



# Eldaafer has right stuff for return to Breeders' Cup Marathon

by Rommy Faversham

After closely stalking the early pace, Eldaafer seized the lead approaching the quarter pole and then gamely held off late challenges to score by a half-length in the Turfway Park Fall Championship Stakes (G3) on September 11.

Sent off as the 2.30-to-1 favorite, the five-year old A.P. Indy gelding completed the 1½-mile race in 2:32.55 on the synthetic Polytrack surface.

As granted by the Breeders' Cup Challenge "Win and You're In" series, the victory ensures Eldaafer a starting berth the \$500,000 Breeders' Cup Marathon (G3) on the dirt at Churchill Downs on November



Adam Coglianese/NYRA photo

## ELDAAFER

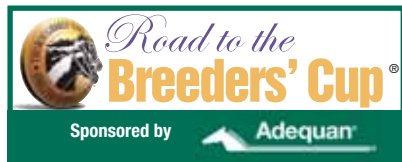
His lifetime record improved to eight wins and five thirds from 23 career starts and earnings of \$408,132 with his win in the Turfway Park Fall Championship.

Bred in Kentucky by Shadwell Farm, Eldaafer's immediate ancestry demonstrates a remarkable number of staying influences. Indeed, five sires appearing within the first three generations of his pedigree (A.P. Indy, Seattle Slew, Tabasco Cat, Secretariat, and Temperence Hill) are Belmont Stakes (G1) winners.

Eldaafer is one of three winners from as many starters out of the Tabasco Cat mare Habibti, a multiple Grade 1 winner.

Despite her relatively stout breeding, Habibti was sufficiently brilliant to take the 2001 Del Mar Debutante Stakes (G1) as well as the Hollywood Starlet Stakes (G1). Interesting to note, Habibti's fourth dam, the Polynesian filly Tonga, won the inaugural running of the Debutante in 1951.

Eldaafer's unraced grandam, Miss Sobriety, by Temperence Hill, is a half



5. In last year's Marathon, he finished a distant seventh to Man of Iron on the synthetic Pro-Ride surface at Santa Anita Park.

Claimed in January 2009 for \$20,000 by his current owners, Alghuwayriyah Stable, Eldaafer registered his first graded stakes win when capturing last year's Brooklyn Handicap (G2) by a nose.

Eldaafer, dk. b. or br. g., 2005				
A.P. Indy 89 1053 fls, 132 SWs SI 3.88 DI=2.54	Seattle Slew 74 14 wins, \$1,208,726 Champion 1050 fls, 114 SWs SI 4.76 DI=2.14	Bold Reasoning 68 61 fls, 10 SWs SI 4.95 DI=3.80	Boldnesian 63 Reason to Earn 63 Poker 63 Fair Charmer 59	
	Weekend Surprise 80 7 wins, \$402,892, SW 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.64	Secretariat 70 653 fls, 57 SWs SI 3.46 DI=3.00	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52	
	Lassie Dear 74 13 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.11	Buckpasser 63 Gay Missile 67	*Nasrullah 40 Miss Disco 44 *Princequillo 40 Imperatrice 38	
	Tabasco Cat 91 8 wins, \$2,347,671, SW 468 fls, 25 SWs SI 1.21 DI=3.44	Storm Cat 83 1403 fls, 177 SWs SI 3.90 DI=4.00	Storm Bird 78 Terlingua 76	Northern Dancer 61 South Ocean 67 Secretariat 70 Crimson Saint 69 Key to the Mint 69 Missy Baba 58
Habibti 99 3 fls, 1 SW DI=1.86	Miss Sobriety 89 Unraced 9 fls, 1 SW DI=2.27	Barbecue Sauce 83 6 fls, 1 SW DI=2.29	Sauce Boat 75 Lady Barbizon 70	
		Temperence Hill 77 706 fls, 39 SWs SI 1.15 DI=2.69	Stop the Music 70 Sister Shannon 65	
		Quillummo 81 15 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.06	Gummo 62 Quillopoly 58	Fleet Nasrullah 55 Alabama Gal 57 *Princequillo 40 Tonga 49

sister to Gal in a Ruckus, winner of the 1995 Kentucky Oaks (G1) and Canadian Oaks.

The family is anchored by Eldaafer's fourth dam, the Foundation Mare Quillopoly. She is matriarch to the U.S. and/or Canadian champions Sky Classic, Regal Classic, Grey Classic, Classy 'n Smart, Racing Hall of Famer Dance Smartly, and Grade 1 winner and leading sire Smart Strike.

Eldaafer has a yearling half sister by Smart Strike. That cleverly bred, yet unnamed, filly, who is inbred 5x4 to her fourth dam, Quillopoly, could be worth following.

Perhaps, a new affinity on the horizon—Tabasco Cat broodmares have been excelling, of late, with the A.P. Indy sire line, as evidenced by 2010 Grade 1 winners Ice Box, by Pulpit, and Tell a Kelly, by Tapit.

This cross is supported by valuable inbreeding patterns to the families of A.P. Indy (through Missy Baba) and his broodmare sire, Secretariat (via Somethingroyal).

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