



Improving Big Truck built on speed over stamina

by Rommy Faversham

The Triple Crown trail took an abrupt turn on March 15 in the \$300,000 Tampa Bay Derby (G3) as 7.20-to-1 second choice Big Truck ran down Atoned in the final 40 yards to prevail by a neck.



Tom Cooley photo

Previously unbeaten juvenile champion War Pass never looked comfortable after breaking poorly and finished a well-beaten last of seven at odds of 1-to-20.

It was the first graded stakes victory for Big Truck, a good-sized three-year-old Hook and Ladder colt who covered 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles in 1:44.25.

BIG TRUCK

Trained by Barclay Tagg, Big Truck entered off a runner-up finish, a half-length behind Fierce Wind, in the Sam F. Davis Stakes on February 16 at Tampa Bay Downs.

He has now won three races in seven starts, including a victory in the seven-furlong Bertram F. Bongard Stakes in September at Belmont Park. His total earnings stand at \$336,880.

Bred in New York by A. Lakin and Sons, the bay colt was purchased for \$90,000 at the 2007 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic two-year-olds in training sale.

Big Truck hails from the first crop of the Dixieland Band stallion Hook and Ladder and represents the first graded stakes winner for both his sire and his broodmare sire, 1994 Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Go for Gin.

Hook and Ladder was best in the seven-furlong Gulfstream Park Breeders' Cup Sprint Handicap (G2) at age four and the six-furlong Mr. Prospector Handicap (G3) as a five-year-old. He stands for \$10,000 at Sequel Stallions New York in Hudson.

Even though Big Truck's sire was a dedicated sprinter, his chances in the upcoming classics appear bolstered by an array of stamina elements within the bottom half of his pedigree.

Big Truck's dam, Just a Ginny, won three races at ages two and three, including a second-level allowance event on the grass at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles. Big Truck's winning half brother, the gelding Logic Way, was second in the 2007 New York Stallion Cab Calloway Stakes at 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ miles.

Our subject's unplaced third dam, My Room, produced Malevic, an Italian Group 1 winner at 2,000 meters (9.94 furlongs). This also is the clan of English classic winners Love Divine and her son, Sixties Icon.

Big Truck, b. c., 2005

Hook and Ladder 97 89 fls, 2 SWs SI 2.00 DI=3.33	Dixieland Band 80 8 wins, \$441,320, SW 1194 fls, 114 SWs SI 2.41 DI=3.50	Northern Dancer 61 635 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nearctic 54	=Nearco (Ily) 35 *Lady Angela 44
	Taianna 92 3 wins, \$108,475, Spl 6 fls, 1 SW DI=3.75	Mississippi Mud 73 11 fls, 1 SW DI=2.14	Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahoud 47
		Cox's Ridge 74 774 fls, 53 SWs SI 2.63 DI=2.33	Delta Judge 60	Traffic Judge 52 Beautifillion 53
Just a Ginny 97 3 fls, 1 SW DI=1.34	Go for Gin 91 5 wins, \$1,380,866, SW 314 fls, 12 SWs SI 1.30 DI=1.00	Prospector's Fable 87 9 fls, 0 SWs DI=4.52	Sand Buggy 63	Warfare 57 Egyptian 53
		Cormorant 74 524 fls, 47 SWs SI 2.34 DI=1.33	Best Turn 66	*Turn-to 51 Sweet Clementine 60
	Evangelic 86 1 win, \$5,100 13 fls, 0 SWs DI=2.17	Never Knock 79 12 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.97	Our Martha 61	*Ballydonnell 52 Corday 46
Halo 69 724 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.40 DI=2.14	My Room 72 18 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.44	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62	Never Bend 60 Fairway Fun 62
		Fairway Fable 71	His Majesty 68	*Ribot 52 Flower Bowl 52
	Hail to Reason 58	Song Sparrow 67	Never Hula 69	*Tudor Minstrel 44 Swoon's Tune 62
Cosmah 53	Round Table 54	Stage Door Johnny 65	Prince John 53 Peroxide Blonde 60	Never Bend 60 Hula Hula 52
		Extra Place 63	*Turn-to 51 Nothirchance 48	Almahoud 47
		Bold Lad 62	Cosmic Bomb 44	Almahoud 47
			Bold Ruler 54 Misty Morn 52	Round Table 54 *Rich Relation 52

Halo and Round Table, the sires of Big Truck's second and fourth dams, respectively, provide additional sources of staying power.

Big Truck's pedigree features a 3x3 cross of the close relatives, Northern Dancer and Halo, who share a common grandam, the influential matriarch Almahoud.

Another interesting family tie further back includes Big Truck's sixth dam, Sybil's Sister, who is a three-quarter sister to Northern Dancer's sire, Nearctic.

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