



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Rags to Riches seeks to end 102-year Belmont drought

by Rommy Favershaw

Trainer Todd Pletcher's decision to enter Rags to Riches in Saturday's \$1-million Belmont Stakes (G1) makes her the first female to start in the third leg of America's Triple Crown in the 21st century.

Fillies who have finished on the board in the Belmont Stakes

Year	Filly	Sire	Finish
1867	RUTHLESS	*Eclipse	WON
1868	Fanny Ludlow	*Eclipse	Third
1869	Invercauld	St. Albans	Third
1870	Middy	*Eclipse	Third
1905	TANYA	*Meddler	WON
1913	Flying Fairy	*Aeronaut	Third
1927	Flambino	*Wrack	Third
1980	Genuine Risk	Exclusive Native	Second
1996	My Flag	Easy Goer	Third

be the 22nd filly to compete in the Belmont. In the 138 previous runnings of the race, nine fillies have finished in the top three (see chart).

The inaugural running of the Belmont Stakes took place at Jerome Park in the Bronx in 1867 at a distance of 1½ miles. The winner, Ruthless, a New York-bred filly, also would go on to capture the Travers Stakes. In 1975, she was inducted into Racing's Hall of Fame.

The second and last filly to win the Belmont Stakes came more than a century ago. Tanya beat the boys in 1905, when the race was run at Morris Park in Westchester County at 1¼ miles. Tanya hailed from the powerhouse stable of Harry P. Whitney and was bred by his influential father, William C. Whitney.

Since 1906, the Belmont Stakes has been held at Belmont Park, which

The three-year-old chestnut filly has won all four of her starts this year, including Grade 1 victories in the Las Virgenes Stakes (G1), Santa Anita Oaks (G1), and Kentucky Oaks (G1).

Rags to Riches will

is located in Elmont on Long Island, except for a period of reconstruction. From 1963 to 1967, the race was moved to Aqueduct in Queens.

During the 1980s, Kentucky Derby (G1)-winning fillies Genuine Risk and Winning Colors finished second and sixth, respectively, in the Belmont.

The last filly to start in the Belmont was Silverbulletday in 1999. She finished seventh after setting a torrid pace, which only seemed to aid in the defeat of star-crossed Derby-Preakness Stakes (G1) champion Charismatic.

Rags to Riches was sired by Belmont winner A.P. Indy and is out of a Belmont-winning producer. Her dam, Better Than Honour, foaled last year's Belmont winner, Jazil.

The only other starter in the history of the Belmont Stakes with such credentials is Slew o' Gold, who finished second in 1983. He was the son of winner 1977 Triple Crown Seattle Slew out of Alluvial, the dam of 1979 Belmont winner Coastal.

No broodmare has ever foaled two Belmont Stakes winners, but Rags to Riches gives her dam, Better Than Honour, a pretty good shot at it.

A victory on Saturday from this granddaughter of Seattle Slew also would mark an unprecedented third consecutive generation of Belmont winners in tail-male line.

Think it is safe to say Rags to Riches belongs in this race.

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RAGS TO RICHES

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