



Ghostzapper's extended pedigree hinted at Classic prowess

by Rommy Faversham

If not for the concerns many handicappers shared as to Ghostzapper's ability to get ten furlongs in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), the budding superstar probably would not have been such a slight favorite in the wagering.



NYRA photo

GHOSTZAPPER

Despite his recent speed figures, which seemed to tower over those of the rest of the field, the lightly raced four-year-old bay colt still had to answer the question of whether that last untested eighth-of-a-mile was within his range.

What did his pedigree say?

Ghostzapper's dam Baby Zip had been a winner of a small stakes at two. Her oldest son, City Zip became the best juvenile colt of the 2000 Saratoga season as he took three graded stakes, including the Hopeful Stakes (G1). He continued his successful sprint career at age three, annexing two more graded events.

City Zip's sire, Carson City, was a dedicated sprinter himself and, in general, his best offspring have followed that same pattern. So where on the bottom half of his pedigree was Ghostzapper to derive his Classic potential?

Ghostzapper's broodmare sire, Relaunch, won the 1979 Del Mar Derby (G3), later running second to John Henry in the '80 San Luis Rey Stakes (G1). As a stallion, Relaunch was

Ghostzapper, b. c., 2000			
Awesome Again 94 209 fls, 8 SWs SI 3.38 DI=2.67	Deputy Minister 79 12 wins, \$696,964 Champion 986 fls, 81 SWs SI 3.54 DI=3.67	Vice Regent 67 671 fls, 105 SWs SI 2.83 DI=3.86	Northern Dancer 61
		Mint Copy 70 7 fls, 1 SW DI=7.00	Victoria Regina 58
Baby Zip 91 6 fls, 2 SWs DI=4.71	Primal Force 87 4 wins, \$74,251 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.83	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74 512 fls, 92 SWs SI 4.76 DI=1.52	Bunty's Flight 53
			Shakney 64
	Relaunch 76 5 wins, \$278,100, SW 725 fls, 89 SWs SI 3.05 DI=3.00	Prime Prospect 78 4 fls, 0 SWs DI=4.25	Red God 54
			Runaway Bride (GB) 62
	Thirty Zip 83 13 wins, \$585,970, SW 10 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.57	In Reality 64 555 fls, 81 SWs SI 3.72 DI=2.40	Mr. Prospector 70
			Square Generation 69
	Foggy Note 65 7 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.29	Intentionally 56	
	Tri Jet 69 504 fls, 48 SWs SI 1.68 DI=3.47	My Dear Girl 57	
	Sailaway 76 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.15	The Axe II 58	
		Silver Song 57	
		Jester 55	
		Haze 53	
		*Hawaii 64	
		Quick Wit 56	

the sire of Skywalker and the grandsire of Tiznow, both winners of the Breeders' Cup Classic.

More potential for stamina comes from the sires of Ghostzapper's second and third dams. Tri Jet captured the 1973 Hawthorne Gold Cup Handicap (G2) at 1¼ miles while *Hawaii was a classic winner in South Africa before coming to the United States, where he won a number of important long distance turf events.

For good measure, Ghostzapper's third dam,

Sailaway was the granddam of Lil E. Tee, winner of the 1992 Kentucky Derby (G1).

Then, of course, there is the top half of the pedigree and Ghostzapper's sire, Awesome Again. Ghostzapper's commanding victory in this year's event made Awesome Again the first Classic winner to sire a Classic winner.

Yes, everything seems to be there.

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