

TONY MORRIS

Pedigree analysis



AT THIS time a year ago, Teofilo had won the EBF Maiden at the Curragh, the Tyros Stakes at Leopardstown and the Curragh Futurity – and Jim Bolger was telling all who would listen that he was the best horse he had ever handled.

Now the County Carlow trainer, whose pronouncements are always worth heeding, has another two-year-old colt by the same sire who has won the same three races. And this one he likens to Secretariat. Connections of other 2008 Classic aspirants must hope Bolger's allusion refers only to the colt's chestnut coat and white legs.

But chances are that there is more to the comparison than mere physical resemblances. New Approach has been impressive in all his races, never more so than on Saturday when brushing Royal Ascot winner and former ante-post Guineas favourite Henrythenavigator aside, and was never threatened by the late flourish of Curtain Call. Everything he has done suggests he is a serious racehorse, and both his physique and his pedigree allow the conviction that he will develop into a formidable three-year-old.

Whether he continues on the path trod by Teofilo last year remains to be decided. He has the option of trying to emulate his former stablemate in the Group 1 National Stakes on September 16, but as he came out of last year's Million Sale at Goffs, there is a tempting alternative two days earlier in the hugely valuable race restricted to graduates of that auction.

Bolger has been a keen supporter of Galileo from the outset of the Coolmore horse's stud career. He was the breeder of Teofilo, plus Irish Derby hero Soldier Of Fortune and his older brother Heliostatic, and half an hour after the Futurity win by New Approach, his €430,000 purchase at Kill, he saddled 270,000gns buy Prima Luce for an authoritative victory that suggested she might well be the sire's next Pattern scorer.

Why wouldn't anybody have fancied Galileo to make a name for himself at stud? As a racehorse he had provided a marvellous advertisement for the oldest of all breeding formulae, putting the best to the best. As the product of the era's dominant sire and a mare who had won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, he was entitled to prove a superior athlete, and his splendid Group 1 treble in the Derby, Irish Derby and King George emphasised that he was just that – one of the best middle-distance three-year-olds of the last decade.

Even so, when Galileo entered stud in 2002, there was still a question mark over sire-sons of Sadler's Wells in this part of the world. Although El Prado had proved a surprising success in America, and Fort Wood was a champion in South Africa, there had been a number of high-profile disappointments in Europe, and for all their successes, neither Baratheon nor In The Wings had ever quite promised to become major influences. (Incidentally, although In The Wings has a decent sire-son in Singspiel, he had never featured as broodmare sire of a Pattern winner until Queen's Best won the Group 3 Winter Hill Stakes at Windsor on Saturday.)

But 2002 was the year in which the first foals by Montjeu first saw the light of day, and as they included Hurricane Run, Motivator and Scorpion, it soon seemed that doubts about the male line succession might



New Approach: being out of an aged mare, who died last year, has proved no barrier to success

Galileo does Bolger another big turn

New Approach is trainer's latest star by Coolmore sire

have been misplaced. Galileo, with an almost equally formidable first crop featuring Classic winners in Nighttime and Sixties Icon, plus Breeders' Cup hero Red Rocks, provided further proof that sons of Sadler's Wells could deliver at the top level.

THE follow-up from Montjeu has been impressive, best exemplified by Authorized, although he has evidently had his problems at stud this year and may have to serve restricted books in future. With Soldier Of Fortune and Teofilo in his second crop, and New Approach in his third, Galileo seems poised to become his sire's most important agent – something that 2006's markets apparently anticipated, with averages of 132,297gns for his 71 sale yearlings and 107,026gns for the 28 foals traded at auction. This year's rise in his fee to €150,000 can only have ensured that his book contained more quality than ever.

But we must not overlook the fact that just as Galileo might have owed as much of his merit to Urban Sea – notable as both racemare and broodmare – as to Sadler's Wells, New Approach is not just the son of a top-class athlete and sire. He is the last foal of his dam Park Express, a daughter of Ahonoora who thrived famously for Bolger in the mid-1980s and who enjoyed considerable success as a broodmare for the Burns family's Lodge Park Stud.

Park Express won only a maiden at two, but a creditable fifth in the Cheveley Park Stakes gave a hint of what was to come in her busy and highly progressive three-year-old campaign. In the second half of that season she developed into a formidable competitor, winning the Group 3 Lancashire Oaks, the (then) Group 2 Nassau Stakes and the Group 1 Phoenix Champion Stakes. Third to Triptych in Newmarket's Champion, on what was her 11th start of the season, she was then sent to contest the Breeders' Cup Distaff at Santa Anita, only to be laid low by colic on the eve of the race.

As a broodmare Park Express earned her first plaudits as the dam of Shinko Forest (by Green Desert), a sprinter of Group 1 standard in Japan and now a sire of fast horses at Rathbarry Stud; his son Electric Beat won the Group 2 Golden Peitsche at Baden-Baden on Sunday. The mare's daughter by Warning, Dazzling Park, was a Group 3 winner in the Matron Stakes and was also placed in the Irish 1,000 Guineas and Irish Champion Stakes.

In addition, she had two products who fetched fortunes in the sale ring but did not excel on the racecourse. Her Desert Prince colt Dubai Sun remained a maiden, having cost 2.3 million gns, and Thunder Rock, her son by King's Best, won only once after his purchase for 775,000gns.

In the light of those costly failures, the €430,000 shelled out for New Approach might have been deemed to represent a risky venture, and no doubt many would have rejected the colt readily on the simple grounds that he was out of an aged mare. Bolger had good reason not to share the common prejudice against old mares, and it will not concern him that the last – and only – mare to have produced a Derby winner at the age of 22 was Ferina, whose son Pretender won in 1869.

It is surely high time there was another.

SIRE GALILEO

Bred by David Tsui & Orpendale in Ireland. Won 6 (8-12f) 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. Timeform 107p at 2, 134 at 3.

Extremely attractive, 16.0 hh, and a splendid mover. Top-notch performer at 10-12f. 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), and Melikah (by Lammtarra; Classic-placed Listed winner).

Stands at Coolmore Stud, Fethard, County Tipperary, at a fee of €150,000. Sire of 3 crops of racing age, inc. notable winners: Allegretto (Gr2), Galatee (Gr3), Heliostatic (Gr3), Nightime (Irish 1,000 Guineas-Gr1), Red Rocks (Breeders' Cup Turf-Gr1), Sixties Icon (St Leger S.-Gr1), Vendangeur (Gr2), Mahler (Gr3), Soldier Of Fortune (Irish Derby-Gr1), Teofilo (National S.-Gr1, Dewhurst S.-Gr1), New Approach (Gr2).

DAM PARK EXPRESS

Bred by Peter Clarke in Ireland. Ir17,000gns Tatts Ireland foal, 42,000gns Tatts October yearling. Won 5 (6f-1m4f) of 14 starts, viz. 1 out of 3 at 2 years, 4 (inc. Lancashire Oaks-Gr3, Nassau S.-Gr2, Irish Champion S.-Gr1) out of 11 at 3 years. Also placed 5 times, inc. 2nd in Yorkshire Oaks. Timeform 111 at 2, 123 at 3. Earned £346,896.

Big, well-made, attractive sort. Effective on any ground. Game, tough, consistent, high-class performer. Stayed 1m4f, probably better at 1m2f.

Well bred. Half-sister to Listed winner Myra's Best (dam of Australian Gr3 winner Forest Express, grand-dam of Italian Gr1 winner Waky Nao). Dam unplaced half-sister to 4 winners, inc. Quick Selection (stakes-winner in US, dam of Graded-placed winners, grand-dam of Gr2 winner Bandari). Grand-dam Listed winner, showed smart form up to 1m2f.

To stud at 4 years and dam of: Lady Express (1990 f by Soviet Star; winner), Park Heiress (1991 f by Sadler's Wells; unraced), Tycoon King (1992 c by Last Tycoon; Listed-placed winner), Shinko Forest (1993 c by Green Desert; Gr1 winner in Japan), Green Seraphim (1995 f by Caerleon; unraced), Dazzling Park (1996 f by Warning; Gr3 winner, Gr1-placed), Innocent Affair (1997 f by Night Shift; unplaced), Alluring Park (1999 f by Green Desert; Listed-placed winner), Dubai Sun (2000 c by Desert Prince; placed), Thunder Rock (2002 c by King's Best; winner), Sir Arthur (2003 c by Desert Prince; winner), New Approach (2005 c by Galileo; Gr2 winner). Had dead colt by Lomond in 1989, not covered in 1993, barren to Spectrum in 1998, to King's Best in 2004. Died in 2006.

CONCLUSION

Has mirrored Teofilo's career to date, clearly high class, and bred to excel over middle distances at three. Potentially of Classic calibre.

NEW APPROACH

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Sadler's Wells	Nearctic	Nearco
	Natalma	Lady Angela
Fairy Bridge	Bold Reason	Native Dancer
	Special	Almahmoud
Galileo (b 1998)	Mr Prospector	Hail To Reason
	Miswaki	Lalun
Urban Sea	Hopespringseternal	Forli
	Lombard	Thong
Ahonoora	Allegretta	Raise A Native
	Anatevka	Gold Digger
Park Express (br 1983)	Lorenzaccio	Buckpasser
	Phoenissa	Rose Bower
Matcher	Helen Nichols	Agio
	Quaker Girl	Promised Lady
Lachine	Match	Espresso
	Relance	Almyra
Loved One	Grey Sovereign	Clarion
	Loved One	Kalmia
		The Phoenix
		Erica Fragrans
		Hill Gail
		Discipliner
		Whistler
		Mayflower
		Deux Pour Cent
		Terka
		Relic
		Polaire
		Nasrullah
		Kong
		Vigorous
		Sama

Bred by Lodge Park Stud in Ireland; €430,000 Goffs Million yearling