



## An Open Letter from Hill 'n' Dale President, John Sikura

Fellow Horsemen and Horsewomen,

I am writing to address an issue head-on that is of concern. One of the most versatile and talented racehorses we have retired to stud is World of Trouble. A Grade 1 winner on both dirt and turf, he was the fastest three-year-old of his generation based on his Beyer Speed Figure, and his 6 furlong time of 1:06.37 in the Jaipur (G1), is testimony to his sheer brilliance.

Though his trainer is in a world of trouble, I wanted to take this opportunity to try and put things into their proper perspective. Trained by Kathleen O'Connell for his first two starts as a two year old, World of Trouble looked like a world beater, breaking his maiden first time out by 14 lengths. I read an article years ago which stated that a common trait that many successful stallions shared was winning first time out by a large margin. Of note to this observation is Maclean's Music who won first time out by 7 1/4, Ghostzapper by 9, Kantharos by 11 3/4, Candy Ride by 12 and Curlin by 12 3/4.

In World of Trouble's stakes debut in his next start for trainer O'Connell he posted a 103 Equibase Speed Figure and an 88 Beyer. To put this performance, his talent, and these numbers into perspective, one need look no further than this year's leading candidate for the Eclipse Award for Champion 2YO Colt. Undeclared Breeders' Cup (G1) Juvenile Champion Essential Quality posted an 88 Beyer and a 96 Equibase Speed Figure while winning the Grade 1 Breeder's Futurity. His 88 Beyer was the same Beyer awarded World of Trouble in his stakes debut and his Equibase Speed Figure was 7 points below World of Trouble's 103 Speed Figure. It wasn't until Essential Quality's victory in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), sent off at odds of less than 2 to 1, against the best of his generation, that he posted a 103 Equibase Speed Figure, equal to that awarded World of Trouble as a two-year-old.

I feel compelled to make this objective case in defense of a horse whose reputation and talent have been tainted by a false assumption that his speed, courage, and will to win was injected into his veins from a vial. Those traits coursed through World of Trouble's veins well before he was ever transferred to his now disgraced trainer. I encourage anyone evaluating World of Trouble as a stallion prospect to focus on the facts.

Fast forward to World of Trouble's four-year-old season where he won the first of his two Grade 1's in the Carter Handicap. In the Carter, he posted a 108 Equibase Speed Figure, a mere 5 points above the number awarded in his second start as a two-year-old. I would suggest maturity was responsible for this progression, not performance enhancing drugs. His improved Speed Figures on turf are totally attributable to the fact that he was an astonishing turf horse with an exceptional turn of foot.

Regardless of any revelations, allegations or malicious tweets, my commitment to ensuring World of Trouble's success as a stallion remains unchanged. I owe it to the horse, my partners, and to those who have believed in this exceptionally talented and promising individual. I continue to support the horse with the same vigor with which I have supported all the young stallions at Hill 'n' Dale. It's the type of support that had us as the breeder of Classic Champion Cloud Computing (Maclean's Music), Grade 1 Winner Volatile (Violence), and the \$210,000 Army Mule weanling that was sold at Keeneland November. I hope this letter helps bring this brilliant young stallion out of the shadows of misconception.

In consideration of the above we have reduced the 2021 stud fee for World of Trouble to \$7,500 stands and nurses. I don't think there is a horse of his equal that stands at this fee and we eagerly anticipate his first foals from a stellar book of 121 mares. We have a well-earned reputation of being candid, transparent and fair dealers for more than 30 years. I ask for your support.

John G. Sikura

President, Hill 'n' Dale Farms