorial G. Berardelli, Premio del Piazzale; 2nd Premio Federico Tesio, It-II, Premio Niccolo dell'Arca, Premio del Piazzale; 3rd Premio Roma, It-I, Premio Ambrosiano, It-III, Premio Firenze, Premio G. G. Trivulzio, Premio Villa Borghese; sire in Ire.), **GRAND CANYON** (c, Fappiano; \$1,019,540. Won Hollywood Futurity, gr. I, Norfolk S, gr. I, Brown & Williamson Kentucky Jockey Club S, gr. III; 2nd Breeders' Cup Juvenile, gr. I, Sunny Slope S), **TRACK DANCE** (c, Green Dancer; \$110,746. Won Fall Festival Juvenile S; sire), **Elegant Champagne** (f, Alleged; \$35,506. 3rd Tropical Park Oaks, T; dam of **PARTY AIRS**, **Lenado Road**).