

# IRONSTONE

## Ironstone

Owner: Tequesta Racing Inc. and Jupiter Leasing Co.  
Trainer: W. V. Armata

Gr/r.o.c.3 Mr Speaker-Casey's Dreamin' by Unbridled's Song  
Bred in Ontario by Kingview Farms (Mar 24, 2019)

Date	Age	Sex	Track	Dist	Time	Speed	Class	Result	Trainer	Owner	2022	2021	Life	WO							
02Jul22	9	WO	ft	1 1/16	:49.06	1:12.74	1:43.57	3	Stk - MarineG3 - 150k	81-89	1	14	11 1/2	1hd	32 1/2	35 3/4	Santos A	118	L	*2.80	Rondure118 1/2 Duke of Love118nk Ironstone118 1/2 spd,battled for place
12Jun22	9	WO	ft	7f	:22.54	:45.16	1:21.01	3	Stk - QueenstonB - 125k	106-97	1	4	3 1/2	31	22	3nk	Kimura K	124	L	4.75	The Minkster122hd Rondure118hd Ironstone124 1/2 waited turn, rallied
01May22	7	WO	ft	6f	:22.27	:44.36	1:07.63	3	Stk - WoodstockL - 125k	82-87	3	5	2 1/2	2 1/2	24	35 3/4	Santos A	124	L	2.75	Nobals124 2/3 All in Sync120 3 Ironstone124 2/3 2 wide,needed str bid
28Nov21	9	WO	ft	1 1/16	:49.58	1:14.41	1:44.20	2	Stk - GreyG3 - 150k	67-93	2	32	32	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Santos A	121	L	5.05	God of Love122 1/2 Ironstone121 1/2 On Thin Ice119hd rank, chase, bid, game
30Oct21	3	WO	ft	7f	:23.08	:46.10	1:23.38	2	Stk - DisplayL - 125k	95-84	1	1	12 1/2	12 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Santos A	124	L	*1.20	Hicksy120 3/4 Ironstone124 3/4 Optigogo120nk hit gte strt, led to 70
08Oct21	7	WO	ft	5 1/2	:22.88	:45.56	1:03.53	2	Stk - ClarendonB - 150k	77-94	3	2	1 1/2	12	14	16	Santos A	122	L	*.25	Ironstone122 5/8 Silent Runner120 5/8 Silent Resent117 1/2 widened, ridden out
29Aug21	10	WO	ft	6 1/2	:22.98	:46.21	1:16.61	2	Stk - SimcoeB - 200k	87-92	3	1	1 1/2	12	14	18 1/2	Santos A	118	L	2.10	Ironstone118 5/8 Here's Neal118 3/4 Chairman Bob120 2/3 widened driving
18Jul21	6	WO	ft	5 1/2	:22.14	:45.12	1:04.82	2	Msw 126800	92-72	3	7	3 1/2	2 1/2	36	5 1/2	Santos A	118	L	10.25	Feelthebeat121ns Heat Merchant121 1/3 Mentoring118 1/3 2-3w, evn out rail str
20Jun21	3	WO	ft	4 1/2	:22.46	:45.89	:52.17	2	Msw 126800	83-81	8	3	1hd	--	11	2 1/2	Santos A	118	L	6.15	Concealed Carry121 1/2 Ironstone118 1/2 Coo Bird118nk clear, failed to hold

Workout(s): 14 Aug 22 WO 5F ft :58.2b 1/46 7 Aug 22 WO 6F ft :1.14.3b 1/1 31 Jul 22 WO 6F ft :1.11b 1/1 24 Jul 22 WO 5F ft :58.2b 1/41

- On June 30, 2002, trainer Vito Armata sent out T J's Lucky Moon to light up the tote board to the tune of \$166 in the 143rd running of the Queen's Plate. Fast forward and Willie Armata will be looking to follow in his father's footsteps with Ironstone.
- Armata was working with his father when T J's Lucky Moon had his moment of glory. But, he did not get to participate in the wild winner's circle celebrations. "Unfortunately, I wasn't there because we had five in that day and I had to run the horse the race before. I had to watch it from the (backstretch) kitchen. It was nice, but it's not the same because you'd like to be a part of those special moments."
- Armata won't be watching from afar this time, as he will saddle the speedy and talented colt Ironstone and have a front-row seat for the biggest race of his career. "You'd never think, 20 years later, I'd have a horse in the Plate. Maybe a little déjà vu, a miracle could happen for me here. We could make history, father and son."
- Ironstone, a bargain \$7,000 yearling at the local CTHS select sale, spent his first winter in Kentucky at Margaux Farm.
- After a solid second-place debut, followed by an off-the-board finish in his second start, Ironstone joined the Lasix program and exploded for an 8 1/2 length score in the Simcoe Stakes, a 6 1/2 furlong race for male graduates of the local yearling sale. A six-length romp in the Clarendon, a 5 1/2 furlong race for Ontario-breds, followed.
- Facing open company in the seven-furlong Display, Ironstone had a troubled start and set all the pace before giving way late to finish second. Stretched out to 1 1/16 miles for what would be his juvenile finale, Ironstone pressed the pace and finished second to subsequent divisional champion God of Love in the Grade 3 Grey.
- Ironstone could have run in the Coronation Futurity, a 1 1/8-mile race restricted to Canadian-breds, but Armata elected to await the Grey due to its shorter distance plus one intangible factor. "I find that the Coronation, for some reason, it's a jinx race," said Armata, with reference to the fact that no horse has completed a Coronation Futurity-Queen's Plate double since Norcliffe in 1975.
- Ironstone, after placing in sprint stakes in his first two sophomore outings, had his final prep for the Plate in the Grade 3 Marine, a 1 1/16 race in which he did not rate kindly in the early going but ran on gamely to miss second money by a neck.
- Now, Ironstone comes into the Queen's Plate off a seven-week layoff while seemingly facing a major challenge at the 1 1/4 mile distance. "What I'm trying to do is to get him to learn to relax a little bit more, because we're going a long way."
- I've got a lot of people telling me what I'm crazy, with the distance. But, I guess we'll find out on August 21. Anything can happen, and my father probably proved that to everybody."

### Owner – Tequesta Racing Inc. and Jupiter Leasing Co.

Tequesta Racing Inc. is the nom du course of Adrian Meli while Jupiter Leasing Co. is Helen Bruno, Meli's mother. Both reside in the Hamilton area and Meli, who is in the transportation business, has been involved in the racing game for some 20 years. While he has campaigned the likes of hard-knocking allowance and fringe stakes performers, Ironstone is by far Meli's best horse to date.

### Trainer – Willie Armata

Willie Armata was born to be a racetracker with his father, Vito Armata, having been a trainer here since 1981 and his uncle and cousin, Ross Armata and Ross Armata Jr., also trainers at Woodbine. Although he was a backstretch regular at an early age, Armata didn't make his presence official until he graduated from high school, working with his father until he was deemed ready to move on. Since going out on his own in 2007, Armata has sent out more than 200 winners, with Ironstone his most accomplished star to date. His only other stakes winner was Bold Corky in in the 2008 Classy 'n Smart.

### Jockey – Kazushi Kimura

Born in Hokkaido, Japan, Kazushi Kimura has taken Woodbine by storm since joining the jockey colony in 2018. He was the Sovereign winner as outstanding apprentice that year and repeated in 2019 when he also earned an Eclipse in the category. After several years improving his craft as a journeyman, Kimura's career took a quantum leap in 2021 as he ran away from the pack with 139 winners and earned the Sovereign as outstanding jockey. He picked up right where he left off this season and is showing the way with a double-digit lead despite missing days due to an injury suffered in a spill on July 23.

