



No lie; few weak branches in George Washington's recent family tree

by Rommy Faversham

It was a return to championship form for George Washington at Ascot on September 23 as the three-year-old Danehill colt exhibited a brilliant late turn of foot to capture the \$475,171 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes (Eng-G1), 1¼ lengths ahead of Araafa.



John Crofts photo

GEORGE WASHINGTON

The victory over a particularly deep field of European milers, including many of his best peers and elders, could earn the bay colt a trip to Churchill Downs as a force to be reckoned with in the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) on November 4.

Last year, George Washington was named Europe's champion juvenile colt after winning the National (Ire-G1), Phoenix (Ire-G1), and Railway (Ire-G2) Stakes at the Curragh. He

kicked off his classic season with a smashing daylight victory in the Two Thousand Guineas (Eng-G1).

George Washington sustained an injury to some hip muscles when running second to Araafa in the Irish Two Thousand Guineas (Ire-G1), and did not return until August 27 in the Celebration Mile (Eng-G2) at Goodwood, where he finished a good third.

His record now stands at six wins from nine career starts.

George Washington was bred in Ireland by Lael Stables, best known as the owners and breeders of this year's Kentucky Derby (G1) hero Barbaro.

He is one of four winners out of the stakes-placed winning Alysheba mare Bordighera, already distinguished for having produced Grandera, named Europe's 2002 champion older horse at age four when triumphant in Group 1 events in England, Ireland, and Singapore.

George Washington's grandam, Blue Tip (Fr) won the 1985 Prix Penelope (Fr-G3). Farther back, his tail-female line becomes much less accomplished, including unraced third, fourth, and fifth dams with an associated scarcity of major winners.

George Washington hails from the 13th international crop of shut-tle sire par excellence Danehill, the first stallion to ever sire more than

George Washington, b. c., 2003				
Danehill 86 2387 fls, 329 SWs SI 3.55 DI=1.89	Danzig 77 3 wins, \$32,400 1048 fls, 192 SWs SI 5.38 DI=4.71	Northern Dancer 61 635 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nearctic 54	=Nearco (Ity) 35 *Lady Angela 44
		Pas de Nom 68 11 fls, 0 SWs DI=11.00	Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
	Razyana 81 Placed, \$2,412 14 fls, 5 SWs DI=1.17	His Majesty 68 640 fls, 59 SWs SI 2.33 DI=0.77	Admiral's Voyage 59	Crafty Admiral 48 Olympia Lou 52
		Spring Adieu 74 12 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.51	*Petitioner 52	=Petition (GB) 44 =Steady Aim (GB) 43
Bordighera 92 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.67	Alysheba 84 11 wins, \$6,679,242 Champion 375 fls, 19 SWs SI 1.24 DI=2.08	Alydar 75 689 fls, 77 SWs SI 5.54 DI=3.94	*Ribot 52	=Tenerani (Ity) 44 =Romanella (Ity) 43
		Bel Sheba 70 13 fls, 5 SWs DI=1.26	Flower Bowl 52	*Alibhai 38 Flower Bed 46
	Blue Tip (Fr) 82 4 wins, \$116,174, SW 12 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.15	=Tip Moss (Fr) 72 340 fls, 21 SWs SI 0.72 DI=0.71	Buckpasser 63	Tom Fool 49 Busanda 47
		=As Blue (GB) 70 8 fls, 1 SW DI=3.00	Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
			Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
			Sweet Tooth 65	On-and-On 56 Plum Cake 58
		Lt. Stevens 61	Nantallah 53 *Rough Shod II 44	
		Belthazar 60	War Admiral 34 Blinking Owl 38	
		=Luthier (Fr) 65	*Klairon 52 =Flute Enchantee (Fr) 50	
		Top Twig (Ire) 67	=High Perch (GB) 56 =Kilmington (GB) 52	
		Blue Tom 64	Tompson 57 Pink Silk 57	
		=As Well (Fr) 66	Spy Well 60 =Echasse (GB) 59	

three hundred stakes winners. Now boasting a phenomenal 211 group or graded stakes winners, Danehill's current total progeny earnings of \$234,104,050 through September 29 ranks second only to Sunday Silence on the all-time list.

Danehill died following a paddock accident at Coolmore Ireland in May 2003. The breed-shaping Danzig horse currently is represented by his final crop of two-year-olds, which already includes Group 1 winners Holy Roman Emperor and Simply Perfect.

The Danzig male line has done particularly well with the daughters of Alysheba. Besides George Washington and Grandera, a son of Danzig's paternal grandson Grand Lodge, there also have been multiple group or graded stakes winners Century City (Ire), Air Eminem, and Belleski.

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