



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Former claimer Ever a Friend first Grade 1 winner for Crafty Friend

By Rommy Faversham

Unfazed by light rain and a considerable step up class, Ever a Friend kicked clear of his opponents in early stretch en route to a 3/4-length victory in the \$300,000 Frank E. Kilroe Mile Handicap (G1) on March 1 at Santa Anita Park.



Benoit & Associates photo

The five-year-old Crafty Friend gelding was making his graded stakes debut and was sent off at 9.30-to-1 odds, second longest in the six-horse field. Ever a Friend covered the distance on firm turf in 1:33.37.

EVER A FRIEND

Claimed by trainer Mike Mitchell for \$62,500 out of a six-furlong race at Hollywood Park on December 6, Ever a Friend returned on December 31 to score a three-quarter-length victory in the 6 1/2-furlong Impressive Luck Handicap on Santa Anita's downhill turf course.

The Kilroe Mile is his fifth win in 18 lifetime starts. The \$180,000 winner's share of the purse boosted his career earnings to \$378,668.

Ever a Friend was bred in Kentucky by Liberation Farm and Oratis Thoroughbreds and was sold for \$35,000 at the 2004 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale of selected yearlings.

He is the first winner out of the winning Capote mare Never Is a Promise. His younger siblings include Very Good, an unplaced three-year-old half brother by Vicar, and a yearling half brother by Hennessy.

Capote mares have, so far, produced 21 graded stakes winners. Never Is a Promise is a half sister to Grade 3 winner Aunt Henny, by Hennessy.

On a historical note, Ever a Friend's 12th dam is Queen Mary, one of the 19th century's most celebrated matriarchs.

Ever a Friend hails from the third crop of the Crafty Prospector stallion Crafty Friend, who stands for \$6,000 at Walnford Stud in Allentown, New Jersey.

A four-time graded stakes winner, Crafty Friend is also the sire of Friendly Island, winner of the 2007 Palos Verdes Handicap (G2) and '06 Maryland Breeders' Cup Sprint Handicap (G3). Crafty Friend has sired eight stakes winners. Ever a Friend represents his first on grass.

A five-generation outcross, Ever a Friend demonstrates the successful megacross of Mr. Prospector with Seattle Slew, both breed-shaping stallions descending from the influential matron Myrtlewood.

Ever a Friend inherited his silver coat from *Grey Dawn II, the sire

Ever a Friend, gr. or ro. g., 2003

Crafty Friend 93 289 fs, 8 SWs SI 0.86 DI=4.82	Crafty Prospector 79 7 wins, \$116,955, Spl 1057 fs, 91 SWs SI 1.87 DI=4.68	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fs, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61 Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
	Companionship 78 5 wins, \$123,882, Spl 16 fs, 2 SWs DI=5.67	Real Crafty Lady 75 8 fs, 0 SWs DI=4.14	Gold Digger 62 Nashua 52 Sequence 46
		Princely Native 71 302 fs, 16 SWs SI 1.27 DI=3.17	In Reality 64 Intentionally 56 My Dear Girl 57
Never Is a Promise 96 3 fs, 1 SW DI=2.40	Capote 84 3 wins, \$714,470 Champion 824 fs, 62 SWs SI 1.86 DI=3.00	Lifelong Friend 72 8 fs, 1 SW DI=2.56	Princess Roycraft 67 Royal Note 52 Crafty Princess 58
	Ms. Patty B. 88 3 wins, \$78,450 12 fs, 1 SW DI=1.87	Seattle Slew 74 1050 fs, 114 SWs SI 4.76 DI=2.14	Raise a Native 61 Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
		*Grey Dawn II 62 746 fs, 73 SWs SI 2.12 DI=0.47	Charlo 64 Francis S. 57 *Neutron 48
Apalachee Princess 80 12 fs, 1 SW DI=2.38	Too Bald 64 12 fs, 5 SWs DI=7.67	Steward 59 Nashua 52 Sherry Jen 51	Tom Fool 49 Queen Fleet 56
		Bald Reasoning 68 Boldnesian 63 Reason to Earn 63	Poker 63 Fair Charmer 59
		My Charmer 69 Poker 63 Fair Charmer 59	*Nasrullah 40 Siama 47
		Bald Eagle 55 Dark Star 50 *Dangerous Dame 51	=Vandale (Fr) 43 =Flagette (Fr) 51
		Hidden Talent 56 *Mahmoud 33 Ampola 49	Round Table 54 Moccasin 63
		*Herbager 56 Polamia 55	Bold Bidder 62 Monivea 61
		Apalachee 71 Sinouj 71	

of his grandam. A French juvenile champion, Grey Dawn II received his dominant gray gene from his broodmare sire, the great *Mahmoud.

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

Upcoming stakes

Saturday

- SANTA ANITA OAKS (G1)**, SA, \$300,000, 8.5f, 3yof.
- LOUISIANA DERBY (G2)**, FG, \$600,000, 8.5f, 3yo.
- MERVIN H. MUNIZ JR. MEMORIAL H. (G2)**, FG, \$500,000, 9fT, 4&up.
- NEW ORLEANS H. (G2)**, FG, \$500,000, 9f, 4&up.
- FAIR GROUNDS OAKS (G2)**, FG, \$400,000, 8.5f, 3yof.
- RICHTER SCALE H. (G2)**, GP, \$150,000, 7f, 4&up.
- GOTHAM S. (G3)**, Aqu, \$200,000, 8.5f, 3yo.
- RAZORBACK H. (G3)**, OP, \$150,000, 8.5f, 4&up.
- EL CAMINO REAL DERBY (G3)**, BM, \$150,000, 8.5f, 3yo.
- THE VERY ONE H. (G3)**, GP, \$100,000, 11fT, 4&up.
- TOBOGGAN H. (G3)**, Aqu, \$100,000, 6f, 3&up.
- Duncan F. Kenner H.**, FG, \$200,000, 6f, 3&up.
- Bienville S.**, FG, \$100,000, 5.5fT, 4&upf&m.
- Santana Mile H.**, SA, \$75,000, 8f, 4&up.