



## Phipps homebred follows her rich female line to Grade 1 glory

by Rommy Faversham

In a number of ways, the \$294,000 Personal Ensign Handicap (G1) at Saratoga Race Course on Sunday proved to be a family affair for the unexpected winner and her lofty connections.



Adam Coglianesse/NWRA photo

### PERSISTENTLY

Lightly regarded at odds of 21.50-to-1, Persistently, a four-year-old Smoke Glacken filly, wore down reigning Horse of the Year and 0.45-to-1 favorite Rachel Alexandra inside the sixteenth pole to score her first stakes victory by one length, covering 1¼ miles in 2:04.49 on a track rated as fast.

Persistently's breakthrough victory has added significance for her owner-breeder Phipps Stable and trainer Shug McGaughey because they also campaigned the undefeated champion for whom the race was named, Personal Ensign. Persistently's best previous efforts in stakes company were second-place finishes as a juvenile in the Matron (G2) and Frizette (G1) Stakes at Belmont Park. She has won four of 14 career starts and earned \$491,256.

What are the main sources within Persistently's pedigree from which she comes to handle a distance of 1¼ miles against top company? Indeed, all arrows point to her stamina-charged tail-female line.

Persistently is the first starter out of the winning Deputy Minister mare Just Reward, a half sister to two-time Grade 1 winner Good Reward and Grade 2 winner Pure Prize, both sons of Storm Cat currently at stud.

Our subject's second dam, 1994 champion three-year-old filly Heavenly Prize, captured a total of eight Grade 1 races, including the 1995 John A. Morris Handicap (G1)—before it was renamed the Personal Ensign.

Heavenly Prize's full sisters include Grade 1 winner Oh What a Windfall and Grade 1-placed Dancinginmydreams, dam of 2008 Woodford Reserve Manhattan Handicap (G1) winner Dancing Forever.

Persistently's multiple stakes-winning fourth dam, Blitey, produced Dancing Spree, winner of the 1989 Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) after capturing that season's 1¼-mile Suburban Handicap (G1). Blitey also

### Persistently, ch. f., 2006

Smoke Glacken 94 634 fls, 43 SWs SI 1.42 DI=4.09	Two Punch 83 4 wins, \$89,795, SW 983 fls, 52 SWs SI 1.42 DI=3.48	<b>Mr. Prospector 70</b> 1178 fls, 181 SWs SI 5.08 DI=3.95	Raise a Native 61	Native Dancer 50 Raise You 46
	Majesty's Crown 84 8 wins, \$57,625 13 fls, 3 SWs DI=4.20	Heavenly Cause 78 12 fls, 1 SW DI=2.23	*Grey Dawn II 62	Nashua 52 Sequence 46 *Herbager 56 Polamia 55
		Magisterial 77 429 fls, 29 SWs SI 1.34 DI=3.36	<b>Northern Dancer 61</b>	Lady Dulcinea 63
Just Reward 99 3 fls, 1 SW DI=1.77	Deputy Minister 79 12 wins, \$696,964 Champion 1141 fls, 90 SWs SI 3.18 DI=3.67	Queen's Crown 79 4 fls, 0 SWs DI=4.00	Courting Days 70	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57 Bold Lad 62 Admiring 62
		Vice Regent 67 673 fls, 105 SWs SI 2.83 DI=3.86	King Emperor 66	Bold Ruler 54 Irish Jay 57
	Mint Copy 70 7 fls, 1 SW DI=7.00	Turn Capp 72	*Turn to Reason 62 Capped 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
Heavenly Prize 91 9 wins, \$1,825,940 Champion 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.72	Seeking the Gold 85 923 fls, 91 SWs SI 3.18 DI=3.15	<b>Northern Dancer 62</b>	Victoria Regina 58	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
		Oh What a Dance 87 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=1.13	Bunty's Flight 53	*Menetrier 44 Victoriana 52
			Shakney 64	<b>Mr. Prospector 70</b>
			Con Game 74	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62 Buckpasser 63 Broadway 59
			Nijinsky II 67	<b>Northern Dancer 61</b>
			Blitey 76	Flaming Page 59 Riva Ridge 69 Lady Pitt 63

foaled Grade 1 winners Furlough and Fantastic Find, the latter is the dam of 2000 Acorn Stakes (G1) heroine Finder's Fee.

Anchoring this long-winded, yet distinguished clan, Persistently's fifth dam, 1966 champion three-year old filly Lady Pitt, proved a key broodmare acquisition for leading horseman Ogden Phipps. All of the aforementioned family descendants were Phipps family homebreds.

To the contrary, Persistently's sire, 1997 champion sprinter Smoke Glacken, has been getting sprinters and milers almost exclusively, as evidenced by the average winning distance among his offspring of 6.48 furlongs.

Persistently's Personal Ensign, in fact, represents the first time a runner by Smoke Glacken has won a stakes race at 1¼ miles or more. It probably was the lasting fortitude of the Lady Pitt tribe that made the difference.

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