



Researcher's pedigree reveals favorable cross of full brothers

by Rommy Faversham

Researcher, a modestly bred four-year-old gelding, scored his fourth consecutive win when he outfinished stubborn pacesetter Brilliant Son through the final furlong to record a half-length victory in the \$106,400 Queens County Handicap (G3) on December 13 at Aqueduct.



Adam Coglianese/NYRA photo

Sent off as the 3.05-to-1 third choice in the five-horse field, the improving bay Virginia-bred covered the 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ -mile race on a track rated as fast in 1:55.87.

RESEARCHER

Thriving since his switch back to dirt, Researcher's most recent endeavors include a three-quarter-length score in the Mountaineer Mile Handicap on November 8 that followed his 14-length romp on October 17 in the HBPA Governor's Cup Handicap at Charles Town Races.

The Queens County was the first graded stakes triumph for not only Researcher, but also for progeny of his deceased sire, Two Smart; his immediate family; and his trainer, Jeff Runco.

Researcher's record stands at eight wins from 14 lifetime starts and earnings of \$288,670.

Bred by the Virginia Tech Foundation, Researcher is one of two winners from three starters out of the unplaced Apalachee mare Wild Magnolia.

Researcher has an unraced two-year-old half sister named Restoration Ball, by Fred Astaire, and a yearling half sister named Dino Rider, by Black Tie Affair (Ire).

Apalachee broodmares have produced 15 graded or group stakes winners, including 1999 champion sprinter Artax, by Marquetry.

Researcher's family is noticeably light on both racing class and productivity at stud. His first, third, and fourth dams all are nonwinners and there is not a single United States stakes winner under his first four dams.

One must descend to Researcher's fifth dam to find the War Admiral mare Wavy Navy, who produced 1970 champion two-year-old male

Researcher, b. g., 2004

Two Smart 94 34 fls, 2 SWs SI 0.92 DI=4.09	Two Punch 83 4 wins, \$89,795, SW 918 fls, 52 SWs SI 1.46 DI=3.48	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
	Dancing Smart 85 6 wins, \$106,810 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=7.00	Heavenly Cause 78 12 fls, 1 SW DI=2.23	Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46
		Smarten 76 602 fls, 49 SWs SI 1.66 DI=8.60	*Grey Dawn II 62	*Herbager 56 Polamia 55
Wild Magnolia 95 4 fls, 1 SW DI=2.50	Apalachee 71 4 wins, \$94,834 Champion 764 fls, 57 SWs SI 1.63 DI=0.70	Dancing Dame 77 5 fls, 0 SWs DI=4.20	Lady Dulcinea 63	Nantallah 53 Shy Dancer 55
		Round Table 54 401 fls, 83 SWs SI 4.49 DI=1.67	Cyane 59	*Turn-to 51 Your Game 48
	Red Tape 88 3 wins, \$67,309, Spl 10 fls, 0 SWs DI=5.50	Moccasin 63 9 fls, 7 SWs DI=3.00	Smartaire 62	*Quibu 42 Art Teacher 58
Researcher, b. g., 2004	Red Ryder 76 384 fls, 16 SWs SI 1.20 DI=3.95	Over the Side 75 12 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.35	Dancing Count 68	Northern Dancer 61 *Snow Court 57
		Red Ryder 76 384 fls, 16 SWs SI 1.20 DI=3.95	Dorit 71	Damascus 64 Allie's Serenade 65 =Prince Rose (GB) 28
		Red Ryder 76 384 fls, 16 SWs SI 1.20 DI=3.95	*Princequillo 40	*Cosquilla 33 =Sir Cosmo (Ire) 26 =Feola (GB) 33
Researcher, b. g., 2004	Red Ryder 76 384 fls, 16 SWs SI 1.20 DI=3.95	Over the Side 75 12 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.35	*Knight's Daughter 41	*Nasrullah 40 Shimmer 45
			*Rough Shod II 44	=Gold Bridge (Fr) 29 =Dalmary (GB) 31
			Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
Researcher, b. g., 2004	Red Ryder 76 384 fls, 16 SWs SI 1.20 DI=3.95	Over the Side 75 12 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.35	Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46
			Candy Spots 60	*Nigromante 44 Candy Dish 53
			Pitch and Roll 64	Jet Action 51 Wavy Navy 54

and influential sire Hoist the Flag.

As for the top half of this pedigree, Researcher's recent skein of wins easily makes him his sire's top runner. He hails from the fourth and final crop of the Two Punch stallion Two Smart, who stood at Legacy Farm in Virginia before succumbing to cancer in 2003 at the age of nine.

As a three-year old, Two Smart won six of seven starts, including a trio of stakes races at Pimlico Race Course. At stud, 19 of his 35 total foals of racing age are winners.

Researcher's pedigree would appear to be highlighted by the 3x3 cross of Mr. Prospector and his unraced full brother Red Ryder. This distinct pattern also appears in a number of other recent stakes winners, including 2005 Canadian Horse of the Year A Bit O'Gold, by Gold Fever, and dual Grade 1 winner Country Star, by Empire Maker.

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