

MR. HINX

BY TRACY GANTZ

Trainer Steve Miyadi heard about Mr. Hinx well before he ever laid eyes on him, first from owner/breeder Gary Barber and then from Tommy Town Thoroughbreds manager Mike Allen.

“Gary told me the day he was born that he was sending me a good horse,” said Miyadi. “A lot of owners tell you that, but Gary Barber is a man of his word.”

Miyadi respected Barber’s opinion, and he noted that Allen had never missed in his assessment of young horses that received their initial lessons at Tom and Debi Stull’s Tommy Town in Santa Ynez.

Barber gave Mr. Hinx a giant of a name because of his large size. As the chairman and CEO of MGM Studios, Barber is involved with producing and distributing the James Bond films, including “Spectre.”

“Mr. Hinx was the bad guy in ‘Spectre,’ and Dave Bautista (6’3” and 290 pounds) was the actor who played Hinx,” explained Barber.

Mr. Hinx the racehorse didn’t start until his 3-year-old season in 2017. He quickly made up for lost time, putting together a record that earned him the California-bred 3-year-old male championship.

In his first race, Jan. 8 at Santa Anita, Mr. Hinx defeated odds-on favorite



Gary Barber’s Mr. Hinx wins the Real Good Deal Stakes on the way to a Cal-bred championship

Potentia Alba by 2¼ lengths in a six-furlong Cal-bred maiden event. Miyadi jumped Mr. Hinx right into stakes company for the Jan. 28 California Cup Derby at 1¼ miles on the dirt, and the gelding finished fourth behind winner Ann Arbor Eddie.

Mr. Hinx next demonstrated his versatility in an allowance/optional claiming event down Santa Anita’s hillside turf course, scoring by 1¼ lengths. Returned to dirt in open company, he finished fourth to winner Battle of Midway, who later captured the Las Vegas Breeders’ Cup Dirt Mile (G1).

The \$200,345 Echo Eddie Stakes at 6½ furlongs on the dirt April 8 gave Mr. Hinx his first stakes victory, as he nosed out B Squared for the win.

Following a fifth on turf in the Silky Sullivan Stakes and another allowance/optional claiming win, Mr. Hinx won the \$150,345 Real Good Deal Stakes at seven furlongs on the dirt at Del Mar. He dueled

3-YEAR-OLD MALE

- 1 MR. HINX
- 2 EDWARDS GOING LEFT
- 3 CALIFORNIA DIAMOND

for the lead with Fly to Mars, taking the lead leaving the turn, and held off Ann Arbor Eddie by a half-length.

“I knew that if one day we could just send this horse hard from the gate, he was going to show something he hadn’t shown yet,” said Miyadi. “I think he has got a chance to be an open-company stakes sprinter.”

Miyadi proved correct. Mr. Hinx acquitted himself well in graded stakes company. Fourth in the Pat O’Brien Stakes (G2), he then finished second to eventual TwinSpires Breeders’ Cup Sprint (G1) and Eclipse Award winner Roy H in the Santa Anita Sprint Championship (G1). Mr. Hinx ran second to Americanize in the Damascus Stakes but came out of that race with a condylar fracture and is currently recuperating.

Mr. Hinx is by Tommy Town stallion Ministers Wild Cat out of Kitten Exchange, a mare Barber and his brother, Cecil, claimed for \$50,000. Kitten Exchange is in foal to Boisterous, a millionaire son of Distorted Humor owned by Gary Barber and Tommy Town who stands at that farm. **CTB**

MR. HINX

Ministers Wild Cat – Kitten Exchange, by Put It Back

Breeder: Gary Barber

Owner: Gary Barber

Bay gelding (April 10, 2014)

	AGE	STARTS	1ST (SW)	2ND	3RD	EARNINGS
2017	3	11	5 (2)	2	0	\$438,548