


# Watsonville Red

<b>Watsonville Red</b>		B. g. 3 (Apr) KEESEP23 \$65,000		Life	8	1	0	0	\$70,616	75	D.Fst	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
Own: Russell John E. and Russell, Diana L		Sire: Hard Spun (Danzig) \$25,000		2025	4	1	0	0	\$64,360	75	Wet(399)	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
		Dam: Ice Festival (Awesome Again)		2024	4	M	0	0	\$6,256	58	Synth(350)					\$0	
		Br: Adena Springs (Ont-C)		Wo	6	1	0	0	\$67,288	75	Turf(317)	2	0	0	0	\$3,328	61
		Tr: De Paulo Michael P (101 11 14 18 .11) 2025 :(.127 12 .09)															
20Jly25-8WO	fst 1 1/4	C 4711:12 1:373 1:501	PlateTriB150k	75	6/9	74 3/4	87 3/4	93 3/4	55 1/2	46	Salles L	L126 fb	34.10	84-09	SdbrsGhst1 1/4 NtrsGnstr1Scrch3 3/4	6Wstr,had late energy	
28Jun25-5WO	fst 1 1/4	C 24 :484 1:13 1:45	Marine-G3	75	7/7	75 1/2	77	74	75 3/4	72 1/2	Salles L	L118 fb	58.80	75-17	Mnstt1Scorching1/2 Mglodonk	Bump st,never factored	
16May25-6WO	fst 1 1/4	C 233 :474 1:122 1:453 34	Md Sp Wt 86k	69	5/6	65 1/2	63 1/2	34	32 1/2	1 1/2	Salles L	L119 fb	28.45	75-23	WtsnllRd1 1/2 TrpAcshdSpclSss5 1/4	Move 4w,surged by late	
30Mar25-2GP	fm 1	242 :474 1:102 1:34	Md Sp Wt 70k	61	1/7	64 1/2	64	75	75 3/4	77 1/4	Salles L	L118 fb	55.20	83-10	NemonkWarLegend3/4 NoEscpe1 1/4	Off pace2p,no menace	
8Dec24-7WO	fst 1 7/8	241 :49 1:13 1:43	Md Sp Wt 83k	49	2/9	87 1/2	87	86 3/4	87 3/4	68	Campos J L	L118 fb	14.40	90-20	MhnDnd2MstrMncln1 1/2 LtltIthnk	Made little impression	
17Nov24-6WO	fst 1 1/4	234 :481 1:134 1:452	Md Sp Wt 75k	58	1/10	910	87	85 3/4	76 1/2	55 1/4	Hoyte J	L118 b	37.20	71-22	Attck1/2 OnrushhdCshtheMoney4 1/2	Off rail,6w3/16,ran on	
60ct24-6WO	fst 1 7/8	243 :502 1:151 1:442	Md Sp Wt 88k	55	7/12	117 1/2	106 1/2	85 3/4	118 1/2	85 1/2	Campos J L	L118 b	15.70	86-16	Ylvomnn1NgonsLwnoSpclSssn1 1/2	Stumbled badly start	
30Aug24-1WO	fm 1	232 :483 1:141 1:39	Md Sp Wt 84k	52	1/6	53 1/2	63 1/2	64 3/4	63 1/2	55 3/4	Campos J L	L118 b	10.60	74-16	FbernkNitrogen3 3/4 Accelerndo1 1/4	Could not keep up 5/16	
WORKS: Aug3WO 4f fst :484 B 38/76 Jly12WO 4f fst :503 B 69/74 Jun21WO 4f fst :50 B 98/112 Jun14WO 5f fst :592 B 3/43 Jun8WO 4f fst :483 B 55/92																	
TRAINER: Routes (136 .09 \$1.10) Stakes (33 .06 \$0.42)																	

- He's a longshot with late energy, a horse whose connections are hoping for a big stretch run from their bay gelding.
- "I think his strength is that he's a stayer," said multiple graded stakes winning trainer Mike De Paulo. "If you have a Canadian-bred, who is fit, happy and can run long, you've got a chance."
- De Paulo knows what he will see on the tote board on Saturday, but that doesn't faze him in the least. "A mile and a quarter will be his thing."
- Watsonville Red has shown he can pull of the upset. When he broke his maiden on May 16, 2025, he rewarded his backers with a \$58.90 payout for a \$2 win ticket.
- Two weeks before this year's "Gallop for the Guineas," De Paulo, owners John and Diana Russell, and jockey Leo Salles combined with Stanley House (third in the 2023 King's Plate) to win the Niagara Stakes. "To be in this race is great, but to be in the race with John and Diana makes it that much more special," said De Paulo. "We buy one horse a year with them. I'm sure for them it's like owning your own team. You get to see your silks in the biggest event in our sport – that's special."
- Watsonville Red was a \$65,000 purchase at the 2023 Keeneland Association September Yearling Sale. "I liked his mother, Ice Festival," said De Paulo. "She won the Maple Leaf Stakes (G3) in 2016 and was second in it the next year. We had a nice mare, Hot Kiss, and we couldn't beat her. This guy is by Hard Spun, who is a very good sire. He is a big, tall, leggy horse. When I bought him, the intention was to buy a Plate horse."

**Trainer – Mike De Paulo**  
*Plate Starters: 11 – Best Plate Finish: 3<sup>rd</sup> (2011, 2023)*

Born in Toronto, Mike De Paulo has been around the racetrack since he began walking hots at 19. He worked for veteran conditioners including Jerry Meyer, Bill Marko and Joe Attard before acquiring his trainer's license in 1986 at 22. A year later, he notched his first training win. De Paulo has gone on to condition a Canadian Horse of the Year, Caren, Canada's 3-year-old filly champion in 2016. Other highlights include Prince of Wales winners Shillelagh Slew (2006) and Pender Harbour (2011), the latter a Sovereign winner as Canada's champion 3-year-old male. Pender Harbour, third in the 2011 King's Plate, won 10 stakes. Other stars include Noholdingback Bear, Canada's champion sprinter in 2016, and multiple stakes winner Krz Ruckus. On March 21, 2025, at Gulfstream, De Paulo won his 1,000th career race. His wife, Josie, handles assistant trainer duties.

**Owner – John and Diana Russell**

John and Diana Russell have been proud supporters of racing in Ontario and Woodbine for decades. John is president of J.E. Russell Produce Ltd. and owned horses years ago before jumping back in the game with encouragement from De Paulo. "He was in the game with [trainer] Buddy Carter back in the day," started De Paulo. "John was partners with Peter Lamantia (co-breeder of 2009 Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird) and they raced a really good filly in Sweet Briar Too, the dam of Langfuhr. She won some nice races. He got out of the business for years, but I guess I bugged him enough that he made a comeback." Success, for the Russells, has come both as a couple and through various partnerships. "I've been training for John the past 10 or 11 years," said De Paulo. "He's a team player and a friend. We travel to the Breeders' Cup every year and have a great time."

**Jockey – Leo Salles**  
*Plate Appearances: 2 – Best Plate Finish: 13<sup>th</sup> (2020)*

Hailing from Brazil, Leo Salles has ridden and won races across the world, including Dubai, Canada, the United States and Saudi Arabia. The graded stakes-winning jockey teamed with Lucky Score to win the 2022 Grade 3 Vigil Stakes. Salles had a career-best North American campaign in 2022, winning 68 races with purse earnings in excess of \$2 million. He posted three stakes wins in 2023, including the \$250,000 Princess Elizabeth with Inudation, and won three stakes in 2024, including the Eternal Search with Taquanyah. Salles teamed with Stanley House to finish second in this year's edition of the Grade 3 Dominion Day Stakes, and then won the Niagara Stakes, in front-running fashion, on August 2.

**Breeder – Adena Springs**  
**Groom – Joseph De Paulo**