



PEDIGREE CONSULTANTS
THOROUGHBRED CONSULTANCY & MANAGEMENT

COMMERCIAL ANALYSIS:

BUBBLER

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By definition, horses capable of delivering a once in a lifetime performance are rare indeed. The opportunities to acquire the dam of such a horse a public auction are even scarcer. That opportunity, however, exists with Bubbler, the dam of Arrogate.

The astonishing Arrogate embodies a paradox. Having started only six times to date, the undisputed superstar of his generation has delivered not one, but two performances of that might qualify as a “once in a lifetime” kind.

There is no doubt that one of the most astonishing performances witnessed on a North American racetrack in recent times was Arrogate’s stunning victory in the Travers Stakes (gr. I). Leading at every call, Arrogate turned what appeared to be a highly-competitive renewal of Saratoga’s “Midsummer Derby” into an exhibition that drew comparisons with Secretariat’s legendary Belmont Stakes.

Arrogate’s margin of victory – which was still increasing as he powered home – was 13½ lengths, and among the field that Arrogate treated with such disdain were Exaggerator, runner-up in the Kentucky Derby (gr. I) and conqueror of the Kentucky Derby victor Nyquist in the Preakness Stakes (gr. I) and Haskell Invitational Stakes (gr. I); the Belmont Stakes (gr. I) first and second, Creator and Destin; and Gun Runner, a three-time graded stakes winner who had been a fine third in the Kentucky Derby.

In addition to routing several of leaders the classic crop, Arrogate’s time of 1:59.36 for the ten furlongs, made this not only the fastest running of a race that has been contested at this distance since 1904, but also erased a track and race-record that had stood since 1979. In fact, not only is Arrogate the first horse to break the 2:00 barrier at the Spa, but he is one of only five horses that have clocked a Travers time of under 2:01. The striking visual impression – which caused Arrogate’s trainer, Bob Baffert to describe him as “..a superstar in the making..” – was confirmed not only by the time, but by an equally remarkable set of speed-figures. The Beyer Speed Figure was 122, the highest for a race in excess of a mile since 2005, and the highest for a three-year-old since 1989. The Thoro-Graph number for the Travers was -4½, faster than the top of -3½ achieved by last year’s Triple Crown hero, American Pharoah. Timeform awarded the performance a towering 139, the highest achieved by a U.S. dirt performer since Ghostzapper in 2005, and Arrogate’s Bloodstock Research Information Services Brisnet.com Speed Rating was 124, the highest ever.

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So astonishing was that effort, many pundits questioned whether Arrogate could ever re-attain that level of form. That was, however, what would be necessary for him to triumph in his next task, a meeting with California Chrome in the Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I). Undoubtedly among the greatest runners of recent times, and officially rated the world's best racehorse, California Chrome came into the contest off a undefeated campaign that had seen him shatter the track-record in the Dubai World Cup (gr. I); thrash the formidable Beholder by five lengths in the Pacific Classic (gr. I); and prep for the Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I), by winning the Awesome Agave Stakes (gr. I) in a canter.

California Chrome absolutely ran a Champion's race, dictating terms, and turning for home with a 1½ lengths lead. That lead would soon diminish as Arrogate closed in. The champions of their respective generations engaged in a battle for the ages, before Arrogate's late surge delivered him a ½ lengths victory. To lend some perspective to this result, we can note that from California Chrome, it was 11¼ lengths back to the third, Keen Ice, conqueror of American Pharoah in the previous year's Travers Stakes (gr. I). He in turn was just in front of Hoppertunity, successful in the Jockey Club Gold Cup (gr. I) in his most recent start.

Now established as a truly monumental talent, Arrogate remains in training for 2017, where he has the potential to earn the status of a legend.

Arrogate is the first live foal produced by Bubbler, a Distorted Humor mare whose own dam is the product of a mating between two outstanding champions. An accomplished racemare in her own right, Bubbler won six of nine starts, three in stakes events, and on her final three starts won stakes on dirt and on turf, and took third in the Ouija Board Distaff Handicap (gr. III) on the grass.

Bubbler's sire, Distorted Humor, is a Champion Sire, who is responsible for more than 130 black-type winners, his offspring achieving classic victories or championships in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia, and including such noted performers as Funny Cide, Commentator, Drosselmeyer, Flower Alley, Any Given Saturday, Hysterical Lady, Boisterous and Awesome Humor. Distorted Humor is also a fast-emerging broodmare sire, and his daughters have already produced 86 stakes winners, 35 graded stakes winners, and seven grade one winners.

Bubbler's dam, Grechelle, was a winner at two and three and also captured third in the Golden Rod Stakes (gr. III). Grechelle is superbly-bred as she is by Deputy Minister – a breed-shaping champion racehorse, sire and broodmare sire – and out of the wonderful racemare, Meadow Star. Champion at two, Meadow Star claimed her crown with six straight graded stakes victories, among them the Spinaway Stakes (gr. I), Matron Stakes (gr. I), Frizette

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Stakes (gr. I) and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (gr. I). At three, Meadow Star added classic laurels, capturing both Acorn Stakes (gr. I) and Mother Goose Stakes (gr. I) at three.

Arrogate is Bubbler's first live foal. She also has a yearling filly by Medaglia d'Oro, which is bred on a similar cross to Rachael Alexandra and Songbird; a filly foal by Giant's Causeway, already sire of a grade one winner out of a Distorted Humor mare; and is carrying an Into Mischief foal bred on an identical cross to Hopeful Stakes (gr. I) winner, Practical Joke, and a very similar cross to Into Mischief's \$3,000,000 earner Goldencents.

Arrogate is by Unbridled, from the Fappiano line, whose current representatives include American Pharoah and his sire, Pioneerof the Nile. Looking at other prominent North American stallions, we can note that Tapit is sire of grade one winner Constitution out of a mare by Distorted Humor; that War Front has three graded stakes winners, one grade one, out of mares from the male-line of Distorted Humor's sire, Forty Niner; and as previously mentioned, the cross of Medaglia d'Oro with Forty Niner line mares has proved to be a champion producing one.

Given that Bubbler is a stakes winner and graded stakes performer on turf as well as dirt, she has clear international appeal. Distorted Humor has four group or grade one winners out of Sadler's Wells line mares, which invites reversing that cross by utilizing Galileo or one of his sons. Distorted Humor is out of a mare by Danzig, but breeding his daughters back to stallions from that sire line has already resulted in six stakes winners, opening up the prospect of matings to the numerous top-class Danzig line stallions available, among them descendents of Danehill and Green Desert.

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