



Round Pond pedigree ripples with stamina, versatility

by Rommy Faversham

Round Pond, a three-year-old bay daughter of Awesome Again, continued her winning ways by drawing off in the final strides to take the 75th running of the one-mile Acorn Stakes (G1) by 1½ lengths at Belmont Park last Saturday.



Jeff Coady/Coady Photography

ROUND POND

With an immediate family rich in champion relations and a cleverly designed pedigree featuring stamina and versatility, Round Pond's best efforts could still be ahead.

Unraced at two, Round Pond's first four starts at Oaklawn Park showed the filly to be clearly the best of her division at the spring meet. After a troubled third in her debut, she trounced a field of maidens and then followed up with comfortable victories in the Honeybee and Fantasy (G2) Stakes, both at 1¼ miles. Winner of four of her five starts, Round Pond's career earnings now stand at \$367,300.

Bred in Kentucky by Trudy McCaffery and John Toffan, Round Pond was purchased as a yearling for \$105,000 by trainer John Servis for Rick Porter's Fox Hill Farms at the 2003 Keeneland September yearling sale. She is the fourth winner from the placed Trempolino mare Gift of Dance, a half-sister to three Grade or Group 1 winners.

Round Pond's French-bred second dam Coral Dance (Fr), runner-up in the 1980 Prix Marcel Boussac (Fr-G1), was moved to Kentucky where she produced the prominent runners, Nasr El Arab (by Al Nasr [Fr]), Pennekamp (by Bering [GB]) and Black Minnaloushe (by Storm Cat). A multiple group winner in France, Nasr El Arab was sent to Southern California where he captured four Grade 1 events. Highweight colt at

Round Pond, b. f., 2002

Awesome Again 94 249 fls, 11 SWs SI 3.38 DI=2.67	Deputy Minister 79 12 wins, \$696,964 Champion 1035 fls, 82 SWs SI 3.45 DI=3.67	Vice Regent 67 672 fls, 105 SWs SI 2.83 DI=3.86	Northern Dancer 61
		Mint Copy 70 7 fls, 1 SW DI=7.00	Victoria Regina 58
Primal Force 87 4 wins, \$74,251 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.83	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74 512 fls, 92 SWs SI 4.76 DI=1.52	Red God 54	Bunty's Flight 53
			Shakney 64
Trempolino 84 4 wins, \$1,369,233 Champion 665 fls, 49 SWs SI 1.43 DI=3.00	Sharpen Up (GB) 69 620 fls, 82 SWs SI 2.76 DI=3.00	Atan 61	=Rocchetta (GB) 61
			Trephine (Fr) 77 10 fls, 1 SW DI=1.25
Coral Dance (Fr) 78 3 wins, \$76,822, Spl 12 fls, 4 SWs DI=1.00	Green Dancer 72 1070 fls, 89 SWs SI 2.08 DI=1.00	Nijinsky II 67	=Quiriquina (Fr) 66
			=Carvinia (Fr) 70 5 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.00
Gift of Dance 89 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.67	=Carvinia (Fr) 70 5 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.00	*Diatome 62	=Coraline (Fr) 57

two on the French Free Handicap, Pennekamp took the 1995 Two Thousand Guineas (Eng-G1). Black Minnaloushe, highweight colt at age three on the Irish Free Handicap, won the 2001 Irish Two Thousand Guineas (Ire-G1).

Male unions along Round Pond's female line team with stamina. Her broodmare sire, Trempolino, won the 1987 Prix l'Arc de Triomphe (Fr-G1). French stakes star Diatome (Fr), sire of her third dam Carvinia (Fr), crossed the Atlantic in 1965 to annex the coveted Washington D.C. International Stakes.

Round Pond hails from the third crop of the successful Deputy Minister stallion Awesome Again. She becomes her sire's fourth North American Grade 1 winner, following Toccet, 2004 Horse of the Year Ghostzapper, and Wilko.

The most prominent pattern in Round Pond's

pedigree would appear to be the 3X4 cross of the full brothers, Vice Regent and Viceregal.

Crossing complementary strains of this family, a clan originally developed by pre-eminent Canadian horseman E. P. Taylor, has already proven successful in the production of dozens of stakes winners.

Nijinsky II, a third Taylor-bred son of Northern Dancer, also appears within four generations. This strong Northern Dancer influence only adds to the likelihood that Round Pond could be even better on the grass.

All in all, a very promising package.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles.

More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>