



# Musket Man finds Illinois Derby within range

by Rommy Faversham

Unhurried early on, Musket Man made a bold sweeping move going into the far turn before pulling clear approaching the stretch to register an impressive two-length victory in the \$500,000 Illinois Derby (G2) on April 4 at Hawthorne Race Course.



Four Footed Photos

The 1½-mile race marked the second straight graded stakes win for the Yonaguska colt. On March 14, he captured the Tampa Bay Derby (G3) by a neck.

## MUSKET MAN

Winner of five of his six lifetime starts, Musket Man's overall bankroll of \$572,600 includes \$485,000 in graded stakes earnings, more than enough to assure the colt of a starting berth in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) field, which is determined by graded stakes earnings if more than 20 horses are entered.

To succeed, however, Derby-bound Musket Man will have to overcome his pedigree—one that suggests the 1¼-mile classic could be beyond his scope.

Bred in Kentucky by Jim E. Nelson and Sergio De Sousa, the dark bay or brown colt was bought for \$15,000 at the 2007 Keeneland September yearling sale.

Musket Man is one of six winners from as many starters out of the stakes-placed winning Fortunate Prospect mare Fortuesque.

Musket Man also has a two-year-old three-quarter brother by Cherokee Run and a yearling half sister by Forest Danger.

Their dam, Fortuesque, was stakes-placed (via disqualification) while starting 17 times at ages two and three. A dedicated sprinter, Fortuesque won five races from distances of 5½ to 6½ furlongs, all at Calder Race Course.

Musket Man's broodmare sire, career sprinter Fortunate Prospect, upset future Hall of Famer Precisionist in the seven-furlong San Vicente Stakes (G3) in 1984.

The majority of Musket Man's immediate family could be described as a rather undistinguished lot. In a rare show of pronounced class, his third dam, Moment's Prayer, also serves as third dam to 1998 European juvenile highweight Mujahid.

## Musket Man, dk. b. or br. c., 2006

Yonaguska 98 351 fs, 8 SWs SI 1.30 DI=4.14	Cherokee Run 90 13 wins, \$1,531,818 Champion 694 fs, 38 SWs SI 1.74 DI=3.00	Runaway Groom 79 1112 fs, 75 SWs SI 1.41 DI=2.33	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74	Red God 54 Runaway Bride (GB) 62
	Marital Spook 90 Placed, \$1,920 10 fs, 3 SWs DI=3.44	Cherokee Dame 80 7 fs, 1 SW DI=4.09	Yonnie Girl 66	Call the Witness 56 Po'chile 58
	Fortunate Prospect 81 13 wins, \$439,875, SW 738 fs, 30 SWs SI 1.08 DI=3.80	Silver Ghost 82 684 fs, 53 SWs SI 1.40 DI=3.48	Silver Saber 72	Drone 66 Happy Flirt 58
Fortuesque 96 6 fs, 1 SW DI=4.60	Flambeau 92 Unraced 7 fs, 0 SWs DI=5.00	Homewrecker 83 13 fs, 5 SWs DI=2.65	Dame Francesca 66	Francis S. 57 Maid to Rule 57
	Fortunate Bid 71 13 fs, 4 SWs DI=1.00	Northern Prospect 76 578 fs, 38 SWs SI 1.28 DI=4.60	<b>Mr. Prospector 70</b>	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
	Dixieland Band 80 1229 fs, 115 SWs SI 2.38 DI=3.50	Fortunesque 96 6 fs, 1 SW DI=4.60	Misty Gallore 76	Halo 69 Flight Dancer 68
	Moment's Prayer 79 9 fs, 2 SWs DI=39.00	Execution 75	Buckaroo 75	Buckpasser 63 Stepping High 69
		Northern Dancer 61	Execution 75	The Axe II 58 House of Cards 69
		Lucky Debonair 62	<b>Mr. Prospector 70</b>	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
		Biddy Big 66	Sleek Dancer 68	Northern Dancer 61 Victorie 62
		Northern Dancer 61	Lucky Debonair 62	Vertex 54 Fresh as Fresh 57
		Mississippi Mud 73	Biddy Big 66	Palestinian 46 Spoon 52
		For The Moment 74	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
		Prayer Cap 62	Mississippi Mud 73	Delta Judge 60 Sand Buggy 63
			For The Moment 74	What a Pleasure 65 *Tularia 55
			Prayer Cap 62	Thinking Cap 52 Prayer Bell 54

Further back, Musket Man's fifth dam, Prayer Bell, produced 1969 juvenile champion colt Silent Screen.

Musket Man hails from the third crop of the Cherokee Run stallion Yonaguska and is his sire's first graded stakes winner.

After six seasons at Vinery in Kentucky, Yonaguska now stands at Elite Thoroughbreds in Folsom, Louisiana, for a 2009 fee of \$4,000.

Winner of the Hopeful Stakes (G1) at two and a trio of graded sprint stakes at three, Yonaguska has, so far, continued his male line's proclivity toward sprinters and milers.

More to the point, the swift Cherokee Run sire line may indeed be expanding, but it has yet to generate the winner of an important race at a classic distance.

Now that The Pamplemousse (by the Cherokee Run stallion Kafwain) has fallen off the Derby trail, there is Musket Man with his sprinter's pedigree still aimed at flying in the face of convention.

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