

BLACK RADIANT - FS

ASH Reg: 9412

BLACK RADIANT - FS has the distinction of being by the same horse, Radiant, as the most successful Australian Stock Horse Foundation stallion of all time, ABBEY - FS. BLACK RADIANT - FS was born five years later than ABBEY - FS in 1960. As a sire BLACK RADIANT - FS had 60 progeny whereas his more illustrious relation had 260 progeny.

BLACK RADIANT's - FS influence is felt in 1,161 descendants and ABBEY's - FS in a mind boggling 30,641 descendants. These figures combined give their sire, Radiant, a massive influence in the Australian Stock Horse Stud Book.

Radiant, the sire of BLACK RADIANT - FS, at one stage of his career was campaigned by Charlie Ball, an Uncle of Harry Ball, breeder of ABBEY - FS. When Radiant was 17 years of age well known campdrafter, Jack Hope, was to take over riding him in campdrafts. In an interview with Jack in 2002 he told me the following story about Radiant.

"I won campdrafts on him," said Jack Hope, "but the time I remember best was the time I took him to Glen Innes. I had him in a stall and went around early on the morning of the campdraft to take him out for a ride. When I got on, for the one and only time I had him he tried to buck. It frightened me! I thought if he does that when I go on the camp I won't ride him. Radiant was a very good horse but that day when I rode onto the camp, he was watching like he'd never watched before. After the

BLACK RADIANT - FS ASH Reg: 9412	Radiant	Radium II	Radium
			Molly
	Rossolus	Lady Squires	Squires
			Stranger Mare
	Unknown	Chrysolus	Unknown
			Unknown

first round we were leading with a score of 89, three points clear of the field. In the draw for the second round I came out number 1. I scored 90. As I rode past the timekeeper he said he had timed me at 20 seconds to complete the course, the fastest he had ever clocked. I sat in the stand laughing watching the other runs as I knew there was nothing anyone could do to beat me."

Two things amaze me about this story, the first, what a good horse Radiant was and secondly, he was at least 17 years old when he managed this tremendous feat.

Jack, in that interview in 2002, also fitted more of the pieces of the Radiant story together.

"There was a cattleman from Kempsey (home town of Jack Hope and the Ball Families) called Victor Farrell who was over at a Gloucester cattle sale one day and saw a man riding a young horse. This horse was bought by Victor and was known as Radium III, he was a full brother to Radiant. This made Charlie Ball keen to get Radiant when he saw this horse."

Enter the scene another character called Roy Harwood.

Jack Hope recalls, "Roy Harwood was incredible at picking Thoroughbred mares from which to breed stallions. He picked the mare, Lady Squires as the mare to put to Radium II to breed Radiant and Radium III."

"It wasn't a fluke as later on I went with him to a Scone Thoroughbred Sale when he was looking for another Thoroughbred mare to put to Radiant to breed another stallion. I remember it well - everywhere you looked there were beautiful mares and foals but Roy had his mind set on this one mare, Interrogate. He said to me, "What do you think of her?" "I like her," I said "but there are beautiful mares everywhere." He bought the mare and brought her home and put her to Radiant but our first foal was a filly. Unfortunately Radiant died before



COMARA PRINCESS - FM dam of BLACK RADIANT's - FS most successful sire son, EAGLE. Pictured with Theo Hill following a win in the Novice Campdraft at Willawarrin

we could breed to this mare again, so Roy put her to another Radium stallion, Wisemantles Ken Radium, the resultant foal was the stallion, INTERVIEW, one of the greatest campdrafters ever seen on the North Coast. Roy Harwood had an incredible knack of breeding champions."

To give you some idea of the calibre of INTERVIEW, in 1968 Jack Hope rode him in seven consecutive campdrafts for six firsts and one fourth.

As far as I can ascertain Roy Harwood owned Radiant throughout his entire life even though he was campaigned by other riders.

Radiant was by Radium II, a prolific winner of campdrafts whose career was cut short by a broken leg. Many horsemen of that time believed that Radium II was so good that there was very little between him and his illustrious sire, Radium. Radium was an extremely influential sire. Radium II was out of a mare called Molly. This mare was by Zaraff who was by Zulu a Thoroughbred horse that won the 1881 Melbourne Cup. Molly's dam was by Eclipse, a horse bred at Cooplacurripa. He was a very good horse that spent some time with well know horseman, Ken McKay, at Cangon Stud Farm, Dungog. Eclipse was by Cecil and out of the Thoroughbred mare, Moss Rose.

The dam of Radiant was the Thoroughbred mare Lady Squires. This mare as mentioned earlier was selected by Roy Harwood specifically to breed this stallion. She was also the dam of Radium III. Lady Squires was by Squires and out of a Stranger mare. As was the case with so many Thoroughbred mares at this time they were not entered in the Thoroughbred Studbook so tracing their exact pedigree is difficult.

Black Radiant's dam was another Thoroughbred mare, Rossolus who was by Chrysolus. Once again this Thoroughbred mare was not in the studbook.

The most successful sire son of BLACK RADIANT - FS was EAGLE (118 progeny) a horse bred by Theo and Bonnie Hill of Comara Stud and out of their champion broodmare, COMARA PRINCESS - FM (6,412 descendants). This mare was also the dam of the legendary ABDUL - IS, so EAGLE and ABDUL - IS were more than half brothers as both were by a horse by Radiant.

"I took Princess to BLACK RADIANT - FS," recalls Theo, "as he was by 'Old Ray' (the nickname of Radiant) who of course was the sire of ABBEY - FS. At the time BLACK RADIANT - FS was owned by Earl Meehan who I think probably owned him all his life. Earl had a dairy farm on the Lower Macleay" (North Coast, NSW).

"BLACK RADIANT - FS looked a lot like ABBEY - FS," recalls Theo, "he was jet black and a good sort of horse. He had the same length of rein as ABBEY - FS but was probably a better horse in the wither than ABBEY - FS. He was a more Thoroughbred type of horse."

"I played polo on EAGLE and also won campdrafts on him. When I finished campdrafting he was an Open Campdraft horse. I remember that often I'd be going to an event and I would have EAGLE and ABDUL - IS, both stallions, on the float together."

EAGLE then went from Theo and Bonnie to Theo's cousin, Debbie Symons, (Nee Hill) of Carinya, Moonbi in 1973.

When I spoke to Debbie she was so pleased that EAGLE would get a little bit of recognition as he was such a wonderful all round horse.

"During his life," said Debbie, "he played top polo being in the winning team for the Dudley Cup, the Australian Gold Cup and the Telegraph Gold Cup at the Sydney Royal. As a campdrafter he won the NSW Championship Novice Campdraft, the Open Campdraft at Gunnedah and the Mid North Coast Open Campdraft at Willawarrin. He was Champion Led Stallion on a few occasions and was also a winner in hacking. His progeny, like him, were successful in a range of events. Arthur Carter's Champion polo mares Emblem and CONNAMARA ARIANA were by him, Four X another foal won the Canning Downs Campdraft at Warwick and TILBA SPARROW another foal won Dressage competitions at National Level. EAGLE passed away peacefully at Carinya in 1992, a much loved member of the Hill and Symons families."

I spoke to Bruce Woods of Kempsey, who told me, "I think most of the mares that went to BLACK RADIANT - FS were from around here, I don't think many came from far afield. I had a good mare by him called CINDY JUNE that was an Open Campdraft mare. I lent her to Laurie Stephenson who also campdrafted her and had success. I also remember the first demonstration and sale that The Australian Stock Horse Society had in Dubbo in 1972. I was invited with Matt Hoffman to go to Dubbo and give a demonstration of cutting. Matt rode his good mare ABBEY LEE and I rode a BLACK RADIANT - FS colt called STORMY. I still have the thank you letter from Mary Griffith, the Secretary at that time."

Bruce also has a copy of the expenses he claimed, 35 years ago, and we have a laugh about them. Travel from Kempsey on the North Coast of NSW to Dubbo in the West and return, \$50 and accommodation \$11!

Another good horse by BLACK RADIANT - FS was Peter Henry's HENRYS ALIMO (15 progeny), other sires by him were BULLRAY (33), COOPERS GAY RAY (18) and a good mare, ARCADIA JEDDA, who produced the sire ARCADIA DIVIDE (24) used by the Bibbenluke Stud.

BLACK RADIANT - FS was a sire that was never performed himself. He stood on Earl Meehan's dairy farm property on the Lower Macleay. As Bruce Woods indicated it was only a few local mares that patronised him but despite this he was able to show his quality as a sire by producing some very good horses that have bred on. From 60 original registered progeny it is a wonderful achievement that this horse has achieved Foundation Stallion status. 🐾



EAGLE