

Sprint Horse Racing news

At the age of 26 the mighty Thoroughbred stallion Storm Cat has taken a new direction in his breeding career in the USA. A son of the Northern Dancer horse Storm Bird and from a Secretariat mare this stallion, who was 7 times Leading Juvenile Sire and twice Leading Sire, has been retired from Thoroughbred breeding due to age and a consequent decline in fertility.

However, in a collaborative effort by Overbrook Farms, Texas A & M University and the Equine Medical Institute and by utilizing a technique developed recently to prolong the careers of subfertile stallions, Storm Cat's semen is now available to Quarter Horse mares. The Thoroughbred industry, of course, does not condone such goings on as AI but the QH industry has no such hangup. At a fee of \$20,000 and a live foal guaranteed the industry looks forward to some exciting foals from top mares in the business.

Unrestricted access to the riches of the TB gene pool in the USA is one of the strengths of the QH in that country. In Australia our access to this genetic goldmine is unfortunately restricted by the requirement that TB stallions must meet IBF requirements before any foals can be AQHA registered. I believe this shortcoming needs to be addressed before too long for the benefit of the overall Quarter Horse industry.

Sandra Zimmerman's foal - Tony Smith, who knows a thing or two about speed in horses has used this horse.

The 2009 National Racing Conference has been postponed until later in the year. Although this decision resulted from changes in the man-

agement committee of the VRQHA it may turn out to have been a good idea. Many people are recovering from the ravages of fire and flood while others are still cash strapped and burdened with constant handfeeding due to lack of rain and ongoing drought conditions. We hope as the year rolls on things might actually improve and allow more of us to attend the proposed Conference.



Splash of Nash (Okey Dokey Dale x Blaze of Orion), purchased at the Heritage Place Yearling Sale by Oklahoman Horse Consultant Randy Hill together with Allan and Sheryll Sullivan of Wentworth, NSW.

Racing enthusiasts who have not recently visited Terry Chinn's website www.sprintheorses.com need to hop onto their machine pronto. Allan and Sheryl Sullivan have compiled a great segment called the Sullivan's Run Newsletter in which they bring us up to date with all sorts of happenings on the American Running Horse scene. This pair has imported some well-bred running blood into this country and they annually AI their mares to top USA stallions.

With their contacts, their enthusiasm for the running horse and their regular visits to USA who better than Allan and Sheryll to keep us up to date with important happenings trackside in USA.

On their last visit to USA Allan and Sheryll teamed up with Randy Hill and bought a promising Okey Dokey Dale yearling who will race over there as Splash of Nash.

In another new development on his website, Terry has taken it upon himself to compile a great overview of the bloodlines that have influenced the running horse in Australia. Again, who better to do this than someone who for so long trained and has been associated with many great sprinters in this country.

The Victorian racing season is just about over and what a year it has been. Through smooth patches and over corrugations trainers kept right on preparing their horses, the jockeys kept turning up to ride them and someone kept paying the bills (I think!). Somehow it has all hung together strongly enough to pave the way for better things next season.

Those Victorians just keep putting horses on the track regardless of politics or what ever else is simmering away in the background. In the future when our industry is flowing along easier and a Hall of Fame is raised to the Sprint Horse in this country I hope that full credit will be given to the dedicated running horse folk who just kept racing their horses when there was so very little incentive to do so.

Birchip on 12th March was the second to last meeting for the VRQHA racing season. As it has done previously this small Mallee community supported the sprinters to the utmost.

Tony Smith's Bymyside took out the first race on the five race card - no surprise to anyone, but I guess there is always the chance that she might trip coming out of the gates!

Buzraami was successful in the Open for Annette Blanche and this was his 10th win in a row. Robyn Kelly trained the winners Here To Go, Super Trooper and Princess Bellbrae of the other three races.

All reports attest to a good days racing, close finishes and a great atmosphere. There was also plenty of socializing and in the absence of fat prizemoney, this socializing bit is very important!



4 month old colt owned by Vic Sprint Horse breeder Sandra Zimmerman. This exceptional foal is by the champion Argentinian sprinter, Estambul, who ran world record times over 1000 metres. Bymyside's owner, Tony Smith, also has progeny on the ground by this very fast Thoroughbred.

CORRECTION

to Article on Page 41 March Issue AQHA Magazine.

The horse named as Coco is by Bronze Oak - not by Acres Destiny as quoted in the story on Bruce McNaughton. John Manwaring the owner of Bronze Oak who is now 21 years old said "Bruce has two horses in his stable that are by Bronze Oak and Bruce is very pleased with both of them. They pay their way nearly every weekend at he Drafts for Bruce and son Ben".

AMERICAN
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SAN ANTONIO AmQHA CONVENTION

I am proud to announce Ms. Pauline Stuart-Fox, the International Director representing the AQHA approved affiliate from Australia, was elected as 'Elected District Director' during AQHA's 2009 Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

AQHA maintains 150 Elected Directors with voting privileges from our membership of 331,194. Ms. Stuart-Fox's experience and background brings a unique quality to this elite group of people.

Please join me in congratulating Ms. Stuart-Fox with this honor. Her hard work and dedication to AQHA is appreciated.

Cordially, David Avery

Director of International Affairs, DA/kp