

INFINITE MAGIC GAME WINNER OF \$200,000 AMERICAN DERBY IN CHICAGO MORE THAN READY COLT STALKS, POUNCES, LEADS, THEN HANGS TOUGH ENGLISH IMPORT WINS SECOND RACE OF 2013 FOR TEAM VALOR PARTNERS



Channing Hill: an insired ride.

Infinite Magic, under a heady ride from Channing Hill, scored a well deserved head victory Saturday in the historic American Derby going a mile and three-sixteenths on grass at Arlington Park racetrack.

The Rick Mettee-trained 3-year-old broke extra sharp, was allowed to assume a contending position in second right behind the pacesetter and saved ground around the entire oval in the \$200,000 Grade 3 fixture that is the second leg of the Mid American Triple.

"The horse put me in a nice position," explained the rider, who was just back from rehabbing an injury. "We had a beautiful trip and he really dug in the last sixteenth of a mile to have a really good score here."

Second turning for home, Infinite Magic was produced by Hill to split horses at the top of the lane. The medium-sized son of More Than Ready went to the lead, opened a daylight advantage and then dug in late to hold off a 2-horse charge to prevail in the closing strides by a head, with another nose back to the third horse.

Hill explained that the winner did not see the challengers coming on the far outside until very deep in the stretch, when Infinite Magic regrouped, dug in and produced enough energy to seal the victory. All runners save one carried the same 119 pounds over the grass course.



Trainer Mettee (L) was scoring his second stakes victory of the summer with a 3-year-old for Team Valor, having saddled Cerro to win a recent stakes event at Pimlico racetrack. Mettee is in his first season as the private trainer for Team Valor, having replaced Graham Motion.

Team Valor International bought Infinite Magic from American interests that had raced the bay colt in England with trainer Jeremy Nosedo. After the colt won a small race going a mile and a quarter on an all-weather surface, TVI bought him as a potential Belmont Stakes candidate.

Barry Irwin, CEO of Team Valor, said "That didn't work out because of the weather, so we regrouped and began to look for some grass stakes. He won on the grass at Keeneland prepping for the Belmont. Prior to coming to the United States, he had raced strictly on all-weather surfaces. I really think this colt can run on dirt, turf and synthetic, so we have a lot of options."

Infinite Magic could make his next start in the Del Mar Derby depending on how he exits this race. His ownership group includes Hall of Fame running back Marshall Faulk and Michael Phelps' swimming coach Bob Bowman. Coach Bowman also races Cerro with Team Valor International.

From *The Blood-Horse* comes the following:

Infinite Magic Pulls Out Tight American Derby

By Jack Shinar



Infinite Magic, overlooked at 12-1 odds, prevailed by head over Admiral Kitten and Stormy Len to register his first graded stakes win in the \$200,000 American Derby (gr. IIIT) July 13 over the Arlington Park turf.

Channing Hill drove Infinite Magic between rivals in the stretch and then found room along the inside to prevail in a desperate finish over the 8-5 choice Admiral Kitten and Stormy Len, who was a nose behind the favorite. Final time for the 1 3/16-mile test over firm going was a strong 1:55.41.

Infinite Magic gets through on the inside to win the American Derby.

Owned by Team Valor International, Infinite Magic raced for the first time for trainer Rick Mettee, who replaced Graham Motion as the ownership group's private trainer earlier this year. One of the partners on the son of More Than Ready is Olympic swimming coach Bob Bowman, who earned his second stakes victory this season as a Team Valor owner. Earlier this season, coach Bowman won the Canonero II Stakes at Pimlico Race Course with Cerro, a colt he owns with protege Michael Phelps. Another partner is the great NFL running back Marshall Faulk, a first-time owner with Team Valor.

In his most recent start, a troubled sixth-place finish in the one-mile Hill Prince (gr. IIIT) June 15 at Belmont Park, Infinite Magic was saddled by Robert Ribaudo. Bred in Kentucky by Grapestock LLC, he is out of the Danehill Dancer mare Truly Enchanting.

Carrying 119 pounds, Infinite Magic paid \$27.20, \$10, and \$7 as the third-longest shot on the board. Ken and Sarah Ramsey's homebred Admiral Kitten, coming off a runner-up finish to General Election in the Arlington Classic (gr. IIIT) May 25, returned \$3.60 and \$2.60 when second again. The exacta was worth \$97.20. Stormy Len paid \$5.60 as a tough-luck third.

Infinite Magic defeated nine 3-year-old rivals in the American Derby, a major prep for the \$500,000 Secretariat Stakes (gr. IT) at 10 furlongs on the Arlington turf Aug. 17. Hill recently returned from a shoulder injury that had sidelined him for about two weeks.

"This was a great way to get my first win back off the injury," said Hill, who rode Infinite Magic for the first time. "The horse put me in a nice position. We had a beautiful trip and he really dug in the last sixteenth of a mile to have a really good score here. The thing I was concerned with was with (my horse) not being able to see (the other horses) all the way out there but once he did, he ended up re-breaking and I was really surprised how much horse I had to the wire."

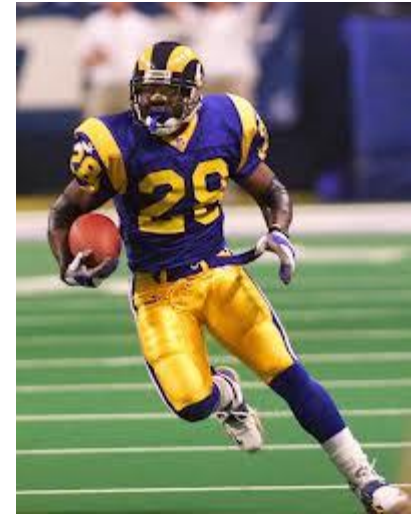


Trainer Rick Mettee achieves his second 3-year-old colt stakes winner of 2013 for his new employer Team Valor International.

Infinite Magic, along with Admiral Kitten and Stormy Len, have their entry and starting fees waived, should they enter the third and final leg of the Mid-America Triple.

Always prominent for Hill, who moved him toward the inside, Infinite Magic tracked in third as pacesetter Mongolian Saturday opened a two-length advantage over Dorsett. Tepid fractions of :24.15, :49.34, and 1:13.52 ensued as the field made its way through the far turn.

Infinite Magic, angled off the inside for the stretch run, then took the lead from Dorsett past the furlong mark. He proved best under firm handling as Admiral Kitten, rallying five wide for Julien Leparoux, made a big late bid to just miss. Stormy Len was also a willing closer for Alex Solis but was outfought in the final strides.



National Football League running back and pass catcher Marshall Faulk enjoyed his first ever stakes winner with his very first Thoroughbred racehorse when Infinite Magic won the Grade 3 American Derby on Saturday with Infinite Magic.

A star running back in San Diego as a collegian, All-American Faulk set national records for yardage gained. As a professional for the St. Louis Rams, he was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2011.

Currently Faulk appears as an analyst on the NFL's football station. He resides in San Diego.

Faulk became a Thoroughbred owner when he joined the Infinite Magic partnership along with his business advisor and golfing buddy Ron Brouillette of La Jolla, California.

If Infinite Magic makes his next start in the Grade 2 Del Mar Derby at Del Mar racetrack just north of San Diego, Faulk will realize a short-term goal to see his horse run locally at his favorite racetrack.

Brouillette, a longtime Team Valor partner, currently owns 3 sophomore stakes winners in Cerro, Infinite Magic and First Cornerstone. It's been quite an active year for the La Jolla financial advisor.



Maryland coach Bob Bowman.

The winner began his career racing on synthetic tracks at 2 in Great Britain for trainer Jeremy Nosedo, where he had two wins and two seconds from five starts, including a handicap win at Lingfield Feb. 13.

Transferred to the United States, the bay colt won his first start, an allowance race April 14 on the Keeneland turf. Switched to the dirt for the Peter Pan Stakes (gr. II) at Belmont May 11, Infinite Magic failed to handle the sloppy track, finishing last of nine by 32 lengths. His next start was in the Hill Prince.

Overall, Infinite Magic has four wins from nine outings with earnings of \$167,502.

Procurement finished fourth, followed by Dorsett, Moro Tap, General Election, Formidable Heart, Mongolian Saturday, and Triple Cross. Coastal Breeze scratched.

From *The Bloodstock Journal* published by Bloodstock Research Information Services (BRISNET) comes the following:

Infinite Magic shows in American Derby



Infinite Magic gamely prevailed in thrilling finish.

Team Valor's Infinite Magic struck the front in deep stretch and produced a head victory in Saturday's Grade 3, \$200,000 American Derby at Arlington, narrowly withstanding the bids of Admiral Kitten and Stormy Len in a 3-horse photo. The 3-year-old son of More Than Ready earned his first stakes victory.

Trained by Rick Mettee, Infinite Magic was overlooked as the 12-1 eighth choice among 10 rivals in the 1 3/16-mile firm turf test, a prep for the Grade 1 Secretariat Stakes on the August 17 Arlington Million undercard.

Mongolian Saturday sprinted to the lead at the break, establishing an opening quarter-mile in :24 on a two-length lead, and continued to show the way through splits of :49 1/5 and 1:13 2/5 before throwing in the towel in the stretch. Infinite Magic raced along the inside behind the early leader and Dorsett was also in the mix, up close tracking on the outside in second. It was several lengths back to the rest as the field made its way down the backstretch and through the far turn.

Channing Hill guided Infinite Magic off the rail leaving the turn as Dorsett took a narrow lead, splitting that rival and the tiring pacesetter in upper stretch. He seized the advantage in the final sixteenth of a mile, but Admiral Kitten and Stormy Len were both charging on the far outside. The wire came just in time as Infinite Magic stopped the teletimer in 1:55 2/5.

"The horse put me in a nice position," Hill said. "We had a beautiful trip and he really dug in the last sixteenth of a mile to have a really good score here. The thing I was concerned with was with (my horse) not being able to see (the other horses) all the way out there but once he did, he ended up re-breaking and I was really surprised how much horse I had to the wire. He's a really nice horse."

Admiral Kitten, the overwhelming 8-5 favorite, edged the 9-1 Stormy Len by a nose on the wire for his fourth consecutive runner-up finish, including recent efforts in the Arlington Classic and American Turf. Procurement finished two lengths back in fourth and was followed by Dorsett, Moro Tap, Arlington Classic winner General Election, Formidable Heart, Mongolian Saturday and Triple Cross. Coastal Breeze was scratched.

Bred in Kentucky by Grapestock LLC, Infinite Magic made his first five starts in England, recording a maiden special weight and handicap win on Polytrack. He captured his U.S. and turf debut in April, taking a Keeneland allowance by a nose, but followed with a pair of non-threatening efforts versus stakes rivals, finishing last in the Peter Pan on a sloppy main track before a sixth in the June 15 Hill Prince on Belmont's turf.

With the \$114,000 payday, Infinite Magic more than doubled his career earnings to \$167,502 from a 9-4-2-0 record.

Infinite Magic is the first foal to race from the winning Danehill Dancer mare Truly Enchanting. This is the female family of English classic winner Fairy Footsteps, English and French highweight Desert Prince and U.S. Grade 2 winner Chinese Dragon.

From *Daily Racing Form* comes the following:

ARLINGTON PARK: Infinite Magic by head in the Grade 3 American Derby

By Marcus Hersh



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill. – When Infinite Magic was imported from England after making five starts overseas, he had never been in a turf race. But it was on turf Saturday at Arlington that Infinite Magic made his mark, skimming the rail under rider Channing Hill to win the Grade 3, \$200,000 American Derby by a head over the hard-charging Admiral Kitten.

Infinite Magic, with Channing Hill aboard, won the Grade 3 American Derby by a head over Admiral Kitten on Saturday.

Four-Footed Photo from Arlington Park.

Infinite Magic, a Kentucky-bred son of More than Ready, raced solely on all-weather tracks in England, but in his final race there, he won over 1 1/4 miles. The victory over a distance of ground caught the eye of Team Valor Chief Executive Barry Irwin, who said he bought the colt in hopes of finding a Belmont Stakes runner.

That plan did not pan out, as Infinite Magic finished a distant ninth in the Peter Pan Stakes, his dirt debut, and even with a spot of trouble in the race, Infinite Magic's next start, a sixth in the Hill Prince on turf at Belmont, failed to impress.

But on Saturday at Arlington, Infinite Magic (\$27.20) probably turned in the best performance of his career, taking up an ideal inside spot tracking the moderate pace (24.15 seconds, 49.34) set by Mongolian Saturday. The early leader caved in quickly when challenged by the pace-pressing Dorsett past the three-sixteenths pole, but Dorsett soon found himself swallowed up, too.



Infinite Magic grazing Saturday morning in this Megan Jones photo.

Hill and Infinite Magic got the best run of all the closers, scooting up the fence as the favored Admiral Kitten took the overland route to the finish. Admiral Kitten and Julien Leparoux were gaining at the wire, but Infinite Magic, finishing far to the inside of Admiral Kitten, dug in gamely to get his head down first.

The winning time for the 1 3/16 miles on firm going was 1:55.31.

New York invader Stormy Len got third, followed by a one-paced Procurement. General Election, the winner of the Arlington Classic, finished unevenly and was vanned off the course following the race. Details on his condition weren't immediately available.

From Arlington Park, comes the following:

Team Valor's Infinite Magic All Charm in the American Derby

by Michael Adolphson



Team Valor International's Infinite Magic, a colt making only his fourth start in America after racing in Europe to begin his career, was given a stealthy ride by Channing Hill to take the second leg in the Mid-America Triple, the Grade III \$200,000 American Derby. Trained by Team Valor's newly branded private conditioner Rick Mettee, the bay son of More Than Ready sat in third, just off the pacesetting duo of Mongolian Saturday and Dorsett before shifting off the rail and rallying between horses turning for home. At the wire, the winner prevailed by a head over Admiral Kitten in 1:55.41.

"This was a great way to get my first win back off the injury (to his shoulder that kept him sidelined about 2 weeks)," said the winning rider. "The horse put me in a nice position. We had a beautiful trip and he really dug in the last sixteenth of a mile to have a really good score here. The thing I was concerned with was with (my horse) not being able to see (the other horses) all the way out there but once he did, he ended up re-breaking and I was really surprised how much horse I had to the wire. He's a really nice horse."

Julien Leparoux, on the Mike Maker-trained Admiral Kitten, stormed from the back of the field to just miss at the wire once again. In the first leg of the Mid-America Triple, the son of Kitten's Joy made a similar to run to lose by a length in the Grade III Arlington Classic on May 25. "It was a good trip," said Leparoux. "The horse came from behind and made a big run. I really need to see the race again on TV. But, for me, no excuse other than maybe the winner saved more ground. Other than that, it was a good run." Admiral Kitten went off as the 8-5 post time favorite.



Outrunning his 9-1 odds in third was Stormy Len, who rallied to finish a nose behind Admiral Kitten, beaten a neck for it all. "I wasn't where I wanted to be. I wanted to be second early, but he threw his head right when the gates opened, and then he got squeezed back. We were just further back than I wanted to be, but he came running anyway," said jockey Alex Solis of the David Donk trainee. Stormy Len was followed in order by Procurement, Dorsett, Moro Tap, General Election, Formidable Heart, Mongolian Saturday and Triple Cross to complete the order of finish.

Infinite Magic, a Kentucky-bred from the Danehill Dancer mare Truly Enchanting, earned \$114,000 to extend his career earnings to \$167,502. The victory was his fourth in 9 starts and his third of 2013. Along with Admiral Kitten and Stormy Len, his entry and starting fees are waived if he enters the third and final leg of the Mid-America Triple, the Grade I \$500,000 Secretariat Stakes on August 17.