



158TH QUEEN'S PLATE
WOODBINE RACETRACK, JULY 2

QUEEN'S PLATE BETTING GUIDE

presented by **twinspires**[™]





twinspires™ QUEEN'S PLATE BETTING GUIDE

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ALL PHOTOS: Michael Burns Photography

QUEEN'S PLATE RACE HISTORY

by Alastair Bull



Three of the best trainers in the United States have come to take on the locals in the Queen's Plate. Jimmy Jerkens, Bill Mott, and Chad Brown all have runners competing for the main share of the \$1 million purse. Their success will no doubt appeal to American punters, especially as they have two of the main fancies: Jerkens trains the likely favorite, Woodbine Oaks winner Holy Helena, while Mott prepares Channel Maker.

But history suggests the locals would be ignored at their peril. A quick scan down the list of winners shows that victories from U.S.-based trainers in the great race for Canadian-breds are relatively rare. Mike Maker won last year with Sir Dudley Digges, but prior to that you have to go back to Bobby Frankel winning in 2005 with Wild Desert. U.S. trainers saddle fewer runners than the locals, for sure, but it's a notable detail.

Clearly top of the tree historically among the Canadian trainers is Roger Attfield. He's a member of both the Canadian and the U.S. Hall of Fame for good reason, and one is that he's claimed victory in the Queen's Plate a record-equaling eight times. A remarkable six of those came in nine years from 1987 to 1995, including three Triple Crown champs: With Approval, Izvestia, and Peteski. He tries to claim the record for himself this year with Tiz a Slam.

Catherine Day Phillips hasn't won the Queen's Plate yet, but her father Jim Day won the race twice, including with a Triple Crown heroine, Dance Smartly. She saddles Plate Trial winner Guy Caballero and the improving Watch Me Strut.

Mark Casse may have been born and raised in the United States, and his stable's footprint in the U.S. has clearly expanded following the success of runners like Tepin and Classic Empire. But he's had a base at Woodbine for so long, and has won nine Sovereign Awards for best trainer in Canada, earning a place in the Canadian Racing Hall of Fame, that he clearly counts as a local as much as anyone.

For all his success in Canada, Casse has trained just one Queen's Plate winner, the outstanding filly Lexie Lou in 2014. However, he comes with two good chances. State of Honor is the best-known to Americans; he was good enough to earn second-place finishes in the Tampa Bay Derby and Florida Derby this spring, earning a Kentucky Derby start. His other starter, reigning Sovereign Award champion 2-year-old male King and His Court has a better record on Woodbine's Tapeta track and can't be ignored.

The other trainer with a 2017 runner who has tasted Queen's Plate success is Mike Keogh, who prepares likely outsider Megagrays. He won the race in 1999 with Woodcarver and in 2003 with Triple Crown winner Wando, both raced by Megagrays' owner Gus Schickedanz.

Seven of the 12 jockeys set to ride in the Queen's Plate this year have won the race. Of them, only Julien Leparoux, winner on Sir Dudley Digges last year, is based outside Canada. Two of those other six have won the race twice: Patrick Husbands, who rides State of Honor this year, and Eurico Da Silva, who will be aboard Tiz a Slam. Luis Contreras, Jesse Campbell, Gary Boulanger, and Rafael Hernandez all have one victory.

HOW TO READ A PAST PERFORMANCE

TWINSPIRES CUSTOMERS GET FREE BRISNET PPs FOR TRACKS THEY WAGER ON

The Brisnet.com Ultimate PPs are the most detailed past performance product on the market and include speed ratings, pace figures, exclusive Prime Power and Class ratings, detailed jockey and trainer statistics, and pedigree information. Start using Ultimate PPs and discover why Brisnet.com is the handicapper's edge.

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| <div><div>12</div><div>Cathryn Sophia (E/P 5)</div><div>Own: Cash Is King Llc</div><div>Green, Multi-colored Crown, Green Shamrocks On White</div><div>CASTELLANO JAVIER (0 0-0-0 0%)</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>7</div><div>B. f. 3 FTMSEP 2014 \$30k</div><div>Sire: Street Boss (Street Cry (IRE)) \$12,500</div><div>Dam: Sheave (Mineshaft)</div><div>Brdr: Robert T Manfuso (MD)</div><div>Trnr: Servis John C (0 0-0-0 0%)</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>8</div><div>Prime Power: 147.1 (1st)</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>12</div><div>Life: 5 4- 0- 1</div><div>2016 3 2- 0- 1</div><div>2015 2 2- 0- 0</div><div>CD 0 0- 0- 0</div><div>\$385,520 102</div><div>\$295,520 99</div><div>\$90,000 102</div><div>\$0 0</div><div>Fst (109)</div><div>Off (109)</div><div>Dis (108)</div><div>Trf (110)</div><div>AW</div><div>5 4- 0- 1</div><div>0 0- 0- 0</div><div>0 0- 0- 0</div><div>0 0- 0- 0</div><div>\$385,520 102</div><div>\$0</div><div>\$0</div><div>\$0</div><div>\$0</div><div>1.57spi</div><div>2.23spi</div><div>18.02dpi</div><div>\$15,000</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>10</div><div>E1 E2/Late SPD</div><div>92 99/ 90 99</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>2</div><div>+2016</div><div>+JKYw/EP types</div><div>+JKYw/ Trn L60</div><div>+JKYw/ Routes</div><div>494 22% 54% -0.54</div><div>591 26% 57% -0.15</div><div>2 50% 100% +10.60</div><div>107 22% 54% -0.28</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>3</div><div>+2016</div><div>Graded Stakes</div><div>+Btm favorite</div><div>+Routes</div><div>69 33% 57% +0.92</div><div>28 7% 36% -1.84</div><div>74 30% 54% +0.13</div><div>482 18% 43% -0.05</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>5</div><div>Sire Stats: AWD 6.7</div><div>Dam'sSire: AWD 7.3</div><div>Dam'sStats: Unraced</div><div>SoldAt: FTMSEP 2014</div><div>15% Mud</div><div>15% Mud</div><div>100% 2yo</div><div>\$30.0k (27/47)</div><div>241MudSts</div><div>820MudSts</div><div>1str</div><div>SireAvg: \$53.3k</div><div>1w 1sw</div><div>StudFee: \$15,000</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>14</div><div>★ Finished 3rd in last race ★ Best Dirt Speed is fastest among today's starters</div><div>★ Hot Jockey in last 7 days (13 4-5-1)</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>15</div><div>DATE TRK</div><div>09Apr16Kee6</div><div>27Feb16GP5</div><div>30Jan16GP3</div><div>05Dec15Lrl5</div><div>30Oct15Prx5</div><div>1 1/2 ft :24 :47 1:11 1:43 2</div><div>1m ft :24 :47 1:11 1:36 3</div><div>7 ft :22 3 :45 1:09 1:22</div><div>7 ft :23 :46 3:11 1:23</div><div>6 ft :22 :46 3:58 1:11 1</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>16</div><div>DIST</div><div>1 1/2 ft :24 :47 1:11 1:43 2</div><div>1m ft :24 :47 1:11 1:36 3</div><div>7 ft :22 3 :45 1:09 1:22</div><div>7 ft :23 :46 3:11 1:23</div><div>6 ft :22 :46 3:58 1:11 1</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>17</div><div>RR</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>18</div><div>RACETYPE</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>19</div><div>E1 E2/</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>20</div><div>LP</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>21</div><div>1c 2c</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>22</div><div>SPD PP ST</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>23</div><div>1C 2C</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>24</div><div>STR</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>25</div><div>FIN</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>26</div><div>JOCKEY</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>27</div><div>ODDS</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>28</div><div>Top Finishers</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>29</div><div>Comment</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>30</div><div>WpNmRkRclsVintn* CtrnSp2</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>31</div><div>Bold bid 4w; hung</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>32</div><div>Pressed3w; bid1/4; handy</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>33</div><div>Off step slow in hand</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>34</div><div>On left lead; handy</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>35</div><div>Sharp; handy fashion</div><div>118 92 106/ 80</div><div>117 92 106/ 80</div><div>116 91 104</div><div>114 97 101/ 98</div><div>112 94 94/ 102</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>36</div><div>16Jan Pmm 5f ft :59 3 B 1/36</div><div>03Apr Kee 4f ft :48 1 B 5/37</div><div>26Mar Pmm 6f ft 1:13 B 1/1</div><div>31Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :48 B 1/76</div><div>20Dec15 Pmm 4f ft :48 1 B 1/37</div><div>25Nov15 Prx 5f ft 1:00 3 B 1/14</div><div>16Nov15 Prx 5f ft :59 3 B 1/13</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>37</div><div>13</div><div>Land Over Sea (S 1)</div><div>Own: Reddam Racing Llc</div><div>White, Purple Belt, White Band On Purple Sleeves, Purple</div><div>GUTIERREZ MARIO (0 0-0-0 0%)</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>38</div><div>Ch. f. 3 OBSAPR 2015 \$130k</div><div>Sire: Bellamy Road (Concerto) \$7,500</div><div>Dam: Belle Watling (Pulpit)</div><div>Brdr: Jack Swain III (KY)</div><div>Trnr: O'Neill Doug F (0 0-0-0 0%)</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>39</div><div>Prime Power: 139.7 (4th)</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>40</div><div>Life: 8 2- 4- 1</div><div>2016 3 1- 2- 0</div><div>2015 5 1- 2- 1</div><div>CD 0 0- 0- 0</div><div>\$472,000 97</div><div>\$324,000 93</div><div>\$148,000 97</div><div>\$0 0</div><div>Fst (107)</div><div>Off (106)</div><div>Dis (107)</div><div>Trf (108)</div><div>AW</div><div>7 1- 4- 1</div><div>0 0- 0- 0</div><div>0 0- 0- 0</div><div>1 1- 0- 0</div><div>\$430,000 97</div><div>\$0</div><div>\$0</div><div>\$42,000 82</div><div>\$0</div><div>1.22spi</div><div>2.26spi</div><div>\$11,000</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>41</div><div>E1 E2/Late SPD</div><div>92 99/ 90 99</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>42</div><div>+2016</div><div>+Shipper</div><div>228 19% 45% -0.13</div><div>135 20% 38% -0.25</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | <div><div>43</div><div>Sire Stats: AWD 7.2</div><div>Dam'sSire: AWD 7.6</div><div>Dam'sStats: Unraced</div><div>SoldAt: FTMSEP 2014</div><div>20% Mud</div><div>17% Mud</div><div>100% 2yo</div><div>\$30.0k (27/47)</div><div>492MudSts</div><div>1422MudSts</div><div>1str</div><div>SireAvg: \$53.3k</div><div>1w 1sw</div><div>StudFee: \$15,000</div></div> | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

PROFILING QUEEN'S PLATE WINNERS

by James Scully

Sunday's 158th running of the \$1 million Queen's Plate is the first leg of the Triple Crown for Canadian-bred 3-year-olds. Woodbine switched from dirt to a synthetic track in 2007, utilizing Polytrack for nine runnings of the 1 ¼-mile event before installing Tapeta last year.

Kellie Reilly previewed the prospective 2017 Queen's Plate field on Monday, with the filly Holy Helena expected to be the morning line favorite for owner Stronach Stables and trainer Jimmy Jerkens following her victory in the Woodbine Oaks.

Fillies have held their own in North America's oldest continually run race, capturing 35 editions of the including two in the last six years.

Let's take a look at the last 10 Queen's Plate winners:

SIR DUDLEY DIGGES • 2016

- Made his ninth career start but only second stakes attempt in Queen's Plate
- Non-threatening third trying Woodbine's Tapeta in previous outing, 1 1/8-mile Plate Trial
- Broke maiden two starts previously, winning seventh career start on Keeneland's turf on April 22
- Stalked pace before upsetting Queen's Plate at 15-1 odds

SHAMAN GHOST • 2015

- Improving colt made seventh career start in Queen's Plate
- Stretched win streak to three making stakes bow in previous outing, 1 1/16-mile Marine (G3) at Woodbine
- After dropping first three starts, recorded maiden and allowance wins on dirt at Gulfstream and Keeneland before switching back to Polytrack debut in Marine
- Rallied from more than 10 lengths off the pace to win Queen's Plate by 1 ¼ lengths at 3-1 odds

LEXIE LOU • 2014

- Filly was a stakes veteran, making her 11th consecutive black-type start in Queen's Plate
- Had raced exclusively on Woodbine's Polytrack
- Smashing 4 ½-length winner of final prep in the Woodbine Oaks
- Versatile type closed from ninth in early stages to win Queen's Plate going away at 3-1 odds

MIDNIGHT ARIA • 2013

- Least accomplished winner this century, making five previous starts at claiming level and haltered for \$35,000 tag from third race
- Only previous win came versus a short field in an off-the-turf maiden at Gulfstream Park
- Finished third at long odds making first two stakes and Woodbine starts in Wando and Plate Trial
- Led wire-to-wire at 16-1 odds in Queen's Plate, opening big lead in upper stretch before holding on by a diminishing half-length



PROFILING QUEEN'S PLATE WINNERS

by James Scully

STRAIT OF DOVER • 2012

- Only Queen's Plate winner this century bred in British Columbia (rest in Ontario)
- Moved to Woodbine's Polytrack after dropping first two attempts on dirt at Hastings Park and finished first in four consecutive starts (including a DQ) before making seventh career start in Queen's Plate
- Romped by 6 ½ lengths in front-running style while making stakes debut in final prep, the Marine
- Comfortable wire-to-wire winner in Queen's Plate, scoring by 1 ¼ lengths at 7-2 odds in final career start

INGLORIOUS • 2011

- Filly raced exclusively in stakes company in six starts prior to Queen's Plate, opening career with a pair of juvenile wins on Woodbine's Polytrack
- On Kentucky Oaks trail early in sophomore season, finishing second in Rachel Alexandra (G3) and fourth in Fair Grounds Oaks (G2) before being redirected to Woodbine
- Prepped for Queen's Plate with wins over fillies in La Lorgnette and Woodbine Oaks
- Late runner swept by rivals on far turn and stormed home to win Queen's Plate going away by 2 ½ lengths at 9-2 odds

BIG RED MIKE • 2010

- Won or placed in first five starts (2-2-1), with the Queen's Plate representing his second stakes attempt
- Posted an 8-1 upset in Plate Trial in previous outing
- Had raced exclusively on Woodbine's Polytrack
- Established slow early pace leading wire-to-wire, winning by 1 ½ lengths at 5-1 odds



EYE OF THE LEOPARD • 2009

- Lightly-raced type didn't make career bow until mid-April, breaking his maiden the second-time out at Woodbine on May 10
- Captured Plate Trial in third start
- Made fourth career outing in Queen's Plate and rallied from just off the pace to prevail by a neck as the 2-1 favorite

NOT BOURBON • 2008

- Stakes and Woodbine veteran was making 10th career start but just second two-turn attempt in Queen's Plate
- After six juvenile appearances, he opened sophomore campaign with a close second in the Achievement and a five-length romp in Queenston sprinting
- Stretched out to a route with a narrow win in Plate Trial
- Rallied from just off pace to clear lead in upper stretch and just held on to win Queen's Plate by a head at 9-2 odds

MIKE FOX • 2007

- Made eighth career start in Queen's Plate and wasn't a serious factor in three previous stakes attempts
- Recorded maiden and entry-level allowance wins at age 2 on Woodbine's Polytrack but failed to fire in a pair of stakes appearances
- Made three sophomore starts before Queen's Plate, recording a pair of unplaced efforts before capturing a two-turn allowance in late May
- Overlooked at 15-1 odds, he stalked the pace in third before getting up late to win the Queen's Plate by a half-length

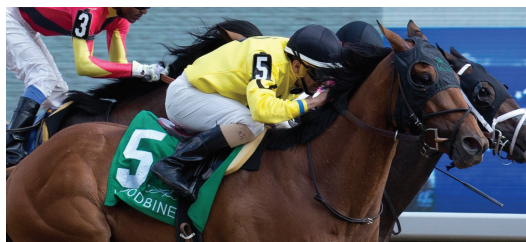
QUEEN'S PLATE TOP HORSES



CHANNEL MAKER

Owner: Joey Gee Thoroughbreds **Trainer:** Daniel J. Vella **Jockey:** Rafael M. Hernandez

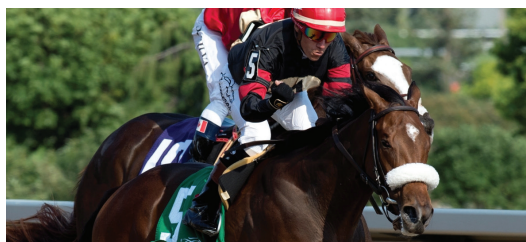
Was considered good enough to send to the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf last season, in which he had a seventh-place finish. The son of English Channel put up a bold effort May 28 in the grade III Marine Stakes, his first run away from the turf; he beat all but Souper Tapit, and was clearly the best of the Queen's Plate contenders that ran. Looks likely to stay 1-1/4 miles and gives trainer Bill Mott a big chance.



GUY CABALLERO

Owner: Fitzhenry, Sean and Dorothy **Trainer:** Catherine D. Phillips **Jockey:** Jose Ortiz

A useful 2-year-old last season, Guy Caballero was a 20-1 shot in the Plate Trial June 11, and looked like a longshot for most of the trip while lingering in last position. But he picked up the leaders nicely and stretched out well to score a game victory. That win, in a manner that suggested he would enjoy 1-1/4 miles, means he has to be considered a real chance. One of two possible runners for trainer Catherine Day Phillips.



HOLY HELENA

Owner: Stronach Stables **Trainer:** James A. Jerkens **Jockey:** Luis Contreras

This Ghostzapper filly didn't start racing until April 15, when she finished second at Aqueduct. But after that and a Belmont Park maiden victory in May, trainer Jimmy Jerkens sent her to Canada for the Woodbine Oaks June 11, where she scored an impressive victory. A Stronach Stables homebred out of a mare by the recently-deceased Holy Bull, Holy Helena looks to have plenty of upside could well start favorite.



KING AND HIS COURT

Owner: Wachtel Stable and Barber, Gary **Trainer:** Mark E. Casse **Jockey:** Gary Boulanger

Was named Canada's champion 2-year-old male after winning the Coronation Futurity on the Tapeta, defeating two likely Queen's Plate runners: his stable companion State of Honor, and Guy Caballero. Didn't feature in two Kentucky Derby preps but won the Wando Stakes on his return to Canada before finishing a close second to Guy Caballero in the Plate Trial. A solid chance for Mark Casse on a Tapeta surface that he enjoys.



STATE OF HONOR

Owner: Conrad Farms **Trainer:** Mark E. Casse **Jockey:** Patrick Husbands

Mark Casse's colt is the best-known Queen's Plate runner to U.S. punters after he earned a start in the Kentucky Derby with second-place finishes in the Tampa Bay Derby and Florida Derby. Finished a distant 19th in the Kentucky Derby, and then returned to Canada to finish third in the Plate Trial June 11. Has the class to figure, but there are questions about his stamina at 1-1/4 miles, whether he's better on dirt than on Woodbine's Tapeta, and if he's able to peak given his busy year.



TIZ A SLAM

Owner: Chiefswood Stable **Trainer:** Roger L. Attfield **Jockey:** Eurico Rosa Da Silva

Was Woodbine's Winterbook favorite for the Queen's Plate after winning the Cup and Saucer Stakes on turf. Finished second to King and His Court after a less favorable run than the winner, and was a shade unlucky when fourth in the Plate Trial. Could still be improving, and he gives top Canadian trainer Roger Attfield a chance at a record-breaking ninth Queen's Plate victory.

DISTANCE & SURFACE ARE PART OF QUEEN'S PLATE HANDICAPPING PUZZLE

by Ed DeRosa



Handicapping the biggest race of any track's stakes program is a lot of fun because the rewards often go beyond the financial. I.e., in addition to winning money when correct, the handicapper also gets the glory of solving the puzzle under a spotlight.

Of course, the path to glory is often wrought with peril, and big races typically present unique challenges to handicappers.

The Queen's Plate at Woodbine is no different, as the 1 ¼-mile distance on the synthetic Tapeta surface are two variables that might be new to the horses and handicappers.

Going back to November 6, 2013, I have 4,114 races in my Brisnet.com ALLWAYS database, and 34 of them (0.8%) have been non maiden races at least 1 ¼ miles on a synthetic surface. That's a small size in relation to the total number of races, but isn't completely awful in terms of trying to determine how these races are run.

One thing ALLWAYS does is looks at the relation between early pace and finishing ability, and helps identify the running style best-suited to a particular race. E.g., some races you want a speedball, others you want more endurance.

For long routes on the Woodbine synthetic surface, you want a combination of both. Just winging it through too-fast a pace won't get the job done, but being forwardly placed and being able to sustain a reality is a premium skill. I.e. a combination of the best of both dirt and turf racing.

That's not to say you can't win gate-to-wire, though it does not happen very often (only 16% of two-turn races this year have been won in this fashion), but my preferred Queen's Plate trip would be midpack through fast fractions and then outkick the deep closers for home.

Another interesting stat from ALLWAYS is that back speed does better than last-out speed from Impact Value and Return On Investment perspectives. I.e., a player will fare better playing the best Speed Rating on the PPs versus the best Speed Rating from the last race. This is actually the opposite of the Kentucky Derby.

This is actually good news for bettors, because you're more likely to get a good price on back number than the last number.

A few other observations from the ALLWAYS database of non-maiden races going at least 1 ¼ miles on synthetic at Woodbine:

- Dirt form is more predictive than turf form. Synthetic has a "turf" reputation, but horses who have better dirt records have done better in these types of races than horses with good turf records but poor dirt records.
- From a horsemen perspective, the trainer and jockey have had similar impact on wagering results. The good ones don't win any more or less than they do other races, and the not-so-good ones don't become miracle workers because of the distance or class. I.e., focus on the horse.
- Almost every horse racing in a 1 ¼-mile race (especially as a three-year-old) raced at a different distance last out. This is a good thing. Avoid horses who have been in long routes before the Queen's Plate (with the Kentucky Derby being an exception).

Speaking of horsemen, it's worth noting that Eurico De Silva, a leading rider at Woodbine regardless of race type, is 6-for-18 in synthetic stakes this year at Woodbine with an addition half dozen placings. Jesse Campbell, however, is 0-for-19 in these scenarios despite being a 16% rider otherwise.



Things are spread around even more among trainers with 13 conditioners having won added money events this year at Woodbine. Mark Casse leads with 3, but his percentage is soft versus his overall numbers. Similarly, Michael DePaulo is a 14% trainer overall but winless in stakes.

Queen's Plate weekend begins Friday, June 30, with racing Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The Queen's Plate card features guaranteed pools in both Pick 5s and Pick 4s.

TWINSPIRES TIPSHEET



158TH RUNNING OF THE QUEEN'S PLATE

Queen's Plate Stakes

1 1/4-Miles

PURSE \$1,000,000

| POST | HORSE | ML ODDS |
|------|--------------------|---------|
| 1 | Channel Maker | 4-1 |
| 2 | Guy Caballero | 10-1 |
| 3 | Holy Helena | 3-1 |
| 4 | Spirit of Caledon | 50-1 |
| 5 | Inflexibility | 10-1 |
| 6 | King and His Court | 5-1 |
| 7 | State of Honor | 8-1 |
| 8 | Malibu Secret | 20-1 |
| 9 | Megagray | 9-1 |
| 10 | Vaughan | 50-1 |
| 11 | Aurora Way | 6-1 |
| 12 | Tiz a Slam | 10-1 |
| 13 | Watch Me Strut | 30-1 |

| TOP PICKS | |
|--|---------------|
| 2 | Guy Caballero |
| 1 | Channel Maker |
| 12 | Tiz a Slam |
| \$1 EXACTAS | |
| 1, 2 w/ all (\$24) | |
| 3, 8, 12 with 1, 2 (\$6) | |
| 1, 2, 3, 8, 12 boxed (\$20) | |
| BIG TICKET \$0.20 SUPERFECTA | |
| 1, 2, 3, 8, 12 with 1, 2, 3, 8, 12 with 1, 2, 3, 8, 12 with ALL (\$120) | |

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Handicapping the Queen's Plate is not all that much different from handicapping the U.S. version of the Canadian classic: Who can get the 1 1/4-mile distance, and who figures to benefit from a good trip in a full field. With this year's Queen's Plate drawing 13 three-year-olds for the July 2 contest at Woodbine, the answer to those questions could lead to pari-mutuel glory.

The surest thing when it comes to trip is that State of Honor is likely to be on the lead, and while he could be lone speed, his 1-for-12 record with the lone win coming sprinting gives some pause that 1 1/4 miles is his best game. When I don't like lone speed to get the job done, I favor pressers or midpack types of closers, as they often get the jump on trailers and have a chance to be "lone second speed."

#1 Channel Maker and #2 Guy Caballero fit that bill for me with a slight lean toward Guy Caballero as the "on top" selection. Guy Caballero was 20-to-1 when winning the Plate Trial, and while I typically don't like attending the funeral after missing the wedding, he probably won't pick up much steam off that win and could still offer value despite winning the local prep. He keeps improving and another step forward third off the layoff stretching out to 1 1/4 miles could do the trick.

Channel Maker has been consistently faster than Guy Caballero, but will likely be a shorter price, further back than the top pick, and hasn't exactly made the most of his trips. We'll look to play Guy Caballero across the board at his morning line odds of 8-to-1 or better, and key him and Channel Maker in exactas and trifectas with #3 Holy Helena, #12 Tiz a Slam, and #8 Malibu Secret. We'll also box those five in an exacta.

QUEEN'S PLATE PEDIGREES

by David Miller

KING AND HIS COURT

- Runner who carries highest concentration of Windfields principals in his pedigree, a pattern found in past Queen's Plate winners, including three crosses of South Ocean in an extended pedigree that also carries Nijinsky II and Victoria Park.

CHANNEL MAKER

- By English Channel, who descends from important Queen's Plate influence Smart Strike and also sired Queen's Plate winner Strait of Dover.
- Carries duplication to important matriarch Special, which matches patterns found in recent Queen's Plate winners.

HOLY HELENA

- By Ghostzapper, sire of Queen's Plate winner Shaman Ghost
- Descends from Lowe family 3-I ancestress Uvira II, which has also produced Classic winners A.P. Indy, Lemon Drop Kid.

SPIRIT OF CALEDON

- By Mike Fox, winner of the Queen's Plate.
- Carries four distinct strains of Northern Dancer, the ancestor most prevalent in pedigrees of previous Queen's Plate winner.

GUY CABALLERO

- Carries multiple Windfields influences, including Storm Bird and Nijinsky II in an extended pedigree that carries three strains of Northern Dancer.

AURORA WAY

- By Giant's Causeway, sire of Queen's Plate winner Mike Fox.
- Carries multiple strains of Secretariat and Princequillo, suggesting best form will be produced at Classic distances.

INFLEXIBILITY

- By Scat Daddy, who descends from Storm Cat through Hennessy sire line that also produced Queen's Plate winner Inglorious.
- Carries three strains of Northern Dancer, including Storm Bird and Nijinsky II.
- Carries duplication of important matriarch Grand Splendor; a number of previous Queen's Plate winners also duplicated to important broodmares.

STATE OF HONOR

- By To Honor and Serve, who carries a number of important influences found in past Queen's Plate winners, including A.P. Indy, Vice Regent, Nijinsky II and Deputy Minister.
- Carries four individual strains of Northern Dancer in his pedigree.

2017 QUEEN'S PLATE RUNNERS BY SIRE LINE

| STARTER | SIRE | SIRE LINE | BROODMARE SIRE | FAMILY | IB% | PRIMARY DUPLICATED ANCESTRY |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------|------|---|
| Aurora Way | Giant's Causeway | Storm Cat - Northern Dancer | Pulpit | 1-s | 2.77 | Secretariat 3.91 Bold Ruler 2.73 |
| Channel Maker | English Channel | Smart Strike - Mr. Prospector | Horse Chestnut | 5-b | 1.08 | Northern Dancer 2.34 |
| Guy Caballero | Quality Road | Gone West - Mr. Prospector | Rahy | 1-h | 1.24 | Nasrullah 2.34 Nearco 1.76 |
| Holy Helena | Ghostzapper | Deputy Minister - Northern Dancer | Holy Bull | 3-l | 1.09 | Northern Dancer 1.56 Intentionally 1.56 The Axe II 1.56 |
| Inflexibility | Scat Daddy | Storm Cat - Northern Dancer | Unbridled's Song | 16-g | 1.62 | Mr. Prospector 4.69 Northern Dancer 1.95 |
| King and His Court | Court Vision | Gulch - Mr. Prospector | Grand Reward | 5-d | 5.03 | Storm Bird 4.69 Northern Dancer 3.13 Secretariat 2.34 |
| Malibu Secret | Malibu Moon | A.P. Indy - Seattle Slew | Dynaformer | 14-b | 3.22 | Mr. Prospector 4.69 Hail to Reason 1.95 Nashua 1.95 |
| Megagray | Langfuhr | Danzig - Northern Dancer | Medaglia d'Oro | 5-i | 2.9 | Northern Dancer 4.69 Nearctic 3.91 Nearco 2.34 |
| State of Honor | To Honor and Serve | A.P. Indy - Seattle Slew | Elusive Quality | 9-f | 2.02 | Mr. Prospector 2.73 Northern Dancer 2.34 |
| Tiz a Slam | Tiznow | Relaunch - In Reality | Grand Slam | 2-f | 0.96 | Northern Dancer 2.73 Princequillo 1.37 |
| Watch Me Strut | Strut the Stage | Theatrical - Northern Dancer | Northern Afleet | 3-l | 4.03 | Nureyev 4.69 Roberto 3.13 Hail to Reason 2.34 |
| Spirit of Caledon | Mike Fox | Storm Cat - Northern Dancer | Arch | C-20 | 1.89 | Northern Dancer 3.13 Roberto 2.34 Princequillo 1.56 |

HISTORICAL QUEEN'S PLATE WINNERS BY SIRE LINE

| YEAR | WINNER | SIRE | SIRE LINE | BROODMARE SIRE | FAMILY | IB% | PRIMARY DUPLICATED ANCESTRY |
|------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------|------|---|
| 2007 | Mike Fox | Giant's Causeway | Storm Cat - Northern Dancer | Alzao | 19- | 1.69 | Northern Dancer 3.13 Nasrullah 1.56 |
| 2008 | Not Bourbon | Not Impossible | Sadler's Wells - Northern Dancer | Storm Boot | 1-k | 3.36 | Northern Dancer 3.91 Secretariat 3.91 |
| 2009 | Eye of the Leopard | A.P. Indy | Seattle Slew - Bold Ruler | Smart Strike | 2-h | 1.02 | Nasrullah 2.54 |
| 2010 | Big Red Mike | Tenpins | Smart Strike - Mr. Prospector | Vice Regent | 3-f | 4.38 | Vice Regent 7.81 Nearctic 3.52 |
| 2011 | Inglorious | Hennessy | Storm Cat - Northern Dancer | Smart Strike | 7-a | 1.37 | Northern Dancer 2.34 Bold Ruler 1.56 |
| 2012 | Strait of Dover | English Channel | Smart Strike - Mr. Prospector | Danzig | 4-i | 1.74 | Northern Dancer 3.91 Native Dancer 1.76 |
| 2013 | Midnight Aria | Midnight Lute | Fappiano - Mr. Prospector | Mt. Magazine | 3-o | 3.02 | Vice Regent 3.91 Mr. Prospector 3.91 |
| 2014 | Lexie Lou | Sligo Bay | Sadler's Wells - Northern Dancer | In Excess | 9-f | 0.89 | Nearctic 2.34 Nearco 1.56 |
| 2015 | Shaman Ghost | Ghostzapper | Deputy Minister - Northern Dancer | Gilded Time | 1-g | 1.69 | Relaunch 3.91 Northern Dancer 2.34 |
| 2016 | Sir Dudley Digges | Gio Ponti | Storm Cat - Northern Dancer | Kris S. | 23- | 2.88 | Mr. Prospector 3.13 Raise a Native 3.13 |

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