

Santiva is Safely Home in the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes

Grandson of inexplicably good broodmare another top winner for her family

by John P. Sparkman

It is entirely understandable that the fortunes of both sire lines and female families wax and wane over time. The path through the pedigree of the gene combinations that make top racehorses remains a matter of speculation, despite recent scientific advances.

It has long been the job, or at least the inclination, of pedigree pundits to deduce explanations for racecourse success—hence the sometimes dizzying array of theories promulgated to justify the prowess of even the most humbly bred champion. Occasionally, however, the emergence of a first-rate broodmare who establishes a powerful new family simply defies even the most fanciful pedigree theory. Safely Home, the second dam of Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (G2) winner Santiva, appears to fall in that category.

When Safely Home retired to David Hayden's Dark Hollow Farm in Uperco, Maryland, in 1981, there were reasons to think she might produce a useful runner or two but absolutely none to think she would be capable of throwing a Breeders' Cup winner, a Grade 2 winner, and becoming the tail-female ancestress of seven other stakes winners, including Santiva, winner of the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes on November 27 at Churchill Downs. Safely Home herself had been a tough, honest campaigner, winning 16 of 73 starts with 25 placings for earnings of \$83,058. Other than her maiden victory and two early allowance wins at Charles Town Races, all of those wins came in low-level claiming races on the Mid-Atlantic circuit.

Her sire, Winning Hit, by Bold Ruler out of Bases Full, by *Ambiorix, had been a well-bred failure, breaking down after winning his first two starts and siring 11 minor stakes winners from 289 foals. Her dam, Arc Lamp, by *Stella Aurata (another very moderate sire), had produced two other minor winners and her second dam, Flying Polly, by War Dog, was a half sister to 1953 Kent Stakes winner Scimitar, by *The Sultan. Really, though, one had to search back to Safely Home's seventh dam, Martha Gorman, a full sister to Kentucky Oaks winner Audience, dam of Whisk Broom II, to find a significant broodmare.

The interior pedigree offered no encouragement either, with a very common 4x4 inbreeding to Nearco and equally common duplications of *Teddy

Santiva, b. c., 2008				
Giant's Causeway 97 1216 fls, 94 SWs SI 2.53 DI=0.00	Storm Cat 83 4 wins, \$570,610, SW 1405 fls, 178 SWs SI 3.87 DI=4.00	Storm Bird 78 681 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.10 DI=3.25	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
		Terlingua 76 11 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.63	South Ocean 67	New Providence 56 Shining Sun 62
	Mariah's Storm 91 10 wins, \$1,449,790, SW 9 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.71	Rahy 85 1080 fls, 91 SWs SI 2.41 DI=1.74	Secretariat 70	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52
		Immense 79 6 fls, 3 SWs DI=2.43	Crimson Saint 69	Crimson Satan 59 Boiero Rose 58
Slide 90 11 fls, 1 SW DI=99.99	Smarten 76 11 wins, \$716,426, SW 602 fls, 49 SWs SI 1.66 DI=8.60	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74	Red God 54 Runaway Bride (GB) 62	
		Glorious Song 76	Halo 69 Ballade 72	
	Safely Home 73 16 wins, \$83,058 11 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.36	Roberto 69	Hail to Reason 58 Bramalea 59	
		Imsoeard 67	Chieftain 61 Ironically 60	
	Cyane 59 401 fls, 47 SWs SI 2.71 DI=3.20	*Turn-to 51	*Royal Charger 42 *Source Sucee 40	
		Smartaire 62 12 fls, 4 SWs DI=7.80	Your Game 48	*Beau Pere 27 *Winkle II 39
Winning Hit 68 277 fls, 11 SWs SI 0.63 DI=2.70	*Quibu 42	=Meadow (GB) 36 =Querendona (Arg) 34		
	Arc Lamp 60 7 fls, 0 SWs DI=2.20	Art Teacher 58	Olympia 46 Teaching 51	
		Bold Ruler 54	*Nasrullah 40 Miss Disco 44	
	Bases Full 57	*Ambiorix 46 Striking 47		
	*Stella Aurata 49	=Arctic Star (GB) 42 =My Aid (Ire) 33		
	Flying Polly 49	War Dog 36 Polly Hastings 34		

and Sweep further back. Nevertheless, Safely Home produced 1989 champion sprinter Safely Kept, by the good Maryland sire Horatius, who famously beat Dayjur home in the 1990 Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1), and 1997 Kentucky Cup Sprint Stakes (G2) winner Partner's Hero, by Danzig.

Safely Home's female descendants have carried on the good work. Safely Kept is the dam of two stakes winners and granddam of another. Safely Home's stakes-placed daughter Safe At the Plate, by Double Zeus, is the third dam of a stakes winner, and Safe At the Plate's winning half sister Safe Salute, by Hail Emperor, is the dam of a stakes winner and third dam of another.

Santiva is the third foal out of Safely Home's daughter Slide, by Smarten, to earn black type, following his Grade 2-placed full sister Her Majesty and Grade 2-placed half brother Take Arms, by Honour and Glory.

The prowess of Santiva's sire, Giant's Causeway is, of course, not the least bit mysterious. By dual leading sire Storm Cat out of multiple Grade 2 winner Mariah's Storm, by Rahy, from an outstanding family, Giant's Causeway was bred to be a good horse and he certainly was. Winner of nine of 13 starts, he ripped off five consecutive Group 1 wins in England and Ireland at three in 2000, earning the sobriquet "the Iron Horse" through his visible will to win.

Giant's Causeway ended his career with another game performance in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), going down by only a neck to Tiznow, and his stud career has verified his quality.

Sire of champion Shamardal and classic winner Footstepsinthesand in his first Irish-conceived crop, Santiva is his 94th stakes winner from 1,281 foals of racing age (7.3%), a percentage that would be somewhat higher if he had never shuttled to Australia. Although it is true that the majority of his best runners—Shamardal, Footstepsinthesand, Rite of Passage, Aragorn (Ire), My Typhoon (Ire), Heatseeker (Ire), Ghanaati—have excelled on turf or synthetic surfaces, he has also sired his share of dirt standouts. Swift Temper, First Samurai, Eskendereya, and Frost Giant are all Grade 1 winners on dirt, and just one day prior to Santiva's victory, Giant Oak won the Clark Handicap (G1) at Churchill.

Safely Home's success may be unexpected, but with Santiva as a prominent candidate for the 2011 classics, her influence is still growing.

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SON OF A.P. INDY FOR \$7,500 S&N STEPHEN GOT EVEN



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