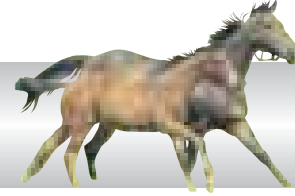


BLOODSTOCK WORLD



Sire who left an indelible mark in worldwide breeding circles

Tony Morris pays tribute to leading sire *Gone West*, who was put down at the age of 25 on Monday after suffering complications from colic surgery

GONE WEST was a good race-horse, a Grade 1 winner and one of the best three-year-olds of his generation in the United States. But if that was all he had been, he would hardly be remembered now, over 20 years since his exploits at the track.

It was what came after his racing career that made *Gone West* stand out from the crowd of horses who have one season in the sun and all too quickly fade from the memory.

The fact that at the age of 25, drawing to the close of his long innings at Mill Ridge Farm, he was still able to command a fee of \$85,000 tells a tale of remarkable achievement that far exceeded his record on the race-course.

Gone West has been a significant contributor to the breed, wielding potent influence as sire, broodmare sire, and remarkably, in his own lifetime, as a sire of sires.

Among all the successful sons of Mr Prospector, it is he who has established the branch that promises to endure longer than the rest, his impact recognised on both sides of the Atlantic and in the southern hemisphere.

Zamindar already has a sires' title in France to his credit; Mr Greeley, known here for such as *Finsceal Beo* and *Saoirse Abu*, has an emerging sire-son in El

GONE WEST FACTFILE

► **Breeding** 1984 br h Mr Prospector - Secrettame by Secretariat

► **Breeder** Bred by Dr W. O. Reed in Kentucky. \$1.9m Keeneland July yearling

► **Racing record** Won six of 17 starts including Dwyer Stakes (Gr1), Gotham Stakes (Gr2), Withers Stakes (Gr2). Also second Wood Memorial Invitational (Gr1), Peter Pan Stakes (Gr2). Earned \$682,251

► **Breeding record** Retired to Mill Ridge Farm in Kentucky in 1988. From 19 crops (1,202 foals) of racing age, *Gone West* is the sire of 615 winners, 98 stakes winners (eight per cent of racing age), 47 Group/Graded stakes winners and three champions. Also broodmare sire of Group/Grade 1 winners *Motivator* (Derby), *Frost Giant* (Suburban H'cap), *Game Face* (Princess Rooney H'cap), *Healthy Addiction* (Santa Margarita Invitational H'cap) and *Bonny And Clyde* (Premio Mil Guineas)

GONE WEST'S GROUP/GRADE 1 WINNERS

name	born	notable wins
Came Home	1999	Pacific Classic, Santa Anita Derby
Changeintheweather	1999	Grey Breeders' Cup Stakes
Commendable	1997	Belmont Stakes
Da Hoss	1992	Breeders' Cup Mile (x2)
Grand Slam	1995	Champagne Stakes, Futurity Stakes
Johar	1999	Breeders' Cup Turf
Lassigny	1991	Rothmans International
Link River	1990	John A Morris Handicap
Marsh Side	2003	Canadian International
*Speightstown	1998	Breeders' Cup Sprint
West By West	1989	Nassau County Handicap
*Zafonic	1990	Dewhurst, 2,000 Guineas, Prix Morny, Prix Salamandre
Zaftig	2005	Acorn Stakes

* champion

Corredor in the States; Elusive Quality has given *Smarty Jones*, *Raven's Pass* and *Elusive City*; and while *Grand Slam*, *Proud Citizen* and *Speightstown* thrive in Kentucky, *Western Winter* enjoys success in South Africa.

Gone West currently has 98

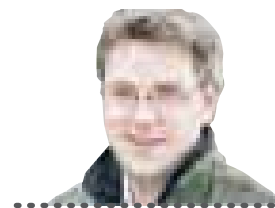
individual stakes winners among his own progeny, and as there are three crops yet to race, his final tally will surely be well into three figures.

There is no doubt that he will be a fixture in prominent pedigrees for decades to come.



One of *Gone West*'s best offspring, *Zafonic*, lands the 1993 2,000 Guineas with ease

Bargain hunters to the fore on a quiet night



Ed Prosser on the opening day of the DBS St Leger Festival Sale

£25,000 and he was followed by a £20,000 colt by Canford Cliff's sire *Tagula* from *Shergar*'s family.

"They will both be trained by Pat Morris and I think the *Sleeping Indian* is for a partnership while the other horse is for a new owner," said O'Ryan. "I've liked *Sleeping Indian*'s first-crop yearlings and this was a cracking colt."

John McGrath of the Nottinghamshire-based R O'Sheen bloodstock agency made a splash early on when spending £20,000 on an Exceed And Excel colt consigned through Joe and Jane Foley's County Carlow-based Ballyhane Stud.

"He's been bought for a client who will put him into training on the Curragh," said McGrath. "He was a lovely colt and looked a real speedy type and I'm sure he'll have a go at trying to win one of the Racing Post Yearling Bonuses."

Trainer Tim Easterby snapped up another Ballyhane offering, a Captain Rio colt out of the tentative winner Patsy Grimes, who realised £22,000.

A Dubai Destination colt offered by breeder Anne Wright from

Wheelerland Stud appeared ten years after his sibling *Kyllachy* changed hands for 36,000gns at Doncaster's St Leger Sale.

His dam *Pretty Poppy* has produced nine other winners, including the Listed-placed *Borders* and smart sprinter *High Curragh*, and her 2008 foal will be staying in Yorkshire after selling for £17,000 to Middleham-based Jedd O'Keeffe.

"I was expecting something to be wrong with him from the fact he was in this sale, rather than the main St Leger Sale, but the vendors said they had another in here and only wanted to sell at one sale so brought them both here," said O'Keeffe.

"I loved him and valued him at quite a bit more than we paid for him. He's been bought for a client who is likely to syndicate him.

"I also got three at the St Leger Sale a couple of weeks ago and I thought prices were down a fair bit on last year. There was maybe not quite so much quality as in the past but there were plenty of nice horses there."

► **Sale details, page 19**

'Can anybody explain why *Meohmy*, who came third in a three-runner Listed race at Lingfield in February with an official rating of 46, deserves black type?' Read Ed Prosser's Friday Column in tomorrow's *Racing Post*

Champion South African racemare *Dancer's Daughter* retires from track

SOUTH Africa's champion race-mare *Dancer's Daughter* has been retired and will visit Antonius Pius in the former Coolmore stallion's first season at the Highlands Farm Stud in Robertson, writes *Michael Clower*.

The British-bred five-year-old has not raced since damaging a near-fore splint bone shortly after winning the *Empress Club Stakes* at Turffontein in February. Earlier hopes that she would make a complete recovery had begun to fade.

Trainer Justin Snaitth said on Wednesday: "She has done quite a lot and Mr Beck felt it would be better if she were retired. It was just a bit too risky to continue as she is so valuable."

Bred in Wiltshire by Diana Joly, *Dancer's Daughter* was bought by Tom Goff of Blandford Blood-

stock for Highlands Farm Stud owner Graham Beck for 52,000gns at Tattersalls as a yearling.

The grey daughter of Act One won 11 of her 18 starts including five Grade 1 races - the Paddock Stakes, *Majorca*, *Gold Challenge* and *Empress Club* plus her famous dead-heat with the legendary *Pocket Power* in last year's *Durban July*.

Snaitth said: "I have never seen a horse with such a will to win. She had the unbelievable knack of getting to her top speed early in the straight and maintaining it the whole way to the line. She just wouldn't tire.

"A horse like *Pocket Power* might have a better turn of foot but there was not a horse running over ten furlongs in South Africa who could maintain her strong pace for as long as she could."

Antonius Pius, beaten only half a length by *Singlelary* in the 2004 Breeder's Cup Mile, is proving a hit with South African breeders.

Highlands manager Mike Sharkey said: "He is very popular and will cover a full book of 95 mares."

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Bloodstock latest

► Medaglia D'Oro colt tops sticky Canadian-bred Select Yearling Sale in Ontario

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