

Reaching for Golden Apples

Loon has stakes winners in England and America

In an age of increased international competition, the French-bred Loon has proven herself to be a true international producer.

A foal of 1982, Loon is by the Caro stallion Kaldoun out of the Rapace mare La Java. She hails from a useful, but seemingly unfortunate French family. Her second, third and fourth dams produced a combined six foals, yet one from each generation has earned black type. La Java is the only foal out of her dam but managed a minor stakes-placing in the Prix de Porte de Passy, which is ironically the same stake her daughter would win some years later.

While Loon improved on her dam's racing performance in modest ways, she has far surpassed her family in terms of production. She has had more foals than her previous three dams, and has taken the family to new heights in terms of quality as well.

Stakes producer

Her first foal La Piaf, by Northern Dancer's son Fabulous Dancer, won the Rumson Stakes at Monmouth and placed in four other black type events including the Noble Damsel (G3). Loon produced a stakes-placed full sister to La Piaf in the early 1990s but it was the last two of her nine foals that put this mare on the map and in contention for OBI's Broodmare of the Year title.

For fans of American racing, Loon is best known as the dam of 2002 Champion Turf Female Golden Apples. Golden Apples actually began her career as a sophomore in England in 2001. She won her second start by eight lengths and ran third in the Pretty Polly (G2) at the Curragh before beginning her assault on North America for Gary Tanaka. She was immediately successful, capturing the Del Mar Oaks (G1).

In 2002, the daughter of Pivotal also began strongly, defeating Starine and Astra in the Santa Ana Handicap (G2). Golden Apples also scored a pair of grade one wins in the Beverly D and Yellow Ribbon en route to her championship, and finished first or second in all but the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1), in which she checked in fourth after an eventful trip.

Three dimensional

For followers of British racing, Loon may be more familiar as the dam of multiple 2002 stakes winner Alexander Three D. Unlike her older sister, this daughter of Pennekamp needed some time to blossom. She broke her maiden in her sixth and final start as juvenile in 2001. Similarly, it took until last fall before she really came into her own, although she ran third to Islington in her 2002 debut in the Musidora Stakes (G3).

After that, Alexander Three D found the waters a bit deep in the subsequent Vodafone Oaks (G1) and the Ribblesdale Stakes (G2) at Ascot. However, the listed Galtres Stakes in

August at York was more to her liking, tallying by two and a half lengths in that event. Her crowning race came the next month when she cantered home a length and a half the good in the Rothmans Royal Park Hill Stakes (G3).

For fans of exceptional quality, Loon certainly measured up in 2003: two multiple stakes winners, on either side of the Atlantic, both of them graded winners, one of them a champion. **OB**



Matt O'Neil is a pedigree analyst and works at Taylor Made Farm's Stallion Division.

by
**Matt
O'Neil**

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Caro	Fortuno II	Grey Sovereign	Nastullah
		Ranavalo	Kong
			Relic
			Navarra
Kaldoun	Chambord	Chamossaire	Precipitation
		Laf Hill	Snowberry
			Solaro
			Lady of the Snows
Katana	Le Haar	Vieux Manoir	Brantome
		Mince Pie	Vieille Maison
			Teleferique
			Cannelle
LOON 1982 F.	Embellie	Venue VII	Relic
		But Lovely	Rose O'Lynn
			Sayajirao
			But Beautiful
Rapace	Djefou	Djebel	Tourbillon
			Loika
		Douce Folie	Monarch
			Pure Folie
La Java	Rahnee	Lovellace	La Farina
			Straitface
		Rhode Island	Consols
			Rhodante
Bella Bimba	Silex	Sir Fellah	Sir Nigel
			Fedra
		Raribelle	Casterari
			Karabelle
Emissa		Eble	Davout
		Minerva	Even Scales
			Maravedis
			Minute

Sibling Identifier: odd numbers = same dam only; even numbers = same sire and dam
Family No. 14-c
RELIC - 5f, 5m x