



Stamina inherent in bottom half of The Daddy's pedigree

by Rommy Faversham

Greg Norman's lightly raced The Daddy took full advantage of his tactical speed to earn a neck victory in last Saturday's \$750,000 Super Derby (G2) at Louisiana Downs.



Rafe Jordan photo

Returned this season to its original distance of 1¼ miles, the Super Derby represented an ambitious first start around two turns for the sleek Valid Expectations colt.

THE DADDY

Unraced at two, The Daddy first surfaced in a maiden sprint at Hollywood Park in mid-July, winning his debut by three-quarters of a length. Four weeks later at Saratoga Race Course, he cruised seven furlongs, crushing an allowance field by 12 lengths.

At the Spa a fortnight thereafter, The Daddy suffered his only career loss to date. He ran fourth, 5½ lengths behind undefeated Lost in the Fog, in the seven-furlong King's Bishop Stakes (G1). His subsequent rebound in the Super Derby, while stretching out for the first time, marks his third victory from only four lifetime starts with earnings of \$517,700.

Bred in New York by William S. Farish Jr. and Gaillardia LLC, The Daddy hails from the fourth crop of leading Texas sire Valid Expectations, a multiple graded stakes-winning sprinter-miler as a three-year-old. To date, Valid Expectations best offspring has been the brilliant but ill-fated Saratoga County, who captured the Dubai Golden Shaheen (UAE-G1) this past spring but, unfortunately, succumbed to laminitis over the summer.

It would appear The Daddy garners much of his stamina from the bottom half of his pedigree—the sires of his first three dams being

The Daddy, dkbb. c., 2002

Valid Expectations 93 290 fls, 18 SWs SI 1.55 DI=3.40	Valid Appeal 72 8 wins, \$201,733, SW 789 fls, 88 SWs SI 2.18 DI=2.79	In Reality 64 555 fls, 81 SWs SI 3.72 DI=2.40	Intentionally 56
	Mepache 81 5 wins, \$173,470, SW 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=3.00	Desert Trial 63 13 fls, 4 SWs DI=1.35	My Dear Girl 57
With a Princess 92 6 fls, 1 SW DI=1.82		Iron Constitution 74 274 fls, 9 SWs SI 1.06 DI=4.14	Moslem Chief 57
	With Approval 86 13 wins, \$2,863,540 Champion 654 fls, 42 SWs SI 1.54 DI=1.97	Nowmepache 64 10 fls, 1 SW DI=1.40	Scotch Verdict 60
Regal Princess 83 8 wins, \$245,677, SW 10 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.59	Caro (Ire) 67 599 fls, 78 SWs SI 3.70 DI=1.26	Iron Ruler 65	Iron Ruler 65
	Royal and Regal 70 367 fls, 23 SWs SI 1.10 DI=1.42	Passing Mood 78 9 fls, 5 SWs DI=1.54	Water Cress 68
	Zenith Star 67 12 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.50	Hangover 51	Hangover 51
		Fool-Me-Not 58	Fool-Me-Not 58
		=Fortino II (Fr) 59	=Fortino II (Fr) 59
		=Chambord (GB) 55	=Chambord (GB) 55
		Buckpasser 63	Buckpasser 63
		Cool Mood 66	Cool Mood 66
		*Vaguely Noble 65	*Vaguely Noble 65
		Native Street 63	Native Street 63
		Vertex 54	Vertex 54
		Hillbrook 57	Hillbrook 57

Canadian Triple Crown winner and Horse of the Year With Approval, Florida Derby (G1) winner Royal And Regal, and nine-time stakes winner Vertex, respectively.

The Daddy is one of three winners out of the winning, stakes-placed mare With a Princess. His granddam, Regal Princess, won a pair of juvenile stakes in the Florida Stallion series.

The most interesting pattern within this pedigree is probably the 4X3 cross of half sisters Water Cress and Zenith Star creating a duplication of their common dam, the influential matriarch Hillbrook, who is The Daddy's fourth dam as well as the granddam of Withers Stakes winner Iron Constitution, Valid Expectations's broodmare sire. This also is the

family of influential stallions Carson City and General Meeting.

Unlike most contemporary Thoroughbreds, who trace in tail-male to the omnipresent Phalaris, The Daddy is a seventh generation male-line descendant of the great Man o' War—similar to 2000 Super Derby winner and subsequent two-time Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Tiznow. Both are paternal great grandsons of In Reality. The Daddy's connections, reported to be considering starting their charge in the upcoming Classic, could be banking on this semblance to continue.

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