



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Blind Date attracts attention with Virginia Oaks score

by Rommy Favershaw

Reserved early, three-year-old filly Blind Date swept five wide into the stretch and responded when roused to nip Shared Account by a head in a thrilling finish in the \$150,000 Virginia Oaks (G3) at Colonial Downs on July 18.

The Virginia Oaks was the first graded stakes victory for the bay Not For Love filly, who was sent off as the 2.60-to-1 favorite in a field of ten. She completed 1½ miles in 1:49.59 on turf rated as soft.

Blind Date has won five of seven lifetime starts. Prior to an uncharacteristically poor seventh-place finish on June 27 in the Boiling Springs Stakes (G3) at Monmouth Park, she won by daylight in the restricted Hookedontheheelin Stakes on April 18 and the Hilltop Stakes on May 15 at Pimlico Race Course in her first two attempts on turf. She has amassed \$195,060 in purse earnings.



Jeff Coady/Coady Photography

BLIND DATE

Blind Date was bred in Maryland by her owner, William M. Backer, who also bred her first two dams. She is one of four winners from as many starters out of the Fit to Fight mare Snit, a four-time stakes winner at ages three, four, and five, including the 1997 Cotillion Handicap (G2).

Snit also is the dam of Sales Tax, by High Yield, a multiple stakes winner on turf; and multiple stakes-placed winner Bitter Lemon, by Lemon Drop Kid.

To date, daughters of Fit to Fight have combined to yield ten graded stakes winners, including 1999 Mother Goose Stakes (G1) winner Dreams Gallore, by the Mr. Prospector stallion Silver Ghost.

Blind Date represents the fifth consecutive generation of stakes winners from the tail-female line as each of her first four dams won at least one stakes. And yet, quite strangely, other than her half sister Sales Tax and a steeplechaser in New Zealand, there have been no other stakes winners under her first four dams.

Blind Date's extended North American family initially was forged

Blind Date, b. f., 2006

Not For Love 90 692 fs, 57 SWs SI 1.73 DI=0.00	Mr. Prospector 70 7 wins, \$112,171, SW 1,195 fs, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61 863 fs, 78 SWs SI 3.14 DI=1.57	Native Dancer 50	Polynesian 42 Geisha 43
	Dance Number 79 8 wins, \$415,418, SW 6 fs, 2 SWs DI=2.85	Northern Dancer 61 645 fs, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Raise You 46	Case Ace 34 Lady Glory 34
Snit 94 5 fs, 2 SWs DI=2.33	Fit to Fight 79 14 wins, \$1,042,075, SW 854 fs, 41 SWs SI 1.15 DI=3.53	Chieftain 61 491 fs, 43 SWs SI 2.14 DI=3.30	Nashua 52	*Nasrullah 40 Segula 42
	Princess Roberta 78 10 wins, \$145,912, SW 7 fs, 1 SW DI=1.56	Hasty Queen II 63 16 fs, 6 SWs DI=1.14	Sequence 46	Count Fleet 40 Miss Dogwood 39
	Queen Ribot 71 7 fs, 1 SW DI=0.68	Roberto 69 507 fs, 85 SWs SI 3.90 DI=2.50	Nearctic 54	=Nearco (It) 35 *Lady Angela 44
		Numbered Account 69 10 fs, 2 SWs DI=1.82	Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahoud 47
			Buckpasser 63	Tom Fool 49 Busanda 47
			Intriguing 64	Swaps 52 Glamour 53
			Bold Ruler 54	*Nasrullah 40 Miss Disco 44
			Pocahontas 55	Roman 37 How 48
			One Count 49	Count Fleet 40 Ace Card 42
			Queen Hopeful 51	Roman 37 Playfull 40
			Hail to Reason 58	*Turn to 51 Northridge 48
			Bramalea 59	Nashua 52 Rarelea 49
			*Sir Ribot 59	*Ribot 52 =Monarchia (GB) 47
			Eblouissante 58	Bolero 46 Graciously 44

in the early 1930s by eminent horseman William Woodward Sr. when he imported her sixth dam, *Sekhmet, from France.

Blind Date hails from the tenth crop of leading Maryland sire Not For Love and represents her sire's 12th graded or group stakes winner.

Like Unusual Heat in California, Not For Love has become a 'big fish in a smaller pond'. Both have distinguished themselves by fitting their environments—siring offspring who perform particularly well within their respective state-bred programs.

Blind Date is inbred to Nashua, 4x5, through his two most influential maternal grandsons, Mr. Prospector and Roberto. This is particularly interesting since Blind Date's fifth dam, Graciously (by *Sir Gallahad III out of *Sekhmet), is a half sister to Nashua's dam, Segula. As such, this is another novel example of inbreeding to the tail-female line.

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