



Tackleberry's pedigree reveals a fruitful Ocala Stud formula

By Rommy Faversham

Tackleberry set the pace in the \$100,000 Fred W. Hooper Handicap (G3) on December 11 and resisted a furious late bid from Dream Maestro to come away with an ultra-game nose victory.

Sent off as the 6.70-to-1 fifth betting choice in a field of eight, the three-year-old Montbrook gelding was making his graded stakes debut and stretching out to 1½ miles.

Tackleberry entered off a 5¼-length romp in the Jack Dudley Sprint Handicap on November 13 and extended his winning streak to four with the Hooper victory.

Owned and trained by Luis Olivares, his record now stands at five wins and two seconds with all eight lifetime starts coming at Calder Race Course over the last five-plus months. Knee surgery to remove a bone chip as a two-year-old necessitated the late debut.



Jim Lisa photo

Tackleberry was bred in Florida by Michael O'Farrell's Ocala Stud. O'Farrell also is responsible for developing the immediate families of both his sire and dam.

As such, Tackleberry's pedigree represents one of the relatively uncommon instances wherein a homebred returns to his native farm as a stallion with the opportunity of mating with broodmares from his own clan.

Tackleberry hails from the 12th crop of four-time leading Florida sire Montbrook and is one of his sire's 15 group or graded stakes winners.

THOROUGHBRED TIMES TODAY Jockey of the Week® Cliff Berry

After setting a new Remington Park record for wins on a single card last week, jockey Cliff Berry led all North American riders by victories and purse earnings for the week ended December 14.

Berry, 48, won 16 races on 33 mounts that earned \$346,137 in the seven-day period.

The Missouri native won seven races on Friday's card, eclipsing the previous track record of six wins. Berry rode six winners on a single Remington card three times before while Tim Doocy accomplished the feat in 2003.

"Everything just fell into place tonight, I'm very happy," Berry said on Friday.

The night before, Berry won five races at Remington.

Since starting his career in 1981, the veteran jockey has ridden 3,639 winners from 24,098 mounts that have earned \$48,006,530 through Tuesday. His top victories include nine graded stakes wins, including the 2009 Rebel Stakes (G2) aboard Win Willy, the Prairie Meadows Cornhusker Handicap (G2) with Jonesboro in 2009, and the 2007 Super Derby (G2) on Going Ballistic.

North American Leading Jockeys by Earnings (December 7 through December 14)

Jockey	Strs	Wnrs	Earnings	Leading Earner
M. Clifton Berry	33	16	\$346,137	Grant Jack (\$150,000)
Joel Rosario	25	10	321,550	Ultra Blend (\$50,400)
Robby Albarado	29	6	308,360	Star Guitar (\$90,000)
Ramon A. Dominguez	27	10	276,478	Lots of Stones (\$28,200)
David Romero Flores	15	2	274,190	Turbulent Descent (\$245,550)
A. R. Napravnik	28	5	195,810	Snakebite Kit (\$60,000)
Kendrick Carmouche	28	6	184,482	Allegheny Moon (\$27,000)
Patrick A. Valenzuela	25	1	164,664	Big Tiz (\$81,850)
Shaun Bridgmohan	19	6	149,600	Join in the Dance (\$28,200)
Miguel Mena	25	4	149,390	Cajun Conference (\$60,000)

Tackleberry, dk. b. or br., g. 2007

Montbrook 90 703 fls, 47 SWs SI 1.51 DI=3.53	Buckaroo 75 5 wins, \$138,604, SW 523 fls, 29 SWs SI 2.03 DI=1.33	Buckpasser 63 313 fls, 35 SWs SI 4.32 DI=1.34	Tom Fool 49	Menow 35 Gaga 42
	Secret Papers 82 1 win, \$13,200 6 fls, 2 SWs DI=4.60	Stepping High 69 17 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.93	Busanda 47	War Admiral 34 Businesslike 39
		Jet Diplomacy 75 82 fls, 5 SWs SI 1.01 DI=9.00	No Robbery 60	Swaps 52 Bimlette 44
	Box of Joy 00 4 fls, 1 SW DI=1.74	Concerto 94 10 wins, \$1,308,118, SW 357 fls, 23 SWs SI 1.45 DI=2.31	Attache Case 70 12 fls, 1 SW DI=2.38	*Bebop II 57
Chief's Crown 82 592 fls, 53 SWs SI 2.22 DI=3.80			Exploident 69	Nearctic 54 Venomous 53
Cricket Box 92 Unraced 9 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.00		Undeniably 87 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.50	Jet to Rule 67	Sir Ruler 55 Jetbead 55
Nashua 52 Jandy 49	Patsy's Lil Girl 71 12 fls, 1 SW DI=1.12	Diplomat Way 64	Old Bess 48	Vincentive 40 Movie Lass 33
		Danzig 77	Northern Dancer 61 Pas de Nom 68	
	Well Decorated 78	Secretariat 70 Chris Evert 71		
	Mobcap 77	Intentionally 56 My Dear Girl 57 Messenger of Song 72 Pastiche 74		
*Roi Dagobert 64	Old Bess 48	Raja Baba 68 Paris Breeze 71 Tom Rolfe 62 Cap and Bells 58 =Sicambre (Fr) 48 =Dame d'Atour (Fr) 55	Vincentive 40 Movie Lass 33	

A multiple graded stakes-winning sprinter, homebred Montbrook returned to Ocala Stud and now represents the strongest contemporary branch of the tenuous Buckpasser sire line.

Montbrook's Ocala Stud roots trace back to his unplaced and obscurely bred third dam, Old Bess, who would be identified by her subsequent array of noteworthy descendants as one of that farm's premier matriarchs.

Tackleberry is one of four winners from as many starters out of the unraced mare Box of Joy. He is the first stakes winner to be produced from a Concerto broodmare.

Box of Joy's unraced dam, Cricket Box, is the first or second dam to four graded stakes winners, all bred by Ocala Stud Farm and sired by Montbrook. The other three, three-quarter siblings to our subject, are 2001 Super Derby (G1) winner Outofthebox, 2005 Flash Stakes (G3) winner Beacon Shine, and 2008 Schuylerville Stakes (G3) winner Jardin.

Tackleberry's tail-female line is anchored by his fourth dam, the aforementioned Old Bess, whose influence is ultimately reinforced by a complementary strain through Montbrook.

To date, Montbrook has only sired 13 foals of racing age out of Old Bess-line broodmares.

This rare but auspicious configuration, where the sire and dam both descend from the same family is referred to as the "formula one pattern" and includes an exceptional list of important Thoroughbreds throughout history.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>

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