



Female family inbreeding explains ‘Wonder’ of Del Mar Futurity winner

by **Rommy Faversham**

“Looking like he just jumped in at the quarter-pole”, as track announcer Trevor Denman put it, Stevie Wonderboy circled a full field of his peers to easily capture the \$250,000 Del Mar Futurity (G2) by five lengths on Wednesday, closing day at the seaside meet.



Benoit & Associates photo

STEVIE WONDERBOY

The two-year-old chestnut son of Stephen Got Even

had been second in his maiden debut at Hollywood Park prior to a fast-closing third in the Hollywood Juvenile Championship (G3), both races won by the ill-fated What a Song.

In his third start, Stevie Wonderboy outspurred a field of maidens by four lengths on August 6 at Del Mar to prepare for the seven-furlong Futurity.

Wednesday’s huge effort now catapults him to the front of the West Coast freshman colt division.

Stevie Wonderboy’s pedigree represents a clever blend of brilliance and classicity creating a rather bold and apparently fortuitous pattern of female family inbreeding.

Bred in Kentucky by John Gunther, Tony Holmes, and Walter Zent, Stevie Wonderboy is the fifth winner from the placed Summer Squall mare Heat Lightning, a half sister to Grade 2 and Group 2 winner Fair Judgment.

His granddam, the Roberto mare Mystical Mood, was best at two as she won the Schuylerville Stakes (G3) and placed in a pair

Stevie Wonderboy, ch. c., 2003

Stephen Got Even 96 92 fls, 2 SWs SI 1.59 DI=2.71	A.P. Indy 89 8 wins, \$2,979,815 Champion 702 fls, 78 SWs SI 3.88 DI=2.54	Seattle Slew 74 1050 fls, 113 SWs SI 4.79 DI=2.14 Weekend Surprise 80 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.64	Bold Reasoning 68 My Charmer 69 Secretariat 70 Lassie Dear 74
	Immerse 88 4 wins, \$108,398, Spl 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.50	Cox’s Ridge 74 774 fls, 53 SWs SI 2.63 DI=2.33 Baroness Direct 81 9 fls, 0 SWs DI=2.45	Best Turn 66 Our Martha 61 Blushing Groom (Fr) 74 Avum 73
Heat Lightning 93 6 fls, 1 SW DI=1.95	Summer Squall 87 13 wins, \$1,844,282, SW 333 fls, 36 SWs SI 2.30 DI=3.00	Storm Bird 78 681 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.10 DI=3.25 Weekend Surprise 80 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.64	Northern Dancer 61 South Ocean 67 Secretariat 70 Lassie Dear 74
	Mystical Mood 79 3 wins, \$139,067, SW 14 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.47	Roberto 69 500 fls, 85 SWs SI 3.90 DI=2.50 Mystery Mood 72 15 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.40	Hail to Reason 58 Bramalea 59 Night Invader 66 Moaning Low 58

of Grade 1 events. Summer Squall, an undefeated Grade 1-winning juvenile, won the Preakness Stakes (G1) at three and was runner-up in the Pimlico Special (G1) as a four-year-old.

Stevie Wonderboy hails from the second crop of the A.P. Indy stallion Stephen Got Even, a Grade 2 winner at age three who came back a year later to take the Donn Handicap (G1). From his first crop, Stephen Got Even has sired Grade 3 winner Don’t Get Mad.

Of particular note, Stevie Wonderboy’s classic-winning grandsires, A.P. Indy and Summer Squall, are half-brothers—both sons of Weekend Surprise, a multiple stakes winning daughter of Secretariat who was recognized as Broodmare of the Year in 1992 when A.P. Indy

won the Belmont Stakes and the Breeders’ Cup Classic (G1) en route to being named Horse of the Year.

For good measure, Weekend Surprise was herself closely inbred, 2X4, to another great matriarch—Somethingroyal, who was named 1973 Broodmare of the Year when her son Secretariat captured the Triple Crown.

Owned by entertainment mogul Merv Griffin, Stevie Wonderboy figures to only get better as the distances increase. That could make for more circles run around the competition.

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