



Breeding suggests some potential for High Limit to stretch out

by Rommy Faversham

High Limit, an undefeated three-year-old bay son of Maria's Mon, coasted to his third daylight victory while competing in his first stakes to capture the 1¹/₁₆-mile Louisiana Derby (G2) on Saturday at Fair Grounds in 1:42.74 over a fast track.



Lou Hodges Jr. photo

HIGH LIMIT

After registering two effortless wins over his peers at Delaware Park in October under the care of Tony Dutrow, High Limit now takes residence in the Bobby Frankel barn, and, despite only three races under his belt, seems to be well on his way down the Triple Crown trail.

High Limit comes from the fifth crop of Maria's Mon, a former juvenile champion who has already sired a Kentucky Derby (G1) victor in 2001 winner Monarchos. This particular caveat, however, becomes tempered by High Limit's inability to lay claim to nearly as many stamina influences from the bottom half of his pedigree as could Monarchos. Making the point, the sires of the latter's first three dams are Dixieland Band, Roberto, and Graustark while High Limit's analogous ancestors are Known Fact, Saratoga Six, and Tentam, sires considerably less known for their transmission of distance capacity.

Bred in Kentucky, High Limit is one of two winners from the unraced mare Known Romance. Her own pedigree features the distinct 1x3 cross of her sire, Known Fact, and his three-quarter brother, Tentam, by Intentionally out of Tamerett. Broodmares demonstrating relatively close patterns of female family inbreeding such as this are disproportionately common

High Limit, b. c., 2002

Maria's Mon 93 417 fls, 17 SWs SI 1.91 DI=2.33	Wavering Monarch 79 6 wins, \$466,773, SW 634 fls, 40 SWs SI 1.27 DI=1.95	Majestic Light 73 854 fls, 72 SWs SI 2.23 DI=2.20	Majestic Prince 66
	Carlotta Maria 84 Placed, \$9,680 10 fls, 1 SW DI=2.50	Caro (Ire) 67 599 fls, 78 SWs SI 3.70 DI=1.26	Irradiate 66
Uncommitted 74 10 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.59			Buckpasser 63
Known Romance 96 2 fls, 1 SW DI=4.09	Known Fact 77 6 wins, \$294,828 Champion 743 fls, 53 SWs SI 1.71 DI=3.44	Water Malone 74 5 fls, 0 SWs DI=3.80	Lady Be Good 56
			=Fortino II (Fr) 59
	Spa Romance 90 1 win, \$14,035 8 fls, 1 SW DI=3.36	Saratoga Six 82 621 fls, 39 SWs SI 1.59 DI=2.65	=Chambord (GB) 55
			Naskra 67
In Reality 64 555 fls, 81 SWs SI 3.72 DI=2.40	Tamerett 62 8 fls, 5 SWs DI=3.62	Intentional Move 79 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.73	Gray Matter 66
			Intentionally 56
			My Dear Girl 57
Alydar 75	Priceless Fame 75	Tentam 69	*Mixed Marriage 52
			Lunar Dancer 68

in the pedigrees of superior individuals.

High Limit's second dam, the winning mare Spa Romance, is a half sister to two exceptional race fillies; the ultra-fleet Gold Mover, winner of six graded sprints with earnings of \$1,523,010; and Dance Teacher, winner of the 1989 Ladies Handicap (G1) at 1¹/₄ miles, marking the most prominent instance of stamina within High Limit's immediate family.

High Limit's extended matriarchy would appear to be highlighted by his 12th dam, the imported mare *Pastorella, who also produced the great undefeated early 20th-century champion Colin for famed owner-breeder James R. Keene. Distance would never be an issue with Colin, who held off Man o' War's sire, Fair Play, in the 1908 Belmont Stakes.

High Limit would probably not be considered, by most conventional analysis, as having a "Derby pedigree" and yet he enjoys the allure of top form as well as top connections to warrant his current appeal as the first Saturday in May approaches.

Of course, last year's unbeaten Kentucky Derby hero, Smarty Jones, was said to lack a true Derby pedigree as well. Prerace pundits seemed primarily turned off by his broodmare sire, Smile, whose sire, In Reality, auspiciously appears in the same position within High Limit's pedigree.

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