



2003 Eclipse Award Winners

Steeplechaser

Dynaformer—Rondonia, Monteverdi

ECLIPSE VOTING	
Horse	First-place Votes
McDynamo	225
Praise the Prince	4
Abstentions	19

McDynamo

BY JOE CLANCY

A piano player touches the keys to make music. Elton John makes the keys sing. A quarterback throws the football. Peyton Manning makes the football go places. A steeplechase horse runs and jumps. McDynamo floats. He's better than other horses. A master.

And 2003 was his masterpiece.

The Kentucky-bred son of Dynaformer dominated American steeplechasing—winning the three most important races on the circuit in his only three starts. He led all U.S. steeplechase horses in 2003 earnings with \$252,025, the second highest total in history.

It was a no-doubter as McDynamo garnered 225 first-place votes.

Owned by Michael Moran and trained by Sanna Hendriks, McDynamo stormed out of his Pennsylvania base to win the \$159,625 Royal Chase for the Sport of Kings (NSA-I) at Keeneland in late April. Behind him came every major steeplechase player in training at the time—Breeders' Cup winner Quel Senior, former champion All Gong, multiple grade I winner Al Skywalker,

the ultra-tough Praise the Prince, and the talented Shamrock Isle.

McDynamo swept from seventh to first while racing six-wide on the final turn and won by 7½ lengths for jockey Craig Thornton.

The triumph, in McDynamo's first start vs. open company, was emphatic and invited comparison.

"I think this horse has the potential to be as good as Pompeyo," said Hendriks afterward, comparing McDynamo to her 2001 Royal Chase and Eclipse Award winner. "Mentally, Pompeyo was a bearcat, as tough as nails. This horse was a little immature mentally, but I think as he gets older and understands what we want him to do he'll get better and better."

And, even better.

Rested over the summer, McDynamo embarrassed stakes foes by 15¼ lengths in the \$175,000 Breeders' Cup Steeplechase (NSA-I) at Far Hills, N.J., in October. Again with Thornton aboard, McDynamo assumed command of a paceless race and galloped his way home in the 2½-mile test. As good as his Royal Chase was, this win represented another step forward.

"I thought he would run really well and be awfully tough to beat but to see him take control of the race was something else," said Hendriks. "The performance was special."

The Breeders' Cup score sealed the championship, but McDynamo risked it with one more start in the \$100,000 Colonial Cup (NSA-I) at Camden, S.C., in November. First run in 1970, the 2¾-mile race has been won by 13 champions and three Hall of Famers. But only one McDynamo.

Accelerating on the final turn, he seized the race by attacking the third-last fence with a huge leap and turned aside a late run from Lord Zada to win by four lengths in a course record time of 5:05.40.

Jaws dropped.

"You've got to give credit where credit is due—he's a serious horse," said Thornton. "I wouldn't want to try to beat him."

No, that's pointless right now. Since converting to steeplechase racing in 2001, McDynamo has won eight

McDynamo left all comers in his wake in 2003



2003: 3 3 0 0 \$252,025

McDynamo

Own: Moran Michael J

B. g. 6 (Apr)
 Sire: Dynaformer (Roberto) \$50,000
 Dam: Rondonia (Monteverdi)*Ire
 Br: Richard Fox, Nathan Fox & Richard Kaster (Ky)
 Tr: Hendriks Sanna N(0 0 0 0 .00) 2003:(81 15 .19)

16Nov03-6Cam fm *2¼	Hurdles	5:05² 4+ ColonCp-G1	- 7 57½ 5¾ 12 12 14	Thornton C	L156
18Oct03-4FH gd *2½	Hurdles	5:24 4+ BrCupStp-G1	- 5 22 11¾ 12 14 11½	Thornton C	L156
25Apr03-8Kee fm *2½	Hurdles	4:44¹ 4+ RylChsHd-G1	- 1 76 76 66 11½ 17½	Thornton C	L158

Life	19	10	3	0	\$511,319	88
Jumps	10	8	1	0	\$466,429	-
2003	3	3	0	0	\$252,025	-
2002	6	4	1	0	\$199,404	-

Wet	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
Turf	9	2	2	0	\$44,890	88
McDynamo156⁴	Lord Zada156¹⁵½	Pelagos156¹¼	Mulchen156⁹¾	Much the best	7	
McDynamo156¹⁵¾	Pelagos156½	Mulchen156⁹¾	Easily	7		
McDynamo158⁷½	ShmrockIsle158⁵	PrisethPrinc158ⁿk	Drew off,hand urging	8		

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SKIP DICKSTEIN PHOTOS

McDynamo winning the Breeders' Cup Steeplechase

1971 Shadow Brook (age 7)	1982 Zaccio (6)	1993 Lonesome Glory (5)
1972 Soothsayer (5)	1983 Flatterer (4)	1994 Warm Spell (6)
1973 Athenian Idol (5)	1984 Flatterer (5)	1995 Lonesome Glory (7)
1974 Gran Kan (8)	1985 Flatterer (6)	1996 Correggio (5)
1975 Life's Illusion (4)	1986 Flatterer (7)	1997 Lonesome Glory (9)
1976 Straight and True (6)	1987 Inlander (6)	1998 Flat Top (5)
1977 Cafe Prince (7)	1988 Jimmy Lorenzo (6)	1999 Lonesome Glory (11)
1978 Cafe Prince (8)	1989 Highland Bud (4)	2000 All Gong (6)
1979 Martie's Anger (4)	1990 Morley Street (6)	2001 Pompeyo (7)
1980 Zaccio (4)	1991 Morley Street (7)	2002 Flat Top (9)
1981 Zaccio (5)	1992 Lonesome Glory (4)	2003 McDynamo (6)

The Kentucky-bred son of Dynaformer dominated American steeplechasing—winning the three most important races on the circuit in his only three starts

of 10—including five in a row—and earned \$466,429 (eighth all-time). The imposing record proves the horse's ability, and validates Moran's unusual decision to buy a steeplechase horse at Keeneland. Moran spent \$82,000 to buy the yearling McDynamo from the consignment of Mr. and Mrs. William Wofford, agents, in 1998. Moran wasn't shopping for a jumper, but had the concept in the back of his mind.

"How do you know how good he'll be?" said Moran after the Breeders' Cup. "I just liked the type. He's by Dynaformer. He has a full brother (Old Chapel) who was a graded stakes winner. I know Dynaformers mature more as they get older so I immediately castrated the horse and thought long-term. I gave him time to develop, ran him on the flat (two wins in nine starts), and other than a little claustrophobia in the gate he always had a lot of athletic talent." 

FAMILY NOTES

DYNAFORMER , dkb/br, 1985	Roberto, 1969 14s, SW, \$339,902 500 f, 86 SW, 3.37 AEI	Hail to Reason, 1958 18s, SW, \$328,434 308 f, 43 SW, 4.47 AEI	Turn-to- Nothirdchance
	Andover Way, 1978 18s, SW, \$372,471 13 f, 11 r, 9 w, 2 SW	Bramalea, 1959 38s, SW, \$192,396 9 f, 8 r, 7 w, 1 SW	Nashua Rarelea
MCDYNAMO , b g, April 6, 1997	Monteverdi, 1977 8s, SW, \$171,422 217 f, 5 SW, 1.07 AEI	His Majesty, 1968 22s, SW, \$99,430 640 f, 59 SW, 2.41 AEI	Ribot Flower Bowl
	Flying Carpet, 1973 4s, unpl, \$0 5 f, 4 r, 2 w, 1 SW	On the Trail, 1964 Unraced 9 f, 9 r, 7 w, 3 SW	Olympia Golden Trail
RONDONIA , ch, 1984		Lyphard, 1969 12s, SW, \$202,332 830 f, 115 SW, 3.19 AEI	Northern Dancer Goofed
		Janina, 1965 5s, wnr, \$5,139 11 f, 9 r, 7 w, 4 SW	Match II Jennifer
		Damascus, 1964 32s, SW, \$1,176,781 738 f, 71 SW, 2.71 AEI	Sword Dancer Kerala
		Pimento Dram, 1966 24s, SW, \$46,370 13 f, 11 r, 9 w	Cyane Rum Bottle Bay

MCDYNAMO'S RACE AND (STAKES) RECORD

Year	Age	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earned
2000	at 3	4	1	0	0	\$14,820
2001	at 4	6	2	2	0	\$45,070
2002	at 5	6	4(3)	1(1)	0	\$199,404
2003	at 6	3	3(3)	0	0	\$252,025
	Lifetime	19	10(6)	3(1)	0	\$511,319

Sire: DYNAFORMER, dkb/br, 1985. Raced 3 yrs, 30 sts, 7 wins, \$671,207. Won Jersey Derby (gr. II), Discovery H (gr. II), Lucky Draw S; 2nd Gallant Fox H (gr. II), General George S; 3rd Dixie H (gr. IIT).

Lifetime: 11 crops, 614 foals, 529 mrs (86%), 398 wnr (65%), 93 2yo wnr (15%), 60 sw (10%), 2.05 AEI, 1.71 CI, 318 sale yrlds, avg \$60,069, 1.3 TNA.

1st dam: Rondonia, ch, 1984. Bred by International Thoroughbred Breeders (Fla.). Unraced. Dam of 10 named foals, 9 mrs, 5 wnr, 2 sw. (\$19,000, 1984 ftknov wnl; \$22,000, 1985 keesep yrlg).

\$22,000, 1985 keesep yrlg).

1989: Royal Ron, b g, by Pumpkin Moonshine. Raced 3 yrs, 29 sts, 1 win, \$6,972.

1990: Barren.

1991: Dancin With Wolves, ch c, by Wolf Power (SAf). Raced 1 yr, 3 sts, 1 win, \$8,250. Died 1999. (\$6,500 keenov wnl; \$17,000 fmmay 2yo).

1992: Gazelleontherun, ch f, by Chromite. Raced 2 yrs, 5 sts, 0 wins, \$264. (\$3,200 keesep yrlg).

1993: OLD CHAPEL, dkb/br c, by Dynaformer. Raced 5 yrs, 41 sts, 6 wins, \$371,086. Won Generous S (gr. IIIT), Garden City S (T); 2nd Pilgrim S (gr. IIIT). Sire of 4 foals, AEI 0.59. (\$5,000 keenov wnl; \$45,000 keesep yrlg).

1994: Flying Tips, ch c, by Yukon. Raced 1 yr in PR, 2 sts, 0 wins, \$0. (\$2,000 obs-aug yrlg).

1996: She Do Run Wild, ch f, by Nines Wild. Raced 1 yr, 13 sts, 3 wins, \$20,764. (\$11,500 ftkoct yrlg).

1997: MCDYNAMO, b g, by Dynaformer. (\$82,000 keesep yrlg).

At 5: Won Hard Scuffle Hurdle S (NSA-I), AFLAC U.S. Championship Supreme Hurdle S (NSA-I), Foxbrook Supreme Hurdle S (NSA-II); 2nd Joe Aitcheson Hurdle S (NSA-I).

At 6: Won Breeders' Cup Steeplechase S (NSA-I), Royal Chase for the Sport of Kings Hurdle S (NSA-I), Colonial Cup Hurdle S (NSA-I); NCR, Cam, about 22 furlongs in 5:05.40).

1998: Don Cat, b f, by Forest Wildcat. Unraced. (\$65,000 keesep yrlg; \$110,000 obsapr 2yo).

1999: Barren.

2000: Forty Fiver, b g, by Deerhound. Raced 2 yrs, 13 sts, 0 wins, \$24,628. (\$15,000 keesep yrlg).

2001: Zwena, ch f, by Distant View. Raced 1 yr, 5 sts, 0 wins, \$1,650. (\$3,000 keesep yrlg; \$15,000 evamar 2yo).

2002: C, by Polish Navy. Died 2003.

2003: F, by Lemon Drop Kid.

Broommare sire: MONTEVERDI (Ire), ch, 1977. Sire of 73 dams of 330 foals, 230 mrs (70%), 158 wnr (48%), 40 2yo wnr (12%), 0.89 AEI, 1.41 CI; 13 sw.

2nd dam: Flying Carpet, b, 1973-1984. Bred by Jane du Pont Lunger (Ky.). Raced 1 yr, 4 sts, 0 wins, \$0. Dam of WINTER SPIRIT (f, Icecapade; \$77,945, Won C.T.B.A. Marian S; producer). Granddam of **ADVICE**, **Bravo Willie**.