

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

Saturday, Doncaster, Britain

RACING POST TROPHY-G1, £216,000, Doncaster, Britain, 10-22, 2yo, c/f, 1mT, 1:45.10, hy.

1--@▲**PALACE EPISODE, 126, c, 2, by Machiavellian**

1st Dam: **Palace Weekend, by Seattle Dancer**

2nd Dam: **Royal Run, by Wavering Monarch**

3rd Dam: **Kazadancoa (Fr), by Green Dancer**

(\$100,000 yrl '04 KEESEP). O-Mrs T Marnane; B-Catesby W Clay & Runnymede Farm Inc; T-Kevin Ryan; J-Neil Callan; £125,280. Lifetime Record: 5-3-0-1, £160,480.

Click for the [Racing Post chart](#) or the [free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree](#).

Any movie which features racing, be it National Velvet, The Champ or even the factual Seabiscuit, is usually about as grounded in reality as the Marx Brothers' A Day At The Races. Yet the plots of these films seem no more far-fetched than what has actually happened this year in Britain's top-flight two-year-old races. Last month the G1 Shadwell Stud Middle Park S. fell to Amadeus Wolf, who had been hip number [23](#) at Tattersalls' Breeze Up Sale. Then, three days ago, the G1 Racing Post Trophy was unexpectedly won by Palace Episode, a Machiavellian colt who had followed Amadeus Wolf into the ring as hip [24](#).

Before I go any further, I ought to explain that Britain's breeze-up sales have faced a long, hard struggle in their bid to match the popularity and quality of their American counterparts. Perhaps the climate had a lot to do with it. After all, Doncaster in March, or even Newmarket in April, is hardly comparable to balmy Florida or California in springtime.

As recently as 1998 the median price at Tattersalls' sale was only 10,000gns, with the average falling short of 16,000gns, but there has been a marked improvement over the last five or six years in the



Machiavellian

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quality of the youngsters on offer both at Doncaster and Newmarket. A growing number of successful graduates have effectively raised the sales' profiles, and this year's Tattersalls catalogue reminded buyers that the 2004 offerings had included Paita (G1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud), Montgomery's Arch (G2

Richmond S.) and Walk in the Park (third in the G1 Criterium International, and later to finish second in the Derby).

Caulfield cont.

MORE WEEKEND STAKES WINNERS...

Prix Royal-Oak - Gr.1

W S Cox Plate - Gr.1

Nearctic H. - Gr.2

Preis der Winterkonigin - Gr.3

St. Simon Stakes - Gr.3

Dowager Stakes - (L.R.)

Pine Tree Lane Stakes - (L.R.)

Anoakia Stakes - (L.R.)

Premio Nearco - (L.R.)

Blue Hen Stakes - (L.R.)

Radley Stakes - (L.R.)

Bergen County Stakes - (L.R.)

Prix Herod - (L.R.)

1st Alcazar

1st Makybe Diva

1st Steel Light

1st Nordtanzerin

1st Day Flight

1st Briviesca

1st Resplendency

1st Private World

1st Le Giare

1st Love Locket

1st Short Dance

1st Terrific Challenge

1st Grand Vadla

by **ALZAO**

by **DESERT KING**

by **STRAVINSKY**

by **DANEHILL DANCER**

by **SADLER'S WELLS**

by **PEINTRE CELEBRE**

by **TALE OF THE CAT**

by **THUNDER GULCH**

by **MONASHEE MOUNTAIN**

by **THUNDER GULCH**

by **HENNESSY**

by **ROYAL ACADEMY**

by **GRAND LODGE**

COOLMORE

Consequently, demand continued to rise at this year's sale, with the median climbing to 35,000gns and the average breaking through the 50,000-guinea barrier for the first time. Now that Amadeus Wolf and Palace Episode have emerged from the sizeable consignment of Con Marnane's Irish-based Bansha House Stables, the average may well be set for a substantial rise in 2006.

The 2005 Bansha House team featured youngsters by such popular stallions as Montjeu, Cape Cross, Green Desert, Danzig, Danehill, Rainbow Quest and In the Wings, plus a colt and a filly by Fusaichi Pegasus. The quality of this team--and the involvement with Fusaichi Pegasus--no doubt reflected Bansha House's triumph at the 2004 Breeze Up, when an 80,000-guinea investment in a Fusaichi Pegasus--Lyric Fantasy colt was transformed into a new European Breeze Up Sale record of 500,000gns. Bansha House also set new European figures for a Breeze Up filly, with a 240,000-guinea daughter of Danehill.

Although this year's Bansha House horses achieved such good prices as 140,000 and 150,000gns, quite a few of them failed to find buyers. Amadeus Wolf was returned to his vendor at 50,000gns--less than Anthony Stroud had paid for him as a yearling in Italy--and Palace Episode was unsold at 44,000gns. Both went into training with the hard-working Kevin Ryan and the Marnane family must now be thrilled that Palace Episode failed to find a buyer, as he carries the colors of Mrs. Marnane.

Palace Episode had been bought by Peter Doyle at Keeneland, Doyle being the buyer of a lot of the Bansha House youngsters.

Palace Episode was conceived at a fee of £80,000 in 2002, Machiavellian's price having been boosted by the 2001 exploits of Medicean, No Excuse Needed and Storming Home.

Palace Episode--a colt bred by Catesby W. Clay's Runnymede Farm--was one of 14 members of Machiavellian's 2003 crop which were sold last year at American yearling sales. This sizeable collection was a response to Darley's prolonged advertising campaign which aimed to convince American breeders of Machiavellian's talents. The gist of these advertisements was that if American breeders wanted to use "the world's best stallion son of Mr. Prospector," they would have to send mares to England to visit Machiavellian. Darley also offered the incentive of foal-share arrangements and special terms for American-based mares.

Machiavellian also did his bit to encourage American support, supplying the likes of Fictitious (GIII De la Rose H.), Horatia (GIII Vinery Matchmaker S.), Kahal (GII Nearctic H.), Majorien (San Marino H.) and Street Cry. He also underlined his ability to get leading performers on Dubai's sand track, where Almutawakel and Street Cry won the World Cup in 1999 and 2002.

Machiavellian may have convinced the breeders, but the venture didn't really succeed at last year's sales, when the 14 yearlings achieving a median of \$122,500. This was some way short of Machiavellian's fee, with Palace Episode's price being \$100,000.

Palace Episode ought to have had greater appeal, as he comes from an excellent family and was bred on the same Machiavellian/Nijinsky cross which had produced Patavellian (G1), Right Approach (G1) and Majorien (G2). Indeed his dam, the unraced Palace Weekend, is inbred 2x4 to the great Nijinsky, through Seattle Dancer and Green Dancer.

Palace Weekend has some distinguished relatives, led by her half brothers Tejano Run (runner-up in the Kentucky Derby) and More Royal (GII Jersey Derby).

The Racing Post winner's third dam, Kazadancoa, was a sister to The Dancer, a Classic-placed filly who now ranks as the third dam of The Deputy (GI Santa Anita Derby) and King Kamehameha (G1 Japanese Derby). Kazadancoa herself produced three graded stakes winners, while another of her half sisters, Beaming Bride, produced the Grade I winners Alwuhush and Husband and the Grade II winner Simply Majestic. Beaming Bride's name provides a clue to the fact that Palace Episode's fifth dam, Aimee, was the second dam of the exceptional Blushing Groom.

There are 1 1/2-mile horses in this list by the likes of Kingmambo, Nureyev and Diesis, which encourages the belief that Palace Episode is going to be one of the Machiavellians which stay the Derby distance. The main question about this progressive colt is whether he is going to be able to reproduce his Group 1-winning form on ground much faster than the boggy ground at Doncaster. Don't rule it out--stranger things have happened.

PALACE EPISODE, c, 2003

Machiavellian	Mr. Prospector	Raise a Native	Native Dancer
			Raise You
	Gold Digger		Nashua
			Sequence
Coup De Folie	Halo	Hail to Reason	
		Cosmah	
	Raise the Standard	Hoist the Flag	
		Natalma	
Palace Weekend unraced 6Fls, 1GSW	Seattle Dancer	Nijinsky II	Northern Dancer
			Flaming Page
	My Charmer	Poker	
		Fair Charmer	
	Royal Run unraced 10Fls, 2GSW	Wavering Monarch	Majestic Light
			Uncommitted
	Kazadancoa (Fr) 14Fls, 3GSW	Green Dancer	
		Khazaeen	