

Dream Ahead Coming to Australia

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Five-time Group 1 winner Dream Ahead (USA) will be the star attraction on Emirates Park's 2012 stallion roster following the successful purchase of the exceptional 3-year-old's southern hemisphere standing rights on behalf of the stud by the racing and breeding operation's CEO, Trevor Lobb.

A week after Dream Ahead proved to be one of the sensations of this year's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe program at Longchamp, Lobb was in England to put pen-to-paper for the 2010 European Co-Champion 2YO and 2011 European Champion Sprinter elect.

In so doing, Emirates Park purchased 50 percent of Dream Ahead, effectively becoming the exceptional stud prospect's major shareholder.

Lobb confirmed that Dream Ahead (***pictured***) would be heading to Australia for next year's breeding season after the young stallion had completed his first northern hemisphere stud duties at co-owners Ballyinch Stud, Co. Kilkenny. Lobb also predicted that Australasian broodmare owners will not be disappointed by the acclaimed colt's physical appearance.

"He's a magnificent individual standing 16.2 hands with an incredibly relaxed manner," confirmed Lobb. "I think anyone who saw the preliminaries for the Prix de la Foret would have noted what a wonderful temperament he possesses and now I have seen it first-hand."

Already established as one of the finest 2- and 3-year-olds in recent international racing seasons, Dream Ahead's latest performance saw the colt cap-off an exceptional racing career by taking the Group 1 Prix de la Foret (1400m).

Dream Ahead not only claimed his third major Group 1 sprint of the current European flat racing season in near course record time, but he also defeated the world acclaimed racemare Goldikova in one of the most thrilling finishes to a thoroughbred contest seen anywhere in the world this year.

Dream Ahead now boasts the formidable record of six wins, five at Group 1 level, from just nine career starts, featuring the time honoured Deauville Prix Morny (G1), Newmarket Middle Park Stakes (G1), Newmarket July Cup (G1), Haydock Sprint Cup (G1) and the Prix de la Foret.

He follows in the same path as such racing and breeding luminaries as Blushing Groom, Sharpen Up, Irish River, Lyphard, Petingo, Green Desert, Machiavellian, Royal Academy, Stravinsky, Oasis Dream, Anabaa and the incomparable Danehill as past winners of one or more of the same events.

Lobb also reported from overseas that Dream Ahead's Prix de la Foret victory had this week received the official stamp of approval. "It's been confirmed in the past few days that Timeform rated the performance 133lb. That compares more than favourably with any sprinter ever to stand in Australia."

Understandably, Lobb considers the development to be a major milestone in the history of Emirates Park.

"I've been looking for the most suitable new stallion to secure for Australia since joining Emirates Park and Dream Ahead is just that horse. I'd started negotiating his purchase well before his Prix de la Foret victory, but that win only made us more determined to secure him.

"I'd long since felt that Dream Ahead was the perfect horse for us because he was the perfect horse for Australia," Lobb added.

"He's a world-class sprinter with a magical outcross for our broodmare owners. He is an outstanding type with plenty of length and he is very sound — ideal for Australian conditions. What I personally like about Dream Ahead is that he never carried any gear [blinkers, winkers etc]. That's always the sign of a very exciting stallion prospect.

"We have not decided on whether he will race again but he really has nothing more to prove. He'll be the Cartier Sprinter of the Year and people shouldn't forget that he was also equal top-rated 2-year-old of last season with none other than Frankel."

Lobb stressed: "Securing a horse of Dream Ahead's calibre signals the beginning of a new era at Emirates Park. His Excellency Nasser Lootah and his son Hussain are providing me with the backing to

develop their existing concern into one of Australia's most commercial racing and breeding enterprises. Being given the go-ahead to secure such a magnificently credentialed young stallion with obvious appeal in both hemispheres is a clear indication of our intentions."

Dream Ahead is a representative of one of Britain's most successful speed lines through his immediate sire Diktat and paternal grandsire Warning.

Diktat was himself a winner of the Group 1 Haydock Sprint Cup during a season in which he earned the title of European Champion Older Sprinter. Warning was the European Champion 2YO and 3YO of his generation before commencing his decorated stud career.

In addition, Dream Ahead's damsire Cadeaux Genereux was the European Champion 3YO Sprinter in 1988 and European Champion Older Sprinter in 1989, and is an equally acclaimed source of speed in the northern hemisphere.

Emirates Park nominations manager Bryan Carlson was quick to point out that Dream Ahead's finest inherent quality is his natural speed.

"Dream Ahead has some hugely impressive selling points that clearly establish his innate sprinting ability," revealed Carlson. "For instance, his time in winning the Prix de la Foret was the fastest in the race's history. Also, his time when winning the Prix Morny was the race's second fastest ever, and his Haydock Sprint Cup was won in the third fastest time on record. Winning the Middle Park by nine lengths was also some feat."

For any further information on Emirates Park's purchase of Dream Ahead, please contact Trevor Lobb on 0418 240 230 or Bryan Carlson on 0447 466 552.

Emirates Park Release