

DYLAN THOMAS (IRE)

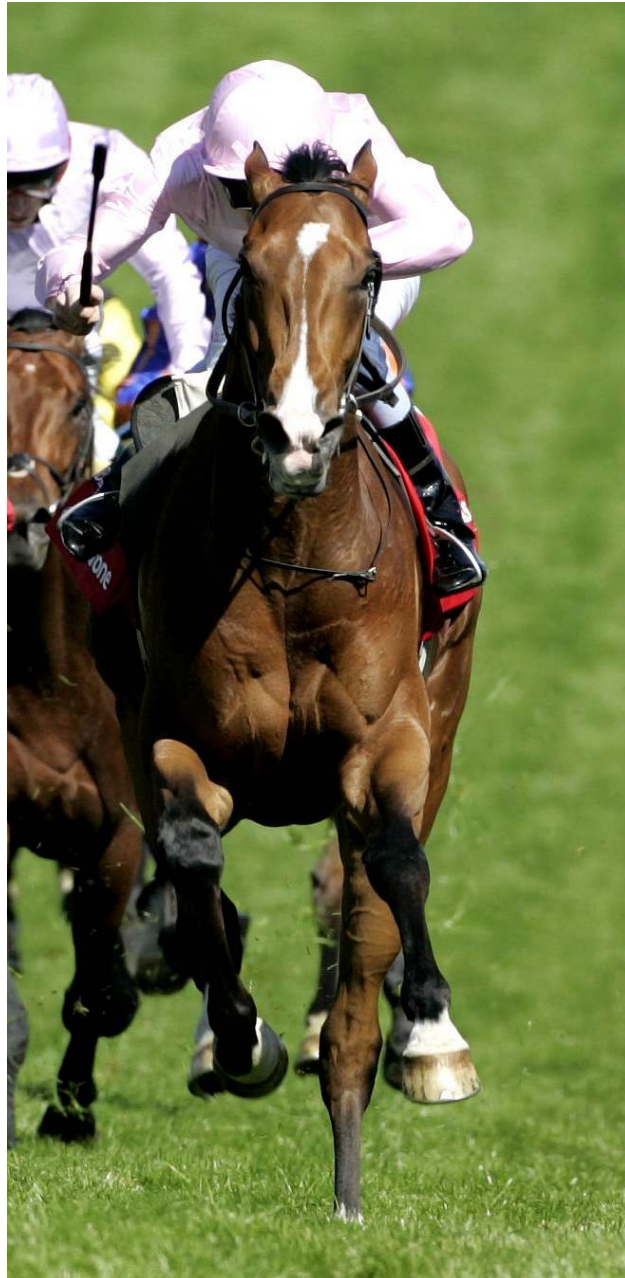
2003 b c Danehill – Lagrion / Diesis

Globeform 124+

O: Mrs John Magnier

B: Tower Bloodstock

T: Aidan O'Brien IRE



Dylan Thomas © www.stefanograsso.it

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Danehill (USA) 1986	<i>Danzig (USA) 1977</i>	<i>Northern Dancer (Can) 1961</i>
	<i>Razyana (USA) 1981</i>	<i>Pas de Nom (USA) 1968</i>
	<i>Diesis (GB) 1980</i>	<i>His Majesty (USA) 1968</i>
Lagrion (USA) 1989	<i>Wrap It Up (Ire) 1979</i>	<i>Spring Adieu (USA) 1974</i>
		<i>Sharpen Up (GB) 1969</i>
		<i>Doubly Sure (GB) 1971</i>
		<i>Mount Hagen (Fr) 1971</i>
		<i>Doc Nan (USA) 1963</i>

Pedigree notes

Danehill was a top class sprint-miler, won Haydock Sprint (G1) and Cork & Orrery S (G3), also ran 3rd in Nashwan's 2000 Guineas (G1).

Posthumous Champion Sire in GB/Ireland in 2005 and 2006, Danehill does get winners over all trips and in all types of going, but is best as a sire of two-year-olds and milers. Dylan Thomas was by far his top Northern Hemisphere earner in 2006, a season which featured 11 winners of 18 Group races in Europe alone.

Lagrion ran 14 times in Ireland from 10 to 13 furlongs; and was placed three times. She has produced four previous winners headed by the unbeaten Champion European 2yo filly Queen's Logic, and is herself a half-sister to the G1-placed juvenile Pure Genius. The grandam Wrap It Up is a half-sister to G3 winner Gift Wrapped (dam of G2 winner Reach) and under the Stakes-placed third dam can be found G3 winner Soluce and the Listed-winning sprinters Splice and Feet So Fast.



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DYLAN THOMAS (IRE)

10 st. 5-1-1

£1,336,743 (01Jan07)

Best performance:

WON IRISH CHAMPION S (G1) GF 124+

10 fur. turf (good-firm) Leopardstown 9 Sep

Dylan Thomas is a true battler and has a progressive profile going into his 4yo season. He was an easy winner of the Irish Derby and he fought back really well to beat Ouija Board in the 10-furlong Irish Champion Stakes (G1) at Leopardstown in September.

Two factors made that win extra impressive. Firstly, that he was able to run so well over 1 ¼ miles on turf, as further is clearly better for him. Secondly, that he came back after being headed by Ouija Board, who has been in great form in 2006 (see her essay). Dylan Thomas would not be denied and he rallied close home to beat the mare by a neck. Alexander Goldrun, who had been just a nose behind Ouija Board in the Nassau Stakes (G1) at Goodwood, was 2 ½ lengths back in third. Mustameet and Ace rounded out the five-runner field.

After this win Dylan Thomas went to the **Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1)** at Belmont Park, where he tried dirt for the first time. Facing the heavy favourite Bernardini, he was an intriguing runner. He was a Derby winner in Europe, and he was still improving. But he ran no sort of a race in New York, for whatever reason, and finished last. He was not seen out again afterwards.

Dylan Thomas was a completely different horse in the **Irish Derby (G1)** at The Curragh in July, when he quickened up well, and ran on strongly to pass the post full of energy beating the Derby Italiano (G1) winner Gentlewave by 3 ½ lengths, with Best Alibi third, Dragon Dancer fourth and Darsi fifth. The latter had won the Prix du Jockey-Club (G1) – French Derby - on his previous start, while Dragon Dancer had

lost by just a head to Sir Percy in the **Epsom Derby (G1)** – where Dylan Thomas was a close third. He reversed that form by some margin in Ireland, and had clearly improved for his run at Epsom a month earlier – which was Dylan Thomas's third outing of the year.

The Danehill colt beat Mountain and Youmzain by 1 ½ lengths when winning the **Derrinstown Stud Derby Trial (G2)** over 10 furlongs at Leopardstown back in May. He stepped up markedly since, but after his Irish Derby win he was a disappointing fourth in the (sub-standard) **International Stakes (G1)** at York. Perhaps it was the drop down to 10.5 furlongs that made him run well below his best, perhaps it was the softer ground. These factors, combined with a rather steady pace, made the contest unsuitable for the colt. Dylan Thomas was beaten 3 ¾ lengths behind Notnowcato – who had finished 2 lengths behind Ouija Board when fifth in the Prince of Wales's Stakes (G1) at Royal Ascot. Notnowcato obviously improved at York but this is still an interesting formline, as Dylan Thomas beat Ouija Board in his next start. His York form was well below par.

Dylan Thomas stays in training at four, and he could well develop into one of the real stars of the European season. He raced on soft ground when beating Mountain in the Derby Trial in the spring, but good or good ground brings out the best in him. He was well beaten when tackling heavy in the 2005 Racing Post Trophy (G1), where he finished sixth of seven behind the "fluke winner" Palace Episode. Prior to that run, Dylan Thomas had won twice and finished a close second to Blitzkrieg in the Autumn Stakes (G3) over a mile at Salisbury.

Form summary

High class Irish based colt, won Irish Derby (G1) in good style, after finishing a close third in the Epsom Derby (G1) – produced a tough and classy performance to win Irish Champion Stakes (G1), beating Ouija Board in a close finish. Effective from 10 to 12 furlongs, best on good and good to firm ground, ran too bad to be true in only start on dirt, type to improve again as a 4-year-old.

Looking ahead

His connections often start a horse like Dylan Thomas off in the Tattersalls Gold Cup (G1) in May and that - rather than the Coronation Cup (G1) at Epsom - may be where we see him next. His main targets will almost certainly be the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (G1) and, unless the ground goes against him, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1).