

Rosenfeld Is Breeding Against The Grain

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After trying different breeding theories in the pursuit of producing champion horses, most breeders eventually fall back on the long standing concept of "Breed the best to the best and hope for the best." Seth Rosenfeld is not one of those.



Sweet Lou rolls to an open length victory in their Breeders Crown final. (New Image Media)

The success of his 13-year-old broodmare Sweet Future is proof of that. This is a daughter of Falcons Future from a Nero dam, hardly contemporary bloodlines. Her \$2.2 million winning son Bettor Sweet is sired by Bettors Delight, a sire far better known for his fillies than his male progeny.

Her two-year-old Breeders Crown champion and winner of \$688,000 this season Sweet Lou is a son of Yankee Cruiser, a sire who is hardly a hot commodity in the breeding shed.

So how has Rosenfeld made it work?

"That's a good question. In terms of Sweet Future I kept her as a broodmare because she showed so much ability. Even though she won less than \$100,000 for us she was a very talented mare. But goes back further than that," explains Rosenfeld who owns about 20 mares.

"Her dam Sweet Dahrlin was a terrific two-year-old. But it was her dam, Fly Fly Dahrlin, who was the key point for me.

"I remember at the time she was racing talking with Bill Haughton who had two other very good fillies and complimenting him on them. He turned to me and said he thought there was this filly in New York that was better than both of his. That was Fly Fly Dahrlin, a daughter of Fly Fly Byrd.

"I never forgot what he said about her and we're going back 30 years. She was very durable, tough and a good aged mare too. It stuck in my mind and throughout the family has shown a ton of early speed in the pedigree."

When Sweet Future was bred the first time by Rosenfeld it was to Artiscape with the result the filly Sweet Paprika who banked a creditable \$218,000 despite bringing only \$13,000 at public auction.

It was then he turned to Bettors Delight and the result was better with a \$45,000 sale.

"I can't really say why Bettors Delight was the choice. Certainly this is the best male performer that sire has ever left and he is very much a Saturday night special type of horse we used to see racing years ago. Again I think this speaks more about the maternal family than the sire but the cross worked out very well."

Twice he went to Real Desire with disappointing results in both the sales ring (\$13,000 each time) and on the racetrack. And then in 2008 he made the unconventional move of going to Yankee Cruiser.



Bettor Sweet (5), hangs on to win over a fast closing Foiled Again (2) and We Will See (1). (Michael Burns photo)

"I'd been watching this horse while he stood in Ohio and thought he did very well given what mares he had access to. When he moved to Hanover Shoe Farms I thought he had a chance." Sweet Lou was the result and he sold for \$38,000 last fall.

Rosenfeld then made the bold decision to pony up and breed Sweet Future to Somebachsomewhere. While Bettor Sweet was well into his racing career he was just a face in the crowd at three and not yet become the top free for all horse he is today. That decision at least on paper looks like a great move by Rosenfeld as the result was a filly which is retaining and giving to Ray and Larry Remmen to develop.

There is a Well Said weanling colt and the mare is back in foal to Well Said. Rosenfeld is unclear what mate he will choose for next spring.

"You are quite right that Sweet Future does not have a blue blood pedigree. The game is filled with mares of similar bloodlines which most people would consider not to be commercial.

"But maybe there is a bit more durability and toughness in her bloodline than some others. Or maybe she is just one of those freakish kind of mares that produces terrific horses for no good reason just like why so many outstanding race mares and beautifully bred fillies fail to produce. Breeding horses continues to be a mystery."

The progeny of Sweet Future have now won over \$3.1 million and she will have much opportunity to see that increase.