

# BREEDING

## Pedigree Analysis



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## INBREEDING TO DEPUTY MINISTER

With the success of Curlin as a sire, a view down his list of stakes winners reveals an interesting trend. A son of the Deputy Minister mare Sherriff's Deputy, at least four of Curlin's stakes winners are inbred to Deputy Minister, including 2015 grade I winners Keen Ice and Curalina, as well as Blue Violet and La Grange. Deputy Minister was an outstanding runner and a tremendously prepotent sire, so it's no surprise we'd start to see good runners with double crosses to him.

Deputy Minister was bred in 1979 in Ontario by Centurion Farm (Mort and Marjoh Levy). Champion at 2 in both Canada and the U.S., and Horse of the Year in Canada, Deputy Minister had his classic aspirations cut short by ankle problems over the early winter of his 3-year-old year at Hialeah, and he didn't make it back to the races until October. As a 4-year-old, he showed real versatility, winning graded stakes from seven to nine furlongs.

Retired to stud in 1984 at Windfields in Maryland, Deputy Minister was transferred to Brookdale Farm in Kentucky in late 1988 and died in 2004 at age 25. At the time, he was standing for \$100,000, and there was a good reason for this, since he was a consistent sire of high-quality runners. He had 90 stakes winners (7.9% from foals), an AEI of 2.52, and was the leading sire in North America in 1997 and 1998.

The versatile group of runners to Deputy Minister's credit include the champions Open Mind, Go for Wand, Dehere, Hello Seattle, Mongol Warrior, and Diva's Debut. He sired 17 grade I winners led by Awesome Again (Breeders' Cup Classic), Touch Gold (Belmont Stakes), Deputy Commander (Travers Stakes), Keeper Hill (Kentucky Oaks), and Salt Lake (Hopeful Stakes). There were champions at 2 and classic winners at 3.

Deputy Minister was a tall, grand-looking horse. He stood 16.2½ hands, with a lot of leg, and tended to sire big,



TONY LEONARD

Deputy Minister

handsome, good-bodied horses with his own tremendous shoulder and hindquarter.

He was the leading broodmare sire in 2007, due in large part to that year's male and female 3-year-old champions Curlin and Rags to Riches. His daughters have produced many other top runners including Halfbridled, Jazil, Sarava, Kane Hekili, Redattore, Golden Ticket, To Honor and Serve, Telling, Tapizar, Strong Mandate, Frosted, and Got Lucky.

From among his sons came a lot of really good sires and broodmare sires. Awesome Again is probably the best by quality, with high-class individuals such as Ghostzapper, Game On Dude, Awesome Gem, Oxbow, and Paynter to name but a few. A few of his earlier sons outrank Awesome Again by number of stakes winners: Silver Deputy, Salt Lake, and Dehere. French Deputy, Touch Gold, Deputy Commander, Tejabo, Edgy Diplomat, Forest Camp, War Deputy, and Ministers Wild Cat have all been good stallions.

Silver Deputy, like his sire, has become an outstanding broodmare sire, and two of his daughters, Silverbulletday and Silvery Swan, figure prominently in the

recent Deputy Minister inbreeding.

Champion Sprinter Midnight Lute (by Real Quiet out of Candytuft, by Dehere) has sired at least six stakes winners inbred to Deputy Minister, and three of these—Shakin It Up (gr. I), Govenor Charlie (gr. III), and Pachangera—are out of daughters of Hall of Fame member Silverbulletday.

Silvery Swan produced three stakes winners including the grade I-winning sons El Corredor (by Mr. Greeley) and Roman Ruler (by Fusaichi Pegasus). El Corredor sired the stakes winners Terlan (in Canada) and Sonrisada (in Argentina), both out of mares by Salt Lake and both inbred 4x3 to Deputy Minister. Roman Ruler has at least four stakes winners inbred to Deputy Minister (Lenovo, Donita's Ruler, Roman Chestnut, Debouche).

Awesome Again's son Ghostzapper has two stakes winners inbred to Deputy Minister, Gamble's Ghost (Can-III), whose second dam is by Deputy Minister (3x3); and Haunted Heroine, whose second dam is by Dehere (3x4).

The 2015 juvenile filly C U At Eau Claire is by freshman sire Haynesfield (whose dam is by Tejabo) and out of a mare by Awesome Again, so she's inbred 4x3 to Deputy Minister.

Back to Curlin with his four stakes winners inbred to Deputy Minister. Keen Ice and La Grange are both out of mares by Awesome Again, so both are inbred 3x3. Curalina's dam is by Graeme Hall (by Dehere), so she's 3x4. Blue Violet is out of a mare by Silver Deputy, so inbred 3x3.

Obviously, some animals, such as Curlin, Midnight Lute, and Roman Ruler work better with these inbreeding schemes than others with similar backgrounds and the question "Why?" is what makes studying pedigrees so much fun. **BH**

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