



Cajun Beat a breakthrough winner for his family

by Rommy Faversham

Cajun Beat, this year's surprise winner of the Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1), sports a pedigree that features the union of a hot young stallion with a speedy racemare. This distinct melding of bloodlines forged a series of valuable female family inbreeding patterns already observed in top individuals.



Patricia McQueen photo

CAJUN BEAT

Cajun Beat, a three-year-old dark bay or brown Grand Slam gelding, covered the six-furlong Sprint in 1:07.95, the third-fastest time in the race's 20-year history. The victory was his first Grade 1 win following earlier triumphs this year in the Kentucky Cup Sprint Stakes (G3) and in the Hallandale Beach Stakes.

Cajun Beat's dam, Beckys Shirt, who was multiple graded stakes-placed at ages three and four, has produced three starters, all winners. Her extended family can only be described as moderate as Cajun Beat is the first Grade 1 winner in seven generations.

Cajun Beat is from Grand Slam's first crop. Off to a very good start at stud, the eight-year-old Gone West stallion has sired nine stakes winners—including four graded winners—from 244 foals in two crops of racing age. A multiple Grade 1 winner, Grand Slam ran second in the 1998 Sprint.

The most important pattern in Cajun Beat's

Cajun Beat, dkbbr. g., 2000

Grand Slam 95 226 fls, 9 SWs SI 2.91 DI=3.24	Gone West 84 6 wins, \$682,251, SW 769 fls, 71 SWs SI 2.96 DI=4.52	Mr. Prospector 70 1176 fls, 179 SWs SI 5.11 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61
		Secrettame 78 14 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.17	Gold Digger 62
Bright Candles 87 5 wins, \$405,091, SW 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.08	El Gran Senor 81 397 fls, 55 SWs SI 3.20 DI=2.43	Christmas Bonus 78 15 fls, 5 SWs DI=1.60	Secretariat 70
			Tamerett 62
Cure the Blues 78 6 wins, \$178,106, SW 842 fls, 81 SWs SI 1.87 DI=4.43	Stop the Music 70 667 fls, 46 SWs SI 1.77 DI=2.23	Quick Cure 71 13 fls, 2 SWs DI=8.33	Northern Dancer 61
			Sex Appeal 70
Beckys Shirt 91 3 fls, 1 SW DI=6.33	Thundertee 77 5 wins, \$110,982, SW 10 fls, 1 SW DI=4.50	Ye 67 123 fls, 6 SWs SI 0.67 DI=5.13	Key to the Mint 69
			Sugar Plum Time 72
Hepzibah 64 11 fls, 4 SWs DI=0.87	*Turn-to 51	Ye-Cats 61	Hail to Reason 58
			Bebopper 62
Count Amber 57	Fullopep 52	Speedwell 60	Dr. Fager 64
			Speedwell 60

pedigree appears to be the 4x4 cross of Secretariat and his close relative and multiple stakes winner Speedwell—both horses are by Bold Ruler with Speedwell being out of Secretariat's second dam, Imperatrice—creating inbreeding to their joint family. This infrequent pattern has already been observed in a number of superior individuals, including Grade 1 winner Golden Missile. It is also worth noting that Ye, the very obscure sire of Cajun Beat's

second dam, Thundertee, is from the same family as Grand Slam's broodmare sire, El Gran Senor.

Needless to say, everything added up for Cajun Beat in the biggest race of his young career.

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