

Prospective meets expectations in Tampa Bay Derby

Donning blinkers for the first time, John Oxley's three-year old Prospective grabbed the lead turning for home and doggedly held off a series of challenges en route to a three-quarter-length victory in the \$350,000 Tampa Bay Derby (G2) on March 10.

Sent off as the 3.10-to-1 third betting choice in the 11-horse field, the hardy Malibu Moon colt stopped the clock in a quick 1:43.35 for the 1½-mile event on a track rated as fast.

In taking the \$210,000 lion's share of the purse, Prospective all but guaranteed himself a place in the starting gate of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) on May 5 as the field for the classic is limited to 20 starters if the race is oversubscribed with graded earnings determining preference.

Sporting a record of four wins and two seconds from seven lifetime starts, Prospective's record also includes a two-length win in last year's Grey Stakes (Can-G3) at Woodbine and a good runner-up effort in the Sam F. Davis Stakes (G3) on February 4 in his start prior to the Tampa Bay Derby.

Bred in Kentucky by Spendthrift Farm, the dark bay or brown colt was purchased by trainer Mark Casse, bidding on behalf of owner John Oxley, for \$250,000 at the 2010 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings.

Prospective is the first foal out of the stakes-winning Awesome Again mare Spirited Away, also the dam of a yearling full sister to our subject.

Spirited Away scored in four of her eight starts at ages three and four, including the $2008\,\text{Truly}$ Bound Handicap at 1% miles in the slop at Fair Grounds.

Spirited Away's pedigree is itself worthy of note as it reveals her sire and dam to be members of the same female family [known as the Formula One pattern, whereby the sire and dam trace to a common taproot mare].

As demonstrated above, Spirited Away's fourth dam, Square



Prospective, dk. b. or br. c., 2009				
Malibu Moon 97 830 fls, 59 SWs SI 1.86 DI=3.00	A.P. Indy 89 8 wins, \$5,959,630 Champion 1139 fls, 142 SWs SI 3.77 DI=2.54	Seattle Slew 74 1050 fls, 114 SWs SI 4.76 DI=2.14	Bold Reasoning 68	Boldnesian 63 Reason to Earn 63
			My Charmer 69	Poker 63 Fair Charmer 59
		Weekend Surprise 80 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.64	Secretariat 70	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52
			Lassie Dear 74	Buckpasser 63 Gay Missile 67
	Macoumba 92 3 wins, \$196,738, SW 11 fls, 0 SWs DI=3.38	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
			Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46
		Maximova (Fr) 80 12 fls, 5 SWs DI=1.82	Green Dancer 72	Nijinsky II 67 *Green Valley II 67
			Baracala 72	Swaps 52 Seximee 66
Spirited Away 04 1 fl, 1 SW DI=3.00	Awesome Again 94 9 wins, \$4,374,590, SW 797 fls, 47 SWs SI 2.58 DI=2.67	Deputy Minister 79 1141 fls, 90 SWs SI 3.17 DI=3.67	Vice Regent 67	Northern Dancer 61 Victoria Regina 58
			Mint Copy 70	Bunty's Flight 53 Shakney 64
		Primal Force 87 11 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.83	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74	Red God 54 Runaway Bride (GB) 62
			Prime Prospect 78	Mr. Prospector 70 Square Generation 69
	Cape North 93 Placed, \$10,955 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.33	Capote 84 824 fls, 62 SWs SI 1.84 DI=3.00	Seattle Slew 74	Bold Reasoning 68 My Charmer 69
			Too Bald 64	Bald Eagle 55 Hidden Talent 56
		North Sider 82 12 fls, 0 SWs DI=2.00	Topsider 74	Northern Dancer 61 Drumtop 66
			Back Ack 76	Ack Ack 66 Square Generation 69

Generation, also serves as the third dam of her influential sire Awesome Again.

The other important ancestor along Prospective's tail-female line is her third dam, North Sider, who became 1987 champion older female after winning the Santa Margarita Invitational (G1) and Apple Blossom (G1) Handicaps and Maskette Stakes (G1).

In anchoring this clan, Prospective's fifth dam, Square Generation, also is the ancestress of English Group 1 winner Amadeus Wolf, multiple Grade 2 winner Zanjero, and 2000 champion two-year-old male and sire Macho Uno.

Prospective hails from the ninth crop of Spendthrift Farm's flagship stallion Malibu Moon and represents the latest of his sire's 20 U.S. graded stakes winners.

Prospective's pedigree also carries duplications of the breed shapers Seattle Slew and Mr. Prospector who, as is well known, descend from a common matriarch, the evergreen matron Myrtlewood.

Better known as a consistent source of superior fillies, Malibu Moon's sons have not enjoyed much of an impact in the American classics.

And yet, there appears to be enough elements linked to stamina on the bottom half of Prospective's pedigree to refrain from giving an out of hand dismissal of his chances for the upcoming Triple Crown events.

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