

" Sky Warrior"

By

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We have searched and researched our means to acquire the ultimate racing machine. One that would not give up and stride again to finish the started task. To come home and trap as fast and efficiently race the sky, the undying will to beat all odds to be in front, is a genetic portal. Champions should reign in their blood for generations.

You cannot produce the "Sky Warrior" if the genetic package is not present, meaning if it is not in the genes, the carrier of hereditary traits. Characteristics of your beloved champion was sealed in the mitochondria (power house of the cell). Although I always deviate to alternate the line breeding technique to change the sex of your chosen breeder in every generation (F1). Still, if the mitochondrial DNA is thus true or valid in it's scientific essence, then there is no need to alternate the carriers of genes in your line breeding process. A hen can be a foundation of a great racing family.

Make no mistakes, the value of an accurate honest pedigree has no boundaries. A sky warrior's bloodline will always be there. It is up to a fancier which path he takes. We are all "Pathfinders" in our own essence. Endlessly seeking the right path to breed and behold a perfect "Sky Warrior", one may never have. We tried our best to select our pigeons. We learned the "Art of Selection and Culling" . Often times we do make mistakes or rather a lot of mistakes. A good clever fancier will learn from a single mistake and vow not to repeat the same mistake again and again.

There were times that we contemplate and strengthened our spirits, treat your oldest feathered friend with gentleness and respect. You will be amazed that it would go hand in hand with their own spirit. Always remember that it was our birds that do the great flying and we were only the trainer and coach. Learn how to bring out the very best spirit from your individual charges. You will be surprised that the champions we are seeking were already in our possession and residing in one of our perches.

A fancier should not forget to pay more attention to feeding, training, and health management of their "Sky Warrior". Consistency can play a decisive role if one has to take home a prized trophy. Countless mistakes of pushing a prospective racer to race week after week without even giving your athlete the proper care. We have heard fanciers telling their tales of a lost prospective champion or rather the champion himself.

I do have my share of tales and we will continue to encounter the obstacles of mistakes but the key word is to learn from those mistakes and in doing so we can minimize our errors and hoping our "Sky Warriors" can adapt well and still recuperate faster to be able to compete in the upper 1% of the competition in every hazardous week after week of racing.

There were a lot of little things in our champs that only a meticulous fancier's eye can see. And as you develop your skills, one day you too can be among the experts and a master of your own right. There were variations among the expert's eye, their differences in their point of view was immense. Put up your own standards of selection and keep improving your standards one or two steps at a time.

But let us not forget the value of money, without it we can not select our desired bloodline to work with. The special grains, vitamins, minerals, grits, antibiotics, nesting materials, loft accessories, etc. all cost money.

Consistency in your loft management was by far the most valuable tool in winning races. Selection surpasses consistency in my point of view, although both when properly employed was crucial to a fancier becoming a champion. Selection of the breeders was foremost .Their pedigrees should have winning genes through generations. Thus the chances of those genes embedded in their chromosomes would be of a higher percentage.

" Luck" can play a very decisive role in every aspect of our sport. "Cull the good ones and only breed from the very good ones", was a statement of a great champion, I myself in the

beginning can not fathom. Specially when during those early times I only have good birds and the very good ones are very hard to acquire or breed. You can not consistently breed the very good birds if you only have good birds. The breeders should have a very high prepotency to transmit the winning genes.

"Sky Warrior" comes in all sizes, shapes and colors. In the current trend of racing, they are mostly blue bars and blue checkers. Some outward characteristics of an excellent "Sky Warrior" were the following.

1. HLREO (High level Laverne theory Rapid Eye Orientation) should definitely be graded high. Their eye have small pupil capable of moving in extreme positions (left, right, ventral, dorsal).
2. Most of them were "wringers" .(they wriggle their shoulders when you handle them)
3. They don't want their beaks to be handled or pulled.
4. Tenacity, they will protect their territory to the death. They will jab your hand very hard with their wings when you try to approach them in their nest boxes/widowhood boxes.
5. They have "silky feathers".
6. Their keel bone extends one or two fingers further in front.
7. Their tail feathers should be folded as a single tail feather.
- 8 .Their vent bones should be tight and strong. Although I have seen champion birds with open vents, I will always go with the standards. (In some cases YB's will tightened up their vent bones in 3-6 months)
9. They have wattles as white as a chalk.
10. When you open up their flight feathers, I would like to see the tips of the last four flight feathers form an imaginary straight line when you connect them together.
11. When the bird is standing up, I don't want to see the tips of their flight feathers overlapping. The two wing tips should be parallel to each other.
- 12.I would like to see the eye above the line of the beak for a clearer view of their surroundings and seeing further in front during their flight.

There are more outward characteristics that we can add to this list. As we continue to keenly observe and race our "Sky Warrior". As we will always be in the path of perfecting our own standards. On how our "Sky Warrior" would be, a true thoroughbred of the sky.