

MATING ANALYSIS

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LANE'S END

GIFT BOX

Twirling Candy – Special Me, by Unbridled's Song
2013 Gray/Roan | 16.1 Hands

Gift Box is the best son of the rising young star sire Twirling Candy, one of four Grade-1 winners and 11 Graded Stakes winners from that brilliant son of Candy Ride's first five crops. As a three-quarter brother to Grade-2 winner Special Forces, by Candy Ride, and half-brother to Grade-2 winner Stonetastic, by Mizzen Mast, out of a half-sister to champion and Grade-1 winner Our New Recruit, by Alphabet Soup, Gift Box's pedigree offers both every reason to believe he can sire top horses and strong hints toward choosing appropriate mares for him at stud.

Both Mizzen Mast, sire of Stonetastic, and Alphabet Soup, sire of Our New Recruit, are sons of the late leading sire Cozzene, by Caro, so breeding daughters or granddaughters of those two good sires would provide a reverse cross to those successful matings that should work well with Gift Box. In addition, Indian Charlie, who is emerging as an important broodmare sire through the recent exploits of champion Mitole and Grade-1 winner Dayoutoftheoffice, is also from the same Caro male line as Mizzen Mast and Alphabet Soup, and his daughters would be good additions to Gift Box's book.

Other clues to successful matings for Gift Box can also be found in his own pedigree, including his 5x4 inbreeding to Fappiano. Worldwide, inbreeding to Fappiano has clearly become a feature not a bug in contemporary Thoroughbred pedigrees, producing more than 100 stakes winners and 15 Grade-1 winners, led by champion Gun Runner, who is, of course, a son of Gift Box's grandsire Candy Ride, who has sired ten stakes winners with Fappiano inbreeding, including three other Grade-1 winners, in addition to Gun Runner. Reinforcing that inbreeding with one of the many mares carrying Fappiano would be a good pedigree play for Gift Box. Mares by such top sires as Tapit, War Front, Midnight Lute, Bernardini, Empire Maker, and American Pharoah, all of whom carry Fappiano relatively close up in their pedigrees, would be excellent additions to Gift Box's book. In addition to Gift Box himself, Twirling Candy has sired Grade-1 winner Finley'sluckycharm with Fappiano inbreeding, so we know that is a duplication that has worked repeatedly with this sire line.

Similarly, Twirling Candy has sired Grade-1 winner Collusion Illusion, who is inbred 5x5 to the great Seattle Slew, who also works extremely well with Candy Ride, who has sired 24 stakes winners to date with Seattle Slew on the bottom side, led by Grade-1 winners Game Winner, Mastery, and Twirling Candy himself. In the big picture, inbreeding to Seattle Slew has become even more important to the Thoroughbred breed than Fappiano inbreeding, with more than 240 stakes winners worldwide inbred to the 1977 Triple Crown winner, including 33 Grade-1 winners, led by future Hall of Famer Monomoy Girl and hot sire Constitution and his Grade-1 winning son Tiz the Law. Mares by sons of A.P. Indy, such as Bernardini, Congrats, Flatter, Malibu Moon, Mineshaft, Pulpit, and Take Charge Indy would all be good choices to try with Gift Box. Twirling Candy's Grade-1 winning son Collusion Illusion is out of a mare by A.P. Indy's grandson First Dude, reinforcing the potential importance of the A.P. Indy line for Gift Box.

The other obvious major target for inbreeding in Gift Box's pedigree is Danzig, sire of Twirling Candy's second dam. The Danzig male line has established itself worldwide, and inbreeding to Danzig is ubiquitous and highly successful, with more than 100 Grade-1 winners inbred to the 3-time leading sire, including Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner I'll Have Another, current Grade-1 winning two-year-old Jackie's Warrior, and Twirling Candy's Finley'sluckycharm. Danzig's son War Front has already been mentioned as a positive potential broodmare sire, and mares by Danzig's sons or grandsons Anabaa, Big Brown, Exchange Rate, Pine Bluff, or Declaration of War would be excellent additions to Gift Box's book.

Finally, Twirling Candy's once-beaten daughter Concrete Rose, who is out of a mare by Sadler's Wells' son Powerscourt, indicates that perhaps it would be useful to try mares from that male line by sires such as Kitten's Joy, Medaglia d'Oro, Galileo, or Noble Mission.

