

By LAUREN STICH

Charismatic looks like he'll get the last laugh

Saratoga/Belmont

Charismatic was underappreciated as a racehorse, and his premature departure after breaking down in the Belmont Stakes precluded him from being regarded as a really good animal. Without given much of a chance, Charismatic was sent packing to Japan before his runners even reached the races. Once again, U.S. breeders miscalculated big-time, and Charismatic is likely to become a star in Japan. A late-maturing 3-year-old, Charismatic has runners who should also be much better as they develop at 3 and will be more effective stretching out in distances beyond one mile. In the meantime, Charismatic's first crop of juveniles are performing well above expectations, and U.S. breeders now have egg on their faces. On Sept. 1, Charismatic Rob, a 2-year-old colt out of the Mr. Prospector mare, Prospective, won a 6 1/2-furlong maiden race by a half-length, wearing down the pacesetting 6-5 favorite, Fast Train. Prospective is a half-sister to Belmont Stakes winner Commendable, and Charismatic Rob's second dam is a half-sister to Fappiano. Despite the quality of his pedigree, Charismatic Rob returned \$33.40.

The Charismatics are winning across the country, and almost all of them are being dismissed by bettors, much to the delight of pedigree handicappers. Winning the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, Charismatic achieved his fame on dirt, and while his runners will enjoy success on this surface, they should really be something else on turf. Charismatic is what I call a "hidden turf" sire because of the strong grass influences in his sire line (Summer Squall-Storm Bird-Northern Dancer)

★ Unbridled's Song had high speed at 2, and his runners inherited their sire's brilliance. On Sept. 7, Rainbow Rider, a gray 2-year-old colt out of the Deputy Minister mare Forever Rainbows, won a seven-furlong maiden race by seven lengths in an impressive performance. Rainbow Rider's dam is a half-sister to Kentucky Derby winner Winning Colors, and trainer Elliott Walden has a future stakes winner in his barn.

Calder

Time Bandit was bred to be quick at 2, and promptly won the Bashford Manor Stakes and Sanford Stakes as a juvenile for D. Wayne Lukas. His first crop of 2-year-olds are following in his footsteps and include two-time stakes winner Next Bandit. On Sept. 1, Stolen Time, a 2-year-old colt out of the Lyphard's Ridge mare Dearest Juliet, scored a wire-to-wire victory in a seven-furlong maiden race by 4 1/4 lengths. Time Bandit is by Time for a Change and is out of Canadian Oaks winner La Voyageuse, a daughter of champion racemare and top broodmare Fanfreluche.

Arlington

Menifee is one of this year's freshman sires, and while he was known for his success on dirt, finishing second in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes, he is by Harlan, a son of Storm Cat, and there's plenty of turf in his sire line (Harlan-Storm Cat-Storm Bird-Northern Dancer). On Sept. 3, Knox, a 2-year-old colt from Menifee's first crop, scored a 5 3/4-length victory in a maiden race on the turf at the about distance of one mile. Menifee's runners should be played on all surfaces, and the best is yet to come for this promising young stallion.

Bay Meadows

Although Grindstone won the Kentucky Derby and is by stamina influence Unbridled, the majority of his offspring have shown high speed and have been effective at dis-



Michael J Marten/Horsephotos

Charismatic, shipped to Japan before any of his offspring had a chance to race, may be a very good sire.

tances up to 1 1/16 miles. On Sept. 6, Nose to It, a 2-year-old colt making his debut, displayed such speed and drew off to a 4 1/2-length victory, paying \$10.20. Precocious and quick, Grindstone's runners are particularly good at 2, and all of his juveniles should be given extra consideration in maiden races.

Del Mar

While Bob Baffert's other 2-year-olds have received more publicity, Coldntight, a colt by up-and-coming star stallion Touch Gold, looked like stakes material, winning a one-mile maiden race on Sept. 5 by seven lengths. While they have speed, runners by Touch Gold have the potential to be better at 3 going distances beyond one mile. Although Coldntight gets speed and not staying power from his dam's sire, Capote, there is abundant class here. Coldntight's dam is Attitude, a daughter of Miss Grillo Stakes winner Good Mood. This is an exceptionally classy King Ranch female family that has been cultivated over the past decade by owner-breeder Peter Blum. Coldntight's third dam, Mine Only, is a full sister to Rare Performer, and is the dam of

stakes winners Academy Award and Statuette. Most noteworthy is the fact that Coldntight's fifth dam is a full sister to 1946 Triple Crown winner Assault.

★ Uppity Kitty won a 5 1/2-furlong maiden race for juvenile fillies on Sept. 7 as the 7-5 favorite, but the filly to watch is the runner-up, Lady Nichola, who was making her first start. Uppity Kitty, by Tale of the Cat out of a Mt. Livermore mare, had the advantage sprinting, but may have distance limitations. Conversely, Lady Nichola has tremendous upside. By A.P. Indy, she is out of multiple group winner Macoumba, and is thus a full sister to the promising freshman sire Malibu Moon. Lady Nichola's dam is also a half-sister to group winner Septieme Ciel. Lady Nichola was 8-1 and finished with good energy.

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