



**BIG WINNER**  
(WIN 395 X LUCKY LEO)

**Production proof: 296 daughters in 160 herds**  
(Source: GES/DairyCo breeding+, December 2011)

Kg M	% fat	% prot.	Kg fat	Kg prot.	PIN	PLI
<b>+166</b>	<b>+0.17</b>	<b>+0.11</b>	<b>+20.0</b>	<b>+13.9</b>	<b>£35</b>	<b>£158</b>
Longevity:		<b>+504 days (exceptional)</b>				
SCC:		<b>8</b>				
Fertility:		<b>103</b>				
Calving ease:		<b>101</b>				
Temperament:		<b>104</b>				
Milking speed:		<b>105</b>				

**Conformation: 74 daughters in 48 herds**

	88	100	112
frame	102		
dairy strength	105		
udder	105		
feet and legs	107		
total score	107		
stature	97		
chest width	100		
body depth	98		
angularity	100		
condition score	103		
rump angle	98		
rump width	103		
rear legs rear view	104		
rear legs side view	102		
foot angle	101		
locomotion	106		
fore udder attachment	108		
front teat placement	100		
teat length	98		
udder depth	103		
rear udder height	102		
central ligament	101		
rear teat placement	104		

### "They are all the same"

Dinand Vosman from KI Kampen has seen many daughters of Big Winner and his conclusion is clear.

"They are all the same. When you've seen one you've seen them all. The Big Winners are normally developed as maiden heifers, somewhat closed in the ribs with well-formed udders and the best feet and legs. The older they are, they grow out and they survive in any cubicle system."

Dinand advises using Big Winner on somewhat large, milk-typical cows.

Outcross Win 395 son gains popularity with the improvement of his breeding values

# Big Winner – a breeder's dream

In 18 months the breeding values of Big Winner have risen by more than 60 points NVI, 3 points for conformation and increased by 250 days of longevity. Late maturity appears to be the trademark of the Super Star family, which contains 100-tonne and excellent cows.

text **Florus Pellikaan**

**A** bull that inherits the vision of his breeder almost to perfection is not only every breeder's dream, but also an exceptional phenomenon.

Big Winner however shows like no other that late maturity and longevity is the aim of his breeders Jos and Ingrid Knoef. In just 18 months, in fact, Big Winner improved his breeding values from 143 NVI, 104 for total score and +252 days longevity to 208 NVI, 107 for total score and +504 days of longevity. The breeding value for rate of maturity has at 111 become his most extreme index.

The improvements in breeding values of

Big Winner are also easy to see in his daughters. During the NRM in 2010 the functionally built daughters were still somewhat immature. As second-calved cows however, during an open day in September 2011, the daughters had matured into gentle milking cows with depth.

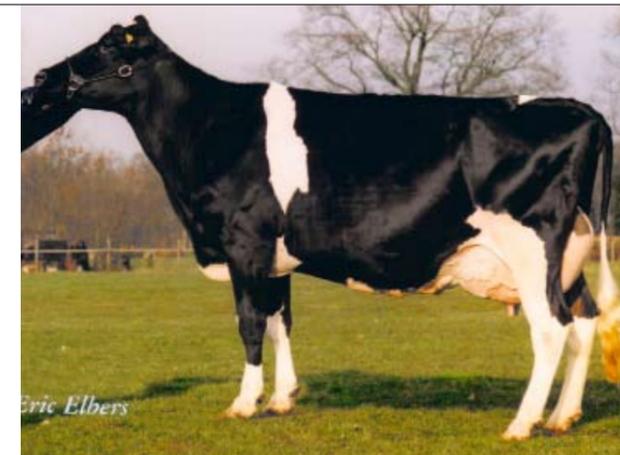
### Favourite family

The progression that Big Winner is undergoing appears to be the absolute family trade mark as Jos explains the history of the Super Star family. "We started late here on the farm with

*Lightning daughter Big Super Star 30, half sister to Big Winner*



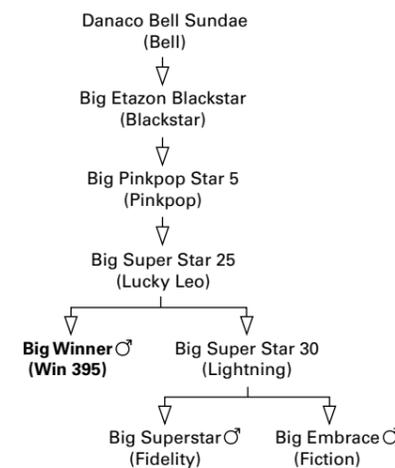
*Pinkpop daughter Big Pinkpop Star 5, grand dam of Big Winner*



*Lucky Leo daughter Big Super Star 25, dam of Big Winner*

Holsteins, but after several visits to America I was enthusiastic. I then bought two Blackstar embryos from the Etazon programme," he says. The two embryos resulted in two pregnancies and two heifers, one of which Jos later sold. Big Etazon Blackstar remained on the farm and became the founding dam of the successful Super Star family. She produced almost 140,000kg of milk, with 10,000kg of fat and protein and was classified VG89. "The producer who bought the other Blackstar unfortunately has no members of the family left. In breeding there is a very fine line between success and bad luck, because it could have turned out the other way round," says Jos.

CRV bought an Ideal son out of the Blackstar daughter, but then it went quiet as far as AI breeding interest round the Super Star family was concerned. On the Knoef's unit, the family were working on the image of long lasting cows. So the excellent Pinkpop daughter of Blackstar, Big Pinkpop Star 5, produced more than 100,000kg with 3.64% protein and she won the heifer title at the HG show in 1996 in Zwolle.



Without doubt Jos names the Super Stars as the favourite cow family of the farm. "They are not very big, but they are correctly built and always equipped with good udders. They also continue to produce milk of high quality."

### Bull father

The Pinkpop daughter, in combination with Lucky Leo, resulted in Big Super Star 25, the dam of Big Winner.

"As a heifer she scored VG86 and she had a lactation score of 100. In later years she was classified EX90 and produced well over the farm average with 3.87% protein.

"On our own initiative we had the cow flushed. And she produced 79 embryos by bulls such as Goldwyn, O Man, Shottle, Orcival and Lightning."

"KI Kampen was the first AI company that wanted to do something with the Lucky Leo daughter," says Jos. From KI Kampen sire analyst Dinand Vosman became involved in the purchase of Big Winner. "This family fits with the high lifetime productivity and the high protein like no other sire at KI Kampen. And Win 395 was a bull father with us because of his good feet and legs inheritance. Looking back things went really well with Big Winner. He has the feet and legs and the milk potential of his father and the milk contents and the longevity of his maternal line."

In the outer appearance of Big Winner, Dinand sees much in harmony with his family. "If we were to photograph the bull again, from the view point of two years ago, he has become deeper and more open. We also see that in his daughters. In the rough productivity figures the second-calved Big Winners produce 1,500kg of milk and 0.06% protein more than in their first lactation."

From the first breeding figures for Big

Winner, KI Kampen had confidence in the bull. "Otherwise we wouldn't have shown a group at the NRM a couple of months later. But fair's fair, we hadn't expected either that he would become such a success."

Only since the last index round has KI Kampen also used Big Winner as a sire of sons. "His first breeding values were naturally not fit for a direct sire of sons. But through the huge improvement in his breeding values he has commanded this status and alongside that is his natural out-cross pedigree."

### Super Stars

Jos has also only just begun to use the bull in a big way since the last index run. "The bull fits into my breeding vision, but in the beginning he was rather ordinary for udder health and I find that a very important characteristic. But now I see that somatic cell count improves as Big Winners calve more often, which gives me confidence that there will be high lifetime production."

On Jos' farm the following generations of the Super Star family can also count on importance in breeding. CRV genomically tested more young bulls from OMan daughter Big Super Star 32 and from the red factor Lightning daughter Big Super Star 30. "We didn't keep a bull from the OMan daughter, but the bulls from Lightning had very good markers," says Tonny Koekkoek, sire analyst at CRV.

"Her Fidelity son Big Superstar is even in the top 10 genomic red-and-white bulls. We use both him, as well as Fiction half-brother Big Embrace, as sires of sons." Meanwhile Dinand is looking to another highpoint for Big Winner. "As it looks now we want to exhibit a group of third-calved daughters at the NRM. Meanwhile the first has calved and things are looking good." |