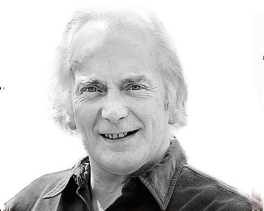


TONY MORRIS



Pedigree analysis

MONDAY'S Grade 1 Hopeful Stakes at Saratoga must surely rank as one of the most amazing two-year-old races run on either side of the Atlantic in 2007. The transformation in the final furlong had to be seen to be believed.

There were only four contenders for this, the last and most important test for juveniles at the summer's most prestigious meeting in the States, and so far as the punters were concerned, two of those did not count. This was to be a match between Ready's Image, a More Than Ready colt who already had Grade 3 and Grade 2 victories to his credit, and Maimonides, a \$4.6 million yearling purchase by Vindication who had overwhelmed his rivals on his debut, streaking home by more than 11 lengths.

The race developed much as expected, so that halfway up the straight the track commentator drew attention to the duel developing between "these two great two-year-olds". Outsider Georgetown had already given his all, while slow-starting Majestic Warrior had turned for home ten lengths off the lead.

Ready's Image had won his duel by the furlong pole, where Majestic Warrior was still only third and more than five lengths adrift, and the favourite's backers were preparing to head for the windows to collect their readily earned dollars. But anyone who turned away missed an astonishing finale. How could Majestic Warrior have won by more than two lengths?

Of course, the eye was deceived to a degree, because Ready's Image was decelerating, taking 14sec over the seventh and final furlong. But that hardly detracted from the performance of the winner, who was having only his second start after a cosy debut maiden success, and who raced as green as grass until the turn for home, then turned apparent debacle into glorious triumph. Here, surely, is a serious contender for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

A home-bred, trained by Bill Mott for Kinsman Stable, Majestic Warrior is the latest star for all-conquering sire A.P. Indy, a horse I dubbed 'the perfect thoroughbred' some years ago. Now 17, the son of Seattle Slew has done everything right throughout his career.

He was the highest-priced yearling of 1991 at \$2.9 million, he was a Grade 1 winner at two, he followed that with top-level wins in the Santa Anita Derby, the Belmont Stakes and the Breeders' Cup Classic to become champion three-year-old and Horse of the Year, and he retired with earnings that exceeded his purchase price. At stud he has proved an outstanding success, becoming champion North American sire in 2003 and 2006, and he leads again this year, the tenth consecutive season when he has ranked in the top ten. In addition, he is already making his name as a broodmare sire and as a sire of sires.

It might certainly be said that he was bred to be all those things, as the son of a Triple Crown winner and half-brother to another who won a Classic (Summer Squall), but how many horses, supposedly bred in the purple, excel at every stage of their career? A.P. Indy is a one-off, unique in the annals of North American racing and breeding.

Of course, we have to acknowledge that he is a horse just for the American environment. A number of



A.P. Indy: Majestic Warrior's sire has produced at least one Grade 1 winner from each of his 12 crops to race

Another ace for the 'perfect thoroughbred'

Hopeful Stakes hero looks Breeders' Cup material

SIRE A.P. INDY

Bred by WS Farish III & WS Kilroy in Kentucky. \$2.9 million Keeneland July yearling. Won 8 (6.5-12f) of 11 races in 2 seasons, viz. 3 (inc. Hollywood Futurity-Gr1) out of 4 at 2 years, 5 (San Rafael S.-Gr2, Santa Anita Derby-Gr1, Peter Pan S.-Gr2, Belmont S.-Gr1, Breeders' Cup Classic Stakes-Gr1) out of 7 at 3 years. Earned \$2,979,815.

Experimental Handicap 122 (8lb below champion Arazi), Champion 3-y-o and Horse of the Year at 3, Daily Racing Form Handicap 127 (3lb clear of Pine Bluff). Raced without medication.

Strong, well made, 16.0 hh. A tip-top performer at 10-12f, probably the best son of his sire, who also got Swale, Slew 'O Gold and Capote.

Half-brother to Preakness winner and quite successful sire Summer Squall (\$1,844,282). Dam a Gr3 winner and earner of \$402,892, half-sister to Wolfhound and Foxhound, and to the dam of Lemon Drop Kid.

Stands at Lane's End Farm, Versailles, Kentucky, at a fee of \$300,000.

Sire of 12 crops of racing age, inc. Gr1 winners: Royal Indy (Gazelle H.), Runup The Colors (Alabama S.), Tomisue's Delight (Ruffian H., Personal Ensign H.), Golden Missile (Pimlico Special H.), Stephen Got Even (Donn H.), Symboli Indy (NHK Mile Cup), Aptitude (Hollywood Gold Cup S., Jockey Club Gold Cup), Secret Status (Kentucky Oaks, Mother Goose S.), A P Valentine (Champagne S.), Jilbab (CCA Oaks), Mineshaft (Pimlico Special H., Suburban H., Woodward S., Jockey Club Gold Cup), Passing Shot (Personal Ensign H.), Tempera (Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies), Indy Five Hundred (Garden City H.), A P Adventure (Las Virgenes S.), Friends Lake (Florida Derby), Sweet Symphony (Alabama S.), Bernardini (Preakness S., Travers S., Jockey Club Gold Cup), Rags To Riches (Las Virgenes S., Santa Anita Oaks, Kentucky Oaks, Belmont S.), Majestic Warrior (Hopeful S.).

DAM DREAM SUPREME

Bred by Kinsman Farm in Kentucky. Won 9 of 16 starts, viz. 2 out of 2 at 2 years, 4 (inc. Test S.-Gr1, Ballerina H.-Gr1, Gallant Bloom H.-Gr3) out of 7 at 3 years, 3 (Distaff BC H.-Gr2, Humana Distaff H.-Gr2, Princess Rooney H.-Gr3) out of 7 at 4 years. Also placed 2nd twice and 3rd twice in other Graded races. Earned \$1,007,679.

Consistent, high-class performer up to 7f. Placed 4th in Gr1 only effort at 1m. Untried on grass. Well bred, by a dual Gr1 winner and successful sire. Only runner from her dam, a multiple Graded winner, inc. Gr1, who was sister to one winner and half-sister to 6. Good family, noted more for speed than for staying types.

To stud at 5 years and dam of: Crystal Current (2003 f by A.P. Indy; minor stakes winner, Listed-placed), A P Dream (2004 f by A.P. Indy; unplaced), Majestic Warrior (2005 c by A.P. Indy; Gr1 winner). Her yearling is named Evolutionist (c by El Prado), and her foal is Codetta (f by Giant's Causeway).

CONCLUSION

Well-bred colt from a fast, classy family, but may well have acquired stamina from his exceptional sire.

MAJESTIC WARRIOR

	Boldnesian	Bold Ruler Alanesian
Bold Reasoning	Reason To Earn	Hail To Reason Sailing Home
Seattle Slew	Poker	Round Table Glamour
My Charmer	Fair Charmer	Jet Action Myrtle Charm
A.P. Indy (b 1989)	Bold Ruler	Nasrullah Miss Disco
Secretariat	Somethingroyal	Princequillo Imperatrice
Weekend Surprise	Buckpasser	Tom Fool Busanda
Lassie Dear	Gay Missile	Sir Gaylord Missy Baba
Mr Prospector	Raise A Native	Native Dancer Raise You
Seeking The Gold	Gold Digger	Nashua Sequence
Con Game	Buckpasser	Tom Fool Busanda
Dream Supreme (b 1997)	Broadway	Hasty Road Flitabout
Dixieland Band	Northern Dancer	Nearctic Natalma
Spinning Round	Mississippi Mud	Delta Judge Sand Buggy
Take Heart	Secretariat	Bold Ruler Somethingroyal
Deck Stewardess	Deck Hand	Champagne Woman
Bred by Kinsman Farm in Kentucky		

Seattle Slew's yearlings were high-priced purchases for Europe, and only a handful made an impression on our turf courses. It has been a similar story with A.P. Indy's stock; few have ventured across the Atlantic, and only Mingun (out of Miesque) and Admiral's Cruise have contrived so much as a Group 3 win. Mineshaft had only a single third place in a Group 3 to his credit before becoming a multiple Grade 1 winner and Horse of the Year on his return to the States.

A.P. Indy has had Graded winners on grass in the States, including Indy Five Hundred, who scored at the top level in the Garden City Handicap, and he has had a few notable achievers on the notoriously firm turf courses in Japan, but the overwhelming majority of his progeny have found their true metier on America's dirt tracks. It will be fascinating to see how they fare in the future as synthetic surfaces become more common.

MAJESTIC WARRIOR comes from the 12th crop of A.P. Indy, all of which have now produced at least one Grade 1 winner, but it is not just through his sire that he connects with top-class racing ability. His dam Dream Supreme was herself successful six times in Graded company, with victories in the Grade 1 Test Stakes and Ballerina Handicap as a three-year-old as her stand-out achievements. Although her main asset was speed, she tried 1m only once, finishing a close fourth in the Grade 1 Acorn Stakes.

Dream Surprise was the only runner for her dam Spinning Round, who had compiled an admirably consistent record over four seasons at the track, but suffered a cruel fate at the age of ten, killed, along with her Capote colt-foal, by a bolt of lightning. In the money 23 times from 31 starts, she earned \$639,221, scoring the best of her eight wins in the Grade 1 Ballerina Stakes, and her early demise at stud can now be seen as a severe loss to Kinsman Farm. Effective on turf and dirt, she was by Dixieland Band, currently North America's leading broodmare sire.

In the female line Majestic Warrior traces to L'Amour Toujours, a mare by Never Say Die who was imported from England as a foal, only to prove a less than proficient athlete, winning only one of her 20 races. But she soon atoned for her failings in that regard by delivering the stakes winner Champagne Woman as her first foal.

As the family has developed, the females Spinning Round and Dream Supreme have been its most notable representatives, but it may finally have an outstanding colt in Majestic Warrior, whose pedigree features inbreeding to two outstanding runners in Secretariat and Buckpasser, in every case through a daughter.

Although Secretariat (who won 16 of his 21 races) and Buckpasser (25 out of 31) both failed to realise the highest hopes entertained for them at stud, particularly in respect of their direct male descendants, they regularly feature in notable pedigrees through their daughters, and their dual representation in the background of Majestic Warrior is a plausible factor contributing to his merit.