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By Kristen Manning

SPIRIT OF BOOM DELIVERS



Spirit Of Boom

SPORTPIX

For just short of 80 years the McAlpine family's Eureka Stud has been successfully breeding thoroughbred racehorses. Their achievement list is long but none have been as satisfying as their latest, a Group One victory for home-bred Spirit Of Boom (Sequalo).

The Eureka brand has been carried to Group One victories in the past but this is the first time that a horse bred and raced by the family will return to the Cambooya property to stand.

"It is the first time we have bred our own stallion," said an excited Scott

McAlpine after Spirit Of Boom's narrow but gutsy William Reid Stakes (Gr 1, 1200m) victory at Moonee Valley last Friday night.

"To breed, raise and race a horse like him, well it is just a great thrill," he said, adding that he is full of admiration for the handsome Spirit Of Boom who has proven such a great competitor throughout his 48 start career.

"Here he is as a six-year-old stallion racing in the best form of his career," he said.

The winner of eight races and \$1,853,300, Spirit Of Boom won his

first Group One race at his 15th attempt and it was a well-deserved victory on the back of game placings in the Oakleigh Plate (Gr 1, 1100m) and the Newmarket Handicap (Gr 1, 1200m).

The second Group One winner for Lyndhurst Stud stalwart Sequalo (Rustic Amber) who this spring will serve his 18th book of mares, Spirit Of Boom is one of his sire's 18 stakes winners.

Also sire of the Group One mare Star Shiraz, Sequalo has proven to be one of Queensland's most successful and enduring stallions. At 23 years of age he is currently the state's second

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leading sire on both prize money and winners.

Previously a winner of both titles, Sequalo has maintained an impressive winners-to-runners strike rate of 67.4% with 619 of his sons and daughters being winners.

Whilst not able to win a Group One race, Sequalo raced in a stellar era and was one of the best sprinters of the mid 1990's. He won ten of his 40 starts, two at Group Two level, two at Group Three level and two Listed races.

Successful at his first five starts at two and three, Sequalo defeated the likes of Mahogany (Last Tycoon), You Remember (Gold Carat), Lady Jakeo (Last Tycoon), Jetball (Marscay), Keltrice (Kenmare), Pride Of Rancho (Rancho Ruler), King Marauding (Marauding), Poetic King (Yeats), Kapchat (Centaine), Ball Park (Ahoonora), Star Of Maple (At Talaq), Street Ruffian (Raffindale), Hareeba (Al Hareb), Lord Tridan (Lord Ballina), Spanish Mix (Esperanto), Ensign Ewart (Famous Star), Hurricane Sky (Star Watch), Brawny Spirit (Rustic Amber), Durbridge (Durham Ranger), Paris Lane (Persian Heights), Alcove (El Qahira), Never Undercharge (Lord Seymour), Primacy (Prego), Drum (Marauding), Northwood Plume (Military Plume), Chief de Beers (Hula Chief), Our Maizcay (Maizcay), Cut Up Rough (Blazing Sword), Sword (Switch In Time), Gold Ace (Dieu D'Or), Spartacus (Snippets), Leica Smile (At Talaq), Ballroom Babe (Citidancer), All Our Mob (What A Guest), Strategic (Zeditave), Seascay (Maizcay), Octagonal (Zabeel) and Schillaci (Salieri) – all Group One winners.

Apologies for the long list but it does give an idea just to what a high quality sprinter Sequalo was!

Retired to Lyndhurst in 1997, Sequalo sired Spirit Of Boom in his tenth crop, one which yielded another 37 winners.

Hailing from a family first brought to Australia by Robert Sangster, his fourth dam Republican Girl (Thatching) arriving in the late 1970's, Spirit Of Boom is certainly a thorough Eureka product with his dam Temple Spirit (Special Dane) and grandam Temple Top both bred there, the latter being a daughter of one of their most prolific stallions in Semipalatinsk (Nodouble).

Sadly the stakes placed Temple Spirit, who showed great heart to win eight of her 16 starts died four years ago aged only ten having produced just four foals.

And the first two of those are now both Group One winners, Spirit Of Boom the year younger half-brother of The Galaxy (Gr 1, 1100m) winning gelding Temple Of Boom (Piccolo).

Sadly her next two foals do not have the Group One ability of their brothers but fortunately they are both females with the older of the two, Gentle Spirit (Break The Vault) was served last spring by All American (Red Ransom).

Temple Spirit was one of eight winners (from ten to race) for Temple Top, a dual city winner who also produced the nine times winner Raise A Shout (Raise A Stanza).

Temple Top was one of seven winners (from eight foals) for the unraced Temple Black (Without Fear) a half-sister to the multiple city winner Total Concept (Solitary Hail).

Whilst not a prolific black type family close up, this is certainly one that produces runners.

Ancestress of this family is Paraffin (Blair Athol) of whom Sequalo is also a

descendant. And Paraffin is descendant of Promise (Snap), also ancestress of Darius (Dante), Bimelech (Black Toney), Alycidon (Donatello II), Blenheim II (Blandford), Prince Bio (Prince Rose) and Phalaris (Polymelus), all of whom feature in Sequalo's pedigree.

Strains of this family, Bruce Lowe's prolific number one family, also appear in Temple Spirit; namely War Relic (Man O'War), Court Martial (Fair Trial), Turn-To (Royal Charger), Buckpasser (Tom Fool), Noholme II (Star Kingdom), Never Say Die (Nasrullah) and further Alycidon.

Amongst that group are the closer relations Alycidon and Turn-To, Bimelech and Buckpasser; the excellent mares Marchetta (Marco) and La Troienne (Teddy) making their mark.

Meanwhile, both Sequalo and Temple Spirit boast multiple Lady Josephine (Sundridge) family strains whilst the closest cross within Spirit Of Boom's pedigree is a 4 X 5 of Thatch (Forli).

A highly talented sprinter/miler who won seven of his nine starts including the July Cup (Gr 1, 6f), the St James's Palace Stakes (Gr 1, 1m) and the Sussex Stakes (Gr 1, 1m), Thatch, who hailed from the wonderful Sadler's Wells (Northern Dancer)/Nureyev (Northern Dancer)/Fairly King (Northern Dancer) family, sired 30 stakes winners.

Thatch is not a common line-breeding subject and Spirit Of Boom is the first Group One winner boasting a duplication.

There have however been two other stakes winners line-bred to Thatch via stallions who have stood in Australia, the UK Group Three winning juvenile Rosselli (Puissance) and the UK Listed winner Kamakiri (Trans Island) whose dam is by Tirol (Thatching).