

Naughty Win Proves NY-Breds Win the World Over
By NYTBDF Exec. Director Tracy Egan

Nicknamed “Naughty” as a foal because of her resemblance to her dam Naughty Natisha, NY-bred filly Unavenged proved anything but naughty when she won at first asking on February 26th at Nakayma Racecourse in Tokyo, Japan.



It’s rare enough to win at first asking, but the half-sister to 2007 NY Horse of the Year Naughty New Yorker notched this victory in astonishing style: she defeated both colts and fillies, bested the other 15 runners by a length and a quarter, and made covering ten furlongs on yielding turf look easy. (Check out the chart at <http://japanracing.jp/en/information/jra-card-result.html>.)

Bred and raised by the husband/wife veterinarian team of Dr. William Wilmot and Dr. Joan Taylor at their Stepwise Farm in Saratoga County, NY, the filly was actually “always a delight, and never really naughty,” according to Wilmot.



Instead adds Dr. Taylor, the daughter of Empire Maker was dubbed Naughty shortly after her birth because she was the spitting image of her dam, (2007 NY broodmare of the year Naughty Natisha). It quickly became clear that she was also very smart like her mom and had the same laid-back demeanor--very cooperative and calm, but assertive enough to let you know her opinion when she deemed it necessary!"



Here's Unavenged as a yearling:

Dr. Wilmot, sounding like a proud parent, notes that "Unavenged still has her mother's pretty, dished face, but as she grew her sire's influence marked the development of her rangy, athletic, correct frame and her metamorphosis into an elegant yearling bred to go a distance of ground. Physically, it's as if Empire Maker stretched the blocky Naughty Natisha."

The filly was named Naughty when purchased by SF Bloodstock for \$110,000 out of the April 2001 Keeneland sale for two-year-olds in training. She came to the attention of her current owners, a racing club partnership called U. Taiki Farm, through horse agent Ben McIlroy.

Part-owner Dr. Harry Sweeney, DVM remembers that "though a May 18 born foal, she breezed well. She is a big rangy filly (her racing weight last Sunday was 510 kg,

or 1122 pounds) and looked like she would go a distance. In Japan, the majority of the major races are at distances from 10 to 12 furlongs, and she had no problem on Sunday when she debuted in mixed colts and fillies race over 10 furlongs on turf. The value of the race on Sunday was US\$140,000 (she earned \$73,894), so she is well on her way to repaying our investment.”

Upon making the acquaintance of the long-legged filly, Dr. Sweeney decided that the kind filly should have a more deserving name. “One of our club’s members, a New Yorker who owns a business in Japan, said that it reminded him of Johnny Cash’s great song ‘A Boy Named Sue,’ in which the singer goes through life determined to avenge the burden of his name. As we prefix many of our horses ‘un’--we currently have another USA-bred three-year-old called Unrevealed who has won two races--we finally settled on Unavenged.”

Pedigree analyst George William Smith (www.members.shaw.ca/thematchmaker/) predicts that the NY-bred daughter of Empire Maker will only improve in the days ahead. “Empire Maker has an excellent pedigree and is one of five stakes winners out of his dam. His broodmare sire was the excellent broodmare sire El Gran Senor. Empire Maker was not an instant success in North America and as a result has found his way to Japan...

The dam of Unavenged, Naughty Natisha*, was ... placed on the track and was by Known Fact ...(who) can be very useful in a pedigree if the breeder knows how to use his blood in a pedigree...

Unavenged is an example of a mare that utilizes inbreeding to a top stallion (In Reality through 2 daughters and a son) so that the foal can win anywhere and at any level.”

Dr. Sweeney and the members of his racing club hope that prediction holds true. Following her impressive maiden win, Unavenged is being aimed for the March 17th Grade 3 Flower Cup at Nakayama in Tokyo. As the race is on St. Patrick’s Day, Dr. Sweeney says “I am hoping for some good Irish luck!” New York breeders looking to establish a reputation for breeding quality racehorses no doubt share that hope for the promising product from Saratoga’s Stepwise Farm.

*Naughty Natisha will be bred to Quiet American in 2012. The Taylor/Wilmot’s believe it’s a known fact that the Fappiano-Known Fact nick works!