

Forest Wildcat - Loma Preata by Zilzal

New Zealand pedigree analyst Clive Harper has no doubts. "The Violet/Feronia background", he says, "is a pattern of power. This pair of full sisters has been influential through several sires, notably The Minstrel in recent history. Today their power is absolutely rampant through the hottest World sire-line - that of Storm Cat."

Violet and Feronia are granddaughters of the mare Honeysuckle, who is a full sister to Newminster, an influential sire who appears in multiples in virtually every pedigree today. The interaction between their descendants can be explosive, given the right circumstances. Storm Cat's dam traces directly to Honeysuckle, the female line of Family 8.

Storm Cat isn't the only sire to 'throw' into this genetic strength, but, says Harper, "he is the strongest and the surest". When asked what Storm Cat reacts most favourably to, Harper says "all sorts of things that have even a whiff of the Family 8, but specifically to Sunreigh, Sun Briar, Sundridge, to No. 8 damlines. Also to more Northern Dancer, Native Dancer, Bold Ruler, Polynesian, Damascus, Bunty Lawless - and so on."

The proof of Harper's Family 8 pudding is in Forest Wildcat, sire of Var, and in Var himself.

Forest Wildcat is by Storm Cat out of the mare Victoria Beauty, by Bold Native out of Abifaith. Bold Native reminds us of Mr Prospector: the same sire, Raise A Native (Native Dancer), and his dam a full sister in blood to Mr Prospector's third dam.

Bold Native contributes Sun Briar, who traces to the mare Dubia, inbred 3x2 to sisters Violet and Feronia - hence her importance.

The crunch comes from Forest Wildcat's second dam Abifaith, who was mated to Bold Native. Abifaith' sire Seaneen is the product of two important Family 8 conduits, as he is by Royal Charger out of a mare by Tehran. Through the pair, Seaneen is inbred 3x4 to Solario, a key horse for Family 8.

Forest Wildcat's third dam Sherry Jen has another line of Sun Briar.

In summary, all four grandparents of the dam of Forest Wildcat have significant Family 8 elements for Storm Cat to run with. Storm Cat himself has over 40 lines of Violet and Feronia, eight of these concentrated in four lines of Dubia.

So how did Forest Wildcat 'throw' himself at stud? We look at his notable performers

Forest Secrets - inbred 4x3 to Secretariat & genetic sibling Resolver (Bold Ruler, Princequillo); second dam by Tom Rolfe (by Ribot - the latter has a strong genetic affinity with Princequillo & Honeyway, and with Crimson Saint, grandam of Storm Cat)

d'Wildcat - 4x3 Secretariat, 3x3 Storm Bird x Fanfreluche genetic siblings, together adding up to 2x2 Storm Cat x d'Accord; second dam by Believe It (by In Reality, who from his sire Intentionally gets Discovery, a Family 8 carrier also significant in Bold Ruler)

d'Wildcat Speed - 4x5 three-part brothers Secretariat x Sir Gaylord, 4x5 genetic siblings Seaneen x Royal Lover; damsire Pentaquod is grandson of Tom Rolfe; second dam by Great Above (has Intentionally);

Forest Heiress - 3x4 Bold Native x Mr Prospector (through son Fappiano, whose third dam is by Princequillo from a mare by Mahmoud, a notable Family 8 conduit); damsire Pentelicus has In Reality as his damsire

Snow Dancer - 5x4x5 Bold Ruler, 4x4 genetic siblings Sherry Jen

and Promised Land (damsire of Spectacular Bid, whose dam is by Mahmoud)

Wild Snitch - 3x4 Bold Native x Mr Prospector; dam is 3x3 genetic siblings Princequillo & Curly Sky (by Honeyway), 4x3 Romanella x Curly Sky; damsire Key To The Mint (by Ribot's son Graustark) is 3x3 Cosquilla x Romanella

Madame Red - 4x3 Secretariat and genetic sibling Bold Lad, in turn a genetic sibling of Resolver (see Forest Secrets, above)

Diamond Wildcat - 3x4 Bold Native x Mr Prospector, from Fappiano, sire of the dam's sire Quiet American (inbred to Princequillo)

Hermiones Magic - 3x3 Bold Native x Mr Prospector (through Miswaki), 4x4 Secretariat and genetic sibling Rose Bower (grandam of Miswaki), 4x4 genetic siblings Seaneen x Gallant Man (strong on Family 8)

Yankee Wildcat - dam by Miswaki (see above)

Katy Kat - 4x3x3 genetic siblings Secretariat x Chieftain x Key To The Kingdom (Bold Ruler, Princequillo); fourth dam Dama very strong on Family 8

Look Of The Lynx - 4x2 genetic siblings Secretariat x Maimiti

Our Wildcat - 3x3 genetic siblings Bold Native x Exclusive Native (or rather, 3x2 Bold Native x Affirmed); second dam by Graustark (Ribot) out of a Bold Ruler mare

Smile n Wildcat - 3x3 Bold Native x genetic sibling Infantes; third dam is by Unconscious (son of Ribot x mare by son of Mahmoud)

Waupaca - 5x5 Royal Charger (an important Family 8 conduit); damsire Cormorant is by His Majesty (Ribot)

Wildcat Shoes - 5x5 Royal Charger

Wild Jam - 3x4 Bold Native x Mr Prospector (from damsire Cahill Road, by Fappiano); second damsire son of Intentionally

Turner's Hall - 3x4 Bold Native x genetic sibling Ampola (grandam of damsire Grey Dawn, by Herbager x Mahmoud, all Family 8)

The pattern seems quite convincing. Match **Secretariat's** pedigree, or the one of **Bold Native** (through Mr Prospector, Affirmed, Miswaki, Fappiano). Add **Ribot** (His Majesty, Graustark), **Honeyway**, **In Reality** (Fappiano). Add **Family 8 - Royal Charger, Mahmoud**; there's much more.

On to Var, posterchild for his sire Forest Wildcat. The best son of his sire, Var arguably gives the strongest links with his sire and grandsire as well.

Var's dam Loma Preata is inbred 3x2 to genetic siblings Bold Example (grandam of her sire Zilzal) and Key To The Kingdom (her second damsire). The pair are in turn genetic siblings of Secretariat, making for a 4x4x3 cross in Var.

There's more. Sherry Jen (third dam of Forest Wildcat) and Promised Land (second damsire of Loma Preata) are genetic siblings. So are Seaneen (second damsire of Forest Wildcat) and Adjourneement (fourth dam of Loma Preata). Add the the two pairs together, and Var gets 3x3 genetic siblings Abifaith (grandam of Forest Wildcat) and Promised Princess (grandam of Loma Preata). It revolves around the interplay of Royal Charger, Solario, Mahmoud, Tehran, Admiral's Lady, Lady Juror. All about Family 8!

Where From Here

Since the apparent affinities of Storm Cat were extended through Forest Wildcat, and further through Var, it should make sense to intensify matters.

Secretariat appears to be a key horse.

His pedigree background was doubled in the dam of Var through Bold Example and Key To The Kingdom. The latter has a noted affinity with Alleged (their dams are very close genetic siblings), who in South Africa is found in Sportsworld and Joshua Dancer. Both look interesting.

Sportsworld is by Alleged out of a Nureyev mare, the latter also the sire of Var's damsire Zilzal. To boot, Secretariat's genetic sibling Bold Example is Zilzal's grandam. Interestingly, the best progeny of Zilzal mares include Dubai World Cup runner-up Dynever, whose dam Flamoyance is inbred 3x3 to Bold Example and genetic sibling Shoshanna. Flamoyance' damsire is Hail To Reason, whose gets doubled in Dynever, whose sire Dynaformer is by Roberto (Hail to Reason) out of a mare by His Majesty. More interesting still, Hail To Reason is by Royal Charger's son Turn To - this line is a noted strength when Family 8 members come together. A second good runner from a Zilzal mare is Cat Ona High, whose dam Uforia is inbred 5x3 to Bold Ruler. Cat Ona High is by Storm Cat's son Tabasco Cat, whose damsire Sauceboat is by Key To The Mint (Graustark x Princequillo mare) out of the mare Missy Baba. The latter was mated to Secretariat's 3-part brother Sir Gaylord to get Gay Missile, the grandam of Sportsworld and also of Al Mufti (by Hail To Reason's son Roberto). All roads, it seems, lead to Rome.

Joshua Dancer is by Danzig (his damsire Admiral's Voyage has Admiral's Lady) out of a mare by Alleged. His second dam is by a son of Bold Ruler.

Bold Example's dam Lady Be Good appears in the direct female line of Zilzal, Polish Precendent (by Danzig), and of 2005 Epsom Derby winner Motivator (whose pedigree bears studying and will give insight, as does the pedigree of his grandam's half brother Wavering Monarch, damsire of Monarchos among others). In South Africa there are a couple of mares from the Lady Be Good female line, notably Cradle Snatched and Lavish Lavendar, whose female descendants might be interesting for Var (if they were 'properly' mated).

The bottom female line of Var combines Mahmoud, Crafty Admiral, Lady Juror (Fair Trial, Court Martial), Solario. Getting back to those can be done in a wide variety of ways.

One important one highway might be through descendants of Royal Charger with a proven Family 8 affinity. His son Turn To, sire of Hail to Reason, is an important one. His daughter Gay Hostess (dam of Majestic Prince, Crowned Prince) is another. In this context Roberto stallion Al Mufti looks nice, also given his female line (interesting to note



Storm Cat - Family of 8 flag bearer

that Al Mufti's half brother Wolfhound is by Nureyev).

Another important son of Hail to Reason is Bold Reason, damsire of Sadler's Wells and Fairy King. In this context, Nureyev and his 3-part brother Sadler's Wells appear in two European classic winning fillies, Virginia Waters and Divine Proportions, both by Kingmambo (Mr P x Nureyev) out of daughters of Sadler's Wells.

Hail to Reason has a strong affinity with all of Buckpasser, Blushing Groom, Nijinsky, Admiral's Voyage (damsire of Danzig), which appears to be related to Family 8 activity as well.

Then there is Bold Ruler, to which Var is inbred 5x4x6. A stallion with a strong Bold Ruler affinity is National Assembly, making his daughters interesting, es-

pecially if they themselves have Bold Ruler in their female lines as well. Gone West (as in Western Winter) also has a Bold Ruler affinity.

The triumvirate of Ribot, Honeyway and Princequillo should be kept in mind. Pedigrees who combine any of them may be important. Ribot's sons His Majesty and Graustark count, as does the female line of Storm Cat, which belongs in the same group as well. Royal Academy and Goldkeeper are from Storm Cat's female line (interestingly, some 20% of Royal Academy's stakes winners have Honeyway in their pedigree).

The link of Bold Native and Mr Prospector might still carry strength as well through Var. Apparently proven connections with Forest Wildcat were through Miswaki, Fappiano, Affirmed. Remember, too, that the dams of Mr Prospector and Roberto are close genetic relatives.

Mr P's grandson Western Winter (Gone West) has done well with mares from Northern Dancer line sires - so the reverse (Var to Western Winter) might also work. (Var is inbred to Northern Dancer 4x4).

The list goes on. Clive Harper can have the last word: "Watch for the Family 8 strength - there are a good few stallions who pick it up, or at least a version of it. And there will be more for another three or four generations of sires yet! Understand this pattern and breeding will become much easier."

Pick of the Bunch

Suitable mares for Var include

1. Mares with Secretariat, 3-part brother Sir Gaylord, or genetic siblings Bold Example & Key To The Kingdom or his genetic sibling Alleged (notably Sportsworld, Joshua Dancer).
2. Mares with any (or combinations) of Ribot, Princequillo, Honey Buzzard (Graustark, His Majesty, Key to the Mint, Plugged Nickle, Honeyway, Winning Ways) or or elements from Storm Cat's female line (Royal Academy, Goldkeeper).
3. Mares with multiples of Bold Ruler (notably National Assembly).
4. Mares with Royal Charger, notably:
 - a) Turn To, Hail to Reason (Bold Reason, Sadler's Wells, Fort Wood, Fairy King; Al Mufti, Rakeen).
 - b) Gay Hostess (Majestic Prince, Coastal).
5. Mares with any (or combinations) of Buckpasser (& his sire Tom Fool), Blushing Groom, Nijinsky, Dinner Partner, Admiral's Voyage (Danzig).
6. Mares with Mr Prospector (Gone West, Western Winter).
7. Mares with strong Family 8 backgrounds (often: Lady Juror, Fair Trial, Court Martial, Mahmoud, Solario, etc).

Standing at: AVONTUURESTATE
Enquiries: Pippa Mickleburgh
Tel: (021) 855 1442
Cell: 083 658 4404
email: stud@avontuurestate.co.za