Dunkirk, Chocolate Candy among strong cast with Derby-friendly pedigrees

by Rommy Faversham

DUNKIRK

This year's collection of Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) participants provides another interesting cross section of Amer-

ica's leading Thoroughbred bloodlines.

In terms of sheer quality—as determined by sire power and racing class of the dam (see accompanying chart)—three who appear to stand out are Dunkirk, Friesan Fire, and Papa Clem.

Coolmore-owned Dunkirkwas a \$3.7-million Keeneland yearling purchase. The gray Unbridled's Song colt is out

of the A.P. Indy mare Secret Status, winner of the 2000 Kentucky Oaks (G1) and Mother Goose Stakes (G1), from a top Argentine family.

Another blue blood is the A.P. Indy colt Friesan Fire whose dam, Bollinger (Aus), and grandam, Bint Marscay (Aus), both were Australian Group 1 winners.

A third entrant with similar lofty credentials is Papa Clem, by 2007 and '08 leading United States sire Smart Strike. His dam, Miss Houdini, and grandam, Magical Maiden, both were Grade 1 winners as well.

Several other contenders have pedigrees that look particularly encouraging when their first five or six generations are evaluated as a whole.

One that catches the eye is the cleverly bred Chocolate Candy, who hails from the first crop of unbeaten Candy Ride (Arg).

Out of a stakes-winning daughter



CHOCOLATE CANDY

of 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew, Chocolate Candy is from the immediate family of 1978 Triple Crown winner Affirmed.

Sweetening the deal, Chocolate Candy is inbred to the family of both his paternal grandsire and great-grandsire, creating an extraordinary female family inbreeding pattern tracing back

to Foundation Mare Alablue and her key daughter, 1956 Spinaway Stakes winner Alanesian.

Two colts who performed well in their Derby preps but whose

2009	KENTUCKY	DFRRY	CONTE	NDFRS

			2009	Racing clas	s Auction
Horse		Sire	stud fee	of dam	price
Advice		Chapel Royal	\$10,000	placed	\$68,000
Atomic F	Rain	Smart Strike +	125,000	winner	170,000
Chocola	te Candy	Candy Ride (Arg)	12,500	SW	homebred
Desert F	arty	STREET CRY +	150,000	winner	2,100,000
Dunkirk		Unbridled's Song +	125,000	G1SW	3,700,000
Flying Pr	ivate	Fusaichi Pegasus +	30,000	SP	700,000
Friesan	Fire	A.P. Indy	250,000	G1SW	homebred
General	Quarters	Sky Mesa	30,000	unplaced	20,000
Hold Me	Back	Giant's Causeway	125,000	unraced	400,000
I Want R	evenge	Stephen Got Even	7,500	G1-placed	homebred
Join in th	ne Dance	Sky Mesa	30,000	unraced	RNA (\$90,000)
Mine Th	at Bird	Birdstone +	10,000	unraced	10,000
Mr. Hot	Stuff	Tiznow #	75,000	winner	200,000
Musket	Man	Yonaguska	4,000	SP	15,000
Nowhere	to Hide	Vindication	deceased	unraced	250,000
Papa Cle	em	Smart Strike +	125,000	G1SW	homebred
Pioneero	of the Nile	Empire Maker +	75,000	SW	290,000
Regal Ra	ansom	DISTORTED HUMOR +	150,000	placed	675,000
Summer	Bird	Birdstone +	10,000	placed	homebred
West Sid	de Bernie	Bernstein	27,500	winner	50,000

non-Phalaris male line

+ Mr. Prospector male line

Sires in CAPITAL LETTERS already have sired a Derby winner

pedigrees provide major question marks as to their ability to get a classic distance are Illinois Derby (G2) winner Musket Man, by Yonaguska, and Coolmore Lexington Stakes (G2) winner Advice, by Chapel Royal

The contemporary dominant male line of Mr. Prospector, which has captured eight of the last 14 Derbys, is represented by nine runners in this year's classic.

Alternatively, the two most closely related Derby starters in tail-female line are Desert Party and Hold Me Back.

Desert Party's eighth dam, Laughing Queen (family number 3-j), also serves as Hold Me Back's sixth dam. A full sister to 1925 juvenile champion Pompey, Laughing Queen captured the 1931 Selima Stakes prior to becoming an influential matriarch.

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