

Justwhistledixie Makes it Five in a Row

By [Jason Shandler](#)

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Courtesy of The BloodHorse.com

Sensational 3-year-old filly [Justwhistledixie](#) notched her fifth consecutive victory in the \$200,000 [Bonnie Miss](#) (gr. II) ([VIDEO](#)) March 27 at Gulfstream Park, further stamping herself as one of the top Kentucky Oaks (gr. I) contenders.

Sent off as the odds-on choice under Julien Leparoux, Justwhistledixie received a comfortable four-wide trip while sitting off of a hot pace set by second choice [Gatorette](#). Ridden by Eibar Coa, Gatorette broke awkwardly and was rank in the early stages of the 1 1/8-mile dirt contest, causing her to post suicidal fractions of :23.33, :46.29 and 1:10.15. Justwhistledixie made her winning move around the final turn.

By the time the field of six turned for home, [Casanova Move](#) and Justwhistledixie were well clear of the rest of the field. Justwhistledixie edged away from Casanova Move in upper stretch and powered home for a 1 3/4-length score. Her final time on the fast main track was 1:49.25.

Casanova Move was a clear second under Jose Lezcano, 10 1/2-lengths better than 65-1 [Hopeful Image](#) and Rene Douglas.

Owned by West Point Thoroughbreds and partners, Justwhistledixie won her fourth consecutive start in stakes company and is a perfect three-for-three as a sophomore. She entered the Bonnie Miss off convincing wins in the Jan. 4 Ruthless Stakes at Aqueduct and March 1 Davona Dale (gr. II) at Gulfstream. This was her first two-turn effort for trainer Kiaran McLaughlin.

Leparoux, taking over for regular rider Alan Garcia, who is in Dubai for the World Cup, rode Justwhistledixie for the first time.

"We got the outside post and I was just keeping an eye on (Gatorette)," Leparoux said. "She was the speed. We didn't really want to rush (out of the gate). I was waiting to let her go and she did the rest. Today, she won because she is a very good horse and better than the rest of them. I really didn't do anything special."

A daughter of [Dixie Union](#) —General Jeanne, by [Honour and Glory](#) , Justwhistledixie was bred in Kentucky by Hermitage Farm. She was a \$425,000 yearling in 2007. The dark bay filly has now earned \$337,927.

The winner paid \$3.20, \$2.20, and \$2.10. The exacta (6-1) returned \$7.80, and the trifecta (6-1-4) was worth \$53.10 for \$1.

"I thought she would be a little closer early, but (Gatorette) was really going fast," said Neil McLaughlin, who saddled the winner for his brother, who is in Dubai with [Albertus Maximus](#). "Julien did a great job and just laid back. We had the outside post, which let him see everything develop. We felt all along that she would handle the two turns with no problem, and she did.

"She'll fly to Kentucky (March 30) and train at Keeneland until we move over to Churchill and get ready to run in the (Kentucky) Oaks."

Justwhistledixie wins Bonnie Miss

by [Jeff Apel](#)

Courtesy of The Thoroughbred Times

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Justwhistledixie gained command four wide approaching the stretch and posted a 1 3/4-length win in the \$200,000 Bonnie Miss Stakes (G2) on Friday at Gulfstream Park to earn her fifth straight victory.

Trained by Kiaran McLaughlin, Justwhistledixie was tabbed the 5-to-2 favorite in the only future wager offered for

the Kentucky Oaks (G1), which closed on March 15. McLaughlin's brother and assistant, Neil McLaughlin, said Justwhistledixie will be flown to Kentucky on Monday and will train at Keeneland Race Course prior to being shipped to Churchill Downs for the Kentucky Oaks on May 1.

Justwhistledixie entered the Bonnie Miss Stakes off three consecutive stakes wins, including the Davona Dale Stakes (G2) on March 1 at Gulfstream in her previous start. The [Dixie Union](#) filly posted her first two career stakes wins at Aqueduct, capturing the Love Affair Stakes on November 28 prior to winning the Ruthless Stakes on January 4.

The 3-to-5 favorite in the field of six three-year-old fillies entered in the Bonnie Miss Stakes, Justwhistledixie was rated off the pace at the start by jockey Julien Leparoux and raced in fourth through an opening quarter-mile in :23.33 and half-mile in :46.29. After moving up to third through six furlongs in 1:10.15, Justwhistledixie gained command on the turn and opened a half-length lead in early stretch.

Justwhistledixie edged away from runner-up Casanova Move approaching the finish and won the 1 1/8-mile race in 1:49.25 on a track rated as fast.

"Today, she won because she is a very good horse and better than the rest of them," Leparoux said. "I really didn't do anything special."

Casanova Move finished 10 1/2 lengths in front of third-place finisher Hopeful Image, a 65.40-to-1 longshot.

A half sister to Grade 2 winner Chace City, Justwhistledixie is out of the winning Honour and Glory mare General Jeanne.

Justwhistledixie aces Bonnie Miss test

By Mike Welsch
Gulfstream Park | Posted 3/27/2009, 6:03 pm

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. - Justwhistledixie answered the distance question and cleared the final hurdle en route to Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Oaks on May 1 with a 1 3/4-length victory over Casanova Move in Friday's Grade 2, \$200,000 Bonnie Miss at Gulfstream Park.

Justwhistledixie, the surprising 5-2 favorite in the Kentucky Oaks Future Wager, benefitted from a perfectly judged ride by jockey Julien Leparoux in the 1 1/8-mile Bonnie Miss. Leparoux replaced Justwhistledixie's regular rider, Alan Garcia, who is in Dubai.

As expected, Gatorette set the pace, but she was rank. Leparoux was content to settle Justwhistledixie a half-dozen lengths off the early leader down the backstretch while also keeping her out in the better going well off the inside rail.

Casanova Move was the first to overtake Gatorette leaving the final turn, but her lead was short lived as Justwhistledixie quickly wrested command while continuing wide into the stretch. Justwhistledixie tried to lug in briefly while holding a short advantage nearing the eighth pole before gradually edging clear to the wire.

Hopeful Image raced wide and passed tired rivals to finish third, 10 1/2 lengths behind Casanova Move. Gatorette, an easy winner of her two previous starts, stopped badly after relinquishing the lead and finished fifth in a field of six 3-year-old fillies.

Justwhistledixie, a daughter of Dixie Union, is owned by West Point Thoroughbreds, Lakland Farm, and Dee Hubbard. She completed the distance in 1:49.25 and paid \$3.20.

"I thought she'd be a little closer, but they set a pretty good pace so I was glad she was where she was," said Neal McLaughlin, brother of trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, who was also in Dubai for the World Cup. "We never had any concern about the added distance. The longer the better for her, as she's proven over and over again."

McLaughlin said Justwhistledixie would leave for Kentucky on Monday.