



THE Standardbred — JOURNAL —

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STINGLIKE A BK

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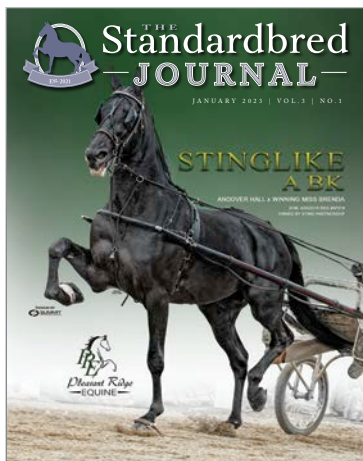
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ON THE COVER



Our cover for this issue is Stinglike A BK, an up-and-coming black stallion standing in Goshen, Indiana at Pleasant Ridge Equine.

Cover photo courtesy Wade Wilcox

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Photo: Mark Hall

SIERRA KOSMOS

ЗІЯБВА КОЗВО?

Stallion Feature: Sierra Kosmos

By John Sacco Photos by Mark Hall

SOME GUYS HAVE all the looks and brains.

Add in great athletic ability and a legacy with seemingly no end, well, one gets the picture.

Sierra Kosmos, before passing in the summer of 2020, was one of the fastest trotters of the 1990s. He had it all, before dying at age 31 on Rick and Gina Beinhauer's farm in Pennsylvania. They had been his owners since the horse was a yearling. The horse was part of the Beinhauer family.

And even as great of a trotter as he was, Sierra Kosmos also became a productive and prolific stud, producing numerous outstanding mares and colts—some tremendous on a racetrack, with others sought after in the buggy world.

“His [offspring] have common sense—keen heads,” said Conrad Yoder, owner of CJ's Equine. “He produced horses with a lot of giddyup and go. His mares are the best. Their heads are up, like they are on a stand. Not all horses have that. It makes for a really nice horse.”

Yoder continued, “With smart horses like those of Sierra Kosmos, you can teach them how to respect your space and not be snipping at you or stepping on your toes. They are horses that drive nicely. They keep the pace you want, and if you want them to go, they'll go.”

As a trotter in 1992, Sierra Kosmos took a mark of 1:53.4 at the Red Mile with Rick Beinhauer in the sulky, shortly after setting a world record of 1:56.3 over the half-mile track at Delaware when he won the Old Oaken Bucket.

“The horse was extremely fast out of the gate,” Beinhauer said. “He was dominant as a two-year-old. If he didn't make a break at the gate, he wasn't going to be beat. Same thing as a three-year-old. He made some mistakes at the gate. When he didn't, he wasn't beaten.

“I took care of him myself,” Beinhauer reminisced. “We had him all over the country, my wife, my father and mother...Sierra Kosmos was wonderful. He was very kind—not a mean bone in his body. My kids could get under his feet and he wouldn't be bothered. He was a heck of a good horse.”

Sierra Kosmos was the son of Nearly Perfect, and when Hanover Shoe Farms stood him at stud, he sired in his first crop No Nonsense Woman, the Breeders' Crown winner and Hambletonian Oaks runner-up (3,1:54, \$1,261,909). Another top filly, Fern (4,1:52.3, \$1,245,502), came out of Sierra Kosmos's second crop of foals.

He was pensioned after breeding mares in 2014.

SIERRA KOSMOS 2,1:56.4-1:58.1f; 3,1:53.4-1:56.3h (\$558,710)

BROWN HORSE. FOALED 1989. 16 HANDS.

RACING RECORD					
Age	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
2	14	8	2	1	\$117,460
3	16	7	4	1	441,250
—	30	15	6	2	\$558,710

At 2, winner E.H. Harriman Cup, leg Pennsylvania Sires S. at The Meadows, 2 heats Horseman S., Reynolds Mem., Arden Downs S.; second in Tompkins-Geers S., elim. Review S.; third in Final Review S. At 3, **set world record on half-mile track (1:56.3h)** and winner heat World Trotting Derby, Final Beacon Course T., Old Oaken Bucket, leg Pennsylvania Sires S. at The Meadows, elim. Bluegrass S., Northfield G.C.; second in Zweig Mem., elim. Beacon Course T.; third in race-off World Trotting Derby. **Set season's leading 1:53.4 mark on a mile track at Lexington. Finished second in divisional balloting for 3-year-old colt trotter of the year in 1992.**

MALE LINE

By **NEARLY PERFECT** 2,2:00; 3,1:55.2; 4,1:54 (\$630,327). Sire of 46 in 2:00, 6 in 1:55 from 282 foals, 120 winners from 168 starters and 16 earning over \$100,000, including: **Sierra Kosmos** 3,1:53.4 (\$558,710), **King Pine** 3,1:54 (\$489,142), **Imperfection (M)** 4,1:54.1 (\$932,331), **Whiteland Janice (M)** 3,1:54.1 (\$286,337). Total earnings of \$6,910,665.

FEMALE LINE

1st Dam
SUNKISS BEL 2,2:09.2f; 3,2:06.4f (\$13,383) by Noble Victory. 6 wins. Dam of:
SIERRA KOSMOS 2,1:56.4; 3,1:53.4 (\$558,710) (Nearly Perfect). As above.
STONEWALL KOSMOS 2,1:59 (\$149,296) (Nearly Perfect). 11 wins. At 2, winner leg Pennsylvania Sires S., Tompkins-Geers S., heat Hoosier Fut.; second in leg and Final Pennsylvania Sires S., Keystone Classic, heat Hoosier Fut.; third in heat Review S., E.H. Harriman Cup, Northfield G.C. At 3, winner leg Pennsylvania Sires S.

SIERRA KOSMOS STUD ANALYSIS

From 646 starters, sire of 207 in 2:00, 20 in 1:55, with earnings of \$27,024,544, including:

NO NONSENSE WOMAN (M) 2,1:57.1; 3,1:54 (\$1,261,909). **Dan Patch, Nova 3-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year in 1997.** At 2, winner elim. and Final Goldsmith Maid T., leg and Final Pennsylvania Sires S., elim. Breeders Crown; third in Acorn S. At 3, winner elim. and Final Breeders Crown, elim. and Final Matron S., World Trotting Derby Filly S., 2 legs and Final Pennsylvania Sires S., Colonial Lady; second in elim. and Final Hambletonian Oaks. (**Sarah's Fergi by Prakas**)

FERN (M) 2,2:02.4f; 3,1:54.4; 4,1:52.3 (\$1,245,502). **Dan Patch, Nova 3-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year in 1998.** At 2, second in Keystone Classic. At 3, winner elim. and Final Hambletonian Oaks, elim. and Final Del Miller Memorial T., Bluegrass S., Kentucky Filly Fut., 2 legs Pennsylvania Sires S., elim. Currier & Ives Filly S.; second in Final Currier & Ives Filly S.; third in heat World Trotting Derby Filly S., Final Pennsylvania Sires S., elim. Breeders Crown. At 4, winner elim. Breeders Crown, 2 legs Classic Ser.; second in Final Breeders Crown. At 5, winner 2 legs and Final Classic Ser. (**Hildy Hanover by Speedy Crown**)

SPRINGTOP 3,1:57.4f; 1:53.1 (\$1,209,078). **O'Brien Older Trotting Horse of the Year in 2002.** At 3, winner leg Pennsylvania Sires S.; third in leg Pennsylvania Sires S., Keystone Classic. At 5, third in leg Father Foley Mem. Ser. (**Bambino Von by Yankee Bambino**)

KICK TAIL 3,1:54.2; 4,1:53.3 (\$730,482). At 3, winner World Trotting Derby, Dickerson Cup, 2 legs Pennsylvania Sires S.; second in Final Pennsylvania Sires S., elim. Breeders Crown; third in elim. and Final Hambletonian, Final American-National S., heat Kentucky Fut. At 4, winner Final Cutler Mem. FFA, elim. Nat Ray, Frank & Elizabeth Ervin T. (**Victorious Tail by Bonefish**)

DONNEGAL 3,Q1:59.2f; 4,1:56.4f (\$404,107). At 3, winner 3 legs Holiday Ser.; second in Pennsylvania All-Stars; third in leg Pennsylvania Sires S., Reynolds Mem. At 4, winner 2 legs Bonus

NEARLY PERFECT	SONGCAN	FLORICAN
		AMI SONG
	EXCITING	SUPER BOWL
		GYPSY SLIPPER
SUNKISS BEL	NOBLE VICTORY	VICTORY SONG
		EMILY'S PRIDE
	SUNDAY HILL	BF COALTOWN
		STARLETTE HILL

Ser.; second in leg and Final Bonus Ser., 2 legs Hiram Woodruff Ser.; third in Final Hiram Woodruff Ser. (**Practickle by Prakas**)
SILVER PINE 2,2:00.1; 3,1:54.1 (\$373,663). At 2, winner American-National S., leg Pennsylvania Sires S., Hoosier S.; second in International Stallion S.; third in elim. Breeders Crown. At 3, winner elim. Hambletonian, Dickerson Cup; second in heat World Trotting Derby, elim. and Final Beacon Course T. (**Pine Speed by Speedy Somolli**)

KOSMO GIRL (M) 2,2:00.3f; 3,1:56f (\$360,689). At 2, winner 2 legs Pennsylvania Sires S., Pennsylvania All-Stars, Reynolds Mem.; second in Bluegrass S., leg Pennsylvania Sires S. At 3, winner leg and Final Pennsylvania Sires S., elim. and Final Currier & Ives Filly S., Lady Suffolk, Maryland Stbd. Race Fund, Pennsylvania All-Stars; second in elim. and Final Hambletonian Oaks. (**Montesquieu by Speedy Crown**)

SOLICITOR HANOVER 3,1:56f; Q1:55f (\$312,236). At 2, second in leg Pennsylvania Sires S.; third in The Standardbred, Keystone Classic. At 3, winner Arden Downs S.; second in elim. Yonkers T., leg Pennsylvania Sires S.; third in Final Yonkers T. At 4, second in leg Horse & Groom Ser., leg Father Foley Mem. Ser. (**Swanee Hanover by American Winner**)

YANKEE MERCURY 3,1:58.2f; 4,1:54.4 (\$301,167). At 2, second in Pennsylvania All-Stars, Maryland Stbd. Race Fund; third in leg Pennsylvania Sires S. At 3, winner Keystone Classic, Maryland Stbd. Race Fund, Reynolds Mem., leg Autumn Foliage Ser.; second in 2 legs Pennsylvania Sires S., Maryland Stbd. Race Fund; third in Arden Downs S. At 4, winner leg Horse & Groom Ser.; second in Final Horse & Groom Ser.; third in Final Father Foley Mem. Ser. (**Yankee Mama by Speedy Crown**)

FRISKY FELLA 2,Q2:00.3f; 3,Q1:55.4f (\$299,143). At 3, winner Keystone Classic, Arden Downs S. At 5, second in 2 legs Horse & Groom Ser. (**Fancy Patty by Super Bowl**)

COSMIC CRUNCH 3,1:59.4; 1:54.4 (\$287,809). (**Crunchess by Prakas**)

KODIAK EXPRESS 2,2:01.4f; 3,Q1:59f; 1:54.3 (\$285,843). At 2, winner leg Pennsylvania Sires S., Arden Downs S. At 3, winner Arden Downs S. (**Melon Hanover by Super Bowl**)

BUDLIGHTNING 2,2:00.1f; 3,1:56.3f; 1:53.2z (\$276,060). At 2, winner The Standardbred, Arden Downs S., cons. Pennsylvania Sires S. At 3, winner 2 legs Pennsylvania Sires S. (**Photogenic C by Photo Maker**)

COLUMBIA COUNTY 2,2:02.2h; 3,1:58.3f-'09 (\$84,854). (**Keystone Delicacy by Malabar Man**)

Property of Sierra Kosmos Syndicate

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Sierra Kosmos was an attractive dark colt with distinct markings—a star and a stripe down his nose, with four white ankles below—features that were as apparent and beautiful as his general presence and awareness.

“He was bought right here [in Meadowlands, Pennsylvania], at an Adios Day sale,” said Jeff Zidek, longtime horseman and the Meadows’ track announcer. “I think the sale price was \$7,200. I was friends with a guy who worked for Rick at the time. He and I went to see the horse in the stall right after he was bought. I thought then, ‘Wow, one of the most striking appearances I’ve ever seen.’ He was just a beautiful animal with his markings. A sports car in the wagon industry.”

In addition to Sierra Kosmos’s makeup and genetics, there are other reasons his offspring are so popular in the buggy world. His mares are typically good-looking, and they’re smart, strong, and willing to work.

In other words, they are the whole package.

“They’re sensible—smart and easy to train,” said an industry source. “Sierra Kosmos’s horses were just nice horses.”

Rick Beinhauer purchased Sierra Kosmos, but Dan Altmeyer, a family friend, developed the horse. And Beinhauer handled the reins during the colt’s career.

In 1991 as a two-year-old, Sierra Kosmos won the Hoosier Futurity in Indianapolis with eight of fourteen starts and a mark of 1:56.4. He brought \$117,460 that season.

While the horse wasn’t able to run the Hambletonian that year due to eligibility, Sierra Kosmos beat the Hambletonian hopefuls one week before the big race in the Meadowlands’ \$454,500 Beacon Course Trot in New Jersey. He won in 1:54.4.

After racing against the horse himself that year, Hall of Fame horseman Howard Beissinger claimed that Sierra Kosmos was “the fastest trotter in North America.”

Then as a three-year-old in the Old Oaken Bucket, Sierra Kosmos won in a romp in 1:56.3—the fastest sophomore race trotting mile ever on Delaware’s half-mile track.

Other victories included a 1:53.4 time in Lexington, Kentucky, against the grandest Grand Circuit three-year-olds in North America.

“My father felt that when there came an opportunity for us to syndicate him, we should do that,” said Beinhauer, who served as an undertaker with the family business in McMurray, just a few miles from his stables at the Meadows. “I would have loved to race him as a four-year-old, because he was getting really good. But we retired him after his three-year-old season.”

Beinhauer added that he appreciates the light Sierra Kosmos is viewed in, in terms of his racing career and abilities as a stud and for being so well-thought-of in the buggy industry. “I’m glad he is so appreciated in any format or industry,” he said. “He always carried his head high; he would catch people’s attention. He was just that kind of a horse. He was certainly a successful sire, and his daughters carried on his speed. He was always a pleasure to be around because of his pleasant disposition.”

Sierra Kosmos was also a sought-after stallion because of his pedigree, which included the genetics of 1940s greats Florican and Victory Song. The horse served 1,147 mares in his first seven seasons at Hanover Shoe Farms as stud. In addition to No Nonsense Woman and Fern, some of his other top-trotter offspring were Kosmo Girl, Springtop, Silver Pine, Donnegal, Kick Tail, and Bettis. He also sired the dams of trotters Anders Bluestone, Lucky Jim, and Calchips Brute that brought in millions.

“Sierra Kosmos’s horses are more athletic than most,” Conrad Yoder stated. “They are more refined and better for reproduction. They’re the kind of horses you want to own, raise, and keep.”



Sierra Kosmos had a beautiful head and passed this trait on to his offspring.



Warhorse, a direct son of Sierra Kosmos was campaigned successfully in the roadster classes by the Master of Faster, Raymond Shively. He competed from 2013 to 2017. In 2013 and 2014, Warhorse was unbeaten.

A horse and buggy, or a horse and carriage, refers to a simple, lightweight, two-person carriage of the last three centuries, usually pulled by one or sometimes two horses. It can also be called a roadster or a trap. The vehicle was generally made with two wheels in England and the United States, though it could also be made with four wheels. It had a folding or falling top.

During the twenty-first century, the buggy continued to be used for everyday means of transportation by the Amish and others, including conservative groups like Old Order German Baptist Brethren and Old Brethren German Baptists. The style of their buggies, and especially the color of the buggy tops—namely, black, grey, brown, yellow, or white—can be used to distinguish Old Order communities and even become part of a group's identity.

Commercial horse-and-buggy rides are provided as transportation in a few places worldwide—mostly for tourists—like in New York City's Central Park and Mackinac Island, Michigan, as well as in Vienna and Brussels.

Allen Raber is a huge proponent of Sierra Kosmos's offspring, particularly mares.

"Most of them produce," Raber said. "They are beautiful, hot, and smart, with lots of brains. But best of all, they have pretty heads. Pretty heads start everything. If you don't have a pretty head, you don't have anything. Most Sierra Kosmos mares produce very well. Another thing about the Sierra mares is that they produce a lot of black-colored horses."

When Sammy Miller of Sierra Ridge Stables in Hastings, Michigan, got started in the business, it was before the

Keystone Forego, a son of Sierra Kosmos, was the foundation of the buggy horse breeding operation owned by Conrad Yoder.



Photo: Conrad Yoder

Amish started raising “so many colts” for buggy horses a little more than a decade ago. “Not a whole lot of people were doing what we were trying to do—and that was raise Dutch Harness horses,” he said. “I always knew that if I found the right Standardbred, I wanted to raise colts like that.”

The Dutch Harness horse, also called Tuigpaard, is a top-driving warmblood breed that was first developed in the Netherlands at the end of the Second World War and continues today. The breed is based on native horses from the areas of Groningen and Gelderland, which had been essential for transportation and agriculture. Within a few decades—given some focus and select genetic choices—breeders yielded this cultivated, high-stepper of a horse from that early breed. The population is not extensive, and Dutch Harness horses are easily recognizable. A handful have also come to North America in the last few years, put to use as sport horses and saddle-seat types.

Miller said, “I went with a friend to a sale in Pennsylvania during the last year Sierra Kosmos bred. He was a nice horse, and I knew that if I got my hands on a good Sierra

mare, I’d like to try one. The conformation was absolutely what I was looking for. I thought that was exceptionally good.

“I really liked one particular mare. My boys were getting old enough, and that mare had a lot of drive. She was three years old, and they could do what they wanted with her. A year later at the same sale, I found another one who was reasonably long, and I bought her. I liked her better than the first one. Sierra Kosmos’s whole family has a lot of brains—a lot of smarts.”

According to Allen Raber, Sierra Kosmos’s offspring had it all.

“His horses are more refined,” Raber said. “You can’t be driving nut bags on the road. It’s hard to breed top-shelf show horses and still have them fit to be driving on a road on a consistent basis.

“You need some common sense,” Raber concluded. “Those horses have it. They have pretty heads, good strength, endurance, and they’re not high-maintenance. You must breed right, and Sierra Kosmos was bred right.” *TSJ*