



Ron the Greek takes forward step on road to classics

by Rommy Faversham

Last after a half-mile Ron the Greek tenaciously rallied through the stretch to record a striking 1½-length victory in the \$100,000 Lecomte Stakes (G3) on January 23 at Fair Grounds.

Sent off as the 7.80-to-1 co-fifth choice in the field of ten, the three-year-old Full Mandate colt stopped the clock in 1:40.09 for the mile and 40 yards on a track rated as fast.

The Lecomte is Ron the Greek's first stakes victory and his third win from four lifetime starts. The Jack T. Hammer homebred colt has \$104,400 in earnings.

Bred in Florida, Ron the Greek is one of four winners from as many starters out of the Fortunate Prospect mare Flambe', a winner of one race at 4½ furlongs at age two and a five-furlong claiming race as a three-year-old. All 19 of Flambe's lifetime starts were run around one turn.

Similarly, Ron the Greek's broodmare sire, San Vicente Stakes (G3) winner Fortunate Prospect, was a dedicated sprinter. No surprise then, the average winning distance of his daughter's offspring stands at 6.63 furlongs.

Conversely, Ron the Greek's strongest family credential as a classic contender is that Flambe' is a full sister to stakes-placed winner Fortuesque, the dam of 2009 Illinois Derby (G2) and Tampa Bay Derby (G3) winner Musket Man, by Yonaguska. Musket Man also finished third in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) and the BlackBerry Preakness Stakes (G1).

Other notable family members include English highweight and classic-placed Group 1 victor Mujahid and 1969 champion two-year-old male Silent Screen. They all trace back to Ron the Greek's sixth dam, Greentree Stud's Foundation Mare Sunday Evening.

Ron the Greek hails from the third crop of the A.P. Indy stallion Full Mandate and represents his sire's first graded stakes winner. He



Lynn Roberts/Hodges Photography

RON THE GREEK

Ron the Greek, b. c., 2007

Full Mandate 99 267 fs, 2 SWs SI 0.69 DI=3.00	A.P. Indy 89 8 wins, \$5,959,630 Champion 1018 fs, 129 SWs SI 4.00 DI=2.54	Seattle Slew 74 1050 fs, 114 SWs SI 4.76 DI=2.14	Bold Reasoning 68	JBoldnesian 63 Reason to Earn 63 Poker 63 Fair Charmer 59
	Clear Mandate 92 10 wins, \$1,085,588, SW 8 fs, 2 SWs DI=3.00	Weekend Surprise 80 14 fs, 4 SWs DI=2.64	My Charmer 69	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52
		Deputy Minister 79 1141 fs, 90 SWs SI 3.19 DI=3.67	Secretariat 70	Lassie Dear 74
Flambe' 98 4 fs, 1 SW DI=4.60	Fortunate Prospect 81 13 wins, \$439,875, SW 738 fs, 30 SWs SI 1.09 DI=3.80	Dream Deal 86 13 fs, 2 SWs DI=4.33	Vice Regent 67	Northern Dancer 61 Victoria Regina 58
		Northern Prospect 76 578 fs, 38 SWs SI 1.28 DI=4.60	Mint Copy 70	Bunty's Flight 53 Shakney 64
	Flambeau 92 Unraced 8 fs, 0 SWs DI=5.00	Fortunate Bid 71 13 fs, 4 SWs DI=1.00	Sharpen Up (GB) 69	Likely Exchange 74
Flambe' 98 4 fs, 1 SW DI=4.60	Dixieland Band 80 1258 fs, 117 SWs SI 2.33 DI=3.50	Mr. Prospector 70	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
		Moment's Prayer 79 9 fs, 2 SWs DI=39.00	Sleek Dancer 68	Northern Dancer 61 Victorine 62
	Mississippi Mud 73	Lucky Debonair 62	Biddy Big 66	Victorine 62 Vertex 54 Fresh as Fresh 57 Palestinian 46 Spony 52
For The Moment 74	Prayer Cap 62	Prayer Cap 62	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57 Delta Judge 60 Sand Buggy 63 What a Pleasure 65 *Tularia 55	
				Thinking Cap 52 Prayer Bell 54

currently is being pointed toward the Risen Star Stakes (G3) on February 20 at Fair Grounds.

Full Mandate stands at Hartley/De Renzo Walmac South in Ocala for a fee of \$2,500.

The Fair Grounds triple consisting of the Lecomte, the Risen Star, and the Louisiana Derby (G2) has been swept by three colts: Friesan Fire in 2009, Dixieland Heat in 1993, and Line In The Sand in '92.

The Lecomte Stakes is named after the legendary foe of the great racehorse and sire Lexington. Both were 1850 foals by leading U.S. sire Boston. Lecomte died of colic at age seven during an ill-advised trip to England.

Despite an extremely short career at stud, Lecomte's blood has long been ubiquitous throughout the American Thoroughbred as the sire of foundation stallion Domino's third dam.

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