

HURRICANE DREAM STORMS HOME 4 1/2 LENGTHS IN FRONT IN BLUEGRASS PROVIDES KEENELAND OPENING-DAY FOLK WITH THRILL UNDER DETTORI



Frankie Dettori thrills Keeneland's opening-day crowd with his signature flying dismount on Hurricane Dream. It was from American-based mentor Angel Cordero that the second-generation Italian rider learned the famed stunt.

Hurricane Dream enjoyed his American debut and took full advantage of a fast pace to not only win by 4 ½ lengths on Keeneland's opening day card, but to run faster by far than any other United States-based grass runner around two turns this season.

Under Frankie Dettori, Hurricane Dream broke well from the gate, easily recovered when the horse to his left came over on him and he settled into a nice position, racing seventh of the 11 older grass runners for much of the way around the hoop. He was striding out beautifully over a course rated as "good" following recent rains.

The Hurricane Cat gelding cruised toward the leaders rounding the far turn. Dettori balanced him at the top of the lane in preparation for the kick. Early splits of :22 2/5 and :46-flat set up the race for the TVI colorbearer and undoubtedly softened up pacesetter Fancy Liquor.

Fancy Liquor retained his race-long, half-length advantage in front at the quarter pole, but when Dettori popped the question to Hurricane Dream, the race was over in an instant. Sprinting the length of the stretch, the chestnut pulled away to score by “open daylight” in the fast time of 1:40 4/5 for 1 1/16 miles.



It was visually stunning. Hurricane Dream was the 7-to-2 second choice, Fancy Liquor the 9-to-2 third choice and mild 3-to-1 favorite Camp Hope finished sixth. Graham Motion's winner earned about \$53,000 for his efforts. Career-wise, Hurricane Dream now sports a record from 20 starts of 7-4-1 and earnings just shy of \$250,000.

The French Listed winner is multiple-Group placed, including when he just missed winning the Group 2 Oettingen-Rennen last season in Germany with Dettori aboard.

From a numbers perspective it was even more impressive. *Equibase* gave him a 118 rating for the race, 4 points higher than any other runner racing around two turns on grass in North America has been able to record in a stakes race in 2023. [RACE VIDEO](#)