



PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Faversham

Does The Factor have the right blood to go the distance?

After shattering Santa Anita Park's six-furlong track record as a maiden and following up with a smart victory in the seven-furlong San Vicente Stakes (G2), the meteoric three-year old known as The Factor soared past another important checkpoint on the Triple Crown trail on March 19 at Oaklawn Park as he scored by 6¼ lengths in front-running fashion in the 1½-mile Rebel Stakes (G2), his first attempt around two turns.

And yet, more than a modicum of concern remains with this ultra-talented gray or roan colt as to whether he can overcome a pedigree that, relatively speaking, appears not so "Derby-friendly."



Corey Photography

The Factor hails from the first crop of the hot, young Danzig stallion War Front, who also is represented by Fasig-Tipton Fountain of Youth Stakes (G2) winner Soldat.

Best at four when a dedicated sprinter, War Front won the 2006 Alfred G. Vanderbilt

THE FACTOR

Breeders' Cup Handicap (G2) going six furlongs at Saratoga Race Course and was runner-up in five other graded sprints.

A key ancestor in the search for stamina might be War Front's multiple stakes-winning dam, Starry Dreamer, a rather atypical daughter of 1992 champion sprinter Rubiano who showed her best form in graded stakes company when going as long as 1½ miles on the turf. What might her influence be in a spot like this?

The Factor is the youngest of five winners from seven starters out of the Miswaki mare Greyciousness, the winner of two races at age three at distances of six furlongs and 1⅙ miles on the turf.

The Factor's grandam, Skatingonthinice, was a multiple stakes winner in the Midwest, scoring in eight of her 46 lifetime starts at distances between six furlongs and 1⅙ miles. The most talented of her offspring, Chief Seattle, was second in both the 1999 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) and Champagne Stakes (G1).

Skatingonthinice's half sister, the speedster Showering, won the six-furlong Whimsical Stakes in 1995 at Woodbine.

The Factor, gr. or r., c., 2008

War Front 02 115 fis, 5 SWs SI 3.20 DI=2.14	Danzig 77 3 wins, \$32,400 1074 fis, 202 SWs SI 5.30 DI=4.71	Northern Dancer 61 635 fis, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57	=Nearco (Ity) 35 *Lady Angela 44
	Starry Dreamer 94 6 wins, \$564,789, SW 6 fis, 4 SWs DI=1.42	Pas de Nom 68 11 fis, 0 SWs DI=11.00	Admiral's Voyage 59 *Petitioner 52	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47 Crafty Admiral 48 Olympia Lou 52 =Petition (GB) 44 =Steady Aim (GB) 43
		Rubiano 87 503 fis, 33 SWs SI 1.36 DI=2.61	Fappiano 77 Ruby Slippers 82	Mr. Prospector 70 Killaloe 70
Greyciousness 95 8 fis, 1 SW DI=2.79	Miswaki 78 6 wins, \$232,320, SW 1153 fis, 101 SWs SI 2.02 DI=2.75	Lara's Star 81 11 fis, 3 SWs DI=0.83	*Forli 63 True Reality 73	=Aristophanes (GB) 48 =Trevisa (Arg) 51 Round Table 54 Secret Promise 64
		Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fis, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46 Nashua 52 Sequence 46
	Skatingonthinice 86 8 wins, \$171,757, SW 7 fis, 0 SWs DI=3.92	Hopingspringseternal 71 8 fis, 2 SWs DI=1.40	Buckpasser 63 Rose Bower 58	Tom Foa 49 Busanda 47 *Princiquillo 40 Lea Lane 52
	Icecapade 69 565 fis, 73 SWs SI 2.27 DI=3.22	Nearctic 54 Shenanigans 63	=Nearco (Ity) 35 *Lady Angela 44	Native Dancer 50 Bold Irish 48
	Rain Shower 80 9 fis, 2 SWs DI=1.80	Bold Forbes 73 Right as Rain 63	Irish Castle 67 Comely Nell 62 *Rasper II 52 Arthurette 51	

The sires running along The Factor's female line are an indeterminate lot in terms of anticipating the transmission of stamina.

Miswaki was a European Group 1-winning sprinter who, when crossed with stout broodmares, has been known to sire offspring and grand offspring, for example Black Tie Affair (Ire) and Sea The Stars, who flourished at classic distances.

Sires of The Factor's second and fourth dams, Icecapade and *Rasper II, expressed female influences that more often than not have favored speed.

Dual classic winner Bold Forbes, sire of The Factor's third dam, had an overall influence that was rather limited.

All things considered, The Factor's pedigree is most likely that of a miler, and his dependence on the lead figures to render him vulnerable in most Kentucky Derby (G1) scenarios.

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