



Firecracker winner Remarkable News features hot inbreeding pattern

by Rommy Favershaw

Turf specialist Remarkable News (Ven) posted his second consecutive graded stakes victory on June 30 when he scored a comfortable 2 3/4-length victory in the \$232,000 Firecracker Handicap (G2) at Churchill Downs.



Reed Palmer photo

The five-year-old front-runner covered one mile in 1:34.74 on firm turf.

Prior to the Firecracker, Remarkable News was best by 1 3/4 lengths in the 1 1/2-mile Dixie Stakes (G2) on the Preakness Stakes (G1) undercard on May 19 at Pimlico Race Course.

Last season, Remarkable News captured the Fourstardave Handicap (G2) at Saratoga Race Course and the Connaught Cup Stakes (Can-G3) at Woodbine. He also was runner-up behind Aussie Rules in the Shadwell Turf Mile Stakes (G1) at Keeneland Race Course.

REMARKABLE NEWS

The sharp chestnut homebred has won nine of his 15 lifetime starts and has earned \$762,678.

Remarkable News is owned by Ocala resident Holly Rincon, who bred and raised him at Haras Luisiana, her 160-acre farm in Bejuma, Venezuela, where his sire, Chayim, stands.

Remarkable News is one of four winners out of the Alhajras mare Unreachable, a multiple winner in Venezuela at three.

His rather unremarkable broodmare sire, Alhajras, was from the penultimate crop of the great Northern Dancer. Unplaced in two starts, Alhajras was exported to Venezuela, where he enjoyed limited success at stud.

Remarkable News (Ven), ch. h., 2002				
Chayim 90 27 fs, 10 SWs SI 10.58 DI=2.07	Woodman 83 3 wins, \$28,045 Champion 1841 fs, 108 SWs SI 1.60 DI=3.31	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fs, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
		Playmate 75 13 fs, 2 SWs DI=1.82	Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46
		Roberto 69 500 fs, 85 SWs SI 3.90 DI=2.50	Buckpasser 63	Tom Fool 49 Busanda 47
=Unreachable (Ven) 93 2 fs, 2 SWs DI=2.11	Alhajras 87 Unplaced 13 fs, 2 SWs SI 0.32 DI=2.50	Spring Adieu 74 12 fs, 0 SWs DI=1.51	Intriguing 64	Swaps 52 Glamour 53
		Northern Dancer 61 635 fs, 147 SWs SI 5.82 DI=3.00	Hail to Reason 58	*Turn-to 51 Nothridchance 48
		Call Me Goddess 71 13 fs, 2 SWs DI=1.70	Bramalea 59	Nashua 52 Rarelea 49
Inspiring 87 Placed 2 fs, 0 SWs DI=2.38	Slew o' Gold 80 554 fs, 29 SWs SI 2.37 DI=1.71	In My Favor 80 10 fs, 1 SW DI=1.80	Buckpasser 63	Tom Fool 49 Busanda 47
		Nearctic 54	Natalma 57	Native Dancer 50 Almahmoud 47
		Prince John 53	Seattle Slew 74	=Nearco (Ily) 35 *Lady Angela 44
Unreachable (Ven) 93 2 fs, 2 SWs DI=2.11	In My Favor 80 10 fs, 1 SW DI=1.80	Val de l'Orne (Fr) 72	Natalma 57	*Princequillo 40 Not Afraid 48
		Resolver 74	Marshua 62	Nashua 52 Emardee 50
		Val de l'Orne (Fr) 72	Alluvial 69	Bold Reasoning 68 My Charmer 69
Unreachable (Ven) 93 2 fs, 2 SWs DI=2.11	In My Favor 80 10 fs, 1 SW DI=1.80	Val de l'Orne (Fr) 72	Seattle Slew 74	Buckpasser 63 Bayou 54
		Resolver 74	Alluvial 69	*Val de Loir 59 =Aglae (Fr) 65 Reviewer 66 Lovely Morning 65
		Val de l'Orne (Fr) 72	Val de l'Orne (Fr) 72	

Unreachable is the dam of two other successful full brothers by Chayim. National News was Venezuela's two-year-old champion of 2002 and Sir Antonio (Ven) is a Group 3 winner.

Remarkable News's non winning grandam, Inspiring, rich with strains of Claiborne/Phippis blood, was exported to Venezuela in 1992.

One reaches that family's mother lode by descending to our subject's stakes-winning fourth dam, Resolver, producer of three Grade 1 winners—Time for A Change, Adjudicating, and Dispute.

Remarkable News hails from the eighth crop of the Woodman stallion Chayim. Placed at two, Chayim won three of six starts at age three, including a third-place finish in the Oceanside Stakes at Del Mar.

Recent South American catalogs list Chayim as a leading sire in Venezuela, with 24 stakes winners from his first 86 foals. Of particular note, Chayim descends from the family of Northern Dancer, whose half sister, Spring Adieu, was Chayim's grandam.

Not surprisingly, then, most of Chayim's best offspring, including Remarkable News, have demonstrated duplications of Northern Dancer's dam, Natalma.

That would not be a coincidence since inbreeding to Natalma has, in fact, been a deliberate strategy at Haras Luisiana.

Come to think of it, inbreeding to this great mare has been dynamic on both sides of the equator. Just look at the pedigree of this year's Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) winner Street Sense.

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

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