



Don't Get Mad's pedigree hints he could go the distance in Derby

by **Rommy Faversham**

Commanding seven-length victory by Don't Get Mad in the Derby Trial Stakes on April 30



Churchill Downs photo

DON'T GET MAD

at Churchill Downs has earned the strapping bay son of Stephen Got Even a starting berth in Saturday's \$2-million Kentucky Derby (G1).

The Derby Trial was the third win from six career starts for the Ron Ellis-trainee who previously seemed all but knocked off the Triple Crown trail after disappointing performances in the San Felipe Stakes (G2) and the Santa Anita Derby (G1).

Don't Get Mad's Kentucky Derby résumé harkens back to a pair of juvenile triumphs at Churchill Downs, making his lifetime record at the Louisville track a perfect three for three. That is by far the best such record amongst this year's field.

He was purchased last year by Ellis for owner B. Wayne Hughes for \$350,000 at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s March two-year-olds in training sale.

Don't Get Mad descends from one of the accomplished Thoroughbred families developed in Florida by eminent horseman Fred W. Hooper, who bred his first four dams. The Kentucky-bred colt is out of the winning Jolie's Halo mare Class On Class, who ran third in a pair of Grade 3 events in South Florida.

Don't Get Mad, b. c., 2002

Stephen Got Even 96 86 fls, 1 SW SI 1.51 DI=2.71	A.P. Indy 89 8 wins, \$2,979,815 Champion 695 fls, 75 SWs SI 3.83 DI=2.54	Seattle Slew 74 1049 fls, 111 SWs SI 4.81 DI=2.14	Bold Reasoning 68
	Immerse 88 4 wins, \$108,398, Spl 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.50	Weekend Surprise 80 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.64	My Charmer 69
Class On Class 95 2 fls, 1 SW DI=3.00	Jolie's Halo 87 8 wins, \$1,218,120, SW 470 fls, 18 SWs SI 1.06 DI=3.35	Cox's Ridge 74 774 fls, 53 SWs SI 2.63 DI=2.33	Secretariat 70
		Baroness Direct 81 9 fls, 0 SWs DI=2.45	Lassie Dear 74
	Classic Value 86 9 wins, \$396,421, SW 9 fls, 1 SW DI=9.67	Halo 69 724 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.40 DI=2.14	Best Turn 66
		Jolie Jolie 80 10 fls, 4 SWs DI=3.80	Our Martha 61
		Copelan 80 373 fls, 37 SWs SI 1.68 DI=4.00	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74
		Queen Pat 72 10 fls, 3 SWs DI=6.50	Avum 73
		Hail to Reason 58	
		Cosmah 53	
		Sir Ivor 65	
		Who's to Know 70	
		Tri Jet 69	
		Susan's Girl 69	
		Crozier 58	
		Pretty Pat 59	

and 1¼ miles, serves as a potentially valuable source of stamina to help in balancing all of the speed elements conveyed by this quarter.

Don't Get Mad is from the first crop of the A.P. Indy stallion Stephen Got Even who got his own three-year-old season started with three straight wins including a daylight victory in the GalleryFurniture.com Stakes (G2), his final prep for the 1999 Kentucky Derby. As the 5-to-1 second choice in the Derby, Stephen Got Even faltered in the lane to finish 14th. He later regrouped to capture the Grade 1 Donn Handicap (G1) at 1½ miles the following season, taking his career earnings over the million-dollar mark.

A four-generation outcross, Don't Get Mad's pedigree demonstrates some valuable family ties further back. Besides three strains of premier matriarch Somethingroyal, there is also the 3X2 cross of Seattle Slew and Jolie's Halo who both hail from the same tribe.

With a pedigree at least suggestive of handling the ten-furlong distance to go along with his apparent affinity for the Derby surface, Don't Get Mad could be the stronger half of the anticipated Hughes' entry which also includes Illinois Derby (G2) winner Greeley's Galaxy.

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