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Pedigree analysis of **Tamayuz**, an unbeaten colt who is very much a Classic contender

IT IS always hard to know quite how to interpret the form of races run on heavy ground. In the case of the colts' Classic trial at marshy Longchamp on Sunday, the Group 3 Prix de Fontainebleau, the gallop was also slow, resulting in a final time nearly four seconds slower than that for the corresponding fillies' event half an hour earlier, and an unconsidered outsider who hardly seemed to belong in the field came within a head of victory.

So what should we make of Tamayuz, the colt who prevailed narrowly over a no-hoper in a 1m race run in a time that would normally seem barely respectable for a contest over 1m1f? Is it too perverse a thought that he might be very good indeed?

I'm inclined to give him the benefit of doubts on several grounds. Neither the going nor the pace was in his favour, and for some time in the straight he appeared to have nowhere to go. But when Davy Bonilla was able to switch him outside, the colt showed a turn of foot that was remarkable in such conditions.

This was his third victory from as many starts, all over the same distance, and all characterised by a display of sharp acceleration. He began with a maiden win at Longchamp on good ground in September, and followed up with an eye-catching effort a month later on good to soft at Chantilly, where he conceded weight to useful rivals and scored readily.

And not least of the reasons for supposing that Tamayuz might be everything that trainer Freddy Head has always believed him to be is an outstanding pedigree background, replete with top-class influences. His heritage entitles him to make a mark in the best company.

These are early days in the stud career of his sire, Nayef, who may or may not be destined to take high rank as a stallion. But we know already that he is being given excellent chances to succeed, and when his first-crop daughters Spacious and Kotsi finished one-two in last year's Group 2 May Hill Stakes, his many supporters had cause to feel even more optimistic about his prospects. The emergence of a colt with Classic pretensions reinforces that view.

Nayef is a half-brother to Unfuwain (by Northern Dancer) and Nashwan (by Blushing Groom), who both excelled on the racecourse and had stud careers of note, although they expressed their impact as sires in rather different ways. Unfuwain, never a Group 1 winner himself, got the winners of 11 races at the top level, with Alhaarth's Dewhurst the only one by a colt; the more brilliant Nashwan, hero of two Classics, an Eclipse and a King George, sired winners of 12 Group 1 events, nine of them split between his outstanding sons Swain and Bago.

Nayef never showed quite the class of Nashwan, but he was pretty much on a par with Unfuwain at his best, and he had a longer career than either of them, performing with admirable consistency over four seasons in training – and that after having been much the most precocious of the trio, disclosing high merit as an unbeaten two-year-old.

We did not know quite what to expect of Nayef after his juvenile season, largely because he was a son of Gulch, whose only previous runner of note in Britain had been Harayir, a



Tamayuz (left) displayed a good turn of foot to land the Prix de Fontainebleau from outsider Murcielago

Destined for greater things

Slowly run trial did not show winner in best light

1,000 Guineas heroine who never ran beyond 1m and was very much at home over shorter trips, in spite of a distaff pedigree that featured plenty of factors for stamina.

Gulch had plugged on gamely to finish a remote third in the Belmont Stakes, but 1m4f was twice his optimum distance, and it was as winner of the Breeders' Cup Sprint that he was best remembered. As it turned out, Gulch did not inhibit the expression of stamina in Nayef, who did all his subsequent winning between 1m2f and 1m4f.

As a four-year-old he won the Dubai Sheema Classic over the longer distance, and gave an even better display back at Ascot, where Golan thwarted him by a head in the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes. His most impressive performance at 1m2f came at five in the Prince of Wales's Stakes, the last of his four Group 1 triumphs, when he scored readily over Rakti and Islington.

Both of Nayef's distinguished half-brothers were dead by the time he started his stud career at Nuntery, in 2004, with a book of 95, supported by a wide range of commercial and private breeders. He did not need 'propping up' with a substantial number of mares from Shadwell, but it seems as though the home team may have the best of the 82 current three-year-olds from that first crop.

AL ISHQ, the dam of Tamayuz, cost Sheikh Hamdan Ir280,000gns as a yearling at Goffs. The price was not unreasonable, given the facts that she was a daughter of Nureyev out of a Group 3 winner by Riverman whose half-sister, Urban Sea (Miswaki-Allegretta), had won a Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. With antecedents like that, she might well prove a bargain.

Trained by Freddy Head, Al Ishq won only a little race at Amiens and was unplaced in five of her other six starts; she tended to run with her head in the air, and looked an unwilling athlete. But before her own retirement to the paddocks there were already reasons for believing that she had been a timely and valuable acquisition.

Al Ishq was bought in October 1998. In 1999, Urban Sea's first foal, Urban Ocean, became a Group 3 winner in the Gallinule Stakes, and in 2000 (when her own half-brother, King's Best, won the 2,000 Guineas), her second foal, Melikah, was placed in both the Oaks and Irish Oaks.

In 2001 the Derbys of Britain, Ireland and France were won by grandsons of Allegretta, the first two by Urban Sea's third foal, Galileo (who also collected a King George), and the other by Anabaa Blue, Al Ishq's year-younger half-brother. In 2002 Galileo's brother, Black Sam Bellamy, won the Group 1 Gran Premio del Jockey-Club, and in 2003 he doubled his tally at the top level by taking the Tattersalls Gold Cup.

In 2004 Urban Sea's fifth top performer, All Too Beautiful, finished second in the Oaks, and in 2005 her next foal, My Typhoon, notched the first of her Graded victories in the US, adding two more in 2006, and a further three, including the Grade 1 Diana Handicap, in 2007.

No other family has enjoyed comparable success in the last decade, and for all her own deficiencies on the racecourse, Al Ishq can certainly be rated a bargain buy now.

SIRE NAYEF

Bred by Shadwell Farm Inc. in Kentucky. Won 9 (1m-1m4f) of 20 races, viz. 2 (inc. 1 Listed) out of 2 at 2 years, 4 (Rose of Lancaster S.-Gr3, Select S.-Gr3, Cumberland Lodge S.-Gr3, Champion S.-Gr1) out of 7 at 3 years, 2 (Dubai Sheema Classic-Gr1, Juddmonte International S.-Gr1) out of 5 at 4 years, 1 (Prince of Wales's S.-Gr1) out of 6 at 5 years. Also 2nd in King George VI & Queen Elizabeth S. at 4, and in Eclipse S. at 5, placed 3rd in 3 other Gr1 races. Timeform 123p at 2, 129 at 3, 129 at 4, 128 at 5. Earned £2,359,713.

Tall (16.2hh), rangy, imposing individual, and a splendid mover. Top-class, tough, consistent performer, effective on any going. Usually raced up with the pace.

Very well bred. By a champion sprinter who stayed longer distances, and who got Classic winners at 1m, 1m2f and 1m4f. Half-brother to 7 winners, inc. Unfuwain (Gr2, successful sire), Nashwan (Gr1, successful sire), Alwasmī (Gr3), Mukddaam and Sarayir (both Listed). Dam champion 2-y-o filly, sister to winner Burghclere (dam of Gr1 winner Wind in Her Hair, granddam of Japanese champion Deep Impact).

Stands at Nuntery Stud, Thetford, Norfolk, at a fee of £10,000. Sire of 2 crops of racing age, inc. notable winners: Spacious (Gr2), Tamayuz (Gr3).

DAM AL ISHQ

Bred by Haras d'Etreham & M3 Elevage in France. Ir280,000gns Goffs yearling. Won 1 (1m) of 7 starts, viz. 0 out of 2 at 2 years, 1 (minor event at Amiens) out of 5 at 3 years. Also placed 3rd once at Longchamp. Earned FF59,500.

Modest performer who raced only at 7f and 1m. Showed signs of temperament.

Extremely well bred. By a top-class miler, champion sire and notable broodmare sire. Half-sister to Classic winner Anabaa Blue (by Anabaa) and Listed winners Reunite (by Kingmambo) and Measured Tempo (by Sadler's Wells). Dam Gr3 winner in France, Gr3-placed in US, half-sister to Arc de Triomphe winner Urban Sea (by Miswaki; dam of Galileo, Black Sam Bellamy, My Typhoon [all Gr1], Urban Ocean, All Too Beautiful [both Gr3] and Melikah [Listed]), and to King's Best (by Kingmambo; 2,000 Guineas). Granddam also granddam of Anzillero (Gr1), Tertullian and Terek (both Gr3). Exceptional family, regularly delivering top-class performers in recent years.

To stud at 4 years, and dam of: Thamarat (2003 f by Anabaa; winner, Listed-placed), Nuqoosh (2004 f by Machiavellian; winner, Gr3-placed), Tamayuz (2005 c by Nayef; Gr3 winner), Ashaaq (2006 c by Anabaa; unraced to date). She has a yearling filly by Linamix, named Dijlah, and was covered by Medicean in 2007. Barren to Bering in 2002.

CONCLUSIONS

A very well bred colt who remains unbeaten and owns impressive powers of acceleration. A Classic contender at 1m, but pedigree gives him a good chance of staying longer distances.

TAMAYUZ

(CH C, 1-3-2005)

		Raise A Native	Native Dancer Raise You
	Mr Prospector		Nashua Sequence
Gulch		Gold Digger	
		Rambunctious	Rasper Danae
	Jameela		Seven Corners Snow Flyer
Nayef (b 1998)		Asbury Mary	
		Busted	Crepello Sans Le Sou
	Bustino		Doutelle Paving Stone
Height Of Fashion		Ship Yard	
		Queen's Hussar	March Past Jojo
	Highclere		Borealis Hypericum
		Highlight	
		Nearctic	Nearco Lady Angela
	Northern Dancer		Native Dancer Almahmoud
		Natalma	
Nureyev		Forli	Aristophanes Trevisa
		Special	Nantallah Rough Shod
Al Ishq (ch 1997)		Thong	
		Never Bend	Nasrullah Lalun
	Riverman		Prince John Nile Lily
Allez Les Trois		River Lady	
		Lombard	Agio Promised Lady
	Allegretta		Espresso Almyra
		Anatevka	

Bred by Shadwell Estate Co Ltd in Britain.