



STOPCHARGINGMARIA

There is a saying that states that “you are known by the company you keep.” For a racehorse a more accurate axiom might be that “you are known by the company you beat.” And if we accept this measure, then it is clear that Stopchargingmaria is simply extraordinary.

During her stellar career, Stopchargingmaria defeated no less than 15 grade one winners, including Champions Untapable and Stellar Wind – becoming the only horse to score a victory over both of these magnificent runners – as well as Breeders’ Cup winners Ria Antonia and Wavell Avenue, and other such stars as Curalina, I’m a Chatterbox, Got Lucky, Sheer Drama , Wedding Toast, and Unbridled Forever.

A grade one performer at two, three, four, and five, Stopchargingmaria had the speed to break her maiden going 5½ furlongs at Saratoga as a two-year-old, and the stamina to capture the nation’s most prestigious ten furlong test for three-year-old fillies. Capable of humbling her opposition with wide-margin victories, Stopchargingmaria also proved a ferocious fighter in a close contest.

Early to establish herself among the best of her generation, Stopchargingmaria followed up her debut win with a second in the Spinaway Stakes (gr. I) and third in the Frizette Stakes (gr. I). She closed out her juvenile campaign with a pair of triumphs that respectively gave notice of both her brilliance and her determination. In the Tempted Stakes (gr. III), she led from start to finish to score by nearly 11 lengths. The Demoiselle Stakes (gr. II) saw her demonstrate another facet as she wore down Bernardini’s accomplished daughters Got Lucky and Penwith to get the best of a three-way photo-finish.

At three, Stopchargingmaria earned an Eclipse Award nomination with a rich vein of classic form which saw her take in succession the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes (gr. II); the Coaching Club American Oaks (gr. I) in a five lengths romp over Unbridled Forever; and the Alabama Stakes (gr. I), thus sweeping the second and third legs of the Filly Triple Tiara.

Stopchargingmaria’s versatility was on display on her four-year-old debut, as she returned to sprinting to miss by just a half-length in the Madison Stakes (gr. I). A four lengths score in Allaire DuPont Distaff Stakes (gr. III) readied Stopchargingmaria for a far more formidable test, a meeting with Champion Untapable in the Shuvee Handicap (gr. III). With both Stopchargingmaria and Untapable in attack mode, a fierce duel ensued, Stopchargingmaria outfighting her rival to gain the day by a length, with grade one winner Tiz Windy back in third.

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As impressive as this run was, Stopchargingmaria's definitive performance was still to come. In the Breeders' Cup Distaff (gr. I) Stopchargingmaria faced a field that contained eight grade one winners. After making a six-wide move to take command at the head of the stretch, Stopchargingmaria dug in to defy Champion Three-Year-Old Filly Stellar Wind, with the three-time grade one winner Curalina $3\frac{3}{4}$ lengths back in third. This tremendous season also earned Stopchargingmaria her second nomination for an Eclipse Award.

Stopchargingmaria is the leading daughter of Tale of the Cat. Possessed, perhaps, of more raw brilliance than any other son of Storm Cat, Tale of the Cat has gone on to an extremely successful stud career. A Champion Sire of Two-Year-Olds, he is responsible for more than 100 stakes winners, including three-time Eclipse Award winner Gio Ponti, Champion Two-Year-Old Filly She's A Tiger, along with such as Lion Heart, Talk of Ekati, My Trusty Cat, and Cat Moves. As one might expect from a son of Storm Cat out of a Mr. Prospector mare from one of Claiborne's finest families, Tale of the Cat is also making a highly promising start as a broodmare sire, his daughters already having produced 59 stakes winners, 22 of them graded winners, including grade one scorers It's Tricky, Dortmund, Amazing Maria, and Declassify.

Looking at the distaff side of her pedigree, Stopchargingmaria is the first foal of her dam, Exotic Bloom, a two-time stakes winner who was also graded stakes-placed. Exotic Bloom is also dam of a 2016 filly by Tapit, and is bred to Medaglia d'Oro.

Exotic Bloom comes from an illustrious Greentree/Whitney female line. Her granddam, the stakes winning and stakes producing Sir Ivor mare, Abidjan, is out of stakes winner Flag Waver, also granddam of classic placed millionaire Vision and Verse, and third dam of Champion Canadian Three-Year-Old Filly Ginger Brew and multiple graded stakes winner Bourbon Bay. Abidjan's dam is the noted foundation mare, Bebopper, dam of the top-class runners Stop The Music and Hatchet Man, and third dam of Champion Three-Year-Old Filly Yanks Music. Exotic Bloom is actually line bred to this important family through Bebopper and her close relative, the multiple graded stakes winner Buckaroo.

The first five generations of Stopchargingmaria's pedigree show only one cross apiece of Northern Dancer and Mr. Prospector, which means she is free to cross with a wide variety of the world's leading sires and sire-lines. We'll note that there is already a grade one winner by a son of A.P. Indy out of a Tale of the Cat mare, and from this sire line, Tapit is one who has enjoyed exceptional success with Storm Cat line mares. Considering other leading sons of A.P. Indy, there is already a Bernardini graded stakes winner out of a Tale of the Cat mare.

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There are also two Danzig line grade one winners – one from the Danehill branch – from daughters of Tale of the Cat, opening the door to considering War Front in North America, as well as the numerous representatives of this sire line in Europe and Australia. Looking further afield, the cross of Deep Impact with Storm Cat line mares has already yielded history making European Classic winner Beauty Parlour; A Shin Hikari, a dominating group one winner in Europe this year; and four other grade one winners.

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