



World traveler Falbrav's retirement brings new challenges

By Rommy Faversham

Globetrotting superstar Falbrav (Ire) completed his remarkable racing career with a rousing two-length victory in last Sunday's \$2,325,600 Hong Kong Cup (HK-G1) at Sha Tin racecourse.

In all, the five-year-old bay son of Fairy King earned \$5,825,517, winning 13 of 26 starts while

capturing a total of eight Group 1 events in five different countries.

If not for narrow losses to High Chaparral (Ire) in the Champion Stakes (Ire-G1), and again (with Johar) in the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) earlier this season, Falbrav might well be considered the most celebrated 'frequent flyer' in Thoroughbred history.

Falbrav's new line of work will be no less challenging as he will attempt to help fill the void left by the passing of Japan's perennial champion sire, Sunday Silence at Teruya Yoshida's Shadai Stallion Station on the Japanese island of Hokkaido. His stud fee has been set at four million yen (\$37,202).

It would seem reasonable to assert that the same bloodlines that have been particularly successful with Falbrav's sire, Fairy King, as well as that one's more famous full brother, Sadler's Wells, would now prove useful with Falbrav.



Patricia McQueen photo

FALBRAV

Falbrav (Ire), b. h., 1998

Fairy King 82 794 fls, 75 SWs SI 2.18 DI=2.82	Northern Dancer 61 14 wins, \$580,647 Champion 635 fls, 146 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nearctic 54 335 fls, 49 SWs SI 2.38 DI=1.90	=Nearco (Ity) 35
		Natalma 57 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=1.93	*Lady Angela 44 Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
Fairy Bridge 75 2 wins Champion 9 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.29	Bold Reason 68 334 fls, 21 SWs SI 1.50 DI=2.07	Special 69 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.52	Hail to Reason 58 Lalun 52
			*Forli 63 Thong 64
Gift of the Night 90 4 fls, 1 SW DI=1.25	Slewy 80 8 wins, \$710,248, SW 525 fls, 26 SWs SI 1.76 DI=1.53	Seattle Slew 74 1017 fls, 108 SWs SI 4.91 DI=2.14	Bold Reasoning 68 My Charmer 69
		Rare Bouquet 63 14 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.05	Prince John 53 Forest Song 58
Little Nana (Fr) 75 10 wins, \$128,481, SW 7 fls, 0 SWs DI=0.65	Lithiot 65 207 fls, 7 SWs SI 0.44 DI=0.73	=Nenana Road (Fr) 70 14 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.67	*Ribot 52 Lithia 59
			=Kirkland Lake (GB) 61 =Sena (Fr) 51

Broodmares from the lines of Never Bend create inbreeding to the great matriarch Lalun when bred to Fairy King, Sadler's Wells, and their sons. Top individuals representing this cross include Almushtarak (Ire), Fairy Heights (Ire) and Island Sands (Ire).

Mares sent to Falbrav carrying the blood of Halo would create inbreeding to foundation matron Almahmoud, as demonstrated in the

pedigree of international star, Singspiel (Ire). The daughters of Halo's best son, Sunday Silence, are very well represented at Shadai and many of them would appear to be a collective match for Falbrav.

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