



PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Faversham

Arkansas Derby winner Bodemeister aims to end 130-year drought

With nothing less than victory to suffice, Bodemeister's sensational 9- $\frac{1}{2}$ length score in the \$1-million Arkansas Derby (G1) on April 14 not only reserved the colt a starting berth in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) but also identified him as one of this year's top-billed contenders.

Shedding his blinkers for the first time, the front-running Bodemeister was never challenged. The favorite at 2.40-to-1, he was timed in 1:48.71 for the 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ miles on Oaklawn Park's main dirt track, which was listed as fast.

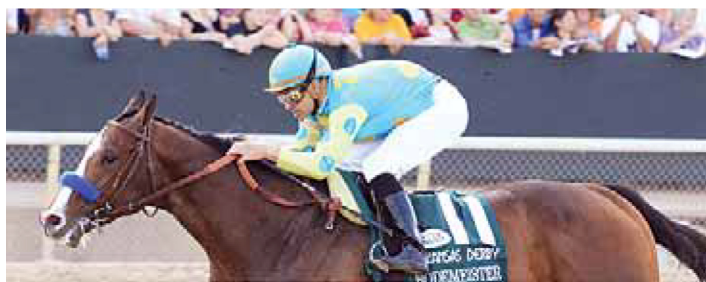
The lightly raced colt became the second highly regarded son of Empire Maker trained by Hall of Famer Bob Baffert and campaigned by Zayat Stables to start in the Kentucky Derby, following Santa Anita Derby (G1) winner Pioneer of the Nile, who finished second to Mine That Bird in 2009.

The kicker for Bodemeister will be overcoming one of the longest and most daunting of streaks in the annals of racing: no horse who was unraced as a two-year-old has gone on to win the Derby since Apollo in 1882.

Bred in Virginia by Audley Farm, the bay colt brought \$260,000 at the 2010 Keeneland September yearling sale.

He is the first runner produced by the Storm Cat mare Untouched Talent, who was herself near the top of her division on the West Coast through the summer of her juvenile season in 2006, capturing the Sorrento Stakes (G3) and then finishing second in the Del Mar Debutante (G1) and Darley Alcibiades (G2) Stakes. The talented filly's racing career was cut short soon thereafter by a series of throat issues.

Bodemeister's second and third dams, Parade Queen and Spanish Parade, respectively, both were stakes winners on turf. Each one, in fact, was triumphant in Churchill Downs' Mrs. Revere Stakes, a Grade 3 event when taken by the former.



BODEMEISTER
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Bodemeister, b. c., 2009

Empire Maker 00 505 fls, 29 SWs SI 3.09 DI=3.16	Unbridled 87 8 wins, \$5,086,255 Champion 566 fls, 49 SWs SI 3.72 DI=1.70	Fappiano 77 410 fls, 48 SWs SI 4.79 DI=4.78	Mr. Prospector 70	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62
	Toussaud 89 7 wins, \$551,536, SW 10 fls, 5 SWs DI=3.25	Gana Facil 81 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.50	Killaloe 70	Dr. Fager 64 Grand Splendor 62 =Wild Risk (Fr) 40 =Anguar (Fr) 50
	Storm Cat 83 4 wins, \$570,610, SW 1414 fls, 180 SWs SI 3.80 DI=4.00	El Gran Senor 81 399 fls, 55 SWs SI 3.18 DI=2.43	*Le Fabuleux 61	In Reality 64 Magic 69
Untouched Talent 04 2 fls, 1 SW DI=2.20	Parade Queen 94 6 wins, \$419,357, SW 10 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.11	Image of Reality 76 8 fls, 3 SWs DI=4.71	Charedi 76	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
		Storm Bird 78 681 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.10 DI=3.25	Northern Dancer 61	Buckpasser 63 Best in Show 65
		Terlingua 76 11 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Sex Appeal 70	Intentionally 56 My Dear Girl 57
		A.P. Indy 89 1142 fls, 144 SWs SI 3.79 DI=2.54	In Reality 64	Cornish Prince 62 Ortalan 60
		Spanish Parade 88 6 fls, 1 SW DI=1.60	Edee's Image 69	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
			South Ocean 67	New Providence 56 Shining Sun 62
			Secretariat 70	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52
			Crimson Saint 69	Crimson Satan 59 Bolero Rose 58
			Seattle Slew 74	Bold Reasoning 68 My Charmer 69
			Weekend Surprise 80	Secretariat 70 Lassie Dear 74
			Roberto 69	Hail to Reason 58 Bramalea 59
			Nijit 77	Nijinsky II 67 *Bitty Girl 71

This American family was initiated in the mid-1970s with the importation of England's 1973 champion two-year old filly *Bitty Girl, Bodemeister's fifth dam.

As a matriarch, Bitty Girl is best known as third dam of 2003 champion two-year old male Action This Day.

A precocious dam from the hot blood of Storm Cat has never been a recipe for Triple Crown success, but tempering from the sober, classic influences of A.P. Indy, Roberto, and Nijinsky II makes for an interesting bottom half to this pedigree.

Bodemeister hails from the fifth of seven U.S. crops of Empire Maker, who is in his second year at stud at the Shizunai Stallion Station on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

The Unbridled sire line, clearly one of Mr. Prospector's healthiest branches, looks to be well represented in this year's Derby with the likes of Bodemeister, Secret Circle, Dullahan, and Done Talking, all recent winners of important Derby preps.

Going into 2012, the cross between sons of Unbridled and daughters of Storm Cat has been anything but productive. With the start of the new year, however, this combination has been on fire.

Keeping Bodemeister calm through the prerace clamor of Churchill Downs appears vital.

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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