



Four stallions, mare Dear Birdie could join special Oaks-Derby lists

By Rommy Faversham

While a number of others have come close, only four stallions have ever sired the winner of the Kentucky Oaks (G1) and Kentucky Derby (G1) in the same year.

The first two, King Alfonso and *McGee, did not themselves compete in the Kentucky Derby. Bull Lea could do no better than eighth of ten in his Kentucky Derby in 1938, while Native Dancer suffered his only lifetime loss by a head to Dark Star in his run for the roses in '53.

This year, there are four different stallions with an opportunity to join this elite list. A.P. Indy, the 1992 Derby favorite, was scratched the morning of the race due to a bruised foot but went on to win the Belmont Stakes (G1) and earn Horse of the Year honors. He will be represented by A. P. Adventure in the Oaks and Friends Lake in the Derby.

Saint Ballado did not run in the 1992 Derby, but his daughter Ashado will start in the Oaks and his son St Averil goes in the Derby.

Unbridled's Song, racing in two bar shoes, had the lead into mid-stretch before weakening to finish fifth in the 1996 Derby. His daughter Last Song will start in the Oaks while his son Song of the Sword will run in the Derby.

Wild Rush did not run in the 1997 Derby, but two of his daughters, Hollywood Story and Stellar Jayne, will run in the Oaks while two of his sons, Wimbleton and Quintons Gold Rush, will start in the Derby.

On the other hand, only one broodmare in history has produced both a Kentucky Oaks and Derby winner (obviously, not in the same year). That would be Margaret Lawrence, who produced Lawrin, by Insko, winner of the 1938 Derby. Two years later, she produced Inscollassie, a full sister to Lawrin who went on to capture the 1940 Oaks.

This year, the Storm Bird mare Dear Birdie has the opportunity to duplicate this remarkable achievement when her son Birdstone runs

in the Derby. Last year, Dear Birdie's daughter Bird Town, by Cape Town, captured the Kentucky Oaks.

Should Birdstone earn the roses on Saturday, it also would mark the third time in history that a Kentucky Derby winner sired a Kentucky Derby winner who, in turn, sired a Kentucky Derby winner. Birdstone's sire, Grindstone, won the Derby in 1996. Grindstone's sire, Unbridled, took the 1990 Derby.

Previously, 1928 Derby winner Reigh Count sired '43 Derby winner Count Fleet who, in turn, sired '51 winner Count Turf.

This three-generation skein in male line was duplicated when Pensive, winner of the 1944 Derby sired '49 winner Ponder who, in turn, sired '56 winner Needles.

Last year, the ultimate pedigree angle for the Kentucky Derby, as well as the Triple Crown races in general, was being a paternal great-grandson of Mr. Prospector and having Bravura as a fifth dam. Both Funny Cide (winner of the Derby and Preakness Stakes [G1]) and Empire Maker (winner of the Belmont Stakes (G1) and second in the Derby) were of the same sire line and family. It was the first time for such an exacta in Derby history (within five generations of a pedigree).

This year, as has usually been the case, all Derby starters descend from different extended families. Eight of the 20 starters are from the Mr. Prospector sire line.

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Tony Leonard photo

A.P. INDY

Oaks-Derby Double

Stallions who have sired Oaks/Derby winners in same year

Sire	Year	Oaks winner	Derby winner
King Alfonso	1885	Lizzie Dwyer	Joe Cotton
*McGee	1918	Viva America	Exterminator
Bull Lea	1952	Real Delight	Hill Gail
Native Dancer	1966	Native Street	Kauai King