

PIVOTAL (GB): *Chef-de-Race* (Intermediate/Classic)

Ch. horse, 1993 – Polar Falcon (USA)-Fearless Revival (GB) (by Cozzene USA)

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By Steve Miller



Essential influence for speed

PIVOTAL stands at Cheveley Park Stud, the very smart sprinter-son of Polar Falcon (champion sprinter in France, son of Nureyev and grandson of Northern Dancer) out of the Cozzene mare Fearless Revival. He was trained in England by Sir Mark Prescott, winning four races at two and three, at 5 and 6 furlongs, from just six starts. Pivotal won the Group 1 Nunthorpe Stakes at York in the second-fastest time ever (56.53 sec.) and was also the winner of the Group 2 King's Stand Stakes, at Royal Ascot. He achieved a best Racing Post Rating (RPR) of 120 and a Timeform rating of 124 in *Racehorses* of 1996.

At stud Pivotal has sired over 70 Group winners and 26 individual Group/Grade 1 winners from some 17 crops of racing age. His Group/Grade 1 winners comprise: **Golden Apples** (Champion Turf Filly in the US in 2002 and winner of six races, including the Grade 1 Yellow Ribbon Stakes, Del Mar Oaks and Beverley D Stakes); **Somnus** (Champion Sprinter in Europe in 2004. Winner of nine races including Group 1 Sprint Cup, Prix Maurice de Gheest and Prix de la Foret); **African Story** (winner of G1 Dubai World Cup and Godolphin Mile); **Halfway To Heaven** (classic winner of Irish 1,000 Guineas and Group 1 winner of the Nassau Stakes and Sun Chariot Stakes); **Megahertz** (won 13 races including the Grade 1 Yellow Ribbon Stakes); **Peeress** (winner of the Group 1 Lockinge Stakes and Sun Chariot Stakes); **Izzi Top** (winner of the Group 1 Pretty Polly Stakes and Prix Jean Romanet, Deauville); **Sariska** (European Champion, Classic winner of the Oaks and Irish Oaks); **Excellent Art** (winner of four races including the Group 1 St.

James's Palace Stakes and Group 2 Mill Reef Stakes); **Kyllachy** (Champion sprinter in Europe in 2002. Won six races including the Group 1 Nunthorpe Stakes and Group 2 Temple Stakes); **Immortal Verse** (winner of Group 1 Coronation Stakes and Prix Jacques Le Marois, in which she beat Goldikova in 2011); **Chorist** (Joint Champion Intermediate Older Filly in the World, 2004. Won nine races, including the Group 1 Pretty Polly Stakes); **Regal Parade** (winner of 11 Flat Turf races including the Group 1 Sprint Cup and Prix Maurice de Gheest); **Farhh** (winner of Group 1 Lockinge Stakes and Champion Stakes, also runner-up in the Group 1 Eclipse Stakes, Juddmonte International, Sussex Stakes and Prix du Moulin de Longchamp); **Maarek** (winner of 11 races including the Group 1 Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp and Group 2 British Champions Sprint Stakes); **Buzzword** (winner of the German Derby); **Queen's Jewel** (winner of Group 1 Prix Saint-Alary); **Virtual** (winner of Group 1 Lockinge Stakes); **Siyouni** (winner of Group 1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere-Grand Criterium); **Saoire** (Classic winner of Irish 1000 Guineas); **Falco** (Classic winner of Group 1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains); **Noordhoek Flyer** (G1 winner in South Africa); **Silvester Lady** (G1 winner in Germany); **Talco** (winner of Grade 1 Shoemaker Mile Stakes, Santa Anita); **Amanee** (G1 winner in South Africa); **Kaneko** (winner of six races, including the G1 Erkek Tay Deneme, Istanbul).

The existing Dosage profiles for these 26 Group/Grade 1 winners appear in the following table, arranged in order of the Dosage index (DI). There are inconsistencies throughout the table, which is designed to show those individuals with the most stamina potential of the group at the top and those with the most potential for speed at the bottom. Some are showing an indication for too much stamina, due to Pivotal not previously being recognized in the system as an essential influence for speed, and some others also look inaccurate, primarily due to overall low point scores.

Group/Grade 1 winners by Pivotal (ranked in order of DI)

G1 winner	Damsire	Profile	DI	CD
Chorist	Chief Singer	1-1-7-1-2 = 12	0.85	-0.17
Immortal Verse	Sadler's Wells	4-2-14-6-0 = 26	1.00	0.15
Farhh	Lando	1-1-7-0-1 = 10	1.22	0.10
Regal Parade	Kingmambo	7-1-16-4-0 = 28	1.33	0.39
Noordhoek Flyer	Kris	3-2-11-1-1 = 18	1.40	0.28
Virtual	Exit To Nowhere	2-2-11-1-0 = 16	1.46	0.31
Peeress	Primo Dominie	1-1-8-0-0 = 10	1.50	0.30
Silvester Lady	Soviet Star	4-3-11-2-0 = 20	1.67	0.45
Talco	Diesis	6-1-11-1-1 = 20	1.67	0.50
Izzi Top	Zafonic	2-3-13-0-0 = 18	1.77	0.39
Saoire	Danehill	2-3-13-0-0 = 18	1.77	0.39
Sariska	Muhtarram	3-2-11-0-0 = 16	1.91	0.50
Amanee	Woodman	6-1-15-0-0 = 22	1.93	0.59
Golden Apples	Kaldoun	1-3-8-0-0 = 12	2.00	0.42
Buzzword	Danehill	3-3-12-0-0 = 18	2.00	0.50
Siyouni	Danehill	3-3-12-0-0 = 18	2.00	0.50
Somnus	Night Shift	3-1-8-0-0 = 12	2.00	0.58
Queen's Jewel	Lode	5-2-10-1-0 = 18	2.00	0.61

Megahertz	Rahy	6-1-13-0-0 = 20	2.08	0.65
Excellent Art	Seeking The Gold	6-4-14-0-0 = 24	2.43	0.67
Kyllachy	Song	3-1-6-0-0 = 10	2.33	0.70
Kaneko	Be My Guest	5-1-8-0-0 = 14	2.50	0.79
Falco	Unbridled	8-7-13-0-2 = 30	2.53	0.63
African Story	Gone West	5-7-14-0-0 = 26	2.71	0.65
Maarek	Indian Rocket	2-5-7-0-0 = 14	3.00	0.64
Halfway To Heaven	Indian Ridge	3-9-8-0-0 = 20	4.00	0.75

Additional to the Group/Grade 1 winners featured above, the following progeny-winning sample of 603 (3-y-os and above, Great Britain & Ireland) is distributed across the following distance range:

AWD	5f	6f	7f	8f	9f	10f	11f	12f	13f	14f+
7.6	77	107	140	136	31	67	14	21	3	7

Source: *The Statistical Record* (Weatherbys)

From this healthy sample, over 63% (383) winning performances came at 6 to 8 furlongs, with 16% (98) at 9 to 10 furlongs and just over 7% (45) winning at 11 furlongs or above. The average winning distance (AWD) is 7.6 furlongs and while Pivotal is clearly capable of also siring individuals that get middle distances (such as the Oaks and Irish Oaks winner Sariska and the Champion Stakes winner Farhh) the concentration of winning distance for Pivotal's progeny is strongest at distances between 6 and 8 furlongs inclusive (underlined by Pivotal's propensity to get champion sprinters and milers, such as Somnus, Kyllachy, Peeress, Excellent Art, Immortal Verse, etc.)

Progeny stats in North America and elsewhere also bear out the same aptitudinal bias. A split Intermediate/Classic designation consequently looks to be the best fit. The Intermediate bracket best describes Pivotal's sprinters and speed milers, in the mould of Excellent Art (Group winner at 6 furlongs and a mile) while the central Classic category captures those who come into their own at around 8 furlongs and extend into middle distances, exemplified by the likes of Farhh (Group 1 winner at both 8 and 10 furlongs).

The following table shows the adjusted figures including a reshuffling in the order of a few of the individuals in terms of stamina aptitude (by DI).

Group/Grade 1 winners by Pivotal (with Intermediate/Classic designation factored in)

G1 winner	Damsire	Profile	DI	CD
Immortal Verse	Sadler's Wells	4-10-22-6-0 = 42	1.47	0.28
Chorist	Chief Singer	1-9-15-1-2 = 28	1.66	0.21
Regal Parade	Kingmambo	7-9-24-4-0 = 44	1.75	0.43
Noordhoek Flyer	Kris	3-10-19-1-1 = 34	1.95	0.38
Virtual	Exit To Nowhere	2-10-19-1-0 = 32	2.04	0.40
Farhh	Lando	1-9-15-0-1 = 26	2.05	0.34
Silvester Lady	Soviet Star	4-11-19-2-0 = 36	2.13	0.47
Talco	Diesis	6-9-19-1-1 = 36	2.13	0.50

Izzi Top	Zafonic	2-11-21-0-0 = 34	2.23	0.44
Saoire	Danehill	2-11-21-0-0 = 34	2.23	0.44
Peeress	Primo Dominie	1-9-16-0-0 = 26	2.25	0.42
Amanee	Woodman	6-9-23-0-0 = 38	2.30	0.55
Sariska	Muhtarram	3-10-19-0-0 = 32	2.36	0.50
Buzzword	Danehill	3-11-20-0-0 = 34	2.40	0.50
Siyouni	Danehill	3-11-20-0-0 = 34	2.40	0.50
Queen's Jewel	Lode	5-10-18-1-0 = 34	2.40	0.55
Megahertz	Rahy	6-9-21-0-0 = 36	2.42	0.58
Golden Apples	Kaldoun	1-11-16-0-0 = 28	2.50	0.46
Somnus	Night Shift	3-9-16-0-0 = 28	2.50	0.53
Excellent Art	Seeking The Gold	6-12-22-0-0 = 40	2.63	0.60
Falco	Unbridled	8-15-21-0-2 = 46	2.68	0.58
Kyllachy	Song	3-9-14-0-0 = 26	2.71	0.57
Kaneko	Be My Guest	5-9-16-0-0 = 30	2.75	0.63
African Story	Gone West	5-15-22-0-0 = 42	2.81	0.59
Maarek	Indian Rocket	2-13-15-0-0 = 30	3.00	0.56
Halfway To Heaven	Indian Ridge	3-17-16-0-0 = 36	3.50	0.63

With an I/C designation factored in we get a more accurate and robust set of profiles for the group as a whole. Certain individuals such as Sariska (Oaks and Irish Oaks winner) are not accurately reflected (her DI rising rather than falling), but this is no doubt due to an as yet unrecognized source of stamina in her pedigree which would skew her reading toward middle-distance. However, this isolated instance should not deter us from our general placing for Pivotal.

The Group 2 winner Wings Of Desire has already won at 12 furlongs, but was sharp enough to take the Dante when asked to step back in trip. Wings Of Desire's dam, Gull Wing (a half-sister to Sariska), has established herself as a broodmare of note thanks to Pivotal. Her first foal to Pivotal being the Park Hill winner The Lark, followed by King Edward VII Stakes winner Eagle Top and finally Dante winner and King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes runner-up Wings Of Desire. While it may be said that Pivotal is essentially an influence for speed, the prepotent stamina influence of such damsires as In The Wings (a Classic/Solid *chef-de-race*) makes for a very effective middle-distance cross.

We assign Pivotal as an Intermediate/Classic *chef-de-race* with immediate effect, the 225th of the series.

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STEVE MILLER is an author, correspondent, columnist and bloodstock analyst, based in London. He has also been a thoroughbred owner – having had successful horses in training with Mark Johnston (Flat) and the late Toby Balding (National Hunt). He has written on horse racing and breeding issues for *Raceform Update* and writes a regular column of big-race previews on the Flat, based on the Dosage system, for the *Racing Post Weekender*. His observations on the thoroughbred racehorse have appeared over the years in the *Sporting Life*, *Racing Post*, *Pacemaker & Thoroughbred Breeder*, *the Blood-Horse*, *Raceform* and *Timeform* publications and the BBC. He has worked in close collaboration with Dr Steve Roman since the inclusion of Sadler's Wells on the *chef-de-race* list in August 1998. Certain analytical work on racing and breeding is referenced on Steve Roman's website at www.chef-de-race.com and in the book *Dosage: Pedigree & Performance* (published by Russell Meerdink).