

BREEDING STATISTICS 2013-14 - II

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It was late in 1991 that the first son of Danzig reached the Indian shores. That was the Hawthorne Derby, Gr.3 winner Broto who took up duties at Equus Stud. He has been followed by six other Danzigs. Twelve grandsons of Danzig have also been retired as stallions in India. It was left to the thirteenth grandson -- Multidimensional (Danehill - Sacred Song by Diesis) -- of the erstwhile Claiborne Farm stalwart to become the first Champion Sire from the Danzig male-line in India. In the final statistics for the year 2013-14, the Usha Stud stallion has scored a thumping victory:-

RANK (UP/DOWN)	STALLION	STANDING AT	STARTERS	WINNERS	WINS	STAKES WON
1. (+5)	Multidimensional	Usha Stud	75	48	83	Rs. 15,32,10,111
2. (-1)	Always A Rainbow	Sholavaram Stud	89	57	173	Rs. 11,01,58,746
3. (-2)	Burden of Proof	Kunigal Stud	145	77	118	Rs. 9,38,28,309
4. (+6)	Ace	Exhilaration Stud	155	68	99	Rs. 5,85,82,327
5. (+11)	Noverre	(Dead)	124	63	109	Rs. 4,86,86,066
6. (-2)	Placerville	(Dead)	109	60	104	Rs. 4,80,10,501
7. (+29)	Phoenix Tower	Manjri Stud	64	34	61	Rs. 4,70,94,147
8. (-5)	Rebuttal	(Dead)	110	50	92	Rs. 4,16,19,655
9. (-4)	Foyer	Chettinad Stud	52	31	82	Rs. 3,84,86,387
10. (-2)	Epicentre	A.B. Stud	112	52	57	Rs. 3,36,31,027

Multidimensional was the Champion Freshman Sire last year. In the last two decades, only two Champion Freshman Sires -- Razeen and Placerville -- have followed up as the overall Champion Sires in the very next year. So Multidimensional is in very elite company. Multidimensional this year has an AE Index of 5.07. Only one Champion Sire -- Razeen -- has a higher AE Index.

Multidimensional was bred to be a Champion Sire. His sire Danehill was a truly international horse who was bred in U.S.A., raced in England and Ireland and stood at stud in Ireland, Australia and, for one season, in Japan. Danehill took Australia by storm and gave a boost to the concept of shuttle stallions. He was the Champion Sire in Australia nine times, thrice in Ireland/England and once in France. Multidimensional's dam, Sacred Song, was a winner of four races including Halliwell Landau Cheshire Oaks, Gr.3. Her sire, Diesis, was an unbeaten Champion Two Year Old in England who was retired to stud at Mill Ridge Farm in Kentucky but his progeny shone the brightest east of the Atlantic. He was an especially good sire of fillies and three of his daughters -- Diminuendo, Love Divine and Ramruma, all trained by Sir Henry Cecil, as was Multidimensional himself -- won the Epsom Oaks, Gr.1. Multidimensional's fourth dam was a Ribot half-sister to the great Champion Sire Mr. Prospector.

It is one thing being bred to do a job. Quite another to actually deliver in practice. Multidimensional has delivered in a telling fashion. Discount the earnings of Always A Rainbow garnered in the shallow but rich waters of Tamil Nadu. The Champion Sire has amassed nearly Rs. 6 crore more than the third placed Burden of Proof with just about half the number of runners. Three of the top ten stallions are dead; Burden of Proof (22), Always A Rainbow (22) and Foyer (23) are in their twilight years while Ace and Epicentre are on short rations now that newer stallions at their nurseries command greater attention.

During the period under review, Multidimensional sired 11 black-type winners including five Gr.1 winners (Alaindair, Amelia, Snowdrift, Roses in Bloom and Bold Majesty), three Gr.2 winners (Keukenhof, Winged Foot and Sunshine Girl) and three Gr.3 winners (Striking, Artesia and Godspeed). Multidimensional has another black-type winner in Starry Eyes who did not win a black-type during the year but placed in several Graded races to accumulate 39 points;

a Gr.1 win gets only 30 points so Starry Eyes, while costing the punters a pretty penny, did well for Usha Stud. 12 black-type winners from 75 starters gives Multidimensional a strike rate of 16 % which is exceedingly high.

Much has been made of the fact that Multidimensional's second crop has been inferior to his first. Statistically that is true. The point that has been missed is that Multidimensional is not competing against himself. The stallion is third in the Juvenile Sires table to Phoenix Tower but actually has better Average Earnings Per Juvenile Starter than the Manjri stalwart.

There are reasons why Multidimensional's second crop has registered a slightly downward trend. For starters, he had only 41 foals in his second crop as compared to 51 in his first. Secondly, if you study the two books of mares that he covered in his first two years, there are only 14 mares who have produced a Multidimensional foal in both his crops. Which, in turn, means that the stallion covered an almost different set of mares in the second year. Thirdly, of the nine dams of his first crop black-type winners, only Pricewise visited him in his second year.

All that apart, a call needs to be made some time in March after the second crop has finished with the majority of Classics. At this time last year, Multidimensional was just a promising stallion. By March, he was a sensation. In common with Razeen -- and it is good to remember that the majority of mares that a stallion covers are daughters of Razeen -- the Multidimensionals came into their own just around the time they turned 4, the longer distances of the Oaks and Derbies being right up their alley. In any case, no batsman scores a century every time he walks to the crease nor is the every movie of a superstar a box office hit. One has to be pragmatic and allow for natural variations.

Two years back, Ace edged out Noverre to become the Champion Freshman Sire. Last year, Noverre missed the Top Ten but this year he has gained 11 places to finish just behind Ace. That is just academic since Noverre is no longer alive. An even more spectacular jump was Phoenix Tower's bursting into the Top Ten with a leap of 29 spots. The Manjri stallion -- he and Multidimensional were stablemates at Sir Henry Cecil's Warren Place yard -- has had a good second year with plenty of winners. They lack a bit in class and stamina which is why he is way behind the Champion Sire. With Noverre and Phoenix Tower muscling their way into the Top Ten, China Visit (7th) and Mull of Kintyre have been relegated to lower rungs.

PAST THE POST

The first authentic statistics were published for the year 1975-76 by the National Horse Breeding Society of India in the Indian Turf Statistical Record. That publication continued regularly for a few years. Then, it came out with inexplicable gap years. The Stud Book Department stepped in from the year 1990-91 by including the statistics in the Return of Mares and since then there has been no break.

Punjab (dk b 1963 Pardal - Indian Night by Umidwar) was the Champion Sire in 1975-76. He was sparingly raced in England, failing to place in both his starts at 2 but finishing second in his two a year later. He was imported to India by Mrs. S. Hill and retired to Broadacres Stud in 1967. He covered just three mares in his first year but his books improved subsequently and he proved himself to be a fine winner producer. The three Classic winners to his credit are Pyare Miya, Majolica and Grand Vision. His daughters are responsible for Sun Lion, Classic Touch, Loving Spirit and Nine Carat.

Punjab suffered from diminished fertility as the years went by, was taken over by Neutral Stud and went to Punjab where he died in 1981. He was never the Champion Sire again but it is possible that he was in the earlier years for which no statistics are available.