



South American-breds chalk up another San Antonio

by Rommy Faversham

Like a fine bottle of wine, Magnum (Arg) seems to have come of age. The eight-year-old Argentine-bred stalked the pace before over-

hauling Well Armed in the final furlong to score a convincing one-length victory in the \$200,000 San Antonio Handicap (G2) at Santa Anita Park on February 8.

The win snapped an eight-race losing streak that dated to his win in the Lone Star Park Handicap (G3) in May 2006.



Benoit & Associates photo

MAGNUM follows his gelding, which was performed prior to his most recent start—a game third-place finish to Cowboy Cal in the San Pasqual Handicap (G2) on January 10.

The dark bay or brown El Compinche (Arg) gelding was classic-placed in his native Argentina before his importation to the United States in 2005. His career mark stands at six wins in 26 starts with purse earnings of \$819,249.

Magnum's next big challenge could be the \$1-million Santa Anita Handicap (G1) on March 7 at Santa Anita. He finished second to Lava Man in the 2006 'Big Cap.

Magnum, his sire, his dam, and much of his immediate family were bred by the prominent Argentine breeding operation Haras La Quebrada.

Magnum hails from the second crop of El Compinche, a six-time Group 1 winner and two-time champion in Argentina, who stood at La Quebrada before his premature death in 2005.

El Compinche's still active 26-year-old sire, Southern Halo, has become a foundation stallion at La Quebrada with nine Argentine sire titles.

Magnum is out of the unraced Rainbow Corner (GB) mare Merrymaker (Arg), the dam of five winners from

as many starters. Merrymaker's pedigree features a 4x4 cross of Ribot's Fantasy and her full brother, Irish Derby winner Ragusa.

Magnum's older full brother, Medal of Honor, was named Argentina's champion sprinter in 2005.

Since her own importation to the U.S., Merrymaker has foaled an unnamed two-year-old colt by Dynaformer and a yearling filly

Magnum (Arg), dk. br. or b., g.				
=El Compinche (Arg) 91 280 fls, 9 SWs SI 1.17 DI=2.25	Southern Halo 83 5 wins, \$344,875, Spl 1690 fls, 161 SWs SI 1.80 DI=2.23	Halo 69 724 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.40 DI=2.14	Hail to Reason 58 Cosmah 53	
		Northern Sea 74 8 fls, 0 SWs DI=1.97	Northern Dancer 61 Sea Saga 68	
	=La Copera (Arg) 81 Spl 8 fls, 1 SW DI=5.29	Good Manners 66 188 fls, 41 SWs SI 5.97 DI=2.54	Nashua 52 Fun House 58	*Turn-to 51 Nothirchance 48 Cosmic Bomb 44 Almahmoud 47 Nearctic 54 Natalma 57 *Sea-Bird 62 Shama 61 *Nasrullah 40 Segula 42 The Doge 42 Recess 49
		=La Munequita (Arg) 69 12 fls, 0 SWs DI=4.71	=Right of Way (GB) 57 =La Maleva (Arg) 57	=Honeyway (GB) 41 =Magnificent (GB) 50 =Cardanil (Fr) 47 =Margot (Arg) 49
Merrymaker (Arg) 96 5 fls, 2 SWs DI=0.54	Rainbow Corner (GB) 89 3 wins, \$349,312, SW 267 fls, 13 SWs SI 1.21 DI=0.77	Rainbow Quest 81 1030 fls, 109 SWs SI 2.83 DI=1.40	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74 I Will Follow 75	
		Kingscote (Ire) 83 14 fls, 4 SWs DI=0.86	Kings Lake 78 =Bold Fantasy (GB) 74	
	=Merry Light (Arg) 83 Unraced 14 fls, 1 SW DI=0.60	=More Light (GB) 76 114 fls, 1 SW SI 4.94 DI=1.13	=Morston (Fr) 70 =Death Ray (GB) 59	Red God 54 Runaway Bride (GB) 62 *Herbager 56 Where You Lead 70 Nijinsky II 67 *Fish-Bar 67 =Bold Lad (Ire) 64 Ribot's Fantasy 69 =Ragusa (GB) 60 =Windmill Girl (GB) 61 =Tamerlane (GB) 52 =Luminant (GB) 51
		=Maspalomas II (GB) 72 7 fls, 0 SWs DI=0.95	*Karabas 65 =Tell All (GB) 65	*Worden 49 =Fair Share (GB) 57 Never Say Die 51 =Witness (GB) 55

by Ghostzapper.

Magnum's Argentine family goes back to his third dam, Maspalomas II. Imported in 1976, she became a valuable matriarch for La Quebrada.

Of particular note, most of this clan's success has come when its female descendants have been bred to Southern Halo and his sons. This cross, which describes Magnum's closest relatives, has already produced four Group 1 winners.

As noted in the adjoining chart, South American-bred runners have now triumphed in six of the previous 13 editions of the San Antonio.

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

South American-bred winners of the San Antonio Handicap

Year	winner	sire
2009	Magnum (Arg)	El Compinche
2007	Molengao (Brz)	Royal Academy
2005	Lundy's Liability (Brz)	Candy Stripes
2002	Redattore (Brz)	Roi Normand
1998	Gentlemen (Arg)	Robin des Bois
1997	Gentlemen (Arg)	Robin des Bois
1992	Ibero (Arg)	Cinco Grande
1985	#Lord At War (Arg)	General (Fr)
1948	#*Talon	Pantalón

subsequently won that season's Santa Anita Handicap

Upcoming stakes

Saturday

- SANTA MARIA H. (G1)**, SA, \$300,000, 8.5f, 4&upf&m.
- RICHTER SCALE S. (G2)**, GP, \$150,000, 7f, 4&up.
- BARBARA FRITCHIE H. (G2)**, Lrl, \$150,000, 7f, 3&upf&m.
- SAM F. DAVIS S. (G3)**, Tam, \$225,000, 8.5f, 3yo.
- EL CAMINO REAL DERBY (G3)**, GG, \$200,000, 8.5f, 3yo.
- ENDEAVOUR S. (G3)**, Tam, \$125,000, 8.5fT, 4&upf&m.
- Hallandale Beach S.**, GP, \$125,000, 8.5fT, 3yo.
- Jim's Orbit S.**, Hou, \$125,000, 8f, 3yoc&g.
- Phoenix Gold Cup H.**, TuP, \$100,000, 6f, 4&up.
- Suncoast S.**, Tam, \$75,000, 8.18f, 3yof.

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