

Sun City Million Dollar Race 2010

The bloodlines of Success!

The article is going to profile the US pigeons that were successful in the 2010 Million Dollar Race. We are going to examine the bloodlines and pedigree to see if we can find a common thread in some of the prize winning pigeons.

The easiest thing to do will be to look at pigeon by pigeon and then recap some commonalities. Some of the lofts provided me with info and others did not. I will also give my comments that were written in my notes before the pigeons left for Sun City. I did not make notes on all the pigeons just the birds I felt had the best chance of succeeding in Sun City.

In 10th Place was the pigeon 'Lone Ranger' entered by the Sandstrom Brothers and bred by Crazy Al. The Sandstrom Brothers are lucky to have a secondary stock loft in Colorado with some very exceptional breeders. The Sandstrom's are a small loft so Crazy Al makes up the entries when needed. Crazy Al has helped the twin brothers in every possible pigeon way since they were 15 years old. Now the brothers not only dominate racing in the Minnesota area but they are doing extremely well in the out of area races.

The pigeon 'Lone Ranger' was inbred to the great Verbruggen pigeon Kletskep on sires side with a touch of Janssen and Hofken. The dam was bred by Brad Hogan and is down from some super Netherland Janssen lines that have been very successful for Brad. *Below is a quote from Brad Hogan on the dam.*

"I donated a hen to Al's club auction and Al bought her. This is a little info on the hen Crazy Al bred to get the 10th. Place winner AU-09-SBL-792 on the South Africa Race, her dam was AU-07-HL-7381 BC hen (Pete's Girl) was bred by Brad Hoggan her sire was AU-03-RMR-3478 (Pete) 1st. Ace Pigeon AU Middle Distance 2005 and Champion Old Bird Wasatch Concourse 2005 and her dam was AU-02-RMR-2315 that was 3rd. = 1st. Place Vegas Connection Race 300 miles. An all Janssen pigeon. I hope this will give you a little insight?"

The note I made on Lone Ranger at shipping was "small hen very buoyant".

In 21st. place was a pigeon called 'Induc' bred by Lion Gate Lofts owned by Neil Migliore. I do not have a pedigree on 'Induc' but I do know Neil has spared absolutely no expense to purchase the best pigeons he could find in Belgium. Nothing but

champions at Lion Gate Lofts and the results certainly prove that. I made a note of Induc by saying "nice pigeon medium size".

In 24th was a pigeon named 'Cindy' of Rikson Mike Loft owned by Mike Fragoso. Cindy is a Calia/Janssen /Devriendt. Mike has had much success with the line and he bought the pigeon back to use in his breeding program.

In 47th position was 'Sun Surveyor' a bird own by Rampage Racing and bred by Jerry Soignier of Texas. The pigeons was bred from a son of ROCKET 1st. National Ace Pigeon All Holland NPO 99. (Tournier) &'Diamond Ring', 1st National Ace YB 04 All Holland W.H.Z.B. (Janssen Creator). The dam is a daughter of 'Countdown',(son of "Rocket"&"Lady Kannibaal".)& 'Sure Gold'.

My comments last May were "very nice blue hen, Sun City type".

In 54th position was 'Secret Meeting', another Lion Gate Lofts pigeon. Lion Gate was the only US loft with two pigeons in the top 100. I am sure 'Secret Meeting' is bred from some of the top Belgium bloodlines of today. Neil strives to own and breed from the best.

In 63rd position was 'Nor Easter' bred by Americas Dream Loft owned by Jim Gabler. 'Nor Easter' is bred from a family of pigeons Jim calls the "Americas". This family is a blend of three famous Super 73 pigeons or Hekkenklaks. Each of these three pigeons have won 1st of all America Long Distance awards for three different lofts. One cock called 'Smokin Joe' was bred by Jim Richesin, a hen 'Blue Lady' bred by Lou Coletta and 'Campbell' bred by Ken Christopher. Jim mixed the blood of these three pigeons and entered grand children to Sun City with excellent success.

Americas Dream Loft had two pigeons make it through the knockout competition and also had his pigeon 'Eli' win the Country Challenge.

Last year Borotto from Miami had the overall ace pigeon which was the #1 pigeon in 2009. The pigeon was also part Gabler (Hekkenklak with the Zachte hen). In 04' the last time this blood was entered into the race Gabler placed 63rd and 66th again with Hekkenklak and Super 73 blood. Three of Gablers top 5 birds were Super 73's (Smokin Joe, Campbell and Blue Lady). This blood was crossed onto the Hekkenklaks or Fireflights. Everyone will see at the end of this article why there is a correlation with this bloodline and success at Sun City.

My comment last May on Nor Easter was "nice slate with bright yellow eyes".

In 80th position we find the pigeon named 'Bahram' owned by Ken Christopher. In the pedigree of 'Bahram' we see all Super 73 Van Loons. The grand parents on the sire's

side are bred from '2778' and on the dam's side is all 'De Senna'. Nothing but futurity and top winners bred by the parents of 'Bahram'.

In 83rd place we find 'Savana' flown under Two be One and owned by Jim Mitchell. Jim has had much success in Sun City. I am not sure of the bloodline but Jim is on the phone to Europe all the time and I am sure the breeding is impeccable.

In 95th place we find the pigeon 'West' owned by Anthony Rivera. Anthony Rivera are a tough loft to beat in one loft futurities. They did not provide info on 'West'. They called the blood 'Anthony Rivera Bloodline'. This team had a pigeon 'Crown Royal' score in two Hotspots. Crown Royal was bred from a daughter of Sure Bet mated to their old line Janssen family.

In 104th place we find 'Next Hope' a Kelley Buckner pigeons. The sire was bred by Ken Rhodes of Protege Loft down from German pigeons and Continental Class. The dam was bred by Mike Ganus down from Millennium and Jasmine.

At 113th place we find 'Perfect Timing, a Doc Piaget pigeon. I do not know the breeding of Perfect Timing. What do know is Doc goes to the best lofts in the world and top auctions in the world and buys the best pigeons or children off the best pigeons. Doc's stock loft contains the who's who of the pigeon sport. Name a famous champion pigeon in the last 20 years and you will find children or brothers and sisters at Doc's.

Doc's two pigeons in the money were my personal favorites out of six he shipped.

At position 128th we find 'Golden Home' the Bill Tadlock pigeon. Golden Home was a consistent front flyer throughout this season. The sire of the pigeon was 1st Vegas Classic in 2008. Two brothers to the sire also won 1st or equal 1st in Vegas futurities. 100k won by this group in the last few years. The sire is bred down from the 969 of Mike Ganus onto a Schellens. The dam is all the best of Ganus , Hollywood, Celeste, Aviator and Secret Weapon.

At 142nd place was 'Silver Dollar' a David Knights pigeon. The remarkable thing about Silver Dollar was that she was one of a few pigeons that clocked in the middle of the night. Silver Dollar was clocked at 1:05 am. Silver Dollar is a Knight Janssen and Dave has had many winners from this family.

In 149th was 'Blew By You' a Donnelly-Nemechek pigeon. This loft has had much success but I do not know the bloodlines of the pigeon.

At 153rd we fine 'Blue Comet', a David Shieh pigeon. I do not know the back ground of the pigeon. My brother (partner) walked it through the line at shipping and loved the muscular blue hen. Dan said "the bird would be in the money".

At 155th we find WZ Express owned by Ken Easley. This was a very consistent pigeon bred from the best of Zoontjens / Schaerlaeckens, all Turbo / Mattens / Sissi / De Kampioen 177 & Home Alone. Many winners from this line for Ken.

At 163rd we find 'Miss Isle' a Jerry Soignier bred pigeon flown under Rampage Racing. Miss Isle is the grandchild to Vice President, 11th Nat Ace- Holland. The aunt to Miss Isle won the '04 Vegas Classic. This pair bred several Futurity and One Loft Money Winners. Joep Koop - Co Verbee blood. Miss Isle also won 2nd in a Hotspot. A terrific pigeon!

At 174th was a Ron Pairan pigeon called 'Legend'. Legend is a highly inbred pigeon. The dam is a father daughter mating and then Ron mated the pigeon back to its own father. Who said highly inbred pigeons cannot race. This pigeon is beyond inbred.

At 181st and 192nd we find two Nassir Faqiryar pigeons. Nassir breeds Thone blood to Desmet Mathys blood. He has imported the top from both. These pigeons excel for Nassir from 400 to 500 miles and with two in the money they excelled in Sun City.

At 199th is 'Harriet' a Doc Piaget pigeon. Like I said early in this article, Doc breeds from brothers and sisters, sons and daughters to the most successful pigeons in the sport today.

At this point I will only highlight pigeons that I know the breeding or have recognized as exceptional when they were sent to me for export. In the summary we will look to see if a pattern is forming.

At position 208th. is 'Papachi' of Golden Team, a Janssen Clausing Houben.

At 239th we find the Byron Weaver pigeon 'Wednesday', another highly inbred pigeon bred from Weaver Stichebauts. Wednesday is a full brother sister mating. I am not going to worry about breeding cousins together for the race team anymore when one finds highly inbred pigeons scoring in Sun City.

I commented 'Sun City type' last May.

At 279th we find "Zoom" the Ken Easley pigeon which is a sibling to his pigeon "WZ Express". Having both a brother and sister in the money is unbelievable. Check out the info on WZ Express.

At 285th is 'Sir Duncan' is a Duncan Harvey pigeon flown under Autumn Wind. Duncan dominates the long distance with his Fabry based family. Duncan excels at the New England Opens with result based pigeon family he has created. Duncan is one of the top fanciers in the extremely competitive Southern New England Combine.

Sir Duncan was an exceptional medium sized cock that was buoyant with super feather when he came to me last May.

At 296th is '1 is Enough' a Delmonte Brothers pigeon. He has CBS blood behind him and this family excels at the distance and on tough days.

In conclusion we find a mix in the bloodlines in the US pigeons. I would think for the most part the Van Loon based, Janssen based or Janssen Van Loon based pigeons have had the most success. Look at the breeding of Jim Gabler's pigeons and Ken Christopher's pigeon. We also see that the most successful pigeons are usually middle distance based pigeons. One would think we would need long distance blood for Sun City.

The most successful pigeons ever in South Africa have had Van Loon in them. 'Birdy' was the best ever was half Van Loon. Koopman's pigeons have the best of Van Loon running through their veins. 'Colour of Water' the #2 best ever was Houben and we all know how Clausing and Houben have performed in Sun City. We see several of the US pigeons with Ganus blood which are predominantly middle distance superstars. Is there a pattern? You be the judge. When I look at the background of the successful pigeons from all over the world we find, Koopman, Vandenebeelee, Houben, Janssen, De Rauw Sablon/Albrecht, Engels, Van Dyke over and over throughout the pedigrees. I would expect to see more extreme long distance blood but for the most part it is middle distance pigeons that do the job.

Is there a secret to success in Sun City? After writing this article I would say take a Van Loon based family and cross them onto another super middle distance family. Send the solid colored offspring and hope for the best. No matter what, the pigeon has to have extreme heart to score in the final race.