



## PEDIGREE PROFILE

# Salute the Sarge seizes victory in Best Pal Stakes

by Rommy Favershaw

Salute the Sarge remained unbeaten on Sunday with a one-length victory over Georgie Boy in the 6½-furlong Best Pal Stakes (G2) at Del Mar.

For the bay two-year-old Forest Wildcat colt, it was his third straight victory after scoring in his career debut at Hollywood Park on June 3 and winning the Hollywood Juvenile Championship Stakes (G3) by a nose on July 4.

Bred in Kentucky by Gulf Coast Farms, Salute the Sarge was purchased for \$300,000 at this year's Barretts March sale of selected two-year-olds in training. He is the fourth winner from as many starters out of multiple graded stakes-placed winner Dixie Ghost, by Silver Ghost.

Dixie Ghost is also the dam of Grade 2-placed turf stakes winner Mymich, by A.P. Indy, and Chelokee, by Cherokee Run. Chelokee won this year's Northern Dancer Stakes (G3) and finished third in the Florida Derby (G1).

Silver Ghost broodmares have combined to produce eight graded stakes winners through August 15, including Hopeful Stakes (G1) winner and sire Yonaguska.

The most celebrated member of Salute the Sarge's immediate family has been 1986 Flower Bowl Handicap (G1) heroine Dismasted, who was out of Salute the Sarge's third dam, Nashima.

Salute the Sarge's extended family traces back to one of the 20th century's fountainheads of speed, his eighth dam, the Aga Khan's Mumtaz Mahal, the great champion juvenile who was known as "The Flying Filly."

Salute the Sarge hails from the eighth crop of the popular Storm Cat stallion Forest Wildcat, who stood the 2007 season at Brookdale Farm, in Versailles, Kentucky, for \$35,000.

A multiple Grade 3 winner at age five, Forest Wildcat is the sire of 13 graded stakes winners, including Grade 1 winners Forest Secrets, D'Wildcat, and Wildcat Heir.

The most interesting pattern in Salute the Sarge's pedigree appears to be the 3x3 cross of the close relatives, Bold Native and Mr. Prospector, two sons of Raise a Native.

Bold Native's dam, Spring Beauty, is a full sister to Mr. Prospector's



**SALUTE THE SARGE**

Benoit & Associates photo

### Salute the Sarge, b. c., 2005

Forest Wildcat 91 563 fls, 45 SWs SI 1.75 DI=4.71	Storm Cat 83 4 wins, \$570,610, SW 1181 fls, 155 SWs SI 4.26 DI=4.00	Storm Bird 78 681 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.10 DI=3.25	<b>Northern Dancer</b> 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
		Terlingua 76 11 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.63	Secretariat 70	New Providence 56 Shining Sun 62
	Victoria Beauty 72 Unraced 13 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.29	Bold Native 65 172 fls, 4 SWs SI 1.11 DI=1.78	<b>Raise a Native</b> 61	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52
		Abifai 64 1 fl, 0 SWs DI=1.95	*Seaneen 54	Crimson Satan 59 Bolero Rose 58
Dixie Ghost 94 4 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.57	Silver Ghost 82 3 wins, \$42,400 637 fls, 50 SWs SI 1.44 DI=3.48	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	<b>Raise a Native</b> 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
		Misty Gallore 76 6 fls, 0 SWs DI=2.54	Halo 69	*Sir Gallahad III 20 Myrtlewood 32
	Mississippi Dixie 87 Unraced 6 fls, 0 SWs DI=3.31	Dixieland Band 80 1158 fls, 113 SWs SI 2.46 DI=3.50	<b>Northern Dancer</b> 61	*Royal Charger 42 *Tir an Oir 49
		Nashima 74 6 fls, 1 SW DI=2.29	Shiah Princess 64	Sun Again 39 *Quittance 38

third dam, Miss Dogwood, a daughter of Sir Gallahad's full brother, Bull Dog, and out of the great matriarch Myrtlewood, Spring Beauty's dam.

These family ties might help to explain why Forest Wildcat continues to do particularly well with Mr. Prospector-line mares.

Throw in a strain of Halo and what looks like simple inbreeding to Northern Dancer and Raise a Native is really inbreeding to the families of Northern Dancer and Mr. Prospector—a clever mix for Salute the Sarge.

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