



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Quality Road paves his way to the spring classics

by Rommy Faversham

A well-positioned stalker early on, Quality Road held off a furious bid from 11-to-10 favorite Dunkirk near the top of the Gulfstream Park stretch before edging away to an emphatic 1¼-length victory in the \$750,000 Florida Derby Presented by Blackberry (G1) on March 28.



Coglinese photos

QUALITY ROAD

Quality Road was a 4¼-length winner of the Fountain of Youth Stakes (G2) at Gulfstream in his previous start. The bay Edward P. Evans homebred has won three of his four lifetime starts and earned \$632,830.

Quality Road's stalking style and Derby-friendly pedigree figure to make him particularly dangerous in the first leg of this year's Triple Crown.

Bred in Virginia by Evans, he is one of two winners from three starters out of the Strawberry Road (Aus) mare Kobla.

Unplaced in two starts at age three, Kobla is a full sister to 1997 champion three-year-old filly Ajina, winner of the 1¼-mile Coaching Club American Oaks (G1). Kobla's half brother, turf runner Rob's Spirit, by

Virginia-bred Kentucky Derby Winners

1928	Reigh Count
1973	Secretariat
1981	Pleasant Colony
1993	Sea Hero

Theatrical (Ire), won the 2000 Lexington Stakes (G3) and Saranac Handicap (G3), the former at 1¼ miles. Kobla's dam, Winglet, captured a Grade 2 race at 1½ miles.

Quality Road's immediate family is anchored by his third dam, Ireland's

1974 two-year-old champion filly Highest Trump. Classic-placed at three, she is the matriarch of 11 group or graded stakes winners, including top English miler and sire Bahri.

Quality Road's classic quest appears well supported by the sires of his first three dams. Australian Horse of the Year Strawberry Road, Alydar, and Bold Bidder all are primary influences of stamina.

Quality Road, b. c, 2006

Elusive Quality 93 850 fls, 45 SWS SI 2.59 DI=0.00	Gone West 84 6 wins, \$682,251, SW 1157 fls, 98 SWS SI 2.59 DI=4.52	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fls, 181 SWS SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
	Touch of Greatness 86 Unraced 12 fls, 2 SWS DI=2.04	Secrettame 78 15 fls, 3 SWS DI=3.17	Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46 Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroval 52 Tim Tam 55 *Mixed Marriage 52
Strawberry Road (Aus) 79 21 wins, \$1,949,365 Champion 361 fls, 39 SWS SI 3.13 DI=1.50		Hero's Honor 80 368 fls, 35 SWS SI 1.63 DI=1.70	Secretariat 70	Northern Dancer 61
	Ivory Wand 73 7 fls, 1 SW DI=3.00	Glowing Tribute 73	Tamerett 62	Graustark 63 Admiring 62
Kobla 95 4 fls, 1 SW DI=2.11	Winglet 88 2 wins, \$155,975, SW 5 fls, 2 SWS DI=3.50	Whiskey Road 72 497 fls, 24 SWS SI 3.73 DI=1.15	Sir Ivor 65	Sir Gaylord 59 Attica 53
		Giftsa (NZ) 74 6 fls, 1 SW DI=11.00	Natashka 63	Dedicate 52 Natasha 52
		Alydar 75 689 fls, 77 SWS SI 5.54 DI=3.94	Nijinsky II 67	Northern Dancer 61 Flaming Page 59
		Highest Trump 72 13 fls, 3 SWS DI=3.48	Bowl of Flowers 58	Sailor 52 Flower Bowl 52
			=Rich Gift (GB) 59	=Princely Gift (GB) 51 =Riccal (GB) 53
			=Wahkeena (NZ) 63	=Red Jester (NZ) 48 =Royal Souci (NZ) 52
			Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
			Sweet Tooth 65	On-and-On 56 Plum Cake 58
			Bold Bidder 62	Bold Ruler 54 High Bid 56
			Dear April 58	*My Babu 45 Querida 51

Quality Road's tail-female line traces back to his seventh dam, the influential matriarch Myrtlewood, who also appears in this extended pedigree as the fourth dam of our subject's paternal great-grand sire, Mr. Prospector.

Additional family patterns feature Graustark with his Racing Hall of Fame half sister Bowl of Flowers, 5x4, and Tim Tam with his half brother On-and-On, 5x5.

Quality Road hails from the seventh North American crop of the Gone West shuttle stallion Elusive Quality, best known for siring dual classic winner Smarty Jones as well as last year's Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Raven's Pass.

To date, only three horses have won the Fountain of Youth, the Florida Derby, and the Kentucky Derby in succession: the aforementioned Tim Tam in 1958, Spectacular Bid in 1979, and Thunder Gulch in 1995.

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