

BloodHorse

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BRIGHT SPOT

Illuminant wins Santa Anita's Gamely

PLUS

EDDIE OLCZYK / FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC SALE

BRIGHT FUTURE

BY TRACY GANTZ

After **Illuminant** held off favored Wekeela in the May 30 Gamely Stakes (gr. IT) at Santa Anita, Aron Wellman and Michael McCarthy pointed to each other.

“All the credit has to go to this man, Michael McCarthy,” said Wellman, who heads the Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners group that owns the filly. “This filly is high-maintenance, and he’s done a great job.”

“I have to give a lot of credit to Aron Wellman,” countered McCarthy, Illuminant’s trainer. “When this filly was bought, they could have easily gone to Todd Pletcher.”

Illuminant’s team aglow after her score in the Gamely

In reality, it took a triumvirate—Wellman, McCarthy, and bloodstock agent Gary Young. Wellman and Young selected Illuminant for \$180,000 out of the 2014 Ocala Breeders’ Sales Co.’s March 2-year-old sale.

“Gary and I are a two-man team at the 2-year-old sales,” said Wellman.

After the purchase Wellman and McCarthy agreed to let Illuminant mature.



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Illuminant, a \$180,000 sale 2-year-old in 2014, wins the 2016 grade I Gamely



Aron Wellman in a jubilant winner’s circle at Santa Anita after the Gamely

Wellman and the Eclipse partnership have had plenty of horses with Pletcher, McCarthy’s former boss. When McCarthy returned home to Southern California and struck out on his own two years ago, Wellman sent horses his way.

“Winning big races like this at Santa Anita and other tracks around the country is what it’s all about,” said Wellman. “As a disciple of Todd’s, it just made all the sense in the world for us to support Michael.”

Illuminant, a Pennsylvania-bred 4-year-old daughter of Quality Road—Sparkling Number, by Polish Numbers, debuted in late 2014. Though she didn’t put it together for a win until her fifth start, she broke her maiden by 6¼ lengths, added a couple of allowance optional claiming wins, and most recently ran third behind champion Tepin in the Coolmore Jenny Wiley Stakes (gr. IT) at Keeneland.

Wekeela finished second in the Wiley, prompting trainer Chad Brown to ship her to Santa Anita for the Gamely. The 4-5 favorite raced in sixth early, while Flavien Prat and Illuminant sat in second behind Fanticola’s easy fractions.

Several challenged the leaders on the final turn, and Illuminant passed Fanticola at the top of the stretch. Wekeela snuck away from the rest of the pack, but she couldn’t catch Illuminant, who scored by a length in 1:48.34 for the 1½ miles, with Elektrum third.

McCarthy was winning his first grade I since starting his own training business. While with Pletcher, he saddled Rags to Riches in his own name to win the 2007 Las Virgenes Stakes (gr. I).

GAMELY STAKES (gr. IT), Santa Anita Park, May 30, \$300,000 guaranteed, value of race \$301,035, 3-year-olds and up, fillies and mares, 121 pounds, 9 furlongs (turf), 1:48.34 (course record, 1:43.92), course firm.

ILLUMINANT (dkb/br f, 4 yo), **A++**\$180,000
 Quality Road—Sparkling Number, by Polish Numbers
 B—Sycamore Hall Farm, Pa.; O—Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners;
 T—Michael W. McCarthy

Wekeela (Fr) (b f, 4 yo), **A++**\$60,000
 Hurricane Run (Ire)—Moonrise, by Grand Lodge
 B—Dieter Burkle, Fr.; O—Martin S. Schwartz

Elektrum (Ire) (b m, 5 yo), **A++**\$36,000
 High Chaparral (Ire)—Carolines Secret, by Inchinor (GB)
 B—Sweet Caroline Partnership, Ire.; O—Hronis Racing

Margins: 1, ¾, head. Others: Keri Belle (\$18,000), Fanticola (\$6,000), Nancy From Nairobi (\$345), Dressed to a T (\$345), Nashoba's Gold (\$345). Scratched: Evo Campo. Winning jockey, Flavien Prat.

QUALITY ROAD, b, 2006	Elusive Quality, 1993 20s, SW, \$413,284 2,005 f, 130 SW, 1.61 AEI	Gone West, 1984 17s, SW, \$682,251 1,263 f, 101 SW, 1.80 AEI	Mr. Prospector
		Touch of Greatness, 1986 Unraced 14 f, 11 r, 8 w, 2 SW	Secrettame Hero's Honor Ivory Wand
ILLUMINANT dkb/br, f March 16, 2012	Kobla, 1995 2s, unpl, \$1,080 7 f, 4 r, 2 w, 1 SW	Strawberry Road, 1979 45s, SW, \$1,949,365 362 f, 39 SW, 2.60 AEI	Whiskey Road Giftisa
		Winglet, 1988 9s, SW, \$155,975 5 f, 4 r, 2 w, 2 SW	Alydar Highest Trump
SPARKLING NUMBER, dkb/br, 1998	Polish Numbers, 1987 11s, wnr, \$80,493 513 f, 53 SW, 1.54 AEI	Danzig, 1977 3s, wnr, \$32,400 1,074 f, 202 SW, 3.97 AEI	Northern Dancer Pas de Nom
		Numbered Account, 1969 22s, SW, \$607,048 10 f, 6 r, 5 w, 2 SW	Buckpasser Intriguing
	Sunny Sparkler, 1979 18s, SW, \$198,079 7 f, 6 r, 6 w, 2 SW	Sunny Clime, 1972 23s, wnr, \$71,677 363 f, 18 SW, 1.46 AEI	In Reality Nilene Wonder
		War Sparkler, 1960 11s, wnr, \$17,635 10 f, 9 r, 8 w, 2 SW	Fort Salonga Blue Sparkler



PEDIGREE ANALYSIS & HISTORY

Considering the quality of her female family, Illuminant could have been considered a bargain for the \$180,000 Aron Wellman paid for her at the 2014 Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s March 2-year-old auction even before she won the May 30 Gamely Stakes (gr. IT) at Santa Anita Park. After all, Illuminant's first six dams have all produced stakes winners, and turf runs deep through the family.

Illuminant was a \$32,000 Keeneland September yearling in 2013, bought by Don R. Graham from the Eaton Sales, agent, consignment. Graham consigned her to the OBS auction, where Wellman, after conferring with bloodstock agent Gary Young, bought her in the name of his Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners group.

"There was some speculation in her being from Quality Road's first crop," said Wellman, "but she was agile and light on

her feet, and we were bullish on the sire. Typically, we can't afford pedigree, but we got lucky here. That range from \$150,000 to \$200,000 is usually our sweet spot."

Sparkling Number, the dam of the Gamely winner, scored in three turf stakes in her career. She has also produced stakes-placed Jeezum Jim (by Fairbanks) and stakes producer Two's Cozy.

Sunny Sparkler, the second dam of Illuminant, won the Boiling Springs Handicap (gr. IIIT) and two other turf stakes in the early 1980s. In addition to Sparkling Number and the stakes-placed on turf Canavakiss, she produced Smart Sunny, a son of Smarten who won the Mister Diz Stakes and Newark Stakes, both on grass.

The winning Fort Salonga mare War Sparkler, the third dam of Illuminant, was twice stakes-placed but made her mark in the breeding shed. She is responsible for Honey Fox, a daughter of Minnesota Mac

who won the 1981 Orchid Handicap (gr. IIT) and the 1982 Ramona Handicap (gr. IIT) and Black Helen Handicap (gr. IIT), as well as six other stakes, and earned \$582,256.

Illuminant's fourth dam is Blue Sparkler, champion older mare of 1956 who, in the mid-1950s, won races such as the Atlantic City Handicap, Miss Woodford Stakes, Regret Handicap, and the Molly Pitcher Handicap. Blue Sparkler produced Mac's Sparkler, a filly by McLellan who in 1967 won the Beldame Stakes, Black Helen Handicap, and Columbiana Handicap, and in 1968 took the Vagrancy Handicap. Sixth dam Blue Gal produced Blueberry Pie, winner of the 1942 Meadowland Handicap.

Quality Road is the sire of Illuminant and seven other stakes winners, including additional 2016 graded victors Blofeld (gr. II) and Frank Conversation (gr. III). Quality Road stands at Lane's End Farm near Versailles, Ky., for \$35,000.—L.S.

ILLUMINANT'S RACE AND (STAKES) RECORD

Year	Age	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earned
2014	At 2	1	0	0	0	\$250
2015	At 3	5	2	2	0	\$92,400
2016	At 4	5	2(1)	0	1(1)	\$275,000
Lifetime		11	4(1)	2	1(1)	\$367,650

Sire: QUALITY ROAD, b, 2006. Raced 3 yrs, 13 sts, 8 wins, \$2,232,830. Won Woodward S (gr. I), Florida Derby (gr. I), Donn H (gr. I), Metropolitan H (gr. I), Fountain of Youth S (gr. II), Amsterdam S (gr. II), Hal's Hope S (gr. III); 2nd Whitney H (gr. I), Jockey Club Gold Cup S (gr. I); 3rd Shadwell Travers S (gr. I).

Lifetime: 3 crops, 232 foals, 137 mrs (59%), 83 wnr (36%), 23 2yo wnr (10%), 8 sw (3%), 1.68 AEI, 1.70 Cl, 152 sale yrlds, avg \$110,402, 1.7 TNA.

In 2016: 4 sw, 60 2yos, 1 2yo mr, 1 sale yrld, \$3,700.

1st dam: SPARKLING NUMBER, dkb/br, 1998. Bred by David H. Wade (Md.). Raced 3 yrs, 14 sts, 4 wins, \$149,200. Won Candy Eclair S (T), Ocean Hotel S (T), Thomas J. Malley S (T); 2nd Polly's Jet H (T), Egret S (T); 3rd Anderson Fowler S (T). Dam of 7 named foals, 4 mrs, 4 wnr, 1 sw. (\$57,000, 1999 eassep yrld).

2004: Two's Cozy, gr/ro f, by Cozzene. Unraced. Dam of 4 foals, 4 mrs, 3 wnr, 1 sw, including **TOP STRIKER** (\$161,254).

2006: Dead foal.

2007: Hear Our Prayer, dkb/br f, by Songandaplayer. Raced 2 yrs, 8 sts, 2 wins, \$37,750. (\$50,000 eassep yrld).

2008: News Update, b c, by Lemon Drop Kid. Unraced. (\$140,000 keesep yrld).

2009: More Bling, ch f, by More Than Ready. Unraced. Dam of 1 foal, 1 mr, 1 wnr.

2011: Sparkling Jewel, ch g, by Lemon Drop Kid. Raced 4 yrs, 20 sts, 4 wins, \$123,116. (\$36,000 eassep yrld).

2012: ILLUMINANT, dkb/br f, by Quality Road. (\$32,000 keesep yrld; \$180,000 obsmar 2yo).

At 4: Won Gamely S (gr. IT), 3rd Coolmore Jenny Wiley S (gr. IT).

2013: Jeezum Jim, ch c, by Fairbanks. Raced 1 yr, 3 sts, 1 win, \$41,970. 3rd First State Dash S (R). (\$6,000 eassep yrld).

2015: B f, by Great Notion.

Inbreeding: 5SX4D Northern Dancer.

Nicking: QUALITY ROAD w/POLISH NUMBERS mares: 1 foal, 1 str, 1 wnr (100%), 0 2yo wnr (0%), 1 SW (100%), 1 GSW (100%)

Broodmare sire: Polish Numbers, b, 1987-2002. Sire of 223 dams of 1,178 foals, 880 mrs (75%), 608 wnr (52%), 136 2yo wnr (12%), 1.12 AEI, 1.36 Cl; 47 sw.

2nd dam: SUNNY SPARKLER, dkb/br, 1979. Bred by J.W. Van Bibber (Fla.). Raced 2 yrs, 18 sts, 7 wins, \$198,079. Won Boiling Springs H (gr. IIIT), Columbiana H (T), Nassau S (T); 2nd Gallorette H (gr. IIIT), La Prevoyante H (gr. IIIT), Nassau S (T). Dam of **SMART SUNNY** (g, Smarten; \$364,112, Won Mister Diz S, RT, Newark S, RT; 3rd Basil Hall S), **Canavakiss** (f, Rakeen; \$63,650, 3rd Maryland Million Ladies S, RT; dam of **LYCURGUS**).