



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Mr Gruff chalks up repeat win in San Simeon at Santa Anita

by Rommy Faversham

Lightly raced six-year-old gelding Mr Gruff reaffirmed his affinity for Santa Anita Park's downhill turf course as he scored a commanding 2½-length victory in the \$100,000 San Simeon Handicap (G3) on April 17 to capture the race for a second straight year.

Sent off as the 4-to-5 favorite in a field of seven, Mr. Gruff covered the distance of about 6½ furlongs on the distinct hillside grass course rated as firm in a time of 1:11.53.



Benoit & Associates photo

The only previous runner to achieve back-to-back wins in the San Simeon was Champagne Bid, by Bold Bidder, who won the race in 1984 and '85, similarly as a five- and six-year old gelding.

Mr Gruff has five wins from six lifetime starts on the downhill turf course. His overall mark stands at five victories and two seconds from only eight starts and \$229,680 in earnings.

MR GRUFF

Mr Gruff was bred in Kentucky by Robert Spiegel, also the breeder of his first two dams. He sold for \$110,000 at the 2005 Keeneland September yearling sale. The following spring, he fetched \$200,000 at the Barretts Equine Ltd. March sale of selected two-year-olds in training.

Mr Gruff is the first registered foal and oldest of three winners from as many starters out of the Clever Trick mare Ruff, a winner of four races on turf, including the 2000 Miss Grillo Stakes (G3) at two and the '01 Via Borghese Stakes at three.

Clever Trick broodmares have combined to produce a total of 27 graded stakes winners, including three-time Grade 1 winner and sire Came Home, by Gone West—as such, a similar cross to Mr Gruff.

Otherwise, the immediate family is not an especially strong one. Mr Gruff and Ruff, in fact, represent the only two graded stakes winners to descend from our subject's fourth dam.

Mr Gruff, dk. b. or br. g., 2004

Mr. Greeley 92 1058 fls, 49 SWs SI 1.63 DI=4.85	Gone West 84 6 wins, \$682,251, SW 1197 fls, 98 SWs SI 2.49 DI=4.52	Mr. Prospector 70 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46 Nashua 52 Sequence 46
	Long Legend 78 4 wins, \$24,293 16 fls, 2 SWs DI=4.87	Secrettame 78 15 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.17	Secretariat 70 Tamerett 62	Bold Ruler 54 Somethingroyal 52 Tim Tam 55 *Mixed Marriage 52
		Reviewer 66 173 fls, 19 SWs SI 3.23 DI=3.57	Bold Ruler 54 Broadway 59	Native Dancer 50 Noors Image 53 Sailor 52 Olympia Dell 53
Ruff 98 4 fls, 1 SW DI=4.33	Clever Trick 76 18 wins, \$419,787, SW 1068 fls, 71 SWs SI 1.46 DI=3.92	Lianga 71 10 fls, 1 SW DI=4.60	Dancer's Image 65 Leven Ones 61	*Nasrullah 40 Miss Disco 44 Hasty Road 51 Flttabout 45
		Icecapade 69 565 fls, 73 SWs SI 2.27 DI=3.22	Nearctic 54	=Nearco (Ity) 35 *Lady Angela 44
	Marked Well 91 Unplaced, \$1,467 8 fls, 1 SW DI=8.60	Kankakee Miss 67 14 fls, 3 SWs DI=0.60	Shenaniigans 63 Better Bee 54 Golden Beach 53	Native Dancer 50 Bold Irish 48 Triplicate 41 S. Bee 43 *Djeddah 45 Wise Ally 37
		Well Decorated 78 684 fls, 36 SWs SI 1.10 DI=10.33	Raja Baba 68 Paris Breeze 71	Bold Ruler 54 Missy Baba 58 Majestic Prince 66 Tudor Jet 64
		Miss Marked 76 12 fls, 1 SW DI=3.57	Raise a Cup 71 Deeper in Debt 69	Raise a Native 61 Spring Sunshine 66 *Sir Ribot 59 Fabiola 49

This is a tail-female line whose golden years, those between the two World Wars, were under the charge of premier breeder Colonel E. R. Bradley. Mr Gruff's eighth dam, Miss Jemima, was 1919 champion two-year-old filly and a very close relative of Bradley's Racing Hall of Famer Blue Larkspur.

Mr Gruff hails from the eighth crop of the Gainesway stallion Mr. Greeley and is one of his sire's 22 graded or group stakes winners.

The plan may be to stretch him out in the Shoemaker Mile Stakes (G1) in his next start on May 31 at Hollywood Park.

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