



CATHRYN SOPHIA

For the breeder of the modern North American thoroughbred there is no more valuable aptitude than early speed that can be carried a classic distance. That description perfectly defines Cathryn Sophia, a Kentucky Oaks (gr. I) heroine who also demonstrated exceptional early pace.

That Cathryn Sophia was a star in the making was clear from the very beginning of her career. Making her two-year-old debut at six furlongs, she led throughout to score by 12¾ lengths. Remarkably, on her only other outing at two, in the seven furlong Gin Calling Stakes, Cathryn Sophia achieved an even wider margin of victory. Once again on the lead from the off, she widened her advantage at every call, crossing the wire 16¼ lengths clear.

Cathryn Sophia was equally impressive in her first task at three, the seven furlong Forward Gal Stakes (gr. II), which she took by 5½ lengths while –in the words of the chart notes – “in hand.” The opposition, led by multiple graded winner Lewis Bay, fared no better in the one mile Davona Dale Stakes (gr. II), which found Cathryn Sophia seven lengths clear at the wire.

Clearly a dominant force as a sprinter/miler, Cathryn Sophia’s opportunity to show another dimension to her talents came in the Kentucky Oaks (gr. I). Any doubts about Cathryn Sophia’s ability over a distance of ground swiftly disappeared as she cruised to front in the stretch, then quickly extinguished the hopes of her pursuers, drawing off for a untroubled 2¾ lengths victory. Behind her came grade one winners Rachel’s Valentina, Paola Queen and Weep No More, and grade two scorers Lewis Bay, Land Over Sea, Go Maggie Go, Mokat and Venus Valentine. Most recently, Cathryn Sophia added a 6½ lengths win in the Princess of Sylmar Stakes, her jockey described the Equibase chart notes as “.. sitting chilly as if out for a Sunday stroll..” This latest triumph took Cathryn Sophia’s record to six wins in eight starts, her only other outings seeing her add thirds in the Acorn Stakes (gr. I) and Ashland Stakes (gr. I) to her record. Clearly in excellent form, Cathryn Sophia appears at the peak of her abilities and looks sure add considerably to her already highly impressive record should she remain trying.

The sources of Cathryn Sophia’s wide-ranging talent can clearly be discerned from her pedigree. Her sire, Street Boss, is the outstanding sprinting son of the World Champion racehorse, and exceptional stallion, Street Cry, also famed as the sire of Horse of the Year Zenyatta and Champion Two-Year-Old and Kentucky Derby (gr. I) hero, Street Sense. Street Boss has sired an exceptional runner almost every one of his early crops, and in addition to Cathryn Sophia, they range from the King’s Bishop Stakes (gr. I) winner Capo Bastone, to

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Danza, an Arkansas Derby (gr. I) captor who was a fast closing third in the Kentucky Derby (gr. I).

Cathryn Sophia is out of Sheave, a daughter of A.P. Indy's Horse of the Year Mineshaft. Sheave's dam, Belterra, a daughter of another breed-shaping classic influence, Unbridled, won the Golden Rod Stakes (gr. II) at two, and claimed third in the Ashland Stakes (gr. I) at three. In turn, Belterra is half-sister to the outstanding sprinter, Royal Haven, a four-time graded stakes winner.

The evolving paradigm for the North American classic distance runner, epitomized recently by such as American Pharoah, Nyquist and Arrogate, is to possess on-pace speed which can be carried. Cathryn Sophia displayed those characteristics at the highest level, which makes her an exceptional prospect those hoping to breed a classic runner.

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