

## **HUNT MASTER**

Hunt Master	Owner: Trainer:	Openwood Farm Angus Buntain		
B.g.3 Hunters Bay-Lady Marchfield by Marchfield Bred in Ontario by Lanny McDonald, Linda Barron & SusanRasmuss	en (Apr 02, 2019)		2021: 4 1 1 2 \$68,182 Off Track: 0 Life: 6 2 2 2 \$108,982 Distance: 0	0 0 0 \$0 0 0 0 \$0 0 0 0 \$0 0 0 0 \$0 0 0 \$0
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A son of Hunters Bay-Lady Marchfield, Hunt Master brings a 2-2-2 mark from six starts into the first stakes test of his career.
Owned by Susan Rasmussen (Openwood Farm), the bay gelding, bred by Lanny McDonald, Linda Barron and Rasmussen, arrives at the \$1 million Plate off a second on July 15. Hunt Master hopped at the start of the 1 1/16-mile Tapeta race but rallied strongly to secure the runner-up finish. One race earlier, in his 3-year-old debut, he recorded his second career victory.

"I liked him right from the start," said trainer Angus Buntain. "He was always an athletic horse as a 2-year-old training down, and he's become even more athletic and mature. The unfortunate thing is that he didn't grow very much, but he is what he is. He's a competitive horse and he's all try. I'm just hoping that his pedigree is going to come through when it's needed. He's a happy, happy horse. He's also competitive, so hopefully, he has a nice late kick in the Plate."

• Buntain, who was represented by Krachenwagen (he also owned the horse) in the 2019 edition of the Plate, doesn't mind that his horse is flying under the radar leading up to the big race. "I think he's a good little sort of grinder, an off-the-pace stamina sort. I'm very excited about him. We don't know if my guy will particularly love the distance, at speed, so to speak. That's going to be a real test for him. It's a big jump up in class, but he is bred for it."

• Hunt Master breezed 5 furlongs (in 1:00.20) on Woodbine's dirt training track on August 7 in preparation for the Plate. "Susan is thrilled. It's her first Plate starter. She watched him breeze. She had never seen him work before, and I was very impressed with it. He did it very comfortably, with style. She even said, 'Wow,' as he came by. That made me feel good."

## Owner – Openwood Farm

Along with her husband Harvey, Susan Rasmussen has operated Openwood Stable since 1978. The farm includes her own mares, yearlings and horses of racing age, plus foxhunters and retired racehorses. After Rasmussen's longtime trainer Robert Earl Barnett retired, she moved her horses to Angus Buntain. A stakes-winning owner, Openwood Farm sent out homebred Hobnobsnob to take the 2013 Victoriana Stakes. Other top horses over the years include Swinton, Herluf and Dancing Leaves.

## **Trainer – Angus Buntain**

Angus Buntain launched his training career in 2015, winning four races, along with nine top-three finishes from 18 starts. Last year, he set several personal-best marks, including wins (10) and purse earnings (\$339,443). He campaigned homebred Krachenwagen, an Ontario-bred son of Head Chopper-Plantana, who contested the 2019 Queen's Plate. The horse was named by Buntain's daughter, Libby (she helps her father out at his barn on weekends), after the bumper cars she and her dad would ride at Canada's Wonderland. "She's very excited to be part of this race again," said Buntain. "She got a really good taste of the Plate experience with Krachenwagen, and she's thrilled to go through that same journey." Other notable horses over the years for Buntain include Ratface Macdougall, English Classic, and Youens. The latter was fourth in last year's running of the Woodbine Oaks Presented by Budweiser.

## Jockey – Emma-Jayne Wilson

Multiple Grade 1 winning champion jockey Emma-Jayne Wilson started her riding career in 2004 and recorded her first win at Fort Erie that year. She quickly became Woodbine's leading rider in 2005 as an apprentice rider. Wilson won both the Sovereign Award and Eclipse Award as Outstanding Apprentice Jockey in 2005 and captured both the Woodbine meet title and a second Sovereign Award as Outstanding Apprentice Jockey again in 2006. In 2007, Wilson made history, becoming the first female rider to win the Queen's Plate aboard Mike Fox. Wilson has taken her talents across the world, including Hong Kong in 2008 and captaining the Girls Team to an historic victory in the Shergar Cup at Ascot Racecourse in 2015. Wilson, an enthusiastic ambassador for the sport who has also dedicated her time and efforts to various charitable initiatives over the years, was named the Avelino Gomez Memorial Award recipient in 2018, which honours significant contributions to the sport of horse racing from a jockey. As of August 9, Wilson has 1,742 career wins.

