



More of the same from The Usual Q. T. in Eddie Read

by Rommy Faversham

The Usual Q. T. advanced his standing among the nation's leading turf runners with an explosive turn of foot in deep stretch to draw away by two lengths in the \$300,000 Eddie Read Stakes (G1) on July 24 at Del Mar.



Benoit & Associates photo

A well-backed 7-to-5 favorite in a balanced field of seven, the four-year-old Unusual Heat gelding completed the 1½-mile journey in 1:47.28 on firm turf.

A maiden his after first five career starts, The Usual Q. T. has scored in eight of his ten most recent outings, all of the victories coming on grass. His résumé includes victories in the 2009

THE USUAL Q. T.

Hollywood Derby (G1), Oak Tree Derby (G2) and Sir Beaufort Stakes (G3).

A remarkably consistent yet improving bay gelding, his career earnings stand at \$993,320 in three seasons on the track.

The Usual Q. T. is the first starter out of the Western Fame mare Lunge, a multiple winner at age three and a full sister to Western Act, a four-time stakes winner at Turf Paradise.

The Usual Q. T. is from a long-standing, albeit relatively uncelebrated, California-based family. His Eddie Read victory establishes him as the most illustrious member of his extended tribe—one that traces back to our subject's sixth dam, the classically bred Blue Cloth, by Blue Larkspur, out of a Man o' War mare.

Blue Cloth's daughter, The Usual Q. T.'s fifth dam, Kick Pleat, is the dam of several important winners, including Today'n Tomorrow, hero of the 1977 Sunset Handicap (G1).

The Usual Q. T. hails from the eighth crop of the Nureyev stallion Unusual Heat and is the richest of his sire's nine graded stakes winners.

The Golden State's leading turf sire since 2004, Unusual Heat's fortunes have soared since California's wholesale switch to synthetic surfaces. As such, he appears well on his way to a third consecutive overall state sire title.

The Usual Q. T., b. g., 2006

Unusual Heat 90 455 fs, 27 SWs SI 1.92 DI=1.62	Nureyev 77 2 wins, \$42,522 Champion 786 fs, 137 SWs SI 4.73 DI=2.83	Northern Dancer 61 635 fs, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nearctic 54	=Nearco (Irb) 35 *Lady Angela 44
	Rossard (Den) 80 14 wins, \$202,858 Champion 13 fs, 1 SW DI=2.20	Special 69 9 fs, 3 SWs DI=1.52	Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
Lunge 01 3 fs, 1 SW DI=4.60	Western Fame 92 8 wins, \$402,484, SW 268 fs, 13 SWs SI 0.95 DI=2.79	=Glacial (Den) 66 22 fs, 2 SWs SI 45.94 DI=1.29	*Forli 63	=Aristophanes (GB) 48 =Trevisa (Arg) 51
	Qualified 94 1 win, \$9,190 4 fs, 2 SWs DI=99.99	=Peas-Blossom (GB) 68 7 fs, 1 SW DI=1.00	Thong 64	=Rough Shod II 44 Nantallah 53
	Fariedah 85 11 fs, 1 SW DI=2.00	=Pardal (Fr) 47	=Pharis II (Fr) 36 =Adargatis (Fr) 31	
	Golden Act 76 507 fs, 36 SWs SI 1.07 DI=3.00	=Glacis (Den) 58	=Epigram (GB) 33 =Glamour (GB) 42	
	Select a Song 84 13 fs, 0 SWs DI=11.00	*Midsummer Night 57	*Djeddah 45 Night Sound 46	
		*Fan Light (GB) 56	*Wilwyn 48 =Light of Day (GB) 39	
		Gone West 84 1210 fs, 98 SWs SI 2.48 DI=4.52	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
		Golden Act 76 507 fs, 36 SWs SI 1.07 DI=3.00	Secrettame 78	Secretariat 70 Tamerett 62
		Windy Sands 84 13 fs, 0 SWs DI=11.00	Topsider 74	Northern Dancer 61 Drumtop 66
			Golden Highlights 79	Secretariat 70 Barely Even 69
			Gummo 62	Fleet Nasrullah 55 Alabama Gal 57
			Golden Shore 71	Windy Sands 57 Retsinato 66
			Messenger of Song 72	Envoy 62 *Philomela 54
			Selection 70	T. V. Lark 57 Kick Pleat 64

Almost black in color, Unusual Heat will commence stud duty in 2011 at Harris Farms in Coalinga.

Not readily apparent from the five-cross pedigree, which appears above, The Usual Q. T. conveys one of the most identifiable patterns among top-level turf performers: the accumulation of strains from the grass-loving family of *Rough Shod II, who is the third dam of Nureyev, The Usual Q. T.'s paternal grandsire.

On the bottom half of his pedigree, *Rough Shod II contributes two additional strains. She is the fourth dam of Topsider, Western Fame's broodmare sire. A second dose is via Golden Act's grandam, Retsinato, whose sire, Ridan, is a full brother to Thong, Nureyev's grandam.

Although far less specific as an indicator of overall quality, inbreeding to Northern Dancer also has tended to generate individuals with a preference for turf and all-weather surfaces rather than dirt.

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