



French Beret posts second straight win in Colonel E. R. Bradley

by Rommy Favershaw

Homebred French Beret proved gallant in a repeat win in the \$100,000 Colonel E. R. Bradley Handicap (G3) at Fair Grounds on January 10 as he emerged from a hotly contested stretch duel to nip Golden Yank at the wire for a nose victory.



Lou Hodges Jr. photo

The six-year-old Broad Brush gelding won for the first time since capturing last year's edition of the race. He was clocked in 1:44.98 for 1 1/16 miles on a turf course rated as good.

FRENCH BERET

Winner of three stakes, including the 2006 Toronto Cup Stakes at Woodbine, the bay homebred has triumphed in four of his 34 lifetime starts and has earned \$645,114.

French Beret and his stakes-winning dam Misty Mission both were bred in Ontario by Sam-Son Farms.

Misty Mission's first foal, French Beret has a three-year-old half brother, Cross Every Bridge, by Giant's Causeway, who won his lone 2008 start as a three-year-old. Misty Mission also is the dam of a juvenile colt by El Prado (Ire) and a yearling filly by Dynaformer.

French Beret's grandam, Hangin On a Star, a three-time stakes winner, was purchased by Sam-Son at the 1985 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling sale for \$550,000. She produced Canadian two-year-old colt champion Comet Shine and multiple Grade 2-placed winner Sky Colony in addition to Misty Mission.

French Beret, b. g., 2003

Broad Brush 83 668 fls, 93 SWs SI 2.62 DI=3.38	Ack Ack 66 19 wins, \$636,641 Champion 580 fls, 54 SWs SI 2.30 DI=3.36	Battle Joined 59 187 fls, 13 SWs SI 1.49 DI=0.71	Armageddon 49	Alisab 39 Fighting Lady 43
	Hay Patcher 73 5 wins, \$47,224, SW 12 fls, 3 SWs DI=2.60	Fast Turn 59 12 fls, 2 SWs DI=4.00	Ethel Walker 53	Revoked 43 Ethel Terry 47
Misty Mission 97 3 fls, 1 SW DI=1.67	Miswaki 78 6 wins, \$232,320, SW 1153 fls, 100 SWs SI 2.03 DI=2.75	Hoist the Flag 68 246 fls, 51 SWs SI 5.38 DI=0.58	*Turn-to 51	*Royal Charger 42 *Source Sucree 40
	Hangin On a Star 84 8 wins, \$449,373, SW 10 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.85	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Cherokee Rose 51	*Princequillo 40 *The Squaw II 39
		Hopespringseternal 71 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.40	Tom Rolfe 62	*Ribot 52 Pocahontas 55
		Vice Regent 67 673 fls, 105 SWs SI 2.83 DI=3.86	Wavy Navy 54	*Triomphe 47
		Hangin Round 70 10 fls, 4 SWs DI=0.55	*Turn-to 51	*Royal Charger 42 *Source Sucree 40
			Hidden Talent 56	Dark Star 50 *Dangerous Dame 51
			Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
			Gold Digger 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46
			Buckpasser 63	Tom Fool 49 Busanda 47
			Rose Bower 58	*Princequillo 40 Lea Lane 52
			Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
			Victoria Regina 58	*Menetrier 44 Victoriana 52
			Stage Door Johnny 65	Prince John 53 Peroxide Blonde 60
			*Auburn's Pride 60	=Aureole (GB) 50 =Patroness (GB) 55

French Beret's unplaced third dam, Hangin Round, was recognized as Canada's 1980 Broodmare of the Year. She is the dam of two-time Canadian champion Rainbow Connection, who is, in turn, the dam of multiple Canadian champion Rainbows for Life as well as multiple European group stakes winner Colour Chart, the dam of United States champion two-year-old filly Tempera.

This family originally reached North American shores in 1963, when French Beret's fourth dam, *Auburns Pride, was imported to the United States.

Interestingly, *Auburns Pride also is the third dam of the gelding Dixie Poker Ace, who won 18 Louisiana stakes races, including the Colonel E. R. Bradley in 1992, '93, and '94.

French Beret hails from the 15th crop of 1994 leading general sire Broad Brush, who was pensioned from stud duties after the 2004 breeding season. Sire of 37 graded or group stakes winners, Broad Brush's total progeny earnings now exceed \$68-million.

French Beret could be described as having a relatively "old" pedigree as he is a tail-male descendant of the timeworn Domino line, whose closest inbreeding pattern (5x5) is to venerable 1940s handicapper star and breed-shaping stallion *Princequillo.

The Colonel E. R. Bradley Handicap honors one of America's most esteemed horsemen, who owned and improved Fair Grounds in New Orleans from 1926 through '34. Fittingly, Bradley's prominent sires Blue Larkspur and *North Star and his immortal matron *La Troienne all grace French Beret's extended pedigree.

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

In 2007 Rags to Riches became the first filly to win the Belmont Stakes since 1905.

What filly won the 1905 Belmont Stakes?

PHOTO BY Z

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Upcoming stakes

Saturday

SAN FERNANDO S. (G2), SA, \$200,000, 8.5f, 4yo.

SANTA YNEZ S. (G2), SA, \$150,000, 7f, 3yof.

SAN RAFAEL S. (G3), SA, \$100,000, 1m, 3yo.

MR. PROSPECTOR H. (G3), GP, \$100,000, 6f, 4&up.

La Senora H., Sun, \$125,000, 6f, 3yof.

Dania Beach S., GP, \$100,000, 8fT, 3yo.

California Derby, GG, \$100,000, 8.5f, 3yo.

Pasco S., Tam, \$75,000, 7f, 3yo.