



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Lava Man in good company with Big 'Cap, Gold Cup double

The intrepid Lava Man padded his remarkable resume last Saturday when valiantly hanging on by the slimmest of margins to capture the 67th running of the \$750,000 Hollywood Gold Cup Handicap (G1) for the second consecutive year.



Benoit & Associates photo

Last season, he won the race by a record 8¾ lengths.

The five-year-old Slew City Slew gelding joins fellow California-bred gelding Native Diver, from the mid-1960s, as the only repeat winner of Hollywood Park's most prestigious contest.

Lava Man also becomes only the sixth horse to win the Santa Anita Handicap (G1) and Hollywood Gold Cup in the same year (see chart).

LAVA MAN

So far in 2006, Lava Man is undefeated in five starts, including two on the grass, where he easily annexed the Charles Whittingham Memorial Handicap (G1). His latest victory takes his career mark to 12 wins from 32 starts with earnings of \$2,904,706. This elevates him to the title of racing's richest former claimer.

Lava Man hails from the 11th crop of former multiple Grade 1 winner Slew City Slew, who stands at Airdrie Stud in Midway, Kentucky, with a 2006 fee of \$6,000. The consistent Seattle Slew stallion has sired 12 graded stakes winners including 2001 Canadian Horse of the Year Win City, millionaire gelding Maysville Slew, and Ashland Stakes (G1) heroine Sis City.

Seattle Slew and his sons at stud have a history of doing particularly well with mares contributing additional strains of the great *La Troienne family. In Lava Man's case, Nostalgia, the grandsire of his dam, has So Chic (*Nasrullah-Striking) as his third dam. So Chic also is a full sister to Glamour, dam of Seattle Slew's broodmare sire Poker.

For good measure, Lava Man's pedigree also demonstrates inbreeding to the families of Grey Flight and *Khaled.

Despite his workmanlike sire, the bottom half of Lava Man's pedigree would have made a rather forgettable page in an auction catalog.

He is the only stakes winner of any kind within his first three dams, and the first representative of his extended family to gain much celebrity since his seventh dam Forever, by Ballot, produced 1928 Belmont Stakes winner Vito.

Lava Man, dk. b. or br. g., 2001

Slew City Slew 84 628 fs, 36 SWs SI 1.27 DI=2.25	Seattle Slew 74 14 wins, \$1,208,726 Champion 1050 fs, 114 SWs SI 4.77 DI=2.14	Bold Reasoning 68 61 fs, 10 SWs SI 4.95 DI=3.80	Boldnesian 63	Bold Ruler 54 Alanesian 54
		My Charmer 69 12 fs, 4 SWs DI=0.94	Reason to Earn 63	Hail to Reason 58 Sailing Home 48 Round Table 54 Glamour 53
			Poker 63	Jet Action 51 Myrtle Charm 46
Weber City Miss 77 17 wins, \$687,109, SW 8 fs, 3 SWs DI=1.77		Berkley Prince 66 64 fs, 2 SWs SI 1.04 DI=1.00	Rash Prince 60	Prince John 53 Prompt Impulse 52
		Esirrus 69 13 fs, 1 SW DI=3.00	Betrayed 53	Tip-Toe 40 Pyrrha 43
			Sunrise Flight 59	Double Jay 44 Misty Morn 52
Li'l Ms. Leonard 92 3 fs, 1 SW DI=1.67	Nostalgia's Star 82 9 wins, \$2,154,827, SW 132 fs, 1 SW SI 0.71 DI=1.00	Nostalgia 74 283 fs, 6 SWs SI 0.85 DI=1.11	Water Lady 59	*Ambiorix 46 When in Rome 51
		Aunt Carol 78 12 fs, 1 SW DI=1.57	Silent Screen 67	Prince John 53 Prayer Bell 54
	Pink Native 82 Unraced 4 fs, 0 SWs DI=2.33	Be a Native 71 323 fs, 12 SWs SI 0.83 DI=2.20	The Garden Club 66	*Herbager 56 Fashion Verdict 60
		Pink Khal 68 8 fs, 0 SWs DI=2.16	Big Spruce 69	*Herbager 56 Silver Sari 61
			Dinky Pinky 73	What a Pleasure 65 Little Dunce 66
		Exclusive Native 65	Raise a Native 61 Exclusive 53	
		Poteen 63	*Cavan 55 *Lady Lufton 54	
		Khalex 55	*Khaled 43 Exquisite 50	
		Pinky Jo 55	Rippey 43 Candia 39	

Winners of the Santa Anita Handicap, Hollywood Gold Cup in the same year

1939	*Kayak II #	1977	Crystal Water
1950	*Noor #	1979	Affirmed # \$
1971	Ack Ack # \$	2006	Lava Man

subsequently named champion older male
\$ Horse of the Year

Lava Man would seem to be living proof that even mediocre tail-female lines are capable of issuing sensational racehorses.

He is a most exceptional racehorse, and quite the exception to the rule.

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at <http://www.equicross.com>.