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Dynasty – Scribblin' The Cat by Badger's Drift

"GrI horses win GrI races" – it's an old adage to illustrate that only the best horses win the biggest races. It follows that breeding GrI winners must be the hardest thing in the world to do. Consequently even the very best stallions have percentages of GrI-winners-to-foals in low single figures - and the same goes for breeders of GrI winners. Just one or two of such winners in a hundred sets you way apart from the also-rans in the great genetic lottery.

It explains why doing quantitative research just on GrI winners of stallions is a futile exercise – the numbers are too small to have any meaning in statistical terms. Which leaves the alternative of dissecting GrI winning pedigrees individually in the hope that promising patterns may be found. And then the trouble starts. Instead of finding sequences of the very best stallions as the sires of mares in successive generations of the GrI winners, relatively obscure names appear, often showing the female ancestors to be the offspring of very moderate stallions. Who would breed that way?

But wait... help is at hand!

Let's look at Futura's sire Dynasty, a leading South African stallion this year. He has seven Gr1 winners to date, born between 2006 to 2011 – a six-year period, in which he sired 372 foals (187 colts, 185 fillies), making for 1.8% Gr1 winners.

> glance at the sequence of damsires, for five generations, of Dynasty's Gr1 winners suggests infinite variety (see table) – only Drum Beat appears more than once, none of the others are repeated. Some related names appear, though. Gone West (in Jackson) is sire of Western Winter (in Futura). Badger's Drift (in Futura) and Restructure (in Legislate) are both out of mares by Thatching who is full brother to Golden Thatch (in Futura). These full brothers are out of Abella, by Abernant – whose pedigree is close to the one of Drum Beat, and to the one of the mare Mixed Marriage, third dam of Gone West. Another close link is to the mare Farthing Damages, who is doubled in the dam of Pole Position. Then there's the close resemblance of all of these kin-relatives with Court Martial and Tudor Minstrel.

Finally, for Dynasty the link to all of these comes through his third dam Lavenda Lady. She's by Abernant, and is close kin to Drum Beat et al, including the mare Popcorn, female line ancestress of Irish Flame.

Futura fits the mould.

His dam Scribblin' The Cat is kinbred 3x3 to full brothers Thatching and Golden Thatch, who are damsires respectively of the mare's sire Badger's Drift and her dam Winter Fox.

Thatching and Golden Thatch are themselves closely kin-bred, 3x4 to Dalmary, who is female line ancestress of their sire Thatch and dam Abella (who is by Abernant).

The presence of Abernant looks to be significant, but there's more.

Badger's Drift is by Badger Land, whose grandam Mime (by Pretense) is close kin to Fall Aspen (by Pretense). Fall Aspen is the dam of Dynasty's sire Fort Wood, a son of Sadler's Wells (from the Dalmary female line).

Badger's Drift's grandam Abrinya (by Red God) is 3-part sister to influential sire Blushing Groom. The latter's dam Aimee (grandam of Abrinya) is very close kin to Mime and to Fall Aspen. Aimee is by Tudor Minstrel, and very close kin to Mixed Marriage (by Tudor Minstrel), who is third dam of Gone West (sire of Western Winter).

Western Winter is the sire of Futura's grandam Winter Fox, and is kinbred 4x4 to Mixed Marriage and Court Martial.

Where From Here

The close kinship between all of Abernant, Mixed Marriage, Court Martial, Drum Beat, Farthing Damages, Tudor Minstrel (and others) provides a wealth of opportunity for Futura. These lines are very well represented in the South African breeding population.

A notable Court Martial carrier is Elliodor, who in Futura's family is represented by Gr2 winner Epaulette, a half sister to Futura's third dam Fox Of Gold. Also in this female line is Gr2 winner Danseuse Classique, who is kinbred 3x4 Minstrel's Pride x Arietta, both daughters of Tudor Minstrel. Danseuse Classique's unraced daughter Cry For The Lion (by Elliodor) got multiple Gr1 winner Aslan, by Silvano. The latter also is the sire of Epaulette's Gr1 winning granddaughter Equina.

Also of interest is former champion broodmare sire Royal Prerogative, whose dam Bride Elect is close kin to Abella, dam of Golden Thatch. The combination has proved successful, notably through Gr1 winner and sire Goldmark (Golden Thatch x Royal Prerogative mare).



Dynasty, champion son of sire-of-sires Fort Wood – his third dam Lavenda Lady holds the elements to his affinities, and possibly those for Futura

In this context, there were several interesting Dynasty offspring at the 2015 National Sale, three out of mares by Elliodor, another out of a mare by Goldmark (with the next dam by Elliodor).

A final observation on the pedigree elements of Futura's dam Scribblin' The Cat. Her third dam Bold Vixen is by Plum Bold out of a mare by Romulus (Ribot x Tudor Minstrel). The mare's sire Badger's Drift is by Badger Land, whose grandam Mime is close kin to Tudor Minstrel. Badger Land's sire Codex is by a grandson of Ribot, while his grandam Minnetonka is very close kin to Plum Bold. All that makes Badger Land very close kin to Bold Vixen, suggesting that Futura might well appreciate pedigrees which carry those same background lines. A stallion to keep in mind in this respect is Oratorio, whose grandam doubles the female line of Plum Bold and Minnetonka. In Oratorio one representative of this duplicated female line is Alydar, who also features in Duke Of Marmalade and Peintre Celebre (Byword, Jam Alley).

PICK OF THE BUNCH Suitable mares for

Futura could include

- Kin-relatives with backgrounds as found in Tudor Minstrel, Mixed Marriage (Gone West, Western Winter; Sharpen Up, Kris, Diesis, Pole Position; Known Fact; My Earl), Aimee (Blushing Groom, Jallad, Rainbow Quest, etc. – widespread), Hobnob; Averof/Foveros; Abernant (wide-spread, but notably Golden Thatch (Goldmark), Thatching (Restructure), Derring-Do (Jan Ekels), Popcorn, etc.); Court Martial (widespread, but notably Elliodor (Model Man), Capture Him, Lords, Welsh Harmony (National Emblem); etc.); Drum Beat; Mexico (Harry Hotspur); etc., etc.
- Real Delight female line descendants and kin, incl Minnetonka (Oratorio, Badger Land), Plum Bold, Alydar (Duke Of Marmalade, Peintre Celebre (Byword, Jam Alley)), Grand Slam (by Gone West; sire of sire Visionaire and damsire of Dynasty's Gr2 winner Daring Dave); etc.
- Dalmary female line descendants (widespread, incl Sadler's Wells, Nureyev, Fairy King, Waterville Lake, Hermitage, etc.)
- Royal Prerogative (notably in combination with Golden Thatch; Goldmark; Rebel King (whose dam is by Badger Land))

Gr1 winner	damsire	2nd damsire	3rd damsire	4th damsire	5th damsir
Futura	Badger's Drift	Western Winter	Golden Thatch	Plum Bold	Romulus
Beach Beauty	Capture Him	Hobnob	Home Guard	Kirsch Flambee	Preamble
Jackson	Cozzene	Gone West	Vice Regent	Nodouble	Outing Cla
Act Of War	Cordoba	Calvados	Sahib	Bleep-Bleep	Faubourg
Legislate	Restructure	Jungle Cove	Jan Ekels	Ambiopoise	Drum Bea
Irish Flame	Flaming Rock	Condorcet	Dapper	Oligarchy	Ranjit
Ancestral Fore	Pole Position	Lords	Drum Beat	Alfa Romeo	Train Bleu

Dynasty Gr1 Winners

Five of the seven damsires of the Gr1 winners listed do not have any other daughters with local Gr1 offspring – those that do are Capture Him (one other, Wavin' Flag, a son of Silvano) and Flaming Rock (one other, Talahatchee, a son of Jallad). US-stallion Cozzene has seven other foreign daughters with Gr1 offspring, as far apart as USA, Japan, Argentina, Italy and France – and by wildly varying stallions (Gone West, Hard Spun, Fuji Kiseki, Distant View, Honour And Glory, Devon Lane, Mind Games).

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