

Golden Crosses

The term Golden Crosses has been part of breeding terminology for decades and represents an important stallion selection factor for many breeders. The theory is supported by the USTA website with their Stallion Showcase featuring a “Crosses of Gold” option. Unfortunately many stud farms misrepresent the theory when marketing their stallions. So just how reliable is it?

The most potent ‘golden cross’ in the history of the breed has been Tar Heel over Adios mares. The Classic Families data shows that Tar Heel produced 44% of his 119 Classic Winners from Adios mares- double that of any other siring combination. However, there are a number of factors that need to be considered in this breeding performance.

To begin with, all performance statistics suggest that Adios was by far the most potent sire and broodmare sire in the history of harness racing (eg. his classic winners to foals ratio). Secondly, as the pacing sensation of his day, Tar Heel not only earned his cover of the leading Adios mares but also had the great mares of Hanover Shoe Farms at his disposal. A perfect case of being in the right place at the right time.

Since then, other historic ‘golden crosses’ such as Bret Hanover over Meadow Skipper mares (23% of his total), Albatross over Bret Hanover mares (23%) and Cam Fella over Albatross mares (33%) must be considered in the light of advantages derived from “best to the best” reasoning. Yet, this in no way detracts from many “golden crosses” that can be checked out in the Classic Crosses feature of Classic Families.

Classic Families now offers students of breeding further advancement of this theory- allowing research into which 2nd, 3rd 4th and 5th dam sires feature with their chosen “golden cross”.

Using this feature you will soon discover that the success of a so called ‘golden cross’ will often be very dependant upon the second, third, fourth or fifth broodmare sire.

How to access the Broodmare Crosses feature.

1. Select the sire that you wish to consider

2. Click on the Classic Crosses tab

3. Click on See Broodmare Crosses

 As Sire As Damsire

You will now have a full list of the Classic Winners by your chosen sire - in alphabetical order

Broodmare Crosses for Somebeachsomewhere (2005) - There are 95 classic offspring.

Name	DoB	Sex	Family	Damsire	2nd Damsire	3rd Damsire	4th Damsire	5th Damsire
Admiral Joy	2010	G	N11	Talk About Class	Vance Hanover	Lordship	Thurber Frost	U Scott
Anastasia Shade	2013	F	U9	Cams Dignity	Cole Muffler	Steady Star	Adios	Volomite
Apprentice Hanover	2010	M	U2	Dragons Lair	Big Towner	Sonsam	Steady Star	Shadow Wave
Asap Hanover	2012	M	U7	Dragon Again	No Nukes	Nihilator	Tyler B	Albatross
Astride	2013	M	N29	Art Major	Western Hanover	Troublemaker	Fellowship	Thor Hanover
Awash	2014	F	U1	Jeremes Jet	Camluck	Big Towner	Nero	Adios Vic
Beach Gal	2011	F	U2	Dragon Again	Artsplace	Cam Fella	Windshield Wiper	Adios
Beach Goddess	2013	F	N113	Village Jasper	Whats Next	Aachen	Flying Song	Jack Potts
Beach Memories	2010	G	U4	Western Ideal	Big Towner	Abercrombie	Most Happy Fella	Tar Heel
Beach Shack	2010	F	N1	Artiscape	Bo Scots Blue Chip	Overtrick	Lumber Dream	U Scott
Beachesofcheyenne	2013	F	U21	Western Hanover	Artsplace	Big Towner	Albatross	Bret Hanover
Bloodline	2014	M	U1	Western Ideal	Artsplace	On The Road Again	Bret Hanover	Meadow Skipper

What you can do with this list.

1. Click on Damsire to place all golden crosses in alphabetical order

You can now check the all important crosses with 2nd-3rd-4th and 5th broodmare sire

Damsire

Broodmare Crosses for Somebeachsomewhere (2005) - There are 95 classic offspring.

Name	DoB	Sex	Family	Damsire ^	2nd Damsire	3rd Damsire	4th Damsire	5th Damsire
Astride	2013	M	N29	Art Major	Western Hanover	Troublemaker	Fellowship	Thor Hanover
Harshali	2013	F	A41	Art Major	Ticket To Heaven	Holly Sand	Express Byrd	Raiders Design
JK Will Power	2013	M	U76	Art Major	Camluck	Abercrombie	JR Skipper	Baron Hanover
Melmerby Beach	2011	M	U1	Art Major	Jate Lobell	Masquerade	Bret Hanover	Albatross
Somestarsomewhere	2011	M	U9	Art Major	Magical Mike	Seahawk Hanover	Albatross	Bret Hanover
Beach Shack	2010	F	N1	Artiscape	Bo Scots Blue Chip	Overtrick	Lumber Dream	U Scott

2. Clicking each of the other Damsire tabs will also group these columns in alpa order

2nd Damsire

Broodmare Crosses for Somebeachsomewhere (2005) - There are 95 classic offspring.

Name	DoB	Sex	Family	Damsire	2nd Damsire ^	3rd Damsire	4th Damsire	5th Damsire
Pure Country	2013	F	U6	Western Hanover	Abercrombie	Meadow Skipper	Storm Cloud	Mighty Song
That Woman Hanover	2011	F	U24	Western Hanover	Abercrombie	Race Time	O'Brien Hanover	Adios
Someomensomewhere	2014	F	U28	Western Hanover	Albert Albert	Bret Hanover	Meadow Skipper	Good Time
Waikiki Beach	2012	M	N28	Bettors Delight	Albert Albert	Windshield Wiper	Gay Reveler	HD Hanover
Beach Gal	2011	F	U2	Dragon Again	Artsplace	Cam Fella	Windshield Wiper	Adios
Beachesofcheyenne	2013	F	U21	Western Hanover	Artsplace	Big Towner	Albatross	Bret Hanover
Bloodline	2014	M	U1	Western Ideal	Artsplace	On The Road	Bret Hanover	Meadow Skipper

TABLE 1: PACING SIRE LINES COLOUR CODING

(4 lines with 7 branches)

Placing cursor over any stallion will give a pop up of the sire line

1 AXWORTHY

Dillon Axworthy
Guy Axworthy
Truax
Calumet Chuck
Nibble Hanover

2 PETER THE GREAT

2a SCOTLAND

2b VOLOMITE

Sampson Hanover
Sampson Direct
Direct Scooter
Matts Scooter
Mach Three
Somebeachsomewhere

3 ELECTIONEER

Hal Dale
Bert Abbe
Gene Abbe
Big Towner

3a ADIOS

Bret Hanover
Warm Breeze
Falcon Seelster
Henry T Adios
Silent Majority
Abercrombie
Artsplace
Art Major

3b MEADOW SKIPPER

Albatross
Nihilator
French Chef
Beach Towel
Jennas Beach Boy

3bi MOST HAPPY FELLA

Cam Fella
Cams Card Shark
Bettors Delight

3bii NO NUKES

Western Hanover
Western Ideal
Rocknroll Hanover
Rock N Roll Heaven

4 DIRECT

Billy Direct
Garrison Hanover
Tar Heel

5 GLOBE DERBY

Springfield Globe

TABLE 2: TROTTING SIRE LINES COLOUR CODING (2 lines with 4 branches)

- 1 **AXWORTHY**
 - Dillon Axworthy
 - Guy Axworthy
 - Mr McElwyn

- 2 **PETER THE GREAT**
 - Peter Volo
- 2a **SCOTLAND**
 - Darnley
 - Hoot Mon
 - Spencer Scot
 - Rodney
 - Speedster
 - Speedy Scot
 - Speedy Crown
 - Speedy Somolli
 - Baltic Speed
 - Valley Victory
 - Muscles Yankee
 - Muscle Hill

- 2b **VOLOMITE**
 - Victory Song
 - Noble Victory
 - ABC Freight
 - Garland Lobell
 - Andover Hall
 - Angus Hall
 - Conway Hall
 - Worthy Boy

- 2bi **STARS PRIDE**
 - Hickory Pride
 - Yankee bambino
 - Photo Maker
 - SJs Photo
 - SJs Caviar
 - Nevele Pride
 - Bonfish

- 2bii **SUPER BOWL**
 - American Winner
 - Credit Winner
 - Crazed
 - Supergill
 - Malabar Man

An illustration of trends in broodmare crosses.

Somebeachsomewhere is currently the leading pacing sire in both Australasia and North America in terms of yearling sales results as well as two and three year old Classic Winners. There was considerable comment among breeders following his first crop success with daughters of Artsplace, particularly given the success of Captaintreacherous. This should not have been unexpected given that Artsplace appears to be one of the three greatest broodmare sires in the history of standardbred breeding.

However closer analysis of the Classic Winners from his first five crops shows another trend emerging. Let us look at this using the Classic Winners function.

You will note that Western Hanover mares account for fifteen of the 58 two year old Classic Winners sired by Somebeachsomewhere as against six from Artsplace mares, while for three year old Classic Winners the score is ten to six. For ALL Classic Winners Western Hanover mares lead those of Artsplace by 22 to 13. So "Golden Crosses" theory indicates that Western Hanover mares provide the cross that breeders should be looking for rather than Artsplace mares. Closer analysis of second, third, fourth and fifth broodmare sires, however, tells us otherwise.

Half of the progeny from Western Hanover mares have Artsplace as their second broodmare sire and ALL but four of the second broodmare sires are from the Adios sire line. In addition, half or the Western Ideal broodmares also have Artsplace as the second broodmare sire.

On the other hand, the progeny from Artsplace broodmares show that Western Hanover is represented only twice as the second broodmare sire. It would appear that so far Artsplace has a far greater role in the pedigree of the Classic Winners by Somebeachsomewhere than Western Hanover does. Also note that 81 of the 95 Somebeachsomewhere Classic Winners have a sire from the Adios line among the first five broodmare crosses while the No Nukes line is present in only 49.

Good luck with the new feature. I am sure that you can uncover many interesting trends with the sire crosses of your choice.