



Bear Fan takes advantage of Canadian roots, close inbreeding

by **Rommy Faversham**

Bear Fan, a five-year-old bay daughter of Pine Bluff, continues to impress following her comfortable victory in the six-furlong Genuine Risk Handicap (G2) at Belmont Park on Sunday.



MJC/Jim McCue photo

BEAR FAN

The versatile and well-traveled sprinter improved her record to seven wins in 11 starts with earnings of \$498,150. Her most recent start on the East Coast was in February, when she captured the Barbara Fritchie Handicap (G2) at Laurel Park.

Bear Fan was bred in California by Wesley Ward, who bought her in utero when paying \$50,000 for her dam in foal to Pine Bluff at the 1999 Barretts Equine Ltd. January mixed sale.

Bear Fan is the second winner and first stakes winner out of the winning mare Shezalong, a half sister to 1984 Canadian champion sprinter Diapason. Bear Fan's stakes-winning second dam, Coulisse, was bred by E. P. Taylor, one of Canada's most celebrated breeders.

With this latest victory, Bear Fan becomes her family's richest representative since her fourth dam, *Corvette II, was imported to the United States in the early 1960s.

Bear Fan is from the sixth crop of 1992 Preakness Stakes (G1) winner Pine Bluff. To date, Pine Bluff has sired nine graded stakes winners in the United States, including multiple Grade 1 winner I Ain't Bluffing and mul-

Bear Fan, b. m., 1999

Pine Bluff 89 429 fls, 24 SWs SI 1.86 DI=3.00	Danzig 77 3 wins, \$32,400 993 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.47 DI=4.71	Northern Dancer 61 635 fls, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Nearctic 54
		Pas de Nom 68 11 fls, 0 SWs DI=11.00	Natalma 57
Rowdy Angel 79 Placed, \$16,395 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=2.76		Halo 69 724 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.40 DI=2.14	Admiral's Voyage 59
		Ramhyde 72 9 fls, 1 SW DI=1.00	*Petitioner 52
Shimatoree 79 5 wins, \$203,270, SW 222 fls, 8 SWs SI 0.80 DI=7.89		Marshua's Dancer 68 699 fls, 41 SWs SI 1.35 DI=4.78	Hail to Reason 58
		Tudor Twist 62 14 fls, 1 SW DI=4.33	Cosmah 53
Shezalong 90 6 fls, 1 SW DI=1.40	Coulisse 71 5 wins, \$29,380, SW 7 fls, 1 SW DI=0.73	Stage Door Johnny 65 582 fls, 51 SWs SI 2.54 DI=0.75	Rambunctious 60
		Raise the Flag 67 12 fls, 1 SW DI=3.50	Castle Hyde 68
			Raise a Native 61
			Marshua 62
			*Tudor Minstrel 44
			*Girl Buyer 54
			Prince John 53
			Peroxide Blonde 60
			Raise a Native 61
			*Corvette II 58

iple graded stakes winners Middlesex Drive, Megans Bluff, Puzzlement, Pine Dance, and Follow the Money.

Pine Bluff's pedigree features close inbreeding 4x4 to Almahmoud, the second dam of both Northern Dancer and Halo. At stud, Pine Bluff has done particularly well with broodmares who are closely inbred. Such is the case with Bear Fan's dam, who is inbred

3x3 to Raise a Native. This generalized practice of mating closely inbred individuals of different lines has long been described by breeding theorists as a way to produce a relative outcross who carries the potential of manifesting some of the virtues of hybrid vigor.

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