

**UNTREATED RUNS TO EXPECTATIONS IN 8 ¾-LENGTH TAMPA MAIDEN ROMP
TOUR DE FORCE EFFORT RATED FASTER THAN GRADE 3 TAMPA BAY DERBY
BARRY IRWIN THINKING \$750,000 WOOD MEMORIAL APRIL 3 AT "THE BIG A"**



Untreated under Luis Saez cruises to victory second time out when scoring by 8 ¾ lengths Saturday at Tampa.

Racing over a typically souped-up Tampa Bay Derby strip that saw speed dominate most of the races prior to Saturday's sixth race, Team Valor International's once-raced Nyquist colt Untreated turned his maiden race upside down with a powerful move while wide as he was racing on the backstretch before reaching the far turn.

He went past rivals so easily, it was a revelatory moment when he switched gears and employed long strides while racing wide to approach the 36 to 1 shot by Animal Kingdom, which had set the pace. Untreated was called in front before he actually had reached the lead, such was the momentum he had built up rounding the turn.

Untreated, kept wide throughout and steered to the middle of the track rounding the final bend, was well in front when he switched leads at the top of the Tampa Bay Downs homestretch. Luis Saez knew he was sitting on an easy winner and he rode the colt to the finish. Winning margin was 8 ¾ lengths in an overpowering performance.

Such was the enlivened state of the going that the hopelessly beaten runner-up Big Georges Kingdom lasted for second by a clear margin of nearly 2 lengths. The field was stretch out from here to kingdom come, so to speak, with previous back-to-back runner-up and second favorite Dreaming of Jerry finishing about 10 lengths in arrears just ahead of third favorite Seminole Beach a farther 9 lengths behind Dreaming of Gerry. Seminole Beach recently finished second by a half-length to Untreated's regular workmate Unbridled Honor, which later on the card earned Kentucky Derby points by finishing fourth in the Grade 2 Derby.



Tampa barred owners from the winners' circle, so assistant trainer Amelia Green posed with Untreated after the race. Jessica Berry and Dorian Conger (a partner in Untreated) were both on hand, but relegated to mere observers.

Bet down to 6 to 5 favoritism, Untreated promptly announced himself a serious candidate for the 2021 Kentucky Derby. [LINK](#)

“Every Derby critic and resident genius of his own household will surely be quick to point out that the colt has raced but twice and cannot be seriously considered as a Kentucky Derby candidate off of such an abbreviated preparation, no matter how impressive he may have been,” Barry Irwin said.

“Truth be told, Todd Pletcher had been pointing him for the Tampa Bay Derby. His plan was foiled when Untreated was found to have an entrapped epiglottis, which required an in-stall procedure to fix the throat and delayed his first start for Team Valor. Based on the evidence of the race on Saturday, Untreated very well may have won the Tampa Bay Derby and today would be listed among the favorites for the Run for the Roses.

“On the other hand, had the throat not been fixed, the colt never would have been able to deliver such a spectacular performance. Are we fooling ourselves into thinking he can make the Derby with enough fitness and seasoning to have an impact in what would be his fourth start?

“Well, remember that Animal Kingdom won under the Twin Spires on the First Saturday in May in only his fifth start. The Team Valor color-bearer ran twice late at 2, winning a maiden at Keeneland in his second start. He was second going a mile in a grass allowance race, then took the Spiral Stakes at Turfway Park and made the Kentucky Derby his second win in 3 outings as a 3-year-old. Big Brown had gone one better, winning the Kentucky Derby in only his fourth start. If Untreated can win his Kentucky Derby prep next time out and return a month later to triumph in the Run for the Roses, he will have duplicated the stunt as fashioned by Big Brown.