



Niigon arrives just in time to win Queen's Plate Stakes

by Rommy Faversham

Earning only his second lifetime victory, the dark bay or brown Unbridled colt Niigon captured the 145th running of the \$1-million Queen's Plate Stakes on Sunday at Woodbine in the first leg of the Canadian Triple Crown.



Michael Burris photo

NIIGON

Bred in Ontario by owner Robert Krembil's Chiefswood Stables, Niigon is the first winner from the multiple stakes-placed winning Nureyev mare Savethelastdance and is a half brother to Sue's Last Dance, the dam of recent Acorn Stakes (G1) winner Island Sand. Niigon's second dam, Bon Debarras, is already the matriarch of twelve stakes winners, including Grade 2 winners Finality and Stolen Beauty as well as Eternal Search, a multiple distaff champion in Canada. Niigon's extended family was forged by E. P. Taylor, one of Canada's premier breeders, who imported his sixth dam, *Abundance, in 1953.

Niigon, who is one of 127 stakes winners out of a Nureyev mare, is from the ninth crop

Niigon, whose name in the Native American language of Ojibway means "for the future," appears to have found his best stride at just the right time in his classic season.

Bred in Ontario by owner Robert Krembil's

Niigon, dkbb. c., 2001

Unbridled 87 563 fls, 38 SWs SI 3.97 DI=1.70	Fappiano 77 10 wins, \$370,213, SW 410 fls, 48 SWs SI 4.79 DI=4.78	Mr. Prospector 70 1177 fls, 180 SWs SI 5.11 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61
		Killaloe 70 10 fls, 5 SWs DI=4.14	Gold Digger 62
Gana Facil 81 6 wins, \$85,100 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.50		*Le Fabuleux 61 446 fls, 41 SWs SI 2.21 DI=0.11	Dr. Fager 64
		Charedi 76 11 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.38	Grand Splendor 62
Savethelastdance 88 4 fls, 1 SW DI=1.17	Nureyev 77 2 wins, \$42,522 Champion 783 fls, 137 SWs SI 4.81 DI=2.83	Northern Dancer 61 635 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	=Wild Risk (Fr) 40
		Special 69 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.52	=Anguar (Fr) 50
	Bon Debarras 75 Unraced 11 fls, 3 SWs DI=0.90	Ruritania 69 122 fls, 14 SWs SI 1.39 DI=0.91	In Reality 64
		Chou Fleur 69 7 fls, 0 SWs DI=4.33	Magic 69
			Nearctic 54
			Natalma 57
			*Forli 63
			Thong 64
			Graustark 63
			*Aiming High II 58
			Victoria Park 57
			Orchestrina 61

of 1990 champion three-year-old male and influential sire Unbridled, who died in 2001. A valuable source of class and stamina, the Unbridled sire line is well on its way to becoming a major branch of the Mr. Prospector tail-male dynasty.

The union of Unbridled with Nureyev mares has become a very successful one. From only a handful of starters, the cross has produced multiple Grade 1-winning filly

Manistique and multiple graded stakes winner Surya.

The two final jewels in the Canadian Triple Crown are the Prince of Wales Stakes at Fort Erie on July 18 and the Breeders' Stakes, a 1½-mile turf event at Woodbine on August 8.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>.