

TOP OF THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF THE BOTTOM

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A general review of pedigrees will show that there is a balancing act going on in many of the pedigrees we look at. The breeder is trying to balance various factors to breed the next generation. The idea of balancing the pedigree is a general term that has come to mean different things depending on what you are trying to do as a breeder. But the basic way to balance the pedigree is through linebreeding to a common ancestor.

GENETIC PRINCIPLES IN HORSE BREEDING by Dr. John F. Lasley is the “classic” text that discusses linebreeding and the benefits of this breeding theory. Dr. Lasley defines linebreeding “as a special form of inbreeding that allows you to keep a close relationship to an outstanding ancestor or ancestors.” He uses several pedigrees to illustrate linebreeding. One of those pedigrees is listed in Figure 1.

The pedigree in Figure 1 shows us that individual 5 is in the third generation of this pedigree four times. Thus individual A is linebred to individual 5. Lasley says, “Pedigree 1 shows that the sire and dam of Individual A are related only through ancestor number 5. For this reason there has been a deliberate attempt to

concentrate the inheritance of ancestor 5 in individual A by such a mating.”

This not only demonstrates a classic example of linebreeding, but it is one form of a balanced pedigree. The balanced part comes from the four branches of the pedigree that connect individual A with 5 with two branches on each side of the pedigree. These four branches allow a greater variety of genes to pass down the pedigree path to individual A from individual 5 and hopefully reproduce gene combinations that made individual 5 such an important horse.

Lasley says that this is one reason for calling it linebreeding. He described linebreeding as a way to “recapture, so to speak, a large percentage of the inheritance of an ancestor that might be dead or might not be owned by the person doing the linebreeding.”

The legendary Italian breeder Federico Tesio was noted for his ability to develop great families of horses. One of the areas Tesio relied on was linebreeding to breed his racehorses. He practiced linebreeding by duplicating such individuals as St Simon and Pocahontas in the pedigrees of horses he used and/or bred for his breeding program.

Tesio was the breeder of such legendary horses as Nearco. Nearco was the first of two undefeated racehorses bred by Tesio. This great stallion went on to found a great sire line with two very significant branches. The first branch comes through his famous son *Nasrullah. *Nasrullah was the sire of horses like Bold Ruler, who in turn was the sire of the great Secretariat. The other branch comes down through Nearco’s son Nearctic. Nearctic was the sire of the great Northern Dancer.

The pedigree of Nearco is a great example of what has become known as Tesio’s balanced breeding theory and how he used it in his horse breeding program. Ken McLean discusses this great breeding theory in the book *TESIO, MASTER OF MATINGS*. Nearco had four crosses in his pedigree to the stallion St. Simon. Two of the crosses came through Pharos, the sire of Nearco and two of these crosses came through Harvesac II, the sire of Nogara, the dam of Nearco.

Pharos was sired by Phalaris, who was out of the mare Bromus. Bromus was out of the mare Cheery by St. Simon. The dam of Pharos was Scapa Flow by Chaucer. Chaucer was sired by St. Simon. Thus Pharos had a breeding pattern of 4 X 3 to St. Simon.

On the other side of the pedigree Havresac II has a 2 X 3 breeding pattern to St. Simon. His sire was Rabelais by St. Simon. The dam of Havresac II was Hors Concours, who was out of Simona by St. Simon. This gives Nearco a 5 X 4 X 4 X 5 breeding pattern to St. Simon.

The breeding pattern 5 X 4 X 4 X 5 gives us the indication of a balance of St Simon blood in Nearco’s pedigree and that is true and is significant by itself. But Tesio carried his “balanced pedigree” theory one step further. He wanted to balance his pedigree with what has become known as “male strains” of the common ancestor and “female strains” of the common ancestor.

Pharos traced to St Simon through his sire Phalaris by way

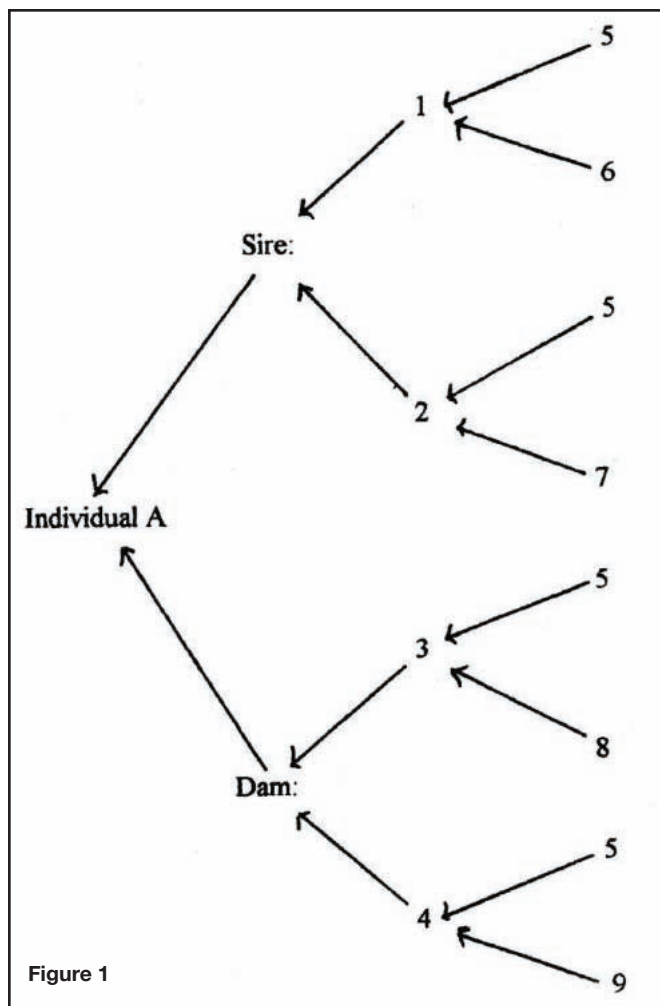


Figure 1

of the mare Cheery. Cheery was a daughter of St Simon, thus she provides us with a “female strain” of St Simon blood. Pharos was out of Scapa Flow by Chaucer by St Simon. Thus Chaucer was a “male strain” of St Simon blood.

Nogara traced to St Simon through her sire Havresac II, who was sired by Rabelais by St Simon. Thus we have a “male strain” of St Simon blood. The dam of Havresac II was Hors Concours, who was out of Simona by St Simon, thus a “female strain” of St Simon blood. Thus Havresac II has a “male strain” and “female strain” of St Simon in his pedigree.

McLean reported, “The intention (of the male strain and female strain) is to maximize the genetic impact from a dominant ancestor (be it a stallion or mare) via both sex channels--male offspring and female offspring.” This means that linebreeding to male strains and female strains allow the breeder to have the opportunity to put sex linked genes into the scheme of his linebreeding program.

An example of a sex linked gene would be one that is passed on tied in some way to the “X” or “Y” chromosome or is a gene that is passed on in conjunction with the “X” or “Y” chromosome. By using a “male strain” and “female strain” of the common ancestor you get the opportunity to pass genes or a gene combination into your foal that might not be possible if the linebreeding to the common ancestor comes through only his sons or only his daughters.

The success of the 2008 AQHA Quarter Running Champions Jess You And I, Brenda Beautiful and Noconi allows us to focus on a breeding pattern that is directly tied into the balancing of the “sex strains” of the individual in a most interesting way. These three individuals carry at least two crosses to a common ancestor. The unique part of this is that the common ancestor comes once through the sire line and then again on the other side of the pedigree through the tail female line of the individual. Thus we get a male strain of the common ancestor and a female strain of the common ancestor.

It has to be pointed out that sometimes the common ancestor will appear in the pedigree somewhere between the sire line and the tail female line. But for our purposes we are going to only

look at the appearance of the common ancestor in the sire line and the tail female line.

Let’s take a closer look at Jess You And I (2008 AQHA Running Champion Aged Gelding). His sire is Feature Mr Jess who is a son of Mr Jess Perry. Mr Jess Perry is a son of Streakin La Jolla, who is by Streakin Six by Easy Six by Easy Jet.

The dam of Jess You And I is Gold Daze, who is out of Dashes Gold Digger, a daughter of the blue hen mare Prissy Gold Digger who is by Easy Jet.

This gives Jess You And I a 6 X 4 breeding pattern to Easy Jet. Jess You And I has both a male and a female strain of Easy Jet in his pedigree and that pattern comes from the sire line and the tail female line.

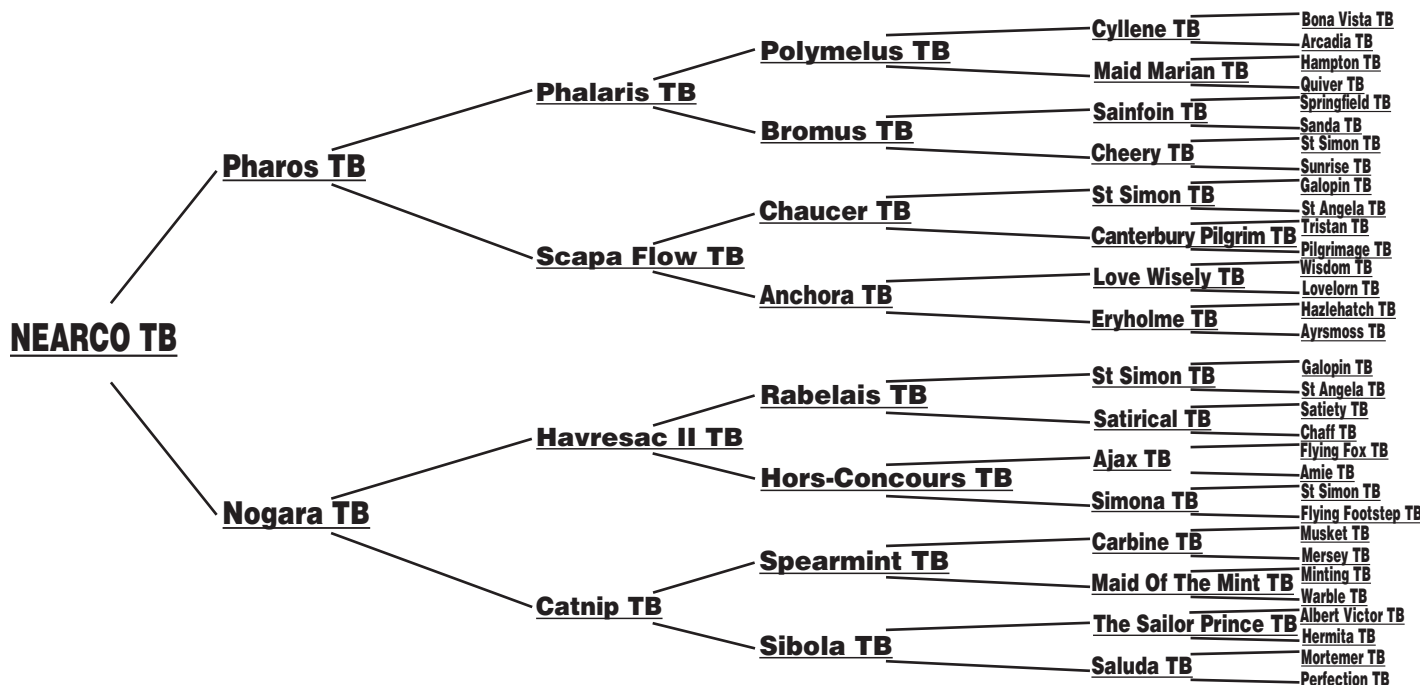
We will call this breeding pattern the “Top of the Top and the Bottom of the Bottom” as the participants always have a tie to the sire line of the individual and the tail female line of the individual. The pedigree is also balanced by the fact that the common ancestor is located at the top of the pedigree and on the bottom of the pedigree.

Noconi (the 2008 AQHA Racing Champion Three-Year-Old Gelding) is out of My Dashing Lady (2008 AQHA Champion Broodmare). Noconi is sired by Mr Jess Perry, who is a sire line descendant of Jet Deck. Mr Jess Perry is sired by Streakin La Jolla by Streakin Six by Easy Six by Easy Jet by Jet Deck.

My Dashing Lady is out of Lady Signature, who is out of the great mare Lady Juno, who is out of Juno Reward by Jet Deck. This gives Noconi a 6 X 5 breeding pattern to Jet Deck. Thus we have the male and female strains of Jet Deck coming down the sire line and tail female line of Noconi utilizing the top of the pedigree and the bottom of the pedigree.

Brenda Beautiful (2008 AQHA Running Champion Two-Year-Old Filly) is out of My Dashing Lady. My Dashing Lady traces to Jet Deck in the tail female line. Brenda Beautiful is sired by Feature Mr Jess, a son of Mr Jess Perry. This gives her a 7 X 5 breeding pattern to Jet Deck and thus is influenced by Jet Deck through a male and a female strain of this great stallion. Brenda Beautiful is a ¾ sister to Noconi.

The third Champion from this family in 2008 is Ketel Won,



(2008 AQHA Racing Champion Aged Stallion). This stallion is out of Sixy Lady, a half sister to My Dashing Lady. Sixy Lady is sired by Streakin Six and out of Lady Signature, the dam of My Dashing Lady. Sixy Lady has a breeding pattern of 4 X 4 to Jet Deck. She is a product of the breeding pattern profiled above.

Is there a historic precedence for this breeding pattern? Let's take a look, and to start our look, let's go back to Nearco. Bromus was the dam of Phalaris, the sire of Pharos. Bromus was sired by Sainfoin. Sainfoin is noted as a source of speed in the thoroughbred.

The sire of Sainfoin is Springfield. Springfield is sired by St. Albans, a son of Stockwell. Stockwell is sired by The Baron and out of the legendary Pocahontas. The dam of Sainfoin is Sanda, who is out of Sandal by Stockwell. Thus Sainfoin is 3 X 3 to Stockwell.

Scapa Flow is the dam of Pharos. Her sire is Chaucer, who was a son of St Simon. St. Simon was a son of Galopin. The dam of Scapa Flow was Anchora, who was out of Erytholme, who was out of Ayrsmoss, who was out of Rattlewings by Galopin. This gives Scapa Flow a 3 X 5 breeding pattern taking advantage of the sex strains theory.

The sire line of Pharos traces to the stallion Bend Or. Bend Or was a grandson of Stockwell. This sire line traces to a stallion name Waxy. This sire line goes like this—Stockwell by The Baron by Birdcatcher by Sir Hercules by Whale Bone by Waxy.

The tail female line of Bend Or goes to Waxy through his dam Rouge Rose. She was out of Ellen Home, who was out of Delhi, who was out of Pawn Junior, who was sired by Waxy. This gives Bend Or a breeding pattern of 7 X 5 to Waxy.

The Tetrarch is a proven source of speed in the thoroughbred and the quarter horse. His sire was Rio Herode. Rio Herode was sired by Le Samaritain by Le Sancy by Atlantic by Thormanby. The dam of Rio Herode was Roxelane. Roxelane was out of Rose Of York, who was out of Rouge Rose by Thormanby. Thus Roi Herode was 4 X 4 to Thormanby.

Let's take a look at something that is a little more current that utilizes this breeding pattern and that reinforces our history of this breeding pattern. Storm Cat has been one of the great sires of all time. His get have earned in excess of \$117,000,000. He was a

two time leading sire in the thoroughbred industry. His breeding fee at the height of his breeding career was \$500,000. He has now been retired but his legacy will live on for many years.

When we look at this great stallion's pedigree we find his third dam was a mare named Bolero Rose. Her sire is Bolero. Bolero was a fast racehorse that won 16 of his 39 starts. He was a World Record Holder for six furlongs going in 1:08 1/2. He set a World Record for seven furlongs in the San Carlos Handicap going the distance in 1:21. If we look at his pedigree we see that he came from the same female family that produced Depth Charge and Count Fleet, both influential sires.

Bolero went in his sire line to *Rock Sand. Eight Thirty was the sire of Bolero. Eight Thirty was sired by Pilate by Friar Rock by *Rock Sand. *Rock Sand was sired by Sainfoin, whose breeding pattern is a top of the top and bottom of the bottom. The breeding pattern for Sainfoin is 3 X 3 to Stockwell through the sire line and tail female line.

The dam of Bolero was Stepwisely. Stepwisely was a half sister to Quickly, the dam of Depth Charge and Count Fleet. Stepwisely and Quickly were both out of Stephanie by Stephan The Great and out of Malachite by *Rock Sand. Thus Bolero was 4 x 4 to *Rock Sand through the top of the top and the bottom of the bottom.

Stepwisely was sired by Wise Councillor. This stallion was sired by Mentor by Blackstock. Blackstock was sired by Hanover. This gives us a sire line cross in Stepwisely to Hanover.

Now if we look at Malachite we see that her dam was Miss Hanover by Hanover. Thus Stepwisely was 4 X 4 to Hanover through her sire line and her tail female line.

When we look at Hanover we see that he had a breeding pattern of 3 X 3 to Vandal. His sire was Hindoo by Virgil by Vandal. His dam was Bourbon Belle out of Ella D by Vandal.

Before we leave Bolero, we have to point out that he had a breeding pattern of 4 X 4 to The Tetrarch. Rio Herode the sire of The Tetrarch was 4 X 4 in his sire line and tail female line to Thormanby. The dam of The Tetrarch was Vahren. This mare was a granddaughter of Bend Or. Bend Or was 7 X 5 to Waxy in his sire line and tail female line.

Here are some modern quarter running horses that carry the



