

Top Class Dk. Bay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2004	Storm Cat	Storm Bird	Northern Dancer	Nearctic	Neraco x Lady Angela
			South Ocean	Natalma	Native Dancer x Almahmoud
				New Providence	Bull Page x Fair Colleen
		Shining Sun		Chop Chop x Solar Display	
		Terlingua	Secretariat	Bold Ruler	Nasrullah x Miss Disco
			Crimson Saint	Somethingroyal	Princequillo x Imperatrice
	Crimson Satan			Spy Song x Papila	
	Simadarttha	Gone West	Mr. Prospector	Bolero Rose	Bolero x First Rose
				Raise A Native	Native Dancer x Raise You
			Secrettame	Gold Digger	Nashua x Sequence
				Secretariat	Bold Ruler x Somethingroyal
		Salchow	Nijinsky II	Tamerett	Tim Tam x Mixed Marriage
				Northern Dancer	Nearctic x Natalma
			Coup de Folie	Flaming Page	Bull Page x Flaring Top
Halo				Hail To Reason x Cosmah	
Raise The Standard	Hoist The Flag x Natalma				

DP = 9-4-11-2-0 (26)

DI = 2.47

CD = 0.77

3S x 3D to Northern Dancer

5S x 5D to Native Dancer

5S x 5D to Bull Page

4S x 4D to Nearctic

4S x 4D x 5D to Natalma

3S x 4D to Secretariat

4S x 5D to Bold Ruler

**SIMADARTHA**, by Gone West. Winner at 3 in France. Dam of 3 winners:

**TOP CLASS** (Storm Cat), **RPR 101** mentioned in racing performance.

**WALTZING MATILDA** (by Danehill Dancer), **RPR 104** 1 win and placed twice from 5 starts including 4<sup>th</sup> in Derrinstown Stud 1,000 Guineas Trial, **Gr.3**, Xtravision & Hmv Supporting Irish Autism Action Dance Design Fillies Stakes **Gr.3**, 5<sup>th</sup> In Michael Murphy Home Furnishings Minstrel Stakes, **Gr.3**, Jersey Stakes, **Gr.3**, etc

**VAULT** (by Danehill Dancer), **RPR 101**, 2 wins and placed including 3<sup>rd</sup> in Leopardstown 2,000 Guineas Trial Stakes, **Gr.3**, 5<sup>th</sup> In Dubai Duty Free Railway Stakes, **Gr.2**, etc.

**SALCHOW**, by Nijinsky II. Unraced. Dam of 3 winners:

**WAY OF LIGHT**, by Woodman. **Champion colt at 2** in France, 2 wins at 2 including Grand Criterium, **Gr.1**, 2nd Prix des Chenes Haras de la Perelle, **Gr.3**, Prix du Prince d'Orange, **Gr.3**. **Sire in France**.

**COUP DE FOLIE**, by Halo, won 4 races at 2 and 3 years in France and 465,000 fr. and \$15,180 including Prix d'Aumale, Longchamp, **Gr.3** and Prix de Saint-Cyr, Longchamp, L., placed twice viz third in Prix Marcel Boussac, Longchamp, **Gr.1** and Royal Heroine Stakes, Aqueduct; **dam of seven winners**:

**EXIT TO NOWHERE**, 2<sup>nd</sup> top rated 2yr old in France in 1990, 3<sup>rd</sup> top rated 2yr old in Europe in 1990, won 4 races at 2 and 4 years in France and £247,105 viz P. Fresnay-le-Buffard Jacques Le Marois, Deauville, **Gr.1**, Prix du Muguet, Saint-Cloud, **Gr.3**, Prix Edmond Blanc, Evry, **Gr.3** and Prix Thomas Bryon, Saint-Cloud, **Gr.3**, placed 6 times including second in Prix Matchem, Evry, L., third in Prix d'Ispahan, Longchamp, **Gr.1** and Prix Maurice de Gheest, Deauville, **Gr.2**; **sire in France**.

**MACHIAVELLIAN**, **Champion 2yr old in Europe in 1989**, won 4 races at 2 and 3 years viz Prix de la Salamandre, Longchamp, **Gr.1**, Prix Morny Agence Francaise, Deauville, **Gr.1**, Prix Djebel, M'-Laffitte, L. and Prix Yacowlef, Deauville, L.; placed second in General Accident 2000 Guineas, Newmarket, **Gr.1**; **sire**.

**COUP DE GENIE**, **Champion 2yr old filly in France in 1993** won 4 races at 2 and 3 years in France viz Prix de la Salamandre, **Gr.1**, Prix Morny Agence Francaise, **Gr.1**, Prix de Cabourg, **Gr.3**, Prix Imprudence, L., 3<sup>rd</sup> in Madagans 1000 Guineas, **Gr.1**; **dam of**:

**DENEBOLA** (f by Storm Cat), **Champion 2yr old filly in France in 2003**, 2 races inc. Prix Marcel Boussac-Royal Barriere, **Gr.1**, Prix de Cabourg, **Gr.3**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Prix de la Foret, **Gr.1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Prix Morny Casinos Barriere, **Gr.1** and Prix de la Grotte, **Gr.3**.

**SNAKE MOUNTAIN**, **11 races** including Aqueduct Handicap, Aqueduct, **Gr.3**, Queens County Handicap, Aqueduct, **Gr.3**, Stuyvesant Handicap, Aqueduct, **Gr.3** and Stymie Handicap, Aqueduct, L.

**LOVING KINDNESS**, 2 races at 2 years including Prix de Cabourg, Deauville, **Gr.3**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Prix Morny Casinos Barriere, **Gr.1**.

**GLIA**, 3 races including Prix Imprudence, Maisons-Laffitte, L. and Pebbles Handicap, Belmont Park, L., placed second in Mrs Revere Stakes, Churchill Downs, **Gr.2** and Prix Miesque, Maisons-Laffitte, **Gr.3**.

**Moonlight's Box (USA)** (f by Nureyev (USA)), unraced; dam of

**BAGO** (c by Nashwan), **Champion 2yr old in Europe in 2003**, **Champion 3yr old in Europe in 2004**, 8 races at 2

to 4 years including Juddmonte Grand Prix de Paris, **Gr.1**, Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, **Gr.1**, Prix Ganay, **Gr.1**, Prix Jean Prat, **Gr.1**, Criterium International, Saint-Cloud, **Gr.1** and Prix des Chenes, **Gr.3**, placed second in Tattersalls Gold Cup, **Gr.1**, third in Juddmonte International Stakes, **Gr.1**, King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes, **Gr.1**, Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud, Saint-Cloud, **Gr.1**, P.de l'Arc de Triomphe - Lucien Barriere, **Gr.1** and Prix Niel Casino Barriere d'Enghien, **Gr.2**; **sire**,

**BETA**, 2 races including Criterium de Vitesse, **L.**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Prix de Cabourg, **Gr.3**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Prix d'Arenberg, **Gr.3**.

**HYDRO CALIDO**, 3 wins incl. Prix d'Astarte, Deauville, **Gr.2** and Prix d'Angerville, Evry, **L.**, placed 3 times incl. 2<sup>nd</sup> in Dubai Poule d'Essai des Pouliches, Longchamp, **Gr.1** & Prix de Sandringham, Chantilly, **Gr.3**; dam of:

**SHINKO CALIDO**, 3 races incl. R F Radio Nippon Sho St. Lite Kinen, **L.**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Fuji-TV Sho Spring Stakes (Gns Trial), Nakayama, **L.**

**ESPERERO**, 2 races incl. Prix de Montretout, **L.**, placed third in Prix de Pontarme, **L.**, Prix de Saint Patrick, **L.Sire**.

**Heraklia**, unraced; dam of **FIFTY ONER**, 6 wins incl. Antares Stakes, **L.**, Nigawa Stakes, **L.**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Tokai TV Hai Tokai Stakes, **Gr.2**;

Grandam of **FESTIVALE**, 2 wins incl. Sandringham Handicap, **L.**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in in LeslieHarrison Nell Gwyn Stakes, **Gr.3**.

**OCEAN OF WISDOM**, won 1 race at 2 years in France and£48,116 viz Prix La Rochette, Chantilly, **Gr.3**, placed twice including 3<sup>rd</sup> in Grand Criterium, Longchamp, **Gr.1**; **Sire**.

**Rafina**, placed 3 times at 2 and 3 years; dam of **ADMIRALOFTHEFLEET**, 3 wins incl. Juddmonte Royal Lodge Stakes, **Gr.2**, Aktiv Kapital UK Ltd Dee Stakes, **Gr.3**, leading sire.

**Salchow**, as above

**RAISE THE STANDARD**, by Hoist The Flag, dam of 3 winners:

**COUP DE FOLIE**, as above.

**EL MOXIE**. 6 wins; sire of **SILENT WITNESS** [World record holder 17 consecutive wins, Horse of the Year, Champion sprinter in Hong Kong]

**Bonita Francita**. 4 wins in US; dam of:

**Black Penny**. Dam of **BLUEMAMBA** (Champion Filly 2 wins incl. French Thousand Guineas, **Gr.1**, first foal sold for \$2.6million)

**JULES**. 4 wins in U.S.A., \$293,320 incl. Nashua Stakes, **Gr.3**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Remsen Stakes, **Gr.2**, Cowdin Stakes, **Gr.2**. Leading Sire.

**ORPEN**, Champion racehorse, 2 wins including Prix Morny, **Gr.1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Irish 2000 Guineas, **Gr.1**; Leading Sire.

**NATALMA**, by Native Dancer, dam of:

**NORTHERN DANCER**, Champion 3YO in North America (1964), Horse of the Year in Canada (1964), won 14 races at 2 and 3, \$ 580,647 from 18 starts incl. Kentucky Derby-NTR, Preakness Stakes, Remsen Stakes, Flamingo Stakes, BlueGrass Stakes, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Belmont Stakes.**Champion Sire**.

**Arctic Dancer** placed in 2 starts at 2, incl. 2<sup>nd</sup> in My Dear Stakes; dam of 5 winners incl.:

**LA PREVOYANTE** (Champion 2YO Filly in U.S.A., 25 wins, \$ 572,417 incl. Frizette Stakes, **Gr.1**, Matron Stakes, **Gr.1**, Princess Elizabeth Stakes, **Gr.1**, Selima Stakes, **Gr.1**), Danseuse Etoile (dam of **DRAPEAU TRICOLORE**, Fayette H, **Gr.2**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Brooklyn H, **Gr.1**, 4<sup>th</sup> Prix Lupin, **Gr.1**. Grandam of **PROUD CITIZEN**, Coolmore Lexington S, **Gr.2**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Kentucky Derby, **Gr.1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Preakness S, **Gr.1**. **Sire**).

**Spring Adieu**, Dam of:

**Razyana**, Dam of: **DANEHILL** (Champion 3yr old sprinter in Europe in 1989, Ladbroke Sprint Cup, **Gr.1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Carroll Foundation July Cup, **Gr.1**, General Accident 2000 Guineas, **Gr.1**, 4<sup>th</sup> Airlie Coolmore Irish 2000 Guineas, **Gr.1**. **Champion sire**), **EAGLE EYED** (Arlington Classic, **Gr.2**. **Sire**), **HARPIA** (Shirley Jones, **Gr.3**, 2<sup>nd</sup> First Flight, **Gr.2**, Molly Pitcher Breeders' Cup H, **Gr.2**, Delta Air Lines Top Flight H, **Gr.2**, Genuine Risk, **Gr.2**), **SHIBBOLETH** (Hitchins Criterion S, **Gr.3**, Jaipur H, **Gr.3**).

**You're My Lady**, Dam of **LADY BROADHURST** (Sceptre S, **Gr.2**), **ANNOUNCE** (Air France Thukela H, **L**, **Sire**), **YOUTHFUL LEGS** (Citation Stakes. **Sire**). Grandam of **DIATRIBE** (Champion Racehorse, Caulfield Cup, **Gr.1**, Rosehill Guineas, **Gr.1**, 2<sup>nd</sup> BMW Cox Plate, **Gr.1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Victoria Derby, **Gr.1**, **Sire**), **AL SAMER** (Sayers Black Opal S **Gr.3** **Sire**), **QUEEN'S BAY** (Yellowood H **Gr.3**), 3<sup>rd</sup> dam **BOUQUET-GARNI**, South African Derby, **Gr.1**

Tracing to **FLYING WITCH**. Ancestress also of **COSMAH** (Half sister to Natalma), dam of **HALO**.

This is the family tracing to the CV Whitney bred mare **Almahmoud** (b.'47); perhaps the strongest sire producing family founded in the last 75 years; throwing 3 major sires (**Northern Dancer**, **Halo** and **Danehill**), two far-above average sires (**Machiavellian** and **Jules**), and three other above-average stallions who sired **Gr.1** winners (**Maribeau** [Bemo], **Cannonade** [Caveat], and **Arctic Tern** [Bering]). **Top Class's** 3<sup>rd</sup> dam **Coup De Folie** was a  $\frac{3}{4}$  sister to **Bonita Francita**, the dam of **Jules** and **Orpen**; the 4<sup>th</sup> dam **Raise the Standard** was a half-sister to **Northern Dancer** and **Spring Adieu** (by Buckpasser), the 2<sup>nd</sup> dam of **Danehill**, and his 5<sup>th</sup> dam **Natalma** was a half sister to **Cosmah**, the dam of **Halo**. The closely inbred (3x3 **Almahmoud**) 2<sup>nd</sup> dam **Coup De Folie** produced 3 **Gr.1** winners and was by Halo from a daughter of Hoist The Flag-Natalma named **Raise The Standard**. A lovely combination as Halo and Hoist The Flag were also crossed in Coup De Folie's  $\frac{3}{4}$  sister **Bonita Francita** (by Halo's son Devil's Bag); the dam of **Gr.1** winning half-brothers **Jules** and **Orpen**.

## RACING PERFORMANCE

Coolmore Stud considered Top Class an outstanding racing prospect. After all, their agent Demi O'Byrne paid US \$1.6 million for him at Keeneland sales in 2005. Not only was he the son of the incomparable Storm Cat, but out of the Gone West mare Simadartha, who is a 3/4 sister to French Champion 2-year-old Way Of Light.

Top Class's third dam, champion race mare and producer Coup De Folie, was the granddaughter of Natalma (dam of the incomparable Northern Dancer) who produced no less than five group stakes winners, including leading sire Machiavellian and Champion filly Coup De Genie.

Justifying his credentials, the A.P.O. Brien trained colt won his first outing by an impressive 8 lengths over 7 furlongs on turf. Ridden by champion jockey J A Heffernan in the colors of the infamous Michael Tabor for Coolmore Stud, Top Class brushed aside the other two horses in the betting Raffishing look (by Kingmambo) and Bravely (by Rock of Gibraltar) with ease.

Top Class had the same connections (owner, trainer and jockey) as **Halfway to Heaven** (Thousand Guineas and Multiple **Gr.1** winning filly), **Septimus** (Irish St. Leger, **Gr.1**), **Again** (Moyglare Stud Stakes, **Gr.1**), **Frozen Fire** (Irish Derby, **Gr.1**), **Solider Of Fortune** (Irish Derby, **Gr.1**), **Mount Nelson** (Criterion International, **Gr.1**), **Imagine** (Irish Thousand Guineas, **Gr.1**), **Beckett** (Agha Khan National Stakes, **Gr.1**). This list of horses just goes to show the faith the trio had in "Top Class".

In his second start Top Class was sent to Curragh to try his luck in graded company. The bookies considered him to be the only horse that could challenge the firm favorite **Creachadoir** in the Aussie Rules European Breeders Fund Tetrarch Stakes, **Gr.3**. Top Class ran a decent race, but the race going did not suit him one bit. **Creachadoir** won the race and Top Class ran a mere 5 lengths behind him but only 2 lengths behind the horse that came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Mr Napper Tandy**. **Creachadoir** went on to win the Judmonte Lockinge Stakes, **Gr.1**, multiple **Gr.3** races and he placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Hong Kong Mile, **Gr.1** (to **Good Ba Ba** by a short head), Irish Two Thousand Guineas, **Gr.1**, Poule D'Essai des Poulains, **Gr.1**, etc. **Mr. Napper Tandy** went on to win the San Francisco Mile, **Gr.2**, placed in multiple black type races and ran within 2 lengths of the winner **Gio Ponti** in the Frank E Kilroe Mile, **Gr.1**.

**Eyshal**, the horse that ran 3<sup>rd</sup> in the same race was yet another excellent racehorse. Top Class ran a mere three quarter of a length behind him in the same race. **Eyshal** went on to win the Jebesen Centenary Vase, **Gr.3**, ran 3<sup>rd</sup> in Laing O'Rourke National Stakes, **Gr.1** (behind **Teofilo** and **Holy Roman Emperor**) and in The Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup, **Gr.1**.

**Alexander Tango**, the Champion **Gr.1** winning and Irish Thousand guineas placed filly (unfortunately died as 3-year-old) was also a part of this field of runners. Top Class ran only half-length behind this wonder filly and a neck behind the multiple **Gr.3** winning, **Confuchias**.

In his third start Top Class finished 1 3/4 lengths away behind the winner **Hard Rock City** over 7 furlongs. **Hard Rock City** won 8 races and placed second in The Emirates Airline Minstrel Stakes, **Gr.3** and multiple other black type races. The horse that placed second in the same race, **Duff**, went on to win the DFS Park Stakes, **Gr.2**, Coolmore Stud Champions Concorde Stakes, **Gr.3**, Ballycorus Stakes, **Gr.3** and other listed races. **Duff** also ran placed in numerous **Gr.2** and **Gr.3** events as well as placing 4<sup>th</sup> in The Laing O'Rourke National Stakes, **Gr.1** (behind **George Washington**, **Golden Arrow** and **Heatseeker**). Top Class finished only a mere length behind **Duff** over the distance. However, Top Class beat the favourite **Lord Admiral** in the race. **Lord Admiral** was a champion racehorse that won the Jebel Hatta- Nayef, **Gr.2**, Al Rashidiya Stakes, **Gr.3**, Ballycorus Stakes, **Gr.3**, Knockaire Stakes, L, Glencairn Stakes, L and placed multiple times in graded races including a 3<sup>rd</sup> in Tattersalls Gold Cup, **Gr.1** and also a fourth place finish in The Shadwell Turf Mile Stakes, **Gr.1**.

The company **Top Class** raced is testament to the fact that he was not just some ordinary racehorse. Unfortunately, Top Class's racing career was to be cut short to just 5 starts as a 3-year-old as he sustained a racing injury. His owners tried their level best to get him right, but it was not to be.

Physically, Top Class is an eye-catcher, as any \$1.6 million yearling is sure to be. Standing at 16 hands, this coal-black stallion looks and moves just like his sire. As you can see from the photo, he stands over a lot of ground, just like Storm Cat, and carries that same athletic physique as well. It is a well-accepted fact in the U.S. that Storm Cat's best sons at stud are those horses that most closely resemble him in conformation. It would be difficult to find two horses more physically alike than Top Class and Storm Cat.