



Keyed Entry unlocks potential with record-setting Hutcheson victory

by Rommy Faversham

On February 4 at rain-drenched Gulfstream Park, sophomore colt Keyed Entry gained black-type recognition upon initial access as he registered a 1¼-length victory over multiple Grade 1 winner First Samurai in the \$150,000 Hutcheson Stakes (G2).

An ultra-wide margin of 16 lengths separated these two from the rest of the pack in the 7½-furlong race for three-year-olds.



Bill Denver/EquiPhoto

KEYED ENTRY

Keyed Entry stopped the clock in a track record-setting 1:27.12. For good measure, his six-furlong internal fraction (1:07.61) was faster than the track record of 1:07¾ set by Mr. Prospector on March 31, 1973.

The exceptionally fleet dark bay or brown colt is now unbeaten in three lifetime starts. This latest effort figures to provide entry into a number of top contenders lists for this year's Kentucky Derby (G1).

Keyed Entry is a cleverly named son of the Grade 3-placed Cryptoclearance mare Ava Knowsthecode, a winner of three Southern California allowance grass races. His granddam, Ava Romance, won a pair of listed stakes around two turns in the Midwest.

Keyed Entry hails from the sixth crop of Honour and Glory, a brilliant sprinter-miler who proved best when beating his elders in the 1996 Metropolitan Handicap (G1) in stakes record time. Several months earlier in the Kentucky Derby, the son of Relaunch enjoyed a one-length lead for most of first seven furlongs before tiring badly to finish a distant 18th.

Keyed Entry's own Derby hopes certainly appear to be bolstered by the bottom half of his pedigree and the seemingly generous doses of stamina supplied by the sires of his first two dams.

Cryptoclearance was a multiple Grade 1 winner at 1¼ miles who subsequently sired Belmont Stakes (G1) winner Victory Gallop and Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) hero Volponi. Similarly, the best of 1975 Belmont Stakes winner Avatar's progeny typically improved at longer distances as well.

Keyed Entry, dkbb. c., 2003

Honour and Glory 93 896 fls, 27 SWs SI 1.17 DI=3.33	Relaunch 76 5 wins, \$278,100, SW 725 fls, 89 SWs SI 3.05 DI=3.00	In Reality 64 555 fls, 81 SWs SI 3.72 DI=2.40	Intentionally 56
	Fair to All 86 Unraced 10 fls, 1 SW DI=2.29	Foggy Note 65 7 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.29	My Dear Girl 57
Ava Knowsthecode 94 5 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.33		Al Nasr (Fr) 78 566 fls, 25 SWs SI 1.17 DI=2.38	The Axe II 58
	Cryptoclearance 84 12 wins, \$3,376,327, SW 973 fls, 39 SWs SI 1.20 DI=2.87	Gonfalon 75 12 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.62	Silver Song 57
Ava Romance 81 7 wins, \$283,749, SW 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.09	Fappiano 77 410 fls, 48 SWs SI 4.79 DI=4.78	Lyphard 69	
	Avatar 72 469 fls, 18 SWs SI 1.14 DI=0.58	Caretta (Ire) 73	
Sunny Romance 73 12 fls, 1 SW DI=2.38	Naval Orange 75 8 fls, 1 SW DI=1.44	Francis S. 57	
	Mr. Prospector 70	Grand Splendor 62	
	Killaloe 70		
	Hoist the Flag 68		
	Mock Orange 59		
	Graustark 63		
	Brown Berry 60		
	Gallant Romeo 61		
	Sundestine 63		

In 2000, Honour and Glory was leading U.S. freshman and juvenile sire when his daughter, Caressing, was named champion two-year-old filly. A very active shuttle stallion, he stands at Ashford Stud in Versailles, Kentucky, during the Northern Hemispheric season while his annual tours of duty south of the equator have been spent in Australia and Argentina.

Honour and Glory still awaits a breakthrough son. Last year, Blues and Royals captured the UAE Derby (UAE-G2) by 12 lengths in March but fell ill soon thereafter, ultimately succumbing to complications from colitis.

As for Keyed Entry, the most auspicious pattern in his pedigree appears to be the family ties shared by Met mile winners Honour

and Glory and Fappiano, who both descend from the clan of Grand Splendor, Fappiano's second dam.

Keyed Entry is a seventy generation tail-male descendant of the great Man O' War (1917). The last representative of this sire line to win an American classic was Big Red's best son War Admiral, winner of the 1937 Triple Crown. That was 69 years and 205 Triple Crown races ago.

Maybe Keyed Entry can be the one to crack the code.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree analyst and author of the recently published book, "Samuel Riddle, Walter Jeffords and the Dynasty of Man O' War." More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>

Upcoming events

Today-February 10—Thoroughbred Racing Associations Racing Congress, Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas. Call: (410) 392-9200. Website: www.tra-online.com

February 16—Massachusetts Thoroughbred Breeders Association meeting, Double Tree Inn, Waltham. Call: (781) 799-2380. Website: www.massbreds.com

February 16—Indiana Horse Council board meeting, Indiana Farm Bureau Building, Indianapolis. Call: (317) 692-7141 or e-mail: inhorsecouncil@aol.com