

# TONY MORRIS



PEDIGREE  
ANALYSIS  
Lucky Speed

**L**UCKY SPEED was only the fifth highest-rated contender going into Sunday's Deutsches Derby, but he came out of it as the new leader of his generation with a game victory over French raider Tres Blue.

A €46,000 purchase as a Baden-Baden yearling, the colt did not reach the racecourse until April 1 this year, when successful in a minor event over 1m1f at Cologne. That effort was promising enough to warrant a venture into Group 3 company four weeks later, and punters made him favourite for the 1m2f Frühljahrs Preis at Frankfurt, but he was slowly away and wound up second, beaten two and a half lengths by the Doyen colt Vif Monsieur.

A month later Lucky Speed turned in a remarkable performance in the Group 3 Bavarian Classic. Entering the last furlong of that 1m2f event he seemed well held in sixth, only to find a devastating late run to snatch the spoils from Flamingo Star in the dying strides.

On Sunday he again came from a long way back, responding well when shaken up at the entrance to the Hamburg straight and delivering a smooth challenge that earned him victory by three-quarters of a length.

Lucky Speed is the fourth winner of Germany's premier Classic to have been saddled by former record-setting jockey Peter Schiergen and the sixth to have been ridden by Andrasch Starke, who wisely chose the mount over two stablemates who finished among the backmarkers.

What was most remarkable about the result was it completed a unique double for Lucky Speed's sire Silvano. We have become used to the idea that nothing happens in racing that has never happened before, but there can have been no parallel to a stallion getting the winner of the top race in two countries in different hemispheres on consecutive days. Twenty-four hours before the Deutsches Derby, South Africa's most fabled event, the Durban July handicap, fell to Silvano's four-year-old gelded son Heavy Metal.

Famed 'horse whisperer' Monty Roberts was a key factor in the creation of Silvano, who was a global star on the track before attaining international celebrity as a progenitor. Roberts became involved in racing in Germany in 1991, when he was summoned from California in the hope he might cure the recalcitrance of Lomitas, a colt of undoubted high promise but one so badly behaved on the racecourse he had been banned from competition.

The Roberts magic worked to such dramatic effect that Lomitas had his ban lifted and promptly proceeded to land Group 1 victories in the Grosser Preis von Berlin, the Grosser Preis von Baden and the Preis von Europa, all by wide margins. At the end of the season he was Germany's Horse of the Year and officially the third-best three-year-old in Europe, ranked inferior only to Generous and Suave Dancer.

There were further twists to come in the stranger-than-fiction career of Lomitas, whose owner, Walther Jacobs of Gestut Fahrhof, became the subject of blackmail demands, accompanied by threats to harm his prize possession.

Indeed, Lomitas was 'got at' and poisoned, an incident that led to his being kept in hiding – in Susan Piggott's Newmarket yard – before his transfer to the US, where he was placed in two Grade 2 events on turf.

The horse who owed his

## Derby winner completes unique double for Silvano

### LUCKY SPEED

b c 18-4-2010

		Nijinsky	Northern Dancer
		Flaming Page	
	Niniski	Tom Rolfe	
		Ridin' Easy	
Lomitas	Virginia Hills	Literat	
	Surumu	Surama	
	La Colorada	Kronzeuge	
		Love In	
Silvano	La Dorada	Right Royal	
b 1996		Aquilla	
	Golden Eagle	Maribeu	
	Beau's Eagle	Bushfield	
Spirit Of Eagles	Beaufield	Herbager	
	Big Spruce	Silver Sari	
	Big Spirit	Bold Bidder	
	Beautiful Spirit	Baby La	
		Tamerlane	
	Konigsstuhl	Donna Diana	
		Tiepoletto	
Monsun	Konigskronung	Kronung	
	Surumu	Literat	
	Mosella	Surama	
	Monasia	Authi	
Lysuna		Monacensia	
b 2000		Mill Reef	
	Shirley Heights	Hardiemma	
	Slip Anchor	Birkhahn	
	Sayonara	Suleika	
La Lyra	Lyphard	Northern Dancer	
		Goofed	
	La Luna	Le Fabuleux	
	Belga	Belle De Retz	

Bred by Gestut Hof Ittlingen in Ireland. €46,000 BBAG September yearling

#### VERDICT

►► Now top of his class at home and probably capable of holding his own on the international stage

►► Son of a horse who has now distinguished himself internationally in both of his careers

►► Another credit for Monsun, whose daughters are now excelling as broodmares

rehabilitation – and his champion status – to Roberts returned to Germany to begin stallion duties at Fahrhof in 1995. And among the 50 mares he covered that year was Spirit Of Eagles, an indifferently bred daughter of Beau's Eagle who had been acquired by Roberts for Fahrhof.

Spirit Of Eagles seemed an unlikely sort to make a name for herself as a broodmare. She had won 11 times and managed 14 minor placings, but all at a low level in the course of a 59-race career over five seasons in training. Her earnings of \$31,558 testified to the modest claiming company she kept in California.

However, in the year that Spirit Of Eagles left for Germany, her brother Big Pal became a Grade 3 winner at Bay Meadows and her Habitony half-sister Lovely Habit won a restricted stakes event at Santa Anita. The family unquestionably lacked star quality but was not entirely devoid of merit.

Spirit Of Eagles was to deliver two

stars for Fahrhof, the second being Sabiango, a son of Acatenango who won the Group 1 Aral-Pokal at three, the Group 1 Deutschland Preis at five, and, in Monty Roberts' own colours, the Grade 1 Charles Whittingham Memorial Handicap at six.

**S**ILVANO won at Group 2 level and finished fourth in the Deutsches Derby in 1999, but it was as a five-year-old that he earned real distinction. That season trainer Andreas Wohler took him globetrotting for a string of notable achievements that earned him the title of Germany's Horse of the Year, despite the fact he made no appearances in his home country.

He recorded victories in the Singapore Cup at Kranji, the Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Sha Tin and the Arlington Million in Chicago, finished second in the Man o' War Stakes, third in the Dubai Sheema Classic and ended his campaign with a fourth in the Cox Plate at Moonee Valley.



**Lucky Speed (5) gave Peter Schiergen his fourth German Derby winner**

Silvano stood the 2002 and 2003 seasons at Fahrhof, getting Group 2 winners Fair Breeze and Proudinsky in his first crop and Germany's champion three-year-old filly Mi Emma in his second. Since then he has been active at Maine Chance Farms in South Africa, returning to his homeland just for the 2009 season, when Lucky Speed was conceived.

The stallion scene in South Africa has lately been dominated by Jet Master, champion for six consecutive seasons, but he will not be leading the list when the current season ends on the last day of this month. Silvano has had a phenomenal campaign with 12 individual stakes winners, six of them in Group 1s. His stock have won the three richest races in the country – the Met, the Champion's Challenge and the Durban July – and he is going to wind up with record seasonal progeny earnings, the first ever above the R20 million mark.

His top-level winners, in addition to Heavy Metal, are Happy Valentine, Martial Eagle, Tellina, the best three-year-old colt Vercingetorix and the leading three-year-old filly Do You Remember, who finished third to Heavy Metal in Saturday's Greyville feature, in which six of the 20 runners were Silvano products.

Silvano's stock in South Africa have tended to be light-framed and on the small side, and they are primarily middle-distance performers. Of his 12

lifetime Group 1 winners there, only Happy Valentine has earned top honours at less than a mile.

Lucky Speed does not come from a long-established German family, only his dam Lysuna having been foaled there, and he was himself born in Ireland, where the mare conceived a Montjeu colt. However, Lysuna is by the thoroughly German Monsun, who has a rising reputation as a broodmare sire, the multiple Group 1 scorers Night Magic and Pastorius plus Gold Cup hero Colour Vision being other achievers at the top level out of his daughters.

Lysuna, previously dam of the Listed-placed Motivator gelding Lyssio, has two daughters of Lando waiting in the wings – a yearling and a foal. She was a minor winner at Krefeld over a mile and a quarter but showed decent form in higher grades, including a second in the Group 3 Hamburger Stutenpreis and a fourth in the Group 1 Preis der Diana (Germany's Oaks), performances that earned her the commendable GAG rating of 92.

Lysuna's dam La Lyra was out of La Luna, a winning sister to the top-class Bellypha, who had four Group 3 victories to his credit, but whose merit was best expressed by a fine display in the Prix Jacques le Marois, in which he finished fast when neck runner-up to France's champion miler, Irish River.