

MAGIC PRESTO (Kadabra - In The Mean Time - Muscles Yankee)



By: Ray Cotolo

As a two-year-old, Magic Presto was victorious in four of nine starts, with wins including in two divisions of the Ontario Sires Stakes and in the \$330,780 Goldsmith Maid at Woodbine Racetrack. She was also third from post 10 in the \$275,880 Peaceful Way Stakes to Oaks favorite **Ariana G**.

“She was a big, beautiful, strong yearling,” trainer Richard Norman said in a USTA interview in 2016. “My owners always support Kadabra because they have shares in him, but this filly reminded me of Bee A Magician. That is why we went to \$160,000 for her.”

In 2017, she has raced seven times and won four times including in divisions of the Ontario Sires Stakes and in her Hambletonian Oaks elimination, which she won in 1:52.1 as the 4-5 favorite. This mile was after finishing second in a \$125,250 division of the Del Miller Memorial (to **Ariana G**) in a 1:51.4 mile.

“She raced good [in the eliminations],” Norman said in a USTA interview this week. “She didn’t run off on anyone, but I thought she looked good and Brian [Sears] was happy with her. That’s all you can hope for. She seems good and healthy and sound. So we’re going in [to the final] in good shape, hopefully.

“This will be the first time in a while that Magic Presto comes back in a week, [but] I think it will be good for her. Brian said she was a little fresh in her elimination but that’s probably a good thing.

“Everything’s gone to plan really. It’s been kind of what we wanted, not having to race her too hard, and trying to be at our best for this week. She’s gotten better and better all the time. I think she’ll still improve some more. She’s a big filly and she’s probably not as strong as she could be. I think she’ll get stronger as she gets older.”

Richard Norman will be trying for his third win in the Hambletonian Oaks, winning with Personal Style at 57-1 in 2012 after favorites Check Me Out and Maven broke at the top of the stretch, and then winning again in 2013 with odds-on favorite and Dan Patch Award-winner Bee A Magician (1:51M \$4,055,865), who retired earlier this year.

Driver Brian Sears will also be going for his third win in the Hambletonian Oaks, winning in 2009 with Broadway Schooner and in 2013 with Bee A Magician.