

Kincsem

by Kathleen Jones

The greatest racehorse of all time must be, without a doubt, a Hungarian filly by the name of Kincsem. Her name stems from the root word "Kincs" which is Hungarian for "treasure" or "jewel", and the entire word means "My Treasure". Over the course of four full seasons, from ages 2 - 5, she faced the best that all of Europe had to offer, and emerged victorious in all 54 of her races.



Kincsem was chiefly of British origin; her pedigree incorporating many of the same names which populate the roll-call of early English classics. But she was a product of Hungarian breeding, and remains to this day, an example of perfection in the breed.

The following article from the pages of the English racing paper "The Daily Telegraph", dated August 1878, describes the mare's famous win in Britain:

UNVANQUISHED HUNGARIAN MARE WINS AT GOODWOOD: *A tamer Goodwood Cup has never been known, as of the nine coloured on the card, only three went to post. Betting at the outset had been 7-to-4 against Pageant and 3-to-1 each against Kincsem and Lady Golightly; but when the fact became known that they alone would form the field, layers reduced the prices 5-to-4 against Pageant and 2-to-1 against Lady Golightly, the Hungarian mare being the worst favoured at 3-to-1 (offered freely). She was not liked when stripped, good judges pronouncing her too lengthy, but she looked very hard and well.*

Pageant settled down with the lead a couple of lengths in advance of Lord Falmouth's mare, the foreigner lying off. In this way they ran round the loop, but about six furlongs from home Kincsem began to close up, and as Archer was hard at work on Lady Golightly before entering the straight, the contest reduced to a match.

Half-way down the hill, 10-to-1 was freely offered on Pageant, on whom Cannon was sitting still, whilst Madden was asking Kincsem, and the Kingsclere horse appeared to be having it all his own way. The mare however stuck to her work and when finally called upon Pageant proved unequal to the effort of drawing away, Kincsem, amidst the cheering of the fielders, won in a canter by two lengths. She is obviously a rare animal, and little need be said to recommend her further than that she has now won 37 consecutive races.

Mr. E. Blaskovitz purchased her at the break-up of Prince Esterhazy's stud, and has been amply repaid by her unprecedented success. Her stamina is undoubtedly her strong point, and in a fast-run race she would have won by a hundred yards...

I would like to thank Westényi Gábor for supplying the data necessary to construct this brief page. We acknowledge that the contents contained herein were sourced from the books "**KINCSEM - a Magyar Csoda**" by Dr. Fehér Deszö, and "**KINCSEM Családja**" by Westényi Gábor; two highly valuable reference works written exclusively in Hungarian, but which deserves to be read by the world.

Pedigree:

Kincsem ch.f. 1874	Cambuscan 1861	Newminster 1848	Touchstone 1831	Camel, 1822 Banter, 1826
			Beeswing 1833	Dr. Syntax, 1811 Androssan mare, 1817
		The Arrow 1850	Slane 1833	Royal Oak, 1823 Orville mare, 1819
			Southdown 1836	Defence, 1824 Feltona, 1819
	Waternymph 1860	Cotswold 1853	Newcourt 1840	Sir Hercules, 1826 Sylpha, 1824
			Aurora 1848	Pantaloon, 1824 Lady, 1833
		The Mermaid 1853	Melbourne 1834	Humphrey Clinker, 1822 Cervantes mare, 1825
			Seaweed 1841	Slane, 1833 Sakale, 1835

Race Record:

At age 2 (1876) - 10 starts - 10 wins:

21-Jun	GER-Berlin	Ertes Criterium	1000m (5f)
	KINCSEM (118 lb) - Boreas - Alpenstock		4 lengths
02-Jul	GER-Hannover	Vergleichspreis	1000m (5f)
	KINCSEM (118 lb) - Hamburg - Double Zero		1 length

09-Jul	GER-Hamburg	Hamburger Criterium	950m (~4½f)
	KINCSEM (124 lb) - Adelaide - Hamburg		1½ lengths
29-Jul	GER-Bad Doberan	Erinnerungs Rennen	947m (~4½f)
	KINCSEM (129 lb)- Blucher - Miss Harriet		1½ lengths
20-Aug	GER-Frankfurt	Louisa Rennen	1000m (5f)
	KINCSEM (128 lb) - Regimenstochter		10 lengths
31-Aug	GER-Baden-Baden	Zukunftspreis	1000m (5f)
	KINCSEM (123 lb) - Criterium - Miss Harriet		distance
02-Oct	HUN-Sopron	Polgárok Dija	1200m (6f)
	KINCSEM (114 lb)- Little Luder - Der Landgraf		distance
15-Oct	HUN-Budapest	Ketévesek Versenye	948m (~4½f)
	KINCSEM (124 lb) - Csalogany - Little Luder		½ length
22-Oct	AUT-Vienna	Kladruher Preis	1600m (8f)
	KINCSEM (121 lb) - Der Landgraf - Hamburg		10 lengths
29-Oct	CZE-Prague	Kladruher Criterium	1400m (7f)
	KINCSEM (123 lb) - Criterium - Hilda		distance

At age 3 (1877) 17 starts - 17 wins

27-Apr	HUN-Pozsony	Trial Stakes	1800m (9f)
	KINCSEM (115½ lb)- Blucher - Erbprinz		1 length
06-May	HUN-Budapest	Egyesult Nemzeti Dij	1600m (8f)
	KINCSEM (114½ lb)- Camillo - Csalogány		distance
08-May	HUN-Budapest	Hafazi Dij	1600m (8f)
	KINCSEM (114½ lb)- Bimbó - Légyott		1½ lengths
21-May	AUT-Vienna	Austrian Derby	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (119 lb)- Tallós - Pfeil		distance
24-May	AUT-Vienna	Trial Stakes	1600m (8f)
	KINCSEM (125 lb)- V Secko Jedno - Hamburg		2 lengths
27-May	AUT-Vienna	Kaiserspreis Erster Classe	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (110 lb)- Hírnök - Talisman		10 lengths
24-Jun	GER-Hannover	Grosser Preis von Hannover	3000m (15f)
	KINCSEM (123 lb)- Konotoppa - Double Zero		6 lengths
09-Jul	GER-Hamburg	Renard Rennen	2800m (14f)

	KINCSEM (121 lb)- Pirat - Konotoppa		4 lengths
02-Sep	GER-Baden-Baden	Grosser Preis von Baden	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (112 lb)- Konotoppa - Mambrin		3 lengths
08-Sep	GER-Frankfurt	Waldchens Preis	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (121 lb)- Pfeil - Schnell		10 lengths
29-Sep	HUN-Sopron	Allami Dij (open stakes)	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (130 lb)- Prince Grégoire		3 lengths
30-Sep	HUN-Sopron	Allami Dij (open stakes)	2000m (10f)
	KINCSEM (114½ lb)- Blankensee		1 length
07-Oct	HUN-Budapest	Pesti St. Leger	2800m (14f)
	KINCSEM (114½ lb)- Prince Giles the First - Lörincz		10 lengths
10-Oct	HUN-Budapest	Kancadij (Oaks)	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (133 lb)- Konotoppa - Erzsi		3 lengths
14-Oct	AUT-Vienna	Freudenauer Preis	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (133 lb)		walk-over
21-Oct	CZE-Prague	Kaiserspreis Dritter Classe	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (135 lb)- Prince Giles the First - Héléne		1 length
23-Oct	CZE-Prague	Kaiserspreis Zwetter Classe	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (134 lb)		walk-over

At age 4 (1878) 15 starts - 15 wins

22-Apr	AUT-Vienna	Eröffnungs Rennen	1600m (8f)
	KINCSEM (144 lb)- Wold Rover - Achilles		2 lengths
25-Apr	AUT-Vienna	Prater Preis	2000m (10f)
	KINCSEM (148½ lb)- Oroszvár - Tharak		3 lengths
05-May	HUN-Pozsony	Allami Dij (open stakes)	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (152 lb)- Prince Giles the First		5 lengths
14-May	HUN-Budapest	Másodosztályú Allami Dij	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (148½ lb)- Prince Giles the First - Gondolat		5 lengths
16-May	HUN-Budapest	Kisberi Dij	2000m (10f)
	KINCSEM (153 lb)- Prince Giles the First		3 lengths
19-May	HUN-Budapest	Első Osztályú Allami-Dij	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (153 lb)- Altona - Konotoppa		distance

26-May	AUT-Vienna	Staatspreis Zweiter Classe	2800m (14f)
	KINCSEM (153 lb)- Erzi - Rococo		1 length
28-May	AUT-Vienna	Trial Stakes	1600m (8f)
	KINCSEM (143 lb)- Prince Giles the First - Mlle Buccaneer		distance
30-May	AUT-Vienna	Staatspreis Erster Classe	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (153 lb)- Rococo - Herodes		5 lengths
01-Aug	ENG-Goodwood	The Goodwood Cup	4000m (2½ miles)
	KINCSEM (119 lb)- Pageant - Lady Golightly		2 lengths
18-Aug	FRA-Deauville	Grand Prix de Deauville	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (135 lb)- Fontainebleu - Cift		½ length
09-Sep	GER-Baden-Baden	Grosser Preis von Baden	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (137½ lb)- PRINCE GILES THE FIRST (122 lbs) - Purple		Dead-Heat
29-Sep	HUN-Sopron	Allami Dij (open stakes)	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (152 lb)- Lörincz		distance
20-Oct	HUN-Budapest	Ritter Dij	2800m (14f)
	KINCSEM (134 lb)		walk-over
22-Oct	HUN-Budapest	Kanca-dij	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (148½ lb)- Altona		½ length

At age 5 (1879) 12 starts - 12 wins

28-Apr	HUN-Pozsony	Alami Dij (open stakes)	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (158 lb)- Tallós - Myrtle		8 lengths
04-May	HUN-Budapest	Gróf Károlyi Dij	3600m (18f)
	KINCSEM (136 lb)		walk-over
06-May	HUN-Budapest	Osztályú Allami Dij	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (160½ lb)- Nil Desperandum - Tallér		2 lengths
08-May	HUN-Budapest	Osztályú Allami Dij	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (168 lb)- Harry Hall - Clarisse		2 lengths
18-May	AUT-Vienna	Staatspreis Zweiter Classe	2800m (14f)
	KINCSEM (159½ lb)- Prince Giles the First		10 lengths
20-May	AUT-Vienna	Staatspreis Erster Classe	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (160½ lb)- Bolygó - Prince Giles the First		2 lengths
17-Jun	GER-Berlin	Silberner Schild Ks. Wilhelm I	2400m (12f)

	KINCSEM (160½ lb)- Altona - Vitus		3 lengths
25-Aug	GER-Frankfurt	Ehrenpreis Landgrafen von Hessen	2800m (14f)
	KINCSEM (139 lb)- Blue Rock - Little Digby		4 lengths
02-Sep	GER-Baden-Baden	Grosser Preis von Baden	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (141 lb)- Kunstlerin - Hessenpreis		3/4 length
29-Sep	HUN-Sopron	Allami-Dij (open stakes)	3200m (16f)
	KINCSEM (158 lb)		walk-over
19-Oct	HUN-Budapest	Ritter Dij	2800m (14f)
	KINCSEM (139 lb)		walk-over
21-Oct	HUN-Budapest	Kanca-dij	2400m (12f)
	KINCSEM (159½ lb)- Ilona - Dagmar		10 lengths