



Toboggan winner Calibrachoa continues to blossom

by **Rommy Faversham**

Repole Stable's Calibrachoa edged past Independence War in the final 70 yards to score a well-deserved half-length victory in the 118th running of the \$98,000 Toboggan Stakes (G3) on January 22 at Aqueduct.

Making his graded stakes debut, the four-year old Southern Image colt covered six furlongs in 1:09.74 on the Jamaica, New York, track's ice-rimmed inner dirt surface, which was listed as fast.



Adam Cogliandro/NYRA photo

Calibrachoa entered off his first stakes score, a 1½-length triumph on December 18 in the six-furlong Gravesend Stakes, also at Aqueduct.

CALIBRACHOA

The dark bay or brown colt was claimed for \$40,000 one start earlier in November on behalf of his current connections. First or second in each of his past eight races, he has now captured half of his 12 lifetime starts and pushed his bankroll to \$220,540

Calibrachoa was bred in Kentucky by Nelson Bunker Hunt. Conversely, most of his immediate family tree has Florida-based roots.

He is the youngest of four winners from five starters out of the winning Montbrook mare Fort Lauderdale, who was best at two when third in the Sorrento Stakes (G2).

Fort Lauderdale's key relation is as half sister to the dam of Grade 1-winning sire Bellamy Road. Further back, this family has issued the likes of Grade 1 winners Versailles Treaty and Gold Fever.

Even further back, Calibrachoa's sixth dam, Exclusive Dancer, is a full sister to 1978-1979 leading sire Exclusive Native.

Calibrachoa hails from the first crop of the multiple Grade 1-winning Halo's Image stallion

Toboggan winners in the Racing Hall of Fame

Year	Horse
1965	Affectonately
1958	Bold Ruler
1943-1944	Devil Diver
1940-1941	Eight Thirty
1932	Equipoise
1905	Roseben

Calibrachoa, dk. b. or br. c., 2007

Southern Image 00 232 fls, 2 SWs SI 0.86 DI=3.00	Halo's Image 91 9 wins, \$549,891, SW 514 fls, 18 SWs SI 1.31 DI=3.21	Halo 69 724 fls, 63 SWs SI 3.40 DI=2.14	Hail to Reason 58	*Turn-to 51 Nothridance 48
		Sugar's Image 81 11 fls, 1 SW DI=5.86	Cosmah 53	Cosmic Bomb 44 Almahmoud 47
	Pleasant Dixie 95 Unraced 8 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.00	Dixieland Band 80 1288 fls, 117 SWs SI 2.29 DI=3.50	Sugar Del 71	Valid Appeal 72
Fort Lauderdale 98 6 fls, 1 SW DI=3.67	Montbrook 90 5 wins, \$373,728, SW 718 fls, 47 SWs SI 1.50 DI=3.53	Secret Papers 82 6 fls, 2 SWs DI=4.60	Northern Dancer 61	Nearctic 54 Natalma 57
			Mississippi Mud 73	Delta Judge 60 Sand Buggy 63
	Pleasant Jolie 88 11 fls, 1 SW DI=3.55	Pleasant Colony 78	Jolie Jolie 80	His Majesty 68 Sun Colony 68
	Buckaroo 75 523 fls, 29 SWs SI 2.03 DI=1.33	Buckpasser 63	Stepping High 69	Sir Ivor 65 Who's to Know 70
	Cozzene 80 955 fls, 84 SWs SI 2.26 DI=1.82	Jet Diplomacy 75	Attache Case 70	Tom Fool 49 Busanda 47
Ten Cents a Turn 90 3 wins, \$17,672 5 fls, 0 SWs DI=2.81	Rub al Khali 86 10 fls, 2 SWs DI=3.67	Caro (Ire) 67	No Robbery 60 *Bebop II 57	
		Ride the Trails 71	Exploident 69 Jet to Rule 67	Diplotmat Way 64 Old Bess 48
		Mr. Prospector 70	Prince John 53 Wildwood 65	Diplotmat Way 64 Old Bess 48
		Arabian Dancer 79	Raise a Native 61 Gold Digger 62	Damascus 64 Ten Cents a Dance 73

Southern Image and represents his sire's first graded stakes winner.

Southern Image stood his first four Northern Hemisphere seasons in Kentucky at Taylor Made Stallions with additional annual shuttle duties in Australia. In 2010, he was relocated to Rancho San Miguel in California, where his fee is listed at \$4,000 for 2011.

Albeit a five generation outcross, Calibrachoa's extended pedigree reveals a valuable inbreeding pattern—both of our subject's grandsires are members of the same family.

His paternal grandsire, Halo's Image, and his maternal grandsire, Montbrook, both trace back to Old Bess, a key matriarch for Ocala Stud. She is the fourth dam of the former and third dam to the latter.

As previously noted in previous columns, duplication of strains from this relatively obscure matron continues to present itself in a disproportionate number of superior individuals.

Speaking of families, should anyone ask, Calibrachoa is named after a genus of plants closely related to the petunia.

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