

WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

Sunday, Saratoga

GO FOR WAND H.-GI, \$250,000, SAR, 7-30, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8m, 1:49 4/5, ft.

1--**SPUN SUGAR**, 118, f, 4, by [Awesome Again](#)

1st Dam: **Irish Cherry (MSW, \$147,280)**, by Irish Open

2nd Dam: **Eston**, by Ancestral (Ire)

3rd Dam: **Snipe Lake**, by Drone

O-Stronach Stables; B-Adena Springs (KY); T-Todd A Pletcher; J-M J Luzzi; \$150,000. Lifetime Record:

11-6-3-1, \$929,171.

Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or [brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree](#). [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made](#).

Spun Sugar was one of the best and most consistent three-year-old fillies of 2005. From six starts, she won three races, including the GII Black Eyed Susan S., and was second twice and third once. All of her defeats came in tilts at Grade I competition. She finished second to eventual three-year-old champion filly Smuggler in the GI Mother Goose S., second to Sweet Symphony in the GI Alabama S. and third to Smuggler and Summerly in the GI CCA Oaks.

This year, Spun Sugar laid the Grade I bogey to rest in her second start, outbattling Happy Ticket to take the GI Apple Blossom H. Next time out, she put in a rare moderate effort as the favorite in the GI Ogden Phipps H., finishing fourth behind the front-running Take D' Tour. Spun Sugar faced the first three from the Ogden Phipps in Sunday's GI Go For Wand H., but after her stable companion Pool Land hounded Take D' Tour through the early stages, Spun Sugar came through to take control in the stretch, and narrowly held off the charge of Phipps third-place finisher Balletto to win by a nose.

Looking at her pedigree, it's no surprise that Spun Sugar has improved from three to four. Her sire Awesome Again was a good three-year-old. He won the GII Jim Dandy S. and Queen's Plate S., and finished third in the GI Travers S. at that age.

Awesome Again was much better at four, going undefeated in six starts, including the GIII Hawthorne Gold Cup H., GII Saratoga Breeders' Cup H., GII Stephen Foster H., GI Whitney H. and GI Breeders' Cup Classic. We should note that the 1998 renewal of the Classic may qualify as the strongest edition yet. Those behind Awesome Again included that season's Horse of the Year Skip Away, as well as Silver Charm, Swain, Victory Gallop, Coronado's Quest, Touch Gold, Arch and Gentlemen.

At stud, Awesome Again has made a strong claim to be regarded as the rightful heir to his sire Deputy Minister. So far he has been represented by three crops aged four-year-old and upwards, and boasts 16 stakes winners, 12 of which graded.

His first crop produced eight stakes winners, headed by Horse of the Year Ghostzapper; Toccet, who took four graded events, two of them Grade I at two; and Grade III winners Hotstufanthensome, Personal Legend, Snorter and Awesome Time.

There are three stakes winners in Awesome Again's second crop, the best of which is GII True North H. victor Anew. Spun Sugar is one of five stakes winners from Awesome Again's third crop, which also includes GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile hero Wilko; Round Pond, heroine of the GI Acorn S.; and Dubai Escapade, a winner of five straight races, including the GII Vagrancy H., prior to her disappointing sixth in the GI Princess Rooney H. at Calder.

Until the appearance of Spun Sugar, the family had been a useful one mostly in regional company, but had not produced anything of graded standard for several generations. Spun Sugar's dam Irish Cherry, a daughter of the prolific sprinter Irish Open, primarily campaigned in Canada. She took the George C. Hendrie H. and La Voyageuse H., both at Woodbine. Irish Cherry's sister Taft Lil Queen, was a stakes winner at Houston, and is the dam of El Viento, an El Corredor son who brought \$150,000 as a yearling. El Viento was a three-time stakes winner at two in Puerto Rico last year. Spun Sugar's second dam Eston is by Ancestral, a Habitat son, who was a group winner in Ireland at two and three. He took the GII San Diego H. and All American H. in the U.S. at four.

Eston was only a minor winner and the only black-type under her dam, the Drone mare Snipe Creek, is Earn My Keep, winner of the Royal Vale S. at Pimlico, and a son of Snipe Creek's half-sister Silent Snipe.

Awesome Again has been covering mares from a wide variety of sire lines, but the pedigree of Spun Sugar does throw up a trend to consider. A few weeks ago when we looked at the pedigree of Seek Gold, a son of Awesome Again's stud-companion, and fellow Deputy Minister son, Touch Gold, we concluded that Touch Gold often benefited from the appearance of Tom Fool in the pedigree of his mares.

It may well be that something similar is at work with Awesome Again. He is out of a mare by Blushing Groom, and Blushing Groom's sire, Red God, is out of Spring Run, who is by Menow out of a Bull Dog mare. That is the same cross that produced Tom Fool.

A look at the pedigree of Spun Sugar's dam Irish Cherry shows that Tom Fool appears twice. The sources of this are interesting too. Red God is by Nasrullah, which combines that horse with Menow/Bull Dog. Spun Sugar's broodmare sire Irish Open is a Nasrullah line horse out of a mare by a son of Tom Fool (Menow/Bull Dog). The second Tom Fool strain in Spun Sugar's pedigree comes through Drone, who is by a grandson of Royal Charger (three-parts-brother to Nasrullah) out of a mare by Tom Fool (Menow/Bull Dog). A search through the pedigrees of Awesome Again's stakes winners reveals that Tom Fool is in six of the 16 (including other graded stakes winners Ghostzapper and Pink Champagne).

Porter cont.

Spring Run and Tom Fool are often seen in combination with Nijinsky II, whose dam, Flaming Page is a reverse Menow/Bull Dog cross. Both Awesome Again and Nijinsky II combine Northern Dancer with Menow/Bull Dog.

Nijinsky II appears in Awesome Again graded stakes winners Anew (who also has Tom Fool), Round Pond and Dubai Escapade. Dubai Escapade is particularly interesting, as her broodmare sire, Saratoga Six, is out of a mare by Irish Castle (great-grandsire of the dam of Spun Sugar), so she shares some key similarities with her paternal half-sister.

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SPUN SUGAR, f, 2002

Awesome Again	Deputy Minister	Vice Regent	Northern Dancer
			Victoria Regina
		Mint Copy	Bunty's Flight
			Shakney
	Primal Force	Blushing Groom (Fr)	Red God
			Runaway Bride
	Prime Prospect	Mr. Prospector	
		Square Generation	
Irish Cherry SW, 14-6-3-0 5 Fls, 1 GSW,	Irish Open	Irish Tower	Irish Castle
			Royal Loom
		No Opening	Buckpasser
			Bases Full
	Eston 8-1-2-3 9 Fls, 2 SW	Ancestral (Ire)	Habitat
			Ampulla (Ire)
	Snipe Lake 6 Fls, 0 SW	Drone	
		Paris Dance	