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Is It True’s Perfect Trip
Is It True Comes Out Ahead in Match-Up with Rival

Selected by
D. WAYNE LUKAS

The 1988 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile was a case of ‘if you don’t succeed, try, try again.’

Is It True was a top 2-year-old, at least when he wasn’t butting heads with Easy Goer. Three times they had met, and Easy Goer visited the winner’s circle after all three races, most recently in the Champagne Stakes, where they finished one-two.

Is It True had tried running close to the lead in the Cowdin Stakes, and then on the lead in the Champagne, but to no avail.

So it was no surprise when Easy Goer was made the 3-10 favorite for the Juvenile, while Is It True went off as a 9-1 underdog.

The mud on the Churchill Downs track that day may have made the difference. Jockey Laffit Pincay sent Is It True up immediately to duel with Double Quick on the lead. A half-mile into the race, they were in front, and had increased their advantage to 1 ½ lengths entering the turn.

“After getting dusted twice by Easy Goer, I told Pincay to get a lead by the 3/8s pole,” stated trainer D. Wayne Lukas. “Then, at the quarter pole, I told him to increase it to three lengths. I figured Pat Day (on Easy Goer) wouldn’t be too concerned with us.”

When Pincay pushed the button on Is It True, they burst to that three-length advantage Lukas wanted at the head of the lane. Easy Goer, who broke in a tangle and then took some time getting comfortable with the heavy going, rallied wide, but could not get to Is It True, who prevailed by 1 ¼ lengths after Lukas’ perfect strategy and a Perfect Trip from Pincay.