



## **BONNIE BLUE FLAG**

### **Pedigree Analysis by Alan Porter**

One of the best sprinting fillies of her generation, carrying a foal bred on the cross that produced a 2011 Oaks winner, Bonnie Blue Flag offers the perfect blend of speed and classic potential.

A \$300,000 yearling – the highest-priced filly by her sire that year – Bonnie Blue Flag firmly established her talent, class and versatility in an impressive five-race streak. Winner of a one-mile maiden on the all weather at Santa Anita, where she lead throughout, Bonnie Blue Flag followed that up with a 3½ length allowance win going 8½ furlongs on the all weather at Hollywood Park. Making her debut on the dirt in the seven furlong Cinemine Stakes, Bonnie Blue Flag dominated her opponents, scoring by 6½ lengths for her third consecutive victory. Traveling to New York, Bonnie Blue Flag confirmed her standing as one of the fastest of her crop with a third in the six-furlong Prioress Stakes (gr. I), and a second in the historic Test Stakes (gr. I) over seven furlongs.

Bonnie Blue Flag is a daughter of Mineshaft, the only U.S. Horse of the Year sired by A.P. Indy. Now one of the most important stallions sons of his sire, Mineshaft is already responsible for such horses as last year's brilliant grade one winning sprinter Discreetly Mine, and in 2011, the CCA Oaks (gr. I) and Acorn Stakes (gr. I) heroine It's Tricky, as well as the Florida Derby (gr. I) victor, Dialed In. Mineshaft's pedigree holds great promise for his future as a broodmare sire. A.P. Indy has made a great start in the role, and is already the broodmare sire of Kentucky Derby (gr. I) winner Super Saver, and Mineshaft's dam – a grade one winning daughter of Mr. Prospector – garnered an award as Broodmare of the Year.

Class also abounds in the distaff side of the pedigree of Bonnie Blue Flag. She is a half-sister to the superlative racemare Diamondrella, winner of five stakes events from 5½ furlongs to a mile – four consecutively – among them the Just a Game Stakes (gr. I) and First Lady Stakes (gr. I). Tap Your Feet, the dam of Bonnie Blue Flag and Diamondrella, is a stakes-winning daughter of

leading broodmare sire Dixieland Band. Bonnie Blue Flag's granddam, Exotic Moves, is also a stakes winner, and is by another exceptional broodmare sire, Miswaki.

Bonnie Blue Flag's third dam, Syrian Dancer, is a multiple stakes producing daughter of Horse of the Year Damascus. Syrian Dancer is also a sister to graded stakes winners Bailjumper, Syrianna and Honorable Miss. It's worth noting that Honorable Miss was the outstanding sprint filly of her era, defeating colts in back-to-back renewals of the Fall Highweight Handicap (once gr. III and once gr. II), the Toboggan Handicap and Gravesend Handicap. This the same branch of the famed family of Frizette – also ancestress of Mr. Prospector and Seattle Slew – as champion racemare and Broodmare of the Year Natasha, Kentucky Derby victor Ferdinand, and Champions Anees and Gold and Ivory.

Bonnie Blue Flag is carrying her first foal, a son or daughter of Medaglia d'Oro. The U.S. standard bearer for the sireline of the mighty Sadler's Wells, Medaglia d'Oro is already the sire of 27 stakes winners and 15 graded stakes winners in his first three crops, among them the incomparable Rachel Alexandra, in addition to group and grade one winners Plum Pretty, Gabby's Golden Gal, Champagne d'Oro, C. S. Silk, Passion For Gold, and Warrior's Reward.

The mating between Medaglia d'Oro and Bonnie Blue Flag offers not only a proven cross – it is TrueNicks rated A++ – but also an intriguing pedigree pattern. Medaglia d'Oro has already sired six stakes horses and four stakes winners from just 16 starters out of Seattle Slew line mares, including the 2011 Kentucky Oaks (gr. I) heroine, Plum Pretty, who is out of a mare by Bonnie Blue Flag's grandsire, A.P. Indy. The mating also gives a double of Damascus, a feature found not only in Plum Pretty, but also in five other Medaglia d'Oro stakes winners. Here the pattern is particularly notable, as it comes through Medaglia d'Oro's broodmare sire, Bailjumper, and his sister, Syrian Dancer, the third dam of Bonnie Blue Flag.