



Carprocates (USA)

Storm Cat – Spain by Thunder Gulch

Out of the blue. Born in 1997, a bay filly named Spain took the American racing world by storm. In 35 starts the daughter of Thunder Gulch won nine races, placed sixteen times and earned \$3.5 million. Among the victories was the Breeder's Cup Distaff, while her nine Gr1 places included the Breeder's Cup Juvenile Fillies. Timeform rated her 123 when she retired as the North American all-time leading female money earner. Remarkably, she bowed out by winning the 2002 Gr2 Fleur de Lis handicap while racing in foal, to Storm Cat.

One year later the foal, a weanling colt subsequently named Carprocates, sold for \$2.4 at the Keeneland mare & weanling sale. Spain herself went at the same venue for \$5.3 million, again in foal to Storm Cat. A neat return on investment for the breeders of Spain, whose dam had been bought while carrying her for a modest \$62,000 in 1996.

Spain's prowess may have come as a surprise to many, her immediate female line thin on black type, her sire a freshman and unproven. With hindsight, it was a case of the right sire being in the right place at the right time, to unlock the pedigree potential of Spain's female line. It goes like this.

The key to kingdom is Spain's fourth dam Shujinsky. Unraced, out of a Gr3 placed 3-time winning dam, Shujinsky was a full sister by Nijinsky to one-time winning Miss Nutcracker and to a colt who won a couple of Gr3 races. Given the class of Nijinsky as a sire nothing much to write home about. At stud Miss Nutcracker's main claim to fame was a Crafty Prospector colt sold in 1995 to Japan, where he won 5 races.

The mating of Nijinsky to the dam of the sibling-trio brought together a bag of interesting pedigree elements, but without any obvious genetic relative connections. Those fences were mended when Shujinsky visited Private Account, a sire who carried genetic relatives Kerala (dam of Damascus) and Buckpasser 2x2. Private Account's dam is inbred 2x3 to the dam of Buckpasser and her 3-part sister. Buckpasser is a known consort of the dam of Nijinsky, the pair 3x3 in Shujinsky's daughter Wandering Lace. The result was anything but convincing, as Wandering Lace ran only four times, winning once. The foundation, however, had been laid.

Wandering Lace visited a mixed bag of stallions, who were as a group unable to capitalize on the mare's potential. Vaguely Noble's son Regal And Royal probably did best, getting Spain's dam Drina, a tough winner of 11 races from 44 starts. As it turns out, the stallion's dam Native Street is a close genetic relative of Private Account. The relationship is built on several strong crosses, including Native Street with Shujinsky, and Native Street's dam Beaver Street with Kerala.

Shujinsky proves to be a jack of all trades, as the combination of her pedigree elements makes her accessible to many of the main lines available today. None more so than

Thunder Gulch, the champion 3yo of his generation, who stood his first season at stud when Drina visited him. Thunder Gulch is by Gulch, a son of Mr Prospector. The dam of Gulch enters the picture with much lesser known sire-lines, (in order) Rambunctious, Seven Corners, Snow Boots, Hilltown, Harry Baker. Yet they made the day.

Mr Prospector's pedigree hinges on his 2x2 of Raise You and Sequence. Raise You is by Case Ace, a genetic relative of Snow Boots. Sequence locks into Seven Corners. That explains Gulch.

Seven Corners counts again in Thunder Gulch, where he connects to Bull Page, from damsire Storm Bird's pedigree.

Now for the crunch. The grandam of Gulch as Ashbury Mary, by Seven Corners out of a Snow Boot mare. Ashbury Mary is a genetic relative of Shujinsky.

And so is Mr Prospector. That's two parts of Thunder Gulch locking into the same conduit! There's more, because Thunder Gulch's damsire Storm Bird and Nijinsky are close genetic relatives, as are Storm Bird and Shujinsky.

To recap, important main lines in the mix are Mr P, Storm Bird, Nijinsky, Buckpasser, Damascus.

Spain's dam Drina had two other Graded stakes winners, both colts.

Gr3 winner Fantastic Spain is by Fantastic Fellow, a son of Lear Fan, by Roberto. The latter is a Shujinsky genetic relative. And Roberto's dam and the one of Mr P. are very close in make-up.

The other half brother is multiple Gr2 winner Puerto Banus, by Supremo. The latter is by Gone West out of a mare by Danzig. Relationships here are Danzig with Shujinsky, and Gone West with Drina's dam Wandering Lace. Which means Roberto, Gone West and Danzig can be added to the list of linking main lines. Wow.

Breed the best to the best. That must have been the thinking when Spain visited Storm Cat. The latter is a son of Storm Bird, already of relevance in Spain's pedigree. Storm Cat's bottom female brought another link, to Buckpasser and to the female line of Nijinsky – referred to elsewhere in these pages as members of the Tom Fool clan. If any criticism can be leveled, the relevant elements from Spain may have been a generation too far removed for Storm Cat's liking – a suitable son of him might have been more explosive. This thinking may pay when mares are chosen for Carprocates. We've seen how virtually all major modern lines link to his bottom female line. When duplicating them they should be in suitable places, and combined. They may come from unexpected places – remember the female line build-up of Gulch. Among the Gr1 winning offspring of Thunder Gulch we find several nice examples, notably Circular Quay, whose dam is by Belong To Me (Danzig) out of a mare by Shadeed (Nijinsky x Damascus). You get the idea. A thorough search of a mare's pedigree will no doubt throw up clues.

PICK OF THE BUNCH
Suitable mares for Carprocates could include

1. Mr Prospector, notably Gone West, but widespread
2. Tom Fool clan members, notably Buckpasser, Blushing Groom, Nijinsky (Dancing Champ), etc.
3. Roberto, notably Al Mufti (with his strong Buckpasser affinity)
4. Danzig – widespread
5. Damascus, notably Rollins (dam sister to Roberto)

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