

LEELANAU

By Sid Fernando

In 2001, the Carson City two-year-old colt Leelanau, a winner of his only start, entered the starting gates at Churchill Downs for the five and a half furlong Grade 3 Kentucky Breeders' Cup Stakes with a world of potential and realized it at the finish by setting a track record at the venerable track where the Kentucky Derby is held each spring. The dark bay colt won the \$162,000 race in a sensational 1:03.11 and finished the year undefeated from two starts.

The next year he'd make only one more start—a third-place finish—before his career was abruptly cut short, but he'd shown enough to land a gig at stud at John T.L. Jones Jr.'s famed Walmac in Kentucky, where he stood from 2003 to 2006 for \$2,500 as the winner of two of three starts and \$130,827. This same farm stood Nureyev, Alleged, and Miswaki, among many other notables.

Leelanau's sprinting sire Carson City stood at Overbrook Farm alongside Storm Cat and was one of Mr. Prospector's best sons at stud—and one who tended to sire fast horses like himself. All told, Carson City (Mr. Prospector—Blushing Promise, by Blushing Groom) sired 94 black-type winners from 14 crops, the best of them like Leelanau either sprinters, milers, or two-year-olds, like City Zip (excellent sire now of turf horses at Lane's End Farm and a winner of the Grade 1 Hopeful at two), City Band (Grade 1 Oak Leaf Stakes at two), Cuvee (Grade 1 Futurity Stakes at two), Carson Hollow (Grade 1 Prioress Stakes), etc.

Leelanau's female family isn't too strong, but his dam, Kris's Intention, is by top sire and stamina influence Kris S., a son of Roberto who began his career inexpensively in Florida as Mr. Prospector had done before moving on to Kentucky, too.

Notwithstanding the stamina of her sire, Kris's Intention also is the dam of the Carson City sprinter Abraaj, who won the Grade 2 Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap, and All Trumps, a minor stakes winner by Grand Slam. This family is strictly all-Florida, which means speed oriented despite the presence of Kris S., and under the fourth dam is the champion sprinter Not Surprising, winner of the Grade 1 Vosburgh and a son of Florida sprinting stalwart Medieval Man.

Now Kris S., the sire of the last US-bred Epsom Derby winner, Kris Kin, in 2003, is also broodmare sire of the fabulous stamina mare Zenyatta as well as 10-furlong Grade 1 winner Arch. The latter sired Blame, who defeated Zenyatta in an epic Breeders' Cup Classic, and it's interesting to note that both Blame and Zenyatta have the cross of Kris S. with Mr. Prospector that Leelanau also possesses. Blame is out of a Seeking the Gold (by Mr. Prospector) mare, while Zenyatta is by Street Cry (by Machiavellian, a son of Mr. Prospector). They obviously have more stamina than Leelanau through staying horses by Mr. Prospector as opposed to a sprinter like Carson City, but what this points to is the greater nick between Mr. Prospector and

Roberto, going both ways. It's evident in the pedigree of Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro, too. He was by the Roberto sire Dynaformer from a Carson City mare—the reverse of Leelanau.

And note, too, that all three stakes winners produced by Leelanau's Kris S. dam are by Mr. Prospector-line sires Carson City and Grand Slam (by Gone West, by Mr. Prospector).

With this in mind, the best way to mate Leelanau would be to add mares with plenty of Northern Dancer in their pedigree because both Roberto and Mr. Prospector blend extraordinarily well with Northern Dancer.

After spending four seasons at Walmac, Leelanau has done quite a bit of traveling. The horse was sold by Walmac's sales arm, Four Star Sales, at Keeneland in 2006 to head to stud in Colorado for the 2007 season. Later, Jack Barr purchased the horse to stand in Illinois in 2008 at Wally and Janet Hartwig's Tower Farm in Somonauk. Since, he's been at stud in Indiana, before returning to Illinois to stand at Indian Hills.

Through six crops, Leelanau has sired 42 winners that have earned \$1.2 million. He has the promising 2011 two-year-old filly Lydia's Angel (out of an American Chance mare), who's won one of two starts and earned \$22,251. His best runner to date is stakes-placed filly T C's Charmer, who's out of a Kissin Kris (by Kris S.) mare and is therefore inbred 3x3 to Kris S. She is multiple stakes-placed and has earnings of \$139,872.

Other notables for the sire include: Fortyfifthparallel (dam by Wold Power), with earnings of almost \$95,000; Yes Lee (dam by Royal Academy), with earnings of \$89,000; Rocket Rodd (dam by Seattle Morn), with earnings of almost \$80,000; Golly Wally (dam by Tejano Run), with earnings of \$76,000; and Check My Halo Nau (mare by Sunny's Halo), with earnings of almost \$70,000.

Most of these horses are competing against open company, so Illinois-bred foals ought to do quite well in restricted company, though they will often be able to compete openly too, judging by his results to date.

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