



Golden Velvet's family tree passes the buck

by Rommy Favershaw

Golden Velvet, an impeccably bred five-year-old Seeking the Gold mare, earned her first graded stakes victory when she finished in a dead heat with Lady Marlboro in the \$98,000 Sabin Handicap (G3) on Sunday at Gulfstream Park.



Adam Coegljanese/NYRA photo

The Darley homebred raced in France and Dubai at ages three and four before being sent to the United States last fall. She captured her North American debut on October 18 by 6½ lengths in a one-mile allowance/optional claiming race at Belmont Park and subsequently finished third in the one-mile Top Flight Handicap (G2) on November 23 at Aqueduct.

GOLDEN VELVET

The Sabin was the dark bay or brown mare's third lifetime victory from 11 starts. She has earned \$132,909.

Golden Velvet was bred in Kentucky and is one of four winners from seven starters out of the Storm Cat mare Caress, a three-time Grade 3 winner at age four. Golden Velvet's siblings include 2002 Hopeful Stakes (G1) winner and sire Sky Mesa, by Pulpit, and multiple graded stakes-placed Monthir, by Gulch, who currently stands in Chile.

Caress also has three graded or group stakes-winning siblings. Group 3 winner Della Francesca, by Danzig, is a sire in France. Caress's full sister, Country Cat, was a Grade 3 winner, and their full brother, dual hemisphere stallion Bernstein, was a multiple group winner in Ireland as well as the leading sire in Argentina in 2006.

Golden Velvet's winning grandam, La Affirmed, is a full sister to Grade 3 winner Lovelier and a three-quarter sister to 1984 champion juvenile filly Outstandingly, by Exclusive Native.

Golden Velvet's placed fourth dam, Finance, is a half sister to three stakes winners, including 1963 Futurity Stakes winner Bupers and the illustrious 1966 Horse of the Year Buckpasser. Their common dam, Golden Velvet's fifth, was the great staying racemare Busanda, who

Golden Velvet, dk. b. or br. m., 2003

Seeking the Gold 85 830 fls, 82 SWs SI 3.43 DI=3.15	Mr. Prospector 70 7 wins, \$112,171, SW 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61 838 fls, 78 SWs SI 3.14 DI=1.57	Native Dancer 50	Polynesian 42 Geisha 43
	Con Game 74 2 wins, \$24,080 10 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.32	Gold Digger 62 12 fls, 3 SWs DI=2.23	Raise You 46	Case Ace 34 Lady Glory 34
		Buckpasser 63 313 fls, 35 SWs SI 4.32 DI=1.34	Nashua 52	* Nasrullah 40 Segula 42
	Caress 91 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.67	Storm Cat 83 4 wins, \$570,610, SW 1211 fls, 158 SWs SI 4.20 DI=4.00	Broadway 59 10 fls, 4 SWs DI=1.14	Sequence 46
Storm Bird 78 681 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.10 DI=3.25			Tom Fool 49	Menow 35 Gaga 42
La Affirmed 83 1 win, \$20,875 15 fls, 4 SWs DI=1.24		Affirmed 75 840 fls, 86 SWs SI 2.64 DI=2.08	Busanda 47	War Admiral 34 Businesslike 39
La Mesa 70 11 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.90	Terlingua 76 11 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Hasty Road 51	Flitabout 45	Challedon 36 Bird Flower 32
		Secretariat 70	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
		Crimson Saint 69	South Ocean 67	New Providence 56 Shining Sun 62
Round Table 54	Finance 55	Exclusive Native 65	Won't Tell You 62	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52
		Crimson Satan 59 Bolero Rose 58	Raise a Native 61 Exclusive 53	Crafty Admiral 48 Scarlet Ribbon 57
				*Princequillo 40 *Knight's Daughter 41
				* Nasrullah 40 Busanda 47

outlasted males in consecutive runnings of the Saratoga Cup.

Golden Velvet hails from the 13th crop of the Claiborne Farm stallion Seeking the Gold and represents her sire's 47th graded or group stakes winner.

One of Mr. Prospector's premier sons at stud, Seeking the Gold is the sire of eight stakes winners from 43 foals of racing age out of Storm Cat mares (19%). These include graded stakes winners Sahara Gold and Windrush.

Of particular note, Golden Velvet descends from the tribe of Buckpasser while her sire is out of a Buckpasser mare. This valuable family tie serves to reinforce the tail-female line through inbreeding to Busanda, an elite granddaughter of the immortal *La Troienne.

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