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THE EUROPEAN VIEW ~ By Klaus Koch

Sweden's Broline International Is Making News Around The World



Photo by Monica Thors

Klaus Koch

In early February the breeding industry was caught a bit flat-footed when it was announced that the just retired Celebrity Secret would not be standing at stud in the United States. He had been purchased by Swedish interests and would be plying his trade in Scandinavia.

The purchaser, who made an offer that was described as "one that could not be refused" by Kentuckiana Farms who were to manage the stallion, was Broline Farm, one of Europe's premier breeding operations.

In recent years a number of top North American stallions have gone to stud at the famous Broline International. They include Pine Chip, Lindy Lane, Ken Warkentin and now Celebrity Secret. This month I'll delve into the history of the farm.

The name Broline might be new and unknown to many North Americans, but the stud farm which carries the name has a history of more than 30 years. It was founded in 1974 by the late Bruno Janstorp, who ran the business until he passed at quite a young age in 2000. After Janstorp's death the current owner,

Mr. Sune Svedberg, who is a big manufacturer of bathroom products, bought the farm and continued the operation, which is now under the direction of his son-in-law Tommy Norén.

It all began when Bruno Janstorp, who had grown up with farming horses, purchased an average trotter at Halmstad Racetrack in southern Sweden. Soon he bought the farm Brokvarn ("Bridgemill") in nearby Svenljunga. The first foal was born in 1975 and was given the name Jansbro Active (Super Bowl). Jansbro from Janstorp/Brokvarn was initially supposed to be the stud name, but somebody in Sweden owned a company by that name, and objected successfully against it.

The young horse's name was changed to Active Bowler and he eventually won some of the biggest races of his generation: the Breeders Stakes as a two-year-old and the Criterium as a three-year-old. He finished second in the Derby at four and eventually became a great sire in Sweden.

Janstorp invented a new farm name: Broline, which has now been branding

their horses since 1976. The first international star was Dalene Broline, a Hickory Smoke mare born in 1978 who won a number of big races throughout Europe for the young trainer Torbjörn Jansson.

The biggest star of them all was born a year later in Evita Broline, a daughter of Nevele Pride who became the greatest trotting mare in the world in her time.

At three she won the prestigious Gran Premio Orsi Mangelli in Milan, Italy and at four the Jarlsberg Grand Prix in Norway. As an older mare she won Gran Premio Orlandi in Italy and the Bavarian Grand Prix in Germany. She finished second in both the Italian championship Gran Premio della Lotteria and in the Elitlopp at her home track Solvalla in Stockholm, Sweden. Throughout her entire career she was trained and driven by Berndt Lindstedt.

Since the days of Evita Broline a large number of Broline horses have continued to prevail. The next star was JR Broline

(Speedy Somolli), who became an European champion for trainer Olle Goop, and he is still the most winning horse carrying the Broline name. Evita is second.

In recent years two Broline offspring have won the 'Swedish Hambletonian,' the sprint championship in Halmstad, where it all began: Regent Broline and Fantasy Broline.

In the beginning Bruno Janstorp had 11 broodmares, nowadays there are 29 in the barns at Brokvarn. The type of operation has changed over the years as well. In the middle of the 80s a professional trainer/driver, Ove Kristoffersson, was assigned by Broline to train a number of horses, and he managed to finish third in the 1985 Elitlopp with American-bred Brandy Hanover by Super Bowl. Meadow Road won.

Kristoffersson later became a trainer in Italy and for a short while in the mid-90s top trainer Karl Erik Nilsson came down from Solvalla to take over the management, but soon Broline returned to pure breeding activities and it remains so today.

Throughout the years a number of sires were at stud on Broline and it normally stood one or maybe two stallions. After the Svedberg family took over, the operation has changed to involve several top stallions.

It began in 2001, when Pine Chip (Arndon) was purchased from Castleton by a syndicate surrounding Broline. An important member of that syndicate is the Norwegian Borre Hoybye, who has been involved in further North American stallions at Broline: Lindy Lane and most of all Ken Warkentin (Yankee Glide). Now being added to the Broline stallion park is Celebrity Secret (Yankee Glide), Quite Easy (Andover Hall) and last year's Elitlopp winner Exploit Caf who was recently retired.

There are other bloodlines than North American ones represented at the farm. French bred chestnut Juliano Star (Buvetier d'Aunou by Royal Prestige) has already achieved fantastic success in Sweden as the sire of Commander Crowe the subject of an earlier column as you



Broline International, founded more than 30 years ago, has had many famous graduates, with one of the best known being Evita Broline (top) who was the world's best trotting mare of her era.

might recall.

Juliano Star is co-owned by Swedish champion trainer Stig H. Johansson, who has been working closely with Broline for many years and achieved a lot of his top results with Broline horses, and the French harness racing mogul Jean Pierre Dubois, who bred the horse.

This year Broline is producing its 35th vintage of talented trotters, and we may count on the well known stud name for many years to come.

This was all this time. Please do not hesitate to comment my articles. My e-mail address is ontrack@telia.com and as

usual I would be more than happy to get reactions from North American harness racing fans. 🐾

Till next time,
Klaus Koch

Klaus Koch is one of Scandinavia's leading racing administrators and is perhaps best known for his former role as director of racing at Solvalla Racetrack. His duties included orchestrating the Elitlopp, one of the world's most prestigious races, and attracting North American and Australasian horses to compete in the event.