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Pedigree analysis
Kite Wood

BY THE end of 1991, Sadler's Wells already had one sire's championship on his cv, and his four crops of racing age had yielded 14 individual winners of 43 European Pattern races. It was a phenomenal start to a stud career that would rewrite the record books in several categories, his dominance such that many came to believe that they would never see his like again.

It might seem something akin to sacrilege to suggest that there might already be a horse on the scene with a chance of eclipsing Sadler's Wells in some respects, but there is evidence to support that seemingly outrageous thought.

His son Galileo, this year's champion sire-elect, now has four crops at the races and the season is not yet over. His record puts him ahead of Sadler's Wells at the same stage, with Saturday's Group 3 Autumn Stakes victor Kite Wood having become his 22nd individual winner of 46 European Pattern races.

To some degree, this development should not be so surprising. The first four crops by Sadler's Wells produced a total of 223 foals, whereas Galileo got 458 in the same time-frame. And we must not forget that the Pattern has been expanded by some 60 races in the meantime.

Galileo's ratio of Pattern winners to foals is currently far below that of Sadler's Wells at the same stage, and on that – perfectly equitable – basis alone, we do not have to give the matter much consideration before determining which is the better sire. But what happened with the father is going to happen with the son, early success breeding further success, with the favour of more and higher-quality mares as a key element. The snowball effect will take over.

That is not to say that Galileo is going to match his sire's record of 14 championships at home and a couple abroad, but if he is granted similar longevity and suffers no loss of fertility, it seems possible that he may eventually challenge Sadler's Wells in terms of success in the Pattern.

The old man's score stands at 150 winners of 307 races, and he is by no means finished yet despite his recent retirement, but Galileo's rate of progress, and the huge books he has now become used to covering, allow the thought that whatever the final target set by Sadler's Wells, it may not be invulnerable.

Not the least remarkable fact about the long career of the 'King of Coolmore' is that we had to wait for a son from his 13th crop to replicate his achievements so closely.

In The Wings, from the first crop, compiled a respectable record; Barathea, from his fifth, has had his moments, but his progeny have contrived a disappointing score of only four Group 1 wins between them; Montjeu, who came in the 11th crop, has clearly made a significant mark, and he will enhance his reputation further, but with a year's start on Galileo and a score of 17 winners of 39 Pattern races, he is behind the latter's pace, and not up to the mark that their sire set in his early years.

Galileo's results show him to be the most faithful agent of his sire, and this season's achievements illustrate the point admirably. He has had Pattern winners from every age group – three two-year-olds, eight three-year-olds, two four-year-olds and two five-year-olds have contributed to the tally of 22 wins. His stock are rarely precocious, they are sound and sober individuals, they



Kite Wood put down a marker for 2009 with an impressive win in the Autumn Stakes at Ascot on Saturday

Kite Wood stakes his Classic claims

Sire's record gives him great chance of staying Derby trip

SIRE GALILEO

Bred by David Tsui & Orpendale in Ireland. Won 6 (1m-1m4f) of 8 races, viz. 1 (Leopardstown maiden) out of 1 at 2 years, 5 (inc. Irish Derby Trial S.-Gr3, Derby S.-Gr1, Irish Derby S.-Gr1, King George VI & Queen Elizabeth S.-Gr1) out of 7 at 3 years. Also 2nd in Irish Champion S. Earned £1,621,110. RPR 113 at 2, 132 at 3.

Extremely attractive, 16.0 hh, and a splendid mover. Top-notch performer at 1m-1m4f. Effective on all turf surfaces, not on dirt. Impeccably bred. By the outstanding sire of modern times, out of a winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Brother to dual Gr1 winner Black Sam Bellamy and Classic-placed Gr3 winner All Too Beautiful, half-brother to Urban Ocean (by Bering; Gr3 winner), My Typhoon (by Giant's Causeway; Gr1 winner), Sea The Stars (Gr2 winner) and Melikah (by Lammtarra; Classic-placed Listed winner).

A family replete with top-class runners, inc. King's Best (2,000 Guineas), Anabaa Blue (Prix du Jockey-Club) and Adlerflug (Deutsches Derby).

Stands at Coolmore Stud, Fethard, County Tipperary, last advertised fee (2007) €150,000. Sire of 4 crops of racing age, inc. notable winners: Allegretto (Prix Royal-Oak-Gr1), Galatee (Gr3), Heliostatic (Gr3), Nighttime (Irish 1,000 Guineas-Gr1), Red Rocks (Breeders' Cup Turf-Gr1, Man o' War S.-Gr1), Sixties Icon (St Leger S.-Gr1), Vendangeur (Gr2), Incanto Dream (Gr2), Mahler (Gr3), Soldier Of Fortune (Irish Derby-Gr1, Coronation Cup-Gr1), Teofilo (National S.-Gr1, Dewhurst S.-Gr1), Adored (Gr3), Cima De Triomphe (Derby Italiano-Gr1), Gravitation (Gr3), Leo's Starlet (Gr3), Lush Lashes (Coronation S.-Gr1, Yorkshire Oaks-Gr1, Matron S.-Gr1), New Approach (National S.-Gr1, Dewhurst S.-Gr1, Derby S.-Gr1, Irish Champion S.-Gr1), Prima Luce (Gr3), Sub Rose (Gr3), Cuis Ghaire (Gr3), Kite Wood (Gr3), Rip Van Winkle (Gr3). Also sire in Australia of Sousa (Spring Champion S.-Gr1).

DAM KITE MARK

Bred by Cliveden Stud Ltd in England. Ran only once at 3 years, 6th of nine in Salisbury maiden. RPR 48. No earnings.

Well bred. By a Guineas winner who has sired a Derby winner. Half-sister to 5 winners, inc. Madame Dubois (Gr2; dam of Gr1 winners Count Dubois and Indian Haven, and of Listed winner Place de l'Opera, herself dam of Gr2 winner Imperial Stride and Gr3 winner High Pitched) and Sun And Shade (dam of Gr2 winner Daggers Drawn).

Dam a winner, Gr3-placed, half-sister to 8 other winners, inc. Mill On the Floss (Listed, Gr2-placed; granddam of Gr1 winner Scott's View) and Overdrive (dam of Gr3 winner Endorsement, herself dam of Gr3 winner Mores Wells).

Granddam won Cheshire Oaks, 4th in Oaks, sister to Mil's Bomb. Family of Kris, Diesis, etc.

To stud at 4 years and dam of: Prince Zafonic (2003 g by Zafonic; placed), Daylami Dreams (2004 g by Daylami; winner), Legislation (2005 c by Oasis Dream; winner), Kite Wood (2006 c by Galileo; Gr3 winner). Her yearling is a colt by Oratorio (lot 1,453 at Tattersalls tomorrow)

CONCLUSION

A well-bred, evidently high-class performer. Pedigree indicates he will need middle distances as a 3-y-o

KITE WOOD

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Sadler's Wells	Northern Dancer	Nearctic	Nearco
			Lady Angela
Galileo (b 1998)	Fairy Bridge	Natalma	Native Dancer
			Almahmoud
Urban Sea	Allegretta	Bold Reason	Hail To Reason
			Lalun
Darshaan	Allegretta	Special	Forli
			Thong
Mark Of Esteem	Miswaki	Mr Prospector	Raise A Native
			Gold Digger
Kite Mark (ch 1998)	Homage	Hopespringseternal	Buckpasser
			Rose Bower
Shadywood	Habitat	Lombard	Agio
			Promised Lady
Milly Moss	Habitat	Anatevka	Espresso
			Almyra
Milly Moss	Darshaan	Shirley Heights	Mill Reef
			Hardicanute
Milly Moss	Homage	Delsy	Abdos
			Kelty
Milly Moss	Homage	Ajdal	Northern Dancer
			Native Partner
Milly Moss	Habitat	Home Love	Vaguely Noble
			Homespun
Milly Moss	Habitat	Sir Gaylord	Turn-to
			Somethingroyal
Milly Moss	Habitat	Little Hut	Occupy
			Savage Beauty
Milly Moss	Habitat	Crepello	Donatello
			Crepuscule
Milly Moss	Habitat	Bally's Mil	Ballymoss
			No Angel

Bred by Elsdon Farms in Ireland. 270,000gns Tattersalls October 1 yearling

typically want to go beyond a mile, they train on, and a good proportion of them display an abundance of stamina. Those attributes amount to a carbon copy of what Sadler's Wells gave to his progeny.

Inevitably, there are exceptions to every rule, and while Sadler's Wells recently had a rare three-year-old Group 3 scorer over 7f in Psalm, one of Galileo's juvenile winners this season, Cuis Ghaire, completed a Group 3 double over 6f with her success in the Albany Stakes at Royal Ascot. But his latest emerging star is cast in the more familiar mould.

KITE WOOD did not reach the racecourse until the middle of August, when he turned in a very promising effort in a well-contested 7f Leicester maiden, beaten half a length by Poster, who had the benefit of a previous run and has won again since. A month later at Doncaster, though still somewhat green, he earned his first victory in taking style over 1m, and his potential did not go unnoticed by some bookmakers, who introduced him at 20-1 in their ante-post Derby lists.

We learned rather more about Kite Wood on Saturday, when he started a warm favourite for his first trial in Pattern company, though opposed by a pair of strongly fancied rivals in Taameer and Four Winds. This was unquestionably a good renewal of the race in which both Nashwan and Nayef gave hints of what they might go on to achieve, and Kite Wood came through his test with flying colours, making all, quickening well when Philip Robinson asked the question, and winning with a bit in hand.

As at Doncaster, the colt did get a bit worked up beforehand, but once again he was totally focused on the job in hand once the stalls opened, and there seems no reason to believe that the tendency amounts to a query over his racing temperament. What does seem certain is that he is a progressive individual with the size and scope to develop into a serious contender for top races over middle distances in 2009.

Kite Wood looked the part as a yearling, when he realised 270,000gns at Tattersalls, and his Ascot victory could not have come at a better time for the prospects of his Oratorio half-brother, who will make his appearance in the same ring towards the end of tomorrow's sale.

Kite Wood's attraction to the market was not all about Galileo, because although his dam had raced only once – without success – she had already delivered winners by contrasting sires in Daylami and Oasis Dream, and she had plenty of pedigree to flaunt herself.

Kite Mark is a half-sister to five winners, including Madame Dubois, who scored a Group 2 double in the Park Hill Stakes and Prix de Royallieu, and is the dam of a pair of Group 1 winners in Count Dubois and the current successful first-crop sire, Indian Haven. Another of her half-sisters, Sun And Shade, is the dam of Daggers Drawn, who won twice at Group 2 level and has had a measure of success at stud.

Shadywood, the dam of Kite Mark, was placed second in the Lancashire Oaks, and although the family connects further back with those famous brothers Kris and Diesis, its most consistently expressed trait is stamina. Whether or not quotes of 12-1 about Kite Wood for the Derby seem realistic, he will certainly last the distance.