



PEDIGREE PROFILE

Neko Bay nets elusive first stakes score in San Pasqual

by Rommy Faversham

Under left-handed urging by jockey Mike Smith, Neko Bay found his best stride in midstretch and drove clear of six challengers to record his first stakes victory by 1½ lengths in the \$150,000 San Pasqual Stakes (G2) on January 9 at Santa Anita Park.

Trained by John Shirreffs for owners-breeders Jerry and Ann Moss, Neko Bay covered 1¼ miles on the synthetic Pro-Ride surface in 1:42.95.



Benoit & Associates photo

NEKO BAY

It may have taken some time, but this lightly raced seven-year-old Giant's Causeway horse finally performed up to his stellar pedigree.

Neko Bay entered off a third-place finish in the Native Diver Handicap (G3) at Hollywood Park on December 12, the latest of his four previous stakes-placings.

Not exactly robust in appearance, the dark bay or brown horse has never made more than four starts in any of his five seasons of racing. His career mark stands at five wins—all at Santa Anita—from 13 starts and earnings of \$323,020.

Bred in Kentucky, Neko Bay is one of four winners from as many starters out the Rubiano mare Brulay, whom the Mosses purchased for \$150,000 at the 1996 Keeneland September yearling sale from the consignment of Lane's End, agent.

Brulay won her first three starts at three, including the Railbird Stakes (G2) in which she beat 2001 champion older female Gourmet Girl.

Brulay's three stakes-winning siblings include 2000 champion older male and sire Lemon Drop Kid, by Kingmambo, and Group 3 winner Statue of Liberty, by Storm Cat.

This is the immediate family of 1992 Broodmare of the Year Weekend Surprise and her sons, classic winners and sires A.P. Indy and Summer Squall. This also is the clan of Grade 1 or Group 1 winners Court Vision, Wolfhound, and Duke of Marmalade (Ire).

Neko Bay hails from the second crop of the illustrious Storm Cat

Neko Bay, dk. or br. h., 2003

Giant's Causeway 97 1137 fls, 78 SWs SI 2.48 DI=2.38	Storm Cat 83 4 wins, \$570,610, SW 1375 fls, 173 SWs SI 4.05 DI=4.00	Storm Bird 78 681 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.10 DI=3.25	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
	Mariah's Storm 91 10 wins, \$1,449,790, SW 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.71	Terlingua 76 11 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.63	South Ocean 67	New Providence 56 Shining Sun 62 Bold Ruler 64 Somethingroyal 52
Brulay 95 5 fls, 1 SW DI=2.33		Rubiano 87 13 wins, \$1,252,817 Champion 503 fls, 33 SWs SI 1.36 DI=2.61	Rahy 85 1053 fls, 86 SWs SI 2.37 DI=1.74	Secretariat 70
	Charming Lassie 87 9 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.14	Immense 79 6 fls, 3 SWs DI=2.43	Crimson Saint 69	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74
Seattle Slew 74 1050 fls, 114 SWs SI 4.76 DI=2.14		Ruby Slippers 82 13 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.42	Glorious Song 76	Halo 69 Ballade 72
	Lassie Dear 74 13 fls, 4 SWs DI=2.11	Fappiano 77 410 fls, 48 SWs SI 4.79 DI=4.78	Roberto 69	Ironically 60
My Charmer 69		Mr. Prospector 70	Imso Dear 67	Mr. Prospector 70
	Gay Missile 67	Killaloe 70	Nijinsky II 67	Killaloe 70
Buckpasser 63		Moon Glitter 72	Bold Reasoning 68	Nijinsky II 67
	Sir Gaylord 59	Gay Missile 67	My Charmer 69	Moon Glitter 72
Missy Baba 58		Gay Missile 67	Buckpasser 63	Gay Missile 67
	Poker 63	Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67
Fair Charmer 59		Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67
	Tom Fool 49	Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67
Busanda 47		Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67
	Sir Gaylord 59	Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67
Missy Baba 58		Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67	Gay Missile 67

stallion Giant's Causeway, who led all North American sires in 2009 by stakes winners and graded and group stakes winners as well as progeny earnings.

Named after a majestic inlet on the Antarctic peninsula, Neko Bay enjoys a pedigree that is greater even than the considerable sum of its parts.

The cross of Storm Bird and Nijinsky II, 3x4, continues to represent one of Northern Dancer's most successful tandems through which to inbreed. Half brothers Secretariat and Sir Gaylord appear, 4x5, generating another auspicious duplication of their influential dam, Somethingroyal.

Perhaps strongest of all is the affinity Giant's Causeway has shared with Mr. Prospector-line broodmares, a select lot who have combined to yield almost 48% of his 42 graded or group stakes winners while issuing less than 27% of his total foals of racing age.

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