



Wimbledon has breeding to serve up strong run at classics

by Rommy Faversham

Fresh off an eight-length maiden victory at Santa Anita Park last month for trainer Bob Baffert, Wimbledon handled the trip and class hike in style as he captured the \$600,000 Louisiana Derby (G2) by 2½ lengths at Fair Grounds on Sunday.

Last summer, Wimbledon was one of the more talked about juveniles at the start of the Del Mar meet. But subsequent shin problems and inexperience kept the gray



Lou Hodges Jr. photo

WIMBLEDON

or roan son of Wild Rush out of the winner's circle until his fifth career start.

Wimbledon is the first winner from his dam, Strawberry Clover, a winning daughter of Darn That Alarm. His extended family, albeit useful, has not had a history of producing runners of the highest caliber. Wimbledon's Louisiana Derby triumph already marks him as his clan's richest and most celebrated racehorse since its importation to the United States six generations ago.

On the other hand, Wimbledon's sire, Wild Rush, has become the latest example of an American stallion getting particularly hot not long after his exportation. Since his transfer from Adena Springs Kentucky to Arrow Stud in Japan last summer, Wild Rush has picked up an impressive array of stakes winners, in-

Wimbledon, gr./ro. c., 2001			
Wild Rush 94 200 fls, 8 SWs SI 2.06 DI=2.73	Wild Again 80 8 wins, \$2,204,829, SW 895 fls, 81 SWs SI 2.55 DI=4.05	Iccapade 69 565 fls, 73 SWs SI 2.27 DI=3.22	Nearctic 54 Shenanigans 63
	Rose Park 86 4 wins, \$217,839, SW 7 fls, 1 SW DI=1.78	Bushel-n-Peck 58 12 fls, 1 SW DI=2.84	*Khaled 43 *Dama II 50
Strawberry Clover 93 4 fls, 1 SW DI=4.33	Darn That Alarm 81 9 wins, \$415,456, SW 360 fls, 12 SWs SI 1.16 DI=1.82	Plugged Nickle 77 426 fls, 18 SWs SI 0.87 DI=1.42	Key to the Mint 69 Toll Booth 71
	Strawberry Burrah 85 2 wins, \$81,447, SW 8 fls, 1 SW DI=4.78	Hardship 77 14 fls, 1 SW DI=3.67	Drone 66 Hard and Fast 68
		Jig Time 65 288 fls, 23 SWs SI 1.26 DI=1.57	Native Dancer 50 Kanace 45
		Extra Alarm 73 17 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.67	Blazing Count 52 Deedee O. 52
		Princely Pleasure 71 406 fls, 16 SWs SI 0.79 DI=3.46	What a Pleasure 65 Princess Tiki 61
		Ticket to Cash 76 5 fls, 1 SW DI=1.91	Green Ticket 59 Final Belle 67

cluding Display Stakes winner Judiths Wild Rush, who was named Canada's 2003 juvenile champion male, and Hollywood Starlet Stakes (G1) winner Hollywood Story.

Perhaps the most interesting pattern in Wimbledon's pedigree is his 3x4 cross of Plugged Nickle and Blazing Count who both descend from the illustrious family of *Uvira II, the 1941 Irish Oaks winner and matriarch to a

good number of top runners and influential sires.

If silver sophomore Wimbledon can continue taking his game to the next level, he could be a viable contender in this year's American classics.

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