

# Very Special

## Very Special

Own: Stronach Stables



B. c. 3 (Mar)  
 Sire: Ghostzapper (Awesome Again) \$75,000  
 Dam: Crowning Jewel (Into Mischief)  
 Br: Adena Springs (Ont-C)  
 Tr: Attard Kevin (151 30 29 22 .20) 2026 : (195 39 .20)

| Life | 3 | M | 1 | 2 | \$38,052 | 73 | D.Fst      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$0 | - |
|------|---|---|---|---|----------|----|------------|---|---|---|---|-----|---|
| 2026 | 3 | M | 1 | 2 | \$38,052 | 73 | Wet(442)   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$0 | - |
| 2025 | 0 | M | 0 | 0 | \$0      | -  | Synth(417) |   |   |   |   | \$0 | - |
| Wo   | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | \$38,052 | 73 | Turf(333)  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$0 | - |
|      |   |   |   |   |          |    | Dst(340)   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$0 | - |

4Jly26-9WO fst 1 $\frac{1}{8}$  4741:121 1:382 1:513 3+ Mid Sp Wt 77k 70 2/6 32 43 $\frac{1}{4}$  32 $\frac{1}{2}$  33 $\frac{1}{2}$  31 $\frac{1}{2}$  Maragh R R 120 \*1.35 81-16 Cobro $\frac{3}{4}$ WmblyAvn $\frac{3}{4}$ VrySpcl $\frac{1}{2}$  Hop/slam st,kept comin  
 14Jun26-3WO fst 1 $\frac{1}{16}$  S 23 :471 1:121 1:45 Mid Sp Wt 91k 73 7/7 44 $\frac{1}{2}$  33 32 $\frac{1}{2}$  53 $\frac{1}{2}$  21 $\frac{1}{2}$  Maragh R R 118 6.35 78-18 PllRvr $\frac{1}{2}$ VrySpcl $\frac{3}{4}$ PrdPntr $\frac{1}{2}$  Found more late,won2nd  
 24May26-10WO fst 7f 224 :454 1:102 1:231 Mid Sp Wt 83k 67 9/11 5 67 $\frac{1}{2}$  79 $\frac{1}{4}$  81 $\frac{1}{2}$  38 $\frac{1}{4}$  Maragh R R 118 10.00 81-14 El Capo $\frac{1}{4}$ Buium $\frac{1}{4}$ Very Special $\frac{1}{2}$  7Wstr,late rally up3rd

WORKS: Aug1WO 4fst:484 B 30/82 Jly26WO 4fst:472 B 4/95 Jun27WO 4fst:472 B 4/78 Jun7WO 4fst:49 B 46/101 May17WO 4fst:491 B 55/126 May10WO 4fst:492 B 40/112

TRAINER: 31-60Days (197 .16 \$1.63) Routes (286 .14 \$1.42) Stakes (118 .13 \$1.72)

- Can this son of Ghostzapper follow in the hoofsteps of Bonnie Duke (1887), Willie the Kid (1940), Golden Choice (1986) and Scatter the Gold (2000) by breaking his maiden in Canada's most famous horse race?
- In three career starts, all as a 3-year-old, Very Special, trained by Kevin Attard, has never finished worse than third, recording one second-place finish and two thirds. "There is something good to take from each effort," said Attard. "He rallied well in his first race, fought back to finish second in his next start, and had a less-than-ideal beginning in his most recent performance. Obviously, you would like to see a win beside his name, but if he decides to do it in the Plate, we have no problem with that."
- The bay heads into his first stakes engagement off a third in a maiden special weight run at 1 1/8 miles over the Woodbine main track on July 4. Sent off as the 6-5 choice, Very Special hopped at the start and then slammed by an outside rival soon after. The eventful beginning didn't faze the colt, who put in a determined stretch run to take bronze. "Definitely not the way you want things to go seconds into a race," said Attard. "What stood out to me was how he shook it off and settled so well. With a young horse making just his third start, you might expect him to throw in the towel. Instead, he did the exact opposite. Of course, you want to get the win, but there may have been an even more important takeaway from that race."
- Attard believes Very Special, who will have blinkers added for the Plate, has all the ingredients to become a top-class runner. "He looks the part and he acts it, too. He's continuing to develop across the board, and he definitely has the potential to be a very good one. All signs are telling us that he is going to love the [Plate] distance."
- Attard, who will also saddle Baaeed Alynna in this year's Plate, doesn't expect the occasion to overwhelm his colt. "There are a lot of good things to say about him, one of them being his focus in his works. He has a sharp mind and lots of ability. Hopefully, he brings his best when the gates open."

### Trainer - Kevin Attard (see Baaeed Alynna bio)

### Jockey - Romero Maragh

Born and raised in Hollywood, Florida, Romero Maragh (his cousins Rajiv and Christian are also jockeys) launched his career in 2018. On Jan. 31, 2019, Maragh fractured five vertebrae, broke several ribs, and suffered a collapsed lung and severe concussion when his mount fell and clipped heels with another rival in the Gulfstream Park opener. He underwent emergency surgery to fuse four vertebrae in his back the day after the spill. Maragh returned to the races just under a year after the accident, on Jan. 19, 2020, and recorded his first win back on Feb. 19, 2020. He joined the Woodbine jockey colony this year and quickly established himself as a go-to rider. His first local stakes score came with Uncle Dodo in the Victoria on July 12. Overall, Maragh has over 350 career wins and over \$17 million in purse earnings.

### Owner - Stronach Stables

The stable's individual honours include an Eclipse Award of Merit; six Eclipse Awards as outstanding breeder and four in the owner category; and 14 Sovereign Awards as outstanding breeder and nine as owner. Frank Stronach was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2002.

### Breeder - Adena Springs

### Groom - Mervin Daniel