



Princess Rooney winner has a sharp pedigree—Axe and all

by Rommy Faversham

Six-year-old Jessica Is Back succeeded in notching her first graded stakes victory at the Grade 1 level as the Put It Back mare rallied late to go by favored Werblin inside the sixteenth pole and draw off by two lengths in the \$350,000 Princess Rooney Handicap (G1)—the head-



Jim Lisa photo

line event on the Summit of Speed program on July 10 at Calder Race Course.

Sent off as the 8.50-to-1 seventh choice in a field of 11, Jessica Is Back stopped the clock in 1:11.48 for six furlongs on a track rated as fast.

In her most recent outing, she was an early pacesetter before fading to third, 1½ lengths behind

JESSICA IS BACK

Rachel Alexandra, in the 1½-mile Fleur de Lis Handicap (G2) on June 12 at Churchill Downs.

A winner in 12 of 44 lifetime starts, Jessica Is Back twice has changed hands through the claim box. The durable chestnut has shown a preference for Calder, where she has won seven races and been second five other times from 18 starts. Her career earnings currently stand at \$771,765.

Bred in Florida by Larry Perkins, Jessica Is Back is one of six winners from as many starters out of the Jolie's Halo mare Jessica's Halo, a two-time winner at age three.

Jessica's Halo is a half sister to multiple stakes winner and graded stakes-placed Island Delay, by Island Whirl. This also is the family of 2008 Gulfstream Park Handicap (G2) winner Sir Whimsey.

Jessica Is Back hails from the second crop of the Honour and Glory stallion Put It Back, who stands at Bridlewood Farm in Ocala. The former Grade 2-winning sprinter also shuttles annually to Haras Santa Maria de Araras in Brazil, where he is the sire of three local champions.

Our subject's broodmare sire, Jolie's Halo, also served stud duty at Bridlewood prior to his export and subsequent demise in Japan.

Jessica Is Back, ch. m., 2004

Put It Back 98 373 fls, 25 SWs SI 1.55 DI=7.00	Honour and Glory 93 6 wins, \$1,202,942, SW 1762 fls, 58 SWs SI 1.10 DI=3.33	Relaunch 76 725 fls, 89 SWs SI 3.05 DI=3.00	In Reality 64	Intentionally 56 My Dear Girl 57
	Miss Shoplifter 91 3 wins, \$102,540 9 fls, 1 SW DI=15.00	Fair to All 86 10 fls, 1 SW DI=2.29	Foggy Note 65	The Axe II 58 Silver Song 57
Jolie's Halo 87 8 wins, \$1,218,120, SW 578 fls, 21 SWs SI 0.93 DI=3.35		Exuberant 76 597 fls, 24 SWs SI 0.99 DI=5.29	Al Nasr (Fr) 78	Lyphard 69 Caretta (Ire) 73
	Articulate Robbery 80 7 fls, 2 SWs DI=4.09	What a Pleasure 65	Francis S. 57 Grand Splendor 62	
Jessica's Halo 94 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.33	Halo 69 724 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.40 DI=2.14	Out in the Cold 68	Bold Ruler 54 Grey Flight 45	
		No Robbery 60	Beau Purple 57 Articana 60	
	Jolie Jolie 80 12 fls, 4 SWs DI=3.80	Art Talk 71	Speak John 58 Tattooed Miss 60	
Postpone It 81 1 win, \$10,100 12 fls, 1 SW DI=5.00	Splitting Headache 71 98 fls, 1 SW SI 0.25 DI=2.64	Hail to Reason 58	*Turn-to 51 Nothirdchance 48	
		Cosmah 53	Cosmic Bomb 44 Almahmoud 47	
	Our Personal Touch 68 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=2.75	Sir Ivor 65	Fleet Nasrullah 55 Masked Lady 64	
		Who's to Know 70	*Mahmoud 33 Blackball 50	
		The Axe II 58	Olympia 46 Teahouse 53	
		Top o' the Morning 66	*Nasrullah 40 Blue Eyed Momo 44	
		Nasomo 56	Greek Song 47 I Tops 52	
		Greek Top 57		

So far, the cross of Put It Back with Jolie's Halo broodmares has been a remarkably effective one. From eight foals of racing age, four have become stakes winners, including multiple graded winner Smokey Stover.

Jessica Is Back's extended pedigree reveals a rich network of complementary family strains. Not only is her closest pattern of inbreeding to The Axe II, 5x4, but she also carries the cross of two of his closest relatives—Francis S. and Nasomo, 5x4. Their common dam, Blue Eyed Momo, is a half sister to Blackball, the dam of The Axe II.

This represents a rare and valuable accumulation of influence, the origin which is The Axe's grandam, Big Event—a key daughter of the legendary matriarch *La Troienne.

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