

STORM ACCOUNT

By Sid Fernando

The major US sire the last decade was Overbrook Farm's Storm Cat, but neither Overbrook (the late W.T. Young) nor Storm Cat (pensioned) is active anymore. The influence of both, however, will be felt for a while in Illinois with the arrival of Storm Account to Indian Hills in Edwardsville. The unraced son of Storm Cat is owned by Tom Roche (Carmalley Valley Farm).

Storm Account was purchased from Overbrook after suffering a training accident as a two-year-old and is unraced, but technically he is the product of one of the finest breeding programs in the world; Khalid Abdullah's internationally prominent Juddmonte Farms. This is the farm that bred and raced the great sire Danehill, who became a legend in Australia and Europe for Coolmore and Arrowfield after he was sold by Juddmonte. In Europe today Juddmonte stands two of the most sought after sires in homebreds, Oasis Dream and Dansili, and in the US its homebred Empire Maker, the Belmont Stakes and triple Grade 1 winner, was a solid \$50,000 horse who was sold to Japan. The bottom line, then, is that Juddmonte families develop sires, something to keep in mind about Storm Account if you are turned off by the fact that he didn't race.

In fact, the weight of Juddmonte families is such that for years Juddmonte and Overbrook had an arrangement where Juddmonte would submit a number of mares each year to the Overbrook star stallion. The resulting foals would then be split amongst the two farms, with Overbrook picking one, followed by Juddmonte, until all had been allocated. For Overbrook, it guaranteed their stallion and stable top access to the mares of one of the most elite breeders in the world; for Juddmonte, it insured access to the premier sire in the world. The arrangement was a natural and was reminiscent of deals from the past, as when Wheatley Stable entered into similar contracts with breeders to get top mares to Bold Ruler (and recall that Secretariat was the product of just such a deal between the Phippses and Meadow Stud, with the latter winning the pivotal coin flip for the iconic Triple Crown winner who is now the subject of a feature film).

Storm Account's sire really needs no introduction. And Storm Cat already is a proven sire of sires, with his best son the European-raced Giant's Causeway—himself a young sire maker with Shamardal, Footstepsinthesand, and First Samurai showing various levels of promise with only few crops at the races. Other prominent sons for Storm Cat include the late Hennessy and the thriving Tale of the Cat (sire of champion Gio Ponti), as well as many less prominent sons that have done well at the regional levels, such as stakes-placed Lion Hearted in Maryland, for one. And don't forget that the now Indiana-based Cat Dreams, a once-raced son of Storm Cat, was responsible for the 2010 classics contender Caracortado. The latter won Grade 2 Robert B. Lewis Stakes at Santa Anita and was a force on the California three-year-old circuit. Cat Dreams is also owned by Tom Roche, Storm Account's owner.

Storm Account is from the Private Account stakes winner Private Line and is a half-brother to stakes winner Dance Dress (by Nureyev) and stakes-placed Discuss (by Danzig). Storm Account is an outcross stallion within five generations—a rarity for any stallion these days—and descends from a long line of European mares noted for high quality stakes production. His third dam, French-bred Miss Mannon, produced five stakes winners, including the sires Sharpman (by Sharpen Up) and Lydian (by Lyphard), and the Irish River mare Balinderry. The latter produced the Sharpen Up French Derby winner Sanglamore for Juddmonte.

Storm Cat and/or his sons have sired 17 unrestricted stakes winners from Private Account mares, including the Grade 1 winners Discreet Cat (by Forestry) and My Trusty Cat (by Tale of the Cat), and the Grade 2 winners Vision and Verse (by Storm Cat) and Sir Cat (by Storm Cat)—both sires.

Because he's an outcross sire, Storm Account will cross well with a number of the same sire lines that were successful with his own sire, including mares by the Mr. Prospector and Seattle Slew lines. The European female family of this sire will add needed stamina to the blend and give turf ability as well.

That he was unraced shouldn't cause too much worry, especially with the sire power and the family behind him. And don't forget that one-time leading Illinois sire Cartwright, whose daughters should actually work well with this horse, also was unraced.

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