



Untested silver sophomore ignites a Flashpoint in Hutcheson

by Rommy Faversham

Peachtree Stable's young hotshot Flashpoint proved overwhelming in victory as he handled the imposing jump in class from maiden winner to graded stakes company with aplomb, charging past odds-on favorite Travelin Man in early stretch to score by 7¼ widening lengths in the \$150,000 Hutcheson Stakes (G2) on Saturday at Gulfstream Park.



Bob Coglianese/Gulfstream Park photo

The well-built three-year-old entered the seven-furlong race off a facile victory in his career debut at Aqueduct on January 15, when he won by a comfortable 6¼ lengths.

Bred in Florida by Silverleaf Farms, the unbeaten Pomeroy colt was acquired by

FLASHPOINT

his current owners for \$100,000 at the 2009 Keeneland September yearling sale.

Flashpoint is the youngest of five winners from six starters out of multiple stakes winner and multiple stakes producer Two Punch Lil,

Flashpoint, gr. or r., c., 2008

Pomeroy 01 111 fls, 4 SWs SI 1.44 DI=2.29	Boundary 90 6 wins, \$217,777, SW 405 fls, 26 SWs SI 2.21 DI=2.43	Danzig 77 1074 fls, 202 SWs SI 5.30 DI=4.71	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
	Questress 94 2 wins, \$98,872 8 fls, 1 SW DI=3.00	Edge 78 13 fls, 1 SW DI=2.07	Pas de Nom 68	Admiral's Voyage 59 *Petitioner 52
Two Punch Lil 92 6 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.94	Two Punch 83 4 wins, \$89,795, SW 1015 fls, 53 SWs SI 1.42 DI=3.48	Seeking the Gold 85 931 fls, 92 SWs SI 3.14 DI=3.15	Damascus 64	Sword Dancer 56 Kerala 58
	Morning Snack 81 Placed, \$6,010 14 fls, 1 SW DI=3.00	Nahema 82 12 fls, 0 SWs DI=3.31	Ponte Vecchio 70	Round Table 54 Terentia 62
		Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
		Heavenly Cause 78 12 fls, 1 SW DI=2.23	Con Game 74	Buckpasser 63 Broadway 59
		Secretariat 70 653 fls, 57 SWs SI 3.46 DI=3.00	Believe It 75	In Reality 64 Breakfast Bell 70
		Cream in My Coffee 68 10 fls, 0 SWs DI=2.00	Flickering Star 73	Champion 65 Winking Star 59
			Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
			Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46
			*Grey Dawn II 62	*Herbager 56 Polamia 55
			Lady Dulcinea 63	Nantallah 53 Shy Dancer 55
			Bold Ruler 54	*Nasrullah 40 Miss Disco 44
			Somethingroyal 52	*Princequillo 40 Imperatrice 38
			Tompson 57	Tom Fool 49 Sunlight 52
			Toast of the Town 65	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46

a mare with a particularly novel pedigree.

Two Punch Lil's third dam, Toast of the Town, is a full sister to Raise a Native, the foundation stallion who serves as Two Punch Lil's paternal great grandsire. As such, Flashpoint's dam demonstrates inbreeding, 3x3, to full siblings along her tail-male and female lines. This auspicious formation is known as the "Delta pattern."

Flashpoint's sire, Pomeroy, contributes another strain of Raise a Native through his most frequent conduit, our subject's closest inbred progenitor, Mr. Prospector.

Two Punch Lil also produced Uncle Lee Sam, by Exploit, who captured a stakes race in Japan at 1,400 meters (6.96 furlongs).

Flashpoint hails from the first crop of multiple Grade 1-winning sprinter Pomeroy and represents his sire's second graded stakes winner following this season's Forward Gal Stakes (G2) winner Pomeroy's Pistol.

Flashpoint inherited his gray or roan coat from record-breaking 1936 Epsom Derby winner and key sire *Mahmoud. Curiously, the transmission of this Mendelian dominant trait has followed a continuous zig-zag course, from sire to daughter to son, that has spanned eight generations. For good measure, all eight of these individuals have become stakes winners.

The plan may be to stretch Flashpoint out to 1½ miles in the Florida Derby (G1) on April 3 at the Hallandale Beach, Florida, track.

It is worth noting, however, that the Hutcheson never has served as an effective springboard for the Triple Crown. From 57 previous runnings, only Swale in 1984 and Spectacular Bid in 1979 have parlayed victories in this race with wins in any of the classics.

Moreover, despite the brilliant start to his career, Flashpoint's pedigree figures to raise some serious doubts as to whether he can handle a classic distance. For example, it does not help that all six of his parents and grandparents were dedicated sprinters.

Likewise, the average winning distance among Pomeroy's offspring, while a very small sample size, stands at a rather compact 5.96 furlongs.



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Hoofprints through History

A look back at historical events on this day in Thoroughbred racing

March 3, 1966—Ogden Phipps' Buckpasser won the Flamingo Stakes by a nose under Bill Shoemaker. The Tom Fool colt was such a prohibitive favorite among the field of nine that the race was declared a nonwagering contest and dubbed "The Chicken Flamingo."

March 3, 1985—Bill Shoemaker became the first jockey in history to win \$100-million in purses when he won the Santa Anita Handicap (G1) aboard Lord At War (Arg).

March 3, 1993—Russell Baze registered his 4,000th career win aboard Frank Musso in the third race at Golden Gate Fields.



BAZE

Source: NTRA

Benoit & Associates photo



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